



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT REFUTES CLAIMS BY EDUCATION ACTION GROUP

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) REFUTED CLAIMS MADE BY THE EDUCATION ACTION GROUP RECENTLY THAT MANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORTS HAD NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

REFERRING TO REPORTS IN CHINESE NEWSPAPERS OF THE GROUP'S SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION:

(A) REPORT NO. 4

(1) FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF WHOLE DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLING:

THIS IS NOT AMONG THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. THE COMMISSION PROPOSED A WORK SCHEDULE TO BRING ABOUT MIXED-MODE SCHOOLING AS AN INTERIM MEASURE. THIS PROPOSAL HAS MET WITH OPPOSITION FROM THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE ON WHAT TO DO SHORTLY.

(2) STRENGTHENING COUNSELLING SERVICES IN SCHOOLS:

IMPROVEMENT MEASURES COSTING \$47 MILLION FOR THE THREE YEARS 1992/93 TO 1994/95 WILL BE INTRODUCED AS FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTING SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

(3) PROVIDING VARIOUS LANGUAGE BRIDGING COURSES:

WORK TO PREPARE COURSES AT VARIOUS LEVELS HAS STARTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRIMARY 6 - SECONDARY 1 BRIDGING COURSE IS WELL UNDER WAY AND LANGUAGE MODULES TO PREPARE SCHOOL LEAVERS FOR EMPLOYMENT ARE BEING DEVELOPED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON VOCATIONAL ENGLISH. BRIDGING COURSES AT S6 AND S7 TO HELP STUDENTS LEARNING IN THE CHINESE MEDIUM TO MEET THE USE OF ENGLISH REQUIREMENT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED. RECOGNITION FROM THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IS BEING OBTAINED.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND RELATED ASSESSMENTS:

FORMULATION OF THE TEACHING TARGETS AND ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY. TRAINING OF TEACHERS WILL START IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR IN STAGES. TARGETS AND RELATED ASSESSMENTS (TTRA) WILL BE INTRODUCED IN P.4 IN APRIL/MAY 1993, ON COURSE FOR THE FIRST TARGET RELATED ASSESSMENT AT P.6 IN 1994.

(5) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY ON MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS:

THE RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE THREE MODES OF OPERATION (ENGLISH, CHINESE OR A MIX OF CLASSES OPERATING IN EITHER CHINESE OR ENGLISH) HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS POLICY. IMPLEMENTATION IS SCHEDULED FOR 1994 WHEN TTRA RESULTS (SEE (4) ABOVE) WILL HELP SCHOOLS AND PARENTS TO DECIDE ON MEDIUM TO BE ADOPTED.

/(6) START WITH

(6) START WITH TRANSFER OF STUDENTS TO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS:

THIS POLICY ENVISAGES A PILOT PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL START ON THE PILOT SCHEME IN MID-1992.

(7) SETTING UP PRACTICAL SCHOOLS:

FUNDING FOR CONVERSION OF ONE ORDINARY SCHOOL TO A PRACTICAL SCHOOL AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW ONES HAS BEEN PROVIDED UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, WITH START DATES IN 1992/93.

APART FROM (1), THE POLICY FOR WHICH WILL BE DECIDED SHORTLY, FUNDING FOR ALL THE OTHER ITEMS HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ENABLE WORK TO PROCEED AS SOON AS PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. THE NECESSARY FUNDS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF THE 1992/93 ESTIMATES. THEY WILL COME FROM THE ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF \$300 MILLION AS ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

(B) REPORT NO. 3

(1) IMPROVING CURRICULUM AND TEACHING IN SCHOOLS:

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE ISSUES WHICH HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN COVERED EXTENSIVELY IN EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 (ECR4).

(2) IMPROVING QUALITY OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS, INCLUDING:

(A) THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME:

THIS SCHEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AND NINE SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED SINCE LAST YEAR, WITH ONE MORE TO JOIN IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

(B) CONVERSION OF BOUGHT PLACE SCHOOL (BPS) TO WHOLE DAY OPERATION BY 1993:

TWENTY OUT OF THE 22 BPS SCHOOLS HAVE SIGNED FIVE YEAR CONTRACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR TO UPGRADE THEMSELVES TO AIDED SCHOOL STANDARD. THIS INCLUDES GRADUAL CONVERSION TO WHOLE DAY OPERATION.

(C) IMPROVEMENTS TO QUALITY OF TEACHERS IN BPS:

THE UPGRADING PROGRAMME SET OUT AT (B) WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED TEACHER TRAINING. PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR UNTRAINED TEACHERS IN BPS TO ATTEND IN-SERVICE COURSE FOR TEACHER TRAINING.

(D) IMPROVEMENTS TO CLASS STRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND CLASS SIZE:

AS SET OUT AT (B) ABOVE, ALMOST ALL BPS SCHOOLS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING A PROCESS OF UPGRADING TO AIDED SCHOOL STANDARD IN RESPECT OF CLASS STRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND CLASS SIZE. MOREOVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING LOANS FOR ALL THESE SCHOOLS TO PURCHASE THEIR PREMISES.

(C) REPORT NO. 2

(1) UNIFICATION OF STANDARDS BETWEEN KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES:

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THIS AS A LONG-TERM GOAL THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH REQUIRES STEADY IMPROVEMENTS TO KINDERGARTENS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. THESE ARE STILL PROCEEDING.

(2) NUMBERS OF TRAINED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS:

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDED AN INTERIM TARGET OF 85% TRAINED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE 40% TRAINED TEACHERS BY 1990 AND 60% BY 1994. IN THE EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE THE LEGISLATIVE OPTION. INSTEAD, THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN OPERATION TO CHARGE HIGHER FEES TO IMPROVE THE MIX OF TRAINED TEACHERS. IN 1990/91, 25.5% OF KINDERGARTENS HAVE REACHED OR EXCEEDED THE 85% TARGET FOR TRAINED TEACHERS. THIS ROSE TO 28.9% IN 1991/92. FURTHER MEASURES TO ENSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDED TARGET ARE BEING CONSIDERED (ALSO SEE (3) BELOW).

(3) IMPROVEMENTS IN SALARIES FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS:

A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN MONTHLY SALARIES HAS BEEN RECORDED BETWEEN 1989/90 AND 1990/91, 54% FOR QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, 43% FOR QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND 44% FOR UNQUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS. IN 1991/92, FURTHER INCREASES OF 19.5%, 14% AND 5.1% RESPECTIVELY WERE RECORDED. FURTHER MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS TO IMPROVE THE RATIO AND PAY OF QUALIFIED STAFF AND FOR UNTRAINED TEACHERS TO COME FORWARD FOR TRAINING ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, WHICH WAS FORMED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

(4) DISPARITY BETWEEN KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME AND IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR THE OLD FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME:

A POLICY DECISION WAS TAKEN TO INTRODUCE THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME IN FAVOUR OF MAINTAINING THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THE KEY REASONS BEING THE SPEED WITH WHICH SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE WITH THE FORMER. \$10.1 MILLION WAS DISBURSED UNDER THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME IN 1990/91, COMPARED TO \$6.5 MILLION IN 1989/90 UNDER THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME. THIS WAS INCREASED TO \$20.7 MILLION FOR 1991-92, AND \$25.56 MILLION IN 1992/93. OVER 10,300 FAMILIES ARE NOW RECEIVING FEE REMISSIONS NOW, COMPARED TO ONLY 3,400 IN MARCH 1990.

(5) PROVISION OF SUBSIDISED S6 PLACES FOR ONE-THIRD OF S4 ENROLMENT:

WITH THE RAPID EXPANSION OF OVER 3,000 PLACES EACH IN 1991/92 AND 1992/93, THIS TARGET WILL BE ACHIEVED BY SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR WHEN 22,500 S6 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED.

/(6) BROADENING OF

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(6) BROADENING OF SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM AND PROVISION OF NEW SUBJECTS IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, ART AND DESIGN AND HOME ECONOMICS:

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM HAS BEEN BROADENED CONSIDERABLY THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY (AS) LEVEL SUBJECTS THIS YEAR. ART AND DESIGN IS ALREADY AVAILABLE AT ADVANCED-LEVEL AND AS-LEVEL, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT AS-LEVEL IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR. HOME ECONOMICS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR INTRODUCTION IN 1994.

(7) PROPORTION OF TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER TO REACH 72% BY THIS YEAR:

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION WAS TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF THE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION COURSES AT UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO ENABLE 80% OF GRADUATE TEACHERS TO BE FULLY TRAINED BY 1994. THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF PLACES ARE BEING PROVIDED IN THE 1992/95 TRIENNIUM. PRESENT RATIO IS 69.5% BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT THE TARGET CANNOT BE MET.

(8) INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME DEGREE COURSES ON PRACTICAL, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL SUBJECTS:

THE CUHK AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC NOW OFFER PART-TIME DEGREE COURSES IN MUSIC AND ART & DESIGN. A COURSE IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

(D) REPORT NO. 1

ALTHOUGH A NEW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WAS PROPOSED, NO FIRM TIMING WAS SPECIFIED. THE GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL COLLEGE SHOULD BE ASSESSED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND THE RESULTANT DEMAND FOR FEWER TEACHERS. THIS QUESTION WILL BE COVERED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S FIFTH REPORT.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE EDUCATION ACTION GROUP'S ALLEGATIONS AS MISLEADING AND OVER-SIMPLISTIC.

HE HOPED THAT THOSE WHO WORK IN EDUCATION AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY WOULD BE AWARE OF WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

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WHO MEETING ON CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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THE EMPHASIS ON THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IS NOW ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS WAS STATED IN HER WELCOMING ADDRESS WHICH WAS DELIVERED ON HER BEHALF BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) THIRD MEETING ON THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHINA, HONG KONG AND MACAU.

"THE OLD PRINCIPLE OF CORDONS SANITARIES HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE NOT AN EFFECTIVE MEASURE OF CONTROL IN THE PREVENTION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES," SHE ADDED.

"THE CONVENIENCE AND SPEED OF MODERN TRAVEL HAVE THEIR DOWN-SIDE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CAN TRAVEL AND SPREAD JUST AS EASILY," MRS WONG STATED.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY PERTINENT WHEN WE FACE SUCH AN ENORMOUS VOLUME CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND TRAVEL NOWADAYS."

MRS WONG NOTED THAT THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WAS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID, EFFORTS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT ALONE WERE NOT ENOUGH.

THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, SHE SAID, WAS CLOSE COLLABORATION AND PROMPT DISSEMINATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION AMONG HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

THESE, MRS WONG SAID, HAD ENABLED TIMELY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND FACILITATED PREVENTION OF POSSIBLE OUTBREAKS.

THE SECRETARY WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE LIAISON SO FAR ESTABLISHED WOULD STRENGTHEN AND DELEGATES TO THE MEETING WILL STAND TOGETHER IN READINESS TO PROMOTE BETTER HEALTH FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES.

THE BIENNIAL MEETING, HOSTED BY HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS CONVENED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC OF THE WHO.

SOME 50 HEALTH OFFICIALS FROM THE PARTICIPATING AREAS WILL BE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY MEETING.

THEY WILL DISCUSS TOPICS SUCH AS CHOLERA, AIDS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION IN SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, PARTICULARLY IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

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HONG KONG REMAINS COMPETITIVE IN LEATHER TRADE: STI

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HONG KONG IS NOW A WELL-ESTABLISHED SOURCE OF QUALITY LEATHER PRODUCTS, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL LEATHER FAIR 92, MR CHAU SAID THE GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS OF LEATHER GOODS IN 1991 WAS AS HIGH AS 47 PER CENT.

REFERRING TO THE LEATHER SECTOR, MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAVE DROPPED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY BUT ITS RE-EXPORTS HAVE BEEN DOING VERY WELL.

"OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, MANY OF OUR MANUFACTURERS HAVE MOVED THE LABOUR INTENSIVE PROCESSES TO SOUTHERN CHINA WHILST KEEPING THE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG.

"THEY HAVE ALSO IMPROVED THEIR PRODUCT DESIGN, MARKETING AND SALE SERVICES," MR CHAU SAID.

HONG KONG REMAINS COMPETITIVE THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, HE ADDED.

MR CHAU NOTED THAT HONG KONG IS AT THE SAME TIME AN IMPORTER OF LEATHER GOODS.

"WE HAVE BEEN IMPORTING AN INCREASING VOLUME OF LEATHER AND LEATHERWARE.

"WE WELCOME IMPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"WITHOUT ANY IMPORT BARRIERS OR TARIFFS, HONG KONG IS AN OPEN MARKET FOR ALL," MR CHAU SAID.

HE CONGRATULATED THE SUCCESS OF LEATHER FAIR 92 WHICH PROVIDES A SHOWCASE FOR AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF LEATHER GOODS.

THE LARGE TURNOUT OF EXHIBITORS AND BUYERS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE COME FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, TESTIFIES TO THE IMMENSE POPULARITY OF THE FAIR, MR CHAU SAID.

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MECHANICAL CONTRACT FOR TRANSFERRING WATER FROM CHINA AWARDED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$90 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL FACILITIES FOR THE MUK WU 'C' PUMPING STATION IN TA KWU LING, A KEY INSTALLATION NEAR THE BORDER FOR RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA.

WITH AN ULTIMATE INSTALLED PUMPING CAPACITY OF 2.3 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER DAY, THE PUMPING STATION, THE SECOND LARGEST YET FOR HONG KONG, IS PART OF A \$2.1 BILLION PROJECT TO EXPAND THE FACILITIES FOR TRANSFERRING WATER FROM CHINA.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, 10 ELECTRIC PUMPSETS, VALVES, STATION PIPEWORKS, SURGE SUPPRESSION VESSELS AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT WILL BE SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED AT THE STATION.

UPON ITS COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1994, THE TOTAL PUMPING CAPACITY OF THE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE WATER TO HONG KONG WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE EXISTING DESIGNED MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES TO 1,100 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER YEAR.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, SIGNED THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT .

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MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS

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THIRTY POLICY SECRETARIES AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TODAY (MONDAY) ATTENDED A MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HELD AT VICTORIA HOUSE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S RESIDENCE.

OPENED BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MANAGEMENT REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

IT ALSO AIMED TO IDENTIFY ISSUES AND POSSIBILITIES THAT CAN BE FURTHER STUDIED BY THE EFFICIENCY UNIT DUE TO BE SET UP NEXT MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH SAID.

"IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THERE HAVE SEEN SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT ORGANISES ITS WORK, INCLUDING VARIOUS PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM INITIATIVES AND THE DEVOLUTION OF MANAGEMENT FUNCTION TO DEPARTMENTS. SUCH REFORM EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSCIOUS THAT MOST OF THESE CHANGES CONCERN STRUCTURES AND METHODS, WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY CORRESPONDING CHANGES IN ITS MANAGEMENT CULTURE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE SEMINAR WAS TO IDENTIFY THE NECESSARY CHANGES.

THE SEMINAR WAS CHAIRED BY SIR ANGUS FRASER, FORMERLY HEAD OF THE EFFICIENCY UNIT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

CONSULTANTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN MANAGEMENT REFORMS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS BOTH IN THE UK AND HONG KONG ALSO GAVE BRIEFINGS AND ASSISTED IN DISCUSSIONS.

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APPLICATION BY POST TO REPLACE HK BRITISH PASSPORTS

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT FROM FRIDAY (MAY 1) THEY MAY APPLY FOR REPLACEMENT OF HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS BY POST.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN HONG KONG WHO ARE AGED 18 OR OVER MAY MAIL THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORTS OR BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS TO THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (PASSPORT) SECTION, IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS, THIRD FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

THEY MAY ALSO PUT THEIR APPLICATIONS INTO THE DROP-IN BOXES INSTALLED AT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (PASSPORT) SECTION OR AT ANY IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICES.

HOWEVER, APPLICANTS WHO PREFER TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON MAY CONTINUE TO DO SO.

WHEN POSTING APPLICATIONS, APPLICANTS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE ENCLOSED A PHOTOCOPY OF THEIR PASSPORT AND HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, TWO IDENTICAL RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND A CROSSED CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER FOR PAYMENT OF PASSPORT FEES.

FOR APPLICATIONS MADE BY POST OR DEPOSITING AT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (PASSPORT) SECTION, IT WILL NORMALLY TAKE 10 WORKING DAYS TO ISSUE A NEW PASSPORT FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION.

FOR APPLICATIONS DEPOSITED AT AN IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICE, IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 WORKING DAYS.

APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BY LETTER THE DATE AND OFFICE TO COLLECT THEIR NEW PASSPORTS.

THEY SHOULD COLLECT THEIR NEW PASSPORTS IN PERSON AND BRING ALONG THEIR PREVIOUS PASSPORTS FOR CANCELLATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES FOR OTHER PASSPORT SERVICES.

/"APPLICANTS FOR

"APPLICANTS FOR FIRST PASSPORTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON.

"APPLICANTS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PREVIOUS PASSPORTS OR WHO NEED PASSPORTS FOR URGENT TRAVEL SHOULD ALSO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON," HE SAID.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL THE INFORMATION OFFICE ON 824 6111.

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TRIAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL SCHEME AT CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL KOWLOON EXIT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDS THAT FROM 7 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), A TRIAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL SCHEME AT THE KOWLOON EXIT OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THREE WEEKS TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF USING TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO REGULATE CROSS-WEAVING VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS ON HONG CHONG ROAD NORTHBOUND OUTSIDE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD, MOTORISTS FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ON KOWLOON SIDE WILL HAVE TO SELECT IN ADVANCE THE APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC LANES/TOLL BOOTHS TO GO TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DESTINATIONS.

THE TWO LEFT-HAND LANES WILL BE SIGNAL-CONTROLLED FOR TRAFFIC HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG, MONG KOK OR TSIM SHA TSUI WHILE THE TWO RIGHT-HAND LANES WILL REMAIN FREE FLOWING FOR TRAFFIC HEADING FOR SHA TIN AND KWUN TONG.

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MOTION DEBATES ON BROADCASTING POLICY AND HOSPITAL FEES

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HOLD MOTION DEBATES ON THE BROADCASTING POLICY AS WELL AS FEE CHARGING FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT ITS MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY (APRIL 29).

THE MOTION ON BROADCASTING POLICY WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG. THE OTHER ON HOSPITAL FEES WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON PETER WONG.

IN ADDITION, THE HON ELSIE TU AND THE HON RONALD ARCULLI WILL MOVE MOTIONS ON THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ON THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 14 BILLS.

OF THE 14 BILLS, FOUR WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

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THEY ARE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 BILL 1992 AND TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY BILL.

TEN BILLS THAT ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING ARE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1991, SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1991, PEAK TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992, FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 AND CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

MEANWHILE, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS COMPLETED BETWEEN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR WILL BE TABLED. THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REPORT IN LATE MAY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1991.

THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1992-93 WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

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

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 275.957 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 144.221 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 24.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	25.4.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	27.4.92	-128
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+128
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.0 *-0.1* 27.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.40 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.63	5.21
1 MONTH	4.00 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.96	5.59
3 MONTHS	3.95 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.05 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.50 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,029 MN

CLOSED 27 APRIL 1992

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