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NO REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE ON ROADWORKS
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) DENIED A STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HK AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION IN A PRESS REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT IN THE NEW AIRPORT LEADS TO A REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE ON ROADWORKS AND A MASS DETERIORATION OF THE ROAD SYSTEM.

THE SPOKESMAN REGRETTED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS MADE ON THE BASIS OF SOME ROUGH FIGURES IN THE 1990 TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER WHICH HAVE NOW BECOME OUTDATED.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND \$7 BILLION ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. THIS ALMOST DOUBLES THE ROUGH ANNUAL ESTIMATE OF \$3.7 BILLION IN THE WHITE PAPER.

ON TOP OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED TO BUILDING EXTRA CLIMBING LANES ON TUEN MUN ROAD AT A COST OF \$1 BILLION AND PLEDGED TO CONTRIBUTE \$4 BILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE-3 COUNTRY PARK SECTION.

ON ROAD MAINTENANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID EXPENDITURE FOR 1993/94 WILL AMOUNT TO \$569 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 6.5 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND ANOTHER \$220 MILLION ON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION WORK THIS YEAR.

TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF AVAILABLE ROAD SPACE, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO COMMITTED TO INTRODUCING MODERN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE URBAN AREA.

THERE ARE PLANS TO INSTALL A \$66 MILLION AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN TSUEN WAN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SYSTEM IN KOWLOON BY 1995 AT A COST OF \$130 MILLION.

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MTR INCIDENT
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COMMENTING ON THE MTR INCIDENT THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE MTRC CHAIRMAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN."

"HE HAS ALSO ASKED THE CHIEF INSPECTING OFFICER OF RAILWAY TO UNDERTAKE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION APART FROM THE ONE BEING CONDUCTED SEPARATELY BY THE MTRC. THE SECRETARY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING SEPARATE REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF INSPECTING OFFICER OF RAILWAY AND THE MTRC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

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VIEWS ON RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY EXPRESSED
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY CONSIDERED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY (RDS) WHICH HAVE BEEN RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TAKE A VIEW ON THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN CONSULTED.

THESE PROPOSALS, IF DECIDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION, WILL BE SUBJECT TO DETAILED ENGINEERING AND FINANCIAL STUDIES.

THE MEETING RESOLVED TO ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE TAC CHAIRMAN PROFESSOR C K LEUNG TO EXAMINE THE REPORT IN DETAIL BEFORE FORMULATING ITS ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT WITH DUE REGARD TO PUBLIC VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ARE MR LEUNG KONG-YUI, MR ANTHONY YUEN AND PROFESSOR TENNY LAM.

TAC MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE REPORT OF ITS WORKING GROUP ON THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-2) UPDATE.

THEY GENERALLY AGREED THAT FURTHER RESTRAINT ON CAR OWNERSHIP THROUGH FISCAL MEASURES WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE AND SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SELECTIVELY RESTRICTING THE USAGE OF VEHICLES AS A MEASURE TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

HAVING STUDIED THE ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE CTS-2 UPDATE, THE WORKING GROUP ALSO REAFFIRMED THE THREE MAIN PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN THE WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY. THEY ARE IMPROVING THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE; EXPANDING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND MANAGING ROAD USE.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC VIEWS AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE KCRC, HAD DECIDED TO LIFT THE EXISTING BUS RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE TRANSIT SERVICE AREA (TSA) OF THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL COME INTO EFFECT NOT LATER THAN JUNE 1, 1993.

TO TIE IN WITH THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH KMB, IS EXAMINING THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE SECTIONAL FARES FOR KMB ON YUEN LONG-BOUND LONG HAUL BUS ROUTES AND TO REARRANGE BUS STOPS AND OTHER TRAFFIC MEASURES.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE MTR PEAK PRICING POLICY. THEY NOTED THAT THE MTRC WILL REVIEW IN LATE JULY THE EFFECTS OF CANCELLING THE ADULT PEAK SURCHARGES AND CHILD/STUDENT CONCESSIONS BETWEEN 8 AM TO 9 AM ON THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

THE CORPORATION WILL REINSTATE THE CHILD/STUDENT CONCESSIONS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1 IF THE REVIEW SHOWS THAT DEMAND ON NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN WITHIN THE TOLERABLE LEVEL OF 77,500 PASSENGERS PER HOUR PER DIRECTION.

HOWEVER, IF THE DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE TOLERABLE LIMITS ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, THE CHILD/STUDENT CONCESSION WILL BE WITHDRAWN PERMANENTLY.

IN SUCH EVENT, AFFECTED STUDENTS MAKING CROSS-HARBOUR JOURNEYS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH \$500 WORTH OF VOUCHERS GOOD FOR BUYING CHILD/STUDENT STORED-VALUE TICKETS. STUDENTS MAKING NON CROSS-HARBOUR JOURNEYS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH \$300 WORTH OF VOUCHERS.

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WORKPLACE SAFETY URGED

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EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ARE URGED TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN ENSURING SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE DROP IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS RECORDED IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS OTHER THAN THE CATERING INDUSTRY IN 1992 AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR, MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE ACCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF BOTH PARTIES WERE MORE SAFETY-CONSCIOUS.

ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 40,205 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WITH 64 FATALITIES WERE RECORDED IN THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS OTHER THAN THE CATERING INDUSTRY LAST YEAR, REPRESENTING A DROP OF 17.1 PER CENT FROM THE 48,498 ACCIDENTS WITH 71 FATALITIES IN 1991.

"THERE WERE 16,313 ACCIDENTS WITH EIGHT FATALITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, REPRESENTING A 17.6 PER CENT DROP FROM THE 19,800 ACCIDENTS AND EIGHT FATALITIES IN 1991," MR CHAN SAID, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE.

A DROP OF 9.1 PER CENT WAS SHOWN IN THE ACCIDENTS IN THE MINING AND QUARRYING, UTILITIES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICING INDUSTRIES.

"ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AS SHOWN BY A 18.6 PER CENT DROP IN ACCIDENTS, IT REMAINS THE MOST DANGEROUS TRADE IN HONG KONG," MR CHAN SAID.

"WITH 18,815 ACCIDENTS AND 48 FATALITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY STILL ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT HALF OF ALL WORK ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS OTHER THAN CATERING," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJOR CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENTS WERE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

/THEY INCLUDED

THEY INCLUDED STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS (13,680), MANUAL LIFTING OF WEIGHTS (8,099), FALL OF PERSONS (5,513), USE OF MACHINERY (4,168), USE OF HAND TOOLS (2,327), AND FALLING OBJECTS (2,142).

THE REMAINING ACCIDENTS RELATED TO HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES, TRANSPORT, EXPLOSION OR FIRE, ELECTRICITY, GASSING, POISONING AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND COLLAPSE OF SOIL.

MR CHAN SAID OF THE 64 WORKERS KILLED, 48 WERE EMPLOYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

"THEY INCLUDED 24 KILLED IN FALLS FROM A HEIGHT, FIVE BY MACHINERY, FOUR RESULTING FROM STEPPING ON OR BEING STRUCK BY OBJECTS, THREE BY FALLING OBJECTS, THREE ELECTROCUTED, THREE IN EXPLOSION OR FIRE, THREE BY GASSING, POISONING AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES, AND ONE IN TRANSPORT.

"IN THE MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIES OTHER THAN CATERING, FIVE WERE KILLED BY MACHINERY, FOUR BY STEPPING ON OR BEING STRUCK BY OBJECTS, TWO IN FALLS FROM A HEIGHT, TWO IN EXPLOSION OR FIRE, TWO ELECTROCUTED, AND ONE IN TRANSPORT," HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION, MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO ANALYSED, FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST YEAR, ACCIDENTS IN THE CATERING INDUSTRY.

"UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 WHICH TOOK EFFECT IN DECEMBER 1991, CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND COOKED FOOD SHOPS ARE BROUGHT UNDER THE DEFINITION OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS," MR CHAN SAID.

"A TOTAL OF 15,138 ACCIDENTS, MOSTLY MINOR ONES, WITH ONE FATALITY WERE RECORDED IN 1992, THE CAUSES OF WHICH WERE SIMILAR TO WORK ACCIDENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

"MAJORITY OF THEM WERE RESULTED FROM THE USE OF HAND TOOLS (4,995), HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES (3,195), MANUAL LIFTING OF WEIGHTS (1,878), STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS (1,875), FALL OF PERSONS (1,830).

"OTHER CAUSES INCLUDED FALLING OBJECTS, EXPLOSION OR FIRE, USE OF MACHINERY, AND TRANSPORT," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION WAS AIMED AT ENSURING BETTER PROTECTION OF WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE CATERING TRADE.

HE REMINDED EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

"ANY PROPRIETOR, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE CATERING TRADE, WHO BREACHES THE SAFETY PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS," MR CHAN SAID.

/"MEANWHILE, AN

"MEANWHILE, AN EMPLOYEE WHO CONTRAVENES THE PROVISIONS MAY ALSO BE FINED UP TO \$30,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN IMPROVEMENT IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIES, THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

"NOT EVEN ONE ACCIDENT SHOULD BE TOLERATED," HE SAID.

HE ALSO APPEALED FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO FURTHER KEEP WORK ACCIDENT AT BAY.

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STUDY ON NORTH LANTAU REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REFUSE TRANSFER STATION ON NORTH LANTAU.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR MIKE STOKOE AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BALFOURS INTERNATIONAL (ASIA) CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

A SPOKESMAN FOR EPD SAID THE NORTH LANTAU REFUSE TRANSFER STATION WOULD BE LOCATED AT A SITE SEAWARD OF THE FUTURE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY AT SHAM SHUI KOK.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS ARE LAND PLANNED TO BE USED MAINLY FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT AND OTHER MAJOR UTILITIES SUCH AS WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

THE STUDY IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR PHASES.

PHASE I IS A REVIEW OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH LANTAU AREA; PHASE II COVERS THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

THE FINAL TWO PHASES ARE MAINLY ON PREPARATION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS, TENDER INVITATION AND ASSESSMENT.

STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS TO AVOID ODOUR, DUST, WATER AND NOISE NUISANCE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE STATION AND THE ASSOCIATED FACILITIES SO AS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROVISION OF THE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN WHICH STATED THAT THE LONG-TERM MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY OF HONG KONG REQUIRED THE PROVISION OF THREE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS AND A NETWORK OF TRANSFER STATIONS FOR TRANSPORTING WASTE IN BULK TO THESE LANDFILLS.

THE NORTH LANTAU REFUSE TRANSFER STATION WILL ACCEPT WASTE GENERATED FROM THE PLANNED NEW TOWNS IN TUNG CHUNG AND TAI HO, AS WELL AS THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND ITS RELATED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.

REFUSE WILL BE COMPACTED INTO ENCLOSED CONTAINERS AND TRANSFERRED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER TO THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL BY BARGES OR BULK VEHICLES.

THE STUDY ON NORTH LANTAU TRANSFER STATION, AT A COST OF ABOUT \$7.2 MILLION, WILL TAKE 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE TRANSFER STATION IS EXPECTED TO START IN STAGES UPON COMPLETION OF THE STUDY BY EARLY 1995.

STAGE I OF THE STATION WOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING 450 TONNES OF WASTE A DAY UPON OPERATIONAL IN EARLY 1997 AND IT'S CAPACITY WOULD BE FURTHER EXPANDED TO ACHIEVE 1,000 TONNES A DAY IN SUBSEQUENT STAGES.

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AIDS COUNSELLING HOTLINE COMPUTERISED

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S AIDS COUNSELLING HOTLINE 780 2211 HAS BEEN COMPUTERISED TO IMPROVE SERVICE.

UNDER THE COMPUTERISED NETWORK KNOWN AS THE PROACTIVE VOICE AND FAX RESPONSE (PVFR) SYSTEM, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY DIAL THE SAME NUMBER FOR AUDIO INFORMATION INTERACTIVELY THROUGH THE PHONE LINES, ASK FOR IT TO BE FAXED OR FOR DIRECT CONVERSATION WITH NURSING COUNSELLORS.

"THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM IS TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF THIS IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICE ON AIDS EDUCATION," THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) TO LAUNCH THE NEW SYSTEM.

THE DEPARTMENT'S AIDS HOTLINE RECEIVED A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1,344 CALLS LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE HOTLINE RECORDED 1,644 CALLS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

"THE NEW SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BETTER FLEXIBILITY TO CALLERS AS WELL AS TO MINIMISE THE NUMBER OF UNANSWERED CALLS," DR LEE SAID.

THERE ARE SEVEN PIECES OF RECORDED MESSAGES IN BOTH CANTONESE AND ENGLISH. THEY INCLUDE TOPICS SUCH AS "WHAT IS AIDS", "WOMEN AND AIDS" AND "WHAT IF I CONTRACTED AIDS".

/THE VARIOUS

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THE VARIOUS ADDRESSES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS FOR TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES CAN BE OBTAINED BY FAX.

"A CALLER MAY CHOOSE TO LISTEN TO ANY OF THE PRE-RECORDED MESSAGES ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF HIS CONCERN BY SIMPLY PRESSING THE PRE-DEFINED BUTTONS.

"AS BEFORE, THE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE IS SUPPORTED BY OTHER RELATED OPERATIONS, INCLUDING HIV TESTS, CLINICAL SERVICES, AS WELL AS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

"ALL THESE ARE EVIDENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DETERMINATION IN PUTTING AIDS UNDER SATISFACTORY CONTROL," THE DIRECTOR ADDED.

DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DR LEE PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PRODUCER MISS NG MAN YEE, AND PRESENTERS MISS CHEA SHUK-MUI AND MR HUGH CHIVERTON TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN DOING THE VOICE OVER FOR THE TAPED MESSAGES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1985, WITH THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF ANSWERING QUERIES FROM MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND CONCERNED PEOPLE.

ONLY ONE NURSING OFFICER WAS DESIGNATED TO THE JOB AT THAT TIME.

IN 1987, THE SERVICE WAS EXPANDED TO CATER FOR INCREASING PUBLIC DEMAND AND THE FAMILIAR NUMBER 780 2211 WAS INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

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SEVEN MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED

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FIVE MEN AND TWO WOMEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH, BRINGING THE NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 355.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT (SPECIAL PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME), DR S S LEE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT FOUR AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 80 WITH 51 DEATHS. THE 29 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 355 PERSONS INFECTED, 251 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, EIGHT WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 64 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 32, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

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UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 266,179 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,225,811 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 27 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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FARMING STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL

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A 30-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL DEPART FOR ISRAEL ON FRIDAY (APRIL 30) TO STUDY ITS NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND SHARE FARMING AND MARKETING EXPERIENCE WITH RELATED ORGANISATIONS THERE.

THE STUDY GROUP WILL VISIT THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN TEL AVIV, THE LARGEST EXPO OF ITS KIND IN MODERN HISTORY.

THE STUDY TOUR HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES LTD.

TO SHOW SUPPORT TO THE DELEGATION, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, PRESENTED A BANNER TO ITS LEADER MR YUNG TIN-TACK AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

DR LEE HOPED THAT THE MEMBERS WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THE VISIT TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES ON AGRICULTURE WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE TERRITORY'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

"THE GROUP'S STUDY WILL EMPHASISE ON VARIOUS ASPECTS, INCLUDING DRY LAND CULTIVATION, IRRIGATION, TILLAGE AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS ON PLANT PROTECTION, SPRAYING AND HARVESTING.

"THOUSANDS OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS FROM NO FEWER THAN 115 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES WILL TAKE PART IN THE TRIENNIAL EXPO BELIEVED TO HAVE THE MOST VARIETY OF EXHIBITS," DR LEE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR NOTED THAT THE DELEGATION WILL ALSO VISIT THE UNITED NATIONS' FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO) IN ROME, ITALY.

DURING THEIR STAY AT FAO'S HEADQUARTERS, DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ITS EXPERTS ON PLANT PROTECTION, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HE ADDED.

/DR LEE

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DR LEE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE ISRAEL CONSULATE-GENERAL IN HONG KONG AND FAO FOR THEIR HELP IN BRINGING ABOUT THE STUDY VISIT.

THE DELEGATION INCLUDES SIX MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS. DR LEE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE TERRITORY'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MANAGEMENT.

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INT'L TRANSPORT STUDY GROUP VISITS HK

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A DELEGATION OF ABOUT 300 MEMBERS OF THE UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS PUBLICS (UITP) WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) ON A FOUR-DAY STUDY TOUR.

THE UNION, FOUNDED IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM IN 1885, IS THE PREMIER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR THE STUDY OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE UNION IS TO HOLD ITS 50TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN SYDNEY IN MAY AND MEMBERS ARE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC TRANSPORT STUDY TOUR OF HONG KONG.

THE STUDY TOUR PROGRAMME HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RICHARD MEAKIN, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG.

WHILE IN HONG KONG, THE DELEGATES WILL LEARN HOW THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG OPERATES, THE ROAD AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES.

THE DELEGATES WILL VISIT THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY, THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS, THE PEAK TRAM, AND SOME TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES INCLUDING THE TSUEN WAN MTR/BUS INTERCHANGE, THE SHING MUN TUNNELS, THE SHA TIN TOWN PLAZA, THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL AND THE LAM TIN INTERCHANGE.

THE DELEGATION WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR SYDNEY IN THE EVENING OF MAY 1.

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LEGCO TO MEET TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

OF THE THREE BILLS, TWO WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE JUDICIAL OFFICERS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL AND INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

DEBATE ON OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE RESUMED, AND IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

IN ADDITION, THREE REPORTS WILL BE TABLED AT MEETING.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL PRESENT A REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1993-94. THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY WILL PRESENT A REPORT OF CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE APPROVED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992-93.

A REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT ON THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS MARCH 1993 WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

THE HON K K FUNG WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT. THE HON STEVEN POON WILL MOVE ANOTHER MOTION ON CRITERIA FOR SETTING THE FEES AND CHARGES AND PROFIT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

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

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
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|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| TENDER DATE | 27 APR 93 | 27 APR 93 |
| PAPER ON OFFER | EF BILLS | EF BILLS |
| ISSUE NUMBER | Q317 | H363 |
| AMOUNT APPLIED | HKD3,745 MN | HKD2,350 MN |
| AMOUNT ALLOTTED | HKD1,000 MN | HKD400 MN |
| AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED | 2.76 PCT | 2.87 PCT |
| HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED | 2.77 PCT | 2.87 PCT |
| PRO RATA RATIO | ABOUT 40 PCT | ABOUT 95 PCT |
| AVERAGE TENDER YIELD | 2.81 PCT | 2.92 PCT |

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 3 MAY 1993 -

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|-----------------|-------------------|
| TENDER DATE | 4 MAY 93 |
| PAPER ON OFFER | EF BILLS |
| ISSUE NUMBER | Q318 |
| ISSUE DATE | 5 MAY 93 |
| MATURITY DATE | 4 AUG 93 |
| TENOR | 91 DAYS |
| AMOUNT ON OFFER | HKD1,000 + 200 MN |

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TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

| | \$ MILLION |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | ----- |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,650 |
| REVERSAL OF LAF | -500 |
| BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF | 2,150 |
| NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY | NIL |
| EFFECT OF LAF TODAY | NIL |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,150 |
| LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER | TWI 111.50 **0.0* 27.4.93 |

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

| TERMS | YIELD | TERM | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE | YIELD |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 WEEK | 2.81 PCT | 13 MONTHS | 2405 | 5.50 | 102.47 | 3.13 |
| 1 MONTH | 2.77 PCT | 16 MONTHS | 2408 | 4.375 | 101.45 | 3.26 |
| 3 MONTHS | 2.79 PCT | 19 MONTHS | 2411 | 4.625 | 101.79 | 3.46 |
| 6 MONTHS | 2.90 PCT | 22 MONTHS | 2502 | 4.75 | 101.92 | 3.67 |
| 12 MONTHS | 3.07 PCT | | | | | |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 22,866 MN

CLOSED 27 APRIL 1993

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