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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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REPORT ON GOVERNOR GARBLED

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RESPONDING TO AN AP REPORT TODAY (TUESDAY), THE GOVERNOR'S SPOKESMAN, MR MIKE HANSON, SAID THE REPORT WAS CLEARLY GARBLED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOT WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAD SAID IN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE SINGAPORE BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

IN THE INTERVIEW, THE GOVERNOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPOKESMAN, MR MIKE HANSON, ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY SINGAPORE BROADCASTING CORPORATION THAT THE REPORTS QUOTING AN INTERVIEW BY THE CORPORATION WITH THE GOVERNOR ABOUT HIS TENURE WERE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED.

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BILL ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS CONCLUDED THAT, UNLESS THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS, A DECISION ON THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE REMAINING BILL ON THE 1994/95 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE TAKEN AFTER EASTER.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECOGNISES THE NEED TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE LEGISLATION TO BE ENACTED BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS.

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BUS FARE INCREASES APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASES FOR KMB BY AN AVERAGE OF 11.2% AND FOR CMB BY 13% WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (APRIL 5) TO COVER THE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER OPERATING COSTS SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION 25 MONTHS AGO.

"THE PERCENTAGES OF THE FARE INCREASES ARE WELL BELOW THE INFLATION RATE AS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IS FORECAST TO RISE BY 21.3% IN THE 25-MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN MARCH 1991 AND APRIL 1993," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED.

"THEY ARE ALSO MUCH LOWER THAN THE PERCENTAGES OF INCREASES SOUGHT BY THE TWO COMPANIES, THAT IS 13.8% BY KMB AND 19.6% BY CMB.

/TO CONTAIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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TO CONTAIN PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE INCREASES, GOVERNMENT GRANTED FULL FUEL TAX EXEMPTIONS TO ALL FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES IN MARCH 1992.

THIS EFFECTIVELY DEFERRED FARE INCREASES BY BOTH KMB AND CMB DURING 1992.

NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THE FUEL TAX EXEMPTION, THE OPERATING COSTS OF KMB ROSE BY 26.7% AND CMB BY 17.3% SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION IN MARCH 1991.

"MUCH OF THE INCREASES IS DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN WAGES ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 60% OF THE TWO COMPANIES' OPERATING COSTS."

"DURING THIS PERIOD, KMB'S STAFF COST INCREASED BY 36% AND CMB BY 23.5%."

"ALTHOUGH THE TWO BUS COMPANIES WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY FULL FUEL TAX EXEMPTION IN 1993/94, THE SAVINGS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS."

UNDER THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE, MOST KMB PASSENGERS WILL PAY 10 TO 50 CENTS MORE PER TRIP AND MOST CMB PASSENGERS 10 TO 30 CENTS MORE PER TRIP.

AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT EXEMPTING THEM FROM ANNUAL LICENCE FEES AND RENTAL AS ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET, KMB WILL INTRODUCE ALL-DAY HALF FARES FOR ELDERLY PASSENGERS AGED 65 OR OVER ON ALL ROUTES EXCEPT AIRPORT BUSES IN APRIL/MAY.

CMB HAS ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INTRODUCE HALF FARES FOR ELDERLY PASSENGERS DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS FOR MOST OF ITS ROUTES. DETAILS OF THE CONCESSIONARY SCHEME ARE BEING WORKED OUT.

THE NEW FARE STRUCTURES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY BY THE TWO BUS COMPANIES.

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CNTA PROMISES BETTER SERVICES IN PERFORMANCE PLEDGE

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, HAS PLEDGED THAT THOSE SEEKING ASSISTANCE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE (PESC) IN ANY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE ATTENDED TO WITHIN THREE MINUTES.

MR SUEN MADE THE PROMISE TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S (CNTA) "PERFORMANCE PLEDGE" COVERING ITS PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1.

HE ALSO GAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT CALLS TO THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE (CTEC) AT CNTA HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE ANSWERED WITHIN ONE MINUTE.

/THIS SERVE-THE-COMMUNITY

THIS SERVE-THE-COMMUNITY SCHEME IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER TO IMPROVE SERVICES DELIVERED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY ENHANCING OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND BY DEVELOPING A CLIENT-BASED CULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, MR SUEN SAID.

"THIS MEANS THAT FROM NOW ON, PEOPLE WILL BE INFORMED THROUGH CNTA'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE, WHAT STANDARDS HAVE BEEN SET AND WHETHER SUCH STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, AND WHAT TO DO IF THEY ARE NOT," MR SUEN SAID.

PESC'S SERVICES INCLUDE INFORMATION ON VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SERVICES, THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMS AND PAMPHLETS AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF STATUTORY DECLARATIONS FOR PRIVATE USE.

THESE CENTRES ALSO ASSIST WITH THE OPERATION OF THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME AND DISTRICT BOARDS' MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME.

THERE ARE 20 PESCS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY: TWO ON CHEUNG CHAU AND LANTAU OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AND ONE IN EACH OF THE REMAINING 18 DISTRICTS.

ON THE CTEC HOTLINE, MR SUEN SAID IT WAS ESTABLISHED TO STRENGTHEN THE PESCS AND TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO MAKE ENQUIRIES WITHOUT HAVING TO TRAVEL TO A DISTRICT OFFICE.

THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE ON TELEPHONE NUMBER 835 2500 DURING OFFICE HOURS - 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

ALL THIS, MR SUEN SAID, SHOWS THAT CNTA IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EFFICIENT AND COURTEOUS SERVICES IN A CLEAN AND BUSINESS-LIKE ENVIRONMENT.

HOWEVER, HE ANTICIPATED THAT THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN PEOPLE MAY HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER THAN THE TARGET TIMES DUE TO HEAVY DEMAND.

MR SUEN SAID PERFORMANCES WILL BE MONITORED AGAINST TARGETS SET OUT IN THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE.

MOREOVER, AN OPINION SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED EVERY SIX MONTHS TO GAUGE PUBLIC FEEDBACK. THESE POLL RESULTS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

COMPLAINTS WILL ALSO BE HANDLED QUICKLY, MR SUEN SAID.

IF ANYONE FEELS THAT THEY ARE NOT TREATED FAIRLY OR COURTEOUSLY DURING THEIR VISIT TO ANY PESC, THEY MAY ASK TO SEE THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OR WRITE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER CONCERNED.

STRAIGHTFORWARD ORAL COMPLAINTS WILL BE DEALT WITH ON THE SPOT WHILE WRITTEN COMPLAINTS WILL BE GIVEN AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

IF PEOPLE ARE STILL UNHAPPY WITH THE WAY THEIR CASES HAVE BEEN HANDLED, THEY CAN APPEAL BY WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON CNTA'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES ARE ALSO VERY WELCOME.

THESE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE SECTION, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, 29TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

COPIES OF A PAMPHLET GIVING DETAILS OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PESCS IN DISTRICT OFFICES FROM APRIL 1.

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HK TOPS THE WORLD IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

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HONG KONG LEADS THE WORLD IN VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY, MR M PAGLIARI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELECOMS INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG SINCE THE MID-80S HAS BEEN ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD, IT HAS BEEN METEORIC AND HONG KONG TODAY IS, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE WORLD'S MOST SOPHISTICATED MARKET FOR TELECOMS," MR PAGLIARI SAID, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN THE FIELD OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS.

IN RADIO PAGING, HONG KONG HAS 32 LICENSED OPERATING COMPANIES, COMPARED WITH ONLY ONE IN SINGAPORE, 10 IN THE UK AND 36 IN JAPAN.

WELL OVER ONE MILLION PAGERS ARE IN USE - IN A POPULATION OF LESS THAN SIX MILLION.

THE MARKET PENETRATION FOR PAGERS IS, BY FAR, THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AT 18% (180/1,000).

THIS IS OVER THREE-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE SIZE OF MARKET PENETRATION IN JAPAN, ALMOST FOUR-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE SIZE OF THE USA, 15 TIMES THE SIZE OF THE UK AND 24 TIMES THE SIZE OF EUROPE.

IN CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICES, HONG KONG IS CLEARLY THE WORLD LEADER, MR PAGLIARI SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE FIVE LICENSED OPERATORS OF CELLULAR TELEPHONE NETWORKS IN HONG KONG. THIS COMPARES WITH TWO IN THE UK, TWO IN AUSTRALIA AND TWO IN ANY MAJOR AMERICAN CITY.

HE SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT MORE THAN 236,000 SUBSCRIBERS WHICH GAVE A MARKET PENETRATION RATE WHICH WAS 60% HIGHER THAN IN THE USA, 70% HIGHER THAN IN THE UK, 163% HIGHER THAN IN EUROPE AND 223% HIGHER THAN IN JAPAN.

THIS MARKET PENETRATION MUST INCREASE NOW THAT HONG KONG HAS TWO DIGITAL NETWORKS IN OPERATION, HE SAID.

/"I EXPECT

"I EXPECT TO SEE A FURTHER TWO DIGITAL NETWORKS COME INTO OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR THUS ACCELERATING THE RATE OF INCREASE," HE SAID.

MR PAGLIARI ALSO SAID HONG KONG HAD ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DEVELOPED WIRELINE TELEPHONE NETWORKS WITH SOME 2.8 MILLION TELEPHONE LINES AND OVER 3.6 MILLION TELEPHONES IN USE.

TO KEEP WITH INTERNATIONAL TRENDS TOWARDS GREATER LIBERALISATION, INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE AND OPERATE LOCAL FIXED TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK SERVICES.

BY THE CLOSE OF APPLICATION ON FEBRUARY 1, SEVEN RESPONSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM CONSORTIA WITH BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INTERESTS.

"THESE PROPOSALS ARE BEING EVALUATED AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

"AND HOPEFULLY LICENCES WILL BE AWARDED ROUND ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE YEAR AHEAD, HE SAID THE OFFICE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY WOULD BE SET UP LATER THIS YEAR, AS A NEW DEPARTMENT SEPARATE FROM THE POST OFFICE, TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION.

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PERFORMANCE STANDARDS SET TO BETTER POSTAL SERVICE

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THE POST OFFICE HAS PREPARED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, TO BETTER ITS SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED ON APRIL 1, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR M PAGLIARI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

APART FROM PLEDGES ON EFFICIENCY, THE POST OFFICE IS ALSO COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING A CLIENT-BASED CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT.

SEMINARS WILL BE RUN TO HELP THE COUNTER STAFF ESTABLISH NEW STANDARDS OF COURTESY AND HELPFULNESS, HE SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE.

MR PAGLIARI SAID POSTERS WOULD BE DISPLAYED ON NOTICE BOARDS OF ALL POST OFFICES INDICATING THE STANDARD OF COUNTER SERVICE A CUSTOMER COULD EXPECT.

A LEAFLET PROMULGATING VARIOUS SERVICE STANDARDS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AT ALL POST OFFICES.

THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WILL COVER FOUR MAIN AREAS: COUNTER SERVICE, DELIVERY SERVICE, SPEEDPOST SERVICE AND APPLICATION FOR POST OFFICE BOXES.

THE POST OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ITS PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS AND PUBLISH RESULTS ANNUALLY.

REGULAR CUSTOMER SURVEYS WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED TO COLLECT PUBLIC OPINION OF THE SERVICES, HE SAID.

ON POSTAL CHARGES, MR PAGLIARI SAID THE LAST REVISION WAS IN APRIL 1991 AND COSTS HAD RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THEN.

AN INCREASE IS THEREFORE OVERDUE, HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THE POST OFFICE MAKES AN OVERALL PROFIT IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO DEFEND TOO HEAVILY ON OUR PROFITABLE SERVICES, TO SUBSIDISE THOSE, SUCH AS THE LOCAL MAIL, WHICH MAKE A LOSS," HE SAID.

ON THE POSTAL TRAFFIC, MR PAGLIARI SAID IT HAS BEEN INCREASING AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF SOME 8% PER ANNUM SINCE THE EARLY 1980S.

ON AVERAGE, THE POST OFFICE IS HANDLING OVER 2.7 MILLION ITEMS A DAY. HE EXPECTED THIS UPWARD TREND TO CONTINUE IN 1993/94.

THE PREMIUM SERVICE, SPEEDPOST, HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO GROW DESPITE FIERCE COMPETITION FROM THE COURIER COMPANIES.

LAST YEAR, THE POST OFFICE HANDLED A TOTAL OF FOUR MILLION SPEEDPOST ITEMS, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT OVER 1991.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS THE WORLD'S SECOND BIGGEST USER OF SPEEDPOST - AFTER USA AND WITH JAPAN A VERY CLOSE THIRD AND CHINA A DISTANT FOURTH IN THE GLOBAL LEAGUE.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CONTINUED GROWTH IN TRAFFIC AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING HIGH SERVICE STANDARDS WHILE CONTAINING STAFF INCREASES, THE POST OFFICE IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH MORE MECHANISATION AND AUTOMATION.

LAST YEAR, THE POST OFFICE INSTALLED 13 NEW ELECTRONIC STAMP VENDING MACHINES IN 10 MAJOR OFFICES AND ANOTHER 60 WILL BE INSTALLED OVER THE NEXT YEAR, HE SAID.

TO REDUCE COUNTER TRANSACTION TIME AND POSSIBLE HUMAN MISTAKES, 100 ELECTRONIC SCALES WERE PUT INTO USE AT THE 15 BUSIEST POST OFFICES. OVER 60 ADDITIONAL SCALES WILL BE BOUGHT IN 1993/94.

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING VOLUME OF MAIL TRAFFIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, TWO ADDITIONAL LETTER SORTING MACHINES WILL BE INSTALLED, ONE IN SHA TIN CENTRAL AND ONE IN TUEN MUN CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

APART FROM THESE, OTHER MECHANISATION AND COMPUTERISATION PROJECTS ARE BEING STUDIED, HE SAID.

IN THE COMING YEAR, THE POST OFFICE PLANS TO SET UP TWO NEW POST OFFICES, ONE IN MA ON SHAN AND THE OTHER IN TSEUNG KWAN O.

MR PAGLIARI ALSO SAID THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF ALL PHILATELIC PRODUCTS INCREASED FROM \$55 MILLION IN 1991 TO \$89 MILLION LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 62%.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE ATTRACTIVE DESIGNS OF MANY OF OUR SPECIAL STAMPS ACCOUNT PARTLY FOR THIS SPECTACULAR INCREASE IN PHILATELIC REVENUE," HE SAID.

ALSO RESPONSIBLE IS THE UPSURGE IN SPECULATIVE DEMAND FOR HONG KONG STAMPS WHICH HAS BEEN PART OF A SPECULATIVE BOOM IN STAMPS ISSUED IN THIS REGION.

HE SAID HE WAS REGRETTED THAT THE CURRENT STRAIN ON STAFF RESOURCES DID NOT ALLOW THE POST OFFICE TO PROVIDE A FULL ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION WORK INVOLVED.

HE SAID A MAJOR PHILATELIC EXHIBITION WOULD BE HELD IN HONG KONG IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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RELIEF MEASURES FOR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WAS BRIEFED TODAY (TUESDAY) ON A STUDY RECOMMENDING MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION THIS SUMMER TO RELIEVE THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR CONGESTION.

TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE STUDY FORECASTED THAT THE PEAK HOUR MTR PASSENGER FLOW ALONG THE YAU MA TEI - JORDAN LINK WOULD REACH 87,000 PER HOUR PER DIRECTION BY 1996. THIS IS WELL ABOVE THE CURRENT ACCEPTABLE LIMIT OF 75,000.

THE MTRC PLANS TO IMPROVE THE SIGNALLING, VENTILATION AND POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMS WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THE ACCEPTABLE LIMIT TO 80,000 BY 1994. BUT THIS IS STILL BELOW THE FORECAST OF 87,000 PASSENGER FLOW IN 1996.

THE STUDY RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING RELIEF MEASURES:

- * IMPROVEMENTS TO BUS SERVICES FROM WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES AND NORTH KOWLOON TO URBAN KOWLOON AND TO FERRY SERVICES FROM TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN AND TSING YI TO TSIM SHA TSUI AND HONG KONG ISLAND.
- * KCR TO INTRODUCE DISCOUNT FARE FOR "TRAIN AND BUS" RIDE FOR PASSENGERS WHO CHANGE AT KOWLOON STATION;
- * ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO MAKE THE KCR KOWLOON STATION A MORE ATTRACTIVE INTERCHANGE FOR TSIM SHA TSUI/HONG KONG ISLAND-BOUND PASSENGERS;
- * ADDITIONAL BUS PRIORITY MEASURES BETWEEN TSUEN WAN/MEI FOO AND YAU MA TEI AS WELL AS ON THE HUNG HOM APPROACH TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

/WITH THESE

WITH THESE MEASURES IN PLACE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 5,000 PASSENGERS WILL BE TAKEN OFF THE MTR YAU MA TEI - JORDAN LINK IN 1996.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE MEASURES ON BUS AND FERRY SERVICES COULD BE APPLIED FLEXIBLY AND NEED NOT BE TIED TO A FIXED TIME TABLE.

THEY WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE BUS OPERATORS ON FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW SERVICES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RELIEF FOR THIS SUMMER.

FERRY IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE UPGRADING OF THE TUEN MUN - CENTRAL SERVICE, WERE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED.

MEMBERS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE MEASURES IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS' TIME.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED HOW TO MAKE THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT MORE VISIBLE AND HOW TO MAKE BETTER USE OF INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE UNIT IN THEIR PROCESS OF FORMULATING PERTINENT ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT. FURTHER DELIBERATIONS ON THE MATTER ARE REQUIRED.

THEY WERE ALSO GIVEN AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION REPORT OF THE TAXI POLICY REVIEW CONSULTATION EXERCISE WHICH ENDED ON FEBRUARY 28.

A TOTAL OF 177 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND 313 TELEPHONE CALLS WERE RECEIVED AND THESE ARE NOW BEING CAREFULLY ANALYSED.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL MEET SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING A FINAL REPORT TO TAC IN MID-1993.

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FOUR GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$4,060 MILLION

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FOUR PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND FETCHED A TOTAL OF \$4,060 MILLION AT A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

TOPPING THE LIST IS THE LOT LOCATED AT TAT CHEE AVENUE, YAU YAT TSUEN, KOWLOON. IT WAS SOLD TO BENBECULA LTD AT \$2,850 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$2,500 MILLION.

THE LOT, WITH AN AREA OF 20,660 SQUARE METRES, IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT, RESIDENTIAL AND PETROL-FILLING STATION) PURPOSES, INCLUDING A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS AND A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 82,410 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED IN MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, AREA 100, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS BOUGHT BY FAMOUS EMPIRE PROPERTIES LTD AT \$990 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$670 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF 6,450 SQUARE METRES, IT IS DESIGNATED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES. THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 25,891 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE THIRD LOT IN AREA 30A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES WAS SOLD TO FOREVER GLORY LTD AT \$65 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$40 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF 2,631 SQUARE METRES, IT IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING ANY GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS). THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,893 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE REMAINING LOT IN HUNG SHUI KIU, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS BOUGHT BY RAYHAY CO LTD AT \$155 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$95 MILLION.

THE LOT HAS AN AREA OF 1,844 SQUARE METRES, WHICH IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WITH THE FIRST THREE FLOORS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES AND THE REMAINING FLOORS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,100 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE LAND AUCTION WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR NIGEL BURLEY, IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

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CHAIRMAN OF HK COMMITTEE FOR
PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION NAMED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF MR WILLIAM FUNG, GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR, LI & FUNG LTD, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

THE HONG KONG COMMITTEE, STRUCTURED ON A TRIPARTITE BASIS, IS APPOINTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD.

IT COMPRISES LEADING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC SECTORS AND ALSO FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WAS SET UP IN MARCH 1990 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION COUNCIL (PECC) AND TO CO-ORDINATE HONG KONG'S INPUT TO THE COUNCIL.

PECC IS A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION SET UP IN 1980 WITH THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING CLOSER CO-OPERATION IN REGIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES.

/THERE ARE

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 20 FULL MEMBERS, COMPRISING COMMITTEES FROM AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI, CANADA, CHILE, CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PERU, THE PHILIPPINES, RUSSIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA, THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, CHINESE-TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE USA.

THE PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND THE PACIFIC TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ARE INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS TO PECC. COLUMBIA IS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER. HONG KONG BECAME A MEMBER IN MAY 1991.

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NEW PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR LPG CYLINDER WAGONS

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NEW PERMIT CONDITIONS THAT BAN THE CONVEYANCE OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AND KEROSENE ON THE SAME VEHICLE WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON MAY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GAS STANDARDS OFFICE) OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHAN SUI-JEUNG, INFORMED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONGKONG ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT DEALERS LTD AT A MEETING HELD TODAY.

MR CHAN TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE DECISION TO SEGREGATE THE CONVEYANCE OF LPG AND KEROSENE WAS TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC SAFETY.

IT WAS MADE FOLLOWING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE GAS SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE LAST OCTOBER.

THE ASSOCIATION'S REPRESENTATIVES PETITIONED THE GOVERNOR AND THE GAS AUTHORITY LATE LAST WEEK AND A FAIR NUMBER OF DEALERS APPLIED FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE NEW PERMIT CONDITIONS ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO.

THE GAS AUTHORITY STATED THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH REPRESENTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION CAREFULLY.

THEREFORE THE GAS AUTHORITY UNDERTOOK TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE WHICH ORIGINALLY WAS SET FOR APRIL 1, 1993.

THE GAS AUTHORITY EMPHASISED THAT THE NEW DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MAY 1, 1993 WILL NOT BE CHANGED IN THE FUTURE.

SINCE OCTOBER 1992, A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH DEALERS' REPRESENTATIVES, THE OIL INDUSTRIES AND VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE BEEN HELD.

THE GAS AUTHORITY CONSIDERED THAT PUBLIC SAFETY WAS OF PRIMARY CONSIDERATION. THEREFORE SUCH NEW PERMIT CONDITIONS ARE INTRODUCED.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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EIGHT MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED

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SEVEN MEN AND ONE WOMAN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH (FEBRUARY), BRINGING THE NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 348.

SPEAKING AT A MONTHLY MEDIA SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT (SPECIAL PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME), DR S S LEE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THREE AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 76 WITH 50 DEATHS. THE 26 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 348 PERSONS INFECTED, 245 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, EIGHT WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 64 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 31, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 263,049 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

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

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,210,384 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 26 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing
 Virus Unit, Department of Health

	Apr 85-Jan 93		Feb 93		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve
Referrals from Public hospitals and clinics	33889	144	559	4	34448	148
Referrals from private practitioners	1984	74	32	4	2016	78
Attendances at social hygiene clinics	214590	58	2274	0	216864	58
Haemophiliacs	649	61	4	0	653	61
IV drug users	7215	1	32	0	7247	1
Referrals from Family Planning Association	244	0	1	0	245	0
Health care personnel	1475	0	52	0	1527	0
TB & Chest Clinics	0	0	49	0	49	0
TOTAL	260046	338	3003	8	263049	346

* This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals.

	Aug 85-Jan 93		Feb 93		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve
Hong Kong Red Cross Blood transfusion Service	1195947	26	14437	0	1210384	26

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MRS PATTEN COMMENDS BONE MARROW DONORS

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EVERY YEAR, MORE THAN 1,000 ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN HONG KONG CONTRACT MALIGNANT AND DEADLY BLOOD DISEASES; MANY NEED A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF LIFE, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

AS FEWER THAN 40 PER CENT CAN FIND A COMPATIBLE DONOR WITHIN THEIR OWN FAMILY, THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE OTHERS IS TO LOCATE A SUITABLE UNRELATED DONOR, SHE SAID.

ADDRESSING A PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG MARROW MATCH FOUNDATION, MRS PATTEN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THOSE CARING AND COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE WHO HAD COME FORWARD TO BE BONE MARROW DONORS.

SHE SAID WHAT THEY HAD ALREADY GIVEN TO OTHERS WAS THE IMMEASURABLE GIFT OF LIFE.

"INDEED, I HAVE VISITED SOME OF THE BONE MARROW PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND HAVE SEEN FOR MYSELF THE IMPORTANT LIFE-SAVING WORK THAT ALL THOSE INVOLVED ARE DOING," MRS PATTEN SAID.

THE TASK OF THE FOUNDATION IS TO RECRUIT AND TEST THESE DONORS, AND THEN TO MAINTAIN THEIR RECORDS IN A REGISTRY FOR CROSS-MATCHING WITH OTHER PATIENTS IN FUTURE.

INCORPORATED IN MAY 1991, THE FOUNDATION RECEIVED A MAJOR BOOST IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR AS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CAME FORWARD AS POTENTIAL BONE MARROW DONORS WHEN A FATHER ASKED FOR HELP IN HIS SEARCH TO FIND A SUITABLE DONOR TO PROVIDE BONE MARROW FOR HIS TWO-YEAR-OLD SON.

BY THE END OF THE FOUNDATION'S FIRST YEAR, IT HAD ALREADY RECRUITED MORE THAN 15,000 DONORS, MAKING IT THE LARGEST NON-CAUCASIAN DONOR REGISTRY IN THE WORLD.

IT HAS NOW ESTABLISHED COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGISTRIES IN LONDON AND THE USA, TO PROVIDE EVEN GREATER ACCESS TO POTENTIAL DONORS.

MRS PATTEN SAID: "SO FAR, THE FOUNDATION HAS PERFORMED DONOR SEARCHES FOR OVER 200 PATIENTS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS, AND HAS FOUND MATCHES FOR A THIRD OF THESE.

"TEN TRANSPLANTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT HERE USING UNRELATED DONORS FROM THE FOUNDATION'S REGISTRY.

"CURRENTLY THERE ARE FIVE PEOPLE ALIVE IN HONG KONG AND ONE IN AUSTRALIA WHO WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE DEAD IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE MARROW MATCH FOUNDATION."

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16 NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES AWARDED

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SIXTEEN NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES SERVING THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG ISLAND, KWUN TONG AND YAU MA TEI IN KOWLOON AND MA ON SHAN, FO TAN AND KWAI TSING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL SHORTLY COME INTO OPERATION.

THESE NEW ROUTES WERE CREATED AFTER A RECENT GREEN MINIBUS OPERATORS SELECTION EXERCISE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

A NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO OPERATE 19 ROUTES IN 12 PACKAGES WAS GAZETTED ON NOVEMBER 6 LAST YEAR. A TOTAL OF 45 APPLICATIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED.

NO APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED FOR ONE PACKAGE OF TWO ROUTES INTENDED TO SERVE YUEN LONG. ANOTHER SINGLE ROUTE CONNECTING WAH KWAI ESTATE AND CENTRAL WAS WITHDRAWN AT THE ADVICE OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AND WAH KWAI RESIDENTS BECAUSE THE ROUTING WAS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS RE-DESIGNING THIS ROUTE AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT SELECTION EXERCISE WHICH WILL BEGIN IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS' TIME," HE SAID.

THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WERE SELECTED BY THE GREEN MINIBUS OPERATORS SELECTION BOARD CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMPRISED A TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

WHEN MAKING ITS SELECTION, THE BOARD HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE APPLICANTS' EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND GREEN MINIBUS OPERATIONS, FINANCIAL RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT RIGHTS OVER THE VEHICLES, THE MAINTENANCE RECORD OF THE VEHICLES AND THE QUALITY OF THE VEHICLES TO BE DEPLOYED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"AS ONLY ONE APPLICANT CAN BE SELECTED FOR EACH PARTICULAR PACKAGE OF ROUTES, THE FACT THAT AN APPLICANT HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL ON THIS OCCASION MERELY IMPLIES THAT THE BOARD CONSIDERED ANOTHER APPLICANT TO BE MORE SUITABLE.

"IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO OPERATE A GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE, AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT JEOPARDISE ANY FUTURE APPLICATIONS BY HIM," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE SUCCESSFUL ONES.

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THIS WILL ALLOW UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TIME TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IF THEY CONSIDER THERE IS A NEW EVIDENCE OR FRESH GROUNDS TO WARRANT A RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS BY THE BOARD.

ANY SUCH REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY REGISTERED MAIL TO THE SECRETARY OF THE GREEN MINIBUS OPERATORS SELECTION BOARD AT TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, 41ST FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15 (THURSDAY).

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44 COMMUNITY LEADERS HONOURED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR ANDREW WONG WANG-FAT, MR HOWARD YOUNG HOW-WAH AND MR LAU WONG-FAT WERE AMONG THE 36 COMMUNITY LEADERS HONOURED THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING FOR CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

AS A TOKEN OF THANKS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION WERE PRESENTED TO THEM BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE HAY-YUE, AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE HAPPY VALLEY CLUBHOUSE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THIS IS THE FIRST-EVER CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION OF THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS BY COMMUNITY LEADERS TOWARDS ITS WORK.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, DR LEE SAID: "WITH YOUR EXPERT ADVICE AND UNFAILING SUPPORT, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FRESH FOOD WHOLESALE MARKETING, COUNTRY PARKS AND CONSERVATION WORK."

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE AND THRIVE, AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FORGE AHEAD HAND-IN-HAND IN THE YEARS TO COME TO MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN," HE ADDED.

FORMER LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR CHUNG PUI-LAM AND MR CHAN YING-LUN, RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN MR PANG HANG-YIN AND MR WILLIAM WAN HON-CHEUNG AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CARLOS CHEUNG HON-KAU WERE AMONG THE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS.

OTHER AWARDEES INCLUDED INCUMBENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF ADVISORY BODIES SUCH AS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, COUNTRY PARKS BOARD, FISH MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD, FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID LOAN FUND COMMITTEE.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICE MORE CONVENIENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (HEES) WILL MERGE WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) ON THURSDAY (APRIL 1) TO MAKE THE SERVICE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

"AT PRESENT, JOB-SEEKERS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS HAVE TO VISIT OUR HEES OFFICE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, TO SEEK HELP," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE HEES OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 1."

"FOLLOWING THE MERGER, THEY CAN SEEK SIMILAR SERVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S 10 EXISTING LES BRANCH OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"WE EXPECT JOB-SEEKERS WHO LIVE IN REMOTE AREAS WILL FIND IT MORE CONVENIENT AS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE LES BRANCH OFFICE THAT IS NEAREST TO THEIR HOME," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES WERE SIMPLE.

JOB SEEKERS NEED ONLY TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER AT A LES OFFICE WHERE THE STAFF WILL HELP THEM IN SELECTING SUITABLE JOBS AND ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.

"THE MERGING OF HEES AND LES WILL ALSO BE BENEFICIAL TO EMPLOYERS," HE SAID.

"EMPLOYERS WISHING TO RECRUIT PEOPLE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AS WELL AS JUNIOR STAFF CAN CONTACT THE LES OFFICE IN THEIR DISTRICT FOR HELP.

"THEY CAN PLACE THEIR JOB VACANCIES IN THE NEAREST LES OFFICE BY PHONE, BY FACSIMILE, BY MAIL OR IN PERSON," HE SAID.

SUCH VACANCY INFORMATION WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO OTHER LES OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO FACILITATE JOB PLACEMENT.

"SHOULD A VACANCY REMAIN UNFILLED FOR SOME TIME, THE LES MAY ADVERTISE IT IN THE MASS MEDIA FOR THE EMPLOYER FREE OF CHARGE," HE SAID.

FOLLOWING ARE ADDRESSES, ENQUIRY TELEPHONE AND FACSIMILE NUMBERS OF THE LES OFFICES:

OFFICE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	FAX
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WAN CHAI	SINCERE INSURANCE BUILDING	527 0276	527 5816
CHAI WAN	YUE ON HOUSE, YUE WAN ESTATE	557 0201	897 0501

/WONG CHUK HANG

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WONG CHUK HANG	WELFARE BLOCK, WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE	552 0131	873 5006
MONG KOK	MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES	399 2232	393 4333
WANG TAU HOM	WANG CHIU HOUSE, WANG TAU HOM ESTATE	338 9787	338 9827
KWUN TONG	KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING	345 2838	797 8074
TSUEN WAN	TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES	417 6197	413 6263
TUEN MUN	COMMERCIAL CENTRE, SHAN KING ESTATE	463 9967	454 2064
TAI PO	52 KWONG FUK ROAD	656 5184	651 8977
SHA TIN	HAU WO HOUSE, WO CHE ESTATE	604 6916	691 0664

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GOVT QUARTERS TO BE PROVIDED WITH SATELLITE TV SERVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) SIGNS A CONTRACT WITH A COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION AND OPERATION OF THE SATELLITE MASTER ANTENNA TELEVISION (SMATV) SYSTEMS IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.

UPON THE INSTALLATION OF THE SYSTEMS, OCCUPANTS AT GOVERNMENT QUARTERS WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE SYSTEM WILL RECEIVE SATELLITE TELEVISION SERVICES.

"THE SATELLITE FACILITIES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE PROVIDED IN MANY OTHER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG. THEY DO NOT INVOLVE ANY COST TO THE TAXPAYERS," GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, SAID AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, GOVERNMENT QUARTERS OCCUPANTS CAN CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE THE NEW SATELLITE TV SERVICE BY PAYING A SUBSCRIPTION FEE.

NON-SUBSCRIBERS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LOCAL TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES THROUGH THE COMMUNAL AERIAL BROADCAST DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WHERE AVAILABLE.

"THE FACILITIES WILL ENABLE OCCUPANTS AT GOVERNMENT QUARTERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WIDER CHOICE OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES NOW AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE COMPANY, PACIFIC SATELLITE, IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE AND OPERATE SMATV SYSTEMS IN OVER 15,000 GOVERNMENT QUARTERS AT MORE THAN 130 LOCATIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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POLYCLINIC TO HAVE NEW PHONE NUMBERS

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WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE REPLACEMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM AT THE YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB POLYCLINIC, THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES WILL BE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS WITH EFFECT FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 1):

- * GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT: 388 5858
- * CHEST CLINIC: 388 5939
- * SOCIAL HYGIENE UNIT: 388 6634
- * MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CENTRE: 388 7900
- * FAMILY PLANNING UNIT: 388 1564
- * CHEST X-RAY UNIT: 388 0499
- * DENTAL CLINIC: 388 5255
- * X-RAY SURVEY CENTRE: 388 2254

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE EXISTING MAIN EXCHANGE FOR THE POLYCLINIC "388 4041-8" WOULD BE CANCELLED FROM THAT DATE.

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BUDGET DEBATE TO RESUME TOMORROW

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND EIGHT BRANCH SECRETARIES WILL SPEAK IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE EIGHT BRANCH SECRETARIES ARE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND SECRETARY FOR WORKS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS BOARD BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATE ON IT IS DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

OTHER THAN THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993, DEBATES WILL BE RESUMED ON TWO OTHER BILLS - THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CORPORATION BILL AND TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

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THE THREE BILLS ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

IN ADDITION, COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ASK 20 QUESTIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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FOUR LOTS FOR AUCTION

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FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE AUCTIONED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT TAT CHEE AVENUE, YAU YAT CHUEN, KOWLOON. IT HAS AN AREA OF 20,660 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT, RESIDENTIAL AND PETROL-FILLING STATION) PURPOSES, INCLUDING A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS AND A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK.

THE SECOND LOT, IN AREA 30A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF 2,631 SQUARE METRES. IT IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING ANY GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS).

THE THIRD LOT IS IN MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, AREA 100, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, WITH AN AREA OF 6,450 SQUARE METRES. IT IS DESIGNATED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE REMAINING LOT IN HUNG SHUI KIU, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF 1,844 SQUARE METRES. IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WITH THE FIRST THREE FLOORS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES AND THE REMAINING FLOORS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

A PRESS AREA WILL BE DESIGNATED. PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	30 MAR 93	30 MAR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q313	H361
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$3,635MN	HK\$2,300MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,000MN	HK\$400MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.87 PCT	3.08 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.90 PCT	3.10 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 18 PCT	ABOUT 15 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.91 PCT	3.14 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 5 APR 93 -

TENDER DATE	6 APR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q314
ISSUE DATE	7 APR 93
MATURITY DATE	7 JULY 93
TENDOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,000 + 200MN

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,480
REVERSAL OF LAF	-330
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-35
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,115
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.6 *+0.0* 30.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.76 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.43	3.32
1 MONTH	2.70 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.24	3.48
3 MONTHS	2.86 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.54	3.67
6 MONTHS	3.08 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.59	3.90
12 MONTHS	3.33 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,143MN

CLOSED 30 MARCH 1993

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