



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1991

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TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS PRAISED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR SETTING STANDARDS OF COMMUNITY CARE THAT OTHERS STRIVE TO EMULATE.

"THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO INDICATE ITS READINESS TO JOIN THE NEW HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, AND TO TAKE A LEAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HOSPITAL SYSTEM," SIR DAVID SAID, WHEN ADDRESSING THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

"THE CHANGE MAY NOT BE EASY; BUT IT WILL OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE OUR HOSPITALS MORE EFFICIENT, MORE FLEXIBLE AND MORE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC NEEDS.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT TUNG WAH WILL MAKE THE BEST OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT TUNG WAH HAD SUCCESSFULLY ADAPTED TO CHANGE IN THE PAST 120 YEARS DUE TO ITS LEADERSHIP.

"THE PAST AND PRESENT CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH BOARD ARE WORTHY SUCCESSORS TO A VERY IMPRESSIVE TRADITION; A TRADITION THAT HAS DRAWN ON CHINESE VALUES AND HAS WON THE RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY; A TRADITION OF CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE AND THE SICK THROUGH PRACTICAL GOOD WORKS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEED TO DRAW ON SUCH TRADITIONS AS IT MET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

"AND IT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE STEADY LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY PEOPLE LIKE THE PAST AND PRESENT CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS," HE SAID.

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GOOD TRADE AND INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: FS

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WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 400 MILLION, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD BE A MARKET OF GOOD POTENTIAL FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE HONG KONG AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION, MR MACLEOD SAID THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR WAS LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH THE REGION.

"AS THESE MARKETS MOVE INCREASINGLY TOWARDS MARKET ECONOMY, THERE WOULD BE A GROWING DEMAND FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

/"THERE ARE

"THERE ARE THEREFORE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG EXPORTERS AND ENTREPRENEURS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CENTRAL - EASTERN EUROPE HAS ALREADY BEEN GROWING ENCOURAGINGLY, HE SAID.

"IN 1990, TOTAL TRADE ROSE BY 32 PER CENT OVER 1989, TO OVER \$4.4 BILLION. IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THERE WAS A 35 PER CENT INCREASE TO REACH \$2.5 BILLION.

"ALTHOUGH THE INCREASES WERE ON A RELATIVELY SMALL BASE, THE UPWARD TREND REFLECTS THE GOOD POTENTIAL OF THESE MARKETS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S EFFORT IN DEVELOPING THESE MARKETS, MR MACLEOD SAID THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAD BEEN MONITORING AND DEVELOPING THE MARKETS IN AUSTRIA AND EASTERN EUROPE.

"IT HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND USEFUL ROLE IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A HONG KONG PRESENCE THERE. A NUMBER OF EXHIBITIONS HAVE BEEN HELD AND TRADE MISSIONS ORGANISED TO POLAND, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND USSR.

"IN PARTICULAR, EXHIBITIONS OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS ARE REGULARLY HELD IN WARSAW, BUDAPEST AND PRAGUE. MOST RECENTLY, A HONG KONG PRODUCTS EXHIBITION BY ABOUT 40 COMPANIES HELD IN WARSAW LAST MONTH ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS.

"SOME \$28 MILLION WORTH OF BUSINESS ORDERS WERE MADE ON THE SPOT AND ANOTHER \$73 MILLION OF ORDERS ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR MACLEOD CAUTIONED THAT PENETRATING THE CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN MARKETS WAS BY NO MEANS EASY.

"THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY, INADEQUATE COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, LOW PRODUCTIVITY, LOW PURCHASING POWER AND GOVERNMENT RED-TAPE," HE SAID.

"THESE ARE OBSTACLES TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT. FURTHERMORE, ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN THE REGION IS FAR FROM ASSURED," HE NOTED.

"THAT SAID, DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE IMAGINATIVE ENTREPRENEUR. AND ALL THE SIGNS ARE THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT ESTABLISHING A WORKING MARKET ECONOMY," HE ADDED.

ON AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND HONG KONG, MR MACLEOD SAID GIVEN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND EXPERIENCE, AUSTRIA WAS WELL PLACED TO ACT AS A CONVENIENT SPRINGBOARD FOR HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A Foothold IN THE REGION.

"HONG KONG TO CHINA IS IN SOME RESPECTS WHAT AUSTRIA IS TO EASTERN EUROPE. BOTH ARE MAJOR GATEWAY TO THE HINTERLAND," HE SAID.

"FOR MANY YEARS, AUSTRIA HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT CONDUIT FOR TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE. PRESUMABLY REFLECTING THIS ROLE, THE RE-EXPORT TRADE BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND HONG KONG ROSE BY AN AMAZING 15 TIMES BETWEEN 1986 AND 1990.

"AND THE TREND CONTINUES - IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY A FURTHER 50 PER CENT," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED EXCELLENT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA.

"TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRIA HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF OVER 30 PER CENT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

"IN 1990, OUR TOTAL TRADE WITH AUSTRIA, VALUED AT \$5 BILLION, WAS 3.3 TIMES THAT OF 1986.

"OUR EXPORTS TO AUSTRIA AND IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA MORE THAN DOUBLED IN VALUE DURING THE PERIOD. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY PRODUCTS ARE GLASSWARE AND OPTICAL GOODS FROM AUSTRIA AND GARMENTS FROM HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE DIRECT AIR LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND VIENNA, INTRODUCED NOT LONG AGO, IS SYMBOLIC OF THE INCREASING COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRIA, HE SAID.

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HONG KONG COMMITTED TO FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING: AG

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HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PERNICIOUS AND EVIL BUSINESS OF 'DRUGS TRAFFICKING, WAS REPRESENTED NOT BY RHETORIC, NOT JUST BY PIECES OF PAPER, BUT BY SOLID HARD WORK AND SOLID ACHIEVEMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR MATHEWS SAID THIS REPRESENTED THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF MANY PEOPLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AT ALL LEVELS BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND OUTSIDE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A FOUR-DAY ECONOMIC CRIME WORKSHOP ON MONEY LAUNDERING ORGANISED BY THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT AND THE CROWN AGENTS, MR MATHEWS SAID HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT IN TERMS OF RESOURCES WAS BOTH SUBSTANTIAL AND WIDESPREAD.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD A HIGHLY EFFICIENT POLICE FORCE AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, WHOSE TECHNIQUES IN TRACING DRUGS, AND WHOSE SUCCESSES IN SEIZING DRUGS, WERE IMPRESSIVE BY ANY STANDARD.

LAST YEAR, OVER 5,000 KILOGRAMS OF VARIOUS KINDS OF DRUGS, INCLUDING 71 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN AND 91 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 4 HEROIN, WERE SEIZED.

HE SAID THE COURTS WERE SEVERE ON THOSE WHO WERE PROVED TO BE DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

TRAFFICKERS WHO WERE CAUGHT WITH HALF A KILOGRAM OF HEROIN, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD FACE SENTENCES IN EXCESS OF 15 YEARS.

A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS TO TREAT AND REHABILITATE DRUG ADDICTS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED.

THERE WERE 25 METHADONE CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OPERATING UNDER CONDITIONS OF STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY, WITH AN AIM OF HELPING TO KEEP DRUG ADDICTS AWAY FROM DRUGS AND REDUCE DRUG-RELATED CRIMES.

THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES DEVOTED TO THE TASK OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, PROVIDING AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF SERVICES RANGING FROM THE OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT CENTRES TO FREE COUNSELLING AND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE IN CAREER PLACEMENT.

EVERY YEAR A VARIETY OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES INCLUDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MEDIA, AND EDUCATIONAL TALKS TO STUDENTS AT SCHOOLS, WERE ORGANISED.

SINCE FEBRUARY 1984, A SCHOOL TALKS TEAM OF OFFICERS OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION HAD BEEN VISITING ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO EXPLAIN TO STUDENTS IN FORMS I TO VII THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUGS, SO AS TO DISSUADE THEM FROM ABUSING OR EXPERIMENTING WITH ILLICIT DRUGS.

HE ALSO DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S EFFORTS TO ATTACK THE UNDERLYING ECONOMIC CAUSES OF THIS TRADE, RECOGNISING THAT ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF ATTACKING THE PROBLEM WAS TO IDENTIFY AND TO DESTROY THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURES AND MACHINERY SET UP BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

IN 1989, HONG KONG INTRODUCED ITS DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE FREEZING AND THE CONFISCATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS. THE ORDINANCE ALSO MADE IT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO LAUNDER THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

SO FAR, SOME \$312 MILLION HAD BEEN FROZEN AND OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF DRUG ASSETS HAD BEEN CONFISCATED.

IN ADDITION, CONFISCATION ORDERS HAD BEEN GRANTED FOR ANOTHER \$4.4 MILLION OF DRUGS ASSETS.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS PERHAPS A LITTLE EARLY TO SAY JUST HOW EFFECTIVE THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN IN ATTACKING THE PROFIT ELEMENT IN THE DRUGS TRADE, THE RESULTS SO FAR ARE ENCOURAGING.

"WE ARE NOW REVIEWING THE ORDINANCE WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO ENHANCE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND ITS CAPABILITIES IN ATTACKING THE ASSETS OF DRUGS TRAFFICKING," MR MATHEWS SAID.

NOTING THAT BANKS PLAYED A VITAL PART IN COMBATTING MONEY LAUNDERING, HE SAID AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE REQUIRED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG TO GIVE NOTICE WHENEVER THERE WAS A SUSPECT TRANSACTION WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE THE PROCEEDS OF DRUGS TRAFFICKING.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS HAD ISSUED COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES IN THIS AREA.

"BY IMPLEMENTING PROPER CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION AND RECORD KEEPING SYSTEMS, AND BY CO-OPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, BANKS CAN GIVE ASSISTANCE THAT IS OF ENORMOUS VALUE TO INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTIONS WORK," HE SAID.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO ENABLED ORDERS OF FOREIGN COURTS CONFISCATING DRUGS ASSETS TO BE ENFORCED HERE AND FOR HONG KONG'S CONFISCATION ORDERS TO BE ENFORCED OVERSEAS IF THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT TO DO SO.

"HONG KONG HAD ENTERED INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE WITH AUSTRALIA, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND SIX UK JURISDICTIONS (ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, ISLE OF MAN, JERSEY AND GUERNSEY) AND WE ARE CONTINUING TALKS WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO THE SAME END.

"THESE AGREEMENTS ARE A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH HONG KONG IS PLAYING ITS PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT TO COMBAT DRUG RELATED MONEY LAUNDERING."

SINCE DECEMBER 1990, HONG KONG HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE G7 (SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS) FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE, AND MEMBERSHIP WAS CONFIRMED IN MARCH THIS YEAR UPON ENDORSEMENT OF THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE INVOLVED HONG KONG IN TAKING A LEAD ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEASURES TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING THROUGH BOTH THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL FINANCIAL SECTORS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION.

MR MATHEWS ALSO TALKED ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

IN THE FIELD OF EXTRADITION, HONG KONG HAD PLAYED ITS PART CO-OPERATING WITH JURISDICTIONS OVERSEAS IN THE APPREHENSION AND RETURN OF FUGITIVE CRIMINALS.

"IT IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE SCALE OF THE DRUGS TRADE THAT THE BULK OF OUR EXTRADITION WORK IS INDEED CONCERNED WITH DRUG OFFENCES.

"LAST YEAR, HONG KONG HANDLED NO FEWER THAN 30 EXTRADITION CASES WITH 10 COUNTRIES.

"LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, WE ARE NOW EMBARKING ON A SERIES OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE EXTRADITION TRAFFIC WITH A VIEW TO PRODUCING BILATERAL EXTRADITION AGREEMENTS THAT WILL ENDURE BEYOND 1997."

IN THE WIDER FIELD OF MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, HE SAID FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP IN LONDON LAST MONTH, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE TEXT OF A MODEL MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.

REPATRIATION TO START WITH DOUBLE BACKERS

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUING BETWEEN THE BRITISH, HONG KONG AND VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS ON WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IN FULL AND IN PARTICULAR THE PROVISION THAT ALL NON-REFUGEES SHOULD RETURN TO VIETNAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES.

"AS A FIRST STEP, AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED ON THE RETURN TO VIETNAM OF THE SO-CALLED DOUBLE BACKERS (I.E. THOSE WHO, HAVING RETURNED TO VIETNAM ONCE AND BENEFITTED FROM UNHCR REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE, HAVE ENTERED HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FOR A SECOND TIME) AND THOSE OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY WHO HAVE COME WITH THEM.

"DISCUSSION OF THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATING NEW ARRIVALS AND OTHER NON-REFUGEES ALREADY IN HONG KONG CONTINUES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAVE REPEATED THEIR UNDERTAKINGS THAT NO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WHO RETURNS TO VIETNAM WILL FACE PERSECUTION AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO FACILITATE THE MONITORING OF RETURNEES BY UNHCR, AND OTHERS, TO ENSURE THAT THESE GUARANTEES ARE FULLY RESPECTED.

"IN THE LAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS ALMOST 11,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO VIETNAM FROM HONG KONG WITHOUT A SINGLE SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF PERSECUTION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED FOR THE RETURN OF THE DOUBLE BACKERS AND REPATRIATION WOULD THEREFORE NOT TAKE PLACE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

REPATRIATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES AND WITHIN TERMS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN JUNE 1989.

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STATEMENT ON BCCHK

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IN A STATEMENT TODAY (MONDAY) THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, CONFIRMED THAT PROPOSALS FOR THE TAKEOVER OF THE BANKING BUSINESS OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED (BCCHK), INCLUDING ITS SUBSIDIARY, BCCFI, HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE HONGKONG CHINESE BANK LIMITED, A MEMBER OF THE LIPPO GROUP OF COMPANIES.

MR GLEESON SAID AS THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL HE COULD NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS AT THIS STAGE.

/THE PROPOSALS

THE PROPOSALS WERE NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE HONGKONG CHINESE BANK AND LIPPO DURING THE WEEK.

THE ADJOURNED HEARING OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PETITION FOR THE WINDING-UP OF BCCHK WAS FIXED FOR NEXT MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, AND MR GLEESON, AS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR, WOULD BE REPORTING TO THE HIGH COURT AGAIN ON THAT DATE.

IN THE MEANTIME HE DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE CHANCES OF THESE PROPOSALS BEING ACCEPTED OR HOW MUCH LONGER THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE. ANY TERMS THAT MIGHT BE PROVISIONALLY AGREED BY HIM WOULD REQUIRE THE SANCTION OF THE COURT, AND THE DEPOSITORS AND OTHER CREDITORS WOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED.

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LEGCO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 13 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 23).

THE THREE BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS ARE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) BILL 1991.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME TO BOOST ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

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THE HONG KONG EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME IN ENGLISH (HKERS), A PROJECT DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH IN LOCAL SCHOOLS, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 200 PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS OVER THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE), DR VERNER BICKLEY, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

NINETEEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED THE SCHEME IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR AND ANOTHER 25 ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE NEXT SEPTEMBER.

THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE SCHEME WILL INVOLVE SECONDARY 1 STUDENTS ONLY AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH THE VARIOUS READING LEVELS AS THEY MOVE UP TO SECONDARY 2 AND 3.

/DR BICKLEY

DR BICKLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE SCHEME WAS THE RESULT OF A PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED IN NINE PUBLIC-SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 1986 TO AUGUST 1988 AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE CURRICULUM AND THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS.

"THE GREATER EXPOSURE TO ENGLISH THROUGH EXTENSIVE READING HAD RESULTED IN BOTH LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT AND DESIRABLE ATTITUDINAL CHANGES IN STUDENTS TOWARDS THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN GENERAL AND READING IN PARTICULAR," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE SCHEME, DR BICKLEY SAID THE 90 SECONDARY 1 CLASSES FROM THE 19 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS THIS YEAR ARE GIVEN RESOURCE PACKAGES EACH CONTAINING 400 BOOKS, BOTH FICTION AND NON-FICTION, GRADED INTO EIGHT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND ACCOMPANIED WITH QUESTION CARDS, ANSWER CARDS, READING CHARTS AND RECORDS TO HELP TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MONITOR PROGRESS.

EACH RESOURCE PACKAGE COSTING OVER \$16,000 WILL BE USED AND SHARED BY THREE CLASSES UP TO SECONDARY 3 AND WILL PROVIDE EVERY STUDENT AN INDIVIDUALISED PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP INDEPENDENT READING.

DR BICKLEY SAID APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN PHASE 1 WAS OVERWHELMING WITH 140 SECONDARY SCHOOLS APPLYING TO JOIN BUT ONLY 19 SELECTED.

ABOUT 110 TEACHERS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS STAGE OF THE SCHEME. ALL OF WHOM HAVE ATTENDED A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON THE HKERS ORGANISED BY THE ILE, WHICH IS ALSO PROVIDING CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS THROUGH VISITS AND CONSULTATIONS.

SCHOOLS HAVE REPORTED SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME AS PART OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRICULUM.

AS A FURTHER INCENTIVE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST HAVE SET UP AN AWARD FOR THE SCHEME.

CERTIFICATES AND BOOK COUPONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BEST READERS OF THE SCHOOLS AND WINNERS OF AN INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION ON BOOK REPORTS IN JULY NEXT YEAR, ONE YEAR AFTER THE LAUNCHING OF THE SCHEME.

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CERAMIC PLATES TO COMMEMORATE POST OFFICE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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CERAMIC PLATES COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT PHILATELIC COUNTERS OF SEVEN OFFICES FROM WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 23), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SEVEN OFFICES ARE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE, PEAK POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE, AIRPORT POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

EIGHT CAREFULLY CHOSEN STAMPS, REFLECTING HONG KONG'S HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT, ARE REPRODUCED ON THE PLATE WHICH IS DECORATED AND INDIVIDUALLY HAND-NUMBERED IN 22 CARAT GOLD.

THESE PLATES ARE PRICED AT \$388 EACH AND MAY ALSO BE ORDERED BY MAIL AT ALL POST OFFICES. MAIL ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES.

THE PLATES ARE LICENSED BY THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE, MANUFACTURED IN AUSTRALIA AND MARKETED BY K.G. ASIA PACIFIC (HK) COMPANY.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 279.135 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 331.957 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 56.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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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	19.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	21.10.91	+49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.9 *+0.1* 21.10.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	21.10.91	18.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.36 PCT	4.41 PCT
1 MONTH	4.35 PCT	4.42 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.43 PCT	4.61 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.85 PCT	5.14 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.83 PCT	6.00 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	8,195 MN	8,255 MN

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