DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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VISIT TO SOUTHERN CHINA INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE: CHIEF SECRETARY

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THE VISITS TO GUANGDONG AND GUANGXI WERE BOTH INTERESTING AND VERY INSTRUCTIVE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN FROM A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID: "EVERYWHERE WE WENT WE WERE GREETED MOST WARMLY AND THE PROGRAMME WHICH WAS LAID ON FOR US WAS QUITE EXCELLENT."

"THE DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS SHOWED VERY CLEARLY THAT THE OFFICIALS BOTH IN GUANGDONG AND IN GUANGXI ARE VERY INTERESTED AND ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH HONG KONG AND I THINK THAT WE WERE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MUCH MORE ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THOSE AREAS.

"IN GUANGDONG WE WERE BRIEFED VERY FULLY ON THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS THERE AND IT'S VERY CLEAR THAT THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG, AS THEY ARE MOVING CLOSER TOGETHER, IT'S GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE STAY IN TOUCH ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS," HE SAID.

"WE HAD A VERY CLEAR BRIEFING OF WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO AND WE, IN TURN, GAVE THEM A BRIEFING ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE SITUATION IN GUANGXI WAS NOT SO WELL ADVANCED. "BUT CLEARLY THE POTENTIAL THERE IS GREAT INDEED; THEY ARE ALSO PUTTING A FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR ROADS, THE RAILWAY, THE POWER SUPPLIES AND THEIR PORT; THEY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD FORMED LAND; THEY HAVE VERY BIG LABOUR SUPPLY OBVIOUSLY, AND THOSE ARE TWO THINGS THAT HONG KONG IS SHORT OF."

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH GUANGDONG THAT PLANS FOR THE AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENTS THERE WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THOSE TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG AND NOT IN COMPETITION.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED SIR DAVID ON THE VISIT SAID THE FIRST THING THAT STRUCK THEM WAS THE GREAT EMPHASIS THE CHINESE PLACED ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY ON COMMUNICATION, THAT WAS TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION.

"ON PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, THE VICE-GOVERNOR, MR GONG CHI, WAS AT PAINS TO STRESS TO US THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD PLANS TO EXPAND THEIR PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, THESE WERE NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO REPLACE OUR OWN FACILITIES OR TO ACT IN COMPETITION.

"BUT THEN HE SAW HIS FACILITIES AS VERY MUCH ACTING AS A COMPLEMENT TO HONG KONG FACILITIES AND HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME TO COME THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE HONG KONG PORT," SHE SAID.

/"AS REGARDS .....

"AS REGARDS THE AIRPORT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WOULD START COMMISSIONING OPERATION BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR, AND I EXPECT THAT THE AIRPORT MAY WELL BE IN OPERATION BY 1992," MRS CHAN SAID.

"THAT AIRPORT IS FOR DOMESTIC USE WHILST OBVIOUSLY IN THE LONGER RUN IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE DEVELOPED AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WE HAVE FORMED THE IMPRESSION THAT FOR THE SEVERAL YEARS TO COME THEY WILL MAINLY SERVE LOCAL NEEDS," SHE ADDED.

ON HONG KONG-CHINA RELATIONS, SIR DAVID SAID AS FAR AS HIS TRIP WAS CONCERNED, AND AS FAR AS SOUTHERN CHINA WAS CONCERNED, THE RELATIONSHIP WAS OBVIOUSLY GOOD.

"I THINK THEY ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE IT. I THINK WE WILL SEE MORE VISITS OF THE SORT THAT WE HAVE CARRIED OUT OVER THE LAST FIVE DAYS. I THINK THEY WILL BE AT ALL LEVELS, AND I THINK THAT CAN ONLY BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SOUTHERN CHINA AND HONG KONG. I THINK IT WAS VERY FRUITFUL FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW," HE SAID.

WHILE IN GUANGDONG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE PROBLEM OF CAR SMUGGLING INTO CHINA AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON IMPROVEMENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE.

HE SAID CLEARLY THE WAY TO TAKE THIS FORWARD WAS THROUGH THE BORDER LIAISON GROUP WHERE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOW TAKING PLACE.

"BUT IT WAS ALSO VERY USEFUL TO HEAR FROM OFFICIALS WHAT THEY WERE DOING; HOW THEY WERE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTIONS BOTH IN THE BORDER AREA AND IN TERMS OF THE INLAND ITSELF; AND ALSO TO HEAR SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY ENCOUNTERED IN TRYING TO FIND THE CARS AND DEALING WITH PEOPLE," HE SAID.

"SO IT WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS; NO QUICK FIX OF THE PROBLEM, BUT CERTAINLY A LOT OF CO-OPERATION IN WANTING TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAD CLEARLY STEPPED UP THEIR EFFORTS ON THE BORDER, ADDING THAT: "THEY ARE WITHIN, GUANGDONG ITSELF, MAKING EFFORTS TO TRACK DOWN ON CARS WHICH HAVE BEEN GONE MISSING; THEY ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT AND SO ON, I THINK IT IS A VERY GENERAL EFFORT ACROSS THE BOARD."

"BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOT SIMPLE FROM THE CHINESE POINT OF VIEW. THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF HONG KONG CARS CIRCULATING IN GUANGDONG QUITE LEGALLY, AND THEREFORE IT DOESN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT EVERY CAR WHICH IS A RIGHT-HAND DRIVE CAR OR WHICH HAS AN ODD NUMBER PLATE IS NECESSARY STOLEN.

"THAT IS ONE PROBLEM, ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT MANY CARS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO SPARE PARTS VERY QUICKLY AFTER ARRIVING IN CHINA. SO IT ISN'T EASY AND WE WERE, AS I SAY, IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORTS WHICH THEY ARE TAKING TO TRY TO STEP UP THEIR ACTION," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HIS VISIT TO BEI HAI IN GUANGXI WAS FOR TWO REASONS: "FIRSTLY, TO LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT THERE; AND IT IS IN FACT A VERY ATTRACTIVE CITY. I THINK IT HAS A POTENTIAL TO BE A VERY INTERESTING TOURIST DESTINATION AND WE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES TO TAKING THAT FURTHER."

/THE OTHER .....

THE OTHER REASON WAS TO DISCUSS THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM, SAID THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS VERY USEFUL TO HEAR THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE PEOPLE IN GUANGXI FACED.

"AMONGST THEM ARE THE FACT THAT THE BORDER WITH VIETNAM IS A THOUSAND KILOMETERS LONG; IT IS OVER SOME VERY MOUNTAINEOUS AREAS AND WE KNOW FROM THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE IN POLICING THE HONG KONG BORDER, HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT, AND CLEARLY THEY HAVE PROBLEMS TOO.

"THEY ALSO HAVE A 250-KILOMETER COASTLINE WHICH IS ALSO VERY DIFFICULT TO POLICE, AND I THINK TO SEE THAT COASTLINE AT FIRST-HAND AND SEE THOSE PROBLEMS WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THEY ASSURED US THEY ARE STEPPING UP THEIR EFFORTS ON THE BORDER. THEY HAVE TWO LINES OF DEFENSES ON THE BORDER IN WHICH THEY NOW CHECK PEOPLE, AT THE BORDER ITSELF AND A LITTLE FURTHER BACK.

"THEY ARE ALSO TAKING NOTE OF THE INFORMATION WHICH WE PASSED TO THEM ABOUT POSSIBLE ROUTES WHICH PEOPLE ARE COMING THROUGH AND TAKING ACTION ON THAT. I THINK IT IS THAT FURTHER PASSAGE OF INFORMATION WHICH WILL ENABLE THE GUANGXI AUTHORITIES TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION WHICH IS A VERY FRUITFUL WAY OF TRYING TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION," HE ADDED.

"BUT AGAIN, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM THAT IS CAPABLE OF SOLUTION BY ONE SINGLE ACT. IT NEEDS CO-OPERATION OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE PLEDGED TO DO," SIR DAVID SAID.

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JAMES FINDLAY TO BECOME LAW DRAFTSMAN

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MR JAMES FINDLAY IS TO TAKE OVER THE POST OF LAW DRAFTSMAN LEFT VACANT BY MR JAMES O'GRADY, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH, EFFECTIVE FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 17).

MR FINDLAY, Q.C., 54, JOINED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1981.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1982 AND BECAME LAW OFFICER IN 1984.

IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, MR FINDLAY SERVED FOR SOME YEARS AS DEPUTY LAW DRAFTSMAN IN THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION BEFORE BECOMING SOLICITOR GENERAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS.

BEFORE COMING TO HONG KONG, MR FINDLAY WAS A PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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17TH MEETING OF SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP
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THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS 17TH MEETING IN HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 11 TO 14, 1990.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE CONVERGENCE OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAW BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

THE GROUP REVIEWED THE DISCUSSIONS BY EXPERTS ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS PUBLIC ORDER AND HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

ON THE BASIS OF THE WORK OF ITS STANDING SUB-GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, THE GROUP HAD AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS RELATING TO CUSTOMS TREATIES APPLIED TO HONG KONG. THEY AGREED THE STANDING SUB-GROUP SHOULD START PREPARATORY WORK ON MULTILATERAL TREATIES APPLIED TO HONG KONG CONCERNING TRADE, CONSERVATION AND HEALTH.

THE GROUP HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HONG KONG'S AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND MADE FURTHER PROGRESS.

WITH REGARD TO THE WORK ON LOCALISATION OF LEGISLATION THE TWO SIDES REACHED A COMMON VIEW ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE LOCALISATION OF MERCHANT SHIPPING SAFETY REGULATIONS.

THE TWO SIDES HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROTECTING AND PROMOTING INVESTMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND RELEVANT COUNTRIES AND MADE PROGRESS.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS WITH RELEVANT COUNTRIES.

ON THE BASIS OF THE WORK OF EXPERTS THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN HONG KONG AND MADE PROGRESS.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE ADAPTATION OF HONG KONG'S LAWS AND REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE PROCEDURE FOR CONSULTATION IN THIS AREA.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO HAD A DISCUSSION ON THE QUESTION OF MAJOR FRANCHISES WHICH WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997 AND AGREED ON MECHANISMS TO KEEP THE CHINESE SIDE INFORMED ABOUT SUCH FRANCHISES.

THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AGREED THAT ITS NEXT MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN BEIJING IN THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 11, 1991.

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LARGEST HAUL OF ELECTRONIC GOODS SMUGGLED TO CHINA MADE

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CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAD DEALT A SEVERE BLOW TO A GANG OF SMUGGLERS AFTER NETTING THE LARGEST EVER HAUL OF ELECTRONIC GOODS TO CHINA YESTERDAY (THURSDAY).

THE OFFICERS, ACTING ON A TIP-OFF, FOUND THE $3 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS, CONSISTING OF TELEVISION SETS, VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS AND CAMERA EQUIPMENT IN TWO CONTAINERS DESTINED FOR XIAMEN.

IT IS THE FIRST KNOWN CASE OF ATTEMPTED SMUGGLING TO CHINA INVOLVING CONTAINERS ON AN OCEAN-GOING CONTAINER VESSEL.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS BELIEVED THIS IS A NEW METHOD OF SMUGGLING ELECTRICAL GOODS TO CHINA IN WAKE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT STEP-UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON SPEEDBOAT SMUGGLING.

AFTER A WEEK-LONG PROBE, THE OFFICERS BOARDED A CONTAINER VESSEL "KAI YUAN" AT YAU MA TEI ANCHORAGE AREA WHEN IT WAS ABOUT TO SET SAIL FOR XIAMEN ABOUT 4 PM YESTERDAY,

THE OFFICERS DETAINED TWO 40-FOOT CONTAINERS, WHICH WERE MANIFESTED TO CONTAIN TEXTILE GOODS.

THE TWO CONTAINERS WERE THEN OFF-LOADED AND TOWED ASHORE. UPON EXAMINATION, A LARGE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICAL GOODS AND CAMERA EQUIPMENT WAS FOUND, ALONGSIDE WITH 155 ROLLS OF TEXTILE GOODS.

THE HAUL INCLUDED 226 TELEVISIONS, 170 CAMERAS, 1,752 TRIPODS, 516 PORTABLE CASSETTE RECORDERS, 56 VEHICLE RADIO SETS, 181 VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS AND A QUANTITY OF AUDIO ACCESSORIES, ALL DESTINED FOR XIAMEN.

AT THE SAME TIME, CUSTOMS OFFICERS CONDUCTED RAIDS AT FOUR PLACES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ONE IN KOWLOON.

A 30-YEAR-OLD MAN BELIEVED TO BE THE EXPORTER OF THE GOODS AND A 24-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ARE NOW ASSISTING IN THE INVESTIGATION.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A MAN BELIEVED TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE CASE. FURTHER RAIDS ARE BEING CONDUCTED.

IN THE OPERATION, OVER 50 OFFICERS FROM THE GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE INVESTIGATION BRANCH, AND THE SEA CARGO AND LAND ENFORCEMENT DIVISIONS OF THE OPERATIONS BRANCH OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WERE MOBILISED.

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PUBLICATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURE ORDERS
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THE ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE TO DECLARE THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ALSO PUBLISHED IS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES (NUMBER OF VACANCIES) ORDER 1990 WHICH DECLARES THAT EACH OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES CONTAINS TWO VACANCIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THESE ORDERS COMPLETE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE FOR THE DELINEATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE 1991 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NINE DOUBLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991. DETAILS OF THE CONSTITUENCY ARRANGEMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21, 1990.

THE NINE DOUBLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES WHICH WILL RETURN 18 DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991 ARE :

- HONG KONG ISLAND EAST, COMPRISING EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICTS;

- HONG KONG ISLAND WEST, COMPRISING CENTRAL AND WESTERN, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS;

- KOWLOON EAST, COMPRISING KWUN TONG DISTRICT;

- KOWLOON CENTRAL, COMPRISING KOWLOON CITY AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICTS;

- KOWLOON WEST, COMPRISING MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO AND YAU TSIM DISTRICTS;

- NEW TERRITORIES NORTH, COMPRISING NORTH AND TAI PO DISTRICTS;

- NEW TERRITORIES EAST, COMPRISING SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS;

- NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH, COMPRISING ISLANDS, KWAI TSING AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT; AND

- NEW TERRITORIES WEST, COMPRISING TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE VIEW TAKEN BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AND ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY ON ELECTORAL MATTERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE 1991 ELECTIONS.

/SUCH A .....

SUCH A REVIEW WOULD ENABLE SUITABLE MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

"HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING CLEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS RIGHT TO USE THE EXISTING ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1991," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN DEMARCATING ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES, THESE ARRANGEMENTS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS SUCH AS PRESENT AND FUTURE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES."

APART FROM THE CONSTITUENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECT ELECTIONS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION EXPENSES ORDER 1990 AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS ELECTION EXPENSES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1990 MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE ARE ALSO PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

THE RESPECTIVE ELECTION EXPENSES LIMITS WERE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND ANNOUNCED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

THE NEW LIMITS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

(A)	DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	$200,000
(B)	LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES	$ 50,000
(C)	DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS	$ 30,000
(D)	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS	$ 70,000
(E)	ELECTION OF DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS	$ 6,000

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR AUG-OCT

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BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990.

THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATED THE LABOUR MARKET WAS STILL GENERALLY TIGHT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 WAS 1.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.7 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1990 AND 1.4 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

/THE DECREASE .....

THE DECREASE OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 WAS ESTIMATED AT 42,300, COMPARED WITH 46,700 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1990 AND 37,600 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1989.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 WAS 1.0 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1990; THAT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989 WAS 0.6 PER CENT.

THE INCREASE OF 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989 IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 WAS 26,900, COMPARED WITH 26,800 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1990 AND 17,800 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1989.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1990 WAS 1.4 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,300 HOUSEHOLDS OR 40,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

/DETAILED ANALYSIS .....

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1990 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND DECEMBER 20 AT $11.50 PER COPY.

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NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR THREE GOVT DEPARTMENTS

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED A PURCHASE APPLICATION OF A MAJOR COMPUTER AT A CAPITAL COST OF ABOUT $270 MILLION WHICH REPLACED EARLIER PURCHASE APPLICATIONS OF THREE SEPARATE COMPUTERS FOR THREE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE NEW COMPUTER WILL REPLACE THE MAINFRAME SYSTEM FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT CENTRAL BUREAU.

IT WILL ALSO BE USED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT COMPUTER CENTRE FOR THE LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT COMPUTER CENTRE FOR THE AUTOMATED COMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND OPERATIONS NETWORK (ACTION) APPLICATION.

"THE COMPUTER WILL MEET ALL THE ORIGINAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE PREVIOUS PROPOSALS AND WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE A SAVING OF $12.5 MILLION IN CAPITAL COST AND RECURRENT COSTS OF OVER $33 MILLION," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"OTHER INTANGIBLE BENEFITS INCLUDE IMPROVED RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY AND BETTER DEPLOYMENT OF SCARCE STAFF RESOURCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS IS PART OF GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO REDUCE COSTS WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING ITS CAPABILITY TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS," HE ADDED.

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HYGIENIC STANDARDS SET FOR MILK PRODUCTION
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RAW MILK PRODUCED AT DAIRIES WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH HYGIENIC STANDARDS STIPULATED IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 AS FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 GAZETTED TODAY WHICH FORM PART OF THE ORDINANCE, IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO SELL, MIX WITH OTHER MILK OR DELIVER TO A FACTORY ANY MILK THAT CONTAINS MORE THAN 200,000 BACTERIA PER MILLILITRE, OR ANY COLIFORM ORGANISMS IN 1/1,000TH PART OF A MILLILITRE.

AN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE MILK IS MARKETED, IT MUST BE HEAT TREATED AT A "MILK FACTORY" TO DESTORY BACTERIA AND OTHER MICRO-ORGANISMS.

"STANDARD FORMS OF HEAT TREATMENT SUCH AS PASTEURISATION REQUIRE THE INPUT OF REASONABLY HYGIENIC RAW MILK AND CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO MAKE HEAVILY CONTAMINATED MILK SAFE.

"THE AMENDMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT RAW MILK IS OF ACCEPTABLE HYGIENIC STANDARD BEFORE DELIVERY TO MILK FACTORIES FOR PASTEURISATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE HYGIENIC STANDARDS STIPULATED ARE IN LINE WITH THOSE CURRENTLY ENFORCED UNDER THE MILK (URBAN COUNCIL) BY-LAWS AND THE MILK (REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS.

THE DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS ALSO PROVIDE FOR AFD STAFF TO SAMPLE RAW MILK AT DAIRIES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY. CERTIFICATES OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ISSUED BY THE LATTER WILL BE ACCEPTED AS COURT EVIDENCE.

TURNING TO OTHER FEATURES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID LICENCES GRANTED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) ORDINANCE WOULD FROM NOW ON BE VALID FOR 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE.

PREVIOUSLY, ALL LICENCES EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THEY WERE GRANTED.

"THESE INCLUDE THE DAIRY LICENCE, ANIMAL TRADERS' LICENCE, ANIMALS AND BIRDS EXHIBITION LICENCE AND LICENCES GRANTED TO ANIMAL BOARDING AND RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS," HE SAID.

ALSO FROM TODAY, FEES FOR THE ANIMAL TRADERS' LICENCE WILL GO UP FROM $800 TO $1,600.

MOREOVER, THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WILL BE INCREASED FROM $2,000 TO $5,000 TO MAINTAIN THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT. "PENALTIES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1970," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MERCHANT NAVY NEEDS NEW BLOOD TO REVIVE

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THERE IS A CONTINUING DEMAND FOR WELL-TRAINED AND QUALIFIED HONG IONG SEAFARERS FROM HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS AND CREWING AGENCIES, A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL REVEALED.

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT OWING TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND BEING A MAJOR ECONOMICAL CENTRE IN ASIA, HONG KONG WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT SHIPPING CENTRE. THERE WAS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY HAD REGAINED ITS STABILITY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO REVIVE.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THERE WERE 6,210 ACTIVE HONG KONG SEAFARERS THIS YEAR INCLUDING 2,801 OFFICERS AND 3,409 RATINGS. COMPARED WITH THE RECORDED FIGURE OF 8,891 IN 1988, THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE SEAFARERS HAD DECREASED AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 16.8 PER CENT.

THIS DECLINE, THE TRAINING BOARD BELIEVED, WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF MORE JOB OPENINGS WITH BETTER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ASHORE AND THE FACT THAT MANY POSTS ON BOARD SHIPS WERE FILLED BY CREWS FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

MOREOVER, A CONTINUING RISE IN THE MEAN AGE OF HONG KONG SEAFARERS WOULD HAVE A HINDERING EFFECT ON THE FURTHER REVIVAL OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY IF THERE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT YOUNG NEW ENTRANTS TO JOIN THE MERCHANT NAVY.

THE TRAINING BOARD FORECAST THAT, TOGETHER WITH THE FORTHCOMING HONG KONG REGISTER OF SHIPPING AND THE MULTI-BILLION PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, THE INDUSTRY WOULD NEED AN ADDITION OF SOME 340 OFFICERS AND 500 RATINGS ANNUALLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE TRAINING BOARD CONSIDERED THAT THE TRAINING FACILITIES PROVIDED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE AND OTHER TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE MANPOWER GROWTH.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT AND RELATED TRAINING INSTITUTIONS NEEDED TO STEP UP EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE PROSPECTS OF SEA-GOING CAREER, SO AS TO ATTRACT MORE NEW-ENTRANTS TO JOIN THE INDUSTRY.

THE "1990 MANPOWER SURVEY REPORT ON THE MERCHANT NAVY" IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT $26.00 A COPY.

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PUBLIC REMINDED OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST FOOD-BORNE DISEASES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TO TAKE PROPER FOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES WHEN HAVING HOTPOT IN THE COLD WINTER MONTHS.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR. MAHOMMED BIN ALI, WHO SAID FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS FOOD POISONING AND HEPATITIS A MAY BE CONTRACTED THROUGH HOTPOT MEAL, WHICH IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS DO-IT-YOURSELF CHINESE-STYLE SUKIYAKI.

"FOOD ESTABLISHMENT STUFF SHOULD ALWAYS OBSERVE HYGIENIC PRACTICES IN PREPARING FOOD FOR HOTPOTS," DR. ALI SAID.

"CUSTOMERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ENSURING THAT SUCH FOOD IS ADEQUATELY COOKED BEFORE CONSUMPTION," HE ADDED.

WHEN PREPARING HOTPOTS AT HOME, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO OBSERVE PROPER FOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES.

DR. ALI REMINDED THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHILE HAVING THOSE POPULAR HOTPOT FOOD STUFF SUCH AS SHELLFISH AND VEGETABLES:

* USE WHOLESOME FOOD, CLEAN WATER AND COOKING UTENSILS;
* USE ONLY WHOLESOME AND PREFERABLY LIVE ONES FOR SHELLFISH;
* WASH VEGETABLES AND SHELLFISH THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING;
* COOK THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION;
* STORE FOOD PROPERLY BEFORE COOKING AND SHELLFISH SHOULD BE KEPT IN REFRIGERATOR IF NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION;
* REMOVE THE GRIT AND DIRT OF SHELLFISH WITH A BRUSH; AND
* DISCARD THE INTESTINES AND OTHER DUBIOUS OR INEDIBLE PARTS SUCH AS SHELLS.

"WHOLESOME RAW MATERIALS, PROPER WASHING AND HANDLING, AND THOROUGH COOKING ARE THE BEST MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES AND PREREQUISITES OF A DELICIOUS AND ENJOYABLE HOTPOT," DR. ALI SAID.

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BUILDING NUMBERING STREAMLINED

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A MORE CONSISTENT APPROACH WILL BE ADOPTED TO THE NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION BECOMES THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALLOCATING BUILDING NUMBERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

PREVIOUSLY, THE COMMISSIONER WAS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO EFFECT THE CHANGE WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY AND GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS CHANGE SHOULD ELIMINATE THE CONFUSION THAT SOMETIMES AROSE IN THE PAST DUE TO THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE VARIOUS DISTRICT LAND OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"THE NEW ARRANGEMENT SHOULD ALSO RESULT IN A MORE CONSISTENT APPROACH BEING ADOPTED TO THE NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID A NUMBER WOULD GENERALLY BE ALLOCATED TO NEW BUILDINGS AS SOON AS THEY WERE COMPLETED, PROVIDED THAT THE STREET WHICH THEY ABUT HAD BEEN NAMED.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO DEAL WITH ALL UN-NUMBERED BUILDINGS, FOR WHICH A NUMBER IS REQUIRED, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MORE ISOLATED RURAL AREAS, WOULD VERY MUCH DEPEND ON THE MANPOWER AVAILABLE.

HE REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT ALL ENQUIRIES REGARDING BUILDING NUMBERING MATTERS SHOULD NOW BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT, HENNESSY CENTRE, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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NEW CHLORINATION HOUSE AT SHA TIN WATER TREATMENT WORKS

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHLORINATION HOUSE AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT THE SHA TIN WATER TREATMENT WORKS.

THE NEW CHLORINATION HOUSE WILL COMPOSE A CHLORINE DRUM STORE, A CHLORINE ABSORPTION SYSTEM AND ANCILLARY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORKS.

/UPON COMPLETION .....

UPON COMPLETION, THE STORE WILL CONVERT THE EXISTING BULK TANK STORAGE TO A ONE-TONNE DRUM STORAGE OF CHLORINE, AND THE CHLORINE ABSORPTION SYSTEM WILL SAFEGUARD AGAINST ANY CHLORINE DISCHARGE TO THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTAL LEAKAGE, THEREBY REDUCING THE SOCIETAL RISKS OF THE SHA TIN TREATMENT WORKS TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK OF THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND LAST FOR 17 MONTHS. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE INSTALLATION OF ASSOCIATED PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHLORINE ABSOPRTION SYSTEM.

THE WHOLE PROJECT WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN LATE 1992.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD BY NOON ON JANUARY 4 NEXT YEAR.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL TO BE BUILT IN TAI PO

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL AT A 6,730-SQUARE METRE SITE AT AREA 6, TAI PO.

THE SCHOOL WILL COMPRISEA MAIN TEACHING BLOCK TO ACCOMMODATE 26 CLASSROOMS, A BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS TO HOUSE FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, A COVERED PLAY AREA, AN ASSEMBLY HALL, A BASKETBALL COURT AND PLANTING AREAS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 11.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SLUDGE DISPOSAL WORKS

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE DAILY/PERIODIC REMOVAL OF SCREENINGS, SLUDGE AND SOLID WASTE FROM SOLID WASTE AND SEWAGE HANDLING STATIONS.

THE CONTRACT, WHICH WILL RUN FROM 1991 TO 1993, ALSO INCLUDES MINOR MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS IN THE STATIONS, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY PAINTING AS WELL AS RELATED ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENTS.

/FORMS OF .....

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTS SECTION OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 11, 1991.

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FARMERS CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG

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THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE, TODAY (FRIDAY) COMMENDED FARMERS IN HONG KONG FOR PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING LOCAL DEMAND FOR FRESH FOODSTUFFS, THEREBY HELPING BOTH TO REGULATE THE FOOD SUPPLY AND STABILISE PRICES.

OFFICIATING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND FARMERS' FESTIVAL AT THE TAI LUNG FARM OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) IN LIN TONG MEI, SHEUNG SHUI, MR LEE SAID LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HAD ALWAYS BEEN CHARACTERISED BY ITS FRESHNESS AND HIGH QUALITY.

"WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF AFD AND VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS, LOCAL FARMERS HAVE MADE CONTINUAL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCE, AND HAVE ALSO CONDUCTED TRIALS ON VARIOUS NEW PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES AND VARIETIES.

"THEY HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROVIDING FRESH FOODSTUFFS FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AND HAVE MADE DEFINITE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG," MR LEE ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S LAUNCHING CEREMONY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE; THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FEDERATION OF THE HONG KONG AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SOCIETIES, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI.

SPEAKING EARLIER, MR CHAN SAID THE FARMERS' FESTIVAL PROVIDED FARMERS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON WAYS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS, THUS HELPING TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC AND MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOCIETY.

"FURTHERMORE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE SUPPLY OF THE TERRITORY'S FRESH FOODSTUFFS THROUGH THE FARMERS' FESTIVAL AND THE TAI LUNG FARM OPEN DAY," HE SAID.

THE JOINT FEDERATION WAS FORMED IN 1988 WITH MEMBER-ASSOCIATIONS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES CHICKEN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATING SOCIETIES AS WELL AS THE FEDERATION OF PIG RAISING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. THEIR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES OVER 10,000 INDIVIDUAL FARMERS.

/MR CHAN .....

MR CHAN SAID LAST YEAR, HONG KONG PRODUCED 15 MILLION CHICKENS, 650,000 PIGS AND 140,000 TONNES OF FRESH VEGETABLES WITH A TOTAL VALUE AMOUNTING TO $1,600 MILLION, 80 PER CENT OF THE PRODUCTION CAME FROM MEMBER-ASSOCIATIONS OF THE JOINT FEDERATION.

THE SECOND FARMERS' FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY AFD AND THE JOINT FEDERATION. TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE TAI LUNG FARM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM THIS AFTERNOON TO SUNDAY (DECEMBER 16).

ATTRACTIONS AT THE OPEN DAY INCLUDE:

* DEMONSTRATIONS ON MODERN CHICKEN FARMING TECHNIQUES, EXOTIC VEGETABLE CROPS, THE PIG-ON-LITTER METHOD AND THE USE OF SPENT SAWDUST AS SOIL CONDITIONER;

* GREENHOUSES CATERING FOR MASS SEEDLING PRODUCTION, SOILESS CULTURE AND DRIP IRRIGATION;

* A ROSE GARDEN WHERE OVER 40 SPECIES, INCLUDING SOME VERY RARE ONES, OF ROSES ARE CULTIVATED;

* AN INSECT MUSEUM PLUS A DISPLAY ON INSECT TRAPS;

* AN ORCHARD WITH ITS RICH COLLECTION OF FRUIT TREES PLUS DEMONSTRATIONS ON FRUIT PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES;

* A DISPLAY OF FARM MACHINERY AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS;

* A MUSHROOM LABORATORY; AND

* DEMONSTRATIONS ON METHODS TO TEST PESTICIDE RESIDUE ON VEGETABLES.

BESIDES, FRESH LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE WILL BE ON SALE AT THE FARM.

VISITORS ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS PARKING FACILITIES ARE LIMITED AT TAI LUNG.

THE JOINT FEDERATION WILL PROVIDE FREE SHUTTLE COACH TO FERRY VISITORS FROM THE KCR SHEUNG SHUI STATION NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF CHOI YUEN ESTATE AND OUTSIDE KWONG WAH THEATRE IN YUEN LONG TO TAI LUNG FARM DURING THE OPEN DAY PERIOD, I.E. FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM BETWEEN FRIDAY AND SUNDAY.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE PUBLIC MAY GO TO THE TAI LUNG FARM VIA FAN KAM ROAD BY TAKING BUS NO. 77K OR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS NO. 18 LINKING SHEUNG SHUI WITH YUEN LONG.

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TEACHERS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDENT GUIDANCE WORK

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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES), MRS GRACE YUNG, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED ALL TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDENT GUIDANCE WORK.

SPEAKING AT A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON GUIDANCE WORK IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, MRS YUNG SAID THE WORK WAS NOT THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF GUIDANCE MASTERS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.

"ITS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION ALSO REQUIRES THE LEADERSHIP OF PRINCIPALS AND THE FULL SUPPORT OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT," SHE SAID.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS FOURTH REPORT RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH AND SHE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS HAD ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED THE SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMME.

MRS YUNG HOPED THAT OTHER SCHOOLS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT TO HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY

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A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 16) TO DRIVE HOME THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE.

THERE WILL BE AN AUXILIARY POLICE BAND PARADE, TELEMATCHES FOR THE ELDERLY, MAGIC SHOWS, QUIZZES, AN EXHIBITION AND A CHILDREN'S ROAD SAFETY FASHION SHOW.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY LINED UP FOR CHILDREN TO PUT THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE ACROSS TO THEM.

TO BE PRESENTED BY DISC JOCKEY WONG TZE-WAH, THE PROGRAMME WILL ALSO INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGER PANG KIN-SUN.

THE CARNIVAL WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM. OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER, AND THE DISTRICT'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR NGAI WAI-MING.

THE ANNUAL EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE, POLICE, URBAN COUNCIL AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF CITY NORTHWEST HONG KONG.

/ENQUIRIES ABOUT .....

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CARNIVAL CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3486.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT'S ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 16) AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL.

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300 EXHIBITS ON CREATIVE WORK BY SECONDARY STUDENTS

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THE CREATIVE WORK OF SECONDARY 5 STUDENTS, COMPRISING MORE THAN 300 EXHIBITS, WILL BE ON DISPLAY FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 17) TO SATURDAY (JANUARY 5) AT THE CULTURE CRAFTS CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE CULTURE CRAFTS CENTRE, WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ART EDUCATION AND TO STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THE FORTHCOMING HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN ART, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXHIBITS WERE SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 100 SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COMPRISED CREATIVE WORK SUCH AS DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, GRAPHIC DESIGNS, CALLIGRAPHY, THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGNS, SCULPTURES AND CERAMICS.

"THEY REPRESENT THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN ART AND DESIGN OF STUDENTS AND THE TREND OF ART EDUCATION IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SAI KUNG RESIDENTS AWARDED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

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THIRTY-FOUR PEOPLE WERE AWARDED THE 1988/89 SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TODAY (FRIDAY) IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARD WORKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, SAID ALL THE AWARDEES HAD BEEN SERVING IN VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS RURAL COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

/"THEIR VALUABLE .....

"THEIR VALUABLE SUPPORT HAS LED TO THE SUCCESS OF MANY DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND THEY HAVE SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICES," HE ADDED.

THE AWARDEES ARE EITHER RESIDING IN SAI KUNG OR WORKING IN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS OR SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WERE NOMINATED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND ASSESSED BY A SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE ASSESSMENT WAS BASED ON THE CANDIDATES' SERVICES, LEADERSHIP, INITIATIVE, CO-OPERATIVENESS AND LENGTH OF SERVICE.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN.

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