



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR TO MEET OFFICIALS IN LONDON	1
TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION	2
HEAVY DELUGE CAUSES FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS	5
GOVT'S FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 1993/94 GAZETTED	7
GUIDELINES ON TRANSFER TO LOCAL CONDITIONS	7
EDUCATORS URGED TO DO MORE ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ...	8
RESPONSE ON DRIVER TRAINING INDUSTRY	9
ONE-WAY GYRATORY TRAFFIC SCHEME IN WONG CHUK HANG	11
YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT	12
SPECIFIED POLLING STATIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED	13
RAINSTORM ROUND UP	14
ROADS AFFECTED BY FLOODING AND LANDSLIDE	15
CNTA MONITORING STORM SITUATION	15
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING BAD WEATHER URGED	16
NO POSTAL DELIVERY IN YUEN LONG	16
/NO SECURITY	

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

NO SECURITY REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT PREMISES	17
FRENCH BANK GRANTED LICENCE	17
AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT POK FU LAM OUTLINE ZONING PLAN	18
VEHICULAR RAMP TO OCEAN TERMINAL	19
MARINE WORKS AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND	19
CONSTRUCTION OF PIER AT KAU SAI CHAU	20
ROADS TO BE RESUMED AND RECONSTRUCTED	21
BOUNDARY OF TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK TO BE REVISED	21
AMENDMENT TO DRAFT STANLEY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN ANNOUNCED	22
TWO LOTS FOR SALE	24
PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY AT TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA	24
FIRING PRACTICE IN AUGUST	26
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	27

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 1 -

GOVERNOR TO MEET OFFICIALS IN LONDON

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL FLY TO LONDON THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS ON HONG KONG ISSUES BEFORE GOING ON LEAVE UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES LOBBY THIS AFTERNOON BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, MR PATTEN SAID: "I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF MEETINGS PLANNED IN LONDON, BEGINNING ON MONDAY WITH MEETINGS WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS AND THE PRIME MINISTER.

"I'LL ALSO BE MEETING DURING THE WEEK, AMONG OTHERS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS' FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE, DAVID HOWELL, THE LABOUR PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, JACK CUNNINGHAM, THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PADDY ASHDOWN."

DURING HIS STAY IN LONDON, THE GOVERNOR WILL ALSO HAVE LUNCH WITH HONG KONG EXECUTIVES WHO ARE WORKING IN LONDON AND THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WILL MEET ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS ON CHINA AND HONG KONG'.

AT THE PRE-DEPARTURE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, MR PATTEN COMMENTED FURTHER ON THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S PROPOSAL FOR A TAX-FUNDED OLD AGE PENSION.

"I DON'T THINK THAT THAT IS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"IT DOES THREATEN PRECISELY THAT SORT OF WELFARE BLACK HOLE WHICH MANY PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTLY WORRIED ABOUT."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE INITIAL ESTIMATES WHICH HE MADE YESTERDAY ON THE GENERAL CHAMBER'S PROPOSAL WERE ON THE LOW SIDE.

"OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PAYING FOR A PENSION THROUGH THE TAX SYSTEM WOULD ADD BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PER CENT TO PROFITS TAX AND BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PER CENT TO SALARIES TAX," MR PATTEN SAID.

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE ABSOLUTELY PRECISE BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO MAKE ESTIMATES ABOUT TAKE-UP BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL REGARD THAT AS AN ACCEPTABLE OR AFFORDABLE OPTION.

"IT ALSO HAS THE DISADVANTAGE OF BREAKING WHAT, IN OUR VIEW, IS THE IMPERATIVE IRON-LINK BETWEEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS."

NOTING THAT PEOPLE WERE PUTTING FORWARD ALTERNATIVES RATHER THAN OFFERING CRITICISMS, MR PATTEN SAID: "I DON'T THINK ANY ALTERNATIVE ADVANCED SO FAR HAS A COMPELLING CASE TO BE MADE FOR IT."

THE GOVERNOR REITERATED THAT HE STILL BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL WHICH WAS A PRUDENT, COMPASSIONATE AND WORKABLE SCHEME, WAS THE BEST ON THE TABLE.

"IT'S AFFORDABLE. IT PROVIDES IMMEDIATE HELP AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL ITSELF BE MAKING A CONTRIBUTION WHICH WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 35 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THE SCHEME," HE ADDED.

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES LOBBY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TODAY (FRIDAY):

GOVERNOR: GOOD MORNING. I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP YOU IF I SAID A FEW WORDS NOW RATHER THAN DRAGGED YOU OUT TO THE AIRPORT THIS EVENING. I'M, AS I THINK YOU KNOW, GOING TO LONDON THIS EVENING FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS NEXT WEEK BEFORE THEN GOING ON LEAVE UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST. I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF MEETINGS PLANNED IN LONDON, BEGINNING ON MONDAY WITH MEETINGS WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS AND THE PRIME MINISTER. I'LL ALSO BE MEETING DURING THE WEEK, AMONG OTHERS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS' FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE, DAVID HOWELL, THE LABOUR PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, JACK CUNNINGHAM, THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PADDY ASHDOWN. I AM HAVING A LUNCH FOR HONG KONG EXECUTIVES WHO ARE WORKING IN LONDON AND THE UNITED KINGDOM AND I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF OTHER MEETINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE WITH ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS ON CHINA AND HONG KONG. SO, IT'S A FAIRLY FULL PROGRAMME. I'LL TRY TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FOR TALKING TO ANY MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG PRESS WHO ARE IN LONDON NEXT WEEK AND I'LL BE HAVING A ROUND-UP SESSION FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG MEDIA ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. SO, THAT'S GOING TO BE A PRETTY FULL PROGRAMME AND, OF COURSE, WHILE I AM AWAY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL BE ACTING GOVERNOR AND I HOPE THE WEATHER WILL BE BETTER IN AUGUST THAN THIS.

ONE OTHER THING I'D LIKE TO SAY. CLEARLY, WHILE I AM AWAY, THE DEBATE THAT HAS BEGUN ON TAKING SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF THE OLD AGE THROUGH INTRODUCING A DECENT, COMPREHENSIVE PENSION SCHEME WILL CONTINUE. I AM PLEASED WITH THE PUBLIC REACTIONS SO FAR TO WHAT WE'VE PROPOSED. THERE'VE BEEN THREE OPINION POLLS SO FAR ON OUR PROPOSALS IN THE ECONOMIC TIMES AND MING PAO AND THE NEXT MAGAZINE. AND ALL OF THOSE WHO'VE GIVEN, I THINK ONE WOULD SAY, RINGING ENDORSEMENTS TO OUR PROPOSALS. BUT THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WHICH'RE COMING UP AND WE WILL BE ADDRESSING THEM AND PROVIDING ANSWERS AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE OVER THE COMING WEEKS BECAUSE WE DO WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE AND THAT WHEN WE MAKE A FINAL DECISION, WE'VE GOT AS BROAD A CONSENSUS IN THE COMMUNITY AS POSSIBLE.

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THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES WHICH HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD. THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS, IT SEEMS TO BE UNCLEAR WHETHER IT IS OFFICIAL OR NOT, PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A TAX-FUNDED OLD AGE PENSION. I DON'T THINK, TO BE HONEST, THAT THAT IS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG. IT DOES THREATEN PRECISELY THAT SORT OF WELFARE BLACK HOLE WHICH MANY PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTLY, IN MY VIEW, WORRIED ABOUT. WE'VE TRIED WITH THE BEST WILL IN THE WORLD TO PUT A PRICE TAG ON THAT PARTICULAR PROPOSAL. I'VE MADE SOME INITIAL ESTIMATES YESTERDAY WHICH, I THINK, WERE ON THE LOW SIDE. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PAYING FOR A PENSION THROUGH THE TAX SYSTEM WOULD ADD BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PERCENT TO PROFITS TAX AND BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PER CENT TO SALARIES TAX. IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE ABSOLUTELY PRECISE BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO MAKE ESTIMATES ABOUT TAKE-UP BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL REGARD THAT AS AN ACCEPTABLE OR AFFORDABLE OPTION. IT ALSO HAS THE DISADVANTAGE OF BREAKING WHAT, IN OUR VIEW, IS THE IMPERATIVE IRON-LINK BETWEEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS. SO, I STILL BELIEVE THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS THE BEST ON THE TABLE. IT'S AFFORDABLE. IT PROVIDES IMMEDIATE HELP AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL ITSELF BE MAKING A CONTRIBUTION, AS YOU KNOW, WHICH WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 35 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THE SCHEME. I THINK IT'S A PRUDENT AND A COMPASSIONATE AND WORKABLE SCHEME AND WHILE I AM PLEASED THAT PEOPLE ARE PUTTING FORWARD ALTERNATIVES AS THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS JUST DONE RATHER THAN OFFERING CRITICISMS, I DON'T THINK ANY ALTERNATIVE ADVANCED SO FAR HAS A COMPELLING CASE TO BE MADE FOR IT. ANYWAY, THAT DEBATE WILL CONTINUE AND IN THE AUTUMN, WE'LL HAVE TO COME TO SOME DECISIONS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHEN YOU SEE JOHN MAJOR, WHAT PRECISELY WILL YOU TELL HIM ABOUT SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS?

GOVERNOR: I'LL BE TALKING TO HIM ABOUT WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I KNOW THAT HE, LIKE PRETTY WELL EVERYBODY AT WESTMINSTER AND LIKE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEDIA IN BRITAIN, WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE AT THE END OF JUNE BUT WE RECOGNISE THAT'S ONE STEP ALONG THE ROAD AND WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD NOW AND TACKLING A HOST OF OTHER ISSUES. I'LL TALKING TO HIM IN PARTICULAR ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT WE NEED STILL TO RESOLVE ON THE JLG AGENDA. WE ARE VERY KEEN TO SEE POSITIVE CO-OPERATION ON THOSE ISSUES AND I HOPE THAT CHINA IS KEEN TO SEE POSITIVE CO-OPERATION AS WELL AND ISN'T JUST TALKING ABOUT CO-OPERATION.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHATSEEING DOUGLAS HURD ABOUT..?

GOVERNOR: I'LL CERTAINLY BE SEEING DOUGLAS HURD. I AM SEEING DOUGLAS HURD ON MONDAY AFTERNOON AND, OBVIOUSLY, ONE OF THE THINGS WE'LL TALK ABOUT IS THE SORT OF ISSUES THAT HE WILL WANT TO RAISE WITH VICE PREMIER QIAN WHEN THEY MEET IN SEPTEMBER.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE HAS MR GOODLAD BROUGHT BACK FROM CHINA FOR BRITAIN?

GOVERNOR: MR GOODLAD HAS BROUGHT BACK A MESSAGE THAT UNITED KINGDOM, AS EVER, IS SINCERE IN WANTING AS COMPREHENSIVE CO-OPERATION AS POSSIBLE IN HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AND WE HOPE THAT CHINA IS SINCERE AS WELL ABOUT CO-OPERATION BECAUSE IF CHINA ISN'T SINCERE ABOUT CO-OPERATION, THEN THE LOSERS IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM WILL BE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND, I SUSPECT, CHINESE INTERESTS AS WELL. SO, WE WANT TO SEE CO-OPERATION AND I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO SEE CO-OPERATION ACTUALLY ACHIEVING THINGS ON THE GROUND. HAS HAPPENED TO BE FAIR OVER THE DEFENCE LAND'S DEAL RATHER THAN JUST CO-OPERATION BEING SOMETHING THAT'S TALKED ABOUT BY OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC THAT WHEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN SEPTEMBER THE AIRPORT TALKS WILL HAVE AN AGREEMENT?

GOVERNOR: AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS AN EXPERTS MEETING GOING ON AT THE MOMENT ON THE AIRPORT. I THINK ONE OR TWO OF THE PAPERS REFERRED TO THAT THIS MORNING. I HOPE THAT THAT MEETING GOES WELL. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE AIRPORT IS EXTREMELY NARROW, AND I THINK THE SOONER IT'S BRIDGED THE BETTER BUT I'M NOT GOING TO PREDICT PRECISE TIME WHEN I THINK THAT GAP WILL BE FINALLY BRIDGED. I FIND IT IN SOME WAYS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHY THE GAPS STILL EXIST. SO I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO PREDICT WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE BRIDGED. IN THE MEAN TIME, IF I CAN JUST MAKE THE POINT, THAT IN THE MEAN TIME, THE AIRPORT IS BEING BUILT, BY MOST PEOPLE'S STANDARD, BEING BUILT VERY RAPIDLY AND CERTAINLY VERY COST EFFECTIVELY.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT HUANG LIN, SHENZHEN'S SECURITY OFFICIAL WAS INTERCEPTED BY HONG KONG IMMIGRATION PEOPLE, ... HAS BEEN RETURNED TO CHINA?

GOVERNOR: NO, I WOULDN'T COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL CASE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT JAMES SO'S TRIP, ANY EXPECTATIONS? ARE THERE NEXT ONES?

GOVERNOR: WE WANT TO SEE MORE MEETINGS BETWEEN OFFICIALS. WE WANT TO SEE MORE VISITS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. I AM VERY PLEASED THAT JAMES SO IS MAKING THIS VISIT WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE INVITATION OF THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN PEKING. THERE ARE, I THINK, OTHER PROSPECTS OF VISITS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IN THE PIPELINE. AND WE'D LIKE TO SEE THOSE CONTINUE AND, INDEED, BE STEPPED UP. I AM VERY KEEN THAT OUR SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD HAVE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE OF MEETING AND WORKING WITH THOSE DOING SIMILAR JOBS IN CHINA, AND I THINK IT'S VERY HELPFUL FOR PRC OFFICIALS TO COME AND SEE HOW WE DO THINGS IN HONG KONG. I THINK WE DO THINGS PRETTY WELL.

QUESTION: SIR, DO YOU THINK AFTER MR GOODLAD'S VISIT TO CHINA, SINO-BRITISH RELATIONSHIP HAS ENTERED ANOTHER NEW PHRASE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO GREAT NATIONS IS ALWAYS A LIVING, CHANGING THING, AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IN THE FUTURE REFLECT WHAT SHOULD BE OUR JOINT COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. ANY OTHERS?

QUESTION: CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLA ... IN SHENZHEN, IS THAT BEING ADDRESSED AT ALL?

GOVERNOR: THAT'S A MATTER FOR THE PRC WHERE THEY PLACE THEIR ARMED FORCES. IT'S NOT A MATTER FOR ME.

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QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE VICE PREMIER'S URGE FOR COMPREHENSIVE CO-OPERATION IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN FOR IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP?

GOVERNOR: WELL, IT'S WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BUT AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I THINK WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE KEEN TO SEE IS NOT JUST EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD INTENT ABOUT CO-OPERATION BUT CO-OPERATION ACTUALLY ACHIEVING THINGS ON THE GROUND AS HAPPENED WITH THE DEFENCE LANDS AGREEMENT. I THINK ONE REASON WHY THAT WAS SO WELCOMED IN HONG KONG WAS THAT IT WAS A POSITIVE SIGN OF PROGRESS ON A VERY DIFFICULT ISSUE BUT WE HAD, AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF NEGOTIATION, CRACKED THAT PROBLEM AND THERE ARE OTHER FRANKLY LESS DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TACKLE AS WELL. THERE'S AN EXPRESSION IN ENGLISH WITH A SIMILAR EXPRESSION I THINK IN CHINESE ABOUT ACTIONS SPEAKING LOUDER THAN WORDS. AND I THINK THAT SHOULD BE OUR MOTTO WHEN IT COMES TO CO-OPERATION FOR THE AUTUMN, BY WHICH TIME I AM SURE I'LL BE EVEN SLIMMER AND MORE BRONZE, AND I READ SOME BOOKS AND HAD A GOOD HOLIDAY AND I HOPE YOU DO AS WELL.

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HEAVY DELUGE CAUSES FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS

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OVERNIGHT HEAVY DELUGE HAS CAUSED FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS, AFFECTED TRAFFIC IN MOST PART OF THE TERRITORY.

BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR, THE RED RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL WAS HOISTED TWICE IN TWO SEPARATE PERIODS AFTER MIDNIGHT, FIRST BETWEEN 2.30 AM AND 5.45 AM, AND 10.35 AM THROUGH MOST OF THE AFTERNOON.

A TOTAL OF 336 CASES OF FLOODING HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE 12-HOUR SPAN BETWEEN 3 AM AND 3 PM. THESE CASES WERE REPORTED FROM THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:

YUEN LONG	80
NORTH	14
TUEN MUN	25
TAI PO	13
SHA TIN	14
SAI KUNG	5
KWAI CHUNG	9
TSUEN WAN	17
KOWLOON	132
HONG KONG ISLAND	26
ISLANDS	1

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 47 CASES OF LANDSLIPS REPORTED UP TO 3 PM.

THE HIGHEST RAINFALL RECORDED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN AN HOUR WAS BETWEEN 2 AM AND 3 AM, 70.4 MM; AND DURING DAY TIME BETWEEN 10 AM AND 11 AM, 61.4 MM.

A TOTAL OF 780 MM WAS RECORDED BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 1 PM IN TAI MO SHAN.

SOME 300 HECTARES OF FARMLAND, MOSTLY IN NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES, HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE RAINSTORM. THE ESTIMATED LOSS IS ABOUT \$14 MILLION.

ABOUT 100 HECTARES OF FRESHWATER FISH FARMS, MOSTLY IN YUEN LONG AND NORTH DISTRICT, WERE ALSO AFFECTED WITH AN ESTIMATED LOSS OF ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION.

THE RAIN-AFFECTED ROAD SURFACE ALSO CAUSED TROUBLES FOR MOTORISTS IN THE TERRITORY. THERE WERE ABOUT 50 LOCATIONS, MOSTLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, NEEDED TO BE COMPLETELY OR PARTIAL CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING AND LANDSLIP.

BUS SERVICES IN MANY NEW TERRITORIES AREAS WERE DISRUPTED DUE TO FLOODING.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICES BETWEEN TONG FONG AND YUEN LONG TERMINUS HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE UPHILL LANE OF MAGAZINE GAP ROAD NEAR MAY ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BECAUSE OF LANDSLIP. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE REMAINING LANE IS USED FOR ONE-LANE TWO-WAY OPERATION.

A 22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, LEE WAI-KWAN, DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN TUEN MUN NEAR TAI HING ESTATE WHERE THE TAXI SHE BOARDED CRASHED INTO A SLOPE AT 1.35 AM.

DURING THE RAINSTORM, FIREMEN RESCUED 51 PEOPLE AND CONVEYED ANOTHER 16 PEOPLE TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF MINOR INJURIES.

FLOODING ALSO CAUSED TWO CASES OF WATER SUSPENSION, ONE IN KWAI CHUNG AND THE OTHER IN YUEN LONG. THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT EXPECTS SERVICE TO BE RESUMED LATER THIS EVENING.

AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE DELUGE HAS DELAYED 15 DEPARTURE FLIGHTS, NINE IN-COMING FLIGHTS, DIVERTED SEVEN FLIGHTS TO OTHER DESTINATIONS AND CANCELLED ONE INBOUND FLIGHT FROM BEIJING BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 5 PM.

BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY RAIN, ALL KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED TODAY. HOWEVER, ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES, DAY REHABILITATION CENTRES OR ELDERLY SERVICES REMAIN OPEN. PARENTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE CENTRES TO ARRANGE FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF THEIR CHILDREN, DISABLED OR ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS IF NECESSARY.

AT 5 PM, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED 29 TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION. A TOTAL OF 88 PEOPLE WERE ADMITTED WITH 33 OF THEM STAYING IN SHELTERS IN YUEN LONG, 31 IN NORTH DISTRICT AND 24 IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

GOVT'S FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 1993/94 GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94, WHICH ENDED ON MARCH 31, 1994, WERE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GAZETTE.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE YEAR WAS \$166.6 BILLION, COMPARED TO THE REVISED ESTIMATE OF \$164.4 BILLION GIVEN IN THE 1994 BUDGET SPEECH. TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$147.4 BILLION COMPARED WITH A REVISED ESTIMATE OF \$149.3 BILLION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE REFLECTED THE EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1993/94, PARTICULARLY THE PROPERTY MARKET."

THE UNDERSPENDING OF \$1.9 BILLION, JUST OVER ONE PER CENT OF THE REVISED ESTIMATE, IS MADE UP OF A NUMBER OF MINOR VARIANCES.

AS A RESULT, THE OVERALL SURPLUS FOR 1993/94 WAS \$19.2 BILLION. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL FISCAL RESERVES TO \$140.2 BILLION AT MARCH 31, 1994.

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GUIDELINES ON TRANSFER TO LOCAL CONDITIONS

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FOLLOWING THE EXPIRY OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS (VARIATION OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAWN UP DETAILED GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MODIFIED ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS TRANSFERRING TO LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

"THIS FOLLOWS EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH STAFF AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE OBJECT OF THE MODIFIED ARRANGEMENTS IS TO BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF ALL OFFICERS. OVERSEAS OFFICERS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS MAY BE OFFERED AGREEMENTS MODELLED ON LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, WHILE THE REASONABLE ASPIRATIONS OF LOCAL OFFICERS WILL NOT BE UNDULY AFFECTED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, IF AN OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICER APPLYING FOR TRANSFER MEETS ALL THE CRITERIA AND IS OCCUPYING A PROMOTION RANK, THE TEST OF WHETHER THERE IS A SUITABLE LOCAL REPLACEMENT WILL APPLY TO HIM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IF IT APPEARS THAT A SUITABLE LOCAL REPLACEMENT IS AVAILABLE, A SELECTION BOARD WILL BE HELD.

"IF A LOCAL CANDIDATE IS RECOMMENDED, THE TRANSFEREE WILL SERVE AT A LOWER RANK BUT WILL RECEIVE PERSONAL SALARY AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AT HIS ORIGINAL RANK," HE EXPLAINED.

"IF NO LOCAL REPLACEMENT IS AVAILABLE, THE TRANSFEREE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AT HIS CURRENT RANK. IT MAKES NO SENSE TO REQUIRE THE TRANSFEREE TO SERVE AT A LOWER RANK SO AS TO MAKE WAY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ANOTHER OVERSEAS OFFICER," HE POINTED OUT.

CONTRACTS OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS WILL NOT BE EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 28, 1995 AS WAS MOOTED IN AN EARLIER DRAFT.

INSTEAD, TO PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY FOR OFFICERS, CONDITIONAL AGREEMENTS WILL BE GRANTED TO APPLICANTS FOR TRANSFER AS SOON AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) HAS ADVISED FAVOURABLY ON THE TRANSFER. THE AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE OFFICER AT A LOWER RANK DURING THE AGREEMENT IF THERE IS A SUITABLE LOCAL REPLACEMENT.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO STATE THAT TRANSFEREES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE TERMS DURING THEIR AGREEMENT MODELLED ON LOCAL CONDITIONS.

"THIS IS BECAUSE THE LONG-TERM DEFINITION OF WHO IS 'LOCAL' HAS YET TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY STUDYING THE OPENING UP OF POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY AGREEMENT OFFICERS, OVERSEAS AND LOCAL ALIKE, WHEN AN INCUMBENT'S CONTRACT EXPIRES.

"THE INCUMBENT AND OFFICERS ONE RANK BELOW HIM CAN COMPETE FOR THE JOB AND THE MOST MERITORIOUS OFFICER WILL BE APPOINTED."

"WE ARE WORKING ON THE DETAILS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT AND HOPE TO BEGIN STAFF CONSULTATION VERY SOON.

"IT IS LIKELY THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE PUT IN PLACE EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THAT AGREEMENTS EXPIRING FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1995 ONWARDS WILL BE TACKLED UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT," HE ADDED.

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EDUCATORS URGED TO DO MORE ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION

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EDUCATORS HAVE A PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATION FOR HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY UNDER THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, MRS ANGELA CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SHE URGED EDUCATORS TO DO MORE TO ENSURE THAT AS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SUCCEEDED IN THEIR EDUCATION - THAT THEY SUCCEEDED DEVELOPING THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH AND THAT THEY SUCCEEDED IN LEARNING HOW TO LEARN AND THINK AND USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS.

MRS CHEUNG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST EDUCATION FORUM ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, WHICH WAS HELD TO ENCOURAGE WIDE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE REPORT RELEASED RECENTLY BY THE WORKING GROUP.

"OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN CONCERNED FOR MANY YEARS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION. THESE CONCERNS CAN BE VIEWED FROM TWO ANGLES," SHE SAID.

"FIRST, FROM THE ANGLE OF THE WHOLE SOCIETY, THERE IS A SHORTFALL OF PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT LEVEL AND MIX OF LANGUAGE ABILITIES - IN CANTONESE, WRITTEN CHINESE, PUTONGHUA, AND ENGLISH."

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"THAT SHORTFALL ARISES LARGELY BECAUSE OUR ECONOMY HAS DEVELOPED SO RAPIDLY IN THE PAST 10 TO 15 YEARS," SHE ADDED.

"BUT AS EDUCATION POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS, WE CAN SURELY DO MORE TO PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE KIND OF LANGUAGE SKILLS IT NEEDS."

"SECONDLY, FROM THE ANGLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT, WE PLACE HEAVY LANGUAGE-LEARNING DEMANDS ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. MANY HAVE DIFFICULTY COPING WITH THOSE DEMANDS."

THIS AFFECTS NOT ONLY THEIR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BUT ALSO THEIR WHOLE EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, SHE SAID.

"IN A WORD, OUR PRESENT APPROACH TO LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IS NOT HELPING ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL. EDUCATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE TALENTS OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG COULD DO MORE TO PREVENT FAILURE."

SHE NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT SIMPLY THOSE STUDENTS WHO LOST ALL INTEREST IN LEARNING.

"EVEN OUR BETTER STUDENTS MAY NOT BE WELL SERVED BY OUR PRESENT APPROACH TO LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION."

QUOTING FROM THE REPORT, MRS CHEUNG SAID FORM SIXTH STUDENTS, MOST OF WHOM HAD STUDIED THROUGHOUT THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE MEDIUM OF ENGLISH, HAD ENOUGH LANGUAGE SKILLS TO LEARN FACTS, MEMORISE PASSAGES, AND WRITE DOWN SHORT ANSWERS.

"BUT MANY LACK THE HIGHER-ORDER SKILLS NEEDED TO SEE THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG FACTS, TO SYNTHESISE, TO DRAW OUT IMPLICATIONS, TO USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS, AND TO EXPRESS THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES IN CONNECTED WRITING, SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT THE EDUCATION FORUM TODAY WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATORS TO EXCHANGE FRANK VIEWS ON POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT WERE MOST LIKELY TO GIVE LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THIS THRIVING COMMUNITY, THE LANGUAGE SKILLS AND THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES EVERYONE WANTED TO SEE.

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RESPONSE ON DRIVER TRAINING INDUSTRY

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IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S STUDY ON THE DRIVER TRAINING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS TODAY (FRIDAY) MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

* THERE ARE STRONG PUBLIC INTEREST JUSTIFICATIONS TO PROMOTE SYSTEMATIC OFF-ROAD DRIVER TRAINING, WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT.

THE DRIVER TRAINING AND QUALIFYING PROCESSES WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DUE REGARD TO PREVAILING GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT POLICY, THE DEMAND FOR TRAVEL, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

* IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE GOVERNMENT POLICY HAS BEEN TO GIVE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS OF OFF-ROAD DRIVING SCHOOLS.

/THE OBJECTIVE

THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING OFF-ROAD DRIVER TRAINING CAN HARDLY BE ACHIEVED IF THE INCENTIVE GRANTED TO STUDENTS OF OFF-ROAD DRIVING SCHOOLS IN THE FORM OF REDUCED WAITING TIME IS ABOLISHED.

* THERE IS ALREADY A REASONABLY LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD FOR PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS AND DRIVING SCHOOLS.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS HAVE BEEN ENJOYING A HIDDEN SUBSIDY BY USING PUBLIC ROADS FREE OF CHARGE WHILE THE GRANTING OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN TERMS OF REDUCED WAITING TIME APPLIES NOT ONLY TO THE STUDENTS OF HONG KONG SCHOOL OF MOTORING (HKSM) BUT ALSO TO STUDENTS OF ANY DRIVING SCHOOLS.

AS THERE IS NO INTENTION TO ALLOW HKSM TO MONOPOLISE THE OFF-ROAD DRIVER TRAINING MARKET, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SET UP NEW OFF-ROAD DRIVING SCHOOLS.

THE RESULTS SO FAR HAVE NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THIS IS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF A VARIETY OF FACTORS INCLUDING THE SCARCITY OF LAND IN HONG KONG, THE RELATIVELY HIGH SET-UP COST FOR A DRIVING SCHOOL, STRONG OBJECTIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

ONE SUCH EXAMPLE IS THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE DRIVING SCHOOL AT TSEUNG KWAN O.

* REGARDING CONSUMER PROTECTION, THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT LEARNER DRIVERS DO HAVE A FREE CHOICE BETWEEN LEARNING AT THREE OFF-ROAD DRIVING SCHOOLS AND FROM PRIVATE DRIVING INSTRUCTORS.

THEY OFFER DIFFERENT PACKAGES IN TERMS OF PRICING, SERVICE, CONVENIENCE, AND COURSE STRUCTURE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF UNFAIRNESS TO THE CONSUMERS.

NEITHER IS THERE A NEED TO ENCOURAGE MORE COMPETITION.

THIS IS BECAUSE THE DRIVING SCHOOL AND PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS OFFER TWO DIFFERENT MODES OF SERVICE, WITH DIFFERENT FORMS OF INCENTIVES AVAILABLE.

THE INCENTIVE TO DRIVING SCHOOL IS THE RELATIVELY SHORTER WAITING TIME; THE INCENTIVE TO THE PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS IS THE FREE USE OF PUBLIC ROADS FOR DRIVING INSTRUCTION.

* THE GOVERNMENT WILL STUDY THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED IN THE REPORT IN DETAIL, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION TRANSPORT POLICY, THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF THE LOCALITY, THE SCARCITY OF SUITABLE LAND RESOURCES FOR DRIVING TRAINING PURPOSES, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 11 -

ONE-WAY GYRATORY TRAFFIC SCHEME IN WONG CHUK HANG

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A ONE-WAY GYRATORY TRAFFIC SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED IN WONG CHUK HANG TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE AREA.

THE NEW SCHEME WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY, (JULY 27) UPON THE OPENING OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD LINKING HEUNG YIP ROAD AND POLICE SCHOOL ROAD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, VEHICLES ON WONG CHUK HANG ROAD EASTBOUND, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO NAM LONG SHAN ROAD.

THEY WILL BE DIVERTED TO GO VIA OCEAN PARK ROAD, HEUNG YIP ROAD, THE NEW ACCESS ROAD, POLICE SCHOOL ROAD AND NAM LONG SHAN ROAD.

VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, ON WONG CHUK HANG ROAD WESTBOUND AFTER TURNING INTO NAM LONG SHAN ROAD WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN LEFT ONLY INTO HEUNG YIP ROAD.

VEHICLES ON WONG CHUK HANG ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING TOWARDS NAM LONG SHAN ROAD SOUTH OF HEUNG YIP ROAD SHOULD TAKE EITHER OR THE FOLLOWING ROUTES:

- * VIA OCEAN PARK ROAD, HEUNG YIP ROAD, THE NEW ACCESS ROAD, POLICE SCHOOL ROAD AND NAM LONG SHAN ROAD; OR
- * VIA NAM LONG SHAN ROAD, HEUNG YIP ROAD, THE NEW ACCESS ROAD, POLICE SCHOOL ROAD AND NAM LONG SHAN ROAD.

THE SIGNALISED JUNCTION AT WONG CHUK HANG ROAD/NAM LONG SHAN ROAD HAS BEEN OPERATING AT CAPACITY AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION FREQUENTLY OCCURS DURING PEAK HOURS.

"WITH THE IMMINENT OPENING OF THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE AND THE STAGED COMPLETION OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN AP LEI CHAU, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THIS JUNCTION IS EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE FURTHER.

"THIS ONE-WAY GYRATORY TRAFFIC SCHEME IS AIMED AT REDUCING THE CONFLICTING MOVEMENTS AT THE JUNCTION AND THUS IMPROVE ITS CAPACITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, A SERIES OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE SAME TIME IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ONE-WAY GYRATORY SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS, AND APPEALED TO MOTORISTS TO DRIVE WITH CARE.

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT

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PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CAN HELP BROADEN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL NETWORK, ENCOURAGE THEM TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME MEANINGFULLY AND FOSTER THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF A REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DEVELOP THEIR SENSE OF CIVIC DUTIES AND PREPARE THEMSELVES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD," MR LI SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY, MR LI SAID THE WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP IN JULY 1992 AFTER A SURVEY COMMISSIONED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1991 REVEALED A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

APART FROM EXPLORING THE REASONS BEHIND THIS PHENOMENON, THE WORKING GROUP HAD ALSO BEEN TASKED TO IDENTIFY WAYS IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE USE OF EXISTING CHANNELS OF PARTICIPATION AND WHERE NECESSARY, DEVELOP NEW INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION.

TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, MR LI SAID AN INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE LEVEL OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE OFFICES OF DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE OPERATION OF YOUTH AND YOUTH-RELATED ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS.

INFORMATION ON STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY CLUBS AND SOCIETIES IN SCHOOLS AS WELL AS FINDINGS OF PREVIOUS RESEARCHES ON THE SUBJECT HAD ALSO BEEN COLLECTED.

"TWO FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ALSO HELD TO SOLICIT YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON THE INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP," HE ADDED.

BY YOUTH PARTICIPATION, MR LI EXPLAINED, THEY HAD DEFINED THE TERM AS PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THROUGH WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE COULD CULTIVATE A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY AND BECOME CONTRIBUTING AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.

TURNING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS, MR LI HIGHLIGHTED THE PROPOSAL TO FORM A "DISTRICT YOUTH COMMITTEE".

"WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, COMMUNITY CENTRES, YOUTH OFFICES AND YOUTH GROUPS FROM WITHIN A DISTRICT, IT IS HOPED THAT IT CAN PROVIDE A FORUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO YOUTH IN THE DISTRICT AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THEM.

"DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE INVITED TO CONSIDER SETTING UP SUCH COMMITTEES UNDER THEIR AUSPICES," HE SAID.

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AND THE DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE COULD ACT AS A STARTING POINT TO ENHANCE CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES.

ORGANISERS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES SHOULD ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGING TASTES AND ORIENTATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DESIGNING PROGRAMMES.

AS TO THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LI SAID IT COULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY STEPPING UP PUBLICITY ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY ITS YOUTH OFFICES.

IT COULD ALSO CONSIDER ORGANISING AN AWARD SCHEME, OR EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRESENT AWARD SCHEMES FOR OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROGRAMMES, WHICH WAS OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, COMMUNITY CENTRES, YOUTH GROUPS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN HONG KONG, MR LI ADDED.

AS A RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTARY WORK UNDERTAKEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE, THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT TERTIARY INSTITUTES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES SHOULD CONSIDER DESIGNATING A COLUMN IN THEIR STUDY AND JOB APPLICATION FORMS ON THE APPLICANT'S RECORD OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND CONSIDER TAKING SUCH RECORDS INTO ACCOUNT IN ADMISSION FOR STUDY AND JOBS.

THE COMMISSION WOULD WRITE TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, AND EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT AND REQUEST THEM TO GIVE FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO THEM.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL ALSO BE SENT TO YOUTH GROUPS AND ORGANISATION SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH FOR REFERENCE.

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SPECIFIED POLLING STATIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

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THE DESIGNATION OF 22 SPECIFIED POLLING STATIONS FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED ELECTORS FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED ELECTORS MAY APPLY TO THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, NOT LESS THAN FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE DISTRICT BOARD POLLING DAY ON SEPTEMBER 18, TO VOTE AT THESE SPECIFIED STATIONS, IF NECESSARY.

"UPON APPROVAL, THEY SHALL ONLY BE ENTITLED TO VOTE AT THE SPECIFIED POLLING STATION ALLOCATED TO HIM," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO) SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE REO ALSO PUBLISHED OTHER NOTICES IN THE GAZETTE TODAY ON THE DESIGNATION OF COUNTING STATIONS.

A TOTAL OF 18 PLACES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO BE USED AS COUNTING STATIONS AT THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD AND NEXT YEAR'S URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY ELECTIONS.

A NUMBER OF ADDITIONS AND REPLACEMENTS OF THE POLLING STATIONS DESIGNATED WERE ALSO GAZETTED.

A TOTAL OF 442 POLLING STATIONS HAVE NOW BEEN DESIGNATED INSTEAD OF 440 AS GAZETTED ON APRIL 22.

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RAINSTORM ROUND-UP

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VERY HEAVY RAIN HAS BEGUN TO FALL EARLY THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING. AS A RESULT, THE RED RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL WAS HOISTED AT 2.30 AM, LOWERED AT 5.45 AM AND PUT UP AGAIN AT 10.35 AM.

THE HIGHEST RAINFALL INTENSITY WAS 100 MILLIMETRES/HOUR RECORDED AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY BETWEEN 2 AM AND 3 AM. IN GENERAL, HEAVY RAINFALL PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TERRITORY.

A TOTAL OF 101 FLOODING CASES HAVE SO FAR BEEN REPORTED SINCE 3 AM WITH THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION:-

YUEN LONG	40
NORTH	7
TUEN MUN	9
TAI PO	6
SHA TIN	2
SAI KUNG	1
KWAI CHUNG	2
TSUEN WAN	1
KOWLOON	31
HONG KONG ISLAND	1
ISLANDS	1

UP TILL NOON, 24 LANDSLIPS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

ONE WOMAN DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DURING THE HEAVY RAIN. A 22-YEAR-OLD FEMALE, LEE WAI-KWAN, WIFE OF A TAXI DRIVER, WHOSE TAXI COLLIDED AGAINST A SLOPE WHEN DRIVING ALONG THE KOWLOON-BOUND LANE OF THE FLOODED CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR TAI HING ESTATE, TUEN MUN, AT 1.35 AM, WAS CERTIFIED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL AT 2.19 AM.

THERE WAS NO REPORT OF INJURIES SO FAR.

FLOODINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE AFFECTED PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN VARYING DEGREES.

IN YUEN LONG, SOME KMB BUS SERVICES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED WHILE SOME ROUTES IN SHEUNG SHUI, SAI KUNG AND TAI PO HAVE BEEN TRUNCATED AND DIVERTED.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE UPHILL LANE OF MAGAZINE GAP ROAD NEAR MAY ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED BECAUSE OF LANDSLIP. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE REMAINING LANE IS USED FOR ONE-LANE TWO-WAY OPERATION.

FROM 6.30 AM TO 11.30 AM AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE HEAVY RAIN HAS DELAYED SIX DEPARTURE FLIGHTS AND TWO ARRIVAL FLIGHTS AND CAUSED SIX FLIGHTS TO BE DIVERTED.

BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY RAIN, ALL KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED TODAY. HOWEVER, ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES, DAY REHABILITATION CENTRES OR ELDERLY SERVICES REMAIN OPEN. PARENTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE CENTRES TO ARRANGE FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF THEIR CHILDREN, DISABLED OR ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS IF NECESSARY.

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS SO FAR OPENED 28 TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION. A TOTAL OF 31 PEOPLE WERE ADMITTED WITH 29 OF THEM STAYING IN SHELTERS IN YUEN LONG AND TWO IN NORTH DISTRICT.

ROADS AFFECTED BY FLOODING AND LANDSLIDE

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AS A RESULT OF CONTINUOUS RAINFALL SINCE THE EARLY MORNING, A LARGE NUMBER OF ROADS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY FLOODING OR LANDSLIDE, CAUSING EITHER COMPLETE OR PARTIAL CLOSURE OF THE ROADS AND DIVERSION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

UP TO NOW, FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES HAVE AFFECTED ABOUT 50 AREAS, WITH THE MAJORITY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED LOCATIONS INCLUDE AU TAU NEAR YUEN LONG, SAI SHA ROAD, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR CHING CHEUNG ROAD, POK FU LAM ROAD AND MAGAZINE GAP ROAD.

IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE SITUATION ON THESE ROADS WILL IMPROVE IN THE AFTERNOON, ALTHOUGH EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO CLEAR FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES AS WELL AS TO CONTROL AND DIVERT TRAFFIC.

IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE CHAOTIC SITUATION LIKELY TO OCCUR IN THE EVENING RUSH HOURS, EMPLOYERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO RELEASE THEIR STAFF IN STAGES AT THEIR DISCRETION TO AVOID EXCESSIVE OVERCROWDING OF TRANSPORT SERVICES AND ROAD CONGESTION.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO LISTEN TO RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE TRAFFIC SITUATION FROM TIME TO TIME.

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CNTA MONITORING STORM SITUATION

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SINCE THE HOISTING OF THE LANDSLIP AND RED RAINSTORM WARNINGS EARLY THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS THROWN OPEN 31 SHELTERS TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE AFFECTED BY THE RAINSTORM.

UP TO 5 PM, A TOTAL OF 120 PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE - 73 IN YUEN LONG, 23 IN THE NORTH DISTRICT AND 24 IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

AN EMERGENCY CENTRE WAS ACTIVATED AT CNTA HEADQUARTERS AT 3 AM SHORTLY AFTER THE DOWNPOUR TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK OF ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

WIDESPREAD FLOODING WAS REPORTED IN MANY PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, WITH SAP PAT HEUNG, PING SHAN, HA TSUEN AND TAK YUET LAU TSUEN BEING THE WORST AFFECTED.

IN YUEN LONG AND THE NORTH DISTRICT, FOR INSTANCE, WHERE WATER LEVELS OF UP TO TWO METRES WERE RECORDED, TEAMS OF OUTDOOR STAFF WERE DEPLOYED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND OFFER HELP WHENEVER AND WHEREVER REQUIRED.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING BAD WEATHER URGED

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED SITE PERSONNEL AND WORKERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ON WORKS THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY PROLONGED RAIN.

"SPECIAL CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO AVOID ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY SLIPPERY AND WET FLOOR, UNSTABLE WORKING PLATFORMS, DETERIORATED SCAFFOLDS, IRRUPTION OF WATER OR DISLODGMET OF EARTH IN EXCAVATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"CRANES SHOULD NOT BE USED WHEN THE WEATHER CONDITION IS LIKELY TO ENDANGER ITS STABILITY.

"GOOD HOUSE KEEPING, PROPER STACKING OF MATERIALS, SUITABLE PROTECTION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENTS ARE ALSO NECESSARY DURING BAD WEATHER," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND SCAFFOLDS SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY WALL-TIES, BALLASTING, LASHING OR GUY ROPES."

HE ALSO URGED SITE PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON SAFETY MEASURES TO WORKERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO WORK AT HEIGHT.

NOTING THAT THE STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES, SCAFFOLDS AND EXCAVATIONS MIGHT BE AFFECTED AFTER EXPOSURE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE SPOKESMAN ASKED CONTRACTORS TO ASSIGN COMPETENT PERSONS TO RE- EXAMINE THESE AREAS OF WORK TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE STABLE, SECURE AND SAFE.

UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, EMPLOYERS WHO FAIL TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

WORKERS WHO BREACH THE LAW WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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NO POSTAL DELIVERY IN YUEN LONG

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THE POST OFFICE REGRETS THAT BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING, THERE WAS NO DELIVERY TODAY (FRIDAY) IN YUEN LONG AND OTHER ISOLATED AEAS IN THE TERRIROTY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID DELIVERY WOULD RESUME AS SOON AS WEATHER PERMITTED.

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NO SECURITY REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT PREMISES

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON AN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER REPORT TODAY (FRIDAY) CONCERNING A "MAJOR SECURITY REVIEW OF ALL GOVERNMENT PREMISES" FOLLOWING CONCERNS FOR THE SAFETY OF TOP CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEIR PROPERTY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REPORT WAS INACCURATE AND MISLEADING.

"NO SUCH REVIEW IS PLANNED OR IN PROGRESS."

HE SAID WHAT WAS UNDERWAY WAS A ROUTINE ASSESSMENT BY THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU TO ADVISE WHAT, IF ANY, MINOR IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE TO THE SECURITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS.

AS THIS WAS EXPLAINED TO THE REPORTER BY THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY, IT WAS DISAPPOINTING THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCURATELY REPORTED IN THE ARTICLE, HE SAID.

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FRENCH BANK GRANTED LICENCE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT BANQUE FRANCAISE DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR (BFCE) HAD BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

BFCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1947. IT IS THE 14TH LARGEST BANK IN FRANCE AND RANKED 322ND IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

IT HAS 27 LOCAL BRANCHES IN FRANCE AND AN OVERSEAS NETWORK OF FOUR BRANCHES AND 15 REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES.

IN HONG KONG, BFCE HAS BEEN OPERATING A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE SINCE 1985.

THE BANK INTENDS TO UPGRADE THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE TO A BRANCH TO STRENGTHEN ITS PRESENCE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION AND PLAY A MORE ACTIVE BANKING ROLE IN THE VARIOUS GROWING ECONOMIES IN THE REGION.

THE PROPOSED BRANCH WOULD ALSO SERVE AS THE BANK'S REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR ITS NORTH EAST ASIA OPERATIONS.

THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE PROPOSED HONG KONG BRANCH WILL INCLUDE LOAN SYNDICATION, CORPORATE FINANCE, TRADE AND PROJECT FINANCE, AND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET REFLECTED HONG KONG'S CONTINUED IMPORTANCE AND ATTRACTIVENESS AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE. THE LICENCE FOR BFCE IS THE EIGHTH BANKING LICENCE GRANTED IN 1994.

THERE ARE NOW 179 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 147 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY. OF THESE, NINE ARE FROM FRANCE.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT POK FU LAM OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT POK FU LAM OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE MAJOR AMENDMENT TO THE PLAN (NO. S/H10/4) IS TO REZONE FIVE "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" SITES TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)".

THESE INCLUDE A SITE IN SANDY BAY THAT IS BOUNDED BY SHA WAN DRIVE AND VICTORIA ROAD, BAGUIO VILLA AT VICTORIA ROAD, A SITE AT WATERFALL BAY, A SITE TO THE SOUTH OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AT POK FU LAM ROAD AND A SITE NORTH OF POK FU LAM VILLAGE.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE SITES ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF THREE AND SITE COVERAGE OF 15 OR THOSE OF THE EXISTING BUILDING, WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER.

TO PRESERVE THE LOCAL CHARACTER AND AMENITY AS WELL AS NOT TO OVERLOAD THE LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITIES, A SITE BOUNDED BY VICTORIA ROAD AND MOUNT DAVIS ROAD HAS BEEN REZONED FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C) 3".

IN THIS ZONE, DEVELOPMENTS ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF THREE STOREYS INCLUDING CARPORTS.

A SITE SOUTH OF EBENEZER HOME FOR THE BLIND AT POK FU LAM ROAD HAS ALSO BEEN REZONED FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C) 6" TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC VIEWS, AMENITY AND ENVIRONMENT.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITE ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF 12 STOREYS IN ADDITION TO ONE STOREY OF CARPORTS AND A MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT OF 137 METERS.

OTHER AMENDMENTS INCLUDE REZONING A SITE AT WAH FU ROAD FROM "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)" TO PRESERVE THE PREDOMINANTLY RESIDENTIAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA; AND REZONING A SITE BOUNDED BY VICTORIA ROAD AND SANDY BAY ROAD FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)" TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO FACILITATE A SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN (NO. S/H10/5) IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL AUGUST 11 AT :

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT,
16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING,
GARDEN ROAD,
HONG KONG;
- * HONG KONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,
11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE,
77 LEIGHTON ROAD,
CAUSEWAY BAY,
HONG KONG; AND
- * SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE,
PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR,
MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE,
ABERDEEN,
HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 11.

COPIES OF THE PLAN CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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VEHICULAR RAMP TO OCEAN TERMINAL

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE WHARF PROPERTIES LIMITED A SHORT TERM TENANCY TO CONSTRUCT A RAMP STRUCTURE WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,000 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED ADJOINING OCEAN TERMINAL, KOWLOON.

THIS IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-WAY SPIRAL PUBLIC VEHICULAR RAMP TO CONNECT OCEAN TERMINAL AND OCEAN CENTRE PRAYA ROAD.

THE WORK WILL START THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY ABOUT MAY NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICE AND ITS RELATED PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG; THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON WHO BELIEVES THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS TO CLAIM COMPENSATION BEFORE OR ON JULY 22, 1995.

HE SHOULD STATE THE SUM OF MONEY HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

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MARINE WORKS AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL DREDGE AND RECLAIM ABOUT 12 HECTARES OF LAND AND CONSTRUCT ABOUT 2,100 METRES OF SEAWALLS AND BREAKWATERS AT THE SOUTH SHORE OF STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

THE WORK, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 80.65 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED, IS TO PROVIDE BERTHING AND LAND FACILITIES AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT ON DEFENCE LANDS REACHED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON JUNE 30, 1994.

IT WILL START IN NOVEMBER 1994 AND WILL BE FINISHED IN 1997.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICE AND ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG; THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 290-296 UN CHAU STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON AND AT THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRE, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDINGS, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 22, 1994.

HE SHOULD DESCRIBE HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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CONSTRUCTION OF PIER AT KAU SAI CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSTRUCT A PIER COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 320 SQUARE METRES ON THE NORTHWESTERN SHORELINE OF KAU SAI CHAU IN SAI KUNG TO SERVE THE PROPOSED PUBLIC GOLF CENTRE.

THE WORK WILL AFFECT SOME 8,500 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED, AND WILL START LATER THIS MONTH TO BE COMPLETED NEXT MARCH.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICE AND ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO FEELS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER SUCH FORESHORE AND SEA-BED THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE UNDERTAKING MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 22 OF NEXT YEAR.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS CLAIM THE SUM OF MONEY HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

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ROADS TO BE RESUMED AND RECONSTRUCTED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE RESUMPTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THREE ROADS IN WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL.

CHUNG WO LANE IN CENTRAL AND CHI SHING LANE IN WAN CHAI ARE NOW UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND ARE NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED.

AS A RESULT, THEY ARE IN POOR REPAIR AND PARTLY OCCUPIED BY STALLS THAT OBSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT, GIVING RISE TO CONSIDERABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

THE PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION WORKS WHICH INVOLVE THE REPAIR OF THE DEFECTIVE FOOTPATH AND DRAINS WITHIN CHUNG WO LANE AND CHI SHING LANE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN NOVEMBER 1995.

ALSO IN WAN CHAI, THE PART OF PATERSON STREET FROM NO. 27 TO NO. 51 WILL BE RESUMED. RECONSTRUCTION WORK WILL INVOLVE THE REPAIR OF THE DEFECTIVE FOOTPATH, CARRIAGEWAY AND DRAINS WITHIN THIS PART OF PATERSON STREET.

UPON RESUMPTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THESE ROADS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREAFTER MANAGE AND MAINTAIN THE ROAD AND DRAINS TO A PROPER STANDARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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BOUNDARY OF TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK TO BE REVISED

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THE BOUNDARY OF THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK WILL BE REVISED TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUTE 3 COUNTRY PARK SECTION (CPS) AND TO IMPLEMENT PLANS TO ENLARGE THE COUNTRY PARK TO COVER THE TAI TONG AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID PART OF THE ROUTE 3 CPS WOULD ENCROACH UPON 1.8 HECTARES OF COUNTRY PARK LAND NEAR MA ON KONG.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS AT PRESENT COVERED BY LOW SHRUBS AND IS NOT A POPULAR PLACE FOR COUNTRY PARK VISITORS.

ON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE COUNTRY PARK AREAS IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPROVED. IN ADDITION, A PUBLIC CAR PARK WILL BE PROVIDED AT MA ON KONG.

THE PROPOSED EXCISION WILL HAVE NO MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS. MITIGATION MEASURES WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO MINIMISE ANY POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

IN RECOMMENDING THE EXCISION OF THIS AREA FROM THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK, THE GOVERNMENT HAD IDENTIFIED A WOODLAND COVERING ABOUT 4.5 HECTARES NEARBY TO BE INCLUDED INTO THE COUNTRY PARK TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF COUNTRY PARK LAND.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANS TO EXTEND THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK AT TAI TONG AREA TO COVER 38 HECTARES OF LAND TO MEET RECREATIONAL NEEDS IN THE AREA.

THE AREA TO BE EXTENDED IS FORMERLY A BORROWED AREA. SUCCESSFUL AFFORESTATION WORKS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AND VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING BARBECUE SITES, PICNIC SITES, NATURE EDUCATION TRAIL, TREE WALK, VIEWING POINTS AND OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

FURTHERMORE, A MANAGEMENT CENTRE, A TREE NURSERY AND A WORKSHOP HAVE ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA MAKING IT A POPULAR RECREATIONAL PLACE.

THE EXTENSION OF COUNTRY PARK INTO THIS AREA WOULD BRING THE REHABILITATED AREA UNDER FORMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK MAP IS GAZETTED TODAY.

COPIES OF DRAFT MAP WITH THE NEW BOUNDARY ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE AT THE LAND REGISTRY, 18TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG; SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE.

THE DRAFT MAP IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE 19 DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, 12TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT MAP ARE OBTAINABLE AT \$25 EACH FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY THE DRAFT MAP MAY SEND IN THEIR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING WITHIN 60 DAYS TO THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD STATING THE NATURE OF AND REASONS FOR THE OBJECTION AND PROPOSED ALTERATION IF THE OBJECTION COULD BE REMOVED BY AN ALTERATION TO THE DRAFT MAP.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT STANLEY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN ANNOUNCED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT STANLEY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

TO PRESERVE THE LOW DENSITY CHARACTER OF THE AREA, AVOID OVERLOADING THE INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY AND TO ALLOW FOR AN ORDERLY REDEVELOPMENT, THE LAYOUT OF THE STANLEY CENTRAL BAZAAR AREA HAS BEEN REZONED FROM "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" AND "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" TO "COMMERCIAL (GROUP 1)" AND "OPEN SPACE".

TWO SITES NORTH OF STANLEY MAIN STREET AND STANLEY MARKET ROAD HAVE ALSO BEEN REZONED FROM "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)".

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO BUILD A LOOP ROAD AROUND THE BAZAAR AREA TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM OF THE STANLEY OLD TOWN AREA.

THE STANLEY VILLAGE AREA HAS BEEN REZONED TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)2". COMMERCIAL USES ON FLOORS OTHER THAN THE GROUND FLOOR WILL REQUIRE PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD.

THE INTERNAL STREETS OF THE AREA WILL BE PEDESTRIANISED TO ENHANCE THE EXISTING CHARACTER AS A SHOPPING AREA.

MEANWHILE, A NEW RECLAMATION AREA AT STANLEY BAY HAS BEEN ZONED "OPEN SPACE" TO PROVIDE A WATERFRONT PROMENADE AND A MINI-SOCCER PITCH.

TO ALLEVIATE THE PARKING AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEMS IN STANLEY, THE EXISTING STANLEY BUS TERMINUS AREA HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FOUR-STORY PUBLIC CAR PARK.

A SITE TO THE SOUTH OF ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT ST STEPHEN'S BEACH HAS ALSO BEEN REZONED FROM "GREEN BELT" TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO PROVIDE CAR PARKING SPACES FOR BEACH-GOERS.

IT IS PROPOSED TO LINK UP THE STANLEY LINK ROAD WITH HOI FUNG PATH TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

OPPORTUNITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO REZONE THE COASTAL STRIP AT STANLEY AND CHUNG HOM KOK TO "COASTAL PROTECTION AREA" IN ORDER TO ENHANCE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE EXISTING FOOTBALL PITCH AND MARKET AT THE JUNCTION OF STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD AND STANLEY MARKET ROAD HAVE BEEN REZONED FROM "OPEN SPACE" AND "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX" TO ALLOW FOR THE PROVISION OF MARKET, LIBRARY AND INDOOR GAMES HALL.

OTHER AMENDMENTS INCLUDE REZONING OF AN AREA OF MA HANG TO "COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA" AND "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "PIER" TO ALLOW FOR THE MA HANG PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT, A SITE SOUTH OF MA HANG HEADLAND TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" FOR A SALT WATER PUMPING STATION AND A STRIP OF LAND AT THE SOUTH-WEST OF MA HANG HEADLAND TO "OPEN SPACE".

THE SHUI SIN TEMPLE HAS BEEN REZONED TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" AND THE STANLEY MILITARY CEMETERY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CEMETERY SOUTH OF ST STEPHEN'S BEACH HAVE BEEN REZONED TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "CEMETERY" TO REFLECT EXISTING USES.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN (NO. S/H19/4) IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21, DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS AT:-

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT
16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING,
GARDEN ROAD,
HONG KONG;
- * HONG KONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE
11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE,
77 LEIGHTON ROAD,
CAUSEWAY BAY,
HONG KONG; AND
- * SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE
PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR,
MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE,
ABERDEEN;
HONG KONG.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 24 -

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21, 1994.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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TWO LOTS FOR SALE
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL AUCTION TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 26).

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

THE FIRST LOT IS VACATED IN AREA 30, TAI PO, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 23,800 SQUARE METRES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED IN AREA 2, TAI PO KAU HUI, TAI PO, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,114 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, EXCLUDING GODOWN.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

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

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PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY AT TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA
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THE ROVING EXHIBITION ON HONG KONG'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME THAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY HELD IN WONG TAI SIN, QUARRY BAY, CENTRAL, TSIM SHA TSUI AND HUNG HOM WILL MOVE TO THE TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10.30 AM TO 8 PM TOMORROW, AND FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY (SUNDAY).

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WORKS BRANCH AND THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW HONG KONG HAS TRANSFORMED FROM A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE 150 YEARS AGO INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

/PANELS WITH.....

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 25 -

PANELS WITH CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE PUT UP, SHOWING THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, AND SEVEN WORKS DEPARTMENTS - ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, CIVIL ENGINEERING, DRAINAGE SERVICES, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, HIGHWAYS, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT AND WATER SUPPLIES.

SHORT FILMS WILL BE SHOWN ON A FULL-SIZE VIDEO WALL TO ILLUSTRATE HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ON BUILDING NEW TOWNS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IS A SET OF FIVE PANORAMIC-VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE CHANGES TO THE SKYLINE OF KOWLOON PENINSULA AND HONG KONG ISLAND OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST FLOOR, TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWONG HON-SANG; THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT; AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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/26

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 26 -

FIRING PRACTICE IN AUGUST

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 22 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE DATES AND TIMES FOR THE FIRING PRACTICE ARE:

DATE	TIME
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AUGUST 1 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 2 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 3 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 4 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 5 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 6 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 8 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
AUGUST 9 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 10 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
AUGUST 11 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
AUGUST 12 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 15 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 16 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 17 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 18 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 19 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 20 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 22 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 23 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 24 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 25 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 26 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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/27

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1994

- 27 -

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	1,659	0930	-143
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,856	1000	-93
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-143
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-143	1200	-143
LAF TODAY	+340	1500	-143
		1600	-143
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 123.0 *+0.3*	22.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.05	16 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.08	5.74
1 MONTH	4.09	22 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.46	6.17
3 MONTHS	4.31	27 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.40	6.51
6 MONTHS	4.67	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.50	6.68
12 MONTHS	5.36	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.61	6.82

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,118 MN

CLOSED 22 JULY 1994

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