



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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## GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO PRESS AFTER MEETING LIBERAL PARTY

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GOVERNOR : I HAD A VERY INTERESTING MEETING WITH ALLEN LEE AND RONALD ARCULLI. I WAS PLEASED THAT THEY'D TAKEN THE TROUBLE SO QUICKLY AFTER THEIR VISIT TO PEKING TO COME AND TO TELL ME ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS THEY HAD AND ABOUT THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THE CHINESE POSITION. I WANT TO MAKE ONE THING ABSOLUTELY PLAIN THAT WE WANT AN AGREEMENT. WE ARE WORKING EXTREMELY HARD TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE AS I SAID THE OTHER DAY, IN OUR JUDGMENT, AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE A BIG DEAL. NOW, IF IT'S THE CHINESE POSITION THAT IN ORDER TO HELP CONCENTRATE ATTENTION ON THE VERY BIG ISSUES, THEY'D BE HAPPY TO AGREE WITH US NOW ON SOME ISSUES WHICH SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY STRAIGHT-FORWARD LIKE THE VOTING AGE, LIKE THE VOTING METHOD, LIKE THE DISTRICT BOARDS/ MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS. IT IS THEIR POSITION NOW IF THEY AGREE WITH US ON THOSE THINGS SO WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON OTHER MATTERS, THEN I HOPE THAT POINT WILL BE PUT VERY CLEARLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. BUT OBVIOUSLY WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THEY SAY IN THE NEGOTIATING ROOM BECAUSE THAT POINT HASN'T BEEN PUT TO US YET. WE HAD 13 ROUNDS OF TALKS, I THINK, GETTING ON FOR 120 HOURS. ALL THE ISSUES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT VERY CONSIDERABLE LENGTH AND UNFORTUNATELY, NO AGREEMENT YET, NOT EVEN AN AGREEMENT, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, ON THE VOTING AGE. IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM BUT IF CHINESE NEGOTIATORS ARE NOW HAPPY TO AGREE WITH US ON A NUMBER OF THOSE MATTERS, AND THEN FINE. ONE OTHER ISSUE THAT I'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, OUR NEGOTIATORS, OUR TEAM, WORK VERY HARD. THEY GO UP TO PEKING ONCE A WEEK OR ONCE A FORTNIGHT AND WORK VERY HARD WHEN THEY ARE THERE. I AM SURE THAT THEY'D BE PREPARED TO WORK EVEN HARDER IF THE CHINESE TEAM WANTED TO JOIN THEM IN THAT ENDEAVOUR. I AM SURE IF THE CHINESE SIDE SAID "LOOK, BECAUSE OF THE TIME PRESSURE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND, WE'LL WORK NIGHT AND DAY OVER THE NEXT DAYS, OVER THE NEXT WEEKS", I AM SURE THAT OUR NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE HAPPY TO RESPOND THEMSELVES. THE TROUBLE IS WE ALREADY HAD A LOT OF TALKING AND WE STILL HAVEN'T REACHED AN AGREEMENT. BUT FOR OUR SIDE, WE'RE STILL TRYING, WE'RE STILL TRYING VERY HARD.

QUESTION : (INAUDIBLE)

GOVERNOR : WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, IS TO ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL FROM THE CHINESE SIDE, TO AGREE WITH US ON THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS OR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS. BUT I AM AFRAID THAT IT IS A BIT OF A RED HERRING IF YOU ARE SUGGESTING THAT DE-COUPLING, TO USE THE TERM OF ART, WOULD SUDDENLY BUY US MORE TIME. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS WE DON'T HAVE VERY MUCH MORE TIME. THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AREN'T REALLY THE PROBLEM. MOST OF THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ARE ALREADY COVERED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH CREATE A PROBLEM AS FAR AS DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ARE CONCERNED, LIKE THE VOTING AGE BUT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM, THE BIGGEST DIFFICULTY THAT WE HAVE IS OVER THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS THAT WE'VE GOT TO GET LEGISLATION ON THOSE THROUGH BY NEXT JULY FOR THE REASONS THAT WE'VE EXPLAINED. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO RUSH ANY FENCES. WHAT WE'RE DOING, IF ANYTHING, IS TAKING RISKS ON THE OTHER SIDE. BUT, WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT THROUGH BY JULY SO THAT THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION CAN START WORK ON THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION ON ISSUES LIKE DRAWING UP THE VOTER REGISTER FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN THE AUTUMN OF NEXT YEAR. SO IT'S THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WHICH IMPOSE THE REAL TIME PRESSURES AND TO THAT EXTENT, ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE SLIGHTLY IRRELEVANT.

/QUESTION .....

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

GOVERNOR: IF THE CHINESE SAID TO US: "WE'RE HAPPY ABOUT THE DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS ARRANGEMENTS, WE'RE HAPPY ABOUT THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION METHODS, WE'RE HAPPY ABOUT THE VOTING AGE", WE'LL SAY TERRIFIC; WE CAN GET AHEAD AND START WORK ON THAT. BUT IT WOULDN'T BUY US VERY MUCH MORE TIME FOR OTHER MATTERS. IT WOULD ENABLE OUR NEGOTIATORS TO SPEND ALL THEIR TIME AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE CONCENTRATING ON THOSE FEW OTHER MATTERS THAT WILL BE LEFT, BUT IT WOULDN'T MAKE VERY MUCH TIME FOR THE DIFFERENCE TO THE TIME PRESSURES THAT ARE ON US AS FAR AS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE CONCERNED. SO I'M NOT SAYING THAT THERE IS AN EASY ANSWER IN DE-COUPPING, I WISH THERE WAS BUT THERE ISN'T. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WE CAN CERTAINLY FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON OTHER MATTERS IF CHINESE OFFICIALS WOULD AGREE WITH US ON THINGS WHICH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, THINGS SHOULD BE PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD. OK.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

GOVERNOR: I'M NOT THREATENING ANYTHING. WHAT I AM DOING, WHICH I THINK CHINESE OFFICIALS QUITE CANDIDLY UNDERSTAND, IS POINTING OUT THE REAL PRESSURES ON US TO GET IN PLACE LEGISLATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. IF YOU PUT TOGETHER NOT ONLY THE LEGISLATION THAT WE NEED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS BUT ALL THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION AS WELL, ALL THE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES AND SO ON THAT HAVE TO BE IN PLACE, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT 48 DIFFERENT PIECES OF WORK THAT HAVE TO BE DONE BY THE LAWYERS, THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE DONE AND THINGS THAT HAVE IN MOST CASES TO GO TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND BE AGREED. IT'S VERY COMPLICATED BECAUSE THE ELECTION SYSTEM WE'VE GOT IS VERY COMPLICATED, NOT JUST AS HAPPEN IN MOST OTHER COMMUNITIES. GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES WITH FIRST PAST THE POST VOTING OR PR SYSTEM, THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BEING CREATED, AND AN ELECTION COMMITTEE, IT'S AN INCREDIBLY COMPLICATED BUSINESS. AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD. I WISH WE DID BUT ALAS, WE DON'T. SO AS I'VE SAID IF THE CHINESE WANT TO AGREE WITH US NOW ON THE SIMPLE THINGS, THEY HAVEN'T UNFORTUNATELY DONE SO FOR THE LAST 13 ROUNDS THEN WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE A CALL, I'M SURE SIR ROBIN MCLAREN WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO GET THAT MESSAGE IN THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. BUT DE-COUPPING IS, TO GO BACK TO THE PHASE I USED EARLIER, ALAS, A RED HERRING.

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HONG KONG TO STAYPUT IN WORLD TRADE FOREFRONT: CS

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HONG KONG IS AND WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF WORLD TRADE, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"I BELIEVE OUR INHERENT STRENGTHS ARE THERE AND ARE THERE FOR THE FUTURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

ABOVE ALL HE BELIEVES THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WITH THEIR RESILIENCE AND THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO KEEP HONG KONG THAT WAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE EUROPE/EAST ASIA ECONOMIC FORUM LUNCHEON, CO-HOSTED BY HIM AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, DR VICTOR FUNG.

SIR DAVID SAID THE STRENGTH OF HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE BEYOND 1997.

"THERE IS A TREMENDOUS MUTUAL BENEFIT IN HONG KONG AND CHINA CONTINUING TO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP LONG INTO THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

TO DATE, HONG KONG AND CHINA ARE EACH OTHER'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS AND INVESTORS. HONG KONG IS THE BIGGEST INVESTOR IN CHINA WITH 75 PER CENT OF ALL JOINT VENTURES HAVING A HONG KONG CONTENT.

LAST YEAR, CHINA BECAME THE LARGEST INVESTOR IN HONG KONG.

"SO THERE IS A TREMENDOUS MUTUAL ADVANTAGE IN CONTINUING THIS RELATIONSHIP," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WAS ALSO A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO ITS SUCCESS.

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HONG KONG IS STILL WORLD'S TOP CONTAINER PORT

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HONG KONG HAS RETAINED ITS LEAD AS THE WORLD'S BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT.

IT HAS ONCE AGAIN LEAPT HEAD OF ITS NEAREST RIVAL, SINGAPORE, THANKS TO RECORD THROUGHPUT IN JULY.

COMMENTING ON THE JULY FIGURES RELEASED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE SECRETARY OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TONY CLARK, SAID:

"HONG KONG'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT IN JULY WAS THE HIGHEST ANY PORT, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, HAS EVER ACHIEVED IN A SINGLE MONTH."

A TOTAL OF 849,000 20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS (TEUS) WERE HANDLED DURING JULY. THAT BROUGHT HONG KONG'S TOTAL FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR TO 5,030,000. THIS WAS SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF THE SINGAPORE FIGURE OF 5,014,000 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

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"GIVEN OUR TRADITIONAL STRENGTH TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, I EXPECT HONG KONG WILL REMAIN NUMBER ONE," MR CLARK ADDED.

"EVEN THE DOUBLE COUNTING OF TRANSSHIPMENT BOXES, OF WHICH SINGAPORE HAS A FAR HIGHER LEVEL THAN HONG KONG, IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

HONG KONG'S TOTAL THROUGHPUT FOR THIS YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE 17 PER CENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S FIGURE AND TOTAL MORE THAN NINE MILLION TEUS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT BERNARD LONG ON TEL 529 2798 OR FAX 528 5998 DURING OFFICE HOURS, OR 551 1415 (HOME).

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HK NEEDS MORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS: CS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE GROWING NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLING AND ENCOURAGED ITS GROWTH, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"ALL THE SIGNS ARE THAT AS HONG KONG CONTINUES TO FLOURISH AND GROW INTO THE NEXT CENTURY WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO NEED MORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PLACES," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE WAS DELIVERING A SPEECH AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING FOR THE GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR THESE SCHOOL PLACES IN THE PAST FEW YEARS WAS MAINLY DUE TO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF EXPATRIATES COMING TO WORK AND LIVE IN HONG KONG, IN ADDITION WITH THE RETURN OF LOCAL EMIGRANTS FROM OVERSEAS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GROWTH KEEPS PACE WITH DEMAND," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS NEEDED A CLOSE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS.

AT PRESENT, THERE WERE MORE THAN 16,000 SUBVENTED AND OVER 5,500 NON-SUBVENTED INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PLACES IN HONG KONG.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, AN ADDITIONAL 3,600 SUBVENTED PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED, REPRESENTING A 20 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE EXISTING CAPACITY.

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FORMATION OF HAB PROVIDES FOCAL POINT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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A NEW HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH WILL COME INTO BEING ON OCTOBER 15 (FRIDAY) THROUGH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING POSTS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL TAKE ON ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SYSTEMATIC, CO-ORDINATED APPROACH TO DEAL WITH INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

"TO PUT THIS ARRANGEMENT IN PLACE, THE NEW BRANCH WILL BE TAKING OVER A NUMBER OF POLICY SUBJECTS FROM OTHER SECRETARIAT BRANCHES AS WELL AS NEW ISSUES.

"THESE INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATION POLICIES, SOCIAL AND FAMILY LAWS, ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND RELATIONS WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THESE SUBJECT AREAS, THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONVENTIONAL POLICY ISSUES SUCH AS THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, COMMUNITY BUILDING, GAMBLING, GUESTHOUSE AND HOTEL LICENSING, TRADITIONAL AND RURAL MATTERS, DATA PROTECTION, SUCCESSION AND INHERITANCE, AND YOUTH AND WOMEN MATTERS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRANCH WAS THE FIRST PART OF A PROCESS TO STREAMLINE THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXISTING CNTA SO AS TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATION AND EFFICIENCY TO CATER FOR PRESENT DAY NEEDS.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE NEXT STAGE WOULD INVOLVE THE SETTING UP OF AN EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT BY AMALGAMATING THE TWO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS SUBJECT TO OBTAINING THE NECESSARY APPROVALS.

THE KEY AIMS ARE TO STRENGTHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS AND TO ENHANCE THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIVENESS TO THE VIEWS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

DETAILED PROPOSALS ON THE RE-ORGANISATION OF CNTA ARE BEING FINALISED. THE NECESSARY APPROVALS FOR THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE SOUGHT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

FOR THE TIME BEING, THE TWO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE DISTRICT OFFICES WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

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REGULATION COMMENCES FOR RETIREMENT SCHEMES

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ALL PRIVATE SECTOR RETIREMENT SCHEMES ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH A NEWLY-APPOINTED REGISTRAR WITH THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID: "UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A REGISTRATION SYSTEM WILL BE SET UP FOR VOLUNTARILY ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

"IT WILL ENSURE THAT SUCH SCHEMES ARE PROPERLY REGULATED AND PROVIDE MUCH GREATER CERTAINTY THAT FINANCIAL BENEFITS WILL BE PAID WHEN THEY FALL DUE."

THE ORDINANCE APPLIES TO ALL SCHEMES OPERATED IN OR FROM HONG KONG.

IT STIPULATES MAJOR SAFEGUARDS TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF SUCH SCHEMES, INCLUDING THE SEPARATION OF SCHEME ASSETS FROM OTHER EMPLOYER ASSETS, ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE SCHEMES, REGULAR INDEPENDENT AUDITS AND ACTUARIAL REVIEWS, DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO SCHEME MEMBERS, INDEPENDENT TRUSTEESHIP AND RESTRICTIONS ON INVESTMENTS.

EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES THAT FALL WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE ORDINANCE ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER THE SCHEME WITHIN A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AFTER THE ORDINANCE COMMENCES.

NEW SCHEMES WHICH ARE SET UP DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD MUST ALSO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION BEFORE THIS TWO-YEAR PERIOD EXPIRES ON OCTOBER 14, 1995.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO INTENDS TO SET UP A NEW SCHEME AFTER THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD MUST APPLY FOR REGISTRATION OF THE SCHEME WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH EMPLOYEES TO PROVIDE A RETIREMENT SCHEME.

IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO OPERATE AN OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEME WITHOUT THE NECESSARY REGISTRATION OR EXEMPTION.

OFFENDERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO HEAVY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

MR CARTLAND SAID THAT ENHANCING RETIREMENT PROTECTION BY REGULATING AND PROMOTING VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SCHEMES HAD BEEN THE ESTABLISHED POLICY INTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 35 PER CENT OF ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ALREADY COVERED BY SOME FORM OF PENSION OR PROVIDENT FUND ARRANGEMENT.

WHILE THE MAJORITY OF LARGE CORPORATIONS IN HONG KONG HAVE SET UP SOME FORM OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES, ONLY ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF SMALLER TO MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES, EMPLOYING FEWER THAN 50 PEOPLE, HAVE ESTABLISHED SCHEMES SO FAR.

"WE WANT TO EMPHASISE TO ALL EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG THAT THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO BENEFIT EVERYBODY.

"BY CREATING A MORE SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE ORDINANCE SHOULD HELP TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE SCHEMES IN HONG KONG," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"ESTABLISHING RETIREMENT SCHEME IS BENEFICIAL TO EMPLOYERS AS TAX RELIEF IS AVAILABLE UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

"IT IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LONG SERVICE/SEVERANCE PAYMENTS AND ABOVE ALL, EMPLOYERS WHO OFFER RETIREMENT SCHEMES WILL BE ABLE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALITY EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT PARTICIPANTS IN RETIREMENT SCHEMES - THE EMPLOYEES - HAVE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ORDINANCE.

"THE ORDINANCE SHOULD ALSO HELP TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RETIREMENT PLANNING AND TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS WHO DO NOT AT PRESENT PROVIDE RETIREMENT SCHEMES TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THEM FOR THEIR WORKFORCE," HE SAID.

"THE PROCESS IS UNCOMPLICATED AND SMALLER COMPANIES CAN PARTICIPATE IN POOLED SCHEMES WHICH ALLOW FOR RETIREMENT FUND PROVISION WITH THE MINIMUM OF ADMINISTRATION," HE ADDED.

"HONG KONG IS KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY FOR ITS STRONG ECONOMY, THRIVING BUSINESS CLIMATE, SOUND LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINIMAL GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION IN BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

"WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE BEST OF THESE ELEMENTS SHAPE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OVERALL RETIREMENT PROTECTION POLICY.

"THE ORDINANCE MEANS THAT A FINANCIALLY SECURE AND HAPPY OLD AGE IS WITHIN REACH OF EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTES TO AN OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEME," HE ADDED.

COMMISSIONER FOR INSURANCE AND REGISTRAR OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES, MR STEPHEN IP, SAID:

"THE ORDINANCE WILL COME INTO OPERATION WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AND MY COLLEAGUES AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS, ADMINISTRATORS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN MAKING THE ORDINANCE A SUCCESS.

"ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE NEW OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ON TEL 867 4642.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HONG KONG, OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES, WHICH HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNREGULATED, WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER STATUTORY CONTROL.

"ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO A SCHEME WILL REMAIN AT THE DISCRETION OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES ALL SCHEMES TO BE SEPARATELY AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED, INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED AND TRANSPARENT.

"FULL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REGARDING A SCHEME AND ITS ASSETS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHEME MEMBERS," HE ADDED.

"WE HAVE TRIED TO SIMPLIFY THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED.

"WE ASK FOR SUPPORT, AND PATIENCE IN THE EARLY STAGES, FROM THE GROUPS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ORDINANCE.

"THIS IS AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE AND ONE WHICH WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY," MR IP CONCLUDED.

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TOP POSTS IN AGC OPEN TO LOCAL CANDIDATES  
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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WILL ADVERTISE THE POSTS OF SOLICITOR GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN LEADING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

ONLY APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL CANDIDATES WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THE APPLICANTS' ABILITY TO SPEAK, READ AND WRITE CHINESE WILL BE AN ASSET.

"WE ARE LOOKING FOR SENIOR AND WELL-RESPECTED LAWYERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF HIGH CALIBRE TO FILL THESE TWO VERY IMPORTANT LEGAL POSTS.

"THIS IS A MAJOR STEP THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IS TAKING WITH THE AIM OF FILLING ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS, INCLUDING THAT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, WITH LOCAL OFFICERS WHO CAN MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BASIC LAW BEFORE 1997," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS RECENT POLICY ADDRESS, HAD CALLED FOR A POOL OF QUALIFIED LOCAL PEOPLE AT THE TIER IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LEVEL TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE.

THE GOVERNOR GAVE AN ASSURANCE TO LEGISLATORS THAT THREE OF THE FIVE LAW OFFICER POSTS WOULD BE FILLED BY LOCAL PEOPLE BY THE END OF 1995.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ARE TWO OF THE FIVE LAW OFFICERS IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT. THEY ARE THE HEAD OF THE LEGAL POLICY DIVISION AND THE HEAD OF THE PROSECUTIONS DIVISION RESPECTIVELY.

THE OTHER THREE LAW OFFICERS ARE LAW DRAFTSMAN, LAW OFFICER (INTERNATIONAL LAW) AND CROWN SOLICITOR.

THE TWO POSTS ADVERTISED ARE RANKED AT DL6 LEVEL OF THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE WITH A REMUNERATION OF \$117,400 PER MONTH. THE PACKAGE INCLUDES HOUSING BENEFITS, ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PASSAGES, AND OTHER BENEFITS COMMENSURATE WITH A POSITION OF SUCH SENIORITY.

/SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES .....

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE APPOINTED ON PROBATION TO THE PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT, OR ON AGREEMENT FOR THREE YEARS, WHICH IS RENEWABLE AT GOVERNMENT DISCRETION, WITH A GRATUITY OF 25 PERCENT OF THE GROSS BASIC SALARY PAID ON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE AGREEMENT.

APPLICATIONS HAVE TO REACH THE SECRETARY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 6.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL POST WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ASSUME DUTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHILE THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT FOR THE POST OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP OFFICE IN SUMMER NEXT YEAR.

THESE TWO POSTS ARE ALSO OPEN TO IN-SERVICE GOVERNMENT LAWYERS.

CIRCULARS TO INVITE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ALL PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND SENIOR OFFICERS AT RANKS EQUIVALENT TO DL3 AND ABOVE IN LEGAL/JUDICIAL GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

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SEWERAGE CONTRACT ON WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AWARDED  
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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS APPROVED A FURTHER CONTRACT UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN THE WEST KOWLOON HINTERLAND.

THE CONTRACT OF SEWERAGE NETWORK PACKAGE 1, PART OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO SUNG FOO KEE (CIVIL) LIMITED AT A VALUE OF \$219 MILLION.

THE WORKS WILL MAINLY INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TOTAL OF 1.4 KILOMETRES LONG TRUCK SEWERS IN THE NEWLY RECLAIMED LAND OFF YAU MA TEI AND TWO SEWERAGE PUMPING STATIONS IN MONG KOK AND CHEUNG SHA WAN.

"WHEN COMPLETED, THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM WILL SERVE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT ON WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AS WELL AS RELIEVING THE EXISTING OVERLOADED SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN THE HINTERLAND OF WEST KOWLOON," SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE WATER QUALITY IN THE HARBOUR OFF WEST KOWLOON, AS POLLUTED STORM WATER IN THE EXISTING DRAINAGE SYSTEM WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NEW SEWERAGE SYSTEM," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1995.

/THE AWARD .....

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO 29, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$30 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE FOUR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, VALUED AT \$9.7 BILLION, AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, AND THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE ACP, ALL WITHIN BUDGET, IS AROUND \$45.4 BILLION.

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MORE HELP TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A REVISED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME WHICH WILL PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN MEETING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENT OF A LICENSING SYSTEM.

THE LICENSING SYSTEM WAS FORMULATED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LIVESTOCK FARMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE REVISED SCHEME AIMS TO STEP UP CONTROL OVER LIVESTOCK FARMS AND TO REDUCE POLLUTION CAUSED BY LIVESTOCK WASTE TO RIVERS AND STREAMS THAT POSES HEALTH HAZARDS.

UNDER THE REVISED SCHEME, THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL GRANT FOR SETTING UP WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED TO REFLECT THE MARKET COST OF INSTALLING THESE FACILITIES.

SUBJECT TO FUNDING APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE CAPITAL GRANT WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$120 TO \$225 A SQUARE METER FOR INSTALLING FACILITIES FOR TREATING PIG, CHICKEN, DUCK AND GOOSE WASTE.

FARMERS, WHO HAVE OBTAINED A CAPITAL GRANT, CAN RETAIN WITHIN ONE YEAR THE OPTION TO AN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO CEASE THEIR BUSINESS. THE CASH PAYMENT WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AND THE CAPITAL GRANT.

TO ENABLE FARMERS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING THEIR NEW TREATMENT FACILITIES EFFECTIVELY, THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO MEET THE ULTIMATE WASTE DISCHARGE STANDARD IN THREE PHASES.

THESE WILL BE OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD FROM THE DATE A LICENCE IS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WHO MUST BE SATISFIED THAT A PROPER WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM IS IN PLACE AND OTHER LICENSING CONDITIONS ARE MET.

IN TECHNICAL TERMS, FARMERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET INITIALLY THE BOD (BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND): SSD (SUSPENDED SOLIDS DISCHARGE) STANDARD OF 250:250. THE STANDARD WILL BE RAISED TO 100:100 AND ULTIMATELY TO 50:50 IN TWO SUBSEQUENT PHASES.

TO AVOID INCOMPATIBLE LAND USE, THE REVISED SCHEME WILL EXPAND THE EXISTING PROHIBITION AREAS WHERE SETTING UP OF NEW LIVESTOCK FARMS AND RE-START OF FARMS ALREADY CLOSED WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

EXISTING LIVESTOCK FARMS LOCATED WITHIN THE EXPANDED PARTS OF THE PRESENT PROHIBITION AREAS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR OPERATION UNDER A SEPARATE LICENSING TIMETABLE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED SCHEME, AMENDMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) ORDINANCE. THE AMENDING LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 27 FOR FIRST READING.

A PAMPHLETE EXPLAINING DETAILS OF THE CONTROL SCHEME AND LICENSING PROCEDURES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS.

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STIFFER PENALTY AGAINST FLY-TIPPING

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THAT THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE STIFFER PENALTY AGAINST IMPROPER DEPOSITING OF LARGE QUANTITY OF WASTE, KNOWN AS FLY-TIPPING.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE PENALTY SHOULD BE RAISED TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$200,000 AND SIX MONTH IMPRISONMENT FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE; AND \$500,000 AND SIX MONTH IMPRISONMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES.

IN ADDITION, A DAILY FINE OF UP TO \$10,000 MAY BE IMPOSED FOR CONTINUING OFFENCE.

THE STIFFER PENALTY PROPOSED IS IN LINE WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES OF A SIMILAR NATURE. IT WILL PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST FLY-TIPPING. SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY INCREASE AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHARGING SCHEME FOR THE DISPOSAL OF PRIVATELY COLLECTED WASTE AT LANDFILLS.

THE AMENDMENT BILL EMBODYING THE NEW PROVISIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS MONTH.

LITTERING OF SMALL QUANTITY OF REFUSE WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE NEW FLY-TIPPING PROVISIONS.

SUCH OFFENCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE PUBLIC CLEANSING AND PREVENTION OF NUISANCE BY-LAWS WHICH CARRY A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 AND SIX MONTH IMPRISONMENT.

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REPATRIATION OF ECVII'S BY AIR

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A TOTAL OF 113 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVII'S) WERE REPATRIATED TO HAINAN TODAY (THURSDAY) ON TWO FLIGHTS ON THE SECOND DAY OF A THREE-DAY REPATRIATION EXERCISE BY AIR.

THE TWO GROUPS COMPRISED 58 MEN, 34 WOMEN, 12 BOYS AND NINE GIRLS.

THERE WILL BE TWO MORE FLIGHTS TOMORROW TO REPARIATE ABOUT 110 ECVII'S TO HAINAN.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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SAFETY RULES FOR ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS UNDERWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS FOR SALE OR USE IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE SEVENTH FEDERATION OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATIONS REGIONAL CONFERENCE, MR SIU SAID THE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS WOULD ALSO PRESCRIBE SPECIFIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SOME TYPES OF PRODUCT.

"WE HAVE STARTED WORK ON THIS AND ARE STUDYING CAREFULLY THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW REGULATIONS," HE SAID.

MR SIU SAID THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

BUT HE ADDED THAT LAWS AND RULES PROVIDED ONLY A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND IT WAS FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TO BUILD ON THIS WITH AN ATTITUDE TO BUSINESS WHICH EMPHASISED QUALITY AND PUT THE SAFETY OF THE CONSUMER FIRST.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, AS MUCH AS ANYBODY, MUST BE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS ABOUT ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCT SAFETY.

"CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN YOURSELVES, BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS IS ESSENTIAL IF THE COMMUNITY'S BROADER OBJECTIVES ARE TO BE REALISED," HE SAID.

MR SIU NOTED THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE LARGEST PROPERTY DEVELOPER IN HONG KONG, NOW REQUIRED ITS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE CERTIFIED TO ISO 9000 STANDARDS.

"WE EXPECT MOST OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS TO BE CERTIFIED TO THESE STANDARDS BY THE END OF 1994.

"THIS WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENSURING THE PROVISION OF QUALITY SERVICES TO THE CONSUMER," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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ROAD RESURFACING WORKS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC NOISE

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO LAY NOISE REDUCING SURFACING MATERIAL TO FOUR SECTIONS OF ROADS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES LATER THIS YEAR TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF TRAFFIC NOISE ON NEARBY RESIDENTS.

THESE ROAD SECTIONS ARE AT TUEN MUN ROAD NEAR ON TING ESTATE; PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER; PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST NEAR CHOI HUNG ESTATE; AND KWUN TONG ROAD NEAR PING SHEK ESTATE AND KAI YIP ESTATE.

RESURFACING WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID A TRIAL WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1987 ON A SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR NEAR CITY GARDEN.

THE RESULT PROVED THAT THE APPLICATION OF NOISE REDUCING SURFACING MATERIAL WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING TRAFFIC NOISE ON LEVEL ROADS WITH FREE FLOWING TRAFFIC. A REDUCTION OF ABOUT FIVE DECIBELS WAS ACHIEVED.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT CREATED A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IN 1989 TO APPLY NOISE REDUCING SURFACING MATERIAL TO 14 ROAD SECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AFFECTING ABOUT 10,600 HOUSEHOLDS," HE SAID.

UNTIL NOW, 10 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT A COST OF ABOUT \$22 MILLION. THESE INCLUDED SECTIONS ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD (WONG TAI SIN), TAI PO ROAD NEAR WO CHE ESTATE AND EAST KOWLOON WAY," HE ADDED.

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AIDS FIGURES FOR THIRD QUARTER RELEASED

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A CULMINATIVE TOTAL OF 403 PERSONS WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST IN HONG KONG BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (THURSDAY).

AMONG THE 22 PERSONS FOUND TO BE HIV-INFECTED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER THIS YEAR, 19 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, WITH 13 OF THEM BEING HETEROSEXUALS.

FIVE AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THIS QUARTER.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 91 WITH 60 DEATHS. THE 31 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 403 PERSONS INFECTED, 294 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, NINE WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS, AND 65 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

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FOR THE REMAINING 35, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 285,767 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAVE ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR HIV INFECTION.

UP TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, 1,311,012 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 29 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES  
AND PAYROLL STATISTICS FOR JUNE RELEASED

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THERE WAS CONTINUED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, COMPARING JUNE 1993 WITH JUNE 1992, ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BUT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DECLINED FURTHER.

THE FALL IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUING STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA.

VACANCIES IN SOME MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES IN JUNE 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES FELL FURTHER.

EARNINGS OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO SHOW FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS IN JUNE 1993. AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS STILL AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS OF EARNINGS OF PERSONS ENGAGED FOR MOST SECTORS.

THERE WERE 522,000 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN JUNE 1993, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 11.1% FROM JUNE 1992.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 932,700 IN JUNE 1993, WAS 3.2% HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1992.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 327,200, WAS UP BY 7.2%.

EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT 56,900, WAS 11.1% LOWER THAN IN JUNE 1992.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR JUNE 1993 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1992 AND MARCH 1993, ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	JUN. 92	MAR. 93	JUN. 93	JUN. 93 OVER JUN. 92	JUN. 93 OVER MAR. 93
MANUFACTURING	587,300	531,900	522,000	-11.1	-1.9
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	64,000	60,000	56,900	-11.1	-5.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	903,600	911,300	932,700	+3.2	+2.3
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	305,400	313,900	327,200	+7.2	+4.3

THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN JUNE 1993 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY ON THE RETAIL TRADE EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS.

THE TWO SURVEYS MENTIONED ABOVE ALSO PROVIDE THE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY DATA TOGETHER WITH COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1992 AND MARCH 1993 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	JUN. 92	MAR. 93	JUN. 93	JUN. 93 OVER JUN. 92	JUN. 93 OVER MAR. 93
MANUFACTURING	19,800	18,490	14,760	-25.5	-20.2
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	500	420	490	-0.4	+18.5
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT\EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	28,130	35,720	27,240	-3.2	-23.7
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	8,770	11,010	10,540	+20.1	-4.3

VACANCIES IN SOME MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN JUNE 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES INCREASED BY 20.1%.

HOWEVER, VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL BY 3.2% AND 25.5% RESPECTIVELY.

VACANCIES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES RECORDED A MARGINAL DECLINE OF 0.4% IN JUNE 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THE JUNE 1993 NOMINAL INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS AND THE CORRESPONDING REAL INDICES (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES) ARE GIVEN BELOW:

/NOMINAL INDEX .....

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	JUN. 92	JUN. 93	JUN. 93 OVER JUN. 92
MANUFACTURING	117.2	135.5	+15.6
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	113.3	127.5	+12.5
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	115.4	131.8	+14.2

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	JUN. 92	JUN. 93	JUN. 93 OVER JUN. 92
MANUFACTURING	104.7	111.5	+6.5
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	101.3	104.9	+3.6
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	103.1	108.5	+5.2

BETWEEN JUNE 1992 AND JUNE 1993, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS, AS MEASURED BY PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS.

AN INCREASE OF 15.6% WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 12.5% FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 14.2%

AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN JUNE 1992 AND JUNE 1993, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN JUNE 1993, AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN JUNE 1992, INCREASED BY 6.5% FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, 3.6% FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND 5.2% FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, JUNE 1993 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, JUNE 1993.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$17 A COPY AND \$10.5 A COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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#### COUNCIL CHAIRMEN VISITS COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

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THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (PGC) AND ITS WORKING GROUPS HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR FIRST ROUND OF VISITS TO THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE).

"THE PURPOSE OF THE VISITS WAS TO ESTABLISH A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH COLLEGE STAFF AND TO ENABLE THEM TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE COUNCIL'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE," SAID MR SIMON IP, THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN.

"THE VISITS ALSO PROVIDED A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE COLLEGE/ILE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MISSION FOR THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) AND THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE," HE ADDED.

APART FROM MR IP, OTHER MEMBERS TAKING PART IN THE VISITS INCLUDED PROFESSOR LEE NGOK, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION, ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUPS; MR PETER LEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE WORKING GROUP; DR THOMAS LEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE STAFF MATTERS WORKING GROUP; AND MR LUCAS CHAN, A SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE PARTY FIRST VISITED THE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11).

TODAY, THEY CALLED ON THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

DURING THE VISITS, THEY MET THE PRINCIPALS, VICE-PRINCIPALS AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESPECTIVE COLLEGES.

/IN RESPONSE .....

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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IN RESPONSE TO STAFF'S CONCERN ABOUT THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN THE COLLEGES AND THE ILE, MR IP SAID THE PGC HAD PROPOSED THAT ALL SERVING ACADEMIC STAFF WOULD BE SECONDED TO THE HKIED UPON ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

"TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO EXISTING SERVICES, SERVING NON-ACADEMIC STAFF WOULD ALSO BE SECONDED TO THE HKIED. THOSE WHO DO NOT JOIN THE HKIED WOULD REVERT TO THE CIVIL SERVICE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE," HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION TO COLLEGE VISITS, OPEN FORUMS WILL BE ORGANISED IN FUTURE TO ENABLE PGC MEMBERS AND ALL COLLEGE STAFF TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.

ON THE PERSONNEL SIDE, THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE SELECTION BOARD HAD JUST COMPLETED THE SELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF HKIED AND WAS AWAITING THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL ON ITS RECOMMENDATION.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE SHORTLY.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR TO PREPARE FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKIED WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 5.

THE OVERALL MISSION OF THE HKIED IS TO BECOME THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG.

THE INSTITUTE WILL INITIALLY FOCUS ON THE UPGRADING OF COURSES AT THE PRE-DEGREE LEVEL, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS ACADEMIC QUALITY SO THAT IT CAN PROVIDE DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN SOME AREAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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TOC COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TARGET ORIENTED CURRICULUM WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW SO, WILL MEET THE PRESS.

AMONG THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE PRESS SESSION ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION IN ROOM 1645, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, AT 4.30 PM TOMORROW.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENT OF THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,719
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,281
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,000
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.3 *+0.2* 14.10.93

/HONG KONG .....

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.45 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.59	3.15
1 MONTH	2.47 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.84	3.36
3 MONTHS	2.64 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.27	3.60
6 MONTHS	2.76 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.67	3.71
12 MONTHS	3.08 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,142 MN

CLOSED OCTOBER 14, 1993

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