



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR AUGUST RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN AUGUST 1989, AT \$101,023 MILLION, GREW BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN AUGUST 1989 RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT TO \$21,226 MILLION IN AUGUST 1989, WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 25 PER CENT TO \$31,828 MILLION, THUS BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1989 TO \$53,054 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT OVER AUGUST 1988.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT TO \$47,969 MILLION.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989, AT \$742,061 MILLION, INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT TO \$144,386 MILLION, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT TO \$224,353 MILLION. THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT TO \$368,738 MILLION.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT TO \$373,323 MILLION.

COMPARING AUGUST 1989 WITH AUGUST 1988, SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TAIWAN (+29 PER CENT), JAPAN (+22 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+13 PER CENT) AND CANADA (+10 PER CENT). THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE USA AND CHINA INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 23 PER CENT, 10 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IMPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS IN AUGUST 1989 OVER AUGUST 1988, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM CHINA (+30 PER CENT), ITALY (+27 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (+22 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (+13 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 12 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RE-EXPORTS TO THE USA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, BY 60 PER CENT, 51 PER CENT, 47 PER CENT, 36 PER CENT AND 35 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN (+28 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (+19 PER CENT).

/HOWEVER, THE .....

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

COMPARING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS. THE MARKETS WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED JAPAN (+23 PER CENT), CHINA (+22 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+20 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+16 PER CENT), CANADA (+10 PER CENT) AND AUSTRALIA (+7 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE USA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWED ZERO GROWTH WHILE THOSE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IMPORTS IN JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM ITALY (+37 PER CENT), CHINA (+33 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+27 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+24 PER CENT), THE USA (+15 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+13 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+12 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (+11 PER CENT).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE USA, CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND CHINA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS, BY 61 PER CENT, 50 PER CENT, 47 PER CENT, 46 PER CENT, 45 PER CENT, 36 PER CENT, 29 PER CENT AND 26 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN AUGUST 1989 WILL BE RELEASED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, NOTABLE INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$3,236 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,106 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$909 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$782 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$638 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$196 MILLION OR 2 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS. THE MORE NOTABLE ONES WERE TEXTILES (BY \$8,427 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$8,249 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$6,977 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$6,033 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$1,466 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT); AND RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS (BY \$221 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, NOTABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$8,795 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$8,238 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$6,660 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$6,026 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$740 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT); AND RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS (BY \$135 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS. THE AUGUST 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE ON SALE AROUND OCTOBER 15 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$9.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN END-OCTOBER AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 5-8234915).

/TABLE 1 .....

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
U.S.A.	6,924	+ 5	45,229	*
CHINA	3,858	+ 1	28,270	+ 22
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,550	- 3	10,261	- 4
U.K.	1,359	- 10	9,626	*
JAPAN	1,362	+ 22	8,285	+ 23
CANADA	627	+ 10	4,241	+ 10
SINGAPORE	549	+ 13	3,751	+ 16
NETHERLANDS	423	- 23	3,143	- 1
AUSTRALIA	428	+ 3	2,754	+ 7
TAIWAN	425	+ 29	2,664	+ 20

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,271	+ 10	44,763	+ 8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,728	- 9	18,404	- 3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,820	+ 6	12,531	+ 6

/ELECTRICAL MACHINERY .....

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,628	+ 2	11,801	+ 4
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,539	+ 21	10,799	+ 9
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,405	- 16	10,600	- 2

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
CHINA	18,286	+ 30	125,168	+ 33
JAPAN	7,334	- 6	63,722	+ 11
TAIWAN	4,472	+ 13	34,302	+ 24
U.S.A.	3,699	+ 2	30,721	+ 15
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,975	- 12	18,006	+ 12
SINGAPORE	1,768	+ 2	14,648	+ 27
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,161	+ 1	9,276	+ 13
U.K.	1,041	- 6	8,815	+ 5
ITALY	988	+ 27	6,897	+ 37
SWITZERLAND	745	+ 22	6,396	+ 8

/TABLE 4 .....

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,139	+ 16	48,323	+ 21
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,781	- 1	38,093	+ 17
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,436	+ 48	27,321	+ 43
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,386	+ 10	25,757	+ 37
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,720	+ 30	23,591	+ 34
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,395	+ 12	19,382	+ 14

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
CHINA	8,707	- 1	70,232	+ 26
U.S.A.	7,409	+ 60	44,375	+ 50
JAPAN	2,034	+ 28	14,269	+ 36
TAIWAN	1,355	+ 8	10,907	+ 22

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,083	+ 7	9,031	+ 16
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,269	+ 51	8,226	+ 61
SINGAPORE	965	+ 19	7,075	+ 29
U.K.	963	+ 36	5,706	+ 46
AUSTRALIA	591	+ 35	3,691	+ 45
CANADA	559	+ 47	3,431	+ 47

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	AUG 89 OVER AUG 88 ( % )	JAN-AUG 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 89 OVER JAN-AUG 88 ( % )
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,823	+ 27	28,081	+ 31
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,872	+ 55	25,592	+ 52
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,786	+ 66	23,183	+ 55
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,840	+ 8	22,117	+ 28
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,539	+ 33	17,060	+ 55
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,082	+ 13	8,606	+ 35

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HONG KONG HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS: FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, RETURNED TO HONG KONG THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING AFTER ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND CONFERENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ON ARRIVAL AT KAI TAK AIRPORT, SIR PIERS SAID HE HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY AFTER THE CONFERENCE TO MEET SENIOR CENTRAL AND COMMERCIAL BANKERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK AND PARIS.

"I THINK WE HAVE GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS THERE, WHICH I THINK IS VERY GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

DURING HIS TALKS AND VISITS, SIR PIERS WAS ASKED ABOUT CONFIDENCE HERE, ABOUT HOW THE BRAIN DRAIN WAS BEING MANAGED AND WHAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS.

"THERE IS NOW CONSIDERABLY BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AFTER SPEAKING TO THESE PEOPLE, THE IMPRESSION HE GOT WAS THAT THEY WERE QUITE PREPARED TO BE IN HONG KONG FOR THE LONG TERM.

IN REPLY TO A MEDIA QUESTION ABOUT THE DOLLAR LINK, SIR PIERS SAID: "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR BREAKING THE LINK OR ALTERING THE RATE WHATSOEVER."

HE ADDED THAT IN THE PLACES HE VISITED, THERE HAD BEEN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG'S POSITION AND THE REASONS WHY THE LINK WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

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ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR FINAL STAGE OPENS TOMORROW

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THE FINAL SECTION OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CHAI WAN WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY). FOUR MONTHS AHEAD OF THE ORIGINAL TARGET COMPLETION DATE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MISS MARIA TAM; THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG; THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON; AND EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OFFICIATED AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY TO MARK ITS OPENING.

THE THIRD AND FINAL SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR IS A DUAL TWO-LANE HIGHWAY ABOUT 2.5 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH.

/SPEAKING AT .....

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SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MISS TAM SAID THAT UPON THE OPENING OF THIS SECTION AND THE COMPLETION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO CONNAUGHT ROAD EARLY NEXT YEAR, THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL OF 15 KILOMETRES OF FREE FLOWING ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND, EXTENDING FROM CHAI WAN TO HILL ROAD IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

IN RELATION TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT, SHE SAID THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR TOGETHER WITH THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WOULD CHANGE THE PATTERN OF TRANSPORT IN THIS DISTRICT, BRINGING CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS IN TERMS OF INCREASED INVESTMENT, JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND A BETTER LIFESTYLE.

THE FINAL SECTION RUNS FROM MONG LUNG STREET IN SHAU KEI WAN, ON AN ELEVATED STRUCTURE ALONG THE EASTERN SHORELINE OF ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER TO A KUNG NGAM.

THE ROUTE THEN CONTINUES BY A GROUND LEVEL ROAD THROUGH THE ORIGINAL ARMY BARRACKS AT LEI YUE MUN, THEN TO THE WEST OF HENG FA CHUEN BEFORE REACHING THE WING TAI INTERCHANGE IN CHAI WAN.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR BEATON SAID THE NEW SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR PROVIDED A FASTER AND SAFER ROUTE BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND CHAI WAN.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM CHAI WAN WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO NEGOTIATE THE ACCIDENT PRONE CHAI WAN ROAD WITH ITS STEEP GRADIENTS, HE SAID.

MR BEATON POINTED OUT THAT THE ROAD SURFACE OF THE ENTIRE NEW SECTION WOULD BE COATED IN SOUND DEADENING ASPHALT.

"IT IS LIKELY THAT A FEW SECTIONS OF THE STAGES 2 AND 3 OF ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR WILL ALSO BE OVERLAID NOW THAT A TRIAL SECTION HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL OVER A 12-MONTH PERIOD." HE SAID.

MR BEATON SAID THE FINAL SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR WAS BUILT IN 29 MONTHS STARTING IN MAY 1987 AT A COST OF \$250 MILLION.

THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR IS NINE-KILOMETRE LONG AND COST A TOTAL OF \$1.700 MILLION.

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CUSTOMS WORK MORE SOPHISTICATED IN 1990'S

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CUSTOMS WORK IN THE 1990'S IS A MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED, BETTER EQUIPPED AND WELL INFORMED SERVICE CAUSING LESS INCONVENIENCE TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AT LARGE BUT MORE LIKELY TO CATCH SMUGGLERS, OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN PARTICULAR.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST.

IF HONG KONG WAS TO BUILD A NEW AIRPORT, HE SAID, THE MOST OBVIOUS CHANGE ONE WOULD NOTICE ON RE-ENTERING THE TERRITORY IN 1999 WOULD BE THE COMPARATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND THE FEW SUITCASES THEY OPENED.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BY THEN CUSTOMS WOULD RECEIVE AN ADVANCE PASSENGER MANIFEST FOR ALL FLIGHTS, SO THEY SHOULD HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHOM THEY WANTED TO TALK TO.

"ALL CASES, AND FOR THAT MATTER AIRCARGO, WILL BE X-RAYED AND 'SNIFFED'. WE WILL ALSO HAVE RECEIVED ALERTS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES OVERSEAS ABOUT ANY SUSPICIOUS PERSONS ON THE FLIGHT.

"IT WILL THEREFORE NOT BE NECESSARY FOR US TO STOP AND QUESTION NEARLY SO MANY INCOMING PASSENGERS.

"THIS WILL MEAN THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE HAD TO INCREASE OUR STAFF NUMBERS IN PROPORTION TO THE INCREASE IN PASSENGERS - WHICH IS JUST AS WELL WHEN YOU BEAR IN MIND THE HUGE INCREASES PREDICTED FOR AIR TRAFFIC," HE SAID.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID SMUGGLERS PARTICULARLY OF DRUGS WERE BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED AND THE CUSTOMS HAD TO DO THE SAME AND MAKE USE OF ALL THE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE - EXPERIENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND EQUIPMENT.

ON EXPERIENCE, MR WILLIAMSON SAID THE CUSTOMS COULD NOT AFFORD TO INCREASE ITS STAFF PROPORTIONATELY AS THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS AND THE VOLUME OF CARGO CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

HE SAID WHILE THE CUSTOMS COULD NOT EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO OPEN A FIXED NUMBER OF SUITCASES, IT HAD TO USE MORE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS TO PICK THE MORE SUSPECT ONES.

"THIS IS NOT EASY BUT IT IS THE ONLY REALISTIC APPROACH," HE SAID.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID INTELLIGENCE WAS NOT JUST INFORMATION ON GENERAL AND SPECIFIC SMUGGLING METHODS AND SMUGGLERS.

/ "WE NEED .....

"WE NEED TO ANALYSE ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US ON SMUGGLING TRENDS AROUND THE WORLD; TO LOOK AT OUR PREVENTIVE OPERATIONS AND ANALYSE THEIR WEAK POINTS; TO CULTIVATE AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR INTELLIGENCE RATHER THAN WAIT FOR IT TO LAND IN OUR LAPS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS EQUIPMENT, MR WILLIAMSON SAID THE CUSTOMS ALREADY HAD X-RAY MACHINES, COMPUTERS, FAX MACHINES AS WELL AS SNIFFER MACHINES DESIGNED TO ANALYSE AND SAMPLE AND WHEN SO PROGRAMMED TO IDENTIFY DANGEROUS DRUGS.

MR WILLIAMSON NOTED THAT THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY, BEING HONG KONG'S MOST SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRY, WAS ENWRAPPED IN MULTI-LATERAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND HONG KONG MUST MAINTAIN A SEPARATE TRADING IDENTITY TO SURVIVE IN THIS PROTECTIONIST WORLD.

"AND FOR THIS WE NEED A SEPARATE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION - OTHERWISE OUR QUOTAS WOULD BECOME SUBSUMED IN CHINA'S AND WE WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE WE WERE," HE SAID.

"SO IN 2000 AD, I SEE A LEAN, FIT, HIGHLY MECHANISED, WELL INFORMED CUSTOMS SERVICE FOR HONG KONG MAINTAINING, AS WE DO NOW, OUR TRADING IDENTITY IN A MANNER OF WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD," HE ADDED.

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#### LABOUR DEPARTMENT TAKES MEASURES TO PLUG BRAIN DRAIN

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS TAKING MEASURES TO HELP REVERSE THE SO-CALLED "BRAIN DRAIN" AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO RETURN TO HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 10TH HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASIAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE, MR HAMMOND SAID TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE, THE DEPARTMENT WAS PROVIDING EFFECTIVE LINKS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND PROSPECTIVE JOB-SEEKERS.

"WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES EMPLOYERS ARE FACING IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF AT THE PRESENT TIME," HE NOTED.

"OUR HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WAS SET UP ESPECIALLY TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO FILL VACANCIES AT THE EXECUTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 2,000 JOB-SEEKERS ON ITS REGISTER.

"OF THESE, ABOUT 30 PER CENT ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FROM CANADA, 22 PER CENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, 11 PER CENT FROM THE USA AND AUSTRALIA, AND ABOUT 25 PER CENT FROM LOCAL TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

/"THEY POSSESS .....

"THEY POSSESS QUALIFICATIONS IN A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES INCLUDING COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, FINANCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, STATISTICS AND ACCOUNTING."

APART FROM PLACEMENT SERVICE, MR HAMMOND SAID, THE SERVICE PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE LINK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LOCAL COMPANIES AND PROSPECTIVE JOB-SEEKERS OVERSEAS THROUGH TWO MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS - "PRIME JOBS IN HONG KONG" AND "CANDIDATE PROFILE".

"THE FORMER IS SENT TO MORE THAN 600 OVERSEAS TERTIARY INSTITUTES AND STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD, PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO MAY WISH TO RETURN TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"THE OTHER ONE, WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION ABOUT NEWLY REGISTERED JOB-SEEKERS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION, IS SENT FREE OF CHARGE TO ABOUT 1,000 EMPLOYERS."

MR HAMMOND ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING LARGE NUMBERS OF VACANCIES FROM OCCURRING, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN THE LABOUR MARKET WAS TIGHT.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, HE SAID PERSONNEL MANAGERS COULD PLAY A VITAL PART BY DEVISING NOT ONLY AN ATTRACTIVE EMPLOYMENT PACKAGE, BUT ALSO A SOUND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO HELP RETAIN THEIR COMPANY STAFF.

"THE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON OUR WORKFORCE, AND IT IS ONLY THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT THAT PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BECOME A VALUABLE ASSET," HE SAID.

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DB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW FUND ALLOCATION GUIDELINES  
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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL REVIEW THE GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS  
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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE, AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY), APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TOTALLING \$300,000 FOR THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN ON DECEMBER 8.

THE FUNDS ARE FOR A PUBLICITY PROGRAMME, BROCHURES AND AN OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON TELEVISION.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TOTALLING OVER \$180,000 BY LOCAL BODIES FOR ORGANISING COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS CARNIVALS, EXHIBITIONS, COMPETITIONS, AS WELL AS CIVIC EDUCATION AND KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY), BEGINNING AT 2 PM AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF CHOW TAI FOOK FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31 (2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

URBAN CLEARWAY IN CENTRAL  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 13). THE SECTION OF QUEEN VICTORIA STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON HK ISLAND

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 13), THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF MARSH ROAD FLYOVER IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON HUNG HING ROAD HEADING FOR LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA FLEMING ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER.

IN WESTERN DISTRICT, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS:

- \* THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WESTERN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION: AND
- \* THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WESTERN STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF THE SECTION OF QUEEN STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY FOR TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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BAN ZONE IN SHAM SHUI PO SUSPENDED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 13), THE EXISTING BAN ZONE DESIGNATED ON THE LAY-BY AT THE SIDE OF CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD EASTBOUND OUTSIDE UN CHAU STREET ESTATE IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR TWO WEEKS.

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

POLICY ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MUTUAL TRUST NEEDS TO BE RESTORED

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HONG KONG AND CHINA NEED TO RESTORE MUTUAL TRUST AS THE NECESSARY CORNERSTONE FOR THE UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL EXPERIMENT THAT WILL BEGIN IN 1997, THE FOUNDATIONS FOR WHICH MUST BE LAID SECURELY IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE 1989-90 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY GIVEN REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT ITS POLICY TOWARDS HONG KONG HAD NOT CHANGED AND STRESSED THAT ECONOMIC REFORM AND OPENNESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD REMAINED FUNDAMENTAL PRIORITIES.

"BOTH OF THESE ARE IMPORTANT AND WELCOME MESSAGES FOR HONG KONG.

"WE FOR OUR PART HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT ACTION IS NEEDED TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN CHINA HAD A TRAUMATIC EFFECT ON HONG KONG AND HAD CREATED INCREASED CONCERN ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

"A MARK OF THIS WAS THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION AND THE WIDESPREAD DEMANDS FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"WE HAVE ALSO SEEN INTENSIFIED DISCUSSION ABOUT THE RIGHT PACE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE AND CALLS FOR THE EARLY INTRODUCTION OF A BILL OF RIGHTS.

"AND THE DRAFT BASIC LAW HAS COME UNDER RENEWED SCRUTINY," HE SAID.

DESPITE THIS UNCERTAINTY AND WORRY ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, HONG KONG'S ECONOMY SHOWED ITSELF TO BE ROBUST, SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE TERRITORY HAD ONCE AGAIN BEEN REMINDED HOW MUCH ITS SURVIVAL DEPENDED ON THE RESILIENCE OF ITS BUSINESSMEN AND ITS WORKFORCE.

"THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WAS AFFECTED, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE WHOLESAL CANCELLATION OF TOURS TO CHINA.

"BUT OUR MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS RELATIVELY UNSCATHED; AND ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA, ESPECIALLY WITH GUANGDONG PROVINCE, HAVE REMAINED STRONG.

"OUR NEWLY-REORGANISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WEATHERED THE CRISIS AND EMERGED WITH THEIR REPUTATIONS ENHANCED.

"OUR LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM PROVED ITS WORTH AT A TESTING TIME," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERALL ECONOMIC EFFECT ON HONG KONG OF THE EVENTS IN CHINA WOULD PROBABLY BE A SLIGHT CHECK TO THE RATE OF THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S EARLIER ESTIMATE WAS THAT OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT WOULD GROW BY SIX PER CENT THIS YEAR, COMPARED TO SEVEN PER CENT IN 1988.

"THIS FORECAST HAS NOW BEEN ADJUSTED SLIGHTLY DOWNWARDS. BUT, EVEN WITH THIS SLIGHTLY LOWER FORECAST, HONG KONG SHOULD STILL ENJOY A HEALTHY LEVEL OF GROWTH BY WORLD STANDARDS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG MUST FACE, AND FACE IN A CLEAR-HEADED WAY, THE FACT THAT ON JULY 1, 1997, THE TERRITORY WOULD BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"HONG KONG IS LINKED TO CHINA BUT, IN ANOTHER IMPORTANT SENSE, SEPARATE FROM IT.

"THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE IN THE FUTURE, UNDER THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'.

"WE HAVE OUR OWN LAWS AND FREEDOMS WHICH WE CHERISH. THEY MUST NOT BE ERODED.

"EQUALLY, WE SHOULD USE THEM WITH A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-RESTRAINT," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR MANY YEARS THE COMMUNITY HAD RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CHINA'S OFTEN COMPLICATED DOMESTIC POLITICS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, GIVEN BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REALITIES, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPAND OUR ALREADY CLOSE ECONOMIC LINKS WITH THE MAINLAND.

"WE CAN STRENGTHEN THE BASIS OF OUR SPECIAL FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS BY THE CONTRIBUTION THAT WE MAKE TO THE MODERNISATION OF THE CHINESE ECONOMY AND BY THE ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE FOR CHINA," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG HAD BEEN THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES SINCE HE LAST ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SESSION AND HAD BEEN FORCEFULLY REMINDED HOW VULNERABLE THE TERRITORY WAS TO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH OCCURRED OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS OVER WHICH IT HAD NO CONTROL.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST CRISIS THAT HONG KONG HAD HAD TO CONFRONT AND THAT WHEN FACING DIFFICULTIES IN THE PAST THE TERRITORY HAD EMERGED WITH NEW CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

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IMPORTED SKILLS, EXPERIENCE WILL BE REQUIRED  
\* \* \* \* \*

HONG KONG WILL NEED TO IMPORT MORE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FROM OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY TO FILL THE GAPS LEFT BY EMIGRANTS AT LEAST UNTIL ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN RESOURCES TAKE EFFECT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE EMIGRATED, THE BULK OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG - BY THEN SOME SIX MILLION PEOPLE - WOULD STILL BE HERE IN 1997 AND AFTERWARDS.

"THESE ARE THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM WE MUST BUILD A FUTURE. THEY ARE HONG KONG'S FUTURE."

HE SAID THAT MANY OF THEM WOULD STEP READILY INTO THE GAPS LEFT BY EMIGRANTS AND OTHERS WOULD NEED MORE TIME, TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY COULD DO SO.

"BUT, WITH AN EXPANDING AND EVER MORE SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY, IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO FILL ALL THE GAPS FROM WITHIN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRST POTENTIAL SOURCE OF THESE SKILLS WAS FORMER HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ALREADY KNEW THE TERRITORY.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY RECRUITING FROM THE ETHNIC CHINESE COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, NOTING THAT THE PRIVATE SECTORS WERE DOING THE SAME.

HONG KONG ALSO WELCOMED ANYONE WHO WANTED TO COME AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY, IF THEY HAD THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED, SIR DAVID SAID.

"HONG KONG IS A CITY IN WHICH PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES CAN PLAY A PART.

"WE MUST BE READY, IF THE NEED ARISES, TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR OUR HOME-GROWN TALENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET-PLACE.

"AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR IMMIGRATION POLICIES ARE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PERMIT THIS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT 42,000 PEOPLE WOULD LEAVE HONG KONG IN 1989 REMAINED VALID, BUT EMIGRATION LEVELS WERE LIKELY TO BE HIGHER IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT MORE HONG KONG PEOPLE NOW FEEL A NEED TO HEDGE THEIR BETS OR SEEK INSURANCE POLICIES OVERSEAS.

"AS ALWAYS, PRECISELY HOW MANY WILL LEAVE DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON EVENTS HERE AND IN CHINA BUT ALSO ON THE IMMIGRATION POLICIES OF THE COUNTRIES THAT PEOPLE WISH TO GO TO," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER PREVENT PEOPLE FROM LEAVING HONG KONG. HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE DILEMMA THAT MANY FAMILIES FACED IN DECIDING WHETHER TO GO OR TO STAY AND THAT HE COULD NOT PRETEND THAT HE LIKED SEEING SO MANY SKILLED AND TALENTED PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG.

"NOT ONLY DOES HONG KONG NEED THEM, BUT I AM ALSO WELL AWARE THAT MANY OF THEM DO NOT REALLY WANT TO GO. WE ALL KNOW OF FAMILIES WHO WOULD PREFER TO STAY IN HONG KONG BUT WHO HAVE BEEN UPROOTED AND EVEN SEPARATED FOR LONG PERIODS," HE NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED MANY OF THESE EMIGRANTS WOULD RETURN AND CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE ONCE THEY HAD OBTAINED THE SECURITY THAT THEY WERE SEEKING.

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#### EVOLUTION OF HK'S RELATIONSHIP WITH UK

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HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS EVOLVED IN THE PAST YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNOR SAID CONTRARY TO SOME POPULAR MYTHS, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN LEFT ESSENTIALLY FREE TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF RUNNING HONG KONG BY ITSELF.

"WE HAVE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SUCH AS EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

"FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS OR SO, WE HAVE MADE ALL OUR OWN POLICY DECISIONS IN OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS SUCH AS THE ECONOMY, TRADE AND FINANCE," HE SAID.

AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DEVELOPED SOME INTERESTS WHICH WERE SEPARATE FROM THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IT HAD SOMETIMES FOUND ITSELF ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

"WHEN THIS HAPPENS, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT ARGUES HARD ON HONG KONG'S BEHALF," HE STRESSED.

HE SAID IN THE PAST YEAR OR TWO, FOR INSTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD HAD TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE RELATIVE SHARES OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE BRITISH GARRISON IN HONG KONG, AND HAD HAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE PART THE UNITED KINGDOM PLAYED IN RESETTLING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM THE TERRITORY.

ON NATIONALITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO PUT FORWARD A CLEAR HONG KONG CASE ON THE ISSUE.

/"I HAVE .....

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"I HAVE SAID THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHISE WITH THE WIDESPREAD HOPE IN HONG KONG THAT BRITAIN WOULD GRANT THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TO ALL HONG KONG BRITISH NATIONALS.

"I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT, IN MY VIEW, SUCH A MOVE, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE EFFECT ON CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, AND THAT THE NUMBER WHO WOULD ACTUALLY LEAVE WOULD BE SMALL," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE THE EFFECT THAT WAS WANTED ON MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL STABILITY, THE SCHEME ON THE RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUE WOULD NEED TO COVER THREE IMPORTANT POINTS.

"IT WILL NEED TO BE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE; IT WILL NEED TO MINIMISE DIVISIVENESS, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE; AND IT WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT THOSE COVERED CAN ACQUIRE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THAT IT DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO GRANT THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN TO ALL HONG KONG BRITISH NATIONALS BUT HAD INSTEAD PROMISED A SCHEME UNDER WHICH THE RIGHT OF ABODE WOULD BE GRANTED TO SOME PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IN A WAY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY IN THE TERRITORY.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE SCHEME, WHEN IT IS ANNOUNCED, WILL HELP TO PROVIDE GREATER CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

"MEANWHILE IT CANNOT BE RIGHT TO SAY THAT WE WANT EITHER EVERYTHING OR NOTHING: A SCHEME THAT PROVIDES SOMETHING MUST BE BETTER THAN NO SCHEME AT ALL," HE SAID.

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RESETTLEMENT, REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE THE OBJECTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO PUT IN PLACE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND REPATRIATION OF THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID CALLED UPON HONG KONG PEOPLE, IN THE MEANTIME, TO HAVE PATIENCE, AND TO REMEMBER THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

"MANY HONG KONG FAMILIES, AFTER ALL, KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO UPROOT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR HOMES AND SEEK A BETTER FUTURE ELSEWHERE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE REMAINED CONVINCED THAT THE POLICY THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED WAS THE RIGHT ONE, AND THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BEAR FRUIT.

/"AT THE .....

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"AT THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE MAKING VERY STRONGLY THE POINT THAT SCREENING AND REPATRIATION ARE INSEPARABLE.

"IT IS ONLY BY INTRODUCING A SCHEME FOR ORDERLY RETURN THAT WE WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DISORDERLY ARRIVALS.

"THE THOUSANDS THAT ARE BEING SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES MUST GO BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM.

"IT IS ONLY BY FINDING A WAY TO RETURN NON-REFUGEES HOME THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE WHO ARE GENUINE REFUGEES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID SINCE LAST OCTOBER, SOME 34,000 VIETNAMESE HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG -- THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN ANY YEAR SINCE 1979 -- PUTTING AN ENORMOUS STRAIN ON THE TERRITORY'S RESOURCES, AS WELL AS ON THE PEOPLE'S PATIENCE AND COMPASSION.

SIR DAVID SAID HE SYMPATHISED WITH THOSE WHO ARGUED THAT HONG KONG HAD NOW DONE ENOUGH, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT BY CHOICE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SPENT INCREASING AMOUNTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS, AND USED INCREASING AMOUNTS OF SCARCE LAND, ON HOUSING AND LOOKING AFTER A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STREAM OF ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM.

"THOSE WHO COME HERE DO NOT SEEK A HOME IN HONG KONG. THEIR GOAL IS ELSEWHERE: IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES.

"BUT THEY HAVE LITTLE PROSPECT OF EVER GETTING THERE, OR ANYWHERE ELSE," HE SAID, NOTING THAT OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE VIETNAMESE NOW ARRIVING IN HONG KONG DID NOT MEET UNITED STATES RESETTLEMENT CRITERIA.

"DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STRONGLY AND CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY IS THAT THOSE WHO ARE DEFINED AS REFUGEES MUST BE RESETTLED OVERSEAS, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET THESE CRITERIA MUST GO BACK TO VIETNAM.

"THIS IS A VIEW WHICH IS SHARED BY A NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH HAVE WORKED MOST CLOSELY WITH THE VIETNAMESE, INCLUDING OXFAM, SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND AND THE BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL," SIR DAVID SAID.

HONG KONG HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN INTRODUCING A SCREENING POLICY AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS PUTTING THIS SOLUTION INTO EFFECT, AND THIS POLICY HAD BEEN FOLLOWED ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND, MOST RECENTLY, BY JAPAN, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN JUNE ENDORSED THIS POLICY OF SCREENING AND AGREED ON PRINCIPLES FOR THE REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEES, BUT IT DID NOT TAKE THE ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP OF ENDORSING THE REPATRIATION OF ALL THOSE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

IN EFFECT IT ASKED HONG KONG TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THESE PEOPLE TO RETURN HOME VOLUNTARILY.

/"WE HAVE .....

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"WE HAVE TRIED THIS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

"THE MORE PEOPLE WHO RETURN HOME VOLUNTARILY TO VIETNAM THE BETTER," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HOWEVER, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION ALONE WAS CLEARLY NOT THE ANSWER AS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER WAS LIMITED, HE SAID, ADDING THAT WHILE FURTHER GROUPS WERE DUE TO GO SOON, ONLY 264 VIETNAMESE HAD ACTUALLY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMETLAND SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

SIR DAVID RECALLED THAT AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE, HE WARNED THAT IF PROPER ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOT MADE TO RETURN HOME THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES, HONG KONG COULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO PLAY ITS PART BY PROVIDING FIRST ASYLUM.

"BUT WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES INTO THINKING THAT ABANDONING THIS PRINCIPLE IS AN EASY, OR COST FREE, OPTION.

"WE WOULD HAVE TO FACE THE HARD CHOICE OF WHAT TO DO IF FUTURE ARRIVALS SANK THEIR BOATS WHEN THEY WERE REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND HERE.

"WOULD WE, AS A COMMUNITY, BE WILLING TO LET PEOPLE DROWN? SURELY NOT.

"WE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO FACE AN INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY WHICH WOULD PUT AT RISK OUR PROSPECTS FOR RESETTLING THE 13,000 REFUGEES NOW IN HONG KONG, AND WHICH WOULD ALSO AFFECT INTERNATIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS HONG KONG IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS TRADE, WHERE WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID MANY PEOPLE OUTSIDE HONG KONG DID NOT SEEM TO REALISE WHAT A BURDEN THE CONTINUING FLOW FROM VIETNAM CREATED FOR US.

"BUT WE HAVE COPEd. WE HAVE HOUSED, FED AND CARED FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE COME.

"WE HAVE TURNED NO-ONE AWAY. THIS IS SOMETHING OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE PROUD," HE SAID.

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WORK OF CIVIL SERVANTS APPRECIATED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE WAS SURE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD WISH TO JOIN HIM IN RECORDING APPRECIATION OF THE WORK DONE BY CIVIL SERVANTS IN COPING WITH THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

SIR DAVID SAID MANY CIVIL SERVANTS HAD BEEN WORKING LONG HOURS IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

"THEY GET LITTLE RECOGNITION FOR THIS, AND A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS. THEY DESERVE BETTER," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE HAD IMPOSED A GREAT STRAIN ON THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A WHOLE, AND NOT ONLY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND THE GARRISON WHO HAD BORNE THE MAIN BRUNT.

"I DOUBT IF MANY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY REALISE HOW MANY DEPARTMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN RECEIVING THE ARRIVALS, PROCESSING THEM, FEEDING THEM, LOOKING AFTER THEM AND BUILDING, OPERATING AND GUARDING CENTRES FOR THEM," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"BUT THIS IS BY NO MEANS THE ONLY STRAIN ON OUR CIVIL SERVANTS. THEY HAVE FOR MANY YEARS PLAYED THE LEADING ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

"INEVITABLY THIS ROLE HAS CHANGED AS OUR SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED," HE SAID.

CIVIL SERVANTS HAD HAD TO ADAPT TO THIS CHANGE AT A TIME WHEN, LIKE THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY, THEY HAD THEIR OWN PERSONAL WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE.

"AS A COMMUNITY WE TAKE OUR CIVIL SERVICE FOR GRANTED. BUT, FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE WORKINGS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, I CAN SAY WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THAT HONG KONG IS WELL SERVED," SIR DAVID POINTED OUT.

DURING THE RAPID CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES THAT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT DECADE, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR CONTINUITY AND STABILITY.

"SO NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE MUST ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS AS STABLE AND EFFICIENT AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN," HE SAID.

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## HK PLAYS ROLE REFLECTING ITS ECONOMIC STATUS

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HONG KONG, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS AUTONOMY, HAS NOW BEGUN TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE WORLD THAT REFLECTS THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HONG KONG BEING THE WORLD'S 11TH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY, IT WAS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD DO SO, NOTING THAT IN THE PAST, AS THE TERRITORY DEVELOPED, IT WAS SOMEWHAT HESITANT ABOUT INVOLVING ITSELF IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION CONTAINED THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD, AND HONG KONG WAS ONE OF THEM.

"SIXTY PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL TRADE IS NOW WITH ASIA AND AUSTRALASIA. AND WE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BUILDING UP TRADE WITHIN THE REGION," SIR DAVID SAID.

"GOODS GOING THROUGH HONG KONG FROM ONE PART OF THE REGION TO ANOTHER, NOT COUNTING CHINA, HAVE GROWN BY 45 PER CENT IN THE PAST YEAR," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR HAD ALSO BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN REGIONAL TERMS.

"BECAUSE OF THE TIME DIFFERENCE, BUSINESS CAN BE DONE HERE WHEN LONDON AND NEW YORK ARE CLOSED," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG NOW HAD 135 OVERSEAS INCORPORATED BANKS, OF WHICH 11 WERE GIVEN NEW LICENCES THIS YEAR. TWELVE OVERSEAS SECURITIES COMPANIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING COMPANIES HAD ALSO SET UP BUSINESS HERE THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG HAD MANY ADVANTAGES AS A REGIONAL BASE -- ITS LOCATION, GOOD COMMUNICATIONS, AN EFFICIENT AND APOLITICAL ADMINISTRATION, AN IMPARTIAL SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, A WELL-EDUCATED AND EFFICIENT WORKFORCE, AND ALL THE CONVENIENCES OF A MODERN CITY.

"ADD TO THIS THE MAGNIFICENT NEW CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE - THE LARGEST IN ASIA - WHICH WILL OFFICIALLY BE OPENED NEXT MONTH BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND ONE CAN SEE HOW HONG KONG IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING A MAJOR REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRADE, FINANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS," HE SAID.

"SO IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MANY COMPANIES HAVE CHOSEN TO BASE THEIR REGIONAL OFFICES HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, 10 OF OUR OVERSEAS INCORPORATED BANKS OPERATE AS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. SO DO MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID THAT STATISTICS IN THIS AREA WERE STARTLING AND REVEALING.

"OUR RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 51 PER CENT IN VALUE IN THE SINGLE YEAR 1987 TO 1988. ALMOST A HALF OF THESE ORIGINATED IN CHINA. AND OVER ONE-THIRD WENT TO CHINA.

/ "CHINA HAS .....

"CHINA HAS USED HONG KONG AS A GATEWAY FOR ITS EXPORTS FOR MANY YEARS. BUT IT IS ONLY RELATIVELY RECENTLY THAT WE HAVE PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS A CHANNEL FOR ITS IMPORTS.

"OUR ASIA-PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY QUICK TO SEE HONG KONG'S POTENTIAL IN THIS AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1988 ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF ALL JAPANESE EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE ROUTED THROUGH HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG ALSO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA. UP TO 1988, SOME 70 PER CENT OF ALL SUCH INVESTMENT WAS BY COMPANIES INCORPORATED OR REGISTERED IN HONG KONG.

"NOT ALL OF THESE WERE HONG KONG COMPANIES. MANY WERE FOREIGN ONES WHICH HAD CHOSEN TO USE HONG KONG AS THEIR BASE FOR THIS INVESTMENT.

"AND WHY NOT? WE ARE NOT ONLY ON CHINA'S DOORSTEP. WE ALSO HAVE UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE IN DEALING WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AND ENTERPRISES, PARTICULARLY IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, AND THE FULL RANGE OF BACK-UP SERVICES THAT AN INVESTOR NEEDS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT MARKET FOR FOREIGN EXPORTERS AND INVESTORS, AND HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST MEANS OF ACCESS TO IT.

"BY PLAYING AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE, WE CAN ALSO CONTINUE TO BE OF BENEFIT TO CHINA. WE CAN PROVIDE INVESTMENT, FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND EXPERTISE TO HELP THE CHINESE ECONOMY CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP," HE SAID.

ON PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG NATURALLY WISHED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS THAT HELPED TO SHAPE THE WORLD WE LIVED IN AND THAT DEALT WITH ISSUES THAT AFFECTED OUR OWN INTERESTS.

"IN DOING THIS, WE HAVE DEVOTED MOST EFFORT TO ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS. HONG KONG BECAME A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) IN APRIL 1986.

"WE PLAY OUR PART IN IT VIGOROUSLY AND RESPONSIBLY. HONG KONG OFFICIALS SERVE AS CHAIRMEN OR MEMBERS OF A RANGE OF GATT BODIES AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PANELS.

"OUR ROLE AS A MAJOR TRADING ECONOMY; OUR DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE; AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACT AS A LINK BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE ALSO ENABLED US TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE IMPORTANT URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

APART FROM THE GATT, HONG KONG ALSO TOOK PART IN SOME 40 OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL, THE GOVERNOR NOTED.

"WE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP IN MAKING SURE THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN THESE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFTER 1997.

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"IN ADDITION, HONG KONG IS ALSO REPRESENTED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR COMMUNITY BODIES IN HUNDREDS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE BUSINESS, SPORTING AND CULTURAL FIELDS. OUR VOICE IS NOW BEING HEARD MORE OFTEN AND TO BETTER EFFECT," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S IMAGE IN THE WORLD, THE GOVERNOR CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO ACT AS AMBASSADORS FOR HONG KONG.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD FOUGHT VERY HARD, WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, TO OVERCOME AN INTERNATIONAL IMAGE WHICH FOR YEARS WAS THAT OF A PRODUCER OF CHEAP, LOW QUALITY GOODS, AND PEOPLE HAD BEGUN TO SEE HONG KONG FOR WHAT IT WAS - A BUSTLING, MODERN CITY OF SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS.

"BUT IMAGES ARE OFTEN CREATED BY EVENTS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. WHEN THE NAME OF HONG KONG IS MENTIONED NOWADAYS, FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE PROBABLY THINK EITHER OF 1997 OR OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO PROJECT A MORE BALANCED AND MORE POSITIVE IMAGE OF THIS EXCITING CITY. WE MUST EMPHASISE THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, IN EVERY FIELD FROM THE ECONOMY TO HOUSING.

"WE MUST DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ATTRACTIONS OF HONG KONG TODAY, FOR ITS OWN PEOPLE AND FOR THOSE FROM OVERSEAS. AND WE MUST, ABOVE ALL, TELL THE WORLD WHAT WE ARE DOING OURSELVES TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, HE WOULD HIMSELF BE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON, LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO SPREAD THESE MESSAGES TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE.

"THIS IS NOT JUST A JOB FOR THE GOVERNMENT. ALL OF US CAN ACT AS AMBASSADORS FOR HONG KONG.

"THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND OUR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN MAKING HONG KONG'S ATTRACTIONS KNOWN TO A WIDER AUDIENCE.

"THIS MESSAGE HAS PARTICULAR FORCE WHEN IT COMES FROM FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN WHO THEMSELVES LIVE AND WORK IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MANY HAD BEEN WILLING TO HELP IN THIS WAY, AND HE WELCOMED THEIR EFFORTS.

"WE ALSO WANT TO DRAW ON THEIR EXPERIENCE TO INVOLVE THEM MORE IN THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY."

SIR DAVID SAID AS PART OF THIS HE HAD APPROVED THE SETTING UP OF AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE, TO BE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, ON WHICH ALL THE MAIN OVERSEAS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WOULD BE REPRESENTED.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE MEANS OF TAPPING THE TALENTS OF OVERSEAS BUSINESSMEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

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PREPARING FOR A DECADE OF CHANGE

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IN THE NEXT DECADE, HONG KONG FACES A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND WE MUST MANAGE THIS WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE STEADILY TO DEVELOP ITS OWN INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY HAD CONFIDENCE.

"DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THERE HAS BEEN VIGOROUS DEBATE IN HONG KONG ABOUT HOW QUICKLY WE SHOULD DEVELOP OUR SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE INDEED SOMETIMES BEEN CRITICISED BY THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO FASTER THAN THIS PRINCIPLE ALLOWS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THIS YEAR A NUMBER OF MODELS FOR THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD AND ONE OF THESE WAS THE RESULT OF LENGTHY DISCUSSION BY THE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"THESE MODELS HAVE STIMULATED A GREAT DEAL OF DEBATE IN THE COMMUNITY, THIS IS A GOOD THING. THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE VITAL FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"OUT OF THIS DEBATE I HOPE THAT A BROADLY HELD HONG KONG VIEW WILL EMERGE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THIS WOULD HELP THE DRAFTERS OF THE BASIC LAW, WHEN THEY MEET LATER THIS YEAR AND EARLY IN 1990, TO CARRY OUT THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FORMULATING THE STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM IN AND AFTER 1997," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO WISH TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO SUCH A VIEW WHEN IT TOOK DECISIONS ON WHAT FURTHER CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991.

"BEFORE TAKING THESE DECISIONS, WE WILL CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF THE COMPOSITION OF THIS COUNCIL: THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AND APPOINTED MEMBERS, WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ELECTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS.

"WE SHALL HAVE IN MIND THE WIDELY-HELD VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SOMEWHAT FASTER RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN 1991 THAN PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED; AND ALSO THE FACT THAT BY 1995 ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER. WE MUST PREPARE FOR THAT SITUATION WELL IN ADVANCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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ON THE BASIC LAW, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE SECOND DRAFT, PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY, WAS GENERALLY SEEN AS A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT ON ITS PREDECESSOR.

"CAREFUL NOTE HAD CLEARLY BEEN TAKEN OF POINTS MADE IN HONG KONG DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD LAST YEAR. RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAVE REFOCUSSED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON SOME PARTS OF THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID ANOTHER AREA WHICH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH DEBATE WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SAR GOVERNMENT.

"I HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL USE THIS FINAL PERIOD OF CONSULTATION TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT OF A DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEIR FUTURE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY INTENDED TO PUBLISH THE BASIC LAW NEXT SPRING.

"ITS CONTENTS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HOW PEOPLE, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, VIEW THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"A BASIC LAW THAT MEETS THE MAIN POINTS OF CONCERN IN HONG KONG CAN GO A LONG WAY TO RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY.

"I THEREFORE URGE THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS TO BE RECEPTIVE TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE DRAFT IN HONG KONG DURING THE CURRENT CONSULTATION PERIOD AND TO TAKE THEM CAREFULLY INTO ACCOUNT. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL AT STAKE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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WHITE BILL ON BILL OF RIGHTS  
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THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO PUBLISH A WHITE BILL ON A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND TO INTRODUCE DRAFT LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY JULY 1990, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS CLEAR THERE WAS NOW STRONG SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE BASIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS WE ENJOYED TO BE ENTRENCHED THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERING WHAT FORM SUCH A BILL MIGHT TAKE. WE PROPOSE THAT IT SHOULD GIVE EFFECT IN LOCAL LAW TO THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

"THIS MEANS THAT IF ANYONE BELIEVES THAT THEIR CIVIL OR POLITICAL RIGHTS, AS DEFINED IN THE COVENANT, HAVE BEEN VIOLATED THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SEEK REDRESS IN THE COURTS," HE SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID WITHIN THE TIMESCALE TO PUBLISH A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND TO INTRODUCE DRAFT LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY JULY 1990, THERE WOULD NOT BE TIME FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL OUR EXISTING LAWS TO REMOVE ANY AREAS OF DOUBT ABOUT THEIR FULL COMPATIBILITY WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY UNCERTAINTIES THE DRAFT BILL WILL PROVIDE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD AFTER ITS ENACTMENT DURING WHICH EXISTING LAWS CANNOT BE CHALLENGED AGAINST THE STANDARD OF THE NEW BILL," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE BASIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS HONG KONG ENJOYED WERE BACKED UP BY MANY DIFFERENT PROVISIONS OF STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW.

"IN ADDITION, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG SINCE 1976.

"AND THEIR CONTINUED APPLICATION BEYOND 1997 IS GUARANTEED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS WERE DIFFERENT IN NATURE FROM THOSE OF THE COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

"THEY ARE IN THE FORM OF OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED PROGRESSIVELY AND, GENERALLY SPEAKING, ARE NOT RIGHTS WHICH INDIVIDUALS COULD EASILY ENFORCE IN THE COURTS.

"FOR THESE REASONS THEY ARE NOT WELL SUITED FOR INCLUSION IN A BILL OF RIGHTS DESIGNED TO GIVE PEOPLE THE RIGHT OF DIRECT ACTION IN THE COURTS.

"WE ARE OF COURSE FULLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COVENANT AND SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THEM THROUGH OUR EXISTING LEGISLATION AND POLICIES," HE SAID.

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FULL CONTRIBUTION BY HK TO WORK OF JLG

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HONG KONG MAKES A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG) AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE JLG HAD OFTEN LED TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN HONG KONG ABOUT ITS ROLE AND ACTIVITIES.

"FROM TIME TO TIME IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TAKE DECISIONS IN THE JLG IN WHICH HONG KONG PLAYS NO PART.

/ "I CAN .....

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"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. TWO MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION SIT AS MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE JLG AND MANY MORE ATTEND ITS MEETINGS.

"ALL SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA OF JLG MEETINGS ARE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS. AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL PROCEEDINGS AND IS CONSULTED ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES OF POLICY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE DETAILED WORK ON IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION TOOK PLACE IN THE JLG, AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

"THEY HAVE ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE CONTACTS AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

"INEVITABLY, THESE CONTACTS WERE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED IN JUNE. THE GROUP HAS RECENTLY RESUMED ITS ACTIVITIES AND WILL NOW MEET AGAIN IN DECEMBER. I HOPE THAT IT WILL THEN, AS PREVIOUSLY, PRODUCE A STEADY STREAM OF SOLID WORK. MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE 1997," HE SAID.

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WESTERN-STYLE WELFARE STATE NOT THE INTENTION  
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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE A WESTERN-STYLE WELFARE STATE IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"TO DO SO RISKS ENCOURAGING A MENTALITY OF DEPENDENCY THAT IS ALIEN TO THE HONG KONG WAY OF LIFE," HE SAID IN REFERRING TO THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATED MUCH OF ITS EFFORTS, AND OF ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES, ON YOUNG PEOPLE -- WHO REPRESENTED THE FUTURE -- AND ON THOSE WHO COULD NOT FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO ENSURING THAT HONG KONG REMAINED AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE IN, WITH SOCIAL SERVICES THAT MET THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY, SIR DAVID SAID.

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EDUCATION TARGETS TO BE UPGRADED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO UPGRADE SUBSTANTIALLY THE EDUCATION TARGETS SET ONLY LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY), POINTING TO FACTORS SUCH AS RISING EXPECTATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"THE AMBITION OF ORDINARY FAMILIES TODAY IS THAT THEIR CHILDREN SHOULD DO WELL ENOUGH IN EXAMINATIONS TO BE ABLE TO GO ON TO SOME KIND OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY MEANS THAT WE NEED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED BEYOND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT AT PRESENT ABLE TO MEET THE FULL EXTENT OF THIS DEMAND, AS MANY HONG KONG STUDENTS NOW GO ABROAD FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AS STAY IN HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS EMIGRATION, HE NOTED.

"WE MUST NOW PLAN ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE WILL LOSE A PROPORTION OF OUR FUTURE GRADUATES ABROAD," HE SAID.

THE TARGETS SET LAST YEAR WOULD HAVE MEANT THAT IN THE YEAR 1995, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WOULD BE FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES FOR NEARLY 13 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP, COMPARED WITH ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT NOW.

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS AN AMBITIOUS TARGET, SIR DAVID SAID, IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT WE MUST BE EVEN MORE AMBITIOUS.

"I HAVE ASKED THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) TO INCREASE THE PLANNED PROVISION OF FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES FROM ABOUT 7,000 NEXT YEAR TO ABOUT 15,000 IN 1995.

"THAT MEANS PLACES FOR OVER 18 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP.

"THIS WILL NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF SUB-DEGREE PLACES. THESE WILL BE MAINTAINED AT THE PREVIOUS PLANNING LEVEL OF 5,000," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE INCREASE WOULD GIVE A TOTAL OF 67,000 TERTIARY PLACES IN 1995, PROVIDING PLACES FOR NEARLY 25 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP, COMPARED WITH UNDER 14 PER CENT NOW, HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE UPGC WAS NOW WORKING OUT HOW TO MEET THESE NEW TARGETS, AND ADDED THAT PLANS FOR EXPANDING THE EXISTING UNIVERSITIES WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD AND THE PERCENTAGE OF DEGREE PLACES OFFERED AT THE POLYTECHNICS BE INCREASED.

AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL, SIR DAVID NOTED THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF MASS EDUCATION HAD BEEN AT THE EXPENSE OF STANDARDS.

/"THERE IS .....

"THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS. IN FUTURE WE SHALL AIM TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING QUALITY RATHER THAN GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO INCREASING NUMBERS.

"MAJOR MEASURES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED INCLUDE PROVIDING SECONDARY 7 CLASSES IN ALL TYPES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AND BRINGING IN 'A' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS IN CHINESE."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING FOR ALL PRIMARY CLASSES REMAINED THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVE.

"BUT, GIVEN OUR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES, RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, WE NEED TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT HOW QUICKLY WE CAN ACHIEVE IT," HE SAID.

THE FIRST PRIORITY WOULD THEREFORE BE A PHASED PROGRAMME OF CONVERTING SENIOR PRIMARY CLASSES TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

"THESE HAVE INCLUDED SENDING LARGE NUMBERS OF LOCAL TEACHERS OVERSEAS FOR IMMERSION COURSES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND INTRODUCING A SCHEME TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO EMPLOY EXPATRIATE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH," HE SAID.

COMMENTING THAT THESE MEASURES WERE NOT ENOUGH, SIR DAVID SAID A STRATEGY THAT WOULD DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND THE QUALITY OF LANGUAGE TEACHING WAS URGENTLY NEEDED.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD SOON PUBLISH THE REPORT OF A WORKING GROUP THAT LOOKED INTO THESE ISSUES AND PROPOSALS WOULD BE PUT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION EARLY NEXT YEAR AFTER PUBLIC CONSULTATION, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO INCREASE PARENTAL CHOICE BY ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTHY PRIVATE SCHOOL SECTOR IN HONG KONG.

"TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS, WE WILL INTRODUCE A NEW DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME.

"SCHOOLS WHICH MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE SCHEME, AND WILL RECEIVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AT A RATE WHICH WILL DEPEND ON THEIR FEE INCOME, WITH MORE GOING TO THOSE WHICH CHARGE LESS.

"THEY WILL, AT THE SAME TIME, BE ABLE TO RETAIN A GREAT DEAL OF FREEDOM IN DECIDING ON CURRICULUM, FEES, MANAGEMENT AND THE SELECTION OF PUPILS," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PHASE OUT BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS BY THE END OF THE 1990'S.

"IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF THESE SCHOOLS SO THAT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, THEY WILL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF JOINING THE NEW SUBSIDY SCHEME," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH THE EDUCATION COMMISSION THAT PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION MUST BE SEEN AS A DESIRABLE RATHER THAN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A CLEAR NEED TO IMPROVE STANDARDS OF TEACHING IN KINDERGARTENS.

"WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO IMPROVE THE BASIC TRAINING COURSE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND INTRODUCE A NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME.

"THIS WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SCHEME OF FEE ASSISTANCE AND ALLOW ADDITIONAL HELP TO BE GIVEN TO LESS WELL-OFF PARENTS WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTENS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IN LAYING DOWN BROAD PROGRAMMES FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS FACED. SOME FOR INSTANCE HAD SEVERE PROBLEMS OF NOISE.

THIRTY-SEVEN SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY AIRCRAFT HAD ALREADY BEEN SOUND-PROOFED AND AIR-CONDITIONED AND A NEW PROGRAMME THAT WOULD COVER A TOTAL OF 117 AIDED AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF TRAFFIC NOISE WAS STARTING THIS YEAR.

"WE AIM TO COMPLETE IT DURING THE EARLY 1990'S," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE EDUCATION PROPOSALS HE HAD OUTLINED, ESPECIALLY FOR THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE TERTIARY SECTOR, INEVITABLY MEANT SOME OTHER SECTORS WOULD, FOR THE TIME BEING, NEED TO TAKE A LOWER PRIORITY.

"IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THIS MEANS SLOWER PROGRESS IN SOME OTHER AREAS WHICH, HOWEVER DESIRABLE IN THEMSELVES, HAVE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE QUEUE.

"DECISIONS ON THE RIGHT ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC MONEY ARE NEVER EASY. BUT I HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, WILL AGREE THAT THE PROPOSALS I HAVE OUTLINED ARE THE RIGHT MIX FOR MEETING OUR MORE PRESSING NEEDS WITHIN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISION OF TRAINING FOR THOSE ALREADY AT WORK WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY AS SOME 80 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO WOULD MAKE UP HONG KONG'S WORKFORCE IN THE YEAR 2000 HAD ALREADY COMPLETED THEIR EDUCATION.

"MANY POTENTIALLY USEFUL TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT YET BEING APPLIED IN OUR INDUSTRIES.

/"THE GOVERNMENT .....

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"THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH A TRAINING FUND TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO GIVE MANAGERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THESE NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

"THIS FUND WILL INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"IT WILL PROVIDE LOANS TO COVER THE COST OF LOCAL EXTENSION TRAINING AND OVERSEAS WORKING ATTACHMENTS. I HOPE EMPLOYERS WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF IT," HE SAID.

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PRIORITY FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF MEDICAL, HEALTH SERVICES  
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HONG KONG'S NEW PRIORITY IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FIELD MUST BE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID IN THE PAST WE HAD CONCENTRATED ON MEETING BASIC NEEDS, AND REMARKABLE SUCCESSES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN WAS NOW HIGHER THAN IN MANY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM; AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES WERE LOWER THAN IN EITHER.

"NOW WE SHOULD RAISE OUR SIGHTS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE WAS HEAVILY SUBSIDISED, AND THE PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL STAFF WERE DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING.

"BUT OUR HOSPITALS ARE OVERCROWDED, AND THERE ARE LONG QUEUES AT OUR CLINICS.

"WE DO NOT ALWAYS PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT THEY NEED.

"IN IMPORTANT AREAS LIKE MENTAL HEALTH AND GERIATRIC CARE, OUR STANDARDS FALL BELOW OUR ASPIRATIONS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE LESSON OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ALL OVER THE WORLD WAS THAT INCREASED EXPENDITURE DID NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATE INTO HIGHER STANDARDS.

"WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IS THE WAY THE MONEY IS USED AND HOW WELL THE FACILITIES ARE MANAGED.

"IT MAKES NO SENSE TO HAVE SOME PUBLICLY FUNDED HOSPITALS OVERFLOWING AND OTHERS WITH SPARE CAPACITY. OR TO HAVE HOSPITALS WHERE THERE ARE CAMP BEDS IN SOME WARDS AND EMPTY BEDS IN OTHERS," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID SAID THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO BE ESTABLISHED BY APRIL NEXT YEAR WOULD BE WELL PLACED TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY SPENT ON PUBLIC HOSPITALS - \$5 BILLION THIS YEAR - WAS USED IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

"BY BRINGING GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TOGETHER WITHIN A SINGLE INTEGRATED SYSTEM, THE AUTHORITY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE USE IS MADE OF THE FACILITIES THAT EACH HOSPITAL CAN OFFER," HE SAID.

QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICE, HE NOTED.

"BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR THE AUTHORITY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN 22,000 BEDS, INCLUDING ALMOST 1,000 IN THE FIRST TWO PHASES OF THE NEW TUEN MUN HOSPITAL AND THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WERE TWO OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS THAT SHOULD HELP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

"FIRST, A WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN SET UP TO REVIEW OUR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND IN PARTICULAR TO CONSIDER WHICH OF THESE IS BEST CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WHICH BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"IT WILL REPORT BY THE END OF 1990.

"SECOND, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

"THIS WILL BE A STATUTORY BODY WITH AUTHORITY TO SET STANDARDS IN POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION; TO DECIDE THE CONTENT AND LENGTH OF TRAINING COURSES; AND TO ACCREDIT THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THE REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.

"HONG KONG WILL THEN HAVE ITS OWN SYSTEM FOR ENSURING THAT DOCTORS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED AND LOCALLY QUALIFIED IN THE VARIOUS CLINICAL SPECIALITIES," HE SAID.

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#### REVIEW OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE TO LAUNCH A REVIEW OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUBVENTED SECTOR TO ENSURE THAT POLICIES AND STANDARDS CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEN IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR PUBLISH A WHITE PAPER SETTING OUT OUR PROPOSALS ON THE WAY AHEAD.

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"IN THE MEANTIME, ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR TO REDUCE CASE LOADS IN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES AND SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT ONE PROBLEM THE GOVERNMENT FACED WAS A SHORTAGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS AS A GOOD MANY PROFESSIONAL STAFF HAD EMIGRATED.

"TO FILL THE GAPS, A NUMBER OF MEASURES ARE ALREADY BEING TAKEN, FOR EXAMPLE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE INTAKE OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS INTO OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

BUT, IN PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICES, SIR DAVID SAID THAT WE MUST TAKE CARE NOT TO PLACE IMPOSSIBLE BURDENS ON EXISTING STAFF, BOTH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED SECTORS. THEY ALREADY HAD VERY HEAVY WORKLOADS.

"SEPARATELY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR REHABILITATION SERVICES WITH THE AIM, WHERE POSSIBLE, OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE STEADILY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, EXTENDING THEM TO COVER MORE OF THOSE IN NEED.

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WAS NOW BEING PLACED ON EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE SO THAT THEY COULD, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, EARN THEIR OWN LIVING.

"FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS FOR THE DISABLED SO AS TO EXPAND THE CURRICULUM AND INCLUDE CAREER COUNSELLING AND CIVIC EDUCATION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID THAT IN APRIL 1990, THE HIGHER RATE OF DISABILITY ALLOWANCE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THOSE AGED 15 AND UNDER WHO REQUIRED CONSTANT CARE AND ATTENTION.

"THIS WILL GO SOME WAY TO RECOGNISING THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDENS FACED BY THE PARENTS OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

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COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO BE ESTABLISHED  
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO SET UP EARLY NEXT YEAR A COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO HELP IT MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND RESPOND TO THEIR ASPIRATIONS.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), NOTING THAT ONE QUARTER OF THE POPULATION WAS NOW UNDER THE AGE OF 25 AND THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD PROVIDE OUR FUTURE LEADERSHIP AND WORKFORCE.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD BE CHAIRED BY A NON-OFFICIAL AND WOULD INCLUDE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE.

"THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES.

"WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DEVELOP WHAT WILL AMOUNT TO A CHARTER FOR YOUTH WHICH WILL GIVE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS; GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND THEREBY BROADEN THEIR OUTLOOK ON LIFE; IMPROVE THEIR CIVIC AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS; AND PROMOTE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID SPORTS WAS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH HE HOPED TO SEE PROGRESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT WHILE SOME HONG KONG SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN WERE BEGINNING TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPORT SO FAR LAGGED BEHIND THOSE IN OTHER AREAS.

"IT IS TIME WE ALL MADE AN EFFORT TO RAISE OUR STANDARDS.

"A MAJOR STEP FORWARD WILL BE THE CREATION OF A SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

"ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED. SO HAVE MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL BOARD," HE SAID.

THE FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE TO WORK OUT A TERRITORY-WIDE STRATEGY FOR SPORT, AND THE AIM WOULD BE TO GET THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWIN GOALS OF EXCELLENCE AND MASS PARTICIPATION.

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527,000 PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS TO BE PRODUCED

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AIMS TO PRODUCE 527,000 PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS FOR RENTAL AND SALE BETWEEN NOW AND THE YEAR 2001, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DESCRIBING THE TARGET AS AN AMBITIOUS ONE, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO FIND THE NEW LAND REQUIRED AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE.

"OUR PLANNERS AND ENGINEERS ARE HARD AT WORK ALREADY. MAINTAINING OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT," THE GOVERNOR STRESSED.

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF GOOD, REASONABLY-PRICED HOUSING WAS A KEY FACTOR IN CREATING THE STABLE YET DYNAMIC SOCIETY THAT WE WANTED TO SEE IN HONG KONG.

"OUR RECORD OF PROVIDING SUBSIDISED HOUSING STANDS COMPARISON WITH ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY NOW MANAGED 723,000 FLATS AND WAS THE LANDLORD FOR 47 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE AUTHORITY COMPLETED OVER 50,000 FLATS, A RECORD FOR A SINGLE YEAR.

"THIS YEAR, IT IS LIKELY TO SET A NEW RECORD YET AGAIN, WITH AN ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF 53,000 FLATS," HE SAID.

THESE WERE REMARKABLE FIGURES BY ANY STANDARD AND THEY WOULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY SACRIFICE TO THE QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROVIDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IN EVERY COMMUNITY ORDINARY FAMILIES DREAMED OF OWNING THEIR OWN HOMES, AND COMMUNITIES WERE HEALTHIER AND MORE STABLE WHEN HOME OWNERSHIP WAS WIDESPREAD.

"HELPING HONG KONG FAMILIES TO BECOME HOME OWNERS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT AT PRESENT ONLY 15 PER CENT OF THE STOCK OF PUBLIC HOUSING WAS OWNED BY THE FAMILY LIVING IN IT, SIR DAVID SAID THE FIGURE WAS SET TO INCREASE.

"THIS YEAR, ONE-THIRD OF THE NEW HOUSING AUTHORITY FLATS WILL BE FOR SALE RATHER THAN FOR RENT.

"THE AUTHORITY HAS ALSO DECIDED RECENTLY TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF ITS HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME SO THAT MORE OF ITS TENANTS WILL RECEIVE LARGER INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO BUY FLATS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE AUTHORITY WAS CONSIDERING ANOTHER BOLD INITIATIVE: THE FEASIBILITY OF SELLING SOME OF ITS NEWER FLATS TO THE FAMILIES WHO WERE NOW RENTING THEM.

"AT PRESENT, 41 PER CENT OF HONG KONG FAMILIES OWN THEIR OWN HOMES.

"AS A RESULT OF THE AUTHORITY'S IMAGINATIVE IDEAS, WE CAN EXPECT THE NUMBER TO RISE STEADILY DURING THE YEARS AHEAD," HE ADDED.

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POLLUTION MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL

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THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO SPEND AT LEAST \$20 BILLION ON THE POLLUTION PROBLEM IN THE NEXT DECADE SHOWS HOW IMPORTANT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING POLLUTION UNDER CONTROL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE THAT HE PERSONALLY, AND THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE, ATTACHED TO DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS NOT JUST A MATTER OF KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN, IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT WAS.

"POLLUTION CAN, AND OFTEN DOES, CAUSE DAMAGE TO OUR HEALTH AND TO THAT OF OUR CHILDREN.

"WE MUST BRING IT UNDER CONTROL," HE SAID.

MUCH OF THE MONEY WOULD BE SPENT ON THE COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE MASSIVE LANDFILL SITES AND ASSOCIATED REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN AT LENGTH LAST OCTOBER ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS. A WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION, PUBLISHED IN JUNE, HAD SET OUT IN DETAIL PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

"WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT THESE. THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, WHICH CAME INTO BEING LAST MONTH, WILL GIVE FRESH IMPETUS TO OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT NEITHER MONEY NOR THE GOVERNMENT ALONE COULD SOLVE THE TERRITORY'S POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

"EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY HAS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE AND PLEASANT.

"UNTIL RECENTLY, FAR TOO MANY OF US IN HONG KONG WERE UNAWARE OF THE THREATS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

"WE PLACED FAR TOO LITTLE IMPORTANCE ON PROTECTING IT.

"THIS ATTITUDE IS ALREADY CHANGING. IT MUST CHANGE FURTHER.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN A LEAD. BUT THE COMMUNITY MUST ALSO PLAY ITS PART," SIR DAVID SAID.

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AIRPORT TO BE BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BUILD A NEW HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF THE VARIOUS OPTIONS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT WILL BE A TWO-RUNWAY AIRPORT BUILT TO THE MOST EXACTING MODERN STANDARDS AND ABLE TO OPERATE 24 HOURS A DAY.

"WHEN COMPLETED, IT WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 80 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR - OVER THREE TIMES THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF KAI TAK," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM, SIR DAVID SAID, WOULD BE TO OPEN THE FIRST OF THE TWO RUNWAYS BY THE EARLY PART OF 1997.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BUILDING THE AIRPORT ITSELF, ENORMOUS THOUGH THAT PROJECT WOULD BE, WAS ONLY PART OF THE STORY.

"WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE CAN GET TO IT EASILY AND QUICKLY," HE STRESSED.

"TO DO THIS, WE PLAN TO BUILD A HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM AND A SIX-LANE HIGHWAY WHICH WILL JOIN NORTH LANTAU TO TSING YI ISLAND AND GO FROM THERE ALONG THE NEW WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION TO A WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THEN TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

"WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO PROVIDE ALL THE FACILITIES NEEDED FOR SERVICING A NEW AIRPORT. THIS MEANS BUILDING A NEW TOWN FOR AT LEAST 150,000 PEOPLE, PLUS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, IN THE TUNG CHUNG VALLEY," HE SAID.

BUILDING THE NEW AIRPORT, AND THE ROAD AND RAIL LINKS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, SIR DAVID SAID, WOULD BE THE LARGEST PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG, AND WOULD REQUIRE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF EFFORT FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"TO HAVE THE NEW AIRPORT IN OPERATION IN EARLY 1997 MEANS SETTING TO WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND ULTIMATELY THE MANAGEMENT OF IT WILL BE PUT IN THE HANDS OF A NEW AIRPORT AUTHORITY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID EARLY NEXT YEAR HE WOULD BE APPOINTING MEMBERS OF A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD DO THE PRELIMINARY WORK BEFORE THE AUTHORITY ITSELF WAS SET UP.

ONCE THE FIRST RUNWAY OF THE NEW AIRPORT WAS OPEN THE GOVERNMENT COULD CLOSE KAI TAK, WHICH WAS LIKELY TO BE OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY BY 1996, HE ADDED.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT BESIDES THE NEED FOR A MODERN AIRPORT TO MEET HONG KONG'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, CLOSING KAI TAK WOULD BRING ITS OWN BENEFITS.

"THE WHOLE OF THE AREA NOW USED BY THE AIRPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REDEVELOPMENT.

"WE WILL BE ABLE TO LIFT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN PARTS OF KOWLOON. AND THE PROBLEM OF EXCESSIVE AIRCRAFT NOISE, WHICH NOW AFFECTS SOME 350,000 PEOPLE, WILL BE ELIMINATED," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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#### DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION OF PORT

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO TRANSFORM THE TERRITORY'S PORT IN AN AS EQUALLY DRAMATIC WAY AS THE NEW AIRPORT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE MAJOR PROJECTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING WOULD CREATE WHAT AMOUNTED TO A COMPLETELY NEW PORT ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TERRITORY.

THE NEED TO CREATE THIS ADDITIONAL CAPACITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID, CAME FROM HONG KONG'S SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS.

THE PORT NOW HANDLED 80 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO A YEAR, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 90 PER CENT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS WITH FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH EXPECTED.

"THE POINT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE OUR EXISTING FACILITIES ARE COMING UNDER SEVERE STRAIN," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN PLANNING FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE TERRITORY'S PORT THE GOVERNMENT HAD LOOKED AHEAD TO 2006.

BY THAT TIME, SIR DAVID SAID, HONG KONG WOULD NEED:

- TO INCREASE OUR CONTAINER THROUGHPUT BY FIVE TIMES;
- ADDITIONAL LAND FOR LORRY PARKING AND CONTAINER STORAGE;
- ON-SHORE FACILITIES TO REPLACE THE UNLOADING WHICH IS NOW DONE IN THE HARBOUR ITSELF;
- SPACE TO CATER FOR LARGER NUMBERS OF RIVER TRADE VESSELS;  
AND
- SPACE FOR THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH A MODERN PORT REQUIRES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY, SIR DAVID SAID, WAS TO BUILD THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL, TERMINAL 8, ON RECLAIMED LAND AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

/THE GOVERNMENT .....

THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO MAKE THE SITE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN 1991, SO THAT THE FIRST BERTH COULD BE IN OPERATION BY MID-1993, HE SAID.

TERMINAL 9 AND ITS SUPPORT FACILITIES WOULD BE BUILT ON RECLAIMED LAND AT THE SOUTHEAST OF TSING YI ISLAND.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT AT THAT POINT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE ROOM FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF THE PRESENT CONTAINER PORT.

"WE THEN PLAN TO MOVE THE FOCUS OF THE PORT WESTWARD," HE SAID.

ONE AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE NORTH LANTAU, MAKING USE OF THE ROAD FACILITIES BEING BUILT FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND ANOTHER WOULD BE THE COASTAL STRIP WEST OF TUEN MUN, HE SAID.

"TWO MORE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE BREAKWATER BETWEEN LANTAU AND LAMMA TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF SHELTERED ANCHORAGE IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR; AND THE DREDGING OF A NEW SHIPPING CHANNEL TO THE WEST OF LAMMA," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID ALL THE DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE PORT MEANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE SURE THAT IT CO-ORDINATED THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF ALL ITS MANY DIFFERENT USERS.

"TO DO THIS, WE PROPOSE TO SET UP A PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WHICH WILL GIVE ADVICE ON THE DETAILED PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PORT AS WE CARRY OUT THE PLANS FOR EXPANSION I HAVE OUTLINED," HE SAID.

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AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME WILL COST \$127 BILLION

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THE COST OF THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF WORKS TO DEVELOP A NEW MODERN AIRPORT AND A LARGER PORT, PLUS ALL THE NECESSARY TRANSPORT LINKS AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, WILL BE SOME \$127 BILLION AT CURRENT PRICES OVER THE PERIOD UP TO 2006, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS IS AN ENORMOUS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. BUT, AFTER VERY CAREFUL STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THIS COMMITMENT IS ONE WE CAN AFFORD.

"INDEED WE BELIEVE THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO MAKE IT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUED TO HAVE THE FACILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS GROWING ECONOMY, WE MUST ALSO BE REALISTIC, AND MAKE SURE THAT WE PHASED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE NEW PROJECTS IN A WAY THAT DID NOT PLACE TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON THE ECONOMY.

/HAVING SEEN .....

HAVING SEEN HOW SUCCESSFUL THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN IN DEVELOPING THE CONTAINER PORT AND IN BUILDING THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNELS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT MANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE EXPANSION OF THE PORT WOULD BE COMMERCIALY VIABLE.

"I AM SURE THERE WILL BE MANY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPERS WHO WILL BE KEEN TO CO-OPERATE WITH US IN THESE ENORMOUS AND EXCITING PROJECTS THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT WHILE THE PLANS FOR BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT AND DEVELOPING THE PORT WOULD CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THEY WOULD ALSO MAKE HUGE DEMANDS ON ITS RESOURCES.

"IT MAY WELL BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF LABOUR SO THAT THEY ARE COMPLETED ON TIME AND WITHOUT CAUSING UNACCEPTABLE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES," HE SAID.

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PROJECTS WILL TRANSFORM HK'S DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

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THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE MASSIVE EXPANSION OF THE PORT WILL TRANSFORM HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THAT LARGE NEW AREAS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY LANTAU ISLAND, WOULD BE OPENED UP FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE.

THESE ACTIVITIES WERE NOW CONCENTRATED IN A FAIRLY NARROW BAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

"BUT IN FUTURE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ESCAPE THE RESTRICTIONS AND CONGESTION IMPOSED BY THE EXISTING URBAN AREAS AND TO PLAN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF LARGE-SCALE MODERN PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES COMING INTO BEING IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE A NEW AND VERY WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ABOUT A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LOOKING AT THE DETAILS, THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, AND THE BRIDGES AND ROADS THAT GO WITH IT, WOULD OPEN UP FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT THE WHOLE OF LANTAU'S NORTHERN COASTLINE.

"THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THE OUTSTANDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ON THE HILLS AND SOUTHERN COAST OF THE ISLAND. EXPANDING THE PORT WESTWARDS WILL MAKE AVAILABLE FURTHER LAND, MAINLY FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, WEST OF TUEN MUN," HE ADDED.

THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID, ALSO MEANT THAT THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WOULD NEED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MID-1990'S TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRANSPORT LINKS TO THE URBAN AREA.

"THIS RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE A MAJOR SOURCE OF LAND IN THE URBAN AREA FOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

"MORE BADLY NEEDED LAND WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, WHERE SITES WILL START TO BE AVAILABLE DURING 1993," HE ADDED.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF RECLAIMING THE CHANNEL BETWEEN GREEN ISLAND AND HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE REMOVAL OF THE AIRPORT FROM KAI TAK.

HE SAID THESE URBAN RECLAMATIONS WOULD GIVE THE GOVERNMENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPLAN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS, AS ENVISAGED IN THE METROPLAN.

"IN DOING THIS, AN IMPORTANT POINT WILL BE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PLANNING OF LAND USE IS PROPERLY CO-ORDINATED WITH THE PROVISION OF NEW TRANSPORT FACILITIES," HE SAID.

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TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE BEING DEVELOPED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THE TERRITORY'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN OTHER AREAS AT A TIME WHEN PRELIMINARY PLANNING AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR MANY OF THE PROJECTS NEEDED FOR NEW PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE EITHER BEGUN OR WILL SOON START, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT THE RAILWAY SECTION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING OPENED IN AUGUST, AND THE ROAD SECTION IN SEPTEMBER, FOUR MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, SIR DAVID SAID THIS MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BROUGHT SOME MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF BOTH TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

HE SAID THAT OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPORT LINKS WERE ON SCHEDULE.

"ROUTE 5 BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN WILL OPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR, FOLLOWED BY THE TUNNEL LINKING JUNK BAY (OR, AS IT WILL BE CALLED IN FUTURE, TSEUNG KWAN O) TO KWUN TONG AND THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

"IN 1991, THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL (ALREADY WELL ADVANCED) AND THE KWUN TONG BYPASS WILL BE COMPLETED, TO BRING COMFORT AND GREATLY IMPROVED TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS FOR THE TRAVEL-WEARY INHABITANTS OF SHA TIN AND THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY PUBLISHED IN MAY GAVE DETAILS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER ROAD AND RAIL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE LAUNCHED DURING THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

HOWEVER, A TRANSPORT POLICY WAS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF BUILDING MORE ROADS AND RAILWAYS.

HE SAID THE GREEN PAPER ALSO SET OUT STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING AND EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND FOR MANAGING THE USE OF ROADS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP BOTH PEOPLE AND GOODS MOVING.

"ROAD USE MANAGEMENT IS NEVER POPULAR. BUT WE HAVE TO BE REALISTIC," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HONG KONG BEING A SMALL, DENSELY CROWDED TERRITORY WITH ONLY LIMITED SPACE FOR NEW ROADS AND RAILWAYS, IT COULD NOT COPE WITH THE SAME LEVELS OF PRIVATE VEHICLE OWNERSHIP THAT WERE FOUND IN OTHER PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES WITHOUT THE CITY GRINDING TO A HALT.

"THE GOODS VEHICLE FLEET HAS TO BE USED EFFICIENTLY TO MINIMISE ITS IMPACT ON CONGESTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

"MOST OF OUR POPULATION TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT. WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT THEY REMAIN WILLING AND ABLE TO DO SO," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT WHEN ALL THE COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER HAD BEEN ABSORBED, THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF HOW TO DO THIS WOULD BE TACKLED IN A TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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#### TECHNOLOGY CENTRE PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ESTABLISH A NEW HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AS PART OF ITS OVERALL STRATEGY TO UPGRADE THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR NEW AND SMALL HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES TO SHARE CERTAIN COMMON SERVICES UNTIL THEY WERE READY TO SET UP ON THEIR OWN.

NOTING THAT MAKING FULL USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY WAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR AN INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG'S, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL THROUGH ADOPTING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

"OUR BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES HAVE ACHIEVED STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE SECOND TO NONE. OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY IS ALREADY HIGHLY ADVANCED, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND NETWORK WILL CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPETITION.

/"THE MTRC .....

"THE MTRC AND KCRC HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR INTRODUCING THE BEST AVAILABLE TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY," HE SAID.

OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, IN PARTICULAR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, SIR DAVID SAID, WERE EXPLORING WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO TO REMAIN TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPETITIVE IN WORLD MARKETS.

"THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE EFFORTS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID TO EMPHASISE THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH IT WAS HOPED THE GROWING ACADEMIC COMMUNITY COULD MAKE TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING LOCATING THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CLOSE TO THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AS WELL AS TO THE NEW HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL BUILDING.

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GOVT CONTINUING TO PLAN FOR LONG TERM FUTURE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO PLAN FOR THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF HONG KONG, DESPITE THE SHOCKS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED DURING THE YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE HAVE A CLEAR VISION OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE. IT IS A VISION THAT I HOPE WILL SUSTAIN HONG KONG DURING THE PRESENT PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND GIVE US ALL CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME WHATEVER PROBLEMS CONFRONT US," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AS A COMMUNITY WE TENDED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT WE HAD ACHIEVED.

"BUT WE ONLY HAVE TO LOOK BACK 10 YEARS TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH HAS BEEN DONE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR CITED THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THAT HONG KONG WAS A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE 10 YEARS AGO AND HOW MUCH HAD BEEN DONE SINCE 1979.

- \* OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE STILL VERY LIMITED. OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE MAINLAND WERE ONLY WORTH \$600 MILLION (COMPARED TO \$38 BILLION LAST YEAR). WE HAD ONLY RECENTLY OPENED AIR LINKS IN DECEMBER 1978, AND DIRECT TRAIN SERVICES FROM GUANGZHOU RESTARTED ONLY ON APRIL 4;
- \* THERE WAS NO UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE AT ANY LEVEL. ONLY ABOUT 32,000 PEOPLE HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THE ONLY DISTRICT BOARDS (THOSE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES) WERE WHOLLY APPOINTED;
- \* ONLY THAT YEAR, JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME MADE FREE AND COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF 15;

- \* THE FIRST SECTION OF THE MTR (FROM SHEK KIP MEI TO KWUN TONG) HAD JUST OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 30.
- \* WE HAD 2.2 MILLION TOURISTS, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE FIGURE LAST YEAR;
- \* WE HAD NO BANK BUILDING HIGHER THAN 20 STOREYS, NO EXCHANGE SQUARE (BUT FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES), NO ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, NO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, NO ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND NO AIRPORT TUNNEL.

LOOKING AHEAD SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 10 YEARS, SIR DAVID SAID IN THE YEAR 2000, HONG KONG WOULD BE A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"IT WILL HAVE A WHOLLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND ALL THE MOST SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WILL BE HONG KONG CHINESE.

"THEY WILL EXERCISE A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG.

"THE SAR WILL BE A LEADING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN WHICH FOREIGN NATIONALS WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART. AND IT WILL BE PLAYING A FULL ROLE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

PHYSICALLY, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT, HONG KONG WOULD HAVE CHANGED ALMOST BEYOND RECOGNITION.

"IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 25 MINUTES TO TRAVEL BY RAIL FROM CENTRAL KOWLOON TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK. ON THE WAY, YOU WILL GO ALONG THE NEW WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND PASS NEW PORT FACILITIES AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND TSING YI.

"ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD TRAVEL FROM CENTRAL TO THE CHINESE BORDER VIA THE NEW WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, TSING YI, THE ROUTE 3 TUNNEL TO YUEN LONG AND THE LOK MA CHAU BRIDGE," HE SAID.

"REDEVELOPMENT WILL BE BEGINNING ON THE PRESENT SITE OF KAI TAK AIRPORT. OUR CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, BY THEN DOUBLED IN SIZE, WILL BE SOME 300 METRES INLAND. SO WILL EXCHANGE SQUARE.

"THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT WILL HAVE EXPANDED GREATLY ONTO A NEW RECLAMATION WITH A VARIETY OF NEW CIVIC, CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND WITH A CONTINUOUS WALKWAY BESIDE THE HARBOUR LINKING OPEN PARK AREAS," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID STRIKING SOCIAL CHANGES WOULD ALSO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

"OUR AMBITIOUS HOUSING PROGRAMME MEANS THAT ABOUT HALF OF OUR HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE LIVING IN SUBSIDISED HOUSING, ALMOST 40 PER CENT OF THEM IN FLATS WHICH THEY OWN THEMSELVES.

"OUR REVISED EDUCATIONAL TARGETS MEAN THAT AS MANY AS 20 PER CENT OF OUR 19-YEAR OLDS MAY BE STUDYING IN HONG KONG FOR FIRST DEGREES AND ANOTHER SEVEN PER CENT FOR OTHER TERTIARY LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS.

"OUR STRATEGY FOR FIGHTING POLLUTION MEANS THAT WE WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED OUR ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE, AND WE WILL HAVE COMPLETELY OVERHAULED OUR SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL HAVE LED TO MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT, AND GREATLY REDUCED OVERCROWDING, IN OUR PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

"THERE WILL BE 20,000 PLACES IN OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES, AND A FURTHER 6,000 PLACES IN SHELTERED HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. NINETY PER CENT OF ALL HOMES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO UP TO 20 TELEVISION CHANNELS, AND 46 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WILL BE LIVING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," SIR DAVID SAID.

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#### PLANS DEMONSTRATE GOVT'S COMMITMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE PLANS HE HAD OUTLINED DEMONSTRATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"THEY ARE A MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. THEY WILL BE VERY EXPENSIVE. WE CAN AFFORD THEM. BUT ONLY IF WE ARE PREPARED TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE AND RESTRAINT IN OTHER AREAS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

"IT WILL BE MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER TO ASSESS OUR PRIORITIES CAREFULLY. IN PARTICULAR, WE MUST KEEP A TIGHT CONTROL ON THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE," SIR DAVID SAID IN CONCLUDING HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROPOSING TO SPEND ON BUILDING FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE MIGHT SEEM DAUNTING, BUT IT REPRESENTED A NECESSARY INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES AND IN THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

"BY PRESSING AHEAD WITH SUCH AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES DESPITE THE SPECIAL PRESSURES WHICH OUR COMMUNITY HAS SO RECENTLY FACED, THE GOVERNMENT IS DEMONSTRATING ITS COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

"TO CARRY OUT THESE PROGRAMMES, WE WILL NEED ALL OUR ENTERPRISE, RESOURCEFULNESS AND EFFICIENCY. AND WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOALS ONLY BY CONTINUING TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE OVERALL GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY," HE SAID.

/NOTING THAT .....

NOTING THAT IT HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "BUT WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULT YEARS BEFORE. WE HAVE SURVIVED THEM. WE HAVE EMERGED FROM THEM STRONGER AND MORE CONFIDENT IN OUR OWN ABILITY."

"WE MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES. WITHOUT THIS, WE CANNOT EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN US."

THE GOVERNOR GAVE AN ASSURANCE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO FACE RESOLUTELY THE CHALLENGES THAT LAY AHEAD.

"TO DO SO, WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. WE NEED MORE THAN THAT. WE NEED LEADERSHIP FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

"IN 1997, HONG KONG WILL BE RUN BY HONG KONG PEOPLE. THEY MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES, AND IN THE LEADERS THEY CHOOSE, IF THEY ARE TO ENJOY THE STABILITY AND PROGRESS, FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, FOR WHICH THIS WHOLE COMMUNITY WORKS SO HARD," SIR DAVID SAID.

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NEW AIRPORT, PORT DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHT 'BUILDING FOR FUTURE'  
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DECISIONS TO BUILD A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR PORT DEVELOPMENT WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF A "BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE" PROGRAMME OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL'S NEW SESSION, THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO PUBLISH A WHITE BILL ON A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND TO HAVE DRAFT LEGISLATION READY BY NEXT JULY.

SIR DAVID SAID THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE 80 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR, AND THE FIRST OF TWO RUNWAYS WOULD BE SCHEDULED TO OPEN BY EARLY 1997.

PROVIDING ALL THE FACILITIES FOR SERVICING THE AIRPORT MEANT BUILDING A NEW TOWN FOR AT LEAST 150,000 PEOPLE, PLUS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, IN THE TUNG CHUNG VALLEY OF LANTAU ISLAND.

"BUILDING THE NEW AIRPORT, AND THE ROAD AND RAIL LINKS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, WILL BE THE LARGEST PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

UNVEILING PLANS TO CREATE A VIRTUALLY COMPLETELY NEW PORT ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL, NO. 8, WOULD BE BUILT ON RECLAIMED LAND AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND, AND THE NO. 9 TERMINAL ON RECLAIMED LAND AT THE SOUTHEAST OF TSING YI ISLAND.

THE COST OF THE AIRPORT AND PORT WORKS, AND ASSOCIATED TRANSPORT LINKS AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, WOULD BE SOME \$127 BILLION AT CURRENT PRICES OVER THE PERIOD UP TO THE YEAR 2006.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND ULTIMATELY THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AIRPORT WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO A NEW AIRPORT AUTHORITY, AND MEMBERS OF A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WOULD BE APPOINTED EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSED TO SET UP A PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

THESE AND OTHER PLANS DEMONSTRATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR SAID. HE EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG MUST BUILD A FUTURE FOR THE BULK OF THE POPULATION WHO WOULD STILL BE HERE IN 1997 AND BEYOND.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE IN MIND THE WIDELY HELD VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SOMEWHAT FASTER RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN 1991 THAN PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED, AND ALSO THE FACT THAT BY 1995 ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE ELECTED BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS:

- \* EDUCATION TARGETS SET ONLY LAST YEAR WILL BE UPGRADED SUBSTANTIALLY SO THAT 67,000 PLACES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION ARE AVAILABLE IN 1995.
- \* A NEW HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IS PLANNED AS PART OF THE OVERALL STRATEGY TO UPGRADE THE ECONOMY.
- \* SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES WILL BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET PUBLIC NEEDS INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.
- \* A COMMISSION ON YOUTH WILL BE SET UP. THIS WILL BE CHAIRED BY A NON-OFFICIAL AND WILL INCLUDE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE.
- \* HONG KONG'S NEW PRIORITY IN MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MUST BE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE, AND THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO BE ESTABLISHED NEXT YEAR WILL BE WELL PLACED TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC MONEY IS WELL SPENT.
- \* BETWEEN NOW AND 2001, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY PLANS TO PRODUCE 527,000 PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS, AND THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES, AT PRESENT 41 PER CENT, WILL RISE STEADILY.
- \* THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, AND A WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY WILL BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR.
- \* POLLUTION MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND THE \$20 BILLION TO BE SPENT SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CAN PLAY A PART IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.
- \* AS PART OF EFFORTS TO INVOLVE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN MORE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, WILL BE FORMED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY DELIVERED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ON HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WAS TAPED FOR BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING:

WHEN I SPOKE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, I ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR TAKING HONG KONG INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON THE MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE WE HAVE EVER UNDERTAKEN. THIS YEAR WE HAVE ALL BEEN BADLY AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN PEKING, BUT I AM NOT HERE GOING TO DWELL ON THE PAST. WHAT WE HAVE GOT TO DO IS TO LOOK AHEAD AND TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON HOW BEST WE ARE GOING TO BUILD A FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY WHICH IS SECURE AND PROSPEROUS.

THE BIGGEST SINGLE PROJECT WE ARE GOING TO UNDERTAKE WILL BE THE NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. WE HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT IT IS GOING TO BE BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK. ALREADY KAI TAK IS FAST BECOMING OVERCROWDED. THE NEW AIRPORT, WHICH WILL BE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE OVER THREE TIMES AS MANY PASSENGERS AS KAI TAK, AND THE FIRST PLANES SHOULD BE LANDING THERE BY EARLY 1997. THE SECOND MAJOR PROJECT AMOUNTS TO BUILDING A BRAND NEW HARBOUR, ALSO ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TERRITORY. THE AMOUNT OF CARGO THROUGH THE EXISTING PORT HAS ALMOST DOUBLED OVER ANY OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS. AND SO TO COPE WITH CONTINUED GROWTH AT THAT RATE WE WILL HAVE TO BUILD BIG NEW CONTAINER FACILITIES AND GREATLY EXPAND THE PORT'S OVERALL CAPACITY.

TO SERVICE THESE NEW SEA AND AIRPORT FACILITIES WE WILL NEED TO BUILD A MAJOR TRANSPORT NETWORK, ROAD AND RAIL LINKS TO LANTAU BY BRIDGES AND TUNNELS, AND A THIRD NEW HARBOUR CROSSING AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES. THE COST OF ALL THESE PROJECTS IS GOING TO BE VERY HIGH INDEED: OVER THE NEXT 16 YEARS, SOME \$35 BILLION ON THE AIRPORT AND ANOTHER \$50 BILLION ON NEW HARBOUR FACILITIES. TOGETHER WITH THE TRANSPORT AND OTHER FACILITIES, THAT MAKES A TOTAL OF SOME \$127 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2006. BUT I AM QUITE CLEAR THAT OUR FUTURE GROWTH MAKES IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD START THESE PROJECTS STRAIGHT AWAY. I AM ALSO SURE THAT PROVIDED WE MANAGE OUR FINANCES CAREFULLY, THE ECONOMY CAN GENERATE THE SORT OF MONEY NEEDED TO PAY FOR THEM.

WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS A SUM WHICH IS EQUAL TO INVESTING ABOUT \$1,500 EACH YEAR FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, OVER THE NEXT 16 YEARS. NOW THAT IS A LARGE SUM BUT IT IS AFFORDABLE, ESPECIALLY IF WE INVOLVE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AS MANY PROJECTS AS POSSIBLE.

THESE HUGE SCHEMES WILL OF COURSE CHANGE THE ENTIRE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TERRITORY. LARGE AREAS OF LANTAU AND PARTS OF THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TERRITORY ARE GOING TO BECOME ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS. WE WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE CONGESTION OF THE EXISTING BUILT UP AREAS WHERE SO MANY OF THE COMMUNITY NOW LIVE AND WORK.

/BUT WE .....

BUT WE ARE PLANNING TO INVEST NOT JUST IN BUILDINGS, BUT, VERY IMPORTANTLY, TO INVEST IN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. EVERYBODY HOPES THEIR CHILDREN WILL DO WELL ENOUGH IN EXAMS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL. AND OF COURSE, THE ECONOMY URGENTLY NEEDS MORE WELL-EDUCATED AND PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE. ONLY LAST YEAR WE RAISED THE TARGET FOR THE NUMBER OF PLACES FOR STUDENTS STUDYING FOR A FIRST DEGREE, AND PLANNED THAT WE WOULD ALMOST DOUBLE THEM BY 1995. BUT NOW I FEEL THAT THAT TARGET ISN'T AMBITIOUS ENOUGH. WHAT WE MUST NOW TRY TO DO IS TO PROVIDE 67,000 SUCH PLACES, SO THAT BY 1995 ONE IN FOUR OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL.

NOW, INCREASINGLY, PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE. THIS MEANS, IN THE FIRST PLACE, PROVIDING THE RIGHT SORT OF HOMES. OUR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS ALREADY SECOND TO NONE. LAST YEAR MORE NEW FLATS WERE BUILT THAN IN ANY PREVIOUS YEAR. BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH. MOST FAMILIES WANT TO OWN THEIR OWN HOME, SO IN FUTURE A MUCH HIGHER PROPORTION OF OUR PUBLIC HOUSING IS GOING TO BE PUT ON SALE AT AFFORDABLE PRICES. NOW THERE'S SOME 41 PER CENT OF HONG KONG FAMILIES WHO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES: THAT NUMBER IS GOING TO RISE STEADILY.

IN THE PAST WE HAVE BEEN COMPLACENT ABOUT ANOTHER ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE - THE ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE NOW WORKED OUT A DETAILED PROGRAMME TO FIGHT POLLUTION, AND WE'VE EARMARKED \$20 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS FOR THAT PURPOSE. BUT IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF MONEY, IT'S ALSO A QUESTION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. AT RISK IS NOT ONLY THE NATURAL BEAUTY AROUND US, BUT THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN AND OURSELVES.

WE WILL TACKLE THESE ENORMOUS AND EXPENSIVE SCHEMES WITH CONFIDENCE, AND IT'S A CONFIDENCE WHICH IS BASED FIRMLY ON HONG KONG'S OWN TRACK RECORD. THINK BACK JUST 10 YEARS. THEN, WE HAD ONLY JUST INTRODUCED FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN UNDER 15; THE MTR HAD ONLY JUST OPENED ITS FIRST SECTION. THERE WAS NO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, NO ABERDEEN TUNNEL, NO AIRPORT TUNNEL AND DIRECT TRANSPORT LINKS TO CHINA HAD ONLY JUST RESTARTED.

WE ARE DETERMINED THAT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THOSE PAST 10 YEARS. TOGETHER WE MUST CREATE A CITY WHICH CAN COMPETE WITH ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, BOTH IN ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS, AND IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE WHICH ITS RESIDENTS ENJOY. THAT'S THE HONG KONG OF THE NEXT CENTURY WE WANT, AND THAT WE MUST BUILD NOW.