



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR 1991 ELECTIONS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED SIX BILLS PROVIDING FOR NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR THE THREE SETS OF ELECTIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1991.

REGARDING ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1982 AND THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE DIRECT ELECTIONS.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO CLARIFY THE LIST OF DISQUALIFYING OFFICES IN THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF BEING ELECTED OR NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE FOR OR HOLDING OFFICE AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OR DISTRICT BOARD.

FIRSTLY, THE TERM "PUBLIC OFFICE" IN THE EXISTING DISQUALIFICATION WILL BE REPLACED BY REFERENCES TO OFFICES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE JUDICIAL SERVICE, THE ARMED FORCES AND IN A SCHEDULE OF SPECIFIC OFFICES WHICH SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED ON ACCOUNT OF THE INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THE PUBLIC FUNCTIONS THEY PERFORM.

SECONDLY, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT A PERSON IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE DISQUALIFIED. AT PRESENT ONLY THOSE EMPLOYED BY THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE DISQUALIFIED.

THIRDLY, THE BILL SEEKS TO REMOVE THE EXISTING DISQUALIFICATION ON GROUNDS OF DISMISSAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TOO HARSH AS OTHER DISQUALIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES SUCH AS A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT AND CONVICTION OF CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

FOURTHLY, THE BILL SEEKS TO CLARIFY THAT THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE NOT EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCILS.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO BRING FORWARD THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES TO APRIL AND MAY EACH YEAR, COINCIDING WITH THAT FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO SYNCHRONISE THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND TO ENABLE ELIGIBLE PERSONS TO REGISTER IN BOTH CATEGORIES OF CONSTITUENCIES AT THE SAME TIME.

OTHER MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE AIM TO DEAL WITH FALSE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

"THE BILL PROPOSES TO MAKE IT A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES TO ENABLE THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO DEAL WITH FALSE REGISTRATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"IT IS

"IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT ANY DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY AN APPLICANT TO FALSELY REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR SHOULD DISQUALIFY HIM OR HER FROM BOTH REGISTRATION AS A VOTER AND FROM STANDING FOR ELECTION."

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES, THE CREATION OF THE ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE CLARIFICATION OF THE DISQUALIFYING OFFICES FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION AS PROPOSED UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE SIMULTANEOUS REGISTRATION IN A GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY AND A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO SEEKS TO DEFINE THE ELECTORATE FOR THE SEVEN NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR 1991, NAMELY, THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, TOURISM, FINANCIAL SERVICES, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE, RURAL INTERESTS AND ENGINEERING.

THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEK MAINLY TO APPLY THE CLARIFICATION OF DISQUALIFYING OFFICES PROPOSED UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO THE APPOINTED AND EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD AND TO EXTEND TO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS THE FULL RANGE OF DISQUALIFICATIONS APPLICABLE TO AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED MEMBER.

"THE INTENTION OF THESE AMENDMENTS IS TO APPLY THE DISQUALIFICATION UNIFORMLY TO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE THREE TIERS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO INCREASE THE PENALTY LEVELS UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TO DEAL WITH VOTERS GIVING A FALSE ADDRESS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT FRAUDULENT VOTING ON THE BASIS OF FALSE REGISTRATION BE MADE AN OFFENCE.

IN VIEW OF A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF FALSE CLAIMS OF SUPPORT IN CANDIDATES' PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES, IT IS PROPOSED THAT A FURTHER DETERRENT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE FORM OF A PRISON SENTENCE. THIS WOULD BE THREE MONTHS ON SUMMARY CONVICTION AND SIX MONTHS ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT, IN ADDITION TO FINES OF \$2,500 AND \$5,000 RESPECTIVELY.

FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE LEVEL OF FINES AND TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT FOR CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE PENALTIES FOR THESE OFFENCES BE INCREASED TO REFLECT CURRENT MONETARY VALUES.

THE SIX AMENDMENT BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 25.

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'HK'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES 1989' PUBLISHED
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MORE THAN HALF (56.9 PER CENT) OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS CONSIDERED HONG KONG'S OVERALL MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT TO BE FAVOURABLE, ACCORDING TO A SAMPLE SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989.

THOSE WHO FELT IT WAS UNFAVOURABLE STOOD AT 40.4 PER CENT WHILE THE REMAINING 2.7 PER CENT HAD NO COMMENT.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WERE CONTAINED IN THE LATEST EDITION OF AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION ENTITLED "HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES 1989" WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE SURVEY WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION AND THE INTENTION WAS TO CARRY OUT SIMILAR SURVEYS ANNUALLY IN FUTURE.

"THE SURVEY WAS AIMED AT DISCOVERING HOW MANUFACTURERS SAW THEIR BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN 1990, WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF HONG KONG'S INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT, AND WHETHER THEY SAW ANY CONSTRAINTS ON THE GROWTH OF THEIR INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 1989 AND COVERED 5,761 SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS IN 14 SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, NAMELY, CLOTHING, ELECTRONICS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, TEXTILES, PLASTICS, TOYS, JEWELLERY, METAL PRODUCTS, HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS, OPTICAL GOODS, PRINTING, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES.

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT TO THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS AND A TOTAL OF 1,832 VALID RETURNS WERE RECEIVED.

ON THE FAVOURABILITY OF INVESTMENT FACTORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID 12 OF THE 20 INVESTMENT FACTORS LISTED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED FAVOURABLE RATING FROM MORE THAN HALF THE RESPONDENTS.

"THE TOP FOUR WERE HONG KONG'S BANKING AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES (CITED BY 80.2 PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS), INFRASTRUCTURE (79.9 PER CENT), GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY (70.4 PER CENT) AND REGIONAL LOCATION (70.2 PER CENT)," HE SAID.

SURVEYED MANUFACTURERS WERE ALSO ASKED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT CONSTRAINTS THEY PERCEIVED ON THE GROWTH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES, AND HOW SERIOUS THESE CONSTRAINTS WERE.

"LABOUR SHORTAGE AND HIGH LABOUR COST WERE IDENTIFIED AS VERY SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS BY 40 PER CENT AND 38.6 PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS RESPECTIVELY.

/"OTHER SERIOUS

"OTHER SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS INCLUDED HIGH COSTS OF INDUSTRIAL PREMISES, HIGH LABOUR TURNOVER, AND HIGH COSTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND PARTS AND COMPONENTS," HE SAID.

ON THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK ON MARKETS, MOST RESPONDENTS FELT THAT THEIR SALES TO ALL MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHINA, WOULD INCREASE OR REMAIN STABLE.

"MANUFACTURERS WERE MOST OPTIMISTIC ABOUT JAPAN; 51.1 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS EXPECTED THAT EXPORTS TO JAPAN WOULD INCREASE IN 1990, 37.9 PER CENT SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE AND ONLY 11 PER CENT SAID THEY WOULD DECREASE," HE SAID.

"AS REGARDS CHINA, NEARLY HALF (46.3 PER CENT) OF THE RESPONDENTS EXPECTED EXPORTS TO CHINA WOULD DECREASE, WHILE 24.4 PER CENT AND 29.3 PER CENT OF THEM RESPECTIVELY FELT THAT EXPORTS WOULD INCREASE AND REMAIN UNCHANGED," HE ADDED.

THE "HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES 1989", BEING PUBLISHED FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE ITS INAUGURAL ISSUE LAST YEAR, IS AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG SINCE THE WAR.

"PROFILES ARE GIVEN OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE AND OF 14 SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CHOSEN EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS OR HAVE SHOWN RAPID GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS.

"EIGHT SMALLER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE ALSO COVERED IN THIS EDITION, NAMELY, THE BASIC METAL; CHEMICAL; FOOTWEAR; FURNITURE; HANDBAGS AND TRAVEL GOODS; LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS; PACKAGING PRODUCTS; AND PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MANUFACTURING WAS STILL THE LARGEST ECONOMIC SECTOR IN TERMS OF CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYMENT, ALTHOUGH ITS SHARE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT HAD DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS, FROM 49.7 PER CENT IN 1976 TO 33 PER CENT IN 1989.

IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION, HE SAID THE VALUE OF THE GROSS OUTPUT OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF 12.9 PER CENT FROM \$136,628 MILLION IN 1981 TO \$283,340 MILLION IN 1987. VALUE ADDED ROSE DURING THE SAME PERIOD AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 13.2 PER CENT, FROM \$36,049 MILLION IN 1981 TO \$75,761 MILLION IN 1987.

ON THE OUTLOOK OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS A SMALL OPEN ECONOMY, HONG KONG WOULD ALWAYS BE SENSITIVE TO ANY CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHICH AFFECTED TRADING CONDITIONS, OR SHIFTS IN MARKET AND PRODUCT DEMANDS.

"THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WILL REQUIRE CONTINUOUS PRODUCT UPGRADING AND MARKET DIVERSIFICATION. INDUSTRIES MUST ACHIEVE A TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO MOVE INTO HIGH VALUE-ADDED AND INNOVATIVE MERCHANDISE.

"OTHERWISE, THEY WILL NOT, IN THE LONG RUN, BE ABLE TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE LOWER-COST PRODUCTS IN DEVELOPING ASIAN AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN ECONOMIES, OR AGAINST THE OTHER ASIAN NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES IN MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES COULD EXPECT SLOWER EXPORT GROWTH IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WHILE THE ECONOMIES OF ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS ADJUSTED TO THE RECENT DOWNTURN IN THE WORLD'S ECONOMY. THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S AUSTERITY MEASURES ALSO MADE THE OUTLOOK LESS PROMISING FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, AS WORLD TRADE GRADUALLY RECOVERED, HONG KONG'S EXPORTS SHOULD PICK UP AGAIN.

"WHETHER HONG KONG CAN MAINTAIN GROWTH THEREAFTER WILL DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO IMPROVE ITS PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY LEVELS, UPGRADE ITS PRODUCT QUALITY, AND DIVERSIFY INTO OTHER MARKETS, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE AND IN JAPAN AND THE DEVELOPING SOUTHEAST ASIAN ECONOMIES," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE "HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES 1989" ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DATA SECTION OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1412, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO GET A COPY ARE REQUESTED TO CALL AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR CONTACT MR M.O. CHEUNG ON TEL. 737 2409.

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COMPANIES REGISTRY RELEASED HALF-YEARLY FIGURES
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FIGURES RELEASED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, FOR THE COMPANIES REGISTRY OF HIS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) INDICATED INCREASES AS WELL AS DECREASES OF ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS AREAS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 1990 BY COMPARISON WITH THE SAME PERIOD OF 1989.

THE COMPANIES REGISTRY FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPANIES ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF JUNE 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1989 HAD INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT FROM 242,709 TO 253,804 WHILE THE NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 HAD DECREASED 36 PER CENT FROM 19,500 TO 12,513 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AT THE END OF JUNE 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1989 INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT FROM 2,464 TO 2,569.

THE NUMBER OF NEW OVERSEAS COMPANIES ESTABLISHING A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 WAS 185, AN INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF SUCH COMPANIES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1989.

NO SEPARATE STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED ON HOW MANY OVERSEAS COMPANIES INCORPORATE LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OR TAKE UP A MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN A HONG KONG COMPANY.

IN THE FIRST HALF YEAR OF 1990 EXISTING COMPANIES INCREASED THEIR NOMINAL CAPITAL BY \$16,388 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 4 PER CENT OVER THE INCREASE OF \$15,698 MILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1989, WHILE THE NOMINAL CAPITAL OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED DURING JANUARY - JUNE 1990 DECREASED BY 8 PER CENT FROM \$1,712 MILLION TO \$1,577 MILLION COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED BY CHARGES REGISTERED ON THE ASSETS OF COMPANIES DECREASED BY 42 PER CENT FROM \$56,695 MILLION TO \$32,637 MILLION AND THE NUMBER OF CHARGES FILED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 HAD DECREASED BY 16 PER CENT FROM 17,239 TO 14,467 OVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1989, WHILE THE AMOUNT REPAID ON CHARGES, AS EVIDENCED BY CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION, INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT FROM \$6,832 MILLION TO \$8,970 MILLION, AND THE NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES HAD DECREASED BY 13 PER CENT FROM 7,264 TO 6,345 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

DURING THE PERIOD A TOTAL OF 72 PROSPECTUSES OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, INCLUDING 51 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, WERE APPROVED AS AGAINST 50 PROSPECTUSES, INCLUDING 18 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1989.

THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FOR FILING DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THAT FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989 DECREASED BY 18 PER CENT FROM 510,349 TO 416,120.

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES FOR AVAILABILITY OF RESERVATION OF NAMES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 WAS 85,292 WHICH WAS A DECREASE OF 27 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1989 WHEN 116,970 ENQUIRIES WERE MADE, BUT WAS AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 77,795 ENQUIRIES MADE DURING THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF 1989.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUMMONSES ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AGAINST COMPANIES AND THEIR DIRECTORS FOR BREACHES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, MAINLY FOR FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL RETURNS WITH ACCOUNTS, IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990 WAS 70, COMPARED WITH 103 DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989. DURING THE PERIOD NINE SUMMONSES WERE WITHDRAWN (FOR EXAMPLE BECAUSE OF NON-SERVICE), 78 RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS COMPARED WITH 113 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1989 AND 66 REMAIN TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT (122 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1989).

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES IMPOSED FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE FIRST HALF YEAR OF 1990 WAS \$172,160, COMPARED WITH \$300,960 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1989.

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CANING: THING OF THE PAST
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PERSONS CONVICTED OF POSSESSING AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON WILL NO LONGER BE LIABLE TO CANING OR MANDATORY MINIMUM CUSTODIAL SENTENCES, UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CHANGE IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WHICH IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 24.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE REMOVAL OF MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A RELAXATION OF THE PENAL TREATMENT OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF POSSESSING AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON. TRENDS IN THIS OFFENCE WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES WILL BE REVIEWED IN DUE COURSE.

"CANING IS TO BE ABOLISHED BECAUSE IT IS A PUNISHMENT NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY AND ITS RETENTION IN THE STATUTES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ABOLISH CORPORAL PUNISHMENT."

THE REMOVAL OF MANDATORY MINIMUM CUSTODIAL SENTENCES WAS TO ALLOW THE COURTS COMPLETE FREEDOM TO SENTENCE AS THEY SEE FIT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS KNOWN THAT MAGISTRATES DISLIKE BEING DEPRIVED OF THE FLEXIBILITY OF TAILORING SENTENCES TO THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OFFENCES AND OFFENDERS."

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO BE ENACTING A CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TO REPEAL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN ALL OTHER ORDINANCES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT BOTH BILLS WILL BE ENACTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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ACTIVE VOLUNTARY SECTOR HELPFUL TO SERVE COMMUNITY
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID IT IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE IN HONG KONG THE BENEFIT OF AN ACTIVE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT THE CIVIC RECEPTION OF THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, SIR DAVID COMMENDED THE AGENCY AS A PIONEER IN HONG KONG IN DEVELOPING VOLUNTEER WELFARE SERVICES.

/"THE PRINCIPLE

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"THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER AND THE VOLUNTEERS FORMING AN INTEGRAL TEAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES IS A MOST IMPORTANT ONE.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE AGENCY HAS PROMOTED WITH SUCCESS THIS FINE TRADITION HERE IN HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE NOTED THAT OVER 1,300 VOLUNTEERS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN HELPING SOME 230 CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS AND THE WORK OF THE AGENCY EXTENDED TO ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SERVING THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED, AND ASSISTING IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED AND DRUG ADDICTS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO CONGRATULATED THE AGENCY ON THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN SAI YING PUN EARLIER THIS YEAR AND FOR INITIATING THE WOMEN VOLUNTEER IN ACTION PROGRAMME IN TAIKOO SHING.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PROJECT TO MOBILISE WOMEN'S GROUPS TO HELP SERVE THE ELDERLY IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE AGENCY HAS PLANS TO EXTEND THIS TO OTHER DISTRICTS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID VOLUNTEER WORK NOT ONLY HELPED THOSE WHO NEEDED THE SERVICE BUT JUST AS IMPORTANTLY IT BENEFITTED THE VOLUNTEERS THEMSELVES, AND THROUGH THE CARE AND CONCERN GIVEN AND RECEIVED THE WHOLE COMMUNITY CAME CLOSER TOGETHER.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL, HAVING SPENT A LITTLE TIME WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON, THAT THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE WILL GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, AND I'D LIKE TO EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORT ITS WORK MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

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POLICE STATEMENT ABOUT VBP AT HIGH ISLAND

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REPORTS TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE BEING IMPRISONED INDEFINITELY IN A SPECIAL ISOLATION HUT AT HIGH ISLAND, A POLICE SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT :

THE VIETNAMESE AT HIGH ISLAND HAVE A MAJOR INPUT INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE BY MEANS OF THEIR OWN FORUM THROUGH WHICH COMPLAINTS ARE RECEIVED REGARDING THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION OF THESE COMPLAINTS AND POLICE INFORMATION ON THOSE INVOLVED IN DISTURBANCES, SOME PEOPLE ARE MOVED TO AN AREA WHICH IS FENCED OFF FROM THE REST OF THE CENTRE BUT IS STILL PART OF IT.

/HIGH ISLAND

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HIGH ISLAND WAS DESIGNED WITH THIS FACILITY TO PREVENT THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AT OTHER CENTRES WHERE SEPARATION FOR MANAGEMENT REASONS HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE, SUCH AS KAI TAK CAMP WHICH HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY BESET BY DISTURBANCES AND CRIME. AS A RESULT, THERE HAVE BEEN NO OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE OR CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS AT HIGH ISLAND IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IT IS THE ONLY FULLY INTEGRATED DETENTION CENTRE IN HONG KONG, WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 6 700 BOAT PEOPLE.

THE DORMITORY BUILDING IN THE COMPOUND IS THE STANDARD DORMITORY WHICH IS THE SAME AS IN THE REST OF THE CENTRE. IT IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE 300 PEOPLE, AND AT PRESENT HOUSES ONLY 213 PEOPLE.

THE FACILITIES ARE THE SAME AS PROVIDED IN THE REST OF THE CENTRE. HOWEVER, AS THE DORMITORY IS LESS CROWDED THAN THE OTHER HUTS, THE PEOPLE THERE HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO SHOWERS, TOILET FACILITIES, RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND TELEVISION.

FAMILIES ARE KEPT TOGETHER. CHILDREN HAVE FULL ACCESS TO KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS AND THEY RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR TRIPS TO COUNTRY PARKS AND OTHER SUCH VISITS OUTSIDE THE CENTRE. ALL FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AT THE CENTRE.

THERE IS UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE UNHCR, WHO PAY VISITS MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THEY DO TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CENTRE.

PEOPLE WHO ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE COMPOUND ARE INFORMED OF THE REASONS AND ARE TOLD THAT THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE REVIEW IS CONDUCTED BY THE CENTRE MANAGEMENT WITH A VIEW TO REINTEGRATING THE PEOPLE INTO THE MAIN PART OF THE CENTRE AS SOON AS IT IS DEEMED SUITABLE.

IT IS POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, FOR PEOPLE TO SPEND ONLY ONE WEEK IN THE COMPOUND, AND THIS HAPPENS FREQUENTLY. THERE ARE ALSO CASES OF PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO REJOIN THE REST OF THE CENTRE AFTER A SUCCESSFUL REVIEW.

THE LONGEST THAT A PERSON HAS REMAINED IN THE COMPOUND IS SEVEN MONTHS AND THE ONE PERSON IN QUESTION HAS REFUSED TO MOVE.

THERE IS A DORMITORY REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT TREATMENT BY THE CENTRE STAFF OR ABOUT FACILITIES CAN BE RAISED IN THESE FORUMS AS WELL AS TO VOLUNTARY AGENCY AND UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES.

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CAREERS EDUCATION TO KEEP PACE WITH CHANGES

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IT IS NECESSARY FOR CAREERS TEACHERS TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE CHANGING WORLD OF CAREERS IN ORDER TO HELP THEM EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE OPENING OF AN ANNUAL SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS.

HE SAID THE SEMINAR PROVIDED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR CAREERS TEACHERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, SHARE EXPERIENCES AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN CAREERS GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING AND TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE CAREERS SERVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE MORE THAN EVER.

"WE ARE WATCHING CLOSELY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CAREERS EDUCATION AND WILL UPGRADE OUR SERVICE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHANGING SOCIETY," HE STRESSED.

MR HAMMOND NOTED A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS), INCLUDING A YEAR-ROUND WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME, A REVISED MONTHLY CAREERS NEWSLETTER AND A NEW "CONCISE GUIDE TO A CAREERS PROGRAMME" FOR TEACHERS.

HE ALSO ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO WATCH A SERIES OF 12 CAREERS FILMS PRODUCED BY THE CAS ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CAREERS EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUAL TRADES, BEING SHOWN ON TVB JADE CHANNEL FROM 5.40 PM TO 6.15 PM EVERY MONDAY, UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

"WE WILL, MOREOVER, SET UP A FIFTH CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN MONG KOK NEXT YEAR TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE KOWLOON WEST REGION," HE ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING WAS THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD.

MR WINFIELD DESCRIBED THE SEMINAR AS A WELL-ESTABLISHED POPULAR FORUM FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF CAREERS EDUCATION WHICH TOOK INTO ACCOUNT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREER CHOICE.

HE FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE 1997 DIMENSION FOR HONG KONG, THE SEMINAR HAD RIGHTLY FOCUSED ON CAREERS ASPIRATIONS AND CHOICE IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD UP TO 1997.

"CAREERS EDUCATION, IF IT IS TO BE OF REAL PRACTICAL VALUE, CAN NEVER STAND STILL BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY WHICH IT SERVES IS CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE," HE STRESSED.

NOTING THAT CAREERS EDUCATION MUST BE CENTRED ON STUDENTS' INDIVIDUALITY AND LOOK BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE AND TANGIBLE, MR WINFIELD REMINDED CAREERS TEACHERS THEY MUST ALWAYS STRIVE TO HELP STUDENTS RECOGNISE THEIR POTENTIAL AND TO MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR PERSONALITY, INTERESTS, STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

"THIS WILL HELP STUDENTS MAKE FREE, VOLUNTARY, WELL-INFORMED AND REALISTIC CAREER CHOICES AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THEIR LIVES," HE SAID.

MR WINFIELD ALSO ASSURED CAREERS TEACHERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO HELP THEM KEEP ABREAST OF GUIDANCE WORK, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ITS CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE WHICH PROVIDED USEFUL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

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PRIORITIES FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT FOR 1990 HIGHLIGHTED
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SPOKE AT A KOWLOON NORTH ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON TODAY (FRIDAY) ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WORK OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND ITS PRIORITIES FOR 1990.

MR SZE SAID THAT EVERYONE KNOWS HONG KONG HAS TWO MAIN ASSETS, ITS PORT AND ITS PEOPLE.

HE SAID HE WAS PROUD TO SAY THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT MANAGES ONE OF THEM.

MR SZE WENT ON TO LIKEN THE MARINE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO THE LAND ROLE OF SIX OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO SHOW THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY HIS DEPARTMENT.

HE HIGHLIGHTED THE SETTING UP OF THE INDEPENDENT HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER AS ONE OF THE MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT FOR 1990.

MR SZE POINTED OUT THAT EVERY MERCHANT SHIP MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE IT CAN ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE SAME WAY AS A MOTOR VEHICLE MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE IT CAN BE PUT ON THE ROAD.

OWNERS CAN CHOOSE WHERE TO REGISTER SHIPS AS MANY REGISTERS WERE NOT STRICTLY LINKED TO THE NATIONALS OF ONE COUNTRY.

HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT HONG KONG HAS OPERATED A BRITISH REGISTER OF SHIPPING FOR OVER 100 YEARS BUT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN 1997 MEANS THAT THIS REGISTER CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID: "THE JOINT DECLARATION AUTHORISES THE SETTING UP OF A NEW REGISTER AND TO THIS END BANKERS, SHIPOWNERS AND SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS' UNIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SETTING UP OF A NEW REGISTER FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS."

THE NEW REGISTER WOULD BE REPUTABLE AS IT WOULD ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, MR SZE SAID.

IT WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE AS IT MET MANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL SHIPOWNERS AND SHIP MANAGERS.

IT WOULD BE PRACTICAL BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO NATIONALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CREWS OR RESTRICTIVE USE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

IT WOULD BE RESPONSIVE AS IT WOULD ALLOW SPEEDY REGISTRATION OF SHIPS WITH A GOOD PROFESSIONAL BACKUP FOR SURVEYS AND IT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE AS THE FEES AND CHARGES WOULD BE SET AT A REALISTIC LEVEL.

MR SZE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE NEW REGISTER HAS RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND IS NOW BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND ENACTMENT WITH THE AIM OF COMMENCEMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

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TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE DEGAZETTED
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE REMOVAL OF TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE FROM THE LIST OF AREAS OF WATERS DESIGNATED AS FISH CULTURE ZONES.

THE FISH CULTURE ZONE (DESIGNATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1990 WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 6.6 HECTARES OFF THE SOKO ISLANDS, WAS DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE 28 FISH CULTURE ZONES IN HONG KONG IN 1982, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

TWELVE MARICULTURISTS WERE LICENSED TO PRACTISE FISH CULTURE IN THE AREA.

"AS THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED EARLY THIS YEAR TO USE THE SOKO ISLANDS AS A PERMANENT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE RECEPTION CENTRE, THE AREA WOULD POSSIBLY BE AFFECTED BY THE EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND THUS RENDER THE ZONE UNSUITABLE FOR FISH CULTURE.

/"IN VIEW

"IN VIEW OF THIS, THE FINANCE BRANCH APPROVED A SUM OF \$1.49 MILLION AS COMPENSATION FOR THE 12 MARICULTURISTS FOR FISH LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF TAI A CHAU AS A TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRE FOR BOAT PEOPLE FROM JUNE TO AUGUST LAST YEAR AS WELL AS EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES FOR TERMINATION OF THEIR BUSINESSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE MARICULTURISTS ACCEPTED THE COMPENSATION AND EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AND THEIR LICENCES CANCELLED," HE ADDED.

THE PAYMENT WAS MADE IN APRIL AND THE TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE WAS DEGAZETTED TODAY.

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MORE ASSISTANCE FOR DAY NURSERY SERVICE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE NON-CONTRIBUTION BASELINE OF THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME BY ONE-THIRD OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BASIC SCALE LEVEL TO BENEFIT MORE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES REQUIRING DAY NURSERY SERVICE, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF A GROUP OF CHILD CARE WORKERS AT LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, MR CHUI SAID THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE \$10 MILLION IN 1990/91.

AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, HE SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING ADOPTING A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE PROVISION OF DAY CRECHE SERVICE TO MEET SOCIAL CHANGES," MR CHUI SAID.

THESE INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITIES OF A PHASED EXPANSION OF DAY CRECHE PLACES AND SETTING UP DAY CRECHES IN NEW TOWNS, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

MR CHUI SAID UNDER THIS NOTION, NEW DAY CRECHES SUCH AS CHILD CARE CENTRES WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION FOR STARTING-UP COSTS, RENTAL, RATES AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

"LOW-INCOME FAMILIES COULD APPLY FOR FEE ASSISTANCE, WHILE CRECHE SERVICE WOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES WHO COULD AFFORD THE FULL COST," HE ADDED.

MR CHUI SAID THERE WOULD BE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF DAY NURSERY PLACES TO MEET SOCIAL NEEDS.

"WHILE A WORKING RATIO OF 100 PLACES FOR 20,000 GENERAL POPULATION WILL CONTINUE, A TOTAL OF 1,600 PLACES HAS BEEN PLANNED THIS YEAR TO MEET THE DEMAND," HE SAID.

"AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 300 DAY NURSERIES PROVIDING SOME 32,000 PLACES FOR CHILDREN AGED FROM TWO TO SIX," HE ADDED.

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POP CONCERT TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION
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WELL-KNOWN LOCAL SINGERS AND MOVIE STARS WILL APPEAL TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REGISTER AS VOTERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS AT A CONCERT IN KWUN TONG ON SUNDAY (JULY 22).

THE CONCERT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL MARK THE OPENING OF RTHK'S SOLAR PROJECT '90 WHICH CARRIES THE THEME OF "VOTER REGISTRATION".

ABOUT 5,000 "SUN AMBASSADORS" HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART. THEY WILL ASSIST IN PROMOTING THE REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED IN MID-AUGUST THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND, TSUI PING ROAD, BEGINNING AT 1.30 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK RADIO 2 AND SCREENED ON TVB-JADE ON JULY 24 AT 7 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONCERT WILL BE OMELCO MEMBER MRS RITA FAN AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOLAR PROJECT '90 CONCERT WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 1.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 22) AT THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND, TSUI PING ROAD.

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EDUCATIONAL TALKS FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE
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A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL TALKS TO DRIVE HOME THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA).

STAFF FROM BOTH ORGANISATIONS VISITED THE ARGYLE STREET DETENTION CENTRE AND KAI TAK VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE (VBP) DETENTION CENTRE THIS WEEK.

THEY WILL GO TO ANOTHER EIGHT VIETNAMESE CENTRES IN THE COMING SIX WEEKS.

/"THIS IS

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"THIS IS PART OF THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE AND MORE ACTIVITIES WILL BE LAUNCHED LATER THIS YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE TALK COMPRISES TWO PARTS : A 20-MINUTE SLIDE SHOW ON PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION; AND A BRIEFING ON DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG AND THE WORK OF SARDA.

IN ADDITION, INFORMATION CARDS AND POSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS AT THE CENTRES.

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ALLEN LEE TO OFFICIATE AT YOUTH SERVICE DAY
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THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE YOUTH SERVICE DAY TO BE HELD AT THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN TSIU HANG, SAI KUNG ON SUNDAY (JULY 22) AT 10 AM.

THE SERVICE DAY IS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG; DEPUTY SECRETARY (LANDS AND PLANNING), MR CLIVE OXLEY; DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING; DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE; AND GENERAL MANAGER OF HKTVB, MR KELLY CHENG.

MORE THAN 350 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EIGHT DIFFERENT YOUTH GROUPS WILL TAKE PART IN VOLUNTARY SERVICES SUCH AS TREE PLANTING, GRASS CUTTING, PATH MAINTENANCE, MAKING OF FIRE BEATERS AS WELL AS PAINTING FENCES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND WILL LEAVE THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON AT 8.45 AM ON SUNDAY (JULY 22).

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DRAFT OZP REFERRED BACK FOR AMENDMENT

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THE DRAFT MID-LEVELS WEST OUTLINE ZONING PLAN HAS BEEN REFERRED BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND AMENDMENT.

THE DRAFT PLAN, TOGETHER WITH ALL UNWITHDRAWN OBJECTIONS, WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON JULY 17 AS REQUIRED UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT THE DRAFT PLAN WAS NOT YET READY FOR APPROVAL BECAUSE SOME FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN WERE REQUIRED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID IT WAS QUITE COMMON FOR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO REFER DRAFT PLANS CONSIDERED NOT YET READY FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND AMENDMENT.

THE BOARD WOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE DRAFT PLAN AND DECIDE WHAT AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY TO MEET THE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS OF THE MID-LEVELS AREA, HE ADDED.

UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, ANY FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN AGREED BY THE BOARD WILL HAVE TO BE EXHIBITED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND ANY PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LODGE OBJECTIONS TO THE BOARD.

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REAR STAIRCASES OF FOUR POST-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED THE EXTERNAL REAR STAIRCASES TO FOUR BUILDINGS IN MONG KOK DANGEROUS.

HE ALSO DECLARED THE FOUR EIGHT-STOREY BUILDINGS AT 138-144 (EVEN NUMBERS), SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BUILDINGS ARE POST-WAR REINFORCED CONCRETE FRAMED BUILDINGS WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE FLOORS AND ROOFS AND BRICK INFILL PANEL WALLS.

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

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

/THE REAR

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THE REAR PORTIONS OF THE MAIN BUILDINGS ARE ALSO BADLY DILAPIDATED AS EVIDENCED BY SPALLED CONCRETE BEAMS, CEILINGS AND WINDOW HOODS, LOOSE EXTERNAL RENDERING AND LOOSE INTERNAL PLASTER.

THERE ARE OTHER MINOR DEFECTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE MAIN BUILDINGS.

THE DEMOLITION OF THE REAR STAIRCASES WILL RENDER THE BUILDINGS DANGEROUS BY REASON OF LACK OF ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE AND THEREFORE THE BUILDINGS THEMSELVES SHOULD ALSO BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

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

WHILST THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO COMPEL OWNERS TO CONTINUALLY MAINTAIN THEIR BUILDINGS, HE SAID A PRUDENT OWNER WOULD DO SO IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE VALUE OF HIS PROPERTY.

HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT SHOULD THE OWNERS WISH TO REBUILD THE REAR STAIRCASES, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WOULD CONSIDER ANY FORMAL APPLICATIONS MADE IN THIS RESPECT.

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

THIS CASE WAS DISCOVERED AS A RESULT OF THE INTENSIFIED ACTIVITIES OF THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WHICH COMMENCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON OCTOBER 22 THIS YEAR WERE POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS TODAY.

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EXHIBITIONS ON EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE
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THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL STAGE A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS.

ONE SUCH EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO MONDAY (JULY 23) AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF TELFORD GARDEN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, KOWLOON BAY.

/OPEN DAILY

OPEN DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM, THE EXHIBITION WILL INTRODUCE IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE AND THROUGH INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, SUCH AS LONG SERVICE PAY, SEVERANCE PAY, MATERNITY PROTECTION, PAID ANNUAL LEAVE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A QUIZ ON LABOUR LAWS FOR VISITORS. WINNERS MAY JOIN A LUCKY DRAW AT THE COMPLETION OF THE ROUND OF EXHIBITIONS IN DECEMBER.

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DRAINAGE CHANNEL TO BE CONSTRUCTED NEAR TAN KWAI TSUEN
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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE CHANNEL NEAR TAN KWAI TSUEN IN YUEN LONG TO REDUCE THE FLOOD HAZARDS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE CHANNELS, ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROADS AND FOOTBRIDGES, AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING CROSSINGS ACROSS THE CHANNEL.

WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START IN DECEMBER AND WILL TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDER IS NOON ON AUGUST 10.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW WORKS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON 14TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATIONS AT PO TOI ISLAND AND KWAI CHUNG
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BUILD A PIER WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,360 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT PO TOI ISLAND.

THE PIER IS TO FACILITATE TRANSPORT FOR THE VILLAGERS AND THE PUBLIC.

IN KWAI CHUNG, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 4.36 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO THE NORTH OF THE INCINERATOR FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ANIMAL LANDING AREA AND A POSSIBLE SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

/ANY PERSON

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19.

DETAILS OF THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED ARE DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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LAND RESUMPTION FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND IN HOI PA VILLAGE, TSUEN WAN, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL PHASE OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME INCLUDING ROAD WORKS AND SITE FORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE LAND TO BE RESUMED COMPRISES 16 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 1,755.8 SQUARE METRES AND 13 PRIVATE BUILDING LOTS TALLING ABOUT 681.3 SQUARE METRES IN AREA.

THE LOTS WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

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

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR DISPLAY OF FARE TABLES IN TAXIS

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THE DISPLAY OF STANDARDISED FARE PLATES INSIDE TAXIS WILL BECOME A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FROM AUGUST 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE PROPER DISPLAY OF FARE TABLES INSIDE TAXIS WOULD SERVE TO INFORM PASSENGERS OF THE APPROVED FARE SCALES AND THUS REDUCE DISPUTES OVER TAXI FARES.

UNDER THE NEW RULES, A TAXI DRIVER MUST ENSURE THE DISPLAY OF A FARE PLATE OF A DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND POSITIONING SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT. CONTRAVENTION OF THE REQUIREMENT CARRIES A FINE OF \$2,000.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE TABLE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY). THE SPECIFICATIONS HAVE EARLIER BEEN MADE KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF THE TRADE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TABLE MUST BE OF A STANDARD SIZE AND CONTAINS THE SCALE OF FARES CHARGEABLE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE CHARACTERS.

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IT MUST BE DISPLAYED AT THE INTERIOR NEARSIDE REAR DOOR AND THE FRONT DASHBOARD ON THE PASSENGER SIDE OR THE FRONT NEARSIDE DOOR.

THE TABLE MUST ALSO CONTAIN INFORMATION SUCH AS THE REGISTRATION MARK OF THE TAXI AND THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT HOTLINE TELEPHONE NUMBER.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOLLOWED THE SUCCESS OF A PILOT SCHEME LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 1, 1986 REQUESTING ALL TAXIS TO PUT UP THE DESIGN FARE PLATE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

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FIGHT BEACH CRIME DRIVE IN SOUTHERN
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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) WILL JOIN FORCE WITH THE POLICE ON SUNDAY (JULY 22) IN A PUBLICITY DRIVE TO COMBAT BEACH CRIMES.

MEMBERS WILL FIRST BE GIVEN A BRIEFING AT THE ABERDEEN POLICE STATION BY DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, MR TSE CHAN-FAI, ON THE CRIME SITUATION AT BEACHES SINCE THE ANNUAL DRIVE WAS FIRST LAUNCHED IN 1988.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ASK ABOUT POLICE'S MEASURES AGAINST THEFT, SNATCHING AND OTHER CRIMES ON POPULAR BEACHES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF, MEMBERS WILL THEN PROCEED TO REPULSE BAY BEACH TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES HOW POLICE OFFICERS PERFORM PATROL DUTIES THERE.

THE GROUP WILL ALSO HAND OUT COPIES OF AN ANTI-BEACH CRIME LEAFLET TO BEACH-GOERS. THE LEAFLET, PRODUCED BY THE WESTERN JUNIOR POLICE CALL, SPELLS OUT IN LIVELY CARTOONS THE PRECAUTIONS THAT BEACH-GOERS SHOULD TAKE TO THWART BEACH CRIMES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DFCC'S ANTI-BEACH-CRIME PUBLICITY DRIVE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JULY 22).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO MAKE USE OF TRANSPORT PROVIDED SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, BY 9.15 AM. THOSE WHO TRAVEL ON THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE ABERDEEN POLICE STATION IN WONG CHUK HANG BY 9.50 AM.

INFORMATION OFFICER, MR ALEX LI, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1990

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FIRING PRACTICE IN AUGUST

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 17 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE	TIME
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AUGUST 1 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 2 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
AUGUST 3 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 2 PM
AUGUST 7 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 8 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 14 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 16 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 17 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 20 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 21 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 22 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 24 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
AUGUST 28 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 30 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 31 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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