



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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LEGCO EXISTS TO SERVE: GOVERNOR

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ALL ITS MEMBERS EXIST TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THAT DETERMINATION SHOULD REMAIN AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS, THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A STATEMENT TO FORMALLY TAKE LEAVE OF THE COUNCIL, LORD WILSON SAID IT WAS TRUE OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS, THE APPOINTED MEMBERS, THE ADMINISTRATION, WHETHER MEMBERS ATTENDING OR BEING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNOR AS THE PRESIDENT.

NOTING THAT IT WAS RIGHT THAT THERE SHOULD BE ARGUMENT AND DISCUSSION, AND QUESTIONING AND EXPLANATION, HE SAID THEY SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE FOR THEIR OWN SALES.

"THEY ARE A MEANS OF GETTING TO THE OBJECTIVE - THE OBJECTIVE OF DOING WHAT IS RIGHT AND BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"AS THIS COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD TO REORGANISE THE WAY IT CONDUCTS ITS OWN BUSINESS, YOU WILL ALWAYS WISH TO HAVE THIS OBJECTIVE CLEARLY IN MIND.

"WE MUST NOT LET DISCUSSIONS BECOME THE ENEMY OF DECISIONS."

NOTING THAT THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAD BEEN EVENTFUL ONES, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG HAD HAD CRISES TO FACE AND PROBLEMS TO SOLVE BUT IT HAD COME THROUGH THE CRISES WELL.

"AND WE HAVE ACHIEVEMENTS AS WELL AS PROBLEMS TO RECORD," HE SAID.

"ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAVE SEEN THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BETTER PROVIDED FOR WITH HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL BENEFITS; WITH BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AN EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION; AND LIVING IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS BEGINNING, ALTHOUGH ONLY BEGINNING, TO BE MORE CARE FOR.

"WE HAVE A COMMUNITY WHICH IS MORE CONFIDENT IN ITSELF AND IN ITS FUTURE.

"AND WE HAVE AN ECONOMY, MUCH HELPED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CHINA, WHICH IS THE ENVY OF MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD AND THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS."

LORD WILSON PAID A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF MR JOHN SWAINE, WHO HAD FULFILLED THE ROLE OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT SINCE OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

MR SWAINE HAD PRESIDED OVER THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL WITH FAIRNESS, DIGNITY AND PATIENCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/"HIS ROLE

"HIS ROLE AS A STEPPING STONE IN THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN," HE SAID.

THANKING ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE WORK THEY HAD DONE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR URGED THEM TO KEEP CONSTANTLY IN MIND THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"YOURS IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE, NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH NOT HERE TO SEE IT, I SHALL READ AND LEARN WITH INTENSE AND SUPPORTIVE, INTEREST ABOUT WHAT YOU DO."

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SCA ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXCO AND LEGCO

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, WHEN WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON A REVIEW ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING:

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE, BUT WHAT DO WE REALLY MEAN BY THIS? HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNIQUE. WE DO NOT HAVE AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT, AND THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT PARTY AS YOU WILL FIND IN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE UK. THE ADMINISTRATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING POLICIES; THE GOVERNOR, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DECIDES ON THE POLICIES WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION WILL THEN IMPLEMENT. THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, MEAN THAT THE EXECUTIVE CAN GO ABOUT ITS BUSINESS ACCORDING TO ITS OWN WHIMS. FAR AND IMPORTANT POWERS ENABLING IT TO HOLD THE EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTIONS AND DECISIONS.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS FIVE MAIN FUNCTIONS. FIRST, IT CAN PASS, AMEND, OR REFUSE TO PASS, PROPOSED LEGISLATION INITIATED BY THE EXECUTIVE. SECONDLY, IT HAS THE POWER TO VOTE OR DENY FUNDS. THIRDLY, IT CAN DEBATE PUBLIC POLICIES AND OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN, AS WE ARE NOW DOING. FOURTHLY, MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL CAN QUESTION THE ADMINISTRATION ON ANY PUBLIC ISSUES, CAN CALL FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES AND THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS. AND FINALLY, IT CAN CALL THE ADMINISTRATION TO ACCOUNT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS. THESE ROLES ARE EXTENSIVE AND HAVE BEEN, OVER THE YEARS, PUT TO GOOD EFFECT BY THIS COUNCIL TO PROTECT AND TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC. INDEED, THE BASIC LAW (CHAPTER IV, SECTION 3) ALSO PROVIDES FOR SIMILAR FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 1997.

/WHILST OUR

WHILST OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS EXECUTIVE-LED, THE EXECUTIVE RELIES ON THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND THE PROVISION OF FUNDS REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO ITS POLICIES. SUCH SUPPORT CANNOT BE ASSUMED, AND IS NOT ASSUMED AS A MATTER OF COURSE. THE LEGISLATURE CAN, AND DOES, USE ITS POWERS TO KEEP THE EXECUTIVE UNDER SCRUTINY AND KEEP IT IN CHECK BY QUESTIONS AND DEBATES. IT IS IN THIS SENSE, THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES, THAT THE EXECUTIVE IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

CLEARLY, AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE RELATES TO THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. UNDER OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS, THE HIGHEST POLICY-MAKING BODY IN HONG KONG. ITS LINKS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE PROVIDED BY A NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ALSO SERVING ON THE LEGISLATURE. THIS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD ENABLE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO HAVE A BETTER AND MORE TIMELY UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOOD OF THE LEGISLATURE ON ANY ISSUE OF THE DAY, AND FACILITATE EXPLANATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, THERE WILL BE FURTHER CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION OF THIS COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BECOME FULLY ELECTED IN 1995. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO EVOLVE. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE BEFORE COMING TO ANY CONCLUSIONS AS TO HOW THAT RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE FURTHER REFINED IN THE FUTURE ON AN EVOLUTIONARY BASIS. THERE IS THEREFORE NO CASE FOR A REVIEW ON A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME.

ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION, CLEARLY WE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE LEGISLATURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, POLICY SECRETARIES ARE SPENDING EVEN MORE TIME THAN BEFORE TO EXPLAIN AND BRIEF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL ON WHAT THEIR POLICIES ARE, WHY THESE POLICIES ARE NEEDED, HOW FEASIBLE THESE POLICIES ARE, AND HOW MUCH THOSE POLICIES WILL COST TO THE TAXPAYER. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT GIVEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF THE MANY ISSUES WHICH FACE US TODAY.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR MEANS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE OF HONG KONG. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WELCOME THE MANY VALUABLE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS IN THIS DEBATE TODAY. HOWEVER, FOR THE REASONS I HAVE EXPLAINED, THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THAT THIS IS A CONTINUED PROCESS OF EXAMINATION RATHER THAN A QUESTION OF INITIATING AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW. THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL THEREFORE ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON MR SZETO'S MOTION.

STANCE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN MAKING SURE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR REDEVELOPMENT IS NOT INHIBITED BY BUREAUCRATIC CONTROLS AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED WILL BE SAFEGUARDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID THIS WHEN WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED A SOUND BASIS ON WHICH TO MAINTAIN THIS BALANCE AND TO CONSIDER REFINEMENTS AS AND WHEN THEY BECAME NECESSARY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WAS LARGELY A MATTER FOR THE PARTIES INVOLVED, THAT IS THE OWNERS OF BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTERVENE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE PARTIES."

HOWEVER, MR EASON SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT SUCH PROJECTS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO CONTROL.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT WAS SUBJECT TO LEASE RESTRICTIONS, PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL, AND MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEASE CONDITIONS.

PLANNING PERMISSION MIGHT ALSO NEED TO BE SOUGHT IF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTORY TOWN PLAN AND BEFORE BUILDING WORKS MIGHT START, THE APPROVAL OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY MUST BE OBTAINED.

ON CONCERNS ABOUT COMPENSATION FOR THE AFFECTED TENANTS, MR EASON SAID THIS WAS BEING POSITIVELY ADDRESSED.

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATUTORY BASIS FOR COMPENSATION TO A MULTIPLE OF 1.3 OF CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE.

MR EASON SAID A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PROCESS INVOLVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND WAS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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SCA ON LEGAL AID SERVICES

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, WHEN WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON LEGAL AID SERVICES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING:

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO THANK MR ZACHARY WONG AND OTHER MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN IN THIS DEBATE FOR THE MANY INTERESTING IDEAS THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD REGARDING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG. THEIR VIEWS WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN REVIEWING THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE LEGAL AID SERVICES.

I HAVE LISTENED WITH CARE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MR WONG AND OTHER MEMBERS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE LEGAL AID SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. WHILE I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERN, GIVEN THE HIGH COSTS OF PRIVATE LITIGATION, AND THEIR WISH TO SEE MORE FAMILIES BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED LEGAL AID, I MUST STRESS THAT IMPORTANT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST YEAR IN EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

LAST OCTOBER, FOLLOWING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME ADMINISTERED JOINTLY BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE LAW SOCIETY WAS EXPANDED TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO NEEDY PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES IN MAGISTRATES COURTS. THE EXPANSION OF THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME HAS PROVED TO BE AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF MEETING OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO THOSE IN NEED IN MAGISTRATES COURTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS GRATEFUL TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE STAFF OF THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME FOR THE MAGNIFICENT WAY IN WHICH THEY HAVE COPEDED WITH THIS COMMITMENT.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IS THE IMPLEMENTATION, WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY, OF A NEW APPROACH TOWARDS TESTING THE MEANS OF APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL AID. UNDER THIS NEW APPROACH, THE UPPER LIMIT RELATING TO THE MEANS OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR LEGAL AID HAS BEEN INCREASED TO TOTAL DISPOSABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF \$120,000. THIS REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUS REQUIREMENT THAT TO QUALIFY FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID, AN APPLICANT'S DISPOSABLE MONTHLY INCOME MUST NOT EXCEED \$2,200 AND HIS DISPOSABLE CAPITAL MUST NOT EXCEED \$15,000.

/THIS NEW

THIS NEW APPROACH TOWARDS MEANS-TESTING, WHAT WE CALL, FOR SHORT, THE 'FINANCIAL CAPACITY' APPROACH, IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, AND IT IS WORTH SPENDING A FEW MINUTES TO EXPLAIN ITS ADVANTAGES, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. FIRST, THE NEW APPROACH REMOVES THE IMPERFECTIONS OF THE OLD SYSTEM WHEREBY A PERSON WHOSE FINANCIAL RESOURCES COMPRISE MAINLY OF INCOME OR CAPITAL MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY THE SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING DISPOSABLE INCOME AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL. SECONDLY, IN CALCULATING DISPOSABLE INCOME, THE PAYMENTS MADE BY AN APPLICANT FOR SALARIES TAX AND AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO A PENSION OR RETIREMENT SCHEME MAY BE DISCOUNTED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN CALCULATING AN APPLICANT'S DISPOSABLE CAPITAL, THE ENTIRE VALUE OF ANY INTEREST HE MAY HAVE IN THE ONLY OR MAIN DWELLING IN WHICH HE RESIDES SHALL BE DISREGARDED. PREVIOUSLY, ONLY THE FIRST \$300,000 OF THE VALUE OF AN APPLICANT'S INTEREST IN THE DWELLING IN WHICH HE RESIDES MAY BE DISCOUNTED. THE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TOWARDS THE ASSESSMENT OF AN APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE METHODOLOGY OF CALCULATING DISPOSABLE INCOME AND CAPITAL, MEANS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THOSE SUFFICIENTLY WELL OFF TO OWN A REASONABLE HOME, WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED LEGAL AID. FURTHERMORE, UNDER THE LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES (AMENDMENT) RULES 1992 WHICH HAVE COME INTO FORCE TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID IS GIVEN THE DISCRETION TO GRANT LEGAL AID TO A PERSON CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES EVEN IF HIS DISPOSABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES EXCEED THE LIMIT OF \$120,000, IF THE DIRECTOR IS SATISFIED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO DO SO IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, FOLLOWING THE RAISING OF THE FINANCIAL LIMIT TO \$120,000 AND THE GRANTING OF THIS DISCRETION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT OF LEGAL AID.

AS THE LEGAL AID NET IS NOW MUCH WIDER THAN BEFORE, I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO FURTHER RELAX THE LIMIT ON THE APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES [BY RAISING IT TO \$180,000] IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AS SUGGESTED BY MR ZACHARY WONG. BUT WE WILL CERTAINLY KEEP THE EXISTING FINANCIAL LIMIT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF FUNDING, IT MAY BE USEFUL IF I PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED TO THE AREA OF LEGAL AID SERVICES. THE PROVISION FOR THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, BY SOME 90%, FROM \$116M IN 1987 TO \$236M IN 1992. THIS INCLUDES AN INCREASE OF 31% IN 1990-91 OVER THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND A FURTHER INCREASE OF 16% IN 1991-92 OVER THAT FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR. THE SUBVENTION TO THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME HAS ALSO BEEN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE SAME PERIOD, BY 129 %, FROM \$21M IN 1987 TO \$48M IN 1992, ALTHOUGH A LARGE PART OF THE INCREASE WAS DUE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME IN MAGISTRATES COURTS. INDEED, IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FULL COSTS (I.E. INCLUDING ACCOMMODATION AND STAFF ON-COSTS), FOR THE CURRENT YEAR THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SPENDING UP TO \$360M ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID AND RELATED SERVICES. GIVEN THE DRAMATIC INCREASES IN FUNDING WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT YEARS, I DO NOT THINK THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE FAULTED FOR BEING UNDULY FRUGAL IN ITS PROVISION FOR LEGAL AID SERVICES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE LEGAL AID SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, BUT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF RESOURCES RATHER THAN SIMPLY THROWING MORE MONEY AT THE SYSTEM. FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM THIS DEBATE, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THIS IS THE APPROACH FAVOURED BY MEMBERS AS WELL.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, WE LIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE ARE DELIVERING THE SERVICES WHICH MEET THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE THE RIGHT POLICY, PROCEDURE, LEGISLATION AND ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID AND RELATED SERVICES, AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP EARLIER THIS YEAR TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID, ADVICE AND RELATED SERVICES IN HONG KONG, AND THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THIS WORKING GROUP WILL LOOK IN PARTICULAR AT THE AREAS OF UNMET NEEDS, THE NEED FOR FURTHER RELAXATION OF THE EXISTING FINANCIAL LIMIT, AND THE APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR SERVICE DELIVERY. THE WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS BEFORE FINALISING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE LEGAL PROFESSION, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP AFTER THEY HAVE FINALISED THEIR DELIBERATIONS. THE WORKING GROUP IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

AS REGARDS THE SUGGESTION FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION THAT AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL AID AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY, SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF ALL PUBLICLY FUNDED LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE SET UP, THIS SUGGESTION IS OF COURSE NOT A NEW ONE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN IT VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN THE PAST. WE HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL AID TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE WITH DECISIONS RELATING TO THE GRANT OF LEGAL AID IS MORE IMAGINED THAN REAL. THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID IS EMPOWERED UNDER THE LEGAL AID ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS BEFORE HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATUTORY CRITERIA. THUS THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID ALREADY OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY. AN ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD HAS BEEN BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM WHEREBY APPEALS FROM DECISIONS MADE BY THE DIRECTOR IN CIVIL CASES CAN BE MADE TO THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT. WE ARE CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A SIMILAR AVENUE OF APPEAL IN RESPECT OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES.

IF THE CONCERN IS WITH THE NEED TO PROVIDE GREATER SECURITY OF TENURE TO STAFF OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT TURNING THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT INTO AN INDEPENDENT BODY WILL BE THE WRONG SOLUTION, AS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT STAFF OF ORGANISATIONS OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE, WHO ARE NORMALLY EMPLOYED ON CONTRACT TERMS, WILL ENJOY GREATER SECURITY OF TENURE THAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ENGAGED ON PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE TERMS. GIVEN THE SECURITY OF TENURE WHICH ALREADY EXISTS, I SEE NO POINT IN ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BODY TO ADMINISTER LEGAL AID, WITH ALL THE SUBSTANTIAL COSTS INVOLVED IN DISESTABLISHING THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

WE SHALL, NONETHELESS, IN THE CURRENT REVIEW, EXAMINE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH JUSTIFY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL AID AUTHORITY FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

/I HAVE

I HAVE LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO MR ZACHARY WONG'S SUGGESTION THAT THE FREE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THOSE PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BE STRENGTHENED, AND TO DR K C LAM'S CRITICISMS OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT IN PROVIDING LEGAL AID TO VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. I WILL CERTAINLY ASK THE WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL AID POLICY REVIEW TO LOOK INTO THE NEED FOR FREE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES TO BE STRENGTHENED, AND TO REVIEW THE EXISTING POLICY AND PRACTICE ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND OVERSTAYERS FROM CHINA.

FINALLY, IT REMAINS FOR ME TO REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL AID SERVICES. ALTHOUGH LEGAL AID HAS OFTEN BEEN REGARDED AS A FORM OF WELFARE SERVICE, IT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, FOR IT IS LEGAL AID WHICH TRANSLATES A THEORETICAL RIGHT TO JUSTICE INTO A PRACTICAL REALITY. LEGAL AID THUS LIES AT THE HEART OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. BUT WE MUST STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN PROVIDING PUBLICLY FUNDED LEGAL AID AND RELATED SERVICES TO MEET GENUINE CASES OF NEED, AND EXCESSIVE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHICH MAY ENCOURAGE EXORBITANT AND NUGATORY LITIGATION. THE VIEWS WHICH MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED THIS EVENING WILL HELP US TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS WHICH MEMBERS HAVE MADE, AND I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL AID POLICY REVIEW WILL LOOK INTO ALL OF THEM CAREFULLY. WE WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP BEFORE THEY ARE FINALISED.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, I SUPPORT THE MOTION.

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COUNTRY PARKS POLICY EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED TO DEFEND AND PROTECT COUNTRY PARKS FROM EROSION AND INCURSION BY INCOMPATIBLE AND UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD REPLACE HILLS AND TREES WITH HOUSES AND LAMP POSTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, WHEN WINDING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

HE SAID BROADLY SPEAKING, COUNTRY PARK LAND WAS PRESUMED NOT TO BE DEVELOPED FOR.

BUT, IN CASES WHERE BUILDINGS FOR COUNTRY PARK AND OTHER UNAVOIDABLE COMMUNITY FACILITIES ARE NEEDED, ENCROACHMENT WOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM, THIS MEANS THAT ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

"THE GREATEST SCOPE FOR MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONTROVERSY APPEARS TO LIE WITH DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH MAINLY AFFECT AREAS ADJACENT TO A COUNTRY PARK, BUT WHICH MAY OFFER BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC AS COUNTRY PARK USERS, SUCH AS IMPROVED ACCESS OR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE INCLUSION OF LIMITED AREAS OF COUNTRY PARK LAND WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME."

MR EASON POINTED OUT THAT THE QUESTION OF THE COMPATIBILITY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WITH COUNTRY PARK WOULD ALWAYS BE FULLY CONSIDERED IN THE PLANNING CONTEXT.

"UNDER THE PRESENT PLANNING REGIME, AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WILL ALWAYS BE REQUIRED.

"IN CONSIDERING SUCH APPLICATIONS, BOTH THE LAND AUTHORITY AND THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WILL WISH TO ENSURE MINIMUM IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY PARK, MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO COUNTRY PARK USERS AND A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE LAND OWNERS AND THOSE OF THE PUBLIC AS COUNTRY PARK USERS."

HE STRESSED THAT THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY HAD INDICATED THAT MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS INVOLVING ENCROACHMENT INTO COUNTRY PARKS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

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GOVERNOR ATTENDS HIS LAST LEGCO SITTING
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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ATTENDED HIS LAST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING TO BID FAREWELL TO LEGISLATORS.

LATER IN THE DAY, 24 LEGISLATORS DEBATED FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS ON A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON SZETO WAH ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

THE MOTION WAS PASSED AFTER THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN ON LEGAL AID SERVICES WAS ALSO PASSED. A TOTAL OF 10 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE WHICH LASTED MORE THAN ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS.

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, AGAIN SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THERE WERE ALSO TWO ADJOURNMENT DEBATES - ON THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND ON FRINGE BENEFITS FOR STAFF IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR RESPECTIVELY.

EIGHT LEGISLATORS SPOKE ON THE FORMER DEBATE MOVED BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD AND EIGHT SPOKE ON THE LATTER, MOVED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, REPLIED FOR THE FIRST DEBATE WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE SECOND ONE.

EARLIER IN THE SITTING, A MOTION ON PRIVATE BUILDINGS' REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSED BY THE HON JAMES TO WAS PASSED. THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

MEANWHILE, ONE BILL - ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 - WAS PASSED AND THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1991-92) BILL 1992, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, UNDER FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION OF \$8,436.6 MILLION SOUGHT

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THE ADMINISTRATION IS ASKING FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION OF \$8,436.6 MILLION FOR 57 HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF THE SUM APPROPRIATED BY THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1991.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE SUFFICIENT OFFSETTING SAVINGS COULD NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE HEADS CONCERNED.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1991-92) BILL, MR MACLEOD SAID THIS EXCESS WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1991 PAY ADJUSTMENT IN RESPECT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS INCLUDE THE TRANSFER OF THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1991 AND ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON PENSION PAYMENT.

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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EQUAL PROMOTION CHANCES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN VTC AND HA
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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO EXCLUDE APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) FROM THE PURVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THE VTC TOOK OVER OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN AUGUST LAST YEAR; AND THE HA TOOK OVER THE OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT LAST DECEMBER.

CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN BOTH VTC AND HA HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE SAME PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES AS DIRECT EMPLOYEES OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

"ACCORDINGLY, A 'SHADOW PROMOTION SCHEME' HAS BEEN DEvised TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR THE CREATION OF SHADOW POSTS AND RANKS TO ACCOMMODATE CIVIL SERVANTS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL OR THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

"STAFF WHO FEEL AGGRIEVED BY SUCH DECISIONS MAY APPEAL TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE OR NECESSARY TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ON PROMOTION DECISIONS."

HOWEVER, MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE OF STAFF REMAINING CIVIL SERVANTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HAD AGREED TO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, 162 OFFICERS OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT REMAINED AS CIVIL SERVANTS WHILE ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE OFFICERS IN THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD OPTED TO JOIN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1992 INTRODUCED
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A BILL SEEKING TO PROVIDE THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION TO PRESCRIBE A RATE OF COMMISSION FOR SALES OF MARINE FISH IN ITS WHOLESALE MARKETS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THE BILL WOULD STREAMLINE THE PROCEDURE FOR PRESCRIBING THE RATE OF COMMISSION WHILE ENSURING THAT ANY DECISION TO CHANGE THE RATE WAS TAKEN ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE WHO BUY AND SELL FISH THROUGH WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS.

AT PRESENT, ANY VARIATION OF THE RATE OF COMMISSION REQUIRES AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION'S BY-LAWS.

SUCH AMENDMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THIS IS AN UNNECESSARILY CUMBERSOME MEANS OF PRESCRIBING A RATE OF COMMISSION DECIDED UPON BY THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION," MRS CHAN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ADVERTISING VEHICLES SERVE NO TRANSPORT FUNCTION
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ADVERTISING VEHICLES SERVE NO TRANSPORT FUNCTION AND ANY NEED FOR MOBILE ADVERTISING IS BEING MET IN OTHER WAYS, FOR EXAMPLE BY BUSES, TRAMS AND TAXIS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO BAN VEHICLES USED PREDOMINATELY FOR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING.

MR LEUNG SAID SINCE THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THESE VEHICLES WAS TO DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS, THEY WERE DRAWN TO THE MOST CONGESTED AREAS AT THE BUSIEST TIMES TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EFFECT AND THEREFORE ADDING TO CONGESTION.

HE SAID VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE ALTERNATIVES BEFORE DECIDING TO PROPOSE A BAN ON ADVERTISING VEHICLES.

/ONE ALTERNATIVE

ONE ALTERNATIVE WAS TO RESTRICT THE AREAS AND TIMES IN WHICH THE VEHICLES CAN OPERATE.

HOWEVER, THIS REQUIRES STRICT ENFORCEMENT AND PUTS AN ADDED AND UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON THE POLICE.

"ALTHOUGH THE VEHICLES HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS SO FAR, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY A POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARD -- THEIR BRIGHTLY LIT DISPLAYS CAN AND DO DISTRACT OTHER DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE VEHICLES HAD ALREADY BEEN BANNED IN OTHER SIMILARLY CONGESTED BIG CITIES, INCLUDING SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK.

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL STILL BE ABLE TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR THE DISPLAY OF NON COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, INCLUDING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

"EXISTING OPERATORS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO USE THEIR VEHICLES UNTIL THEIR CURRENT PERMITS EXPIRE," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ALSO SAID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS HAD ADVISED THAT A BAN ON ADVERTISING VEHICLES WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

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MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATES POSSIBLE AFTER FINALISATION
OF AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

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THE INCREASE IN THE LATEST ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST OF THE NEW AIRPORT OVER THAT IN JULY LAST YEAR RESULTS FROM THE MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF COSTS WHICH HAS BECOME POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE FINALISATION THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN SAID MAJOR MASTER PLANNING AND ENGINEERING ISSUES HAD BEEN RESOLVED: THE LOCATION OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE HAD BEEN SETTLED AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FILL RESOURCES AND MUD DISPOSAL SITES FOR SITE PREPARATION WORKS HAD BEEN DETERMINED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE COST ESTIMATES OF \$43.6 BILLION GIVEN IN JULY LAST YEAR AND OF \$46.3 BILLION GIVEN IN APRIL THIS YEAR WERE BOTH IN MARCH 1991 PRICES AND WERE BASED ON THE CURRENT APPROVED MASTER PLAN.

/"THIS MASTER

"THIS MASTER PLAN PROVIDES FOR A COST-EFFECTIVE DESIGN MEETING ALL INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND CAPABLE OF COPING WITH AIR TRAFFIC GROWTH TO THE YEAR 2040," SHE SAID.

LIKE THE ORIGINAL AIRPORT ESTIMATES IN 1989, THESE LATEST ESTIMATES INCLUDE ALL COSTS NEEDED TO OPEN THE AIRPORT IN JUNE 1997 WITH, INITIALLY, ONE RUNWAY ONLY, INCLUDING COSTS TO BE MET BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY, GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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RIGHT OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY GUARANTEED

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THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF ASSEMBLIES OR PROCESSIONS DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY GUARANTEED BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, MR ASPREY SAID IT DID NOT PREVENT OR OTHERWISE RESTRICT PARTICIPANTS FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID THE POLICE SOMETIMES FILMED ASSEMBLIES OR PROCESSIONS:

- * FOR POSSIBLE USE AS EVIDENCE IN THE EVENT OF A PROSECUTION;
- * FOR POSSIBLE USE AS EVIDENCE IN THE EVENT OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE; AND
- * TO ENABLE POLICE COMMANDERS TO REVIEW POLICE STRATEGY AND DEPLOYMENT, ENSURING THAT SUCH EVENTS ARE PROPERLY POLICED.

MR ASPREY ALSO ADDED THAT THE POLICE DID NOT KEEP RECORDS OF THE DATES, PLACES OR OCCASIONS ON WHICH THEY HAVE FILMED OR VIDEO-TAPED PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES AND PROCESSIONS.

THE FILM OR TAPE WOULD BE RETAINED ONLY FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY FOR THESE PURPOSES.

HE SAID THE POLICE MIGHT TEMPORARILY CORDON OFF CERTAIN PUBLIC AREAS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER DURING ASSEMBLIES AND PROCESSIONS.

"THEY DO SO IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY, AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE," MR ASPREY SAID.

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL READY SOON

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THE DRAFTING OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL IS NOW AT AN ADVANCED STAGE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUMMER RECESS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MRS CHAN SAID THE AIM WAS TO INTRODUCE THE BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY IN THE 1992-93 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

AS THE BILL IS AN IMPORTANT AND SUBSTANTIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION, IT IS BY NO MEANS UNUSUAL FOR LEGISLATION OF THIS NATURE TO TAKE SOME MONTHS TO DRAFT, SHE SAID.

"WE ARE NOT ENCOUNTERING ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN FRAMING THE BILL," SHE ADDED.

THE DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BILL WERE ISSUED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

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PROPOSAL FOR POLICEWOMEN TO CARRY ARMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS SHOULD BE ARMED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING, MR ASPREY SAID IF IT WAS DECIDED THAT WOMEN OFFICERS SHOULD CARRY FIREARMS, ADDITIONAL FIREARMS TRAINING FOR THEM WOULD BE REQUIRED.

HE ALSO SAID ALL POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMMES WERE REVIEWED REGULARLY TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET ACTUAL NEEDS.

AT ANY ONE TIME, ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF POLICE TRAINING COURSES ARE UNDER REVIEW.

THE SECRETARY SAID AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, WOMEN OFFICERS WERE TAUGHT THE BASIC SKILLS OF HANDLING WEAPONS SAFELY AND OF HOW TO DEAL WITH ARMED PERSONS.

BUT THEY DO LESS FIRING PRACTICES THAN THEIR MALE COLLEAGUES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY RECEIVE MORE TRAINING IN THE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR DEALING WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN, BOTH AS OFFENDERS AND AS VICTIMS.

/MR ASPREY

MR ASPREY SAID ONLY MALE OFFICERS RECEIVE CONTINUED REVOLVER TRAINING LATER IN THEIR CAREERS.

HE SAID THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY TRAINING RECEIVED BY MALE AND FEMALE OFFICERS. WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS WERE TRAINED LARGELY IN HOW TO DEAL WITH LARGE CROWDS COMPRISING PREDOMINANTLY WOMEN.

SINCE 1986, THE FORCE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING A PLAN TO IMPROVE POLICE SHOOTING SKILLS.

THIS INCLUDES TRAINING OF ADDITIONAL FIREARM INSTRUCTORS, AND THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AND BETTER-EQUIPPED INDOOR FIRING RANGES.

HE SAID TRAINING COURSES IN SHOOTING SKILLS WERE REGULARLY REVIEWED AND UPDATED.

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OPENING HOURS OF BORDER CROSSINGS EXTENDED

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THE OPENING TIME OF THE THREE BORDER ROAD CROSSINGS WILL BE ADVANCED TO 7 AM WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY), FOLLOWING RECENT DISCUSSIONS AND AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON PHILIP WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ALSO FROM TODAY, THE CLOSING TIME OF THE MAN KAM TO CROSSING WILL BE EXTENDED TO 10 PM FOR GOODS VEHICLES WHILE THAT FOR LOK MA CHAU CROSSING WILL BE SIMILARLY EXTENDED WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1.

"ALL OF THIS SHOULD HELP TO SPREAD TRAFFIC DEMAND, THUS EASING CONGESTION.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE USE OF THE THREE CROSSING POINTS AND CONSIDER FURTHER EXTENSION OF OPENING HOURS WHERE NECESSARY, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND THE AGREEMENT OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES," MR LEUNG SAID.

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BASIC LAW PROMOTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE BASIC LAW HAVE BEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON PHILIP WONG, MR SZE SAID THE BASIC LAW HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS CURRICULUM FOR SECONDARY 4 AND 7 STUDENTS SINCE 1989.

MEANWHILE, HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS DEVELOPING A TEACHING KIT ON THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW TO HELP TEACHERS PRESENT THE TWO DOCUMENTS AT SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL.

THE TEACHING KIT WILL BE READY FOR USE IN THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

HE ADDED THAT STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER, THE BASIC LAW WOULD BECOME PART OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES SUBJECT FOR SECONDARY 1 TO 3 STUDENTS AND THE LIBERAL STUDIES SUBJECT FOR SECONDARY 6 TO 7 STUDENTS.

UNDER THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME, THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION OFFERS SPONSORSHIP EVERY YEAR TO COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ORGANISING WORTHWHILE CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS.

SO FAR, SPONSORSHIP HAS BEEN OFFERED TO TWO PROJECTS ON THE BASIC LAW.

"THE COMMITTEE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER OTHER WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY PROJECTS ON THE BASIC LAW," MR SZE SAID.

ON THE PROMOTION OF THE BASIC LAW AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS, MR SZE SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH HAD EMBARKED UPON A SERIES OF CHINA STUDIES SEMINARS TO CATER FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS, ADDING THAT THE BASIC LAW HAD BEEN A SUBJECT FREQUENTLY COVERED IN THE SEMINARS.

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MEASURES TAKEN TO COMBAT VEHICLE THEFT

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE POLICE HAD TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO COUNTER VEHICLE THEFT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR ASPREY SAID THESE INCLUDED OBTAINING INTELLIGENCE ON VEHICLE THEFT AND SMUGGLING GANGS, DEPLOYING THE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE AND OTHER OPERATIONAL UNITS AGAINST CAR SMUGGLING SYNDICATES, AND CONDUCTING CHECKS AT ROAD BLOCKS AND CAR PARKS.

/"THE POLICE

"THE POLICE HAVE ALSO STEPPED UP PUBLICITY TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC AND VEHICLE OWNERS OF THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES.

"CAR PARK OPERATORS AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF WAYS TO PREVENT CAR THEFT AND TO IMPROVE CARE-TAKER AND WATCHMAN SERVICES.

"THE POLICE HAVE ALSO GIVEN ADVICE TO THE MOTOR SALES INDUSTRY ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY," HE SAID.

ON THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES STOLEN, THE SECRETARY SAID 2,556 VEHICLES WERE STOLEN IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

"SO FAR, 1,577 HAVE BEEN RECOVERED," HE ADDED.

MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE HAD ASKED THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU IN CHINA TO HELP THEM TRACE THE WHEREABOUTS OF CARS STOLEN IN HONG KONG AND TO RETURN THEM.

HOWEVER, NO CARS HAD BEEN RETURNED FROM CHINA SO FAR THIS YEAR.

MR ASPREY SAID THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR LUXURY VEHICLES THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA, IN PARTICULAR IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA.

"HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SMUGGLING OF STOLEN CARS INTO THESE COUNTRIES HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED SINCE A CAR SMUGGLING SYNDICATE WAS BROKEN UP IN 1990.

"THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THESE COUNTRIES THROUGH INTERPOL," HE SAID.

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MORE LOCAL OFFICERS IN LEGAL DEPT AVAILABLE FOR PROMOTION

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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION NOT TO RENEW OR ONLY TO EXTEND FOR UP TO ONE YEAR THE AGREEMENTS OF 18 OVERSEAS OFFICERS HAD BEEN MADE HAVING REGARD TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PROJECTION THAT MORE LOCAL OFFICERS WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR PROMOTION TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL AND DIRECTORATE LEVELS IN 1993 AND 1994.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-STANDING POLICY, WHEN CONSIDERING THE RENEWAL OF AGREEMENTS OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS, THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE LOCAL REPLACEMENTS HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

MR MATHEWS POINTED OUT THAT THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WAS ONE OF THE FEW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY AT SENIOR LEVELS.

/IN LINE

IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICY OF LOCALISATION, TWO SCHEMES HAD BEEN SET UP WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

THE FIRST WAS THE DOUBLE LADDER SCHEME, ESTABLISHED IN 1988, UNDER WHICH UP TO 30 ADDITIONAL SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL POSTS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL CROWN COUNSEL WITH POTENTIAL.

THE SECOND WAS THE DEVELOPMENT POSTS SCHEME, SET UP LAST YEAR WHICH ALLOWED UP TO 18 LOCAL SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL TO BE SELECTED FOR GROOMING FOR EVENTUAL PROMOTION TO DIRECTORATE POSTS.

MR MATHEWS SAID SO FAR THE RESULTS OF THESE TWO SCHEMES WERE ENCOURAGING.

LOCALISATION OF SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED, FROM 23 PER CENT IN 1988 TO 47 PER CENT THIS YEAR, AND THE RATE OF WASTAGE OF LOCAL OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT HAD DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM 21.7 PER CENT IN 1988 TO 6.7 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

"ALTHOUGH LOCALISATION AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL AT THIS MOMENT IS STILL RELATIVELY LOW AT 14 PER CENT, UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT POSTS SCHEME NINE LOCAL SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL ARE ALREADY ACTING IN VARIOUS POSTS AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL, AND THREE MORE WILL DO SO OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

"I THEREFORE EXPECT TO SEE MORE LOCAL OFFICERS IN THE DIRECTORATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT, MR MATHEWS SAID IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S LATEST REVIEW, CARRIED OUT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE AGREEMENTS OF 65 OVERSEAS OFFICERS WHICH WOULD EXPIRE BETWEEN OCTOBER 1993 AND SEPTEMBER 1994 WERE COVERED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH THAT THE AGREEMENTS OF 18 OVERSEAS OFFICERS AT VARIOUS RANKS EITHER NOT BE RENEWED, OR IN CERTAIN CASES BE EXTENDED FOR UP TO ONE YEAR ONLY, AS COMPARED WITH THE MORE USUAL TWO YEARS.

IN FILLING THE VACATED POSTS AT THE PROMOTION LEVEL, MR MATHEWS SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS TO CONSIDER LOCAL AND OVERSEAS OFFICERS ON EQUAL TERMS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TERMS OF APPOINTMENT, SINCE THE OVERRIDING AIM WAS TO SELECT THE BEST PERSON AVAILABLE.

"ALTHOUGH I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL THE PROMOTION POSTS WHICH WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN 1993 AND 1994 WILL BE FILLED BY LOCAL OFFICERS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER WILL BE.

"SIMILARLY, I CANNOT GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CONSEQUENTIAL VACANCIES IN THE RECRUITMENT RANK OF CROWN COUNSEL WILL ALL BE FILLED BY LOCAL CANDIDATES.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S LOCALISATION POLICY IS TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO LOCAL CANDIDATES AT THE RECRUITMENT LEVEL."

HOWEVER, IF THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH SUITABLY QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES TO FILL THE VACANCIES, TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, APPLICATIONS FROM OVERSEAS CANDIDATES WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED, SAID MR MATHEWS.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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THA CLEARANCE ON SCHEDULE

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THE ADMINISTRATION AIMS TO CLEAR ALL PART-BUILT TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS (THAS) COMPLETED BEFORE 1984 IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND THE MAJORITY OF FULL-BUILT THAS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THERE WAS NO "DELAY" IN CLEARING THAS BECAUSE THE PACE OF CLEARANCE WAS DETERMINED BY THE INTERPLAY OF SEVERAL FACTORS.

MR EASON ALSO SAID THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SOME OLDER THAS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE LAND WAS NOT YET REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT 60 THAS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY SAID THE OPERATIONAL LIFE SPAN OF A THA WAS NOT FIXED, BUT WAS GENERALLY DICTATED BY THE TIMING OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND FOR PERMANENT USE.

OTHER FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WERE THE AGE AND CONDITION OF THE STRUCTURES IN A THA, OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CLEARANCE, MR EASON ADDED.

HE SAID THE PRIORITY FOR CLEARING THAS WAS REVIEWED REGULARLY.

"FOR MANY YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELIED ON THE SUPPLY OF NEW FLATS IN THE EXTENDED URBAN AREAS AS RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION FOR CLEARING THAS IN KOWLOON.

"PEOPLE CLEARED FROM THAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND CAN NORMALLY BE OFFERED REHOUSING ON THE HONG KONG SIDE; AND THE PREFERENCE FOR REHOUSING IN THE SAME DISTRICT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES CAN OFTEN BE MET," HE SAID.

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ANTI-SMUGGLING HOT LINE ENHANCES COMMUNICATION

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COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN ENHANCED RECENTLY BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES BY THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ANTI-SMUGGLING HOT LINE TO FACILITATE THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF INFORMATION ACROSS THE BORDER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI, MR ASPREY SAID THE RESULT OF THIS CO-OPERATION HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE INCIDENCE OF SMUGGLING BY SPEEDBOAT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

MR ASPREY SAID THE MAKING OF FORMAL REQUESTS WAS NOT A FEATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE CHINESE PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

RATHER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLICE AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES MEET REGULARLY TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS, TO DISCUSS TACTICS AND GENERALLY TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE SMUGGLING PROBLEM.

IN ADDITION, THERE WAS FREQUENT CONTACT BETWEEN OPERATIONAL STAFF, NOT ONLY FROM THE POLICE BUT ALSO FROM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, TO EXCHANGE TACTICAL INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE ON SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED.

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PREVENTION OF SMOKING THROUGH EDUCATION

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID A MAJOR WEAPON IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING ARSENAL IS EDUCATION.

THIS TACKLES THE PROBLEM AT ITS ROOT AND IS AIMED PARTICULARLY AT THE YOUNG.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIMOTHY HA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG NOTED THAT AT PRESENT BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS INCLUDED ANTI-SMOKING ELEMENTS IN THEIR CURRICULA.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGULARLY ISSUES CIRCULARS TO REMIND ALL SCHOOLS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY.

TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF ARE REQUESTED TO REFRAIN FROM SMOKING IN SCHOOLS SO AS TO INCULCATE PROPER SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG THOSE IN THEIR CHARGE.

AS REGARDS STUDENTS, EVERY SCHOOL INVARIABLY HAS REGULATIONS TO PROHIBIT THEM FROM SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES.

APART FROM THESE, MRS WONG SAID, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH HELD REGULAR HEALTH TALKS AND TARGETS GENERAL PUBLICITY AT SCHOOL PUPILS.

"WITH A \$2 MILLION GRANT FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED A YEAR-LONG YOUTH PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," MRS WONG NOTED.

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"MORE THAN 500 SCHOOLS HAVE TAKEN PART IN ITS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

"FURTHER INITIATIVES WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE COUNCIL, WITH FULL SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS."

MRS WONG ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SHORTLY PUBLISH A CONSULTATION PAPER ON FURTHER MEASURES TO RESTRICT THE USE, SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

PUBLIC VIEWS WILL BE SOUGHT TO SHAPE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS FUTURE ANTI-SMOKING POLICY.

AMONG THE VARIOUS ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES WHICH WERE FORMULATED FOLLOWING A CONSULTATION EXERCISE IN 1989, THE FURTHER PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT CARRIERS WILL TAKE EFFECT ON AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR.

"THE DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PLACES AS NO SMOKING AREAS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT PACKAGE OF MEASURES," SHE ADDED.

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PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE SINGLETON HOSTELS

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE SINGLETON HOSTELS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SUEN SAID SO FAR THREE SINGLETON HOSTELS HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

TAK NGA HOUSE, THE FIRST HOSTEL OPENED LAST NOVEMBER IN WAN CHAI, OFFERS 80 PLACES. IT IS RUN BY THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

TWO NEW HOSTELS, ONE IN YAU MA TEI AND THE OTHER IN KWUN TONG, HAVE JUST BEEN ESTABLISHED AND APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION ARE BEING INVITED.

THESE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER FIVE HOSTELS, INCLUDING TWO PROVIDED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, WHICH WILL BE COMMISSIONED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"BY THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE EIGHT HOSTELS OFFERING A TOTAL OF ABOUT 240 PLACES.

"THESE HOSTELS ARE INTENDED FOR LODGERS OF EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS SO AS TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO THE SEVERE OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS IN SOME OF THEM," MR SUEN SAID.

/MR SUEN

MR SUEN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT SINCE OCTOBER 1990, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONDUCTING HALF-YEARLY VISITS TO KNOWN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS TO IDENTIFY THOSE LODGERS WHO WERE AGED 60 OR OVER, OR WERE RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

"ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT," HE SAID.

UP TO MARCH 1992, 254 LODGERS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 1552 VISITED HAVE BEEN REHOUSED AND IN ADDITION, 100 HAVE BEEN PUT ON THE WAITING LIST.

HE SAID ALL GENUINE BEDSPACE APARTMENT LODGERS, APART FROM THOSE OVER 60 YEARS OLD OR TAKEN CARE OF BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WERE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION INTO THESE HOSTELS.

"THERE IS A PRACTICAL NEED TO DRAW THIS LINE BECAUSE TO DO OTHERWISE WILL SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE OUR CAPABILITY TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS IN EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS," HE EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT CNTA WOULD CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR SUITABLE FLATS TO PROVIDE MORE HOSTELS.

MOREOVER, MR SUEN SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR OTHER MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED, BECAUSE LODGERS IN EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WERE EITHER ELIGIBLE FOR REHOUSING OFFERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OR FOR ADMISSION INTO CNTA'S SINGLETON HOSTELS.

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VR RESETTLEMENT MEETS QUOTA

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THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS FROM UNHCR THAT THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE ACCEPTED OR EXCEEDED THE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO WHICH THEY ARE COMMITTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE PLEDGES OF RESETTLEMENT MADE IN 1989 AND REVISED BY UNHCR IN 1990 RELATED TO THE REGION AS A WHOLE, AND NOT SPECIFICALLY TO HONG KONG.

/THE NUMBERS

THE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT FROM HONG KONG FROM JULY 1, 1989 TO MAY 31 THIS YEAR BY THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

USA	-	4,224
AUSTRALIA	-	2,884
CANADA	-	4,183
UK	-	1,800

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USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AIMED AT REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM CONVENTIONAL ENGINES AND INTRODUCING NEW TYPES OF LOW-POLLUTION VEHICLE ENGINES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID ALTHOUGH TRIALS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN RECENT YEARS USING BATTERY POWERED PASSENGER VEHICLES, SUCH VEHICLES HAD NOT BEEN INTRODUCED PERMANENTLY BECAUSE OF HIGH CAPITAL COST, THE NEED FOR FREQUENT BATTERY RECHARGING AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN OPERATING THEM IN LOCAL TRAFFIC AND TOPOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS.

"THE WIDER USE OF SUCH ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES IN FUTURE WOULD THEREFORE DEPEND ON MANUFACTURERS' ABILITY TO DEVELOP MODELS THAT HAVE HIGH CAPACITY AND YET ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY EFFICIENT AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 48 ELECTRICALLY POWERED VEHICLES LICENSED IN HONG KONG, MOST OF WHICH ARE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES SUCH AS FORK LIFT TRUCKS AND INDUSTRIAL TRACTORS.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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SAFETY MEASURES FOR CARGO-HANDLING WORKERS

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A RESOLUTION THAT SEEKS TO SAFEGUARD THE SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN CONTAINER HANDLING ACTIVITIES WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARGO HANDLING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID UNDER THE REGULATION, PROPRIETORS WERE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT CONTAINERS IN CONTAINER STORAGE YARDS WERE SAFELY STACKED.

THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THE GROUND ON WHICH CONTAINERS ARE STORED IS MAINTAINED IN A LEVEL AND FIRM CONDITION, AND THAT ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN TO PREVENT PERSONS FROM FALLING FROM THE TOP OF THE CONTAINERS.

"PROPRIETORS WHO CONTRAVENE THESE PROVISIONS SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$10,000.

"AT THE SAME TIME, AN EMPLOYEE WHO ACTS IN A WAY THAT MAY ENDANGER HIS OWN LIFE OR THOSE OF HIS FELLOW EMPLOYEES SHALL ALSO BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$10,000," MR CHAN SAID.

THE MEASURES UNDER THE RESOLUTION HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

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PROVISO ON TENDERS TO AVOID EXCHANGE LOSS

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TENDERS LIKELY TO COST \$10 MILLION OR MORE MUST - WITH ONE IMPORTANT PROVISO - BE QUOTED IN HONG KONG OR U.S. DOLLARS ONLY TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL REVENUE FROM FLUCTUATIONS IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YEUNG SAID IT WOULD BE FOR THE TENDERERS THEMSELVES TO DECIDE WHETHER AND, IF SO, HOW TO COVER THE EXCHANGE RISK.

"WE CONSIDER THAT IT IS MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MANAGE EXCHANGE RISKS THAN THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

/THE SECRETARY

THE SECRETARY SAID A WORKING PARTY LED BY FINANCE BRANCH, AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, WORKS BRANCH, THE TREASURY AND THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, HAD MET A NUMBER OF TIMES TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROTECT THE GENERAL REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE LOSS.

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY WERE THAT INDIVIDUAL PURCHASES BELOW \$10 MILLION SHOULD BE REGARDED AS MINOR AND NO SPECIAL MEASURES WERE NEEDED BUT THAT PURCHASES ABOVE THAT VALUE WERE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT CHANGES IN EXISTING PROCEDURE.

MR YEUNG NOTED THAT THE PROVISIO RELATED TO THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE SUCH A RESTRICTION WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT AND UNACCEPTABLE REDUCTION IN THE DEGREE OF COMPETITION IN THE TENDERING PROCESS.

"IN SUCH CASES, TENDERERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO QUOTE IN CURRENCIES OTHER THAN HONG KONG OR U.S. DOLLARS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH IN SUCH CASES TO PROTECT THE GENERAL REVENUE EITHER BY BUYING FORWARD ON THE OPEN MARKET OR BY BOOKING OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS AT A FIXED PRICE WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND AS SOON AS THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED, AS WAS DONE FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT.

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SCOPE TO REVIEW DOCTORS AND NURSES RATIOS

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THE RATIOS FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES IN HOSPITALS DRAWN UP BY THE FORMER MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCE AND PLANNING PURPOSES.

THEY ARE NOT VIEWED IN ISOLATION BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OVERALL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID:

"SINCE THE PLANNING RATIOS WERE LAST REVIEWED IN 1987, BASED AS THEY WERE ON HOSPITAL BEDS, THERE IS SCOPE TO REVIEW THESE RATIOS HAVING REGARD TO ADVANCES IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND TREATMENT PROCEDURES NOT ONLY IN A HOSPITAL SETTING BUT ALSO IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE."

SHE SAID THE PRESENT PROVISION OF DOCTORS AND NURSES FOR INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS HAD ITS ORIGIN IN THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF STAFF IN HOSPITALS WHEN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE PROVISION IS UPDATED AND REVISED AS NECESSARY BASED ON THE PREVAILING WORKLOAD AND THE TREND OF DEMAND FOR SERVICES IN DIFFERENT HOSPITALS.

MRS WONG ALSO SAID THE HA WAS ITSELF DEVELOPING A SYSTEM TO FACILITATE AND COMPLEMENT THE POLICY OF DECENTRALISATION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS; THE STRATEGY AND TARGETS FOR INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS; AND THE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS REQUIRED TO MEET DEFINED STANDARDS OF SERVICES.

AS REGARDS FUNDING, MRS WONG SAID THE HA HAD FLEXIBILITY AND AUTONOMY IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FUNDS.

SHE SAID: "IT MAY RETAIN SAVINGS; IT MAY ADJUST PRIORITIES IN THE BETTER PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS; IT MAY SUBMIT PROPOSALS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANNUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE.

"ANY REQUEST FOR FUNDING BY THE AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF COMPETING DEMANDS."

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VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TAIWANESE UNDER REGULAR REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TAIWAN VISITORS REGULARLY AND TO CONSIDER FURTHER STREAMLINING AND SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ISSUE OF VISIT PERMITS TO TAIWAN VISITORS HAD BEEN SIMPLIFIED.

TAIWAN VISITORS MAY NOW OBTAIN ONE-YEAR OR TWO-YEAR MULTIPLE VISIT PERMITS, WHICH ALLOW THEM TO STAY FOR UP TO 14 DAYS ON EACH VISIT.

THE NUMBERS OF VISITORS FROM TAIWAN IN THE PAST THREE YEARS WERE 1.13 MILLION IN 1989, 1.34 MILLION IN 1990 AND 1.29 MILLION LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THE NUMBER OF TAIWAN VISITORS TRANSITTED HONG KONG DURING THE SAME PERIOD WAS NOT KNOWN BECAUSE TRANSIT PASSENGERS DID NOT HAVE TO PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE.

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TUEN MUN TO PROVIDE SITES FOR SPECIAL INDUSTRIES

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THE SPECIAL INDUSTRIES AREA IN AREA 38 TUEN MUN WILL MEET THE PERCEIVED DEMAND FOR SITES FOR LOW PLOT-RATIO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAU SAID THE AREA WOULD PROVIDE DEEP WATER WHARFAGE, GOOD HIGHWAY ACCESS, EFFICIENT EFFLUENT DISPOSAL AND GOOD WATER SUPPLY.

CONSULTANTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A DEVELOPMENT STUDY OF TUEN MUN AREA 38 ADVISED THAT 'SPECIAL INDUSTRIES' SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD BE CAPITAL-INTENSIVE, WATER-INTENSIVE AND LAND-EXTENSIVE.

ALSO THEY SHOULD REQUIRE DEEP-WATER ACCESS AND WAREHOUSING FACILITIES OR ON-SITE STORAGE FOR DANGEROUS GOODS.

EXAMPLES ARE HIGH VALUE-ADDED CHEMICAL AND PLASTIC RESIN MANUFACTURING, FOOD PROCESSING, BUILDING MATERIALS MANUFACTURING, PAPER PROCESSING, TEXTILES BLEACHING AND DYEING, AND BULK CEMENT STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION.

MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING HOW THE AREA, WHEN FORMED, SHOULD BE MANAGED AND HOW THE SITES SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF.

ONE OF THE OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS TO REQUEST THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION TO MANAGE THE AREA, HE SAID.

IN FORMULATING ITS DECISIONS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSULTANCY STUDY, THE ACTUAL DEMAND FOR SITES AND THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED, HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT WERE DISCUSSED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD IN AUGUST 1990 BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT IN OCTOBER 1990.

A DRAFT LAYOUT PLAN BASED ON THE PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO WAS DISCUSSED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND JANUARY THIS YEAR.

INDIA RESERVE BANK CONTACTED ON STOCK MARKET PROBLEMS

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING WHETHER ANY OF THE INDIAN BANKS WITH OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN STOCK MARKET.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT THE STABILITY OF ANY OF THESE BANKS IS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

"THE COMMISSIONER WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION," MR NENDICK SAID.

THERE ARE FOUR LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE BRANCHES OF BANKS INCORPORATED IN INDIA.

THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE PRIMARY SUPERVISION OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING IN HONG KONG UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE BANK INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG WHICH HAS BRANCHES IN INDIA.

MR NENDICK SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN STOCK MARKET.

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COST OF LEGCO REPLIES VARIES

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THE COST OF PROVIDING ANSWERS TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS VARIES, DEPENDING ON THE NATURE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE QUESTION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE AMOUNT OF RESEARCH NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM.

BASED ON A SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY BRANCH SECRETARIES RECENTLY, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT, ON AVERAGE, IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$30,000 TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO AN ORAL QUESTION; AND \$20,000 FOR A WRITTEN REPLY.

HE SAID THE COST INCLUDED STAFF COST AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS SUCH AS PHOTOCOPYING, FAXING AND TRANSLATION.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TABLED

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A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1991-92 WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EXPLAINING THE CHANGES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$4,619.7 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

THIS INCLUDED \$3,022.3 MILLION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1991 PAY ADJUSTMENT AND \$589.6 MILLION FOR A TRANSFER OF PROVISION FROM THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

HE SAID THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION WAS FULLY OFFSET, EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS.

DURING THE PERIOD, NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$13.2 MILLION, NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$329.4 MILLION WERE APPROVED, AND APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$13.3 MILLION WERE REVOTED.

A NET DECREASE OF 3,193 POSTS WAS ALSO APPROVED.

THIS WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DELETION OF POSTS AS A RESULT OF CIVIL SERVANTS HAVING OPTED FOR SERVICE WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

MR YEUNG SAID ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

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DATES FOR THREE BY-ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE DATES FOR A SERIES OF BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL THE SEATS HELD BY THE LATE MR NG MING-YUM.

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, A DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR C.M. LEUNG, SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT BY-ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD FOR ALL THREE TIERS OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

"WE HAVE CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR DOING THIS AND THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN EACH OF THEM," HE SAID.

"GIVEN THAT THERE ARE SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE TIMETABLE FOR HOLDING BY-ELECTIONS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO FILL THE VACANCIES AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ON BALANCE THE BY-ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD OVER A SIX-WEEK PERIOD," HE ADDED.

THE DATES ARE :

	LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LEGCO) -----	REGIONAL COUNCIL (RC) ----	TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD (TMDB) -----
ELECTION DAY	AUGUST 30 (SUNDAY)	OCTOBER 5 (MONDAY)	OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY)

NOMINATION FOR CANDIDATES WILL START ON JULY 27 FOR LEGCO, ON SEPTEMBER 1 FOR RC, AND ON SEPTEMBER 7 FOR DB, HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE LEGCO BY-ELECTION CAME FIRST BECAUSE OF THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT THAT THE VACANCY MUST BE GAZETTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF IT BECOMING AVAILABLE.

SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT IS AVAILABLE FOR THE RC AND DB BY-ELECTIONS.

"THIS YEAR'S VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE ENDS TODAY," HE SAID.

"THE EARLIEST DATE THAT WE CAN PUBLISH THE 1992 FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS IS JULY 27. THE NOMINATION DATE FOR THE LEGCO BY-ELECTION TIES IN WITH THIS. ALL THE THREE BY-ELECTIONS WILL THEN BE USING THE SAME SET OF ELECTORAL REGISTER," HE ADDED.

"THE LEGCO AND DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A SUNDAY - A PRACTICE WHICH IS NOW TAKING ROOT AND WHICH IS WELL RECEIVED.

"THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY-ELECTION WILL HOWEVER BE HELD ON A MONDAY, A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, AND IS THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL," HE SAID.

/"WE BELIEVE

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"WE BELIEVE THE BY-ELECTION SHOULD NOT CLASH WITH A MAJOR CHINESE FESTIVAL, AND THE SELECTED DAY IS A GOOD ALTERNATIVE."

THE BY-ELECTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT ELECTORAL LEGISLATION, THAT IS, WITH THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS AS FOR THE LAST LEGCO BY-ELECTION FOR THE SAME NEW TERRITORIES WEST CONSTITUENCY IN DECEMBER 1991 AND THE TWO DB BY-ELECTIONS IN JANUARY AND MAY THIS YEAR.

THE AMOUNT OF ELECTION DEPOSIT WILL REMAIN AT \$10,000 FOR THE LEGCO, \$5,000 FOR THE RC AND \$3,000 FOR THE DB ELECTIONS.

LIMITS OF ELECTION EXPENSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE \$200,000 FOR THE LEGCO, \$70,000 FOR THE RC AND \$30,000 FOR THE DB ELECTIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO PUBLICISE AND PROMOTE THE BY-ELECTIONS THROUGH POSTERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND OTHER MEANS.

MR LEUNG SAID ALTHOUGH THIS YEAR'S VOTER REGISTRATION ENDED TODAY, THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED AND HAD MOVED TO ANOTHER RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS SHOULD NONETHELESS QUICKLY INFORM THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THEIR NEW ADDRESS IF THEY HAD NOT YET DONE SO.

"THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THOSE ELECTORS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST SO THAT THEY CAN VOTE IN THE CORRECT CONSTITUENCY AND POLLING STATION," HE SAID.

SUCH CHANGES CAN BE REPORTED UP TO JULY 6, AND FORMS FOR THIS PURPOSE ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, POST OFFICES, THE HONGKONGBANK, CHARTERED BANK, HANG SENG BANK AND BANK OF CHINA GROUP.

ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS INVOLVED IN THE BY-ELECTIONS WILL RECEIVE A POLL CARD INFORMING THEM OF THE DETAILS ABOUT 10 DAYS BEFORE EACH BY-ELECTION.

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WALLED CITY CLEARANCE COMPLETED

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CLEARANCE OF THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH ALL THE 188 REMAINING HOUSEHOLDS RECOVERED.

OF THE TOTAL, 158 WERE FOUND TO BE VACANT, 10 LEFT VOLUNTARILY WHILE 14 LEFT ON PERSUASION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID.

ONLY SIX HAD TO BE EVICTED, HE ADDED.

THE OPERATION WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CLEAR THE FUK TAK TEMPLE.

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CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS BRIEFED ON PENSION SCHEMES

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THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH (CSB) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HELD AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAIN STAFF COUNCILS TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ADDITIONAL MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN SAFEGUARDS FOR CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE REQUEST OF THE STAFF SIDES.

THE CSB OFFICIALS BRIEFED STAFF REPRESENTATIVES ON ITS VIEWS AND LIKELY DIFFICULTIES ON VARIOUS PENSION SAFEGUARD PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED IN THE PAST.

THEY ALSO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PURSUING A PROPOSAL TO LINK ANNUAL PENSION INCREASES STATUTORILY TO MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT IS BEING FINALISED AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR.

DURING THE MEETING, THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

THE BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES SAID THESE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND OFFERED TO MEET STAFF COUNCILS INDIVIDUALLY TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN MORE DEPTH.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR MAY

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS RECORDED A STRONG GROWTH IN MAY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RISE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE DURING THE MONTH.

HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO INCREASED IN MAY.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, GREW BY 3.7% IN MAY FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.2% AND 1.9% IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS GREW BY 9.6% AND 7.8% RESPECTIVELY DURING MAY WHILE TIME DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 0.5%.

/YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL

YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 20.3%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW BY 1.6% IN MAY, AFTER A DECREASE OF 1.1% IN MARCH AND AN INCREASE OF 0.5% IN APRIL.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND NON-U.S. DOLLAR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 2.0% AND 1.3% RESPECTIVELY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE BY 7.9%.

DURING MAY, DEPOSITS IN ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 2.6%.

DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS ROSE BY 2.6% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DROPPED BY 1.6%.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 14.4%, WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 1.9% AND 24.1% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 GREW BY 6.3%, 3.5% AND 3.4% RESPECTIVELY IN MAY, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 1.1%, 1.9% AND 1.8% IN APRIL.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 32.4%, 21.7% AND 19.8% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 5.6%, 2.5% AND 2.4% RESPECTIVELY IN MAY.

THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN APRIL WERE 1.7%, 1.2% AND 1.1%.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES GREW BY 29.4%, 14.3% AND 13.0% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 2.7% IN MAY, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 0.4% IN MARCH AND AN INCREASE OF 0.7% IN APRIL.

AMONG THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR INCREASED BY 2.0% WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY ROSE BY 3.1%.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 17.6% AND 26.0% RESPECTIVELY.

/LOANS TO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 4.3% IN MAY, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.0% AND 3.8% IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 15.3%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 2.0% IN MAY, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.4% AND 0.9% IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 17.9%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 3.2% IN MAY, AFTER A DECREASE OF 1.8% IN MARCH AND AN INCREASE OF 0.3% IN APRIL. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 29.2%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 4.2% IN MAY, AFTER INCREASES OF 10.8% AND 7.2% IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 48.4%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 160 AND 55 RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY TWO TO 154.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - MAY 1992

	(HK\$mn)			
	May 1992	Earlier months (% change to May 1992)		
		Apr 1992	Feb 1992	May 1991
<u>Money Supply</u>				
M1 - HK\$	124,221	116,907 (6.3)	112,491 (10.4)	93,813 (32.4)
Foreign currency	15,116	15,072 (0.3)	16,074 (-6.0)	13,834 (9.3)
Total	139,337	131,979 (5.6)	128,565 (8.4)	107,647 (29.4)
M2 - HK\$*	673,182	650,471 (3.5)	633,684 (6.2)	553,090 (21.7)
Foreign currency*	757,632	745,938 (1.6)	748,230 (1.3)	698,951 (8.4)
Total	1,430,814	1,396,409 (2.5)	1,381,913 (3.5)	1,252,041 (14.3)
M3 - HK\$*	696,091	673,263 (3.4)	656,528 (6.0)	581,080 (19.8)
Foreign currency*	795,216	783,058 (1.6)	789,571 (0.7)	738,211 (7.7)
Total	1,491,307	1,456,321 (2.4)	1,446,099 (3.1)	1,319,291 (13.0)
Notes and coins in circulation	51,902	51,630 (0.5)	53,150 (-2.3)	43,806 (18.5)
of which held by public	45,079	44,706 (0.8)	46,430 (-2.9)	37,655 (19.7)
<u>Total Deposits</u>				
Total Demand deposits	94,258	87,272 (8.0)	82,135 (14.8)	69,992 (34.7)
Total Savings deposits	332,829	312,730 (6.4)	316,471 (5.2)	240,794 (38.2)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	942,768	935,672 (0.8)	919,744 (2.5)	886,240 (6.4)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	37,378	36,422 (2.6)	38,664 (-3.3)	38,095 (-1.9)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	20,946	21,290 (-1.6)	22,372 (-6.4)	27,597 (-24.1)
HK\$ deposits*	637,737	615,135 (3.7)	596,800 (6.9)	530,167 (20.3)
US\$ deposits*	322,661	316,439 (2.0)	316,976 (1.8)	292,760 (10.2)
Other foreign currency deposits*	467,781	461,812 (1.3)	465,610 (0.5)	439,789 (6.4)
All deposits	1,428,178	1,393,386 (2.5)	1,379,386 (3.5)	1,262,717 (13.1)
Foreign currency swap deposits	42,830	44,536 (-3.8)	40,067 (6.9)	55,922 (-23.4)
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	89,219	85,558 (4.3)	81,632 (9.3)	77,387 (15.3)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	14,750	14,159 (4.2)	11,926 (23.7)	9,938 (48.4)
Other loans for use in H.K.	868,605	851,597 (2.0)	832,311 (4.4)	736,512 (17.9)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,322,827	1,282,065 (3.2)	1,301,457 (1.6)	1,024,252 (29.2)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	38,602	38,529 (0.2)	38,036 (1.5)	48,421 (-20.3)
Loans in HK\$	774,498	759,684 (2.0)	739,186 (4.8)	658,395 (17.6)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,559,506	1,512,224 (3.1)	1,526,177 (2.2)	1,238,116 (26.0)
Total loans and advances	2,334,004	2,271,908 (2.7)	2,265,362 (3.0)	1,896,511 (23.1)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar foreign currency swap deposits.

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION) (BCCHK)

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AS GOOD PROGRESS HAS CONTINUED TO BE MADE IN THE RECOVERY OF ASSETS IN THE BCCHK LIQUIDATION, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND LIQUIDATOR, MR ROBIN HEARDER, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED A PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF A FIRST STATUTORY DIVIDEND TO DEPOSITORS AND OTHER CREDITORS.

THE TIMETABLE, TENTATIVE AT THIS STAGE, IS AS FOLLOWS:-

1. IN LATE JULY 1992, A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE A DIVIDEND WILL BE ADVERTISED CALLING FOR PROOFS OF DEBT TO BE LODGED BY CREDITORS.

MR HEARDER STRESSED THAT DEPOSITORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LODGE PROOFS OF DEBT UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO.

2. THE DECLARATION AND PAYMENT OF THE FIRST DIVIDEND IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER 1992. MR HEARDER REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE DIVIDEND WILL BE IN THE REGION OF 40 PER CENT WHICH WILL BE INCLUSIVE OF THE LIMITED INTERIM RELIEF ALREADY PAID.

MR HEARDER SAID IT WAS, HOWEVER, IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE PRECISE AMOUNT OF THE DIVIDEND AT PRESENT BECAUSE IT WAS SUBJECT TO A LARGE NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING, AMONG OTHERS, THE ADJUDICATION OF CLAIMS LODGED, THE RECEIPT OF ANY FURTHER CLAIMS AND THE COLLECTION OF LOANS.

FIVE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION HAVE SO FAR BEEN HELD.

"THE MEMBERS ARE MAKING A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONDUCT OF THE LIQUIDATION AND THEIR TIME AND EFFORT ARE MUCH APPRECIATED," SAID MR HEARDER.

THE SPECIAL MANAGERS ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE ACTION ON THE BCCI-RELATED CLAIMS WHICH EMERGED PRIOR TO THE LIQUIDATION OF BCCHK.

IN ORDER FOR THE TIMETABLE TO REMAIN ON TARGET, IT IS VITAL THAT DEPOSITORS WHO HAVE RECEIVED STATEMENTS OF THEIR BALANCES SHOULD SEND BACK CONFIRMATION OF THOSE BALANCES OR, ALTERNATIVELY, WRITE WITH ANY QUERIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE JOINT SPECIAL MANAGERS AT P.O. BOX 54565, NORTH POINT POST OFFICE, HONG KONG.

ANYONE WHO HAS ANY QUERY ABOUT THE PROCEDURE HE SHOULD FOLLOW AND ANY DEPOSITOR WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A STATEMENT OF HIS NET BALANCE SHOULD CALL TELEPHONE NUMBER 516 4333 AND ASK FOR "CREDITOR ENQUIRIES".

ELECTORAL ORDINANCE AMENDED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT (IPD) AND THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE (ORO) SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE LEGAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AS PART OF THE REORGANISATION PROGRAMME OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT (RGD), THE IPD AND ORO WERE ESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITIES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 2, 1990 AND JUNE 1 THIS YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

"ITEM 8 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE SPECIFIES PERSONS WHO SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE LEGAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

"PERSONS EMPLOYED AS LEGAL OFFICERS IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AND THE RGD ARE ALREADY INCLUDED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN ORDER THAT LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO WERE FORMERLY STAFF OF RGD AND NOW EMPLOYED BY IPD AND ORO MAY CONTINUE TO BE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE LEGAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING ON JUNE 23, AUTHORISED AN AMENDMENT TO THE SECOND SCHEDULE," HE ADDED.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SECOND SCHEDULE) ORDER 1992 AMENDING THE SECOND SCHEDULE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON JULY 3.

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COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 TO BE PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH ANY COMPANY THAT FAILS TO FILE ANNUAL RETURNS FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS MAY BE STRUCK OFF THE COMPANIES REGISTER, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES THAT ARE INACTIVE BE ALLOWED TO SEEK "DORMANT COMPANY" STATUS AND THUS BE EXEMPTED FROM COMPLIANCE WITH A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE ARE CONTAINED IN THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 TO BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (JULY 3).

/"THE EXISTING

"THE EXISTING SECTION 109 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE REQUIRES EVERY COMPANY TO DELIVER TO THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES A COPY OF ITS ANNUAL RETURN WITHIN 42 DAYS OF ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MANY PRIVATE COMPANIES REGULARLY DELAY THE FILING OF THE ANNUAL RETURN AND SOME FAIL TO FILE THEM FOR YEARS ON END," HE SAID.

"THE PROBLEM IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS WITH MORIBUND COMPANIES, THE DIRECTORS OF WHICH ARE UNCONCERNED BY THE BUILD-UP OF LATE FILING FEES AS THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE EVER MAKING ANY FURTHER RETURNS," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE EXISTING SECTION 291 OF THE ORDINANCE, IF THE REGISTRAR HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A COMPANY IS NOT CARRYING ON BUSINESS, HE MAY INITIATE A PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH, UNLESS GOOD CAUSE IS SHOWN, HE MAY STRIKE THE COMPANY OFF THE REGISTER AND IT IS AUTOMATICALLY DISSOLVED.

"THE DIFFICULTY WITH INVOKING SECTION 291 IS THAT IT REQUIRES THE REGISTRAR TO EXERCISE HIS DISCRETION IN EACH AND EVERY CASE AND SINCE THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF CASES OF DEFAULT, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM ON THAT BASIS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE CASES, IT IS ALSO VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE REGISTRAR TO RECEIVE ANY UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM THE COMPANIES TO ENABLE HIM TO EXERCISE HIS DISCRETION PROPERLY.

"WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO INTRODUCE A NEW PROCEDURE, RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE REGISTRAR TO START THE STRIKING-OFF PROCEDURE AUTOMATICALLY AS SOON AS THE DELAY IN FILING GOES BEYOND A CERTAIN TIME LIMIT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW SECTION 290A, AS SOON AS A COMPANY HAS FAILED TO FILE ITS ANNUAL RETURNS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, THE REGISTRAR MAY INITIATE A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE COMPANY WILL BE STRUCK OFF THE REGISTER AND WILL BE DISSOLVED UNLESS, WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, ALL THE OVERDUE ANNUAL RETURNS ARE RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRAR AND THE REGISTRATION FEES AND RELEVANT PENALTY ARE PAID TO HIM.

"AS THE REGISTRAR IS NOT REQUIRED TO EXERCISE HIS DISCRETION UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, THE NUMEROUS DEFAULT CASES CAN BE DEALT WITH MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PROVISION IS, HOWEVER, MADE FOR A COMPANY TO BE REINSTATED ON THE REGISTER IF, UPON APPLICATION BY THE COMPANY OR ANY MEMBER OR CREDITOR THEREOF, THE REGISTRAR IS SATISFIED THAT THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE FOR THE COMPANY TO BE RESTORED TO THE REGISTER AND THE RELEVANT FEE IS PAID," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED NEW SECTION 290(4) PROVIDES THAT ANY LIABILITY OF A DIRECTOR, MANAGING OFFICER AND MEMBER OF A COMPANY WHICH HAD BEEN STRUCK OFF THE REGISTER WILL CONTINUE AND MAY BE ENFORCED AS IF THE COMPANY HAD NOT BEEN DISSOLVED.

THE PROPOSED NEW SECTION 290B PROVIDES THAT ALL PROPERTY AND RIGHTS VESTED IN OR HELD ON TRUST FOR THE COMPANY IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ITS DISSOLUTION SHALL BELONG TO THE GOVERNMENT IN LEGAL TERMS, THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE "BONA VACANTIA".

IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR CLAIMS TO BE MADE BY CREDITORS FOR PAYMENT OF DEBT OUT OF THE "BONA VACANTIA".

"THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO 'BONA VACANTIA' UNDER THE EXISTING DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES WHICH MAKE NO REFERENCE TO THE RIGHT OF CREDITORS TO MAKE ANY CLAIM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO INTRODUCE A NEW "DORMANT" STATUS FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW SECTION 344A, A PRIVATE COMPANY MAY, BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION, AUTHORISE ITS DIRECTORS TO SUBMIT A STATUTORY DECLARATION TO THE REGISTRAR DECLARING THE COMPANY TO BE "DORMANT".

A COMPANY IS DEFINED AS BEING "DORMANT" DURING ANY PERIOD IN WHICH NO SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING TRANSACTION OCCURS.

A "SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING TRANSACTION" IS A TRANSACTION WHICH, UNDER SECTION 121 OF THE ORDINANCE, IS REQUIRED TO BE ENTERED INTO A COMPANY'S BOOKS.

"A COMPANY REGARDED AS BEING DORMANT IS EXEMPTED FROM A NUMBER OF REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

"THESE RELATE MAINLY TO THE SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING ANNUAL RETURNS, THE HOLDING OF MEETINGS AND RELATED MATTERS, AND REQUIREMENTS AS TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT PRESENT, COMPANIES WHICH ARE NOT UNDERTAKING ANY BUSINESS ARE, NEVERTHELESS, REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE INCLUDING SUBMITTING ANNUAL RETURNS, HOLDING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND HAVING THEIR ACCOUNTS AUDITED.

"THIS RESULTS IN THE NEED FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME AND RESOURCES, BOTH ON THE PART OF THE COMPANIES CONCERNED AND OF THE REGISTRAR, TO BE DEVOTED TO WORK WHICH SERVES LITTLE USEFUL PURPOSE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SEEK TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR SUCH UNPRODUCTIVE WORK," HE ADDED.

"A COMPANY WILL CEASE TO BE DORMANT AS SOON AS IT ENTERS INTO A SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING TRANSACTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A DORMANT COMPANY WHICH INTENDS TO ENTER INTO SUCH A TRANSACTION IS REQUIRED TO FILE A FURTHER STATUTORY DECLARATION TO THAT EFFECT WITH THE REGISTRAR, OTHERWISE ITS DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS WILL BE PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR ANY DEBT OR LIABILITY OF THE COMPANY ARISING OUT OF THAT TRANSACTION.

/DORMANT COMPANY

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"DORMANT COMPANY STATUS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF COMPANIES, INCLUDING PUBLIC COMPANIES, AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AUTHORISED INSURERS, REGISTERED DEALERS AND THEIR HOLDING COMPANIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 15.

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QUEEN'S AND KOWLOON CITY PIERS TO BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY EVENING
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT QUEEN'S PIER AND KOWLOON CITY PIER WOULD BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY (JULY 3) EVENING TO FACILITATE THE FAREWELL PROGRAMME FOR THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON.

THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (CENTRAL REGION) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR LEUNG LAI-KIT, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID: "QUEEN'S PIER IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 6 PM TO 8.30 PM ON FRIDAY AND KOWLOON CITY PIER FROM 8 PM TO 9 PM.

"DURING THE PERIODS OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF SMALL CRAFT ARE ADVISED TO USE ALTERNATIVE LANDING FACILITIES."

HE SAID MARINE POLICE AND MARINE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE SPECIAL PATROLS TO HELP THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS.

MR LEUNG URGED MASTERS AND OPERATORS OF VESSELS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MARINE SAFETY AND TO COMPLY WITH ANY ADVICE OF OFFICERS FROM THE MARINE POLICE AND MARINE DEPARTMENT PATROL LAUNCHES.

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INQUIRY CALLED INTO SHIP COLLISION
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPOINTED A MARINE OFFICER TO CARRY OUT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE COLLISION INVOLVING A RUSSIAN TANKER AND THREE CHINESE SHIPS ABOUT A MILE SOUTHWEST OF TSING YI ISLAND.

ONE OF THE CHINESE SHIPS, THE 4,500-TONNE CONTAINER SHIP "LIN JIANG" CAPSIZED AFTER THE COLLISION. TEN CREW MEMBERS WHO WERE ON BOARD THE VESSEL, WERE RESCUED.

THE OFFICER APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY IS MARINE OFFICER MR RAYMOND CHUNG SIU-MAN.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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THE PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY IS TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING ACTION TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN FUTURE.

THE COLLISION OCCURRED AT ABOUT 1.30 PM YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) BETWEEN THE PILOTED 10,900-TONNE RUSSIAN TANKER "AKADEMIK VEBUA" AND THE THREE CHINESE SHIPS AT ANCHOR.

THE OTHER TWO CHINESE SHIPS ARE THE 19,200-TONNE CONTAINER SHIP "KING LI" AND 13,300-TONNE CARGO SHIP "FENG SHUN SHAN".

ANY PERSON WHO WITNESSED THE ACCIDENT, OR HAS ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, SHOULD CONTACT THE INQUIRING OFFICER ON TEL 852 4450.

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1990 SURVEY RESULTS ON COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

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THE COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES INDUSTRIES REGISTERED RAPID GROWTH IN 1990, WITH BUSINESS RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 22% AND 18% IN VALUE TERMS RESPECTIVELY OVER 1989.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE FINDINGS OF THE 1990 SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY INCLUDES TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, COURIER AND RADIO-PAGING COMPANIES.

IN 1990, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY REGISTERED A DECREASE OF 7% IN THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS OVER 1989, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED ROSE BY 4% TO 27,100.

THEY GENERATED \$17.6 BILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS (+22%).

EXPENDITURE OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHMENTS ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION WAS \$3.7 BILLION (AN INCREASE OF 26% OVER 1989), AND THAT ON OPERATING EXPENSES, \$5.9 BILLION (+20%).

THE INDUSTRY'S VALUE ADDED, WHICH IS A MEASURE OF THE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, GREW BY 22% FROM \$8.4 BILLION IN 1989 TO \$10.3 BILLION IN 1990.

ALL VALUE FIGURES ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICES TERMS. PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

ALSO REGISTERED RAPID GROWTH WAS THE BUSINESS SERVICES INDUSTRY. SOME 11,200 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION IN 1990, AN INCREASE OF 14% OVER 1989.

/THESE INCLUDE

THESE INCLUDE LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, DATA PROCESSING, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTANCY, ADVERTISING AND DESIGNING FIRMS AS WELL AS COMPANIES PROVIDING SECRETARIAL, EMPLOYMENT, TECHNICAL AND MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT RENTAL SERVICES.

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED TOTALLED 85,600 IN 1990, AN INCREASE OF 7% OVER 1989.

IN 1990, EXPENDITURE OF THESE BUSINESS SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION WAS \$9.5 BILLION (AN INCREASE OF 16%), AND THAT ON OPERATING EXPENSES, \$16.3 BILLION (+19%).

THEY GENERATED \$33.1 BILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS (+18%). THE INCREASE IN BUSINESS RECEIPTS WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN DESIGNING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES.

THE INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTED \$15.6 BILLION TO THE TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (+12% OVER 1989), MEASURED IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED.

IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, WHICH INCLUDES GENERAL INSURERS, LIFE INSURERS AND INSURANCE AGENTS, THERE WERE SOME 1,700 ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN 1990, VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS IN 1989.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED INCREASED BY 4% TO 20,700 OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THIS INDUSTRY GENERATED \$19.6 BILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS (+14%) IN 1990; ITS EXPENDITURE ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION WAS \$3.2 BILLION, AND THAT ON OPERATING EXPENSES, \$2.0 BILLION, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 18% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY OVER 1989.

IN THE STORAGE INDUSTRY, SOME 240 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION IN 1990, AN INCREASE OF 18% OVER 1989.

THE INCREASE RELATED MAINLY TO SMALL WAREHOUSES, INCLUDING OPEN SPACE CONTAINER YARDS. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED SOME 4,700 PERSONS (+7%).

THESE STORAGE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED \$2.7 BILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS (+11%); THEIR EXPENDITURE ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION WAS \$0.5 BILLION (+22%), AND THAT ON OPERATING EXPENSES, \$1.7 BILLION (+17%).

THE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO VALUE ADDED INCREASED BY 3% OVER 1989 TO \$1.2 BILLION IN 1990.

IN THE FINANCING INDUSTRY, SOME 3,600 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION IN 1990, AN INCREASE OF 5% OVER 1989.

THIS INDUSTRY COMPRISES LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANIES, CREDIT INSTITUTIONS, FINANCE LEASING, PAWNSHOPS, INVESTMENT AND HOLDING COMPANIES, SECURITIES, FUTURES AND GOLD BULLION BROKERS AND DEALERS, MONEY CHANGERS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BROKERS AND DEALERS.

THESE FINANCING ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED SOME 37,700 PERSONS IN 1990, AN INCREASE OF 6% OVER 1989.

/THEIR EXPENDITURE

THEIR EXPENDITURE ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION WAS \$7.1 BILLION (+10%), AND THAT ON OPERATING EXPENSES, \$22.1 BILLION (+11%).

THIS INDUSTRY, GENERATED \$57.0 BILLION ON BUSINESS RECEIPTS, RECORDED A SMALL INCREASE OF 5% OVER 1989.

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE LOW TURNOVER IN THE STOCK AND SHARES COMPANIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1990 AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF THE GULF CRISIS.

THIS INDUSTRY'S VALUE ADDED, WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE THAT OF INVESTMENT AND HOLDING COMPANIES DUE TO THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS, DECREASED BY 7% OVER 1989 TO \$5.0 BILLION IN 1990.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FINANCING INDUSTRY EXCLUDES BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WHICH WERE SEPARATELY COVERED UNDER THE 1990 SURVEY OF BANKS, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF FOREIGN BANKS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1991 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THE 1990 SURVEY WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF ANNUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT FOR ASCERTAINING THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES INDUSTRIES AND UPDATING THE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, TOGETHER WITH TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS, CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRY GROUPS AND ANALYSED BY VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, ARE INCLUDED IN THE "1990 SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES" REPORT.

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE IN AUGUST AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1244.

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Comparison of selected principal statistics for all establishments in the Storage, Communications,
Financing, Insurance and Business Services Industries between 1989 and 1990

Industry		Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Number of employees	Compensation	Operating	Business	Value
					of employees	expenses	receipts and other income	added
					\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.
Storage	1990	244	4 706	4 671	468.2	1,682.7	2,698.6	1,152.9
	1989	207	4 384	4 355	383.4	1,438.5	2,423.4	1,116.9
	% change	(+18)	(+7)	(+7)	(+22)	(+17)	(+11)	(+3)
Communications	1990	395	27 131	26 840	3,668.0	5,931.2	17,574.3	10,323.7
	1989	424	26 105	25 867	2,910.1	4,942.3	14,419.0	8,446.5
	% change	(-7)	(+4)	(+4)	(+26)	(+20)	(+22)	(+22)
Financing	1990	3 560	37 702	36 316	7,105.7	22,148.6	57,048.3	4,978.4
	1989	3 386	35 603	34 458	6,487.0	19,896.3	54,249.1	5,373.1
	% change	(+5)	(+6)	(+5)	(+10)	(+11)	(+5)	(-7)
Business Services	1990	11 196	85 599	77 734	9,461.8	16,314.8	33,080.3	15,561.7
	1989	9 833	80 121	72 377	8,163.6	13,693.2	28,069.6	13,938.5
	% change	(+14)	(+7)	(+7)	(+16)	(+19)	(+18)	(+12)
Insurance	1990	1 687	20 684	19 714	3,177.6	2,006.8	19,551.6	-
	1989	1 699	19 810	18 988	2,685.2	1,731.1	17,104.8	-
	% change	(-1)	(+4)	(+4)	(+18)	(+16)	(+14)	-

Notes : (1) In the financing industry, value added was not compiled for investment and holding companies owing to the special features of their business operations. Hence, total value added for the industry did not include that of investment and holding companies.

(2) Financing industry excluded banks, deposit-taking companies and restricted licence banks.

(3) Value added was not compiled for the insurance industry.

(4) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

(5) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "1990 Survey of Storage, Communications, Financing, Insurance and Business Services" Report.

FILM CENSORSHIP FEES TO BE REVISED FROM JULY 10

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD APPROVED AN INCREASE IN FILM CENSORSHIP FEE FROM \$50 TO \$56 PER MINUTE OF RUNNING TIME TO RECOVER INCREASED COSTS.

"THE REVISION REPRESENTS A 12 PER CENT INCREASE TO COVER INFLATION WHICH WOULD MEAN, IN DOLLAR TERMS, AN INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT \$4,500 TO \$5,040 FOR A 90-MINUTE FEATURE FILM; A VERY SMALL AMOUNT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRODUCTION COSTS OF A FILM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ALSO APPROVED THAT THE FEES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF A STILL FILM AND THE ISSUE OF A FILM REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE, WHICH WERE FIXED IN 1988, BE INCREASED FROM \$10 TO \$16 AND FROM \$80 TO \$130 RESPECTIVELY WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 10.

"THE INCREASE WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE FILM INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EMPHASISED THAT CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND FILM CLUBS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AS THERE WERE PROVISIONS UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS FOR THEM TO SEEK FEE EXEMPTION.

"IN PRACTICE, FILMS PRESENTED DURING FILM FESTIVALS AND BY CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF A CENSORSHIP FEE," HE ADDED.

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GOVT SUPPORTS QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS IN BUSINESSES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE EXISTING QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND ENSURE THE TIMELY INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES AS NEEDS ARISE, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG Q-MARK COUNCIL LICENCE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND SEMINAR, MR FUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE QUALITY IN BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

HE SAID QUALITY TRENDS IN HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, WERE BEING MONITORED TO DETERMINE ANY NEW REQUIREMENTS.

"QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA THAT MAY AFFECT HONG KONG ARE UNDER REGULAR REVIEW," HE ADDED.

/MR FUNG

MR FUNG SAID THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES, BOTH IN FINANCIAL AND IN PERSONNEL TERMS, MIGHT PLACE HONG KONG AS THE FOCUS FOR SUCH SERVICES AND THE SOURCE OF EXPERTISE WITHIN THE REGION.

HE SAID THE CLOSE BUSINESS LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, PARTICULARLY IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, CONTINUED TO DEVELOP.

"SUCH BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WILL NURTURE THE NEED FOR CLOSER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOST APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENT OF QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR THE WHOLE REGION.

"THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY INVESTMENT OF RESOURCES THAT SUCH FACILITIES REQUIRE, IF THEY ARE TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY STANDARD AND BE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY," HE SAID.

MR FUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD, FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, ADOPTED A PROACTIVE APPROACH IN FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN HONG KONG BUSINESSES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S QUALITY VISION IN THE EARLY 1980'S LED TO THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF A RANGE OF QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES THAT HAD BECOME AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF HONG KONG'S QUALITY IMAGE.

"I AM OF COURSE REFERRING TO THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY IN 1984; HONGKONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME IN 1985; AND THE PRODUCTS STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU IN 1986.

"THEY HAVE ACHIEVED WIDE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND PROJECTED HONG KONG AS A MODERN ECONOMY THAT ADDRESSES KEY TECHNICAL ISSUES IN BUSINESS ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

MR FUNG ADDED THAT FURTHER GOVERNMENT QUALITY INITIATIVES LED TO THE SETTING UP OF THE HONGKONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY IN 1989 AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN 1990.

"BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS," HE SAID.

THREE GOVERNMENT LOTS TO LET

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST ONE IS A PIECE OF LAND ADJOINING KWAI CHUNG TOWN LOT 315 REMAINING PORTION, CONTAINER PORT ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,425 SQUARE METRES, IT IS DESIGNATED AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE SECOND PIECE OF LAND IN AREA 46A, TUEN MUN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,200 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS EARMARKED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS).

BOTH TENANCIES ARE FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE THIRD LOT IS SITUATED IN AREA 22, TSEUNG KWAN O, SAI KUNG.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,900 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A PUBLIC CARPARK (EXCLUDING ARTICULATED VEHICLES).

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

TENDER OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JULY 17.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; OR THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES.

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CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS LEGAL DEPARTMENT

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A FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS ON THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA VISITED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE BUREAU'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MR CAO KANG-TAI, WAS RECEIVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS.

/THEY WERE

THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM IN HONG KONG BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, MR JOHN WOOD, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS.

THE FAMILIARISATION VISIT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH.

DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT LOCAL COURTS, INCLUDING THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN HONG KONG YESTERDAY AFTER SPENDING A WEEK IN SINGAPORE ON A SIMILAR FAMILIARISATION VISIT. THEY WILL STAY IN HONG KONG UNTIL JULY 6.

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MUSIC CAMP FOR YOUTH

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THE HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR AT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S TSO KUNG TAM OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE FROM JULY 17 TO AUGUST 1.

ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AND SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE CAMP HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT SINCE 1980 TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING TO YOUNG MUSICIANS.

OVER 300 MUSICAL-TALENTED YOUNGSTERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CAMP WHICH INVOLVES A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, TWO CHINESE ORCHESTRAS, A STRING ORCHESTRA AND A CHOIR.

THE CAMPERS, INCLUDING 14 OVERSEAS YOUNG MUSICIANS, WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE FROM GUEST MUSICIANS FROM HONG KONG, THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

THEY WILL ALSO RECEIVE A VARIETY OF TRAINING BY TAKING PART IN ORCHESTRAL AND SECTIONAL REHEARSALS, MASTER CLASSES AND DEMONSTRATION CONCERTS.

BESIDES MUSIC TRAINING, A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS, INCLUDING KARAOKE, VIDEO SHOWS, SWIMMING, MUSIC QUIZ, BADMINTON AND BILLIARD, WILL BE LINED UP.

TO MARK THE CLOSE OF THE CAMP, A FINALE CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM AT 3 PM ON AUGUST 1.

THE CAMP'S CHINESE ORCHESTRA, CHOIR AND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL PRESENT A MUSIC PROGRAMME INCLUDING HE ZHANHAO'S "LOVERS AT TURBULENT TIMES", GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLETTI'S "AVE VERUM", AND TCHAIKOVSKY'S "SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN E MINOR, OP. 64".

TICKETS AT \$30 AND \$40 EACH ARE ON SALE AT ALL URBOTIX OUTLETS. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 582 5314.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB TO PROMOTE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO LIFE
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THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC), WHICH WILL CELEBRATE ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR, WILL HELP PROMOTE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE AMONG STUDENTS IN A SERIES OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES.

CYC MEMBERS WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A MORE REALISTIC AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

THE CLUB, ESTABLISHED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN 1977, HAS A TOTAL OF 130,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS AT PRESENT.

MEANWHILE, 43 OUTSTANDING MEMBERS WHO HAVE WON MERIT AWARDS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SINGAPORE ON JULY 11.

TO MARK THEIR DEPARTURE, A FLAG-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, PRAISED THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

THE ANNUAL TRIP IS MAINLY FUNDED BY THE LAW'S FOUNDATION WHICH HAS DONATED \$400,000 FOR THIS YEAR'S CYC ACTIVITIES.

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TRAM PARADE TO PUBLICISE "BEATING RETREAT"
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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A TRAM PARADE ON FRIDAY (JULY 3) IN CENTRAL AND CAUSEWAY BAY AREAS TO PUBLICISE A "BEATING RETREAT" SHOW BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SCOUTS LATER THIS MONTH.

THE PARADE WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT TWO HOURS.

MEMBERS OF THE 221ST HONG KONG SCOUT GROUP WILL TRAVEL ON THE TRAM TO GIVE BAND PERFORMANCES.

THE "BEATING RETREAT", A FUND-RAISING EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST, WILL BE STAGED AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON JULY 23 AND 24.

ADMISSION TICKETS AT \$15 EACH ARE NOW ON SALE AT ALL URBIX OUTLETS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TRAM PARADE.

/THE DEPARTMENT'S

THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF OFFICER AND LEADER OF THE 221ST HONG KONG SCOUT GROUP, MR YIU CHIU-KIT, WILL BE ON BOARD THE TRAM TO BRIEF MEDIA MEMBERS ON SCOUTING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INMATES IN TRAINING CENTRES.

MEMBERS OF THE SCOUT GROUP WILL ALSO GIVE PRESS INTERVIEWS.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND MEDIA MEMBERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 3.15 PM ON FRIDAY (JULY 3).

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES CAN ALSO GO DIRECT TO THE TRAM TERMINAL AT WHITTY STREET, WESTERN, FROM WHERE THE TRAM PARADE WILL START OFF AT 4 PM.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,188
REVERSAL OF LAF	-1,200
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	988
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 110.1 *-0.1* 1.7.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.93 PCT	17 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.60	4.33
1 MONTH	2.80 PCT	20 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.32	4.70
3 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	23 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.03	4.98
6 MONTHS	3.19 PCT					
12 MONTHS	3.75 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,575 MN

CLOSED 1 JULY 1992

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