



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR SPEAKS ON XI YANG'S CASE .....	1
TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION .....	2
LAW TO TACKLE ELECTION OFFENCES TO BE AMENDED .....	3
MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING ASSESSMENT INTRODUCED .....	6
A NEW REGIMENT FOR BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG .....	8
DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR VISITS ACP SITES .....	9
TIPS ON SAVING ENERGY IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS PUBLISHED .....	10
100 CAR MARKS UP FOR AUCTION .....	11
PRETEST SURVEY ON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE .....	12
MALAYSIAN EDUCATION DELEGATION VISITS ED .....	13
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	14

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

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DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR SPEAKS ON XI YANG'S CASE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BEIJING TO APPROACH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR THEM TO CONFIRM OR TO CORRECT RECENT REPORTING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ABOUT XI YANG'S TRIAL AND SENTENCING, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER HER VISIT TO THE TSING MA BRIDGE WORK SITE, MRS CHAN SAID AS XI YANG WAS A RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AND WORKED FOR A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TREATMENT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED.

"THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD DISMAY IN RESPONSE TO THE TREATMENT MAPPED OUT TO XI YANG AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, NEWSPAPER REPORTERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING, I MIGHT SAY, SIX HONG KONG ADVISERS, HAVE ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN," MRS CHAN SAID.

"SOME OF THEM HAVE INDEED REQUESTED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, FIRST OF ALL, TO ISSUE AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON THE TRIAL OF XI YANG AND THE REASONS FOR THE VERY HEAVY SENTENCE.

"SECONDLY, THEY HAVE REQUESTED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE CLEAR GUIDELINES SO THAT REPORTERS WORKING IN CHINA CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS.

"THIRDLY, SOME OF THEM HAVE REQUESTED THAT IF MR XI YANG APPEALS, HIS APPEAL SHOULD BE DEALT WITH LENIENTLY."

MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD ECHO THESE SENTIMENTS.

"WE HAVE MANY REPORTERS GOING ABOUT THEIR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS IN CHINA. THEY NEED TO KNOW CLEARLY WHAT THE RULES ARE, GOVERNING NEWSPAPER GATHERING IN CHINA SO THAT THEY CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE RULES," SHE ADDED.

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## TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY TO GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN AFTER VISITING THE TSING MA BRIDGE WORK SITE THIS THURSDAY (APRIL 7, 1994).

MRS CHAN : GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. GLAD TO SEE ALL YOU ON SITE. FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE VISIT I'VE JUST MADE. I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SEE FOR MYSELF THE ACP PROJECTS TAKING SHAPE. IN PARTICULAR, I'VE JUST SEEN THE TOWERS FOR THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE AND THE WIRES BETWEEN AND THEY ARE TRULY A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE MAKING EXTREMELY GOOD PROGRESS BOTH ON THE ACP PROJECTS AND ON THE TSING MA BRIDGE. I UNDERSTAND, I'VE BEEN TOLD JUST NOW THAT WHEN THE TSING MA BRIDGE IS COMPLETED, IT WILL BE THE LONGEST COMBINED ROAD AND RAIL SUSPENSION BRIDGE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. THE PROGRESS THAT WE'VE MADE SO FAR, I THINK, WE CAN ALL BE VERY PROUD OF. ON THE GOVERNMENT ACP PROJECTS, WE ARE ALSO MAKING VERY GOOD PROGRESS. WE'VE, SO FAR, LET 45 CONTRACTS AT A TOTAL VALUE OF \$48 BILLION. THEY'VE ALL BEEN LET ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET. WE'VE BROUGHT TOGETHER A GOOD MIX OF EXPERTS AND EXPERTISE. WE'VE GOT CONSULTANTS WORKING HAPPILY ALONGSIDE WITH CIVIL SERVANTS. THE NAPCO OFFICE IS DOING A REALLY EXCELLENT JOB IN CO-ORDINATING THIS MEGA PROJECT AND THE EXPERIENCE THAT WE'VE GAINED IN HANDLING THIS PROJECT WILL OBVIOUSLY PUT US IN VERY GOOD STEAD IN TERM OF BEING ABLE TO HANDLE IN FUTURE SUCH MEGA PROJECTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE ON THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE AIRPORT AND THAT WILL THEN ALLOW US TO PUSH AHEAD FULL STEAM WITH THE VARIOUS ACP PROJECTS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE PROCEEDING ON A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT.

AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE XI YANG CASE. WE HAVE ASKED THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BEIJING TO APPROACH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, EITHER FOR THE CHINESE TO CONFIRM OR, INDEED, TO CORRECT RECENT REPORTING IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT XI YANG'S TRIAL AND SENTENCING. XI YANG IS, OF COURSE, RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AND HE WORKS FOR A LOCAL NEWSPAPER. SO, BOTH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TREATMENT THAT HE HAS RECEIVED. THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD DISMAY IN RESPONSE TO THE TREATMENT MAPPED OUT TO XI YANG AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, NEWSPAPER REPORTERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING, I MIGHT SAY, SIX HONG KONG ADVISERS, HAVE ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN. SOME OF THEM HAVE INDEED REQUESTED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, FIRST OF ALL, TO ISSUE AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON THE TRIAL OF XI YANG AND THE REASONS FOR THE VERY HEAVY SENTENCE. SECONDLY, THEY HAVE REQUESTED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE CLEAR GUIDELINES SO THAT REPORTERS WORKING IN CHINA CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS. AND THIRDLY, SOME OF THEM HAVE REQUESTED THAT IF MR XI YANG APPEALS, HIS APPEAL SHOULD BE DEALT WITH LENIENTLY. THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD ECHO THESE SENTIMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE MANY REPORTERS GOING ABOUT THEIR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS IN CHINA. THEY NEED TO KNOW CLEARLY WHAT THE RULES ARE, GOVERNING NEWSPAPER GATHERING IN CHINA SO THAT THEY CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE RULES. I ALSO VERY MUCH HOPE THAT XI YANG'S FAMILY, HIS COLLEAGUES, AND HIS LEGAL ADVISERS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET EARLY WITH XI YANG TO HELP HIM PREPARE FOR HIS APPEAL.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT CHINA, BY TAKING THE ACTION IN .... IN THE CASE OF THIS CASE AND ALSO WEI JINGSHENG, IS BASICALLY SAYING THAT IT NO LONGER CARES ABOUT THE MFN AND THAT'S RATHER .....FOR HONG KONG?

MRS CHAN: I AM SURE THAT THE CHINESE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MFN NOT ONLY TO CHINA BUT ALSO TO HONG KONG. THEY ARE IN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE AMERICANS AND AS YOU KNOW, I SHALL SHORTLY MYSELF BE GOING TO AMERICA TO LOBBY FOR MFN BOTH ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG AND ON BEHALF OF CHINA.

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LAW TO TACKLE ELECTION OFFENCES TO BE AMENDED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO MODERNISE AND FURTHER IMPROVE LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR TACKLING CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE (CIPO) WERE MADE FOLLOWING A REVIEW CARRIED OUT BY THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL.

THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IS AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT OPEN AND FAIR ELECTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO SEEKS TO MAKE THE ORDINANCE EASIER TO ENFORCE AND TO COMPREHEND.

"IT ALSO REMOVES FROM THE ORDINANCE CERTAIN ANOMALIES AND INCONSISTENCIES AND ACHIEVE GREATER DETERRENCE THROUGH HEAVIER PENALTIES," HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE MAJOR AMENDMENTS UNDER THE BILL AND THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSALS, THE SPOKESMAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

PENALTY

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TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

IN PROPOSING THE NEW PENALTY LEVELS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE SERIOUS NATURE OF ELECTORAL OFFENCES AND THE NEED TO BRING INTO PARITY THE PENALTIES FOR ELECTORAL OFFENCES WITH THOSE HEAVIER PENALTIES IN FORCE FOR OTHER CORRUPT OFFENCES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE (POBO).

### ELECTORAL BRIBERY

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IT SETS OUT IN A CLEARER AND MORE CONCISE MANNER WHAT CONSTITUTES ELECTORAL BRIBERY.

THE REVAMPED PROVISION WOULD CATCH THE CORRUPT OFFERING, SOLICITING AND ACCEPTING OF ADVANTAGES IN RELATION TO ONE'S VOTING, REFRAINING FROM VOTING, OR PROCURING THE RETURN OF ANY PERSON TO SERVE ON A PUBLIC BODY.

### BRIBERY IN RELATION TO STANDING AS CANDIDATE

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IT SHALL BE A "CORRUPT PRACTICE" FOR A CANDIDATE TO ACCEPT A BRIBE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION.

UNDER THE EXISTING CIPO, IT IS A "CORRUPT PRACTICE" TO BRIBE A CANDIDATE TO WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION, BUT AN "ILLEGAL PRACTICE" FOR THE CANDIDATE TO ACCEPT THE BRIBE. THE FORMER OFFENCE CARRIES A MUCH HEAVIER PENALTY THAN THE LATTER. SINCE BOTH OFFENCES ARE EQUALLY SERIOUS, THE LATTER OFFENCE IS RE-CLASSIFIED AS A "CORRUPT PRACTICE" AS WELL.

### UNDUE INFLUENCE

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IT SHALL BE AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON WHO EXERTS UNDUE INFLUENCE ON OTHERS TO CANVASS OR NOT TO CANVASS, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR PARTICULAR CANDIDATES.

THE EXISTING PROVISIONS UNDER CIPO CONCERN ONLY VOTING, NOT CANVASSING. TO REMEDY THIS PROBLEM, IT IS PROPOSED TO EXPAND THE PROVISION TO COVER "PRESSURISING TO CANVASS OR NOT TO CANVASS" AS WELL.

### CONTROL OF ELECTION EXPENSES

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IT SETS OUT MORE CLEARLY THE RESPECTIVE LIABILITIES OF A CANDIDATE AND OTHER PERSONS WHO INCUR ELECTION EXPENSES ON HIS BEHALF. THIS WILL FACILITATE ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION IN THE EVENT THAT THE PRESCRIBED ELECTION LIMIT IS EXCEEDED.

### FALSE STATEMENT CONCERNING A CANDIDATE

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A CANDIDATE WHO MAKES A FALSE STATEMENT REGARDING HIMSELF MAY AVOID PROSECUTION IF HE IS ABLE TO PROVE THAT HE DID HONESTLY BELIEVE IN THAT STATEMENT.

THIS PROPOSAL RECOGNISES THAT A CANDIDATE MAY WRONGFULLY, BUT HONESTLY, BELIEVE IN SOMETHING ABOUT HIMSELF, FOR EXAMPLE, HIS ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION.

CONTROL OF PRINTED ELECTION MATERIAL  
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A CANDIDATE WHO FAILS TO INCLUDE, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, THE NECESSARY PRINTING DETAILS IN ANY PRINTED ELECTION MATERIAL MAY SEEK A REMEDY BY MAKING A STATUTORY DECLARATION GIVING THE OMITTED DETAILS WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE OFFENDING ELECTION MATERIAL.

UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, ALL PRINTED ELECTION MATERIAL IS REQUIRED TO BEAR THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINTER TOGETHER WITH THE DATE OF PRINTING AND THE NUMBER OF COPIES PRINTED. THESE PROVISIONS PRIMARILY SERVE TO FACILITATE THE VERIFICATION OF THE ELECTION EXPENSES REPORTED BY CANDIDATES.

EXPERIENCE IN PAST ELECTIONS SHOWS SOME CANDIDATES OFTEN FORGET TO PROVIDE PRINTING DETAILS BECAUSE OF GENUINE OVERSIGHT. IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S JUDGEMENT, SUCH CASES ARE NOT WORTH PROSECUTING.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS OF INCUMBENT CANDIDATES  
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ANY PERFORMANCE REPORTS PUBLISHED BY AN INCUMBENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER RUNNING FOR A SEAT IN THE SAME TIER OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HE OR SHE IS SERVING, AND WHICH ARE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES UP TO ELECTION DAY, WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REGARDED AS ELECTION MATERIAL. THESE REPORTS WILL IN TURN BE COUNTED TOWARDS THE INCUMBENT'S ELECTION EXPENSES.

THIS PROPOSAL IS TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN ALLOWING INCUMBENT CANDIDATES TO CARRY OUT THEIR NORMAL CONSTITUENCY WORK ON THE ONE HAND, AND ENSURING THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE AN UNFAIR EDGE OVER THEIR NON-INCUMBENT COMPETITORS ON THE OTHER.

DISQUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATURE DUE TO MINOR OFFENCES  
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TO REMOVE AN EXISTING DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION WHICH DEBARS A CANDIDATE FROM CANDIDATURE FOR 10 YEARS AFTER HE HAS BEEN FOUND, DURING AN ELECTION PETITION, TO HAVE BREACHED THE PROVISION RELATING TO PRINTED ELECTION MATERIAL.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS OF THE VIEW THAT THESE ARE MINOR OFFENCES AND DO NOT WARRANT DISQUALIFICATION FOR 10 YEARS.

POWER OF COURT TO EXCEPT INNOCENT ACT FROM BEING ILLEGAL  
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PRACTICES  
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ANY PERSON SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE COURT TO EXEMPT HIMSELF OR ANY OTHER PERSONS FROM THE LIABILITIES OF ILLEGAL PRACTICES WHERE SUCH PRACTICES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED OUT OF INADVERTENCE OR SIMILAR CAUSES.

AT PRESENT, ONLY CANDIDATES HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH APPLICATIONS. IT IS LOGICAL AND EQUITABLE TO EXTEND THIS RIGHT MORE WIDELY.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 20, 1994.

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MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING ASSESSMENT INTRODUCED

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STUDENTS ENTERING SECONDARY 1 IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR THROUGH THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION (SSPA) SYSTEM WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS IN TERMS OF THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH.

GROUPING IS BASED ON STUDENTS' INTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS IN THE SECOND TERM OF PRIMARY 5 AND THE FIRST TERM OF PRIMARY 6, WHICH ARE SCALED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF MOTHER TONGUE AS THE BEST MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR ABOUT ONE-HALF OF SECONDARY STUDENTS IN HONG KONG.

"STUDENTS IN THE FIRST GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY IN EITHER CHINESE OR ENGLISH.

"THOSE IN THE SECOND GROUP WILL LEARN MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE CHINESE MEDIUM.

"STUDENTS IN THE THIRD GROUP WILL LEARN BETTER THROUGH THE CHINESE MEDIUM BUT WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE ABLE TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY IN ENGLISH," HE SAID.

PARENTS OF PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED LATER THIS MONTH WITH INFORMATION ON THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF THEIR CHILDREN, IN TERMS OF ONE OF THE GROUPINGS, SO AS TO HELP THEM CHOOSE SUITABLE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

PARENTS WILL ALSO RECEIVE A LEAFLET ON THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING, TOGETHER WITH A SECONDARY SCHOOL LIST SHOWING THE SCHOOLS' CHOICE OF TEACHING MEDIUM.

"IN ORDER TO HELP SCHOOLS CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE TEACHING MEDIUM IN THE 1994/95 SCHOOL YEAR, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY PROVIDED ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE SSPA WITH INFORMATION ON THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF THEIR SECONDARY 1 INTAKES IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS FROM 1989 TO 1993," MR WONG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GROUPING ASSESSMENT WAS PART OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE LEARNING IN THE MOTHER TONGUE, AND THAT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WAS BEING LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE ITS USE.

"THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ENGLISH WILL BE NEGLECTED OR THAT THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH WILL DECLINE IN THOSE SCHOOLS.

"INDEED THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING EXTRA TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, EXTRA TEACHING EQUIPMENT AND A SPECIAL LIBRARY GRANT - \$16,000 PER SCHOOL," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO TEACH IN THE MOTHER TONGUE.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE:

- \* THE SETTING UP OF A CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY CHINESE LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING MATERIALS;
- \* ENHANCED TEACHER TRAINING;
- \* GUIDELINES ON TEACHING IN CHINESE;
- \* DISTRIBUTION OF GLOSSARIES OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE FOR MAJOR SUBJECTS; AND
- \* REMOVING THE LANGUAGE MEDIUM INDICATOR IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

IN ADDITION, A BRIDGING COURSE IS PROVIDED TO SECONDARY 6 AND SECONDARY 7 STUDENTS LEARNING IN THE CHINESE MEDIUM SO AS TO HELP THEM, IF NECESSARY, TO MEET THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY INTO TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

MR WONG SAID EXPATRIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS COULD CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH.

THE SETTING UP OF THE LANGUAGE FUND WOULD ALSO HELP TO RAISE THE LANGUAGE STANDARDS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

"SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF MOTHER-TONGUE LEARNING REQUIRES SUPPORT FROM SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE," MR WONG SAID.

"I CALL ON ALL CONCERNED TO ACCEPT THE ADVANTAGES OF MOTHER-TONGUE LEARNING IN ORDER TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG FOR THE BENEFIT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE."

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING AND LEARNING, INCLUDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS AND LEAFLETS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICITY ON RADIO AND TELEVISION TO EXPLAIN THE ADVANTAGES OF MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

- \* TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO USE MOTHER TONGUE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM;

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

- 8 -

- \* TO ALLOW SCHOOLS TO EXERCISE DISCRETION OVER THE CHOICE OF AN APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION; AND
- \* TO URGE SCHOOLS TO ADOPT A SINGLE MEDIUM APPROACH AND TO AVOID USING MIXED CODE IN TEACHING.

"IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES MOTHER-TONGUE LEARNING. THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONSULTANCY PANEL IN 1982, TOGETHER WITH EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORTS 1, 2 AND 4, HAVE ALL AFFIRMED THAT MOTHER TONGUE IS THE BEST TEACHING AND LEARNING MEDIUM.

"WE ARE NOW PROVIDING PARENTS WITH MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR THEIR CHILDREN," HE SAID.

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#### A NEW REGIMENT FOR BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG

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A NEW REGIMENT WITHIN BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG WILL BE FORMED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE NEW UNIT, THE HONG KONG LOGISTIC SUPPORT REGIMENT, ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS, CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 500 OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN.

IT IS FORMED AS A RESULT OF THE DRAWDOWN OF BRITISH FORCE LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE THE REMAINING LOGISTIC EXPERTISE UNDER A SINGLE COMMAND STRUCTURE.

THE HONG KONG LOGISTIC SUPPORT REGIMENT WILL BE COMMANDED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL NIGEL LLOYD OF THE ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS.

IT WILL CONSIST OF A NUMBER OF SUB UNITS, INCLUDING A TRANSPORT SQUADRON, A SUPPLY SQUADRON, A FOOD SUPPLY TROOP, A POSTAL AND COURIER TROOP, AN ACCOMMODATION SERVICES UNIT, AS WELL AS A HEADQUARTER SQUADRON, WHICH WILL BE BASED AT OSBORNE BARRACKS, KOWLOON.

THE REGIMENT WILL ALSO HAVE DETACHMENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT IS PLANNED THAT THE NEW UNIT WILL RETAIN ITS PRESENT STRUCTURE AND ROLE UNTIL 1997.

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DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR VISITS ACP SITES

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DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, WAS TODAY (THURSDAY) GIVEN A VIEW OF THE RAPID PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

MRS CHAN WAS MAKING HER FIRST VISIT TO ACP SITES SINCE HER APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF SECRETARY.

THIS WAS PRECEDED BY A VISIT TO THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS COORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) WHERE SHE WAS BRIEFED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR, MR BERNARD LAM, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS.

MRS CHAN WAS TOLD ABOUT THE INTEGRATED TEAM APPROACH OPERATED IN NAPCO, INVOLVING CIVIL SERVANTS AND CONSULTANTS WORKING TOGETHER TO COORDINATE THE LARGE AND COMPLEX PROJECTS IN THE ACP.

SHE NOTED THAT THE EXPERIENCE GATHERED WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OTHER MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE TERRITORY.

MRS CHAN WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE ACP, FOR WHICH 45 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT A TOTAL VALUE OF \$48 BILLION HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO DATE - ALL WITHIN BUDGET.

"THIS SHOWS THAT OUR MECHANISMS FOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND COST CONTROL ARE WORKING WELL," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN THEN PAID A VISIT TO THE SITE OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S ACTING PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, MR C K LAU, AND THE CONSULTANTS' ENGINEER REPRESENTATIVE, MR ALAN REES.

FROM A VANTAGE POINT ON TSING YI ISLAND, MRS CHAN COULD SEE THE FIRST TWO WIRES ACROSS THE MA WAN CHANNEL WHICH WERE CONNECTED BETWEEN THE GIANT TOWERS OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE JUST BEFORE AND AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

SHE WAS BRIEFED ON THE TECHNIQUES USED WHICH RESULTED IN EACH OF THE TWO 50-STOREY TOWERS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN JUST THREE MONTHS, ON THE PLACEMENT OF HUGE STEEL SADDLES TO SUPPORT THE MAIN CABLES AT THE TOP OF THE TOWERS WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND ON THE OTHER WORKS TAKING PLACE ON THE BRIDGE.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT WAS LET IN MAY 1992 AND IS NOW MORE THAN 40 PER CENT COMPLETE.

"THE GIANT TOWERS AND OTHER WORKS ALREADY COMPLETED ARE A VIVID ILLUSTRATION OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON WHAT WILL BE ONE OF THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGES IN THE WORLD, AND A PROMINENT LANDMARK WHICH HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD OF," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE BRIDGE, TOGETHER WITH THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT, WILL FORM THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WHICH WILL BE A VITAL LINK IN THE NEW HIGHWAY NETWORK BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

- 10 -

MRS CHAN CONCLUDED HER VISIT WITH A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE NEW AIRPORT SITE AT CHEK LAP KOK AND OTHER ACP PROJECTS.

"THE ACP WILL PROVIDE A MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL SUSTAIN THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, AND IT IS ALREADY TAKING SHAPE," MRS CHAN SAID.

"WORK ON THE PROJECTS IS NOW CLEARLY VISIBLE AT THE VARIOUS SITES AND I AM IMPRESSED BY THE RAPID PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE," SHE ADDED.

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TIPS ON SAVING ENERGY IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS PUBLISHED

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PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING USEFUL TIPS ON SAVING ENERGY AT HOME AND IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, AS WELL AS SAVING COSTS AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE PUBLICATIONS, COMPRISING A BOOKLET FOR HOUSEHOLDERS, A LEAFLET FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND A WALL CHART FOR CARETAKERS, ARE AIMED TO ENLIST PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR REDUCED POWER CONSUMPTION AND OTHER FUEL-SAVING MEASURES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY): "MOST OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES WE USE NOWADAYS ARE NOT UNLIMITED. THE MORE ENERGY WE CONSUME EACH DAY, THE LESS THERE IS LEFT FOR THE FUTURE.

"SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, UNLESS WE TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS CONSERVATION, THE SOURCES OF ENERGY WE HAVE ALL COME TO TAKE FOR GRANTED WILL NO LONGER BE ECONOMICALLY ACCESSIBLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE SHOULD REDUCE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING IN ANY WAY.

"IT IS SIMPLY THAT, WITH A LITTLE BIT OF THOUGHT, WE CAN ENJOY ALL THE AMENITIES AND LIFESTYLE THAT WE DO NOW. YET WE ARE ALSO MAKING OUR OWN, POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT," HE ADDED.

THE BOOKLET, ENTITLED "SAVING ENERGY IN YOUR HOME", SHOWS HOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN SAVE ENERGY IN EVERY ASPECT OF RUNNING THEIR OWN HOUSEHOLDS.

IT INCLUDES TIPS ON WHAT KIND OF ITEMS TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT, AND HOW TO OPERATE ELECTRICAL, GAS AND WATER APPLIANCES FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES STARTING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

/AS FOR .....

AS FOR RUNNING A RESIDENTIAL HOUSING BLOCK, THE LEAFLET OUTLINES PRACTICAL MEASURES THAT CAN BE APPLIED IMMEDIATELY AT NO COST TO INITIATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS.

IT ALSO LISTS CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL TO CUT THEIR OVERHEADS BY ADOPTING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENERGY CONSERVATION.

THE WALL CHART CARRYING ENERGY-SAVING TIPS ON MANAGING PUBLIC AREAS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IS AVAILABLE TO CARETAKERS FOR DISPLAY AT THEIR WORKPLACE.

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN CONTACT THE MARKETING OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES ON TELEPHONE 842 8811 FOR FREE COPIES OF THESE THREE PUBLICATIONS.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, IS FORMED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THEM, WITH REGARD TO THEIR LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT.

LAST YEAR, IT PRODUCED A BOOKLET "ADVISORY NOTE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG" AND FIVE LEAFLETS TARGETED INDIVIDUALLY AT DEVELOPERS, MANUFACTURERS, HOTELS AND THE MANAGEMENT AND TENANTS OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

THE COMMITTEE IS NOW WORKING ON SOME GUIDELINES ON ENERGY AUDIT FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR.

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100 CAR MARKS UP FOR AUCTION  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (APRIL 9) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 50 LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING AT 9.30 AM. THEY ARE:

FT819	FT1289	AW365	FT6333	CG815
FS301	FU3228	FT1219	FT3988	FT3889
*FE400	*FX3	*DL5	*BC88	*BH4444
FT1229	FT189	FT2228	FT113	FT3278
AS1992	CG3688	FS9369	EL339	BU8968
FT3680	FT325	CH874	FT1029	FT9116
AL2848	FT718	FT1668	AA5525	BN327
*AS7	*FW900	*DK26	*AC696	*ET2277
FT612	FT3168	FT881	FT245	FT7693
FT6381	FT2313	FT522	FT317	BE5713

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

- 12 -

IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM, ANOTHER 50 LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

FT1128	AW366	AL1218	FU9219	FU1013
FU932	FU203	FU2608	FU712	FU407
*FX323	*FW111	*DK19	*AL888	*FW5678
FU629	CZ609	FU104	FU850	FU9266
AA6768	FU2118	AT1972	CM8023	AN874
FU318	FT882	FU157	FU751	FU1960
FT7118	FU1812	AW6318	BZ2805	CC2608
*DL9	*1268	*AJ7000	*FU67	*FX1001
FU930	FU710	FT627	FU516	FU583
FT2108	FC308	FU6080	AS9192	FT5224

\* SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE CAR REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO CARS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

THE AUCTION WILL BE THE 220TH & 221ST ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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#### PRETEST SURVEY ON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT A SURVEY FROM OCTOBER THIS YEAR TO SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF HOUSEHOLDS.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE USED FOR REBASING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

A SMALL-SCALE PRETEST SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM MID-APRIL TO END-MAY TO TEST THE QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES OF THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE PRETEST SURVEY WILL COVER ABOUT 250 HOUSEHOLDS IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS.

THE DEPARTMENT IS SENDING A LETTER TO EACH SELECTED LIVING QUARTER INFORMING THEM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRETEST SURVEY.

OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THE HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE PURPOSES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRETEST SURVEY.

/EACH OFFICER .....

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

- 13 -

EACH OFFICER WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED HOUSEHOLDS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE OFFICERS IN THE PRETEST SURVEY.

"ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THE PRETEST SURVEY WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL," HE SAID.

ANY HOUSEHOLD HAVING QUERIES ABOUT THE SURVEY CAN CALL THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 805 6420 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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#### MALAYSIAN EDUCATION DELEGATION VISITS ED

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A FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM THE MALAYSIAN EDUCATION SERVICE COMMISSION TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO LEARN ABOUT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

THE DELEGATION, LED BY THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DATO' ABDUL HALIM DATO' HJ ABDUL RAUF, FIRST VISITED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, WAN CHAI.

ON ARRIVAL, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, BRIEFED THE PARTY ON THE HONG KONG EDUCATION SYSTEM, TEACHER EDUCATION, RECRUITMENT AND REGISTRATION.

THE MEMBERS FROM THE COMMISSION LATER VISITED SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT CALDECOTT ROAD IN KOWLOON, WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE STAFF ON CURRICULA FOR TEACHER EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PART-TIME IN-SERVICE BACHELOR OF EDUCATION COURSE.

THE DELEGATION ALSO PAID A VISIT TO THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, WHO BRIEFED THEM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE.

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- 14 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,842	0930	+45
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,412	1000	+250
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+137
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+160	1200	+160
LAF TODAY	-590	1500	+160
		1600	+160

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER      TWI 125.6    \*-0.1\*      7.4.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.19	17 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.59	5.00
1 MONTH	3.36	20 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.45	5.22
3 MONTHS	3.70	23 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.28	5.45
6 MONTHS	4.01	31 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.06	5.97
12 MONTHS	4.54	34 MONTHS	3701	4.60	96.24	6.17

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 24,949 MN

CLOSED 7 APRIL 1994

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