



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CS ARRIVES IN VANCOUVER	1
OFFICIALS FROM CHINESE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO VISIT HK	1
STATEMENT ON HKCC'S DECISION	2
GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM	2
AUTONOMOUS HK SHIPPING REGISTER TO BE OPEN NEXT MONTH	5
CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE TO TAKE EFFECT ON DEC 1	8
FULLER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS	10
FC APPROVES MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW VBP CENTRE	11
PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR TSING MA AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGES	12
WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WORK TO START SOON	13
LAND RESUMPTION FOR NEW AIRPORT AND TA KWU LING STREAM IMPROVEMENT	16
YAU MA TEI POST-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS	17
FOUR LOTS FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION	18
TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UC COMPLEX	19
FAREWELL TO CSD CHIEF	19
TERRITORY-WIDE EXERCISE NEXT WEEK	21
\$3M DONATION TO POLICE EDUCATION TRUSTS	22
APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW TO AVOID CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RUSH	22
LIVE CAREERS SHOWS AT WEEKEND	23
STUDENTS VIEW OF HK'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	24
CLEAN COUNTRYSIDE CONCERT IN SAI KUNG	25
YOUTH URGED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	26
EASTERN DISTRICT STARTS SCHEME TO BEAUTIFY SLOPES	26
NEW PHASE FOR WAN CHAI TREE-PLANTING PROJECT	27
COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB TO HOLD ANNUAL PARADE	28
WOMEN'S WORKSHOP ON AIDS	29

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 1 -

CS ARRIVES IN VANCOUVER

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, ARRIVED IN VANCOUVER FROM SEATTLE ON THURSDAY FOR THE FINAL LEG OF HIS NORTH AMERICAN TOUR.

AT A LUNCHEON SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT ORGANISED BY THE VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, SIR DAVID UNDERLINED TO HIS AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 200 SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF LEADING VANCOUVER CORPORATIONS THE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG'S EVER GROWING LINKS WITH CANADA.

HE SAID ONE OF THE IRONIES OF THE LATEST MIGRATION FROM HONG KONG TO THE PACIFIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA IS THE ENORMOUS BOOST IT HAS GIVEN TO BUSINESS BETWEEN THE TERRITORY AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SIR DAVID HELD INDIVIDUAL MEDIA INTERVIEWS WITH THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PRESS IN THE AFTERNOON.

IN THE EVENING, HE WAS GUEST OF HONOUR AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG BANK OF CANADA. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A DINNER HOSTED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND IMMIGRATION, THE HON ELLWOOD VEITCH.

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OFFICIALS FROM CHINESE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO VISIT HK

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, MR XU JIAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NOTARISATION DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, WILL LEAD A DELEGATION OF EIGHT OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE HONG KONG AND MACAO OFFICE OF THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL TO VISIT HONG KONG FROM NOVEMBER 18 TO 25.

THEY WILL MEET HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE JUDICIARY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO FAMILIARISE CHINESE OFFICIALS WITH HONG KONG'S LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

SIMILAR VISITS HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE PAST. IN TURN, HONG KONG OFFICIALS HAVE UNDERTAKEN SIMILAR VISITS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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STATEMENT ON HKCC'S DECISION

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE DECISION BY THE HONG KONG CABLE COMMUNICATIONS LTD NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CABLE TV PROJECT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (FRIDAY):

"THIS IS A COMMERCIAL DECISION MADE BY BUSINESSMEN. WE RESPECT THAT DECISION AND IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO INTERFERE IN SUCH MATTERS. THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT THAT THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF BROADCASTING SERVICES, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY."

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GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF DEPARTING FROM THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE 12TH ASIA-PACIFIC FOREIGN EXCHANGE ASSEMBLY, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD THOUGHT OF MANY DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES BUT THE PRESENT SYSTEM "IS THE ONE THAT SUITS US BEST."

"IT WORKS. IT HAS BEEN TESTED FROM TIME TO TIME. WE STRENGTHENED IT. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DEPARTING FROM IT," HE STRESSED.

ASKED TO ELABORATE ON THE REASON WHY THE FOREX TAX WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA, SIR PIERS REPLIED: "MAINLY BECAUSE IT WILL BE A DISINCENTIVE TO FOREX DEALINGS. ACTUALLY IT WILL CHASE BUSINESS AWAY FROM HONG KONG."

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S SUGGESTION TO REDUCE THE STAMP DUTY ON SHARES TRANSACTIONS, SIR PIERS SAID HONG KONG WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO KEEP THE OVERALL DEALING COSTS COMPETITIVE.

"I AM AWARE THAT MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD ARE LOOKING AT STAMP DUTY ON STOCK EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS AND THEY ARE LOOKING AT IT IN PARTICULAR IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW ELECTRONIC CLEARING SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OBVIOUSLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF ANY INCREASE OR REDUCTION IN A PARTICULAR TAX OR DUTY ON BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

/ASKED IF

ASKED IF THERE WAS A NEED FOR HONG KONG TO RAISE EXTRA REVENUE TO FUND THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, SIR PIERS SAID AS HE HAD SAID BEFORE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONSIDER THIS IN RELATION TO ANY ONE SINGLE PROJECT OR GROUP OF PROJECTS.

"WE LOOK AT AN OVERALL BUDGETARY POSITION AND I CAN'T OBVIOUSLY SAY AT THIS STAGE WHAT OUR BUDGETARY PROPOSALS ARE, WHETHER WE WILL NEED TO RAISE NEW REVENUE IN THE CONTEXT OF THOSE OVERALL BUDGETARY PROPOSALS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WOULD DEAL WITH THIS IN MARCH.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF BORROWING MONEY TO SUPPORT THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN.

"IT IS NOT SO MUCH A NEED TO BORROW AS THAT I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT BORROWING COULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAY OF FINANCING LARGE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE. AND BORROWING WOULD ENABLE US TO SPREAD THE COST OVER A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF TIME AND LEAVE US IN A MUCH STRONGER FINANCIAL POSITION.

"SO ONE LOOKS AT IT IN TERMS OF EFFECTIVENESS, MOST OF ALL, NOT IN TERMS OF NEED," HE SAID.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN THINKING OF GOING INTO THE MARKET TO BORROW, ONE HAS TO LOOK AT THE GLOBAL SITUATION AND THE CREDIT SITUATION.

"I CAN'T MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMENT THIS MORNING BECAUSE WE ARE NOT BORROWING TODAY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE COULD NOT BE MORE PRECISE BECAUSE ONE WOULD BE DEALING AT ALL TIME WITH A DYNAMIC SITUATION.

IN HIS SPEECH TO THE 12TH ASIA-PACIFIC FOREIGN EXCHANGE ASSEMBLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN THE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL CENTRE FROM WHICH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COULD SERVICE THEIR CUSTOMERS THROUGHOUT THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"IT WILL ALSO CONTINUE AS THE MAJOR SERVICE CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN CHINA IN GENERAL AND THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION IN PARTICULAR," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG IS A PLACE THAT HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE QUALITIES THAT WILL SUSTAIN IT IN THE FUTURE.

"I BELIEVE, AND SO DO MANY OTHERS, THAT HONG KONG IS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, AN EXCELLENT PLACE IN WHICH TO INVEST, TO DO BUSINESS AND TO MAKE MONEY.

"HONG KONG IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BASE FOR TRADE WITH AND INVESTMENT IN CHINA, AND HONG KONG HAS A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN CHINA'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

/"THERE IS

"THERE IS A HUGE POTENTIAL MARKET INSIDE CHINA, AND THERE ARE EVEN LARGER MARKETS OUTSIDE FOR CHINA'S PRODUCTS. HONG KONG IS AN EXCELLENT BASE FOR EXPLOITING THESE MARKETS," HE SAID.

HE AFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THREE GENERAL PRINCIPLES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER AS A CENTRE OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

"FIRST, OUR PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, MUST KEEP PACE WITH FUTURE DEMAND.

"SECONDLY, OUR PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO SUSTAIN OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND, THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS, ASSIST IN CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT.

"AND LASTLY, OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS MUST MEASURE UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND MUST BE ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG, CHINA AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS OFTEN ACCUSED OF DRIFTING IN THE DIRECTION OF OVER-REGULATION.

"LET ME SAY WITHOUT ANY EQUIVOCATION THAT WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY. WE IN GOVERNMENT SEE OUR ROLE AS PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH BUSINESSES CAN FLOURISH.

"INTERVENTION IS LIMITED TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED AND THAT A PROPER MEASURE OF PROTECTION IS PROVIDED FOR MARKET PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY NON-PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS," HE SAID.

TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS, THERE ARE CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS WHICH WE FEEL WE MUST PUT IN PLACE, SIR PIERS SAID.

"THUS, WE WILL SOON HAVE IN FORCE LEGISLATION DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS AND SHARE DEALINGS BY DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES, REVISED INSIDER DEALING LAWS, AND LAWS ALLOWING LISTED COMPANIES TO BUY BACK THEIR OWN SHARES SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS.

"DESPITE THE LEGISLATION MENTIONED ABOVE, WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO AVOID OVER-REGULATION. OUR PRESENT SYSTEM AIMS TO PROMOTE, BUT NOT STIFLE, MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

"AS POLICY-MAKERS, WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE MARKET. WE ARE DETERMINED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN DEVISING THE CONTROLS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE MARKET INTEGRITY AND MAINTAINING THE FREEDOM REQUIRED FOR THE MARKET TO GROW AND TO INNOVATE," HE SAID.

AUTONOMOUS HK SHIPPING REGISTER TO BE OPEN NEXT MONTH

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THE NEW AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WILL BE OPEN ON DECEMBER 3 THIS YEAR AND WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT REGISTER WHICH IS PART OF THE BRITISH REGISTER.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, ANNOUNCED THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER WILL BE A HIGH QUALITY REGISTER WITH NO COMPROMISE ON SAFETY, POLLUTION PREVENTION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS.

"IT HAS TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT REQUIREMENT OF HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS WHO CURRENTLY OWN OR MANAGE 10 PER CENT OF THE WORLD TONNAGE," HE SAID.

MR SZE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN THE SHIP REGISTRY FOR ITS REVENUE - INDEED IT WOULD BE A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOVERED THE COST OF OPERATING THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER - AND WAS NOT ATTRACTING NEW TONNAGE FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

"OUR EMPHASIS WILL BE ON A GENUINE AND CLOSE LINK BETWEEN THE SHIP AND HONG KONG.

"IN OTHER WORDS MY PRIMARY TARGET IS SHIPS OWNED OR MANAGED BY COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WHICH, AS I SAID, IS 10 PER CENT OF THE WORLD FLEET BUT LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF WHICH IS CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"WE WILL ALSO BE LOOKING FOR QUALITY TONNAGE - SHIPS OF HIGH QUALITY AS THERE CANNOT BE ANY COMPROMISE ON OUR CURRENT HIGH STANDARDS OF SAFETY," HE ADDED.

THE REGISTRATION FEE AND ANNUAL CHARGE OF THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER WOULD BE COMPETITIVE WITH RESPECTED SHIPPING REGISTERS IN THE WORLD.

"THE FEES REFLECT THE HIGH QUALITY OF REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR SHIPOWNERS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS," MR SZE SAID.

HONG KONG HAS HAD A SHIPPING REGISTER SINCE 1850. HOWEVER, IT IS A PART OF THE BRITISH REGISTER AND THEREFORE CANNOT CONTINUE BEYOND 1997. THUS THE NEED FOR A SEPARATE AND AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WAS RECOGNISED AND PROVIDED FOR IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION.

/THE NEW

THE NEW AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTER BEING ESTABLISHED NOW IS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR SHIPS ON THE EXISTING REGISTER WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO LEAVE BY 1997. NEVERTHELESS, HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONSIDERED AS BRITISH SHIPS UNTIL 1997.

DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTER WERE DEVELOPED BY A STEERING GROUP COMPRISING GOVERNMENT AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND WERE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

THESE FORMED THE BASIS OF THE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A SET OF FACT SHEETS ON THE NEW AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER AND THESE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SHIPOWNERS, SHIPPING MANAGERS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

ON THE MANNING LEVELS AND CERTIFICATION FOR HONG KONG SHIPS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (SHIPPING), MR JOHN TSE, SAID LICENCES WOULD BE ISSUED TO HOLDERS OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS CONSIDERED TO BE EQUIVALENT IN STANDARD TO THOSE ISSUED IN HONG KONG TO ENABLE HOLDERS TO SERVE AS MASTER AND SENIOR OFFICERS ON SHIPS REGISTERED UNDER THE NEW AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER.

"A VALIDATION PANEL COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF SHIPOWNERS, SEAFARERS ORGANISATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ASSESS THE STANDARDS OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF SUCH LICENCES," HE SAID.

"THIS REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE PROPERLY MANNED BY COMPETENT OFFICERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATELY FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA AND THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

"THE VALIDATION PANEL HAS ALREADY HELD MEETINGS TO CONSIDER THE STANDARDS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF REPORTS MADE BY OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WHO HAVE MADE VISITS TO THE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND EXAMINATION AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED."

MR TSE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE NEW SURVEY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER.

"SURVEYS FOR TWO OF THE FIVE 'TRADING' CERTIFICATES FOR A SHIP COMING ONTO THE HONG KONG REGISTER FOR THE FIRST TIME MAY BE UNDERTAKEN EITHER BY PROFESSIONAL BODIES, CALLED THE CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES, OR BY GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

"IF THESE TWO SURVEYS, NAMELY THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND THE SAFETY RADIO INSTALLATIONS SURVEYS, ARE UNDERTAKEN BY CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES, THEN AN AUDIT INSPECTION OF THE WHOLE SHIP BY A GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR IS REQUIRED BEFORE THE SHIP IS REGISTERED.

/"THE OWNER

- 7 -

"THE OWNER ALSO HAS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INVITE THE GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR TO CONDUCT THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT SURVEY. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR WILL ALSO CONDUCT AN AUDIT INSPECTION OF THE WHOLE SHIP," HE SAID.

MR TSE SAID THIS AUDIT INSPECTION WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS AND THE HONG KONG REGULATIONS HAD BEEN MET, AND THAT SHIPS OF HIGH SAFETY STANDARD WOULD BE REGISTERED.

"UNDER THE HONG KONG REGULATIONS, THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT OF EVERY HONG KONG SHIP IS REQUIRED TO BE SURVEYED BY THE GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR ONCE IN EVERY FIVE YEARS, THUS ENSURING THAT HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED," HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (TECHNICAL POLICY), MR TSUI SHUNG-YIU, SAID THE FOLLOWING PERSON OR COMPANIES COULD REGISTER A SHIP UNDER THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER:

- * AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A VALID HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND WHO IS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG,
- * A BODY CORPORATE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG, AND
- * AN OVERSEAS COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER PART XI OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

HE SAID TO ESTABLISH A REAL LINK BETWEEN THE OWNER AND HONG KONG, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE OWNER TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE PERSON IN HONG KONG FOR EACH SHIP ON THE REGISTER.

"THE OWNER MUST HAVE A PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, THUS REINFORCING A LINK WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT FOR ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION, SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SHIP," HE SAID.

IN COMMON WITH MANY OTHER REGISTERS, MR TSUI SAID, THE FEES AND CHARGES WERE BASED ON TONNAGE, AND WERE ON A SLIDING SCALE WITH A NUMBER OF "PLATFORMS".

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CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE TO TAKE EFFECT ON DEC 1
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AN ORDINANCE WHICH WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED WILL BE CLOSELY RELATED TO OUR DAILY LIVES AND PROTECT THE SMALL AND THE WEAK, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY):

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE PO LEUNG KUK ABOUT THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE WHICH WAS PASSED ON NOVEMBER 15 LAST YEAR AND WILL TAKE EFFECT IN JUST UNDER TWO WEEKS (DECEMBER 1).

MR CHAN SAID "NO LIABILITY" WAS A POWERFUL EXPRESSION WHICH WOULD CLEAR ONE FROM ALL LIABILITIES.

"I BELIEVE THAT WE RARELY USE THIS EXPRESSION IN OUR DEALINGS WITH OTHERS IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

"HOWEVER, IF WE THINK CAREFULLY, IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO REALISE THAT IN REALITY MANY PEOPLE WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT WOULD BE BITTEN BY THIS INHUMANE EXPRESSION WHICH ERODES OR DEPRIVES THEM OF THEIR REASONABLE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID IN THE PAST ABUNDANT FUNDS AND STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE MARKET HAD PUT MOST TRADERS, ESPECIALLY THE LARGE FIRMS, IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION IN TRANSACTIONS.

"THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONSUMERS IS: IF YOU WANT TO BUY IT, YOU HAVE TO DO IT THE WAY I WANT IT AND ON MY TERMS.

"A MOST PRACTICAL EXAMPLE IS THE CREDIT CARD YOU HAVE WITH YOU.

"HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE OBTAINED YOUR GOLD CARD WITHOUT FILLING IN A PREPRINTED FORM?

"HOW MANY OF YOU ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE CONDITIONS OF THE APPLICATION, INCLUDING THE EXEMPTION CLAUSES?

"AS CONSUMERS ARE OFTEN AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TRANSACTIONS, AND THERE IS FREQUENT ABUSE OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES IN CONTRACTS OR NOTICES, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO LEGISLATE TO PROTECT THE SMALL AND THE WEAK," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE WAS RATHER COMPLEX IN ITS WORDING. IT ALSO INVOLVED A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL LEGAL CONCEPTS, BUT THE PURPOSE AND SPIRIT WERE QUITE OBVIOUS AND SIMPLE.

IN ESSENCE, THE ORDINANCE INTRODUCED TWO MAJOR ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY CONSUMERS COULD BE PROTECTED: AUTOMATICALLY INEFFECTIVE EXEMPTION CLAUSES; AND EXEMPTION CLAUSES WHICH WERE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF THEY SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENT OF "REASONABLENESS".

/MR CHAN

MR CHAN SAID THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE ORDINANCE WAS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS, WHOM HE DEFINED AS: "A PARTY TO A CONTRACT 'DEALS AS A CONSUMER' IF HE DOES NOT MAKE THE CONTRACT IN THE COURSE OF A BUSINESS, WHILE THE OTHER PARTY DOES MAKE THE CONTRACT IN THE COURSE OF A BUSINESS."

BESIDES, A PARTY ALSO DEALT AS A CONSUMER IF THE CONTRACT WAS GOVERNED BY THE LAW OF SALE OF GOODS AND THE GOODS WERE OF A TYPE SUPPLIED FOR PRIVATE USE OR CONSUMPTION, HE SAID.

HE SAID IN APPLYING THE TEST OF REASONABLENESS THE COURTS WERE REQUIRED TO HAVE REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THE BARGAINING STRENGTH OF THE PARTIES TO A CONTRACT, THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE TERM OR NOTICE WAS EXPRESSED, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF A CONSUMER REGARDING THE EXISTENCE AND APPLICATION OF THE EXEMPTION CLAUSES.

"THE ROLE OF THE COURTS IS TO DETERMINE, ON THE WHOLE, WHETHER THE CLAUSES ARE FAIR AND REASONABLE," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID: "YOU MAY WONDER AS THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WHY SHOULD IT BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR?"

"IN MAKING THIS DECISION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THAT IT SHOULD GIVE ADEQUATE AND REASONABLE TIME FOR THE BUSINESS SECTOR TO REVIEW THEIR CONTRACTS IN USE AND TO MAKE SUITABLE AMENDMENTS.

"IN FACT, AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNMENT WROTE TO VARIOUS BUSINESS FIRMS EXPLAINING THE RELATED CHANGES."

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD ALSO MADE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP CONSUMERS AND BUSINESS FIRMS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

MR CHAN SAID BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH, IF A CONSUMER SUSTAINED A LOSS BECAUSE THE OTHER PARTY FAILED TO FULFIL HIS DUTY, THE CONSUMER SHOULD NOT BE BLOCKED FROM THE CHANNELS OF COMPLAINT JUST BECAUSE THE OTHER PARTY WAS RICH AND POWERFUL.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES ORDINANCE IS TO CHANGE 'NO LIABILITY' INTO 'UNSHIRKABLE LIABILITY'," HE SAID.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 10 -

FULLER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

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MUCH FULLER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COULD BE EXPECTED IN HONG KONG'S HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST HONG KONG CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL INFORMATICS, MRS WONG SAID HONG KONG NEEDED TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF CARE COULD BE MEASURED AND PROMOTED SO THAT MAJOR REFORMS IN HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE COULD BE SUCCEEDED.

"THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE MEDICAL INFORMATICS CAN COME INTO PLAY," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS IMMENSE SCOPE FOR THE APPLICATION OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN THE HEALTH SECTOR.

"IN HOSPITAL SERVICES, A PROJECT IN COMPUTERISED HOSPITAL INFORMATION IS UNDERWAY AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

"THIS WILL MAKE FOR FASTER INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND ALLOW END-USERS TO ACCESS READILY A MASS OF PATIENT DATA FOR CLINICAL PURPOSES."

MRS WONG ALSO SAID THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FULLY RECOGNISED THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN GOOD HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

"A CONSULTANCY STUDY HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY READY FOR FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SHORTLY TO BE ESTABLISHED," SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT MEDICAL INFORMATION WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, MRS WONG SAID THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH HAD PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING A HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM AS A MEANS TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

MRS WONG ADDED THAT THERE WERE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS.

FOR THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, MRS WONG SAID THEY WERE IN THE BEST POSITION TO ADVISE ON WHAT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS WERE AND WHERE AND HOW COMPUTERISATION SHOULD COME IN.

"FOR THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SOFTWARE FOR THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ADVICE IN THEIR APPLICATION," SHE SAID.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 11 -

FC APPROVES MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW VBP CENTRE

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRE ON TAI A CHAU WHICH WILL COST ABOUT \$40 MILLION PER ANNUM.

THE MANAGEMENT WILL BE CARRIED OUT UNDER CONTRACT BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING SERVICES FOR REFUGEES (HKHSR), A NON-PROFIT MAKING AGENCY WHICH HAS BEEN MANAGING THE PILLAR POINT OPEN REFUGEE CENTRE IN TUEN MUN SINCE 1989 UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WITH THE DOUBLING OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE POPULATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE TASK OF MANNING THE DETENTION CENTRES HAD PLACED A CONSIDERABLE BURDEN ON THE POLICE, CORRECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND CIVIL AID SERVICES.

"THIS FACTOR, COUPLED WITH INCREASING DEMAND ON THEIR NORMAL DUTIES, SUCH AS LAW ENFORCEMENT, LED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF RUNNING TAI A CHAU DETENTION CENTRE WITHOUT STRETCHING THE RESOURCES OF THESE DEPARTMENTS ANY FURTHER.

"FOLLOWING CAREFUL STUDY AND CONSULTATIONS WE CONCLUDED THAT THE BEST OPTION WOULD BE TO CONTRACT OUT THE MANAGEMENT TO A PRIVATE AGENCY WITH PROVEN CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE IN MANAGING A VIETNAMESE CAMP, AND THIS HKHSR HAS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE WILL BE THAT ENTRUSTING THE MANAGEMENT TO A VOLUNTARY AGENCY WILL ENABLE THEM TO TRY A NEW AND MORE LIBERAL APPROACH IN RUNNING THE NEW CENTRE," HE ADDED.

HKHSR WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSUME A FULL RANGE OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT TAI A CHAU, FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND RELIEF ITEMS TO GENERALLY ENFORCING CENTRE RULES AND KEEPING DISCIPLINE.

THE AGENCY WILL OPERATE UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE BUT WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF AUTONOMY IN ITS DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE CENTRE. MEDICAL SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNTIL A SUITABLE VOLUNTARY AGENCY CAN BE FOUND.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE COST OF HIRING STAFF AND OTHER SERVICES WILL BE \$38.9 MILLION A YEAR. THIS EXPENDITURE IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$230 MILLION IT COST TO BUILD THE NEW CENTRE, WHICH IS BEING FUNDED ON A 50 - 50 BASIS BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE UK GOVERNMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW CENTRE WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY TO RECEIVE ITS FIRST OCCUPANTS BY MID-DECEMBER AND THIS WOULD ALLOW SOME REDISTRIBUTION OF THE CURRENT POPULATION OF 44,600 BOAT PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM WERE LIVING IN CROWDED CONDITIONS IN THE EXISTING CENTRES.

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"TAI A CHAU HAS A DESIGN CAPACITY OF 10,000. WHILE DETAILED PLANS HAVE YET TO BE FINALISED, WE ENVISAGE THAT ABOUT 8,000 BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM HIGH ISLAND, SHEK KONG, WHITEHEAD AND ARGYLE CENTRES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

"THIS WILL ENABLE OTHER TRANSFERS TO BE MADE AMONG THE EXISTING CENTRES WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE POPULATION IN SOME AND CLOSING OTHERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR TSING MA AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGES
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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM CIVIL ENGINEERING FIRMS OR CONSORTIA TO PREQUALIFY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO MAIN BRIDGES OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

NOTICE OF INVITATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AND ADVERTISEMENTS WERE PLACED IN MAJOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS.

THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, SAID TWO CONTRACTS WERE INVOLVED: THE CONSTRUCTION OF TSING MA BRIDGE; AND THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE INCLUDING THE LINKING VIADUCTS ON MA WAN ISLAND.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION IS DECEMBER 21 THIS YEAR.

FOLLOWING THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE, TENDERS WOULD BE INVITED FROM THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR WITH RETURN OF TENDERS FOR TSING MA BRIDGE IN JULY AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE IN AUGUST THE SAME YEAR.

THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS WOULD BE MADE LATE NEXT YEAR AND EARLY 1992 RESPECTIVELY.

MR KWEI SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGES WOULD BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1996.

ON THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, MR KWEI SAID THE CROSSING, WHICH WOULD CARRY A DUAL THREE-LANE HIGHWAY AND A TWIN-TRACK RAILWAY, WAS PART OF THE EXTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE WOULD CROSS THE NAVIGABLE CHANNEL BETWEEN TSING YI AND MA WAN ISLANDS IN THE FORM OF A SUSPENSION BRIDGE WITH A MAIN SPAN OF 1,377 METRES AND A TOTAL DECK LENGTH OF 2,032 METRES.

UNDER THE SIX-LANE HIGHWAY ON THE TOP DECK, THERE WOULD BE A DOUBLE TRACKED RAILWAY WITH TWO WEATHER PROTECTED ROAD TRAFFIC LANES.

HE SAID THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WOULD CONNECT MA WAN ISLAND TO LANTAU. THE MAIN SPAN OF THIS BRIDGE WOULD BE ABOUT 440 METRES AND THE TOTAL DECK LENGTH, 670 METRES, WITH A CONFIGURATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE.

THE MA WAN ISLAND VIADUCT, WHICH WOULD CONNECT THE TWO LARGE BRIDGES, WOULD BE ABOUT 550 METRES IN LENGTH.

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WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WORK TO START SOON

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AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN SHORTLY THE MAIN WORKS OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED (RECLAMATION) ORDINANCE FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

THE RECLAMATION WILL INVOLVE ABOUT 357.8 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE EXISTING WEST KOWLOON WATERFRONT WHICH STRETCHES FROM SOUTH OF AUSTIN ROAD UP TO MEI FOO SUN CHUEN.

THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR PROVIDING LAND FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL LINKS BETWEEN THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECT, COSTING \$9,630 MILLION, WAS ALSO ONE OF THE MAJOR AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE METROPLAN.

HE EMPHASISED THAT EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN NO PLANS TO BUILD THE NEW AIRPORT, THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WOULD HAVE TO GO AHEAD AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S METROPLAN STRATEGY.

ACCORDING TO THE METROPLAN, THE RECLAMATION WOULD PROVIDE LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND TO MEET ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE TERRITORY AND CONTAINER BACK-UP AREAS TO SUPPORT THE PLANNED WESTWARD SHIFT OF THE PORT NUCLEI.

IT WOULD ALSO PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE, GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO REDRESS THE SUBSTANTIAL SHORTFALL OF SUCH FACILITIES AT THE CONGESTED AREAS OF WEST KOWLOON.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND WOULD BE RELEASED FOR SALE.

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"BY THE YEAR 2006, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NET LAND REVENUE AFTER DEDUCTING THE ENGINEERING COSTS IS LIKELY TO STAND AT \$17 BILLION AT 1989 PRICES," HE ADDED.

AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN PARTS -THE NORTHERN AREA AND THE SOUTHERN AREA.

THE NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION OF BOTH AREAS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

THE SOUTHERN AREA RECLAMATION COMPRISING 167 HECTARES OF SEABED WILL START IN EARLY 1991 AND IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE BY ABOUT THE END OF 1996.

WORKS WILL MAINLY BE RECLAMATION OVER THE EXISTING YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER WHEN THE NEW TYPHOON SHELTER TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING ONE IS COMPLETED BY AROUND EARLY 1993.

THE NORTHERN AREA RECLAMATION COVERING 190.8 HECTARES OF SEABED WILL BE PHASED OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, WITH THE FIRST CONTRACT COMMENCING IN APRIL 1991.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR THE REPROVISIONING OF EXISTING WATERFRONT USERS BEFORE THESE ARE RENDERED INOPERATIVE THROUGH LOSS OF MARINE ACCESSSES.

WATERFRONT USERS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE SECOND PHASE OF WORK WOULD BE NOTIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DATE WHEN RECLAMATION SHOULD AFFECT THEIR OPERATIONS.

DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE AFFECTED WATERFRONT USERS FOR SUITABLE REPROVISIONING ARRANGEMENTS.

AN AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT NORTH TSING YI HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR RELOCATION OF HONG KONG FERRY (HOLDINGS) CO. LTD'S EXISTING SHIPYARD AT TAI KOK TSUI SERVING THE FERRIES.

IN ADDITION, A SITE ON THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION NEAR TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE GRANTED TO THE COMPANY FOR REFUELLING AND MINOR REPAIR SERVICES WHICH IF MOVED TO NORTH TSING YI WOULD ENTAIL HIGH DEAD MILEAGE FOR ITS ENFRANCHISED FERRIES.

THE EXISTING FERRY PIERS AT JORDAN ROAD, TAI KOK TSUI AND SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE RATIONALISED AND RELOCATED TO THE EDGE OF THE NEW RECLAMATION.

MEANWHILE, A PERMANENT SITE AT SIU LAM, TUEN MUN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PROPOSED TO BE RECLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR RELOCATION OF THE EIGHT SHIPYARDS AT CHEUNG SHA WAN.

HOWEVER, ALL THE SHIPYARDS REJECTED THE PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS OF ITS PURPORTEDLY REMOTE LOCATION.

ANOTHER SITE AT THE NEW RECLAMATION OFF STONECUTTERS ISLAND WILL NOW BE OFFERED TO THE EXISTING SHIPYARDS AT CHEUNG SHA WAN SUBJECT TO A FIXED TERM OF 10 YEARS.

THIS LEASE TERM IS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PROSPECT OF FUTURE RECLAMATION AND POTENTIAL WATER POLLUTION AT THIS LOCATION.

AN EXISTING PIER AT CHINA RESOURCES (HOLDINGS) CO. LTD'S GODOWN WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE NEW RECLAMATION.

IN ADDITION A BACK-UP AREA TO FACILITATE CARGO HANDLING WILL ALSO BE GRANTED TO THE COMPANY AT A PREMIUM. THIS WILL ENABLE THE COMPANY TO CONTINUE THE TRANSHIPMENT OF CARGO CURRENTLY CARRIED OUT AT ITS PRESENT SITE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN.

REGARDING OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, A PUMP-HOUSE WILL BE SIMILARLY REPROVISIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE NEW SEA FRONT FOR SERVING THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM OF FIVE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS.

PUBLIC LANDING FACILITIES WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE SEAWALL TO MEET THE NEEDS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY FULFILLED BY FLOATING PONTOONS HELD UNDER LICENSES FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD, PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, THE WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, FISH MARKETS, POULTRY MARKET, FRUIT MARKET AND THE WATER BOAT DOCK WILL ALSO BE RELOCATED UNDER THIS PROJECT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN TWO NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 1991.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

THE NOTICES TOGETHER WITH RELATED PLANS CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, KOWLOON; MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG PING BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, KOWLOON; AND SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 37-39 TONKIN STREET, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 16 -

LAND RESUMPTION FOR NEW AIRPORT AND TA KWU LING STREAM IMPROVEMENT
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 50,000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND IN CHEK LAP KOK AND TA KWU LING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND IMPROVEMENT OF STREAMS RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE RESUMPTION AT CHEK LAP KOK COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 44,553 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND 539 SQUARE METRES OF BUILDING LAND.

THE LAND TO BE RESUMED COMPRISES 157 PRIVATE LOTS IN THE AREA.

IN TA KWU LING, 13 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 5,215.7 SQUARE METRES ARE TO BE RESUMED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF STREAMS IN PING YEUNG VILLAGE.

MEANWHILE, A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION FOR RECLAMATION AT THE NORTHERN END OF CHEK LAP KOK ISLAND TO FORM A WORKS AREA FOR THE MAIN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT WAS ALSO PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE NOTICE ALSO DESCRIBED THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT MAY DELIVER A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 1991.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON THE NOTICE BOARDS AT THE TUNG CHUNG RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE; MA WAN CHUNG, TUNG CHUNG; SHAM WAN TSUEN, CHEK LAP KOK; CHEK LAP KOK VILLAGE OFFICE; TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE; SHAN SHEK WAN VILLAGE; SHAM SHEK VILLAGE; SHA LO WAN VILLAGE; SHA LO WAN VILLAGE OFFICE; SHA LO WAN JETTY; SAN TAU VILLAGE; SAN TAU VILLAGE OFFICE; AND ALSO, AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 17 -

YAU MA TEI POST-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED THE EXTERNAL REAR STAIRCASES AT NOS. 470 AND 470 A TO G RECLAMATION STREET, YAU MA TEI, DANGEROUS AND THEIR MAIN BUILDINGS LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THESE POST-WAR BUILDINGS, ALL 34 YEARS OLD, ARE FIVE STOREYS HIGH WITH COCKLOFTS ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

THEY ARE REINFORCED CONCRETE FRAMED BUILDINGS WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE FLOORS AND ROOFS, AND BRICK INFILL PANEL WALLS.

THE EXTERNAL STAIRCASES AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDINGS ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DETERIORATION, WITH SEVERELY SPALLED AND CRACKED REINFORCED CONCRETE MEMBERS.

THE STAIRCASE AT THE REAR OF NOS. 470 F AND G IS OUT OF ALIGNMENT.

SUCH STAIRCASES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE BEYOND REASONABLE ECONOMIC REPAIR AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

THERE ARE OTHER DEFECTS THROUGHOUT THE MAIN BUILDINGS, MORE NOTICEABLY AT THE FRONT AND REAR PORTIONS INCLUDING THE FRONT MAIN STAIRCASES ESPECIALLY THE STAIRCASE HOODS.

THE DEMOLITION OF THE REAR STAIRCASES WOULD RENDER THE BUILDINGS DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE. THEREFORE, THE BUILDINGS THEMSELVES SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED.

THE DEFECTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED IN PART BY LACK OF ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE BY THE OWNERS OF THE BUILDINGS OVER THE PRECEDING YEARS.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ADVISES THAT SHOULD THE OWNERS WISH TO RE-BUILD THE REAR STAIRCASES, FORMAL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALL REQUIRED WORKS TO MAKE THE BUILDINGS SAFE GENERALLY HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED, THE BUILDINGS SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED.

ABOUT 160 PEOPLE WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE UPPER DOMESTIC FLOORS OF THE BUILDINGS.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON FEBRUARY 6, 1991 WERE POSTED TODAY ON THE BUILDINGS.

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FOUR LOTS FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

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FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11.

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT LAM WAH STREET, KOWLOON BAY. IT COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,194 SQUARE METRES.

THE LOT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING HOTEL, RESIDENTIAL, GODOWN AND CINEMA) PURPOSES, IN PARTICULAR A PUBLIC FEE-PAYING CARPARK. NOT LESS THAN 2,500 SQUARE METRES SHALL BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BANKS, RESTAURANTS AND A FAST FOOD CENTRE.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 31,800 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF SUN YIP STREET AND ON YIP STREET, CHAI WAN.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,383 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (COMMERCIAL USE WILL BE PERMITTED ON GROUND AND FIRST FLOORS ONLY).

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 21,447 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994.

THE OTHER TWO LOTS ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ONE IS LOCATED IN AREA 11, ON PING STREET, SHA TIN WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,724 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN) PURPOSES. THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 26,930 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,820 SQUARE METRES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 14,140 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

* THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD,

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 19 -

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, AND
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UC COMPLEX

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX AT ELECTRIC ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-STOREY BUILDING COMPRISING TWO FLOORS OF MARKETS, AND ONE FLOOR OF COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND LIBRARY. THERE SHOULD BE PROVISION FOR FUTURE EXTENSION FOR ADDITIONAL FLOORS.

WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START NEXT FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN MAY, 1992.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 7.

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FAREWELL TO CSD CHIEF

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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) HAS GREATLY EXPANDED IN THE PAST DECADES AND BECOME MUCH MORE PROFESSIONAL IN RUNNING SPECIALISED CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF INMATES.

THESE WERE THE REMARKS MADE BY THE OUTGOING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, AT A FAREWELL PARADE HELD IN HIS HONOUR AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

/MR CHAN

- 20 -

MR CHAN SAID SINCE HE JOINED THE SERVICE IN 1951, THE DEPARTMENT HAD GROWN FROM AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 502 STAFF TO THE CURRENT 7,050, AND FROM FOUR PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO 19 PENAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO SIX BOAT PEOPLE CAMPS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

TO DATE, HE SAID, CSD PROVIDES VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, DIETITIANS, EDUCATION SPECIALISTS, NURSES, PRODUCTION ENGINEERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND EXPERIENCED CUSTODIAL OFFICERS.

MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RECENT INNOVATIONS IN THE CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR INMATES.

"IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, WE HAVE COMPLETELY REVAMPED EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, INTRODUCED VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULT PRISONERS, ADOPTED AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE SUPERVISION OF EX-OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY, INTRODUCED THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION AND THE WORK RELEASE SCHEMES, IMPROVED ON THE SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURES, ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND, TOGETHER WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ESTABLISHED THE YOUNG OFFENDERS PANEL TO SERVE SOME OF THE LAW COURTS.

"THESE EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN MARKEDLY BETTER SUCCESS RATES IN ALL THE TREATMENT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMES," HE ADDED.

TO IMPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO REACT TO MASS DISTURBANCE OR A NATURAL DISASTER, MR CHAN SAID THE CSD'S TACTICAL RESPONSE SQUADRON WAS ESTABLISHED, AS WAS THE DOG UNIT, AS A NECESSARY BOOST TO SECURITY.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO INTRODUCED MORE SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES IN CORRECTION SERVICES, SUCH AS THE MORE REFINED CATEGORISATION OF VIOLENT OFFENDERS INCLUDING THOSE SERVING LIFE IMPRISONMENT, WHICH LED TO THE ESTABLISHING OF BEHAVIOURAL ADJUSTMENT UNITS IN TWO MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS.

BUT MR CHAN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MANY MORE SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES BEING INTRODUCED INTO CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES.

"AND I STILL ADVOCATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY, NOT FOR ACADEMIC PURSUE, BUT FOR TAKING THE SPECIFIC TASK TO FIGHT CRIME," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN ALSO REVEALED THAT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES HAS INCREASED ITS OUTPUT FROM \$33 MILLION IN 1980 TO \$211 MILLION LAST YEAR AND TO A FORECAST OUTPUT OF \$254 MILLION FOR 1990/91.

ON THE PROBLEMS FACING THE DEPARTMENT, MR CHAN SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE SERVICE HAD SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED SERIOUS OVERCROWDING OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS AND HAD MANAGED TO COPE WITH THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

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- 21 -

HE ALSO COMMENDED CSD STAFF FOR THEIR UNSWERVING LOYALTY AND DEDICATION TO THEIR WORK.

MR CHAN WILL RETIRE LATER THIS MONTH AFTER 39 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

HE JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A WARDER IN THE THEN PRISONS DEPARTMENT IN 1951 AND WAS PROMOTED TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER IN 1980 AND TO COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN 1985.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 185 CSD STAFF. THE EVENT ALSO MARKED THE PASSING-OUT OF 32 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED A 26-WEEK BASIC TRAINING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

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TERRITORY-WIDE EXERCISE NEXT WEEK

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A TERRITORY-WIDE EXERCISE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 22 AND 23 TO TEST THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO AN OFF-SITE EMERGENCY AT THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

THE EXERCISE WILL BE FICTITIOUS. IT WILL INVOLVE 22 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WILL TEST THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH A RADIOACTIVE PLUME AFFECTING HONG KONG AND PROCEDURES TO MONITOR FOOD AND WATER FOR CONTAMINATION.

THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE INCONVENIENCED AS THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL.

THE EXERCISE IS BEING HELD THIS YEAR SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN, DURING 1991, RE-EVALUATE AND REVISE ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND TO AN OFF-SITE EMERGENCY AT DAYA BAY WELL BEFORE THE PLANT BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN OCTOBER 1992.

AN EXERCISE PLANNING TEAM, HEADED BY A CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WILL RUN THE EXERCISE AND WILL EVALUATE THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 22 -

\$3M DONATION TO POLICE EDUCATION TRUSTS

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, MR GORDON M. MACWHINNIE, PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$3 MILLION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, AT THE POLICE OFFICERS' CLUB TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE GENEROUS DONATION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB BROUGHT WELL WITHIN SIGHT THE POLICE EDUCATION TRUSTS' TARGET IN A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO BOOST THE CAPITAL FUNDS OF THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AND THE POLICE EDUCATION WELFARE TRUST, BOTH SET UP IN 1967 TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

DUE TO THE GROWING DEMAND FOR BURSARIES AND THE INCREASE IN EDUCATION COSTS, THE EXPENDITURE OF THE TWO TRUSTS HAD BEEN GREATER THAN INCOME, CREATING A DEFICIT IN THE YEARS 1988 AND 1989, MAKING IT NECESSARY TO "EAT INTO" THE CAPITAL FUNDS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TRUSTS DECIDED IN APRIL 1989 TO LAUNCH A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN WITH A COMBINED TARGET SET AT \$8 MILLION.

AFTER 18 MONTHS, THE CAMPAIGN HAD RAISED ALMOST \$4.5 MILLION, CONSISTING OF LONG-TERM MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS BY SERVING POLICE OFFICERS, AND DONATIONS FROM PAST BENEFICIARIES AND CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS.

"THE AMOUNT WAS CONSIDERABLE BUT STILL FELL FAR SHORT OF THE TARGET," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POLICE EDUCATION TRUSTS' MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SAID.

"NOW, WITH THE \$3 MILLION DONATION FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB, \$2 MILLION OF WHICH GOES TO THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AND \$1 MILLION TO THE POLICE EDUCATION WELFARE TRUST, WE ARE AT LONG LAST GETTING CLOSE TO OUR GOAL."

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRUSTS, BEING ONE OF ITS FIRST DONORS. IN 1967, THE JOCKEY CLUB GAVE \$1 MILLION THAT HELPED TO LAUNCH THE POLICE EDUCATION WELFARE TRUST.

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APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW TO AVOID CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RUSH

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ANYONE INTENDING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SHOULD APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

/"IN ORDER

"IN ORDER TO AVOID LAST MINUTE RUSH, PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO APPLY FOR PASSPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAVEL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT NOW TAKES 20 WORKING DAYS (THAT IS ABOUT FOUR WEEKS) TO ISSUE A BRITISH HONG KONG PASSPORT AND 15 WORKING DAYS (THAT IS ABOUT THREE WEEKS) TO ISSUE A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY.

HOWEVER, THE PROCESSING TIME FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT OR A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IS ABOUT FIVE WEEKS IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, FOR HE HAS TO OBTAIN ONE AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

"RE-ENTRY PERMIT AND DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY BUT DELAY IS LIKELY IF THERE ARE MANY APPLICANTS COMING AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, ON SATURDAY IN WHICH WE COULD ONLY PROVIDE A LIMITED SERVICE WITH HALF STRENGTH," HE NOTED.

"THE PERIOD BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIME OF THE YEAR. BY APPLYING EARLY, IT WILL NOT ONLY SPREAD THE WORKLOAD OF THE DEPARTMENT BUT WILL ALSO GIVE APPLICANTS EXTRA TIME TO MEET ANY FURTHER VISA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS WHERE NECESSARY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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LIVE CAREERS SHOWS AT WEEKEND

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TWO DISCIPLINED FORCES WILL STAGE LIVE SHOWS AND DISPLAY THEIR PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENTS ON THE OPEN AREA OUTSIDE THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL OVER THE WEEKEND AS PART OF THE "CAREERS '91 EXHIBITION" JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS ON WEIGHING EQUIPMENTS AND THERE WILL ALSO BE DRUG DETECTOR DOG SHOWS FROM 11 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2.30 PM TO 3.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

IT WILL ALSO SHOW VISITORS THE USE OF WALK-THROUGH METAL DETECTOR WHILE A MOBILE X-RAY VAN WILL BE DISPLAYED.

ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18), THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL STAGE LIVE SHOWS TO DEMONSTRATE THE USE OF A WIDE RANGE OF EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING RESCUE TOOLS, TURNTABLE LADDERS, SNORKELS AND CUTTING EQUIPMENTS.

THESE SHOWS ARE SCHEDULED FROM 10.30 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2.30 PM TO 5 PM.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF ANTIQUE FIRE EQUIPMENTS AND APPLIANCE, AN EMERGENCY TENDER AND A DIVING TENDER. A MOBILE COMMAND UNIT, A MOBILE CASUALTY TREATMENT CENTRE, AN AMBULANCE AND AN AMBULANCE CYCLE WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED.

"THESE SHOWS ARE THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION OF THE EXHIBITION AND THOSE STAGED LAST WEEKEND BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE AUXILIARY SERVICES HAD DRAWN MORE THAN 78,000 PEOPLE," A LABOUR OFFICER OF THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MRS NORA YEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE "CAREERS '91" IS OPEN FROM 9.30 AM TO 6.30 PM DAILY UNTIL MONDAY (NOVEMBER 19) AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY AND THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL.

SOME 50,000 PEOPLE HAD VISITED THE EXHIBITION SINCE IT WAS OPENED LAST SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 10).

"VISITORS, ESPECIALLY SECONDARY STUDENTS, ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE CAREERS INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM THE STAFF MANNING THE STANDS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES, PROFESSIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"THE STUDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN A CAMERA AND OTHER PRIZES IF THEY ENTER A PHOTO COMPETITION CURRENTLY HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXHIBITION," MRS YEUNG SAID.

ENTRIES, WHICH SHOULD DEPICT THE EXHIBITION AND ITS OUTDOOR DEMONSTRATIONS, MAY BE IN COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE. THEY SHOULD MEASURE 20.3 CM BY 25.4 CM (8R) AND SHOULD BE MOUNTED ON CARDBOARDS.

THE TOP THREE WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE A CAMERA, WHILE THE FIRST 100 ENTRIES WILL EACH RECEIVE A SOUVENIR.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE ON 16TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, BY DECEMBER 8.

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STUDENTS VIEW OF HK'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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FIFTY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S INTER-SCHOOL CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION AIMED AT INCREASING STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS USED VISUAL MATERIALS SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHS, SLIDES, REPORTS, VIDEOS AND MODELS TO ILLUSTRATE HONG KONG'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 1990'S UNDER THE THEME, "BUILD HONG KONG FOR THE FUTURE".

/THE PROJECTS

THE PROJECTS WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) JUDGED BY A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS LED BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR DR DANIEL TSE, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

OTHER ADJUDICATORS WERE THE PRINCIPAL LECTURER OF THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR LAM HIN-TONG; THE CHIEF PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER, ICAC, MS GRACE CHEUNG; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR WONG SIK-WAH; AND THE PRINCIPAL OF HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, MR DAVID PUN.

PROJECTS FROM QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND FUK WING STREET GOVERNMENT PRIMARY AM SCHOOL WERE CHOSEN AS THE BEST ENTRY IN THE SECONDARY AND PRIMARY GROUPS AND EACH WILL WIN A \$5,000 BOOK COUPON.

THE WINNING PROJECTS WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE TEACHERS' CENTRE IN MID-JANUARY.

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CLEAN COUNTRYSIDE CONCERT IN SAI KUNG

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A CLEAN COUNTRYSIDE CONCERT, ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18) AFTERNOON AT PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK.

THE CONCERT AIMS AT DISSEMINATING KEEP CLEAN MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS AND GAMES INVOLVING SPECTATORS.

THE AUDIENCE WILL BE REMINDED IN PARTICULAR OF THE NEED TO DISPOSE OF THEIR REFUSE PROPERLY AFTER ENJOYING VARIOUS FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BE PRODUCED AND BROADCAST LIVE BY COMMERCIAL RADIO ONE FROM 2 PM TO 3 PM.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 1.30 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR HAROLD KWOK; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN; AND MEMBERS OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR KAN CHUNG-NIN AND MR MA LEE-WO.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONCERT ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18). A VAN (RC 828) WILL PICK UP REPORTERS AT MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI (BEHIND PENINSULA HOTEL) AND LEAVE FOR PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK AT 12.15 PM SHARP. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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YOUTH URGED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT.

MR HSU SAID THESE ARE WAYS TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE SPEECH DAY OF KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE (SHA TIN), MR HSU SAID THE DIVERSIFIED NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS WOULD BE TAKEN FULL CONSIDERATION IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS SO THAT IT CAN RESPOND ACCORDINGLY," HE SAID.

MR HSU POINTED OUT THAT 1991 WILL BE AN IMPORTANT YEAR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AS THE FIRST ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD.

NOTING THAT ALL SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, WILL HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, HE URGED STUDENTS TO TAKE MORE CARE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS SHOULD BE STEPPED UP TO BETTER STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING AND RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE SOCIETY.

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EASTERN DISTRICT STARTS SCHEME TO BEAUTIFY SLOPES

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A PILOT SCHEME TO BEAUTIFY CUT SLOPES THROUGH THE PLANTING OF CREEPERS AND VINES HAS BEEN EMBARKED IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING A SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT, HE SAID A SLOPE ON A KUNG NGAM ROAD IN SHAU KEI WAN HAD ALREADY BEEN SELECTED FOR THE SCHEME.

MANY BARREN SLOPES HAVE BECOME EYESORES AS A RESULT OF THE OVERLAYING OF CONCRETE AND PLASTER IN SLOPE STABILISATION PROJECTS, HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WERE CONSIDERING TO CARRY OUT TREE-PLANTING PROJECTS IN THE OLD URBAN AREAS.

MR BARCLAY SAID TREES ARE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND HENCE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PRESERVE THEM.

"FOR INSTANCE, WE FOUND SOME IMPRESSIVE BANYAN TREES IN A SITE AT SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST WHICH WAS PROPOSED FOR SALE. AFTER CONSIDERING OUR ADVICE, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO KEEP THE TREES BY CHANGING IT TO A PERMANENT OPEN SPACE," HE SAID.

THE DISTRICT BOARD ALSO FUNDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF MANY MINOR AMENITIES AND RAIN SHELTERS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

TURNING TO PRIVATE STREETS, MR BARCLAY SAID A RESUMPTION PROGRAMME WAS STARTED IN 1984 WITH A VIEW TO SOLVING THE TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS, HE SAID THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING TEAM WAS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ADVISING OWNERS ON REMEDIAL MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, OBSTRUCTION AND DRAINAGE PROBLEMS.

MR BARCLAY PRAISED THE AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS.

TODAY'S SEMINAR WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR RESIDENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON DISTRICT MATTERS. TWO MORE WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 19 AND 30.

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NEW PHASE FOR WAN CHAI TREE-PLANTING PROJECT

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A TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY TO KICK OFF "WAN CHAI GREENERY" PHASE TWO PROJECT WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON OUTSIDE THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED; WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM. THEY WILL EACH PLANT TWO TREES.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE URBAN SERVICES, HIGHWAYS, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS DISTRICT BOARD-FUNDED PROJECT.

A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE PROJECT, WHICH WAS AIMED AT GIVING WAN CHAI A "GREEN FACELIFT", HAD BEEN PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

"SO FAR, 45 TREES HAD BEEN PLANTED AND ANOTHER 30 WILL BE PLANTED BEFORE THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PROJECT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT MAJOR BUSINESS CORPORATIONS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO HELP BOOST TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EXPECTED PRIVATE SPONSORS TO INJECT SOME \$2 MILLION INTO THE PROJECT IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHOEN PLAYGROUND, LUARD ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROJECT'S PRIVATE PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

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COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB TO HOLD ANNUAL PARADE

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE 10TH ANNUAL PARADE OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 20).

MR LI WILL ALSO PRESENT AWARDS TO CYC MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS FOR THEIR DEDICATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MOVEMENT.

MORE THAN 3,000 CYC MEMBERS, SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WILL ATTEND THE FUNCTION WHICH WILL INCLUDE A MARCHING BAND AND CHINESE ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CYC ANNUAL PARADE AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM AT OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 20), BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE STADIUM'S MAIN ENTRANCE AT 2.15 PM.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990

- 29 -

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP ON AIDS

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED INTERESTED WOMEN TO TAKE PART IN THE FIRST WOMEN'S WORKSHOP ON AIDS TO BE HELD BETWEEN 2 PM AND 6 PM ON DECEMBER 1.

THE WORKSHOP IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS UNDER THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AIDS, IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD WORLD AIDS DAY 1990.

ENTITLED "PREVENTION OF AIDS - A WOMEN'S MISSION", THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO GIVE PARTICIPANTS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AIDS WHICH WILL, IN TURN, HELP THEM IN THEIR WORK TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE AND IN CARING FOR HIV CARRIERS.

THE WORKSHOP WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AT THE LADY TRENCH AUDITORIUM, DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 15 HENNESSY ROAD.

IT WILL CONSIST OF A SERIES OF TALKS ON THE IMPACT OF AIDS ON WOMEN, THE EFFECT OF THE DISEASE ON THE SOCIETY, AND EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ON AIDS.

THERE WILL BE GROUP DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE TALKS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY AND VIDEO SHOW ON AIDS.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

RESERVATION CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 835 1820.

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