



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
21ST MEETING OF SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP	1
CONSULTANCY STUDY ON MEDICAL GAS SUPPLY	1
CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL 1991 TO BE GAZETTED	3
LORD CAITHNESS ARRIVES TOMORROW	4
LAND ACQUISITION NOTICES PUT UP IN WALLED CITY	5
SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION ON JANUARY 19	6
BUSY DAY FOR DUKE OF KENT	6
DUCHESS OF KENT VISITS HOME FOR THE ELDERLY	7
TSEUNG KWAN O DEVELOPMENT ENTERS NEW PHASE	8
TENDERS INVITED FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES	9
FURTHER REFINEMENT TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT BILL UNDERWAY: SHA	9
LADY WILSON OPENS JADE EXHIBITION	12
HK READY TO GRASP OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES	13
MARINE DEPT APPEALS FOR WITNESSES	14
RESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	15
MEETINGS ON POLICING OF HK/CHINA BORDER	16
HONG KONG STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL EXPLAINED	16
LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE ON MOVE	18
TEACHERS' INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ON DISPLAY	18
HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL 1991	19
DANCING PARTY IN MONG KOK TO GREET NEW YEAR	19
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	20

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 1 -

COMMUNIQUE

21ST MEETING OF SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP

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THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS TWENTY-FIRST MEETING IN HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 3 TO 5, 1991.

THE GROUP CONTINUED ITS DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF LANDS WHICH ARE NOW IN USE FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES IN HONG KONG.

THE GROUP DISCUSSED MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997 OF SEVEN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES IN THE FIELDS OF CONSERVATION AND HEALTH. THE IRO SUB-GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN SOON TO CONTINUE THIS WORK.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

THE GROUP HAD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT MODEL AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CERTAIN COUNTRIES AND RELATED QUESTIONS, AND AGREED THAT EXPERTS WOULD MEET AGAIN SOON TO CONTINUE THIS WORK.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT MAJOR FRANCHISES WHICH WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997 AND MADE PROGRESS.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A GENERAL DISCUSSION IN WHICH THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS ABOUT MATTERS OF CURRENT CONCERN.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH 1992.

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CONSULTANCY STUDY ON MEDICAL GAS SUPPLY

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMMISSION A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL PRACTICE IN THE SUPPLY AND HANDLING OF MEDICAL GASES IS FULLY UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THE CONSULTANT, TASKED WITH COMPLETING THE WORK AND PRODUCING A REPORT IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS, WILL BE COMMISSIONED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, SAID THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (PROTECTION), MR CHOW WING-CHEONG AT A PRESS BRIEFING TODAY (THURSDAY).

/THE OBJECTIVES

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WILL BE:

* TO REVIEW:

- THE SAFETY SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES PRESENTLY PRACTISED IN THE MEDICAL GAS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL EXISTING CONTROLLING LEGISLATION AND THE RESULTANT EFFECTIVENESS;
- THE SAFETY MEASURES AT THE END-USERS' PREMISES;
- THE CONTROL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY ASPECTS IN THE MANUFACTURE, FILLING, DELIVERY AND HANDLING OF SUCH GASES IN BULK OR PORTABLE CONTAINERS FROM THE POINT OF PRODUCTION RIGHT UP UNTIL THEIR ADMINISTRATION TO PATIENTS;
- THE MEDICAL GAS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS AND SAFE SUPPLY TO THE LOCAL MARKET; AND

- * TO RECOMMEND PRACTICABLE MEASURES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LEGISLATION, ENACTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION AND ADOPTION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS TO ENHANCE, WHERE NECESSARY, THE CURRENT STANDARD OF SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES ON THE CONTROL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY ASPECTS IN THE MANUFACTURE, FILLING, DELIVERY AND HANDLING OF SUCH GASES.

MR CHOW SAID AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY WAS FORMED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT INVOLVING A NITROUS OXIDE CYLINDER AT THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE WORKING PARTY COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, LABOUR DEPARTMENT, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

MR CHOW SAID NEITHER THE WORKING PARTY NOR A SEPARATE POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT.

"HOWEVER, ITS FINDINGS SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGLIGENCE WHILE THERE STILL REMAINED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MALICIOUS ACT.

"AS A RESULT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE WORKING PARTY PROPOSED MORE STRINGENT PROCEDURES TO CONTROL THE HANDLING OF MEDICAL GASES IN ADDITION TO THOSE ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT THE CANOSSA HOSPITAL IN 1989.

"THESE INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCEDURES FOR PRODUCTION AND HANDLING, MORE SUPERVISION AND TRAINING OF STAFF, SEPARATION OF PRODUCTION AND STORAGE AREAS, LABELLING AND SEALING OF GAS CONTAINERS OR CYLINDERS," HE SAID.

MR CHOW SAID THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HONG KONG OXYGEN AND ACETYLENE COMPANY LTD (HKO) AGREED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE WORKING PARTY REPORTS ON BOTH INCIDENTS.

/HE SAID

HE SAID MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY HKO, THOUGH SOME REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COMPLETE, SUCH AS CONVERSION OF LIQUID GAS CONTAINER VALVES TO PIN-INDEX OUTLETS, ORDERING OF SUITABLE EQUIPMENT FOR HOSPITALS TO FIT PIN-INDEX VALVES ON MEDICAL GAS CONTAINERS.

MR CHOW SAID ALL IMPROVEMENTS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY SUMMER NEXT YEAR AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE PROGRESS THROUGH REGULAR LIAISON WITH HKO'S MANAGEMENT, INSPECTIONS BY FSD STAFF TEMPORARILY BASED AT HKO'S PRODUCTION PLANT AND SPOT CHECKS ON DISTRIBUTION, DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF MEDICAL GASES.

"THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO IMPOSED ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS IN THE LICENCE GRANTED TO HKO UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, AS WELL AS REVIEWING THEIR LICENCE ON A SIX-MONTHLY BASIS.

"FURTHERMORE, THE HKO HAS ALSO VOLUNTARILY TAKEN ACTION TO ENHANCE ITS MANAGEMENT CONTROL BY EMPLOYING SUITABLE PERSONNEL TO SUPERVISE THE PRODUCTION AND HANDLING OF MEDICAL GASES AND TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL SECURITY IN DELIVERY BY ADOPTING A BAR CODE SYSTEM.

"ALSO, A NEW TYPE OF 'TAMPER-PROOF' VALVE SEAL FOR PIN-INDEX MEDICAL GAS CYLINDERS WOULD BE INTRODUCED BY SUMMER NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

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CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL 1991 TO BE GAZETTED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE EFFECT TO PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT ALL PHYSICAL ACTS WHICH WOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS TORTURE UNDER THE CONVENTION WERE ALREADY OFFENCES UNDER EXISTING HONG KONG LAW. INCIDENTS OF SUSPECTED TORTURE WERE RARE.

"MENTAL TORTURE" SUCH AS SUBJECTING THE VICTIMS TO EXTREME HORROR IS, HOWEVER, NOT ADEQUATELY COVERED BY EXISTING LEGISLATION.

"IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF TORTURE AS A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS STRICTLY CONDEMNED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW, WE INTEND TO CREATE THE OFFENCE OF TORTURE TO COVER ALL ACTS OF TORTURE AS DEFINED IN THE CONVENTION," HE SAID.

THE BILL WILL ALSO PROVIDE LEGAL CHANNELS FOR THE EXTRADITION OF TORTURERS AND SUSPECTED TORTURERS.

/"IN DRAFTING

"IN DRAFTING THE BILL, WE HAVE BROADLY FOLLOWED THE APPROACH TAKEN IN SECTIONS 134 TO 138 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1988 WHICH WAS ENACTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"UNDER THE BILL, IF ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR PERSON ACTING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY INTENTIONALLY INFLECTS SEVERE PAIN OR SUFFERING ON ANOTHER, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL, IN THE PERFORMANCE OR PURPORTED PERFORMANCE OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES, HE COMMITS THE OFFENCE OF TORTURE.

"OTHER PERSON WHO COMMITS ACTS OF TORTURE AT THE INSTIGATION OF OR WITH THE CONSENT OR ACQUIESCENCE OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR PERSON ACTING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY WILL ALSO BE CAUGHT UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

TO ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION AND FOLLOWING THE APPROACH OF THE 1988 ACT, ALL ACTS OF TORTURE COMMITTED OUTSIDE HONG KONG WILL ALSO BE MADE AN OFFENCE UNDER THE BILL.

THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT FOR THE OFFENCE OF TORTURE IS IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE.

"TO ENSURE THAT PAIN AND SUFFERING INFLECTED BY THE USE OF REASONABLE FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE COURSE OF MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER WOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS TORTURE, THE BILL ALLOWS 'LAWFUL AUTHORITY, JUSTIFICATION, OR EXCUSE' TO BE CITED AS A DEFENCE AGAINST THE CHARGE OF TORTURE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PERMITS EXTRADITION TO BE GRANTED TO STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, WHETHER HAVING AN EXTRADITION RELATIONSHIP WITH HONG KONG OR NOT, FOR OFFENCES CREATED BY THE BILL. THIS IS INTENDED TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION.

THE CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL 1991, TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 18.

THE CONVENTION WILL BE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG ONCE THE BILL HAS BEEN ENACTED.

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LORD CAITHNESS ARRIVES TOMORROW

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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LORD CAITHNESS, WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT.

HE WILL ARRIVE AT MAN KAM TO FROM SHENZHEN AND WILL TAKE A HELICOPTER FOR FENWICK PIER STREET HELIPAD.

/DURING HIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 5 -

DURING HIS STAY IN HONG KONG, HE WILL MEET WITH THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE MINISTER WILL ALSO VISIT LO WU DETENTION CENTRE AND STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A FIXED PRESS POSITION WILL BE SET UP AT FENWICK PIER STREET HELIPAD FOR COVERING HIS ARRIVAL. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE HELIPAD BEFORE 11.50 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

IN THE AFTERNOON, LORD CAITHNESS WILL VISIT THE LO WU DETENTION CENTRE. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE VISIT.

TWO PRESS COACHES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (CGO) CARPARK, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, AT 12.30 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MAKING THEIR OWN WAY TO LO WU DETENTION CENTRE SHOULD ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 2.15 PM.

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LAND ACQUISITION NOTICES PUT UP IN WALLED CITY

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NOTICES WERE AFFIXED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TO THE REMAINING OCCUPIED PREMISES IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY UNDER THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) ORDINANCE NOTIFYING RELEVANT PARTIES OF THE MAKING OF AN ACQUISITION ORDER BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS YESTERDAY (DECEMBER 4).

THEY WERE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON TUESDAY THAT THE AREA OF LAND CONCERNED WAS REQUIRED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WALLED CITY CLEARANCE SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE SAID.

THE NOTICES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DECLARE THAT WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THE AFFIXING (THAT IS DECEMBER 5, 1991), THE LAND DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICES SHALL VEST IN THE CROWN AND THAT EVERY INTEREST, RIGHT OR ANY EASEMENT OF ANY PERSON IN OR OVER THE LAND SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED.

THEY FURTHER STATE THAT ANY PERSON MAKING A CLAIM OF OWNERSHIP TO THE LAND DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICE, OR ANY PART THEREOF SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTOR A WRITTEN NOTICE OF HIS CLAIM TOGETHER WITH SUCH EVIDENCE HE MAY HAVE TO SUBSTANTIATE IT BEFORE THE DATE OF VESTING.

NOTICES TO THE SAME EFFECT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AN ENGLISH AND A CHINESE NEWSPAPER AND IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE, SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE, 11TH FLOOR, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 6 -

SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION ON JANUARY 19

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 TO FILL A SEAT IN THE YUEN WO CONSTITUENCY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID A DECLARATION OF VACATION OF OFFICE BY MR CHEUNG CHI-YUEN HAD BEEN MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

HE SAID NOMINATIONS WOULD BE CALLED BETWEEN DECEMBER 16 AND 30 AND NOMINATION FORMS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM TUESDAY (DECEMBER 10) AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

CANDIDATES MUST BE REGISTERED ELECTORS AND HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE 10 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING NOMINATION.

A CANDIDATE CAN BE A RESIDENT ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG, BUT HIS NOMINATION PAPER MAY ONLY BE SUBSCRIBED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE YUEN WO CONSTITUENCY.

EACH NOMINATION REQUIRES 10 SUBSCRIBERS AND EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY GIVE SUPPORT TO ONLY ONE CANDIDATE.

THE YUEN WO CONSTITUENCY, COMPRISING MAINLY THE LEK YUEN AND WO CHE ESTATES, HAS A REGISTERED ELECTORATE OF 13,045.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BY-ELECTION WOULD BE HELD UNLESS THE SEAT WAS UNCONTESTED.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE ON TEL. 827 1122.

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BUSY DAY FOR DUKE OF KENT

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT HAD A BUSY SCHEDULE TODAY (THURSDAY) WHICH INCLUDED A VISIT TO CHUK YUEN ESTATE, A TOUR OF THE HARBOUR AND VISITS TO THE CONTAINER TERMINAL, MTR CORPORATION, CATHAY PACIFIC, HAECO AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS BEGAN THE DAY'S PROGRAMME WITH A TOUR OF THE HARBOUR ABOARD THE LADY MAURINE WHERE HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER.

AT KWAI CHUNG, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS BOARDED A STRADDLE CARRIER TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED CONTAINER YARD. HE ALSO VISITED A QUAY CRANE AND WAS BRIEFED ON ACTIVITIES AT THE TERMINAL.

/AT CHUK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 7 -

AT CHUK YUEN ESTATE IN WONG TAI SIN, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TOURED THE LANDSCAPED GARDEN AND CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AREA. AT THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE HOUSING BLOCKS, HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FUNG TUNG, ON PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES IN KOWLOON CENTRAL.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ALSO VISITED A FAMILY IN WAI YUEN HOUSE OF THE ESTATE.

IN THE AFTERNOON, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS VISITED THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED BY MTRC CHAIRMAN, MR HAMISH MATHERS, ON THE CORPORATION'S HISTORY AND ITS FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN PROVIDING SERVICE LINKS TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE DUKE ALSO VISITED CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS' FLIGHT SIMULATOR AT KAI TAK WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SIMULATOR. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS LATER VISITED THE ENGINE SERVICING AND TESTING FACILITY OF THE HONG KONG AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING COMPANY (HAECO).

AT THE OFFICES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS BRIEFED BY EPD DIRECTOR, DR STUART REED, ON THE BACKGROUND TO POLMET '91 AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG AND THE RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

IN THE EVENING, THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON, WILL ATTEND A PERFORMANCE OF THE OPERA "COSI FAN TUTTE" AT THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

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DUCHESS OF KENT VISITS HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT CONTINUED HER BUSY SCHEDULE TODAY (THURSDAY) WITH A VISIT TO A HOME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN ABERDEEN IN THE MORNING.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED (SAGE), SIR TI LIANG YANG, THE CHAIRMAN, DR EDWARD CHEN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M. D. CARTLAND, THE DUCHESS VISITED THE QUAN CHUEN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY.

SHE TOURED VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING THE PHYSIOTHERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ROOMS AND THE ACTIVITIES AREAS. THE DUCHESS MET AND TALKED TO A NUMBER OF THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS.

IN THE HANDICRAFT SECTION, THE DUCHESS SAW WITH INTEREST HOW THE ELDERLY PRODUCED VARIOUS HANDICRAFT ITEMS.

THE QUAN CHUEN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY WAS SET UP BY SAGE IN 1983. IT PROVIDES 196 BEDS FOR THE PHYSICALLY WEAK ELDERLY WHO ARE OVER 60 YEARS OLD AND IN NEED OF SOME NURSING CARE AND ASSISTANCE IN THEIR DAILY LIVING.

THE DUCHESS THEN VISITED THE ROSARYHILL SCHOOL IN STUBBS ROAD WHERE SHE JOINED STUDENTS IN WATCHING A PERFORMANCE OF A COMIC DRAMA BY THE CHUNG YING THEATRE GROUP.

/THE PERFORMANCE, ...

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 8 -

THE PERFORMANCE, "FOOLS, FOOLS, FOOLS", IS PART OF AN ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME BY THE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THE DUCHESS WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE DUCHESS ATTENDED A TEA PARTY ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND OFFICERS' MESS WITH SOME 65 MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS AND THE ARMY CATERING CORPS AND THEIR SPOUSES.

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TSEUNG KWAN O DEVELOPMENT ENTERS NEW PHASE

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$167 MILLION CONTRACT FOR SITE FORMATION AND ANCILLARY WORKS IN SIU CHIK SHA, TSEUNG KWAN O, HERALDING A NEW PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SOUTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, DR Y.L. CHOI, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA FUJIAN CORPORATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNO-ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CONTRACT.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT COMPRISE RECLAMATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SEAWALLS, ROADS, BOX CULVERTS AND THE PRELIMINARY WORK FOR A SALT WATER PUMPING STATION. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL TO TIE IN WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THESE WORKS WILL ALSO MARK A NEW PHASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSEUNG KWAN O IN THAT WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE MAJORITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN HANG HAU AREA, THE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES START MOVING TO THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN.

ON COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT BY 1994, ABOUT 13 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF SECONDARY SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES AND FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED FOR THE DESIGN OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR TSEUNG KWAN O. AND TOGETHER WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT SIU CHIK SHA THAT WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES IN FUTURE TO COPE WITH THE POPULATION BUILD-UP AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 9 -

TENDERS INVITED FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR 200 URBAN TAXI LICENCES.

AT PRESENT A TOTAL OF 14,700 LICENCES FOR URBAN TAXIS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED.

TENDER FORMS FOR THE NEW LICENCES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION, ROOM 27, MEZZANINE FLOOR, MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 2 MURRAY ROAD, CENTRAL.

TENDERERS MUST DEPOSIT \$50,000 WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR EACH TAXI LICENCE THEY SEEK. ONE TENDER FORM MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR ANY NUMBER OF URBAN TAXI LICENCES NOT EXCEEDING 200.

A PUBLIC BALLOT MAY BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS WHICH OFFER THE SAME UNIT PREMIUM.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS, TOGETHER WITH ORIGINAL DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE IN SEALED ENVELOPES, ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20.

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FURTHER REFINEMENT TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT BILL UNDERWAY: SHA

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) IS PROPOSING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 HAVING REGARD TO PUBLIC COMMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE AMENDED LEGISLATION WOULD BE FINALISED EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND THAT THE NEW LAW CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1992," HE ADDED.

THIS WAS STATED BY MR SUEN WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION.

OUTLINING THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO THE BILL, HE NOTED THAT IT WAS GAZETTED IN THE FORM OF A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MAY 31.

/ "THE BILL

"THE BILL HAS PROPOSED MANDATORY CLAUSES IN RESPECT OF UNFAIR CLAUSES IN DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF FLAT OWNERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS AND TO BALANCE THE INTERESTS AMONG THEM AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES," MR SUEN SAID.

DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FROM JUNE TO AUGUST, CNTA STAFF ATTENDED DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS, DISCUSSED WITH VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL BODIES AS WELL AS PARTICIPATED IN SEMINARS TO EXPLAIN THE OBJECTIVE AND DETAILS OF THE BILL TO HELP THE PUBLIC HAVE A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT BEFORE GIVING THEIR VIEWS, HE SAID.

"THE CONSULTATION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH A TOTAL OF 340 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED.

"THEY CAME FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, DISTRICT BOARDS, AREA COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, MANAGEMENT COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

"PROFESSIONAL BODIES, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF HOUSING, THE INSTITUTE OF HOUSING (HONG KONG BRANCH), THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES LIMITED AND THE SOCIETY OF HONG KONG REAL ESTATES ADMINISTRATORS, HAD ALSO SUBMITTED THEIR OPINIONS ON THE BILL," HE SAID.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE THREE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH ATTRACTED PUBLIC CONCERN WAS WHETHER SECTION 2A IN THE MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE SHOULD BE RETAINED OR AMENDED.

THIS SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE STATES THAT IF A PERSON HAS GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING IN WRITING TO, OR HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH, THE GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE OR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF A BUILDING, THE ORDINANCE SHALL NOT APPLY.

"THIS IN EFFECT PREVENTS THE FLAT OWNERS OF THAT BUILDING FROM FORMING AN OWNERS CORPORATION," MR SUEN NOTED.

AFTER STUDYING THE VARIOUS COMMENTS, CNTA FELT THAT ALLOWING FLAT OWNERS TO FORM OWNERS CORPORATIONS WAS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN IMPROVING THE DAILY MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS.

"CNTA WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SECTION 2A OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE BE REPEALED TO COINCIDE WITH SECTION 34(1) OF THE BILL WHICH STATES THAT FLAT OWNERS SHOULD NOT BE PREVENTED BY THE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT FROM FORMING OWNERS CORPORATIONS," HE SAID.

ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE WAS A MANDATORY TERM IN THE FOURTH SCHEDULE OF THE BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ENABLE FLAT OWNERS TO TERMINATE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGER OF THEIR BUILDING BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE, MR SUEN SAID.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 11 -

HE NOTED THAT VIEWS WERE FAIRLY DIVERGENT ON THIS ISSUE BUT ON THE WHOLE MOST PEOPLE HOPED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGERS COULD BE TERMINATED WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY RESOLUTION.

"AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE VOTES OF THE OWNERS OF OVER 51 PER CENT SHARES OF THE BUILDING BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PERFORMANCE OF A MANAGER WAS SATISFACTORY SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

"HOWEVER, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT CERTAIN LARGE-SCALE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WOULD NEED TO BE BUILT IN PHASES AND WOULD TAKE A LONGER TIME TO FORM OWNERS CORPORATIONS, AND THAT THE CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES OF CERTAIN HOUSING ESTATES ARE RELATIVELY COMPLEX, WE WOULD THEREFORE PROPOSE TO ADD AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IN THE BILL.

"THIS CLAUSE WILL ENABLE DEVELOPERS OR MANAGERS OF LARGE ESTATES TO APPLY FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS FROM THE DISMISSAL PROVISIONS SO THAT THE ESTATE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED BY THEM," MR SUEN SAID.

"NATURALLY, IN GRANTING THE SAID EXEMPTION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS MAY STIPULATE THE DURATION OF THE EXEMPTION PERIOD AND INTRODUCE APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE BUILDING WILL BE MANAGED IN AN EFFICIENT AND FAIR MANNER," HE ADDED.

THE THIRD ISSUE ABOUT WHICH THE PUBLIC WAS MOST CONCERNED WAS WHETHER A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE SET UP.

"ALTHOUGH THEIR STANCE MIGHT BE QUITE DIFFERENT, FLAT OWNERS, MANAGEMENT COMPANIES AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS ALL SHARED THE VIEW THAT A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO HANDLE DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LAW OR THE DAILY MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS.

"THEY ALL HOPED THAT A TRIBUNAL WITH SIMPLE, INFORMAL AND INEXPENSIVE PROCEDURES, AND REQUIRING NO LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE SET UP TO HANDLE MATTERS RELATING TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT OR DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT," HE ADDED.

MR SUEN SAID CNTA WAS NOW CONSULTING THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AS TO WHETHER SUCH A TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

"INITIALLY, WE FELT THAT A TRIBUNAL SHOULD PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT AND CENTRALISED MEANS OF HANDLING DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS," MR SUEN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED THAT IT WOULD TAKE QUITE SOME TIME FOR GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE TRIBUNAL, THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND WHETHER THERE WOULD BE DUPLICATIONS WITH OTHER TRIBUNALS NOW IN OPERATION.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 12 -

LADY WILSON OPENS JADE EXHIBITION

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LADY WILSON TODAY (THURSDAY) OPENED AN EXHIBITION OF JADE CARVINGS EXCAVATED FROM THE TOMB OF THE KING OF NANYUE IN THE WESTERN HAN MAUSOLEUM.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, LADY WILSON SAID ALTHOUGH THE CARVINGS WERE EXCAVATED IN CANTON IN 1983, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD BEEN SHOWN OUTSIDE MAINLAND CHINA.

"IT IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN GIVEN THIS HONOUR; GUANGDONG HAS CLOSE TIES WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE NOW, AND SO IT WAS IN THE DISTANT PAST," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THE SUCCESSION OF KINGS, THE FORMS OF MILITARY POWER, AND OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE WESTERN HAN DYNASTY.

"WE ALSO KNOW SOMETHING OF THEIR FORMAL CULTURE, AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS' BELIEF THAT THEY HAD HEAVENLY INSTRUCTIONS TO SPREAD THE BENEFITS OF A CULTURED LIFE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.

"WE KNOW THAT THE HAN DYNASTY DEPENDED UPON, AND INDEED ENCOURAGED, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERARY ACCOMPLISHMENT, SCHOLASTIC COMPETENCE, RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY, SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT.

"THESE ARE CULTURAL ASPECTS WHICH HAVE PROVEN TO BE AS DURABLE AS THE CHINESE JADE ON WHICH THE CARVINGS WERE MADE," SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID THE WAY PEOPLE ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED AND PERCEIVED THAT CULTURE WAS LESS KNOWN.

"IT IS TO WHAT REMAINS OF THEIR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND PERSONAL EFFECTS, THAT WE TURN, FOR OTHER CLUES ABOUT THE WAY PEOPLE WERE DURING THE NANYUE PERIOD," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON FOUND IT OF GREAT INTEREST TO SEE THE CARVINGS FASHIONED IN JADE WELL OVER TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 13 -

HK READY TO GRASP OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES

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HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES IN TECHNOLOGY-BASED INDUSTRIES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A FORUM ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MR WONG SAID HONG KONG HAD A FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION TOGETHER WITH A WELL EDUCATED AND SKILLED WORKFORCE AND AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS FAMILIAR WITH AND HAD READY ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FROM OVERSEAS.

"I WOULD ADD THAT THE RECENT DECISION BY THE US GOVERNMENT TO AWARD INTRA-COCOM TRADE LICENSING BENEFITS TO HONG KONG IS A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

"THE U.S. IS THE LARGEST SUPPLIER OF HIGH-TECH GOODS TO HONG KONG. THE LIBERALISATION OF LICENSING PROCEDURES WILL ALLOW A FASTER AND EASIER FLOW OF THESE GOODS FROM THE U.S. TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ON GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY, MR WONG SAID AS FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, A NEW INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WOULD BE SET UP TO REPLACE THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

"WITH ITS EXPANDED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND A MORE FOCUSED APPROACH, THIS NEW COUNCIL WILL BE BETTER PLACED TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON HOW HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY SHOULD RESPOND TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE WORLD SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE NEW COUNCIL WOULD ALSO HELP GOVERNMENT ADMINISTER AN APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) SCHEME.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED TO COMPANIES ON A MATCHING BASIS FOR APPLIED R&D WORK," HE SAID.

MR WONG ADDED THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING DEMAND FOR TRAINED MANPOWER AND RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES, GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHING A NEW TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SCHEME.

"UNDER THIS SCHEME, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO EMPLOYERS TO ENABLE THEIR MID-CAREER MANAGERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES CONSIDERED OF IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE R&D CAPABILITIES OF TERTIARY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, NOT ONLY AS A WAY OF ATTRACTING AND RETAINING HIGH CALIBRE STAFF, BUT ALSO FOR DEVELOPING A STRONG CADRE OF RESEARCHERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS WHO COULD EVENTUALLY UNDERTAKE APPLIED R&D COMMISSIONED BY COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

/"ACCORDINGLY, GOVERNMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 14 -

"ACCORDINGLY, GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS HAS INCREASED FROM \$120 MILLION IN THE 1988/91 TRIENNium TO \$400 MILLION FOR 1991/94. THIS IS ON TOP OF FUNDING WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE APPLIED R&D SCHEME," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HONG KONG HAD BENEFITTED CONSIDERABLY FROM THE IMPORT OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE PAST, AND WAS BOUND TO CONTINUE RELYING ON THE ADAPTATION OF OVERSEAS TECHNOLOGY IN THE FUTURE.

"GIVEN THE DIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND ITS LIMITED RESOURCES, PROMOTION OF INWARD INVESTMENT IS CRUCIAL TO ENRICH HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE WITH NEW OR IMPROVED PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES.

"GOVERNMENT IMPOSES NO RESTRICTION ON THE IMPORT OF TECHNOLOGY, OR DISINCENTIVES SUCH AS MINIMUM LOCAL EQUITY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.

"THUS, BUSINESSMEN CAN SOURCE THEIR TECHNOLOGY FROM WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE," HE SAID.

MR WONG ADDED THAT WHILE THIS PROCESS WAS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON PRIVATE SECTOR REQUIREMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT PLAYED ITS PART BY FUNDING SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, TO ACQUIRE AND DISSEMINATE NEW TECHNOLOGIES, BY SEEKING TO ATTRACT INWARD INVESTORS WHO COULD BRING IN USEFUL TECHNOLOGIES, AND BY PUBLICISING TECHNOLOGY LICENSING OPPORTUNITIES.

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MARINE DEPT APPEALS FOR WITNESSES

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS APPEALING FOR WITNESSES TO ASSIST WITH THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO A FATAL ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE HONG KONG-REGISTERED CATAMARAN "VASCO DA GAMA" AND A WOODEN WORKBOAT IN THE MACAU OUTER HARBOUR APPROACH CHANNEL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY): "WE WISH TO APPEAL FOR PASSENGERS ON BOARD 'VASCO DA GAMA' SAILING TO HONG KONG FROM MACAU AT ABOUT 3.15 PM WHO SAW THE ACCIDENT TO COME FORWARD.

"PERSONS WHO WITNESSED THE ACCIDENT, OR HAVE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE INQUIRING OFFICER, CAPTAIN KENNETH YEOMANS, ON TEL. 852 4513."

THE CREW OF THE CATAMARAN AND THREE OF THE MEN ON THE WORKBOAT HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED.

OFFICERS OF THE MACAU MARINE DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH CAPTAIN YEOMANS HAVE VISITED THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT SO THAT THE CAPTAIN COULD FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE NEW MACAU-TAIPA BRIDGE IN THE VICINITY OF THE ACCIDENT.

/THE PRELIMINARY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 15 -

THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY WAS ORDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, ON NOVEMBER 13.

THE BODY OF A FOURTH MAN ON THE WORKBOAT WAS RECOVERED FROM THE SEA THAT DAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY IS TO FIND OUT THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN SO AS TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN FUTURE.

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RESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALL ALONG ENCOURAGED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO CARE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ITS AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR SUEN WAS ADDRESSING THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE "INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY" AND THE OPENING OF THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE'S "VOLUNTEER PLACE" AT 179 LOCKHART ROAD, WAN CHAI.

CITING DISTRICT MATTERS AS EXAMPLES, MR SUEN SAID THEIR SUCCESS OWED MUCH TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL RESIDENTS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AREA COMMITTEES, OWNERS COPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

"THESE DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS CANNOT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTARY WORKERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR VALUABLE TIME AND EFFORT IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

ON THE "INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY", THE SECRETARY SAID IT HAD A DOUBLE SIGNIFICANCE.

"FIRST, IT ENABLES US TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF TODAY'S CELEBRATIONS TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

"SECONDLY, IT WILL BE USED TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE VOLUNTEER RANKS," MR SUEN SAID.

HE ALSO CALLED ON HONG KONG PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO THE "INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY" APPEAL BY MAKING EFFORTS TO TAKE PART IN VOLUNTARY WORK.

HE PRAISED THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR THEIR GOOD WORK IN BRINGING ABOUT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN THE TERRITORY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 16 -

MEETINGS ON POLICING OF HK/CHINA BORDER

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THE COMMISSION OF POLICE MR. LI KWAN-HA SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN A NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND GUANGDONG PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU OFFICIALS.

A DELEGATION OF SENIOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM GUANGDONG VISITED HONG KONG BETWEEN 28 NOVEMBER AND 5 DECEMBER FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND ALSO VISITED A NUMBER OF POLICE FORMATIONS.

THE GUANGDONG OFFICIALS WERE LED BY CHEN SHAO-JI, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING SMUGGLING, NARCOTICS, FIREARMS AND COMMERCIAL CRIME.

MR. LI KWAN-HA ALSO NOTED THAT THE FIRST OF A NEW SERIES OF MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE OFFICERS AND CHINESE BORDER CONTROL OFFICIALS.

THE MEETINGS WAS HELD IN SHENZHEN ON SATURDAY (30 NOVEMBER) AND THE HONG KONG SIDE WAS LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MR. EDDIE HUI AND CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, FIELD PATROL DETACHMENT, MR. VINCE CHAPMAN.

THE CHINESE SIDE WAS HEADED BY YE NAI-QIANG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, BORDER DEFENCE BUREAU, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, AND SU SHAO-JUN, COMMANDER OF 6TH PEOPLES ARMED POLICE BRIGADE.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS IS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR MORE DIRECT CONTACT ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS AFFECTING THE POLICING OF THE LAND BORDER BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

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HONG KONG STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL EXPLAINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, BRIEFED AN OMELCO PANEL THIS AFTERNOON (THURSDAY) ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB TO REDEVELOP THE HONG KONG STADIUM.

MR SO POINTED OUT THAT THE JOCKEY CLUB HAD OFFERED TO FUND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTING HONG KONG STADIUM TO TURN IT INTO A MODERN STADIUM OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD TO CATER FOR MASS SPECTATORS SPORTS AND LARGE SCALE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES, TWO ISSUES WERE RAISED. THE FIRST ISSUE WAS THE INABILITY TO PROVIDE AN ATHLETIC TRACK IN THE NEW STADIUM. THE SECOND INVOLVED THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW STADIUM.

/MR SO

- 17 -

MR SO INFORMED THE OMELCO PANEL THAT DUE TO VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING SITE CONSTRAINT AND CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING PROBLEMS, IT WOULD NOT BE VIABLE TO PROVIDE A RUNNING TRACK AT THE NEW STADIUM AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE FOR AN AUDIENCE CAPACITY OF 40,000.

HE FULLY SYMPATHISED WITH THE CONCERN OF SCHOOLS BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHOOLS' REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET BY USING OTHER EXISTING VENUES AND BY THE JOCKEY CLUB'S OFFER TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING URBAN COUNCIL SPORTSGROUND, SUCH AS THE ABERDEEN SPORTSGROUND TO PROVIDE FOR MORE SEATING CAPACITY.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT, BASED ON EXISTING USAGE FIGURES, OUT OF THE 80 BOOKINGS AT THE HONG KONG STADIUM MADE BY SCHOOLS AT PRESENT, ONLY 10 REQUIRED A SEATING CAPACITY IN EXCESS OF 1,000.

"THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO HAVE A STADIUM OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF SPORTS WHICH HAVE A MASS SPECTATOR APPEAL AS WELL AS AN UPGRADED VENUE FOR SCHOOL USE. THIS SHOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE SPORTING FRATERNITY AND THE SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG," MR SO SAID.

"I PERSONALLY WELCOME THIS MOVE AS IT IS CERTAINLY IN THE BEST INTEREST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

ON THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW STADIUM, MR SO INFORMED THE OMELCO PANEL THAT NO FIRM DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NEW STADIUM BEING MANAGED ON A SELF-FINANCING BASIS, SO THAT THE COST OF MANAGING THIS NEW FACILITY WOULD NOT HAVE TO FALL ON THE TAXPAYER.

"IT IS HOPED THAT A FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW STADIUM CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL THAT WILL ENABLE THE STADIUM TO BE MANAGED ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS," HE SAID.

HE AGREED TO KEEP THE OMELCO PANEL INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE JOCKEY CLUB.

IN ADDITION, THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SPORTING AND ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES OF SCHOOLS.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 18 -

LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE ON TEXACO ROAD WILL MOVE TO ROOMS 502-504, FIFTH FLOOR, CHAU'S COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 284 SHA TSUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE NEW OFFICE ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 498 0100.

THE OFFICE WILL PROVIDE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT.

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE CONCILIATION IN LABOUR DISPUTES, CONSULTATION ON LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS AND ADVICE ON DRAFTING AND REVISION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS.

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TEACHERS' INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ON DISPLAY

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AN EXHIBITION ON SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM PROJECTS DESIGNED BY TEACHERS TO SUIT THE ABILITY AND SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THEIR PUPILS WILL BE STAGED IN THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE FROM SATURDAY (DECEMBER 7)

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM BETWEEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 9 TO 11).

MORE THAN 50 PROJECTS COVERING THE KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING; THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM PROJECT SCHEME, MR TAM MAN-KWAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM PROJECTS EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 7).

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1991

- 19 -

HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL 1991

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THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL BE BRINGING A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS TO THE PUBLIC WITH PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS DURING THE 1991 HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 21 TO 29.

THE YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED ANNUALLY BY THE MUSIC OFFICE SINCE 1979 TO PROMOTE BAND MUSIC AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

OVER 1,500 PARTICIPANTS FROM 25 SCHOOL BANDS TOGETHER WITH THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL PRESENT AN ARRAY OF BAND MUSIC THIS YEAR IN A SERIES OF CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR THE MUSIC OFFICE HAS INVITED A BRASS QUARTET AND A WIND QUINTET FROM THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND THE PHILHARMONIA WINDS OF HONG KONG TO PERFORM IN THE FESTIVAL.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE FESTIVAL INCLUDES A FESTIVAL CONCERT AND A GALA FINALE TO BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN THE EVENINGS OF DECEMBER 26 AND 29 RESPECTIVELY.

VARIOUS KINDS OF BAND MUSIC INCLUDING JAZZ, CLASSICAL AND THEME SONGS FROM MOVIES WILL BE PERFORMED.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE THREE OTHER CONCERTS STAGED AT THE KOWLOON PARK PIAZZA, SHA TIN TOWN HALL PLAZA AND HENG FA CHUEN SHOPPING CENTRE DURING THE FESTIVAL, AS WELL AS SYMPHONIC BAND AND MARCHING BAND CONTESTS FOR THE 25 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL BANDS.

TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL CONCERT AND THE GALA FINALE AT \$20 AND \$40 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL URBIX OUTLETS. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 582 5314 OR 698 2843.

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DANCING PARTY IN MONG KOK TO GREET NEW YEAR

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A "DISCO NIGHT" FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE BOUNDARY STREET INDOOR GAMES HALL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE (DECEMBER 31), FROM 7 PM TO 10.30 PM.

IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT'S POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

/* MONG KOK

- 20 -

- * MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
30 LUEN WAN STREET;
- * THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION,
URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SEVENTH FLOOR,
FA YUEN STREET URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX,
123A FA YUEN STREET; AND
- * QUEEN ELIZABETH II STADIUM,
HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION,
10 YIM PO FONG STREET.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 399 2146.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	4.12.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	5.12.91	-65
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+65
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.6 *-0.2* 5.12.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.44 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.71	5.39
1 MONTH	3.93 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.91 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.06 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.75 PCT					

· TURNOVER - BILLS 6,897 MN, BONDS 245 MN

CLOSED 5 DECEMBER 1991

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