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GOVT TO HELP FIGHT SHENZHEN FIRE
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IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE MAYOR OF SHENZHEN, URGENT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY HONG KONG'S ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO ASSIST THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES WITH FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE WORK FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION NORTH OF SHENZHEN.

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR GERRY LAM, HAS FLOWN TO SHENZHEN BY A GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICES HELICOPTER TO MEET SHENZHEN OFFICIALS AND MAKE AN ON-THE-SPOT ASSESSMENT. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OF HIS SENIOR FIRE OFFICERS.

EARLIER, THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S OFFICE HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NEW CHANA NEWS AGENCY OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG TO SEE WHETHER HONG KONG COULD PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND TREATMENT FOR THE VICTIMS.

THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY DO NOT AT THIS STAGE REQUIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM HONG KONG.

"BUT HAVE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR OUR OFFER IN THIS REGARD.

"WE HAVE TOLD THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES THAT IF THE SITUATION SHOULD CHANGE WE REMAIN READY TO OFFER WHATEVER MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL HELP WE CAN," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ALISTAIR ASPREY
SPEAKING TO PRESS ON SHENZHEN FIRE
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ASPREY: WELL, GOOD EVENING. I'M SURE YOU'VE ALL HEARD OF THE EXPLOSION IN SHENZHEN THIS AFTERNOON. I DO NOT HAVE FULL DETAIL OF IT BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN A CHEMICAL STORE APPROXIMATELY AT 1.30 THIS AFTERNOON. THIS IS LOCATED NORTH OF SHENZHEN TOWN. THE FIRE, I THINK, THAT RESULTED FROM THE EXPLOSION SPREAD TO AN ADJOINING TIMBER YARD AND I BELIEVE IS STILL CONTINUING NOW. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASUALTIES BUT WE DON'T HAVE PRECISE DETAILS OF THESE CASUALTIES.

OBVIOUSLY I THINK THAT ALL HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD SYMPATHISE WITH THE CASUALTIES AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THIS GREAT TRAGEDY AND WOULD WANT HONG KONG TO ASSIST AS FAR AS WE CAN. THE NCNA MADE A REQUEST AT 7.30 THIS EVENING TO THE POLITICAL ADVISER FOR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING TO FIGHT THE FIRE. THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES HAS GONE UP TO THE SCENE OF THE FIRE BY HELICOPTER TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT BOTH FROM THE AIR AND FROM THE GROUND AS TO HOW HONG KONG MIGHT ASSIST IN FIRE FIGHTING. HE HAS PUT SEVERAL APPLIANCES ON STANDBY IN SHEUNG SHUI WHICH COULD BE USED IF NEEDED.

/THE POLITICAL .....

THE POLITICAL ADVISER HAS ALSO OFFERED THROUGH THE NCNA MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL HELP IF THAT IS NEEDED. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE AWAITING THE REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES ON THE SCENE TO ADVISE US ON HOW WE CAN HELP FURTHER. MEANTIME WE HAVE ACTIVATED THE EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ALSO ALL THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT ARE LIKELY, POSSIBLY TO BE INVOLVED AND THEY ARE ON STANDBY. THE ACTING GOVERNOR HAS BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION AND WE'VE BEEN MAKING REGULAR REPORTS TO HIM. I THINK THAT IS ALL I REALLY HAVE TO HAVE TO SAY AT THE MOMENT. NOW WE ARE WAITING FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE SPOT ASSESSMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES.

QUESTION: (BURNS UNIT?)

ASPREY: WE OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW IN PRECISELY WHAT WAY WE CAN ASSIST UNTIL WE GET A PROPER ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. BUT MEDICAL AND/OR HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE OFFERED THEM THAT WOULD TRY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY THAT WE COULD.

QUESTION: HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ...

ASPREY: THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN WARNED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CASUALTIES COMING IN. I THINK THAT'S AS FAR AS WE CAN TAKE IT AT THE MOMENT UNTIL WE HAVE MORE DETAILS TO GIVE THEM.

QUESTION: HOW MANY FIREMEN ARE NOW STANDING BY?

ASPREY: I MEAN THE FIRE SERVICES ARE ALWAYS ON STANDBY. BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL APPLIANCES THAT HAVE BEEN PUT ON SPECIAL STANDBY AT SHEUNG SHUI. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DETAILS. BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT SORTS OF APPLICANCES THAT HAVE BEEN EARMARKED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI FIRE STATION.

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE LAST OF REQUESTS LIKE THIS ...?

ASPREY: NOT IN MY KNOWLEDGE, NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW.

QUESTION: WHICH HOSPTIALS WILL BE MOST LIKELY TO BE USED?

ASPREY: I DON'T KNOW AT THIS STAGE. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE TO ASSESS AT THE TIME, GIVEN THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AND I SUPPOSE THE TYPE OF INJURIES INVOLVED. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEND THEM TO WHEREVER COULD BEST TREAT THEM.

QUESTION: WHEN DID NCNA MAKE THE REQUEST?

ASPREY: AT 7.30 THIS EVENING, THEY FIRST CONTACTED THE POLITICAL ADVISER AND WE'VE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THEM SINCE THEN.

QUESTION: BUT HAVE THEY BEEN SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT ARE THE THINGS THEY WANT, THERE ARE SO MANY ....?

ASPREY: WELL, THEY ASKED PARTICULARLY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FIGHTING THE FIRE, BUT WE FELT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES GO UP TO ASSESS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND TO SEE IN WHAT WAY HE COULD BEST ASSIST SO THAT'S BEING DONE NOW.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: WHY WASN'T HELP GIVEN EARLIER, WHY DO YOU WAIT FOR REQUEST?

ASPREY: WE DID NOT HAVE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT. WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WE DID NOT KNOW THAT THEY WANTED ASSISTANCE OR WHAT SORTS OF ASSISTANCE THEY WANTED SO WE WAITED FOR REQUEST.

QUESTION: WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES WILL GIVE THE REPORT AND THE ASSESSMENT RESULT?

ASPREY: AS SOON AS HE CAN.

QUESTION: YOU MEAN BY MIDNIGHT OR ...?

ASPREY: I DON'T KNOW, ... WE'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR HIM TO GO AND MAKE A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT.

QUESTION: DO YOU MEAN THAT HE IS NOW WORKING..

ASPREY: HE LEFT HERE BY HELICOPTER ABOUT HALF-AN-HOUR, MORE THAN HALF-AN-HOUR AGO. I'M SURE HE'S UP THERE NOW, EITHER MAKING AN ASSESSMENT, EITHER IN THE AIR OR POSSIBLY HE'S ALREADY DONE IT. I DON'T HAVE THAT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

QUESTION: WHO IS FLYING HIM THERE, IS THE HONG KONG FLYING SERVICE?

ASPREY: YES, THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE.

QUESTION: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME HONG KONG WAS ASKED FOR HELP FROM ACROSS THE BORDER?

ASPREY: I THINK IT'S CERTAINLY THE FIRST TIME I CAN REMEMBER HELP IN THIS SORT OF INCIDENT BEING ASKED FOR. IT'S NOT BY ANY MEANS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE HAS BEEN ACROSS THE BORDER. IT'S DONE SO FOR CASUALTY EVACUATION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, AND NOT REGULARLY BUT OCCASIONALLY, FROM TIME TO TIME.

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STEADY PROGRESS MADE ON RURAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME: ACTING GOVERNOR

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STEADY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE UNDER THE AMBITIOUS RURAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IT IS A WELL WORTHWHILE PROJECT AND ONE WHICH WE WOULD CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO OVER THE YEARS AHEAD," SIR DAVID TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO YUEN LONG.

THIS RURAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IS DUE TO LAST ABOUT 10 YEARS AND WILL COST ABOUT $5 BILLION WITH OVER 1,000 DIFFERENT SCHEMES TO MAKE IT UP.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED TO MAKE BETTER PROGRESS TO THE SCHEME.

/"AND I .....

"AND I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND WAYS OF TRYING TO SPEED UP THE WHOLE PROGRAMME," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE CLEAN-UP WORK TO THE YUEN LONG NULLAH AS A TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT WORK THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO BRING ABOUT.

ON THE POLICY TO ALLOW EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS TO SWITCH TO LOCAL EMPLOYMENT TERMS, SIR DAVID URGED CIVIL SERVANTS TO GIVE THE NEW ARRANGEMENT A CHANCE TO WORK BEFORE CRITICISING IT TOO HEAVILY.

"IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION THAT WE HAD. WE KNEW THAT IT WOULDN'T BE POPULAR WITH EVERYBODY BUT WE HAD TO TRY TO BE FAIR TO EVERYBODY. THAT'S WHAT WE'D TRIED TO DO."

HE SAID THE REACTIONS SO FAR HAD BEEN OVER-STRONG.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE HOW IT OPERATES BEFORE THEY OVER-REACT TO THIS ISSUE. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE COULD HAVE TAKEN ANY OTHER MEASURES."

"IT WILL NOT HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON LOCALISATION AND WILL NOT HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE CIVIL SERVICE, " HE ADDED.

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ACTING GOVERNOR SEES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED YUEN LONG TO SEE FOR HIMSELF SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UNDER THE RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RPIS).

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR CANICE MAK, AND THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR CHOW CHE-KING.

SIR DAVID BEGAN HIS VISIT BY HAVING A BRIEFING ON THE PROJECTS AT THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN TIN SHUI WAI.

HE THEN PROCEEDED TO WANG LOK STREET TO SEE THE CONDITION OF A SECTION OF THE YUEN LONG NULLAH.

SIR DAVID LEARNED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA NEAR THE NULLAH HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED SINCE THE INSTALLATION OF AN INFLATABLE DAM ACROSS THAT SECTION OF THE NULLAH.

THE DAM, BUILT UNDER A $135 MILLION PROJECT TO TACKLE POLLUTION OF THE NULLAHS IN YUEN LONG, PREVENTS POLLUTED TIDAL WATER FROM ENTERING THE NULLAH.

/OTHER WORKS .....

OTHER WORKS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE A 700-METRE CONCRETE LINING IN THE NULLAH AND A PUMPING STATION.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR THEN WENT TO A PEDESTRIAN FLYOVER IN NAM BIN WAI TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE YUEN LONG KAU HUI, AN OLD MARKET TOWN.

SIR DAVID LEARNED THAT THE EXISTING FACILITIES IN KAU HUI DID NOT MEET THE CURRENT LIVING STANDARDS.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE OLD MARKET TOWN INCLUDE THE FORMATION OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE HOUSING EXPANSION AREAS, OPEN SPACES, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIES.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND ASSOCIATED DRAINS HAS ALSO BEEN PLANNED.

BEFORE WINDING UP THE VISIT, SIR DAVID INSPECTED A FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME IN THE LO UK VILLAGE, TIN SHUI WAI.

THE SCHEME CONSISTS OF BUNDS AND CATCHWATERS TO PREVENT FLOOD WATER FROM ENTERING INTO THE VILLAGE, AS WELL AS FLOOD STORAGE PONDS AND PUMPING STATIONS TO DRAIN THE CATCHMENTS INSIDE THE VILLAGE.

THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE RPIS IN 1989 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RURAL LIFE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THROUGH INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE.

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TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
MRS ANSON CHAN SPEAKING TO PRESS ON PROPOSED EXPATRIATE PACKAGE
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SCS: WE HAVE OF COURSE BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE COMMENTARIES IN THE MEDIA AND ALSO COMMENTARIES FROM DIFFERENT QUARTERS. AND I THOUGHT THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS THAT WE SHOULD CLARIFY.

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO STRESS THAT THE POLICY CHANGES THAT WE ANNOUNCED SEVERAL DAYS AGO ARE OF A SHORT-TERM, TRANSITIONAL NATURE. ESSENTIALLY, THE CONTRACTS WILL BE RENEWED ONLY FOR A PERIOD OF TWO AND A HALF YEARS. AS REGARDS LONGER-TERM ARRANGEMENTS, CERTAINLY ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD COMMIT THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT, WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO START ANY EARLY DIALOGUE WITH THE CHINESE AND THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS SO THAT WE CAN WORK HARD AND SET UP ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES.

SECONDLY, I THOUGHT THERE HAS BEEN A GROSS EXAGGERATION OF THE NUMBERS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN TRANSFERRING TO LOCAL AGREEMENT TERMS. WE THINK IN FACT THAT THE NUMBERS ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY SMALL, BEARING IN MIND THAT EVEN UNDER THE OLD POLICY, A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THEIR CONTRACTS RENEWED.

/THIRDLY, THE .....

THIRDLY, THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT ON LOCAL AGREEMENT TERMS IS NOT BY ANY MEANS AN AUTOMATIC PROCESS. AN ELIGIBLE OFFICER FIRST OF ALL HAS TO APPLY. WHETHER HE IS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS APPLICATION WILL DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT - THE ADMINISTRATION MAKING THE DECISION - BASED ON SERVICE NEED AND THE OFFICER'S PERFORMANCE AND ON WHETHER HE IS PHYSICALLY FIT. SO IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS AUTOMATIC.

I WANT ALSO TO STRESS THAT WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO OUR LOCALISATION POLICY. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR TENETS TO THIS POLICY AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW. FIRST, WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO HIRING SUITABLE LOCAL OFFICERS. SECONDLY, ALSO WHERE LOCAL OFFICERS, SUITABLE LOCAL OFFICERS, ARE AVAILABLE TO REPLACE OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS, THEN WE WILL SO REPLACE THESE OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS.

I HAVE ALSO NOTICED THAT SOME OF THE COMMENTS SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT, INSTEAD OF TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO CHANGE THIS POLICY, REALLY OUGHT TO LEAVE IT TO THE COURT TO DECIDE. NOW WE BELIEVE THE POLICY CHANGES WE HAVE ANNOUNCED CONCERN A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF STAFF MANAGEMENT. ON SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS THIS, WE THINK THAT IT IS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO LEAVE IT TO THE COURT TO DECIDE. IF FOR ANY REASON WE FEEL THAT IN STAFF MANAGEMENT WE NEED TO HAVE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE OVERALL PUBLIC INTEREST ALTHOUGH IN ANY WAY IN INCONSISTENCY WITH THE LEGAL POSITION, THEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PUT RIGHT THE POLICY AND THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

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CONTRACT AWARD FOR WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY - SOUTH SECTION

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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS ACCEPTED A HK$997 MILLION TENDER SUBMITTED BY AOKI CORPORATION OF JAPAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY SOUTH SECTION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY SOUTH SECTION WOULD LINK ON THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TOLL PLAZA AT YAU MA TEI AND THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY NORTH SECTION AT TAI KOK TSUI.

THE MAJOR ITEMS OF THE WORKS INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF A 1.5-KILOMETRE-LONG DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY OF WHICH 0.4 KILOMETRE WILL BE DEPRESSED WITHIN A TROUGH STRUCTURE, 1.2 KILOMETRES OF PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD ALONGSIDE THE EXPRESSWAY, A MAJOR INTERCHANGE, EXTENSIONS OF MAJOR BOX CULVERTS ACROSS THE NEW RECLAMATION, AN UNDERPASS AT CHERRY STREET AND A ONE-KILOMETRE-LONG REINFORCED CONCRETE TUNNEL ACROSS THE INTERCHANGE.

TENDERS WERE RECEIVED FROM EIGHT PREQUALIFIED TENDERERS AND THE JAPANESE COMPANY - AOKI CORPORATION - SUBMITTED THE LOWEST PRICED BID OF HK$997 MILLION.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE LATER HALF OF 1996.

/THE AWARD .....

THE AWARD OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY SOUTH SECTION CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT-FUNDED CONTRACTS AWARDED ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) TO 24, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT $27 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE FOUR CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY VALUED ABOUT $9.7 BILLION, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRACTS AWARDED ON THE ACP IS ABOUT $36.7 BILLION.

ALL THE CONTRACTS WERE AWARDED WITHIN BUDGET AND ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION ON TIME.

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DRINKING WATER QUALITY ASSURED
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE QUALITY OF THE TREATED WATER SUPPLY IN THE TERRITORY CONFORMED TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DRINKING WATER QUALITY RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

THE REMARK WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO SOME LOCAL NEWSPAPERS QUOTING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER REV FUNG CHI-WOOD AS SAYING THAT HE WAS STILL IN DOUBT OF THE TAP WATER QUALITY IN TAI PO AFTER MEETING THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

"ALL WATER TREATMENT WORKS IN HONG KONG ARE OPERATED STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE WATER SUPPLIED TO TAI PO AREAS IS TREATED BY THE TAI PO TAU WATER TREATMENT WORKS WHICH HANDLES OVER 100,000 CUBIC METRES OF WATER A DAY TO MEET THE DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC DEMANDS IN THE AREAS," HE SAID.

"THE TAI PO TAU TREATMENT WORKS IS OPERATED NO DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER WORKS IN THE TERRITORY.

"THE WATER QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SUPPLY, TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS SYSTEMATICALLY MONITORED BY CHEMICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN AT INTAKES, STORAGE RESERVOIRS, TREATMENT WORKS, SERVICE RESERVOIRS, TRUNK MAINS AND THE CONSUMERS' TAPS," HE STRESSED.

ON THE COMPLAINTS ON WATER QUALITY IN TAI PO DISTRICT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "WE RECEIVED 22 COMPLAINTS ABOUT UNSATISFACTORY QUALITY OF TAP WATER IN THE DISTRICT LAST MONTH."

"IT IS FOUND THAT THE UNSATISFACTORY WATER QUALITY IS MAINLY DUE TO THE RUST IN THE PIPES IN THE BUILDINGS CONCERNED."

HE ASSURED THE PUBLIC NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE WATER QUALITY.

"IF THEY ARE IN DOUBT OF THE TAP WATER QUALITY, THEY SHOULD CONTACT US. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF OUR DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL COMPLAINTS CENTRE ARE 396 0210 FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND 811 0788 FOR HONG KONG AND OUTLYING ISLANDS," HE SAID.

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LEGISLATION TO CONTROL BEDSPACE APARTMENTS IN THE PIPELINE

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID A BEDSPACE APARTMENTS BILL DESIGNED TO TACKLE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THESE PREMISES HAD BEEN PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 2 THIS YEAR AND THE BILL WILL BE EXAMINED BY A BILLS COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE STATUTORY POWERS TO LICENSE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, TO REGULATE THEIR FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY, AND TO PROSECUTE THE OPERATORS OF ILLEGAL BEDSPACE APARTMENTS THAT DO NOT POSSESS A VALID LICENCE.

AS REGARDS THE FIRE THAT OCCURRED AT A BEDSPACE APARTMENT IN TAI NAM WEST STREET, SHAM SHUI PO ON TUESDAY NIGHT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID 16 FIRE VICTIMS WERE NOW ACCOMMODATED IN THE TUEN MUN TRANSIT CENTRE.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) STAFF ARE ASSISTING THEM TO SEE IF THEY QUALIFY FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING.

FOR THE NON-WELFARE CASES, STAFF OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE ARE ON THE GROUND TO HELP FIRE VICTIMS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR ACCOMMODATION IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S SINGLETON HOSTEL AT 60 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, SHAM SHUI PO.

AS FOR BEDSPACE APARTMENTS IN GENERAL, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT OFFICERS FROM SWD PAID AT LEAST TWO VISITS A YEAR TO IDENTIFY TENANTS WHO MAY REQUIRE WELFARE BENEFITS, FAMILY SERVICES OR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING, AND OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

IN THE CASE OF THE ELDERLY WOMAN WHO DIED IN THE BLAZE, OFFICIAL RECORDS REVEALED THAT SWD HAD MADE AN OFFER TO REHOUSE HER IN A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY BUT SHE HAD DECLINED THE OFFER.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT HAD OBTAINED AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER ON THE TWO FLOORS OF THE DAMAGED PREMISES AND CONTRACTORS ARE NOW REMOVING DEBRIS AND LOOSE PARTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OTHER TENANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

INSPECTIONS OF THE BUILDING'S STRUCTURE WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY.

MEANWHILE, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS STEPPING UP INSPECTIONS TO ADVISE OPERATORS OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ON FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT WHILE THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS LIES IN LEGISLATION AND LICENSING, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WILL BE DONE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED IN A WELL-COORDINATED MANNER TO MINIMISE FIRE RISKS AND TO CHECK ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THESE PREMISES.

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AIR POLLUTION UNDER MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL

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THE COMMENCEMENT OF FOUR SETS OF AMENDMENTS UNDER THE 1993 AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS WHICH AIM AT ACHIEVING BETTER AIR QUALITY IN HONG KONG WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS INCLUDE PROVISION FOR THE REMOVAL OF EXEMPTION FROM LICENSING CONTROL OF EXISTING SPECIFIED PROCESSES, NEW CONTROLS OF ASBESTOS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, INCREASE IN PENALTIES AND SEVERAL OTHER MEASURES AIMED AT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION IN HONG KONG.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 23 POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WHICH HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS SPECIFIED PROCESSES, BUT MOST EXISTING FACTORIES ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE LICENCING PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE GAZETTED AMENDMENTS EMPOWER THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS TO REMOVE THE EXEMPTIONS OF THESE FACTORIES AND ALSO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF SPECIFIED PROCESSES SO THAT MORE FACTORIES WILL COME UNDER LICENCING CONTROL.

AS A RESULT, THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PREMISES WILL INCREASE FROM ABOUT 50 TO 260.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID SINCE THESE FACTORIES HAD A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING AIR POLLUTION, REQUIRING THEM TO ADOPT THE BEST PRACTICABLE MEANS FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SPECIFIED PROCESSES WILL BE PHASED OVER FOUR YEARS WITH THE FIRST PHASE TO BEGIN THIS MONTH.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE IS TO PUT IN PLACE PROPER CONTROLS FOR DEALING WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS AND SHIPS.

"EPD WILL REGISTER ASBESTOS CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS, SUPERVISORS AND LABORATORIES WHO ARE PROPERLY QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE IN THE TRADE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AN ASBESTOS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO GIVE ADVICE ON REGISTRATION MATTERS AND TO CONDUCT INQUIRIES IN THE EVENT OF COMPLAINT ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE REGISTERED PERSONS.

THE ASBESTOS CONTROLS WILL ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED IN A PHASED MANNER. INITIALLY, ALL SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WILL NEED TO APPOINT A REGISTERED CONSULTANT TO SURVEY THEIR BUILDINGS AND PREPARE AN ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

IN ADDITION, THEY, AND ALL OTHER OWNERS OF PREMISES, WILL NEED TO PREPARE AN ASBESTOS-ABATEMENT PLAN BEFORE ANY WORK INVOLVING ASBESTOS IS CARRIED OUT.

/THEY WILL .....

THEY WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THESE PLANS TO THE EPD AND NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY ASBESTORS-RELATED WORKS.

THE THIRD AMENDMENT DRASTICALLY INCREASES FINES UNDER THE ORDINANCE. THE MAXIMUM FINE IS INCREASED FROM $50,000 TO $500,000 FOR A SINGLE CONVICTION. IF THE OFFENCE IS CONTINUED THE MAXIMUM DAILY FINE IS INCREASED FROM $5,000 TO $100,000 FOR EACH DAY.

THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF IMPRISONMENT IS 12 MONTHS IN CASE A PERSON FAILS TO COMPLY WITH A LEGAL NOTICE THAT REQUIRES THE PERSON TO STOP THE OPERATION OF AN AIR POLLUTION PROCESS.

COMPANY DIRECTORS ARE HELD EXPLICITLY LIABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

THE FOURTH SET OF AMENDMENTS RELATES TO THE PROVISION FOR THE ISSUING OF A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM TO PUT THE ASSESSMENT OF AIR POLLUTION ON A MORE OBJECTIVE BASIS AND TO CLARIFY THE GROUNDS UNDER WHICH APPEALS UNDER THE ORDINANCE CAN BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE APPEAL BOARD.

AS FOR THE REGULATIONS, IN ADDITION TO CHANGES CONSEQUENTIAL TO THE AMENDED ORDINANCE, THE DEFINITION OF 'QUALIFIED ENGINEER' HAS BEEN REDEFINED SO AS TO DELETE REFERENCE TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE QUALIFICATIONS AND TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO SEEK ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON THESE AMENDMENTS AND REGULATIONS CAN CONTACT THE AIR CONTROL GROUP OF THE EPD ON 33RD FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI OR TELEPHONE 594 6262 FOR ENQUIRIES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR CHAN KAI-WAH, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AT 4 PM THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON 33RD FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, WAN CHAI.

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GIRLS' HOME REPORTS REFUTED

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID REPORTS ALLEGING THE LACK OF MEDICAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO GIRLS UNDER REMAND AT MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME AND THAT 90 PER CENT OF THE INMATES HAD VENEREAL DISEASES WERE ABSURD AND UNTRUE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION WAS PERFORMED ON THE GIRLS UPON THEIR ADMISSION BY THE THREE NURSES AT THE INSTITUTION.

AT PRESENT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY VISIT THE HOME TWICE A WEEK.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO MADE A REQUEST TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VISITS IN VIEW OF THE GROWING INTAKE DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

"IT REQUIRED, THE INMATES WILL BE ESCORTED BY POLICE TO RECEIVE TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND HOSPITALS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SOME JUDGES HAD ASKED FOR MORE INTENSIVE MEDICAL TESTS TO BE CONDUCTED ON SOME OF THE GIRLS APPEARING IN COURT AFTER THEIR ADMISSION.

"GIRLS WHO ARE FOUND TO BE SUFFERING FROM VENEREAL DISEASES WILL RECEIVE PROPER TREATMENT. THE HOME WILL ALSO CARRY OUT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AS REQUIRED," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE ONLY VERY FEW GIRLS SUFFERING FROM SUCH AND THE ALLEGED FIGURE OF 90 PER CENT WAS NOT ONLY INCORRECT IN ITSELF BUT HAD ALSO CAUSED UNNECESSARY PUBLIC ALARM.

REGARDING THE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER THE GIRLS IN THE PROBATION SECTION MOVED TO ANOTHER HOME YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SITUATION HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY.

"BOTH THE STAFF AND THE GIRLS UNDER REMAND AT MA TAU WEI WELCOME THE MOVE. PREVIOUSLY SIX GIRLS HAD TO SHARE A ROOM WITH FACILITIES DESIGNED FOR FOUR WHILE THE REMAINING TWO HAD TO MAKE DO WITH MAKE-SHIFT MATTRESS INSTEAD OF BEDS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO DENIED CHARGES OF UNHYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN THE GIRLS' ROOMS, POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE UNDER CLOSE CHECK OF VISITING JUSTICES OF PEACE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS CLOSELY MONITORING THE CONDITIONS IN THE HOME AND THE DIRECTORATE STAFF HAD ALSO VISITED THE HOME IN THE PAST FEW DAYS FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION AND TO DISCUSS WITH STAFF FURTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS.

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TELA WARNS AGAINST UNLAWFUL CHARGES FOR COMPUTER GAMES

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IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR COMPUTER GAME SOFTWARE VENDORS TO CHARGE CUSTOMERS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FOR PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES PROVIDED IN THEIR SHOPS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE OPERATION OF THESE COMPUTERS FELL INTO THE DEFINITION OF AN AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRE UNDER THE AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES ORDINANCE.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE VENDORS, THEREFORE, ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AN AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRE LICENCE FROM TELA IF THEY PROVIDE AMUSEMENT GAMES ON THEIR PREMISES AT A CHARGE, WHETHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT.

BUT THOSE COMPUTER VENDORS WHO SELL SOFTWARE FOR PRIVATE USE WOULD NOT REQUIRE SUCH A LICENCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE OPERATION OF THESE COMPUTERS WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE CONSTITUTED A BREACH OF THE LAW AND OFFENDERS WERE LIABLE TO A FINE OF $50,000 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD COMPLAIN TO TELA WHO WOULD REFER THE CASES TO THE POLICE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE SHOPS OPERATING AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES WITHOUT A LICENCE.

THEY COULD ALSO INFORM THE POLICE DIRECT.

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FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE IN FORCE NEXT YEAR

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THE FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 ENACTED ON JULY 14 WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 14 NEXT YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE FILM AND VIDEO INDUSTRY (UNTIL JANUARY 14, 1994) TO ALLOW THEM SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, WHEN A FILM IS APPROVED FOR EXHIBITION BY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY, IT IS DEEMED TO BE APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FORM OF VIDEO TAPE AND LASER DISC.

TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, THE VIDEO INDUSTRY WILL NEED TO DISPLAY THE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION SYMBOL AND WARNING NOTICE ON VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS MADE FROM FILMS CLASSIFIED BY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY, AS WELL AS ON THE RELATED ADVERTISING MATERIAL.

HOLDERS OF VALID CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL OR EXEMPTION SHOULD NOTIFY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY WITHIN THREE MONTHS, FROM JANUARY 14, 1994, OF ANY APPROVED FILMS PUBLISHED BEFORE THIS DATE.

/THE REQUIREMENT .....

THE REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVED FILMS PUBLISHED AFTER THAT DATE IS THAT CERTIFICATE HOLDERS SHOULD NOTIFY THE AUTHORITY WITHIN ONE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.

UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, THE AUTHORITY MAY REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE HOLDER TO DEPOSIT WITH IT A COPY OF THE VIDEO TAPE OR LASER DISC PUBLISHED.

THE AUTHORITY MAY ALSO REQUIRE THE COVERS OF III CATEGORY VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS TO BE ENCLOSED IN OPAQUE WRAPPERS.

IN ADDITION, ALL APPROVAL CERTIFICATES FOR FILMS EXAMINED UNDER REGULATIONS WHICH WERE IN FORCE BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE 1988 WILL EXPIRE DURING THE GRACE PERIOD.

FILM DISTRIBUTORS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF RESUBMITTING SUCH FILMS UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE OR HAVING THEM SUBJECT TO THE VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE.

THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY WILL EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE NEW STATUTORY PROVISIONS UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE TO THE FILM AND VIDEO TRADE, AND WILL ALSO TAKE VARIOUS PUBLICITY MEASURES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NEW SCHEME FOR CONTROLLING VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ANY CONTRAVENTION OF THE ORDINANCE WOULD START PROMPTLY ON JANUARY 14 NEXT YEAR.

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INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR FIRST QUARTER

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 1.9% OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS FOLLOWED AN INCREASE OF 1.6% FOR 1992 AS A WHOLE.

THE PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTING INDUSTRY CONTINUED TO REGISTER MARKED INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, BY 15.9%.

A NOTABLE INCREASE OF 8.3% WAS ALSO RECORDED IN THE INDUSTRY GROUP OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND OPTICAL GOODS.

WITHIN THIS GROUP, THE PRODUCTION OF MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, PARTS AND COMPONENTS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY 25.1% WHILE THE PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INCREASED ONLY MARGINALLY BY 1.0%.

/THE INDUSTRY .....

THE INDUSTRY GROUP OF FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO REGISTERED A MODERATE GROWTH OF 5.2%.

MEANWHILE, THE TWO MAJOR INDUSTRIES OF WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) RECORDED VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF 10.9% WAS RECORDED IN THE PRODUCTION OF BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

THE INDUSTRY GROUP OF CHEMICALS, RUBBER, PLASTIC AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS RECORDED A MODEST DECREASE OF 6.9% IN PRODUCTION. THE DECREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A FALL IN THE PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS.

COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SHOWED A MARKED DECREASE OF 20.6%. THIS DECREASE WAS, HOWEVER, LARGELY SEASONAL AS THE FIRST QUARTER IS USUALLY A LOW SEASON FOR MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION REFLECTS CHANGES OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE VOLUME OF LOCAL PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 1ST QUARTER 1993", WHICH IS ON SALE AT $4 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3238.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS CHANGES IN THE INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN GREATER DETAIL. AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (HSIC) IS USED TO FORM THE INDUSTRY GROUPS AND BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS PRESENTED IN THE TABLE.

/INDEXES OF .....

INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP AND SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUP

(1986 = 100)

BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP / SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUP	INDEX FOR 1ST QTR 1993	% CHANGE OVER 1ST QTR 1992	% CHANGE OVER 4TH QTR 1992
1. FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	142	+5.2	-17.9
2. WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	95	0.0	-22.1
3. TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING)	88	0.0	-34.3
4. PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTING	219	+15.9	-13.4
5. CHEMICALS, RUBBER, PLASTIC AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	67	-6.9	-18.3
--PLASTIC PRODUCTS	(50)	(-12.3)	(-23.1)
6. BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	90	-10.9	-15.1
--FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	(87)	(-13.9)	(-15.5)
7. ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND OPTICAL GOODS	144	+8.3	-16.3
--CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	(106)	(+1.0)	(-22.6)
--MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, PARTS AND COMPONENTS	(209)	(+25.1)	(-12.2)
8. MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	81	-12.0	-18.2

/ALL MANUFACTURING .....

ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	108	+1.9	-20.6

NOTES :1. FOUR SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUPS, WHICH CARRY RELATIVELY LARGE WEIGHTS AND ARE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE RESPECTIVE BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS, ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE TABLE. FOR EASY READING, THE FIGURES OF THESE SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUPS ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS.

2. AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (HSIC) IS USED TO FORM THE INDUSTRY GROUPS AND BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS PRESENTED IN THE ABOVE TABLE. FOR THE EXACT COVERAGE OF THE GROUPS IN TERMS OF HSIC CODES, PLEASE REFER TO THE 'REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 1ST QUARTER 1993'.

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CONTRACT FOR VILLAGE SEWER SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A $7.4 MILLION WORKS CONTRACT TO IMPROVE THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF VILLAGES IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR TSE HON-SUM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, SHUN YUEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE WORKS, WHICH FORM THE PHASE I OF THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGE SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, COMPRISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2.7-KILOMETRE-LONG SEWER PIPELINE WITH THREE PUMPING STATIONS.

"THE PIPELINE WILL CONVEY DOMESTIC SEWAGE AND WILL EXTEND FROM TA KWU LING RURAL CENTRE AT PING CHE TO A PUMPING STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE JUNCTION OF PING CHE ROAD AND LIN MA HANG ROAD, TA KWU LING," MR TSE EXPLAINED AFTER SIGNING THE CONTRACT.

"IT WILL SERVE THE SEWERAGE NETWORKS AT PING CHE, PING YEUNG AND OTHER NEARBY VILLAGES," HE SAID.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN NINE MONTHS.

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CAREER ADVICE FOR FORM 5 SCHOOL LEAVERS

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ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SECONDARY FIVE SCHOOL LEAVERS AT THE CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FROM NEXT TUESDAY (AUGUST 10) TO FRIDAY (AUGUST 13).

OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND EVEN DURING LUNCH TIME IN EXPECTATION OF AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG VISITORS AFTER THEY RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION ON TUESDAY MORNING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

STUDENTS CAN GET ACCESS TO MATERIALS ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES AND TRAINING, AND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS PROFESSIONS.

THE CENTRE IS IN ROOM 206 OF THE MONGKOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 30 LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK.

NORMAL OPENING HOURS ARE: 8.45 AM TO 12.45 PM AND 2.15 PM TO 4.45 PM FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND 9.15 AM TO 11.45 AM ON SATURDAYS.

FROM NEXT TUESDAY TO FRIDAY THE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN WITHOUT A BREAK FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.30 PM.

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COMPANIES REGISTRY PAMPHLET PUBLISHED

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AN INTRODUCTORY PAMPHLET DESIGNED TO GIVE THE PUBLIC A BRIEF ACCOUNT ON THE OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE HANDBOOK ATTEMPTS TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE REGISTRY, FORMERLY A DIVISION OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, WILL BE ONE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO BE OPERATED ON A TRADING FUND BASIS WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON MEETING PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES.

A TRADING-FUNDED DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PAYMENTS FROM ITS CUSTOMERS IN THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SECTORS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED, WHICH ARE CREDITED TO THE FUND TO FINANCE ITS EXPENDITURE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS SELF-FINANCING ARRANGEMENT GAVE THE DEPARTMENT GREATER FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND MORE PROMPTLY TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF ITS FEE-PAYING CUSTOMERS AND TO INVEST IN CAPITAL PROJECTS AIMED AT IMPROVING EFFICIENCY.

/COPIES OF .....

COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT:

* THE ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY, 14TH AND 15TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG; AND

* THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF ALL CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WATER CUTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 6) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE PREMISES AT SALISBURY ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, HAIPHONG ROAD, LOCK ROAD, HANKOW ROAD, ASHLEY ROAD, HUMPHREYS AVENUE, PEKING ROAD AND ICHANG STREET.

IN ADDITION, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 10 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 9) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE THE CONNECTION OF A WATER MAIN AT THE JUNCTION OF CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD AND STANLEY GAP ROAD.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE PREMISES AT HORIZON DRIVE, CAPE ROAD, CAPE DRIVE, CHING SAU LANE, CHUNG HOM KOK FIRE STATION, SATELLITE STATION, CHESHIRE HOME AND CHUNG HOM KOK BEACH.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,980
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-50
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,950

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.2 *+0.0* 5.8.93

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.25 PCT	12 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.62	3.79
1 MONTH	2.53 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.80	4.01
3 MONTHS	3.08 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.80	4.25
6 MONTHS	3.38 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.79	4.51
12 MONTHS	3.75 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,744 MN

CLOSED 5 AUGUST 1993

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