



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1986

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HONG KONG NOW A GATT CONTRACTING PARTY  
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ON 24 APRIL 1986 ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE GATT WERE NOTIFIED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT THAT, FOLLOWING A DECLARATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM, HONG KONG IS NOW DEEMED TO BE A GATT CONTRACTING PARTY UNDER ARTICLE XXVI(5) (C) OF THE GATT.

IN THE UK DECLARATION, HMG FORMALLY INFORMED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GATT THAT HONG KONG POSSESSES FULL AUTONOMY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND OF THE OTHER MATTERS PROVIDED FOR IN THE GATT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC MADE A PARALLEL DECLARATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE HONG KONG SAR AFTER 1 JULY 1997. HONG KONG WILL HENCEFORTH ASSUME THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

THE DECLARATION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MAKES CLEAR THAT AS FROM 1 JULY 1997 THE HONG KONG SAR WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CUSTOMS TERRITORY TO BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY AS PRESCRIBED IN GATT ARTICLE XXVI(5) (C), AND THEREFORE MAY, USING THE NAME 'HONG KONG, CHINA', CONTINUE TO BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT.

WITH THESE DECLARATIONS THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN THE NECESSARY CONCRETE STEPS ENVISAGED IN PARAGRAPH 4(A) OF ANNEX II TO THE JOINT DECLARATION TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HONG KONG SAR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GATT AND THE MFA.

+THIS IS A MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF ENSURING HONG KONG'S AND THE FUTURE SAR'S CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY,+ SAID MR ERIC HO, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

+AS HONG KONG HAS FOR SOME YEARS BEEN PLAYING AN AUTONOMOUS ROLE IN THE GATT AND THE MFA FROM WITHIN THE BRITISH DELEGATION THERE WILL BE LITTLE VARIATION OF SUBSTANCE IN FUTURE ROLE ON BEING DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT. ONE CHANGE IS THAT HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOW SPEAK AS A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY, RATHER THAN AS 'THE UNITED KINGDOM SPEAKING FOR HONG KONG'. WITH THIS NEW STATUS, WE SHALL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR FULL PART IN SUPPORT OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE GATT AND IN DEFENCE OF HONG KONG'S RIGHTS THEREUNDER. THE ONLY OTHER DIFFERENCE WILL BE THAT WE SHALL HAVE TO PAY OUR SHARE OF THE GATT BUDGET, ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT SWISS FRANCS 900 000 PER ANNUM, WHICH UP TILL NOW HAS BEEN PART OF THE UK'S CONTRIBUTION AND BORNE OUT OF UK FUNDS,+ MR HO ADDED.

/THE DECLARATIONS .....

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THE DECLARATIONS BY THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS MAKE CLEAR THAT THE UK WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG UNTIL 1 JULY 1997, AND THAT WITH EFFECT FROM THAT DATE THE PRC WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. ACCORDINGLY, OUTSIDE THE TRADE FIELD, HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND STATUS HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THESE DECLARATIONS.

TEXTS OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE DECLARATIONS, AS RELEASED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT, FOLLOW:

UNITED KINGDOM DECLARATION

I AM INSTRUCTED BY HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS TO REFER TO THE DECLARATION MADE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ON 28 JUNE 1948 CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE TO HONG KONG, AND TO DECLARE THAT HONG KONG, BEING A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY, IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS ACCEPTED THAT AGREEMENT, POSSESSES FULL AUTONOMY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND OF THE OTHER MATTERS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXVI(5)(C) OF THE SAID AGREEMENT AND WITH THE WISHES OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG WILL, WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION, BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT.

I AM ALSO INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT, HAVING REGARD TO THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, SIGNED IN BEIJING ON 19 DECEMBER 1984, THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL RESTORE HONG KONG TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 1997 AND THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG UNTIL THAT DATE.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DECLARATION

I AM INSTRUCTED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WITH REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNICATION WHICH THE UNITED KINGDOM MISSION IN GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TODAY, TO NOTIFY YOUR EXCELLENCY OF THE DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS FOLLOWS:

/IN ACCORDANCE .....

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, SIGNED IN BEIJING ON 19 DECEMBER 1984, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS DECIDED TO RESUME THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 1997. HONG KONG WILL, WITH EFFECT FROM THAT DATE, BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WHICH WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF ANNEX 1 TO THAT DECLARATION, THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL RETAIN THE STATUS OF A FREE PORT AND A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY, WILL MAINTAIN THE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC AND TRADE SYSTEMS PREVIOUSLY PRACTISED IN HONG KONG, WILL DECIDE ITS ECONOMIC TRADE POLICIES ON ITS OWN AND MAY ON ITS OWN, USING THE NAME OF 'HONG KONG, CHINA', MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP RELATIONS AND CONCLUDE AND IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH STATES, REGIONS AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, TRADE AND OTHER FIELDS. SECTION VI OF ANNEX 1 TO THE JOINT DECLARATION FURTHER PROVIDES IN DETAIL THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION MAY PARTICIPATE IN RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (INCLUDING PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS), SUCH AS THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES. ACCORDINGLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DECLARES THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 1997, THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CUSTOMS TERRITORY TO BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY AS PRESCRIBED IN GATT ARTICLE XXVI(5)(C), AND THEREFORE MAY, USING THE NAME OF 'HONG KONG, CHINA', CONTINUE TO BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

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EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA  
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AT THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND RELATED MATTERS. IN CONFIRMATION OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGED MEMORANDA IN PEKING ON 11 APRIL, THE TEXTS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BRITISH MEMORANDUM

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS' TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS) AND RELATED MATTERS AND THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN SECTION XIV OF ANNEX 1 TO THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG.

/TO COINCIDE .....

TO COINCIDE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS FROM 1 JULY 1987, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ISSUE FROM THAT DATE TO PERSONS WHO HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG A NEW FORM OF HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD WHICH STATES THAT ITS HOLDER HAS THAT RIGHT. A DIFFERENT FORM OF IDENTITY CARD, WHICH DOES NOT STATE THAT ITS HOLDER HAS THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG, WILL FROM 1 JULY 1987 BE ISSUED TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE THAT RIGHT. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT, TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION, THE NEW FORMS OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS, WHICH WILL NOT SPECIFY DATES OF RENEWAL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED AFTER 30 JUNE 1997 UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ARE REPLACED BY IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT.

TO ENSURE THAT BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BEFORE AND AFTER 1997, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO STATE CLEARLY WHERE THEIR HOLDERS HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THEREFORE PLANS TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ENDORSEMENT TO BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS, WHOSE HOLDERS ALSO HOLD HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS:

+THE HOLDER OF THIS PASSPORT HAS HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD NUMBER (XYZ) WHICH STATES THAT THE HOLDER HAS THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG.+

BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS BEARING THIS ENDORSEMENT AND ISSUED BEFORE 1 JULY 1997 WILL REMAIN VALID UNTIL THEIR DUE EXPIRY DATES, WHICH IN MOST CASES WILL BE AFTER 30 JUNE 1997. BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS RENEWED OR REPLACED AFTER 30 JUNE 1997 WHOSE HOLDERS HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG WILL ALSO CONTAIN THE SAME ENDORSEMENT. THIS ENDORSEMENT WILL REMAIN AN APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO THE PASSPORT HOLDER'S CURRENT PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, SINCE IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT THE REPLACEMENT OF A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL BEAR THE SAME NUMBER AS THE IDENTITY CARD ISSUED IN HONG KONG PRIOR TO 1 JULY 1997 WHICH IT REPLACES. IT IS FURTHER THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT ANY REFERENCE TO +HONG KONG+ IN PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS AND ENDORSEMENTS IN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL, ON AND AFTER 1 JULY 1997, BE TAKEN TO MEAN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL, WHEN NECESSARY, STATE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES THAT HOLDERS OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CARRYING THE ENDORSEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 30 JUNE 1997.

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CHINESE MEMORANDUM  
(TRANSLATION)

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE MEMORANDUM DATED 11 APRIL 1986 OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING THE ENDORSEMENT IN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS AND, WITH REFERENCE TO THE RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HAS THE HONOUR TO ELABORATE THE POSITION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE RELEVANT QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM AS FOLLOWS:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN SECTION XIV OF ANNEX I TO THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG AND THE PRINCIPLED POSITION CONTAINED IN THE CHINESE MEMORANDUM DATED 19 DECEMBER 1984, THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL, WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 1997, PERMIT CHINESE NATIONALS IN HONG KONG WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY CALLED +BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS+ TO USE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AS REFERRED TO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM, DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 1987 TO 30 JUNE 1997 FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAVELLING TO OTHER STATES AND REGIONS. THOSE AMONG THEM, TOGETHER WITH OTHER PERSONS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY CALLED +BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS+ WHO ARE HOLDERS OF PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, WILL HAVE THIS FACT STATED BY ADDING AN ENDORSEMENT TO THEIR ABOVE-MENTIONED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO SHOW THEIR RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL RAISE NO OBJECTION TO THE PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS MENTIONED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM THAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BEARING THIS ENDORSEMENT AND ISSUED BEFORE 1 JULY 1997 WILL REMAIN VALID UNTIL THEIR DUE EXPIRY DATES, WHICH IN MOST CASES WILL BE AFTER 30 JUNE 1997; AND THAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS RENEWED OR REPLACED AFTER 30 JUNE 1997 WHOSE HOLDERS HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG WILL ALSO CONTAIN THE SAME ENDORSEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS TAKEN NOTE OF A REFERENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM THAT FROM 1 JULY 1987, THE BRITISH HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ISSUE NEW FORMS OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS. AS A TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL PERMIT THE CONTINUED USE, ON AND AFTER 1 JULY 1997, OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH HONG KONG GOVERNMENT UNTIL THEY ARE REPLACED BY IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ADMINISTRATION, IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BEAR THE SAME NUMBERS AS THE NEW IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 1 JULY 1997.

/IN ACCORDANCE .....

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREGOING, ANY REFERENCE TO +HONG KONG+ IN THE NEW FORMS OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS AND THE ENDORSEMENT IN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AS REFERRED TO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM WILL, ON AND AFTER 1 JULY 1997, BE TAKEN TO MEAN THE +HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION+. FOR THIS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA EXPRESSES ITS UNDERSTANDING.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF TRAVELLING ABROAD BY PERSONS HAVING THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER 30 JUNE 1997, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL, WHEN NECESSARY, STATE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES THAT HOLDERS OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CARRYING THE ENDORSEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 30 JUNE 1997.

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WORKING PARTY MAKES PROPOSALS ON STREAMLINING JSEA

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RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY A WORKING PARTY TO STREAMLINE THE OPERATION OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM BEFORE IT IS PHASED OUT IN 1991. THE WORKING PARTY ON THE REVIEW OF THE JSEA SYSTEM, APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN MARCH 1985, HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED A NEW MEANS OF PLACEMENT TO REPLACE THE JSEA FROM 1991.

THE WORKING PARTY HAS PROPOSED THAT DURING THE PERIOD 1986-1990, SYMMETRICAL SCHOOLS (NAMELY, THOSE WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF CLASSES IN FORMS 1 TO 5) SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SELECT THEIR OWN FORM 3 STUDENTS FOR PROMOTION TO FORM 4, PROVIDED THAT AN AVERAGE OF 95 PER CENT OR MORE OF THEIR FORM 3 STUDENTS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE QUALIFIED FOR A FORM 4 PLACE UNDER THE JSEA SYSTEM.

IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, THESE SCHOOLS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT INTERNAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR SCALING. THEIR FORM 3 STUDENTS WOULD STILL HAVE TO TAKE THE SCALING TEST, TOGETHER WITH OTHER FORM 3 STUDENTS, BUT ONLY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE VALUABLE DATA FOR MONITORING AND RESEARCH PURPOSES.

THIS EXEMPTION FROM SUBMISSION OF INTERNAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS WOULD NOT APPLY TO ASYMMETRICAL SCHOOLS (THOSE WITH FEWER CLASSES IN FORM 4 THAN IN FORM 3) BECAUSE NOT ALL OF THEIR STUDENTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THEIR OWN FORM 4, AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS WILL THEREFORE BE NEEDED FOR ALLOCATING SOME OF THEIR STUDENTS TO OTHER SCHOOLS.

/IN LINE .....

IN LINE WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF CONTINUITY IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE WORKING PARTY HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SYMMETRICAL AND ASYMMETRICAL STRUCTURES OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE JSEA SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN 1987 AND THEREAFTER EVERY SEVEN YEARS TO ENSURE THAT THE CLASS STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS MORE CLOSELY REFLECTS THE PROPORTION OF STUDENTS CAPABLE AND WILLING TO PROGRESS FROM JUNIOR SECONDARY TO SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

IN ADDITION, THE WORKING PARTY HAS RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO LIGHTEN THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS UNDER THE PRESENT JSEA SYSTEM.

AS REGARDS THE ARRANGEMENTS AFTER THE JSEA HAS BEEN PHASED OUT, A PLACEMENT SERVICE WILL STILL BE REQUIRED BECAUSE ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF POST-FORM 3 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES, AND BECAUSE THE ASYMMETRICAL SCHOOLS WILL NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT CLASSES IN FORM 4 TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF THEIR FORM 3 STUDENTS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE WITH FULL-TIME DAY-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

AS A RESULT THE WORKING PARTY, HAVING CONSIDERED SEVERAL OPTIONS, HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE VOCATIONAL PLACES AVAILABLE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED FIRST AND THAT FOR THOSE STUDENTS IN ASYMMETRICAL SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO PROCEED TO SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION BUT CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS, ALLOCATION TO SENIOR SECONDARY VACANCIES IN OTHER SCHOOLS SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR INTERNAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS IN FORM 3, ADJUSTED BY REFERENCE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACEMENT ALLOCATION RESULTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ASSESSMENTS OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND, AS A RESULT, TO DRAW UP A TERRITORY-WIDE SCORE LIST OF SUCH STUDENTS WHICH WOULD BE USED FOR THE ENSUING ALLOCATION PROCEDURES. PARENTAL CHOICE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE ALLOCATION PROCESS. SINCE STUDENTS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE ANY SCALING TESTS AS UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, COMPETITIVE PRESSURE WOULD BE MINIMISED.

THE WORKING PARTY HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT REPETITION IN FORM 3 SHOULD BE ALLOWED AS IN ALL OTHER SECONDARY FORMS AFTER THE JSEA HAS BEEN PHASED OUT, AT A MAXIMUM RATE OF FIVE PER CENT.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE CAREER COUNSELLING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO FORM 3 LEAVERS, WERE DRAWN UP BY THE WORKING PARTY AFTER THEY HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE GROUP.

ON THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COPIES OF THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE HAVE BEEN SENT TO SCHOOLS AND INTERESTED PARTIES FOR COMMENT. THE REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE JSEA SECTION OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT ARE WELCOME AND SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (JSEA) AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. ALL COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN ON THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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BRIEFING ON JSEA SYSTEM REPORT  
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A REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE REPORT WAS COMPILED BY A WORKING PARTY SET UP BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE JSEA SYSTEM AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS PROGRESSING FROM FORM 3 TO FORM 4 AFTER THE JSEA SYSTEM IS PHASED OUT IN 1991.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY, MR JOHN WINFIELD, WILL BE BRIEFING THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, THIRD FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, AT 3 PM. COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT 2.30 PM AT BOTH THE EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS AND AT GIS NEWSROOM.

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FREE ENTERPRISE KEY TO ECONOMIC SUCCESS - SCOTT  
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IN PORTRAYING A WIDE PORTFOLIO OF HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS, DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR ALAN SCOTT, TOLD A SELECT U.S. AUDIENCE YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE TERRITORY COULD NOT BE AN ECONOMIC SUCCESS IF IT WERE NOT A FREE SOCIETY COMMITTED TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

AND HE REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR THE TERRITORY IN 1997, WITHOUT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL DISLOCATION.

SPEAKING TO THE BAY AREA OF SAN FRANCISCO HONG KONG ASSOCIATION, MR SCOTT SAID THAT ULTIMATELY CONFIDENCE REMAINED THE KEY TO SMOOTH TRANSITION, TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO SOCIAL STABILITY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART HAD BEEN INVESTING HEAVILY, AS ALWAYS, IN INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH ROLL-OVER LONG TERM PLANS FOR TRANSPORT, EDUCATION AND MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

/+HOUSING FOR .....

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+HOUSING FOR LOWER-INCOME FAMILIES CONTINUES TO BE A PRIORITY COMMITMENT WITH 2.4 MILLION PEOPLE OR 45 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION NOW LIVING IN EITHER RENTED OR OWNED PUBLIC HOUSING.

+WE HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BUILD A THIRD UNIVERSITY WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THE QUANTUM AND QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND PROVIDE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS VITAL TO OUR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.

+TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION LINKS WITH CHINA ARE BEING STRENGTHENED= AND ROAD, RAIL AND FERRY SERVICES (WHICH LAST YEAR CARRIED A TOTAL OF 15 MILLION PEOPLE TO CHINA) ARE BEING IMPROVED.

+JUST ANNOUNCED IS THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR A 'COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY' TO PROJECT TRANSPORT DEMAND UP TO THE YEAR 2001,+ HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, MR SCOTT SAID, THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAINTAIN THEIR INVESTMENT CONTINUED TO BE FORTHCOMING.

+AS A RESULT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WORK ON A US\$260 MILLION EXPANSION OF OUR CONTAINER PORT - ALREADY THE THIRD, AND EXPECTED SOON TO BECOME THE SECOND, IN THE WORLD IN THROUGH-PUT TERMS - BEGAN IN 1985.

+A JOINT VENTURE PROJECT BETWEEN GUANGDONG AND HONG KONG'S CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY IS UNDERWAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR POWER STATION, 30 MILES ACROSS THE BORDER. WHEN COMPLETED, THIS WILL PROVIDE POWER FOR CONSUMERS IN BOTH HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

+PRIVATE INVESTORS FROM JAPAN, CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN WILL BEGIN WORK LATER THIS YEAR ON A US\$390 MILLION SECOND ROAD AND RAIL CROSSING UNDER THE HARBOUR, LINKING HONG KONG WITH KOWLOON,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR SCOTT SAID, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE COULD BE VOLATILE AND IT DEPENDED NOT ONLY ON THE FAITHFUL OBSERVANCE OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO ON POLITICAL STABILITY IN CHINA AND THE CONTINUANCE OF CHINA'S OUTWARD LOOKING AND PRAGMATIC POLICIES.

+OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TOO IS THE UNDERSTANDING BY CHINA THAT THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM DOES NOT AND CANNOT FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

+HONG KONG COULD NOT BE THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS IT IS TODAY, THE SKILLS OF ITS ENTREPRENEURS AND THE DILIGENCE OF ITS WORKFORCE NOTWITHSTANDING, IF IT WERE NOT A FREE SOCIETY - COMMITTED TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM OPERATING WITHIN AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED AND IMPARTIALLY ADMINISTERED SYSTEM OF LAW - A SYSTEM OF LAW WHICH ALSO ENSHRINES OUR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS,+ HE SAID.

/MR SCOTT .....

MR SCOTT SAID HONG KONG CONTINUED TO MAKE HEADWAY DURING THESE INITIAL YEARS OF TRANSITION: THAT GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITH CHINA TO SOLVE THE COMPLEX MATTERS INVOLVED IN THE CONVERSION OF HONG KONG TO A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN 1997= AND THAT THE ECONOMY AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE REMAIN HEALTHY.

AS REGARDS THE FUTURE, MR SCOTT SAID THE NEXT STEP IN HONG KONG'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE THE 1987 REVIEW WHICH, HE ADDED, WOULD NOT BE AN EASY TASK.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE DRAFTING OF WHICH WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHINA.

+SOME PEOPLE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN HONG KONG MUST BE ALIGNED WITH THE BASIC LAW, BUT WE MUST FACE THE REALITIES.

+THE TASK IS TO ADAPT AND BUILD ON OUR PRESENT SYSTEM SO THAT, ON THE ONE HAND, IT WILL SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, CREATE A GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL EXERCISE A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY COMPATIBLE WITH THE LARGER ENTITY OF CHINA AND THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS',+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BUILD A GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE APPROPRIATE TO ITS NEEDS AND IN HARMONY WITH ITS TRADITIONS OF CONSULTATION AND CONSENSUS AND THAT IT SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH STEADY PROGRESS COMBINED WITH STABILITY.

+QUANTUM LEAPS INTO MODEL FORMS OF DEMOCRACY, OR POPULIST AND CONFRONTATION POLITICS ON A WESTERN MODEL, ARE NOT, MOST HONG KONG PEOPLE BELIEVE, WHAT WE WANT,+ HE SAID.

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#### HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING MORE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG ARE SPENDING MORE ON EATING OUT AS WELL AS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, DR RICHARD BUTLER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD TO INTRODUCE THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (CPI'S), DR BUTLER PRESENTED THE WEIGHTING PATTERNS OF THE NEW CPI'S AND COMPARED THEM WITH THOSE OF 1979-80.

+CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, BASED ON A FIXED BASKET OF GOODS AND SERVICES BOUGHT BY AVERAGE HOUSEHOLDS, ARE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND ARE WIDELY USED AS A REFERENCE IN WAGE AND SALARY ADJUSTMENTS. IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO REVISE THEM ABOUT ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS TO ENSURE THAT THEY REALISTICALLY REFLECT PRICE CHANGES AFFECTING CONSUMERS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY (HES) WHICH INVOLVED ALMOST 5 000 HOUSEHOLDS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE PUBLISHING TWO CPI SERIES.

THE NEW CPI(A) COVERS ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG AND THEIR MONTHLY EXPENDITURE IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 WAS BETWEEN \$2 000 AND \$6 499.

THE NEW CPI(B) COVERS THE NEXT 30 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS, WITH AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF BETWEEN \$6 500 AND \$9 999 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARING THE WEIGHTING PATTERNS OF THE NEW CPI'S WITH THOSE OF 1979-80, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE EXPENDITURE SHARE OF +MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME+, INDICATING AN INCREASING TENDENCY FOR HOUSEHOLDS TO EAT OUT.

THE COMPARISON ALSO REVEALED A MARKED INCREASE IN THE EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING IN CPI(B), REFLECTING A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.

ANOTHER INTERESTING POINT WAS THAT THE SHARE OF EXPENDITURE ON TRANSPORT INCREASED IN BOTH THE NEW CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

HOWEVER, THE PERCENTAGE SHARE OF EXPENDITURE ON DURABLE GOODS DECREASED, PROBABLY DUE TO THEIR SLOWER PRICE INCREASES COMPARED WITH OTHER COMMODITY-SERVICE SECTIONS.

THE HANG SENG BANK HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE 1984-85 HES AND ACCORDING TO ITS MANAGER, MR T.P. CHENG, THERE WERE ALSO NOTABLE CHANGES IN THE WEIGHTING SYSTEM OF THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (HSCPI).

MR CHENG SAID, +THE HSCPI APPLIES TO HONG KONG'S HIGHER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE IS NOW DEFINED AS BETWEEN \$10 000 AND \$24 999 IN 1984-85, WHICH COVERS ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS.+

REGARDING CHANGES IN THE HSCPI WEIGHTING SYSTEM, SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS AGAIN RECORDED IN THE EXPENDITURE WEIGHT FOR +MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME+ WHEREAS THAT FOR +TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES+ HAS DROPPED AS EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE VEHICLES IS OVERTAKEN BY GREATER USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE NEW CPI SERIES STARTING FROM OCTOBER 1985 ARE GIVEN IN THE CPI MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 1986 WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE. THE OLD SERIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE COMPILED AND PUBLISHED IN THE MONTHLY REPORT TILL MARCH 1987. NEVERTHELESS, MOVEMENTS OF THE NEW AND THE OLD SERIES OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS ARE BROADLY SIMILAR.

+A DETAILED REPORT ON THE 1984-85 HES AND AN INTRODUCTORY PAMPHLET ON THE NEW CPI'S ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AROUND JULY THIS YEAR,+ DR BUTLER CONCLUDED.

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NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES INTRODUCED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE NEW 1984-85-BASED CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES AS WELL AS THE 1979-80-BASED SERIES FOR MARCH 1986.

THE NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) (OCTOBER 84/SEPTEMBER 85 = 100) HAVE BEEN COMPILED SINCE OCTOBER 85 AND WILL BE RELEASED IN PARALLEL WITH THE 1979-80-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCTOBER 79/SEPTEMBER 80 = 100) AS FROM THIS MONTH.

THE SERIES PUBLISHED SINCE 1980 WILL BE DISCONTINUED AFTER MARCH 1987.

THE NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) FOR MARCH 1986 WERE 102.4 AND 102.7 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, NEW CPI(A) DECREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT AND NEW CPI(B) REMAINED UNCHANGED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE 1979-80-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) FOR MARCH 1986 WERE 162.6 AND 163.7 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 2.1 PER CENT AND 2.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER MARCH 1985.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, CPI(A) DECREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT AND CPI(B) REMAINED UNCHANGED. THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1986, AT 160.8 AND 161.3 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 3.0 PER CENT AND 3.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1985.

PRICE MOVEMENTS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE BASED ON THE NEW CPI SERIES.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 1986, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NEW CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.1 PER CENT PER MONTH AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NEW CPI(B), AT 0.2 PER CENT PER MONTH.

DURING MARCH, RETAIL PRICES OF LIVE POULTRY, FRESH-WATER FISH AND PORK AND CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING WERE LOWER. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR WERE HIGHER.

THE NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE NEW CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2 000 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME, AND THE NEW CPI(B), BETWEEN \$6 500 AND \$9 999 A MONTH.

/CHANGES IN .....

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR MARCH 1986 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY-SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	NEW CPI(A)		NEW CPI(B)	
	INDEX FOR MAR. 86	% CHANGE OVER FEB. 86	INDEX FOR MAR. 86	% CHANGE OVER FEB. 86
FOODSTUFFS	100.6	-0.6	100.9	-0.6
HOUSING	103.4	+0.2	103.0	+0.2
FUEL AND LIGHT	99.0	-0.5	99.2	-0.5
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	105.6	+0.3	105.5	+0.3
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	102.8	+1.7	103.1	+2.5
DURABLE GOODS	102.5	+1.3	102.1	+1.3
MISCEL- LANEOUS GOODS	102.7	+0.7	103.3	+0.9
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	104.3	+0.4	104.0	+0.3
SERVICES	108.2	-0.8	107.8	-1.0
ALL ITEMS	102.4	-0.1	102.7	-

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF LIVE POULTRY, FRESH-WATER FISH AND PORK, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

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THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT DECREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AND KEROSENE.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 1.7 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 2.5 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS ROSE BY 1.3 PER CENT IN BOTH NEW CPI(A) AND NEW CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, VIDEO AND SOUND EQUIPMENT AND WATCHES IMPORTED FROM JAPAN AS WELL AS HIGHER PRICES OF TRAVEL GOODS.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS WENT UP BY 0.7 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 0.9 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF TOILET REQUISITES, COSMETICS, TOYS AND SOFT FURNISHINGS.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES DECREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(A) AND 1.0 PER CENT IN NEW CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF LOWER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING AND PACKAGE TOURS AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES PRESENT IN THE PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TO 2 DECIMAL PLACES.)

DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR MARCH 1986, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, DUDDLELL STREET, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE MADE WITH THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 3-7216512.

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BOAT WIVES ALLOWED TO RETURN  
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FOLLOWING CONTACTS WITH GUANGDONG PROVINCE THROUGH THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, IT HAS BEEN LEARNT THAT, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED, THE MAJORITY OF THE YAU MA TEI BOAT WIVES ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN PERMANENTLY TO HONG KONG FROM GUANGDONG, THROUGH THE NORMAL PROCESSES, IN APPROXIMATELY THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

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NEW ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY UNIT FOR TUEN MUN  
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BETTER MEDICAL SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WHEN A NEW ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY UNIT OPENS IN YAN OI POLYCLINIC NEXT THURSDAY (MAY 1) AT NOON.

THE NEW ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY UNIT IS EQUIPPED WITH X-RAY FACILITIES, A MINOR OPERATING ROOM AND A TWO-BED OBSERVATION WARD.

THE YAN OI POLYCLINIC IS SITUATED ADJACENT TO THE TUEN MUN POLYCLINIC IN THE NEW TOWN.

THE EXISTING ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE IN TUEN MUN CLINIC WILL BE TERMINATED WHEN THE NEW UNIT IN YAN OI POLYCLINIC STARTS OPERATING.

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BOARD TO CONSIDER URBAN MANAGEMENT ROLE  
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE URBAN MANAGEMENT ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SUBJECT WILL BE RAISED BY BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR VICENT KO, WITH REFERENCE TO ONE OF THE FOUR PROPOSALS ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION MADE AT A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN FEBRUARY, 1984.

THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDED DOUBLING THE ELECTED ELEMENT ON DISTRICT BOARDS, SPLITTING THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD INTO TWO, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND THE URBAN MANAGEMENT ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE FIRST THREE PROPOSALS WERE IMPLEMENTED LAST YEAR, AND BOARD MEMBERS WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE LAST ONE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN HOSPITALS, AND TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS IN THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING A SUGGESTION ON TURNING A PART OF BELCHER'S STREET INTO A PEDESTRIAN AREA.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES, DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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UK MINISTER LEAVING TOMORROW  
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BRITISH MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, MR RICHARD LUCE, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT.

MR LUCE WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON BY FLIGHT CX 251, ETD 10.45 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WISHING TO COVER HIS DEPARTURE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT AT 9.55 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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BRIEFING BY OUTGOING CHAIRMAN  
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR BILL BROWN, WHO WILL BE RELINQUISHING THE POST SHORTLY, WILL GIVE A PRESS BRIEFING AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 10 AM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BRIEFING.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF FIRST NATIONAL BOSTON ASIA LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 14(2) OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN MONG KOK  
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TUNG CHAU STREET IN MONG KOK BETWEEN MAPLE STREET AND WALNUT STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 26) AND APRIL 27 TO FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG TUNG CHAU STREET HEADING FOR TAI KOK TSUI ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO WALNUT STREET AND FUK TSUN STREET.

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