



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BUS OPERATORS ADVISED TO MAKE CHANGES	1
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SPEAKS ON 1991 POPULATION CENSUS	4
HONG KONG OFFERS BIG OPPORTUNITIES	6
HK HAS IMPORTANT ROLE IN WORLD ECONOMY	8
RVD PROPERTY REVIEW 1990 - PRELIMINARY FIGURES	9
PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL TO ACCEPT PRIVATE PATIENTS	15
CONSULTANCY STUDY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY	16
HKIA PRESIDENT'S PRIZE AWARDED TO HISTORICAL BUILDING	17
NEW ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL WITH HORSE DESIGN	18
FESTIVAL TREAT FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS	19
SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT	20
CARNIVAL TO CELEBRATE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL	20
SOUTHERN DISTRICT YOUTH CHOIR TO GIVE CONCERT	21
YUEN LONG TO HOLD EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN FOR ELDERLY	22
NEW YEAR CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY	22
ART EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN NORTH DISTRICT	23
MASTERCLASS BY EMPIRE BRASS QUINTET	24
URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TSING YI	24
BUS LANE TEMPORARILY LIFTED	25
FLUSHING WATER CUT IN HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK	25

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 1 -

BUS OPERATORS ADVISED TO MAKE CHANGES

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS TO SHARPEN THEMSELVES FOR GREATER COMPETITION IN THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT FIELD.

TO STAY COMPETITIVE WITH RAIL AND OTHER UP-MARKET TRANSPORT MODES AND TO MAKE BUS OPERATIONS MORE COST-EFFICIENT, SOME FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO THE WAY IN WHICH BUS SERVICES WERE BEING OPERATED AND PLANNED MIGHT BE NECESSARY, MR LEUNG SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF TAI PING SHAN ON "PUBLIC BUS TRANSPORT IN THE 90'S", MR LEUNG SAID THESE CHANGES RELATED TO THE SIZE OF BUS FLEET, USE OF APPROPRIATE VEHICLES FOR DIFFERENT ROUTES, FUTURE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT, EFFICIENCY OF LONG-DISTANCE ROUTES, AND MANAGEMENT.

MR LEUNG ALSO UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR AND IMPORTANCE OF CUSTOMER RELATIONS IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECTOR.

HE HOPED THAT THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES, IN PARTICULAR, COULD SEE THEIR WAY TO LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF THEIR CUSTOMERS IN A MORE FRANK AND OPEN MANNER.

ON FLEET SIZE, MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DETERMINANT OF FARE LEVELS AS THE SCALE OF SUPPORT FACILITIES REQUIRED, INCLUDING PARKING SPACE AND DEPOTS, ALL HINGED ON THE SIZE OF THE FLEET.

AT PRESENT, A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF THE FRANCHISED BUS FLEET WAS DEPLOYED ON SERVICES NEEDED ONLY DURING THE PEAK HOURS. THESE BUSES WERE LEFT IDLE DURING THE OFF-PEAK PERIOD.

"TO CUSHION THE EFFECT ON FARES, WHICH WOULD IN TURN ENHANCE THEIR COMPETITIVE POWER, THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES MUST SEEK TO KEEP THE LEVEL OF UNDER-UTILISED RESOURCES WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS," HE SAID.

ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, MR LEUNG SAID, ACTIVE STEPS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEVOTED TO PROMOTING STAGGERED WORKING HOURS AS A MEANS TO HELP SPREAD OUT THE PEAK-HOUR DEMAND.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO SEEK TO ENCOURAGE COMMERCIAL LAND USE DEVELOPMENTS OVER A WIDER GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD WITHIN THE URBAN AREA AND AROUND SELECTED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES.

"THE AIM IS TO DISPERSE THE CONCENTRATION OF FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL JOBS, THEREBY REDUCING THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC GOING IN A SINGLE DIRECTION DURING THE PEAK HOURS," HE SAID.

ON THE PART OF THE FRANCHISED OPERATORS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSCIOUSLY SCALE DOWN THE PROPORTION OF PEAK-ONLY SERVICES IN THE LONG RUN.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE NON-FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS COULD PLAY A VERY USEFUL COMPLEMENTARY ROLE IN HELPING TO MEET THE PEAK PASSENGER LOAD.

"TO STIMULATE COMPETITION, AND TO TAP MORE FULLY THE BUS RESOURCES OF NON-FRANCHISED OPERATORS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING GOOD QUALITY SERVICES, THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES DURING THE PEAK HOURS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED," HE SAID.

ON THE CHOICE OF VEHICLES FOR DIFFERENT ROUTES, MR LEUNG SAID THE FRANCHISED COMPANIES SHOULD ADOPT A MORE MARKET-ORIENTED APPROACH IN DETERMINING THE CHOICE.

THEY COULD, FOR INSTANCE, DO MORE AT THE UPPER END OF THE MARKET, WHERE DEMAND WAS CLEARLY GROWING.

"BY ATTRACTING PASSENGERS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE TURN TO PRIVATE CARS, UP-MARKET BUS SERVICES WOULD HELP EASE ROAD CONGESTION AND ALLOW THE BUS COMPANIES TO TAP A REVENUE SOURCE HITHERTO NOT UTILISED.

"THE WIDER USE OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES, AS CURRENTLY PLANNED BY THE FRANCHISED OPERATORS, IS THEREFORE A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

"IN THIS SUMMER, WE EXPECT TO SEE THE DEPLOYMENT OF MORE THAN 30 AIR-CONDITIONED DOUBLE-DECKERS BY KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB) AND CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB).

"THIS SHOULD HELP CONTAIN THE EXTENT OF PASSENGER DIVERSION TO THE RAILWAYS DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS, THEREBY EASING THE PRESSURE ON THE BUSIEST SECTIONS OF THE RAIL CORRIDOR," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THERE MIGHT BE CASES WHERE CONVERSION TO A GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE WAS PREFERABLE TO REQUIRING A FRANCHISED BUS OPERATOR TO INVEST IN NEW VEHICLES FOR A LOSS-MAKING ROUTE AFFECTED BY DECLINING DEMAND.

ON FUTURE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT, MR LEUNG SAID THAT IN EXAMINING SUCH PROPOSALS, INCREASING EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON THE NEED TO ATTACK THE BASELINE, TO CRITICALLY RE-EXAMINE THE NEED FOR EXISTING SERVICES, INSTEAD OF FOCUSING SOLELY ON AREAS REQUIRING SERVICE EXPANSION.

TO ENSURE THAT CHANGES MADE BY THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES IN THIS RESPECT WERE SYNCHRONISED WITH THE OPERATION OF OTHER MODES SERVING THE SAME AREA, THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMISSIONED, LAST NOVEMBER, A PILOT CONSULTANCY STUDY ENTITLED "AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK EFFICIENCY STUDIES".

THROUGH THE USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, THE GOVERNMENT COULD REVIEW THE EFFICIENCY OF A GROUP OF BUS ROUTES AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH OTHER TRANSPORT MODES IN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 3 -

A RATIONALISED NETWORK WOULD ENABLE THE FRANCHISED OPERATORS TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE WITH THE SAME LEVEL OF RESOURCES.

IN RELATION TO THE EFFICIENCY OF LONG-DISTANCE ROUTES FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THEIR PENETRATION INTO THE URBAN AREA, MR LEUNG SAID CURRENTLY SUCH ROUTES ACCOUNTED FOR 43.5 PER CENT OF KMB'S SERVICES IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF BUSES REQUIRED.

"THE PROJECTED REDUCTION OF POPULATION AND JOBS IN URBAN KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRIPS STARTING AND ENDING WITHIN THESE AREAS.

"IT MEANS THAT AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF THE TRAVEL ON THE STREETS OF KOWLOON WOULD BE LONG DISTANCE TRIPS TO OR FROM THE NEW TOWNS, RATHER THAN SHORT DISTANCE LOCAL TRIPS.

"THE TIME WILL SOON COME FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE BUS NETWORK OPERATING WITHIN URBAN KOWLOON.

"BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BUSES DEPLOYED ON THESE ROUTES, MORE ROOM COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL DIRECT BUS SERVICES BETWEEN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND YAU TSIM OR CENTRAL," HE SAID.

SUCH A RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE WOULD TIE IN WITH TRANSPORT PLANNING NOW BEING FORMULATED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL FOR THE NEW RECLAMATIONS ON WESTERN KOWLOON.

THESE RECLAMATIONS, TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE, PRESENTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDRESSING THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF KERBSIDE AND TERMINUS SPACE IN THE SOUTHERN HALF OF KOWLOON PENINSULA.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THERE MIGHT BE MORE EXTENSIVE PENETRATION OF THE YAU TSIM OR CENTRAL DISTRICT BY DIRECT BUS ROUTES FROM THE NEW TOWNS AS WELL AS THE INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES GIVING SUITABLE PRIORITY TO BUSES DEPLOYED ON THESE LONG-HAUL ROUTES.

ON MANAGEMENT OF BUS SERVICES, MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD VIEW A FRANCHISED COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY AS ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE FRANCHISE SHOULD BE ROLLED FORWARD.

"WE HAVE RECENTLY SENT TO CMB A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THAT EFFECT," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT CUSTOMER RELATIONS WAS A SUBJECT LIABLE TO HAVE AN INCREASING BEARING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BUS COMPANIES AS SEEN FROM THE USERS' POINT OF VIEW.

/HE SAID

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 4 -

HE SAID THE DEMANDS OF OUR TIME WERE QUITE CLEAR, AND THIS APPLIED TO ALL OTHER TRANSPORT OPERATORS: THE FRANCHISED COMPANIES, BEING UTILITIES PROVIDING A PUBLIC SERVICE, HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THEMSELVES MORE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CUSTOMERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR LEUNG'S SPEECH WILL BE BOXED.

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SPEAKS ON 1991 POPULATION CENSUS

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SOME 16,000 TEMPORARY ENUMERATION STAFF, MOSTLY SENIOR FORM STUDENTS, WILL BE RECRUITED TO CARRY OUT THE 1991 FULL-SCALE POPULATION CENSUS, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR JOSEPH LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, MR LEE SAID GREAT PAINS ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT PERSONAL DETAILS COLLECTED DURING THE CENSUS ARE NOT DISCLOSED.

"EVERYTHING ON THE CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE EXCEPT THE NAMES AND ADDRESS IS CODED AND INPUT TO COMPUTER, FROM WHICH THE NECESSARY TABULATIONS ARE PRODUCED.

"ONCE THE DATA HAVE BEEN TABULATED, THE ORIGINAL QUESTIONNAIRE CONTAINING THE NAMES AND ADDRESS IS DESTROYED, AND NEITHER YOUR INQUISITIVE NEIGHBOUR, THE POLICE, THE TAX COLLECTOR, NOR EVEN THE MIGHTY COURTS OF JUSTICE CAN DISCOVER OR DETECT WHAT WAS RECORDED ABOUT ANY NAMED INDIVIDUAL," HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID THE FIRST STAGE OF THE 1991 CENSUS INCLUDED DRAWING UP A CENSUS PLAN AND FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CENSUS IN ORDER TO MEET THE DATA NEEDS OF GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"FOR HEAD COUNTING, EACH AND EVERY PERSON IN THE TERRITORY WILL BE ASKED BASIC QUESTIONS ON AGE, SEX, AND RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IN ADDITION, A ONE-IN-SEVEN SAMPLE OF THEM WILL BE ASKED MORE DETAILED QUESTIONS ON MARITAL STATUS, EDUCATION, INTERNAL MOVEMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME," HE SAID.

/THE SECOND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 5 -

THE SECOND STAGE WOULD INVOLVE VARIOUS PREPARATORY WORK SUCH AS COMPILING A LISTING OF ALL LIVING QUARTERS IN HONG KONG, CONDUCTING FIELD TESTS ON THE CENSUS PROCEDURES, DEVELOPING THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION, AND RECRUITING AND TRAINING THE ENUMERATION STAFF.

MR LEE SAID THE THIRD STAGE COMPRISED THE ACTUAL PROCESS OF ENUMERATION AND TO SAVE COSTS AND REDUCE THE ENUMERATOR REQUIREMENT, THE HOUSEHOLDER METHOD FOR SIMPLE ENUMERATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

"SIX OUT OF SEVEN OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH WILL ANSWER ONLY THE BASIC QUESTIONS IN THE CENSUS, WILL RECEIVE A QUESTIONNAIRE IN ADVANCE. WE ASK THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH OF THEIR MEMBERS. THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE CENSUS OFFICERS," HE SAID.

"THE HOUSEHOLDER METHOD WILL NOT APPLY TO HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED FOR THE DETAILED ENUMERATION. THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE A QUESTIONNAIRE IN ADVANCE. INSTEAD, THEY WILL BE INTERVIEWED BY THE CENSUS OFFICERS, WHO WILL COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THEM," HE ADDED.

MR LEE SAID THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HELP HIS DEPARTMENT CARRY OUT THE CENSUS MORE EFFICIENTLY.

"TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE SHALL RELY ON THE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED FOR THE SIMPLE ENUMERATION TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE THEMSELVES PROPERLY. GIVEN THE RISING EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF THE POPULATION AND THE SIMPLE CONTENT OF THE SELF-ENUMERATION QUESTIONNAIRE, THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT THE APPROACH WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL," HE SAID.

THE FOURTH STAGE DEALS WITH THE COMPILATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE DATA COLLECTED WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED IN TABULAR FORM.

MR LEE NOTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CENSUS WAS TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG, THE DATA OF WHICH WERE VITAL FOR FORWARD PLANNING IN AREAS SUCH AS HOUSING, TRANSPORT, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS USED THE CENSUS DATA TO FORECAST THE FUTURE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR THE PLANNING OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

"WITH THE RAPID GROWTH OF NEW TOWNS AND URBAN REDEVELOPMENT, THERE IS A CONTINUOUS NEED FOR POPULATION DATA ON SMALL AREAS FOR LOCAL PLANNING. THE CENSUS IS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF THESE DATA," HE SAID.

"AS HONG KONG DEVELOPS INTO AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF TRADE AND FINANCE, THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR DATA TO REFLECT ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, IN PARTICULAR, POPULATION DATA ARE REQUIRED BY THE BUSINESS SECTOR FOR APPRAISAL OF MARKET CONDITIONS AND PLANNING OF INVESTMENT," HE ADDED.

/"THE CENSUS

"THE CENSUS ALSO PROVIDES THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATE OF THE POPULATION. SUCH ISSUES AS SOCIAL MOBILITY, LINGUISTIC PROFILE, FAMILY LIFE CYCLE ARE MATTERS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST WHICH CAN BE STUDIED THROUGH AN ANALYSIS OF THE CENSUS DATA," HE SAID.

MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT UP-TO-DATE AND ACCURATE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR CHARACTERISTIC OF THE POPULATION MUST BE OBTAINED IN ORDER TO MAKE MEANINGFUL PLANS.

"WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT SUCH PLANS IF WE WANT TO HAVE ENOUGH HOUSING AND ADEQUATE TRANSPORT FOR OURSELVES, EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND MANY OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED," HE SAID.

"THE CENSUS IS A PRACTICAL AND DOWN-TO-EARTH OPERATION TO ENABLE US TO OBTAIN ALL THIS INFORMATION," MR LEE SAID.

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HONG KONG OFFERS BIG OPPORTUNITIES

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HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, WHICH RUN TO WELL BEYOND THE YEAR 2000, OFFER EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN MASSIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE HONG KONG DEPUTY COMMISSIONER IN BRITAIN, MR K.C. KWONG, HAS TOLD BUSINESSMEN THERE.

SPEAKING IN HELSINKI TO THE FINLAND/HONG KONG TRADE ASSOCIATION AND IN OSLO TO THE NORWAY/HONG KONG TRADE ASSOCIATION, EARLIER THIS WEEK, MR KWONG SPELT OUT BASIC DETAILS OF THESE HUGE PROJECTS.

THEY INCLUDED THE BUILDING OF A NEW AIRPORT AND PORT FACILITIES WHICH WOULD SERVE NOT JUST HONG KONG'S OWN NEEDS BUT THE NEEDS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

MR KWONG SAID THAT HONG KONG, THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD, WAS PLANNING FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD INCREASE ITS CONTAINER OUTPUT FIVE TIMES BY 2006.

ON AIR TRANSPORT, HE SAID KAI TAK NOW HANDLED 13.4 MILLION PASSENGERS AND 694,000 TONS OF CARGO EVERY YEAR, AND WAS ONE OF THE BUSIEST AIRPORTS IN THE WORLD.

"TO CATER FOR THE RAPIDLY INCREASING TRAFFIC, WE ARE PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW TWO-RUNWAY AIRPORT WHICH IS CAPABLE OF OPERATING 24 HOURS A DAY," HE SAID.

/WHEN COMPLETED

WHEN COMPLETED, THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE 80 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR, THREE TIMES THE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FIRST OF THE TWO RUNWAYS WOULD BE OPENED BY EARLY 1997.

THE TOTAL COSTS FOR THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WOULD BE AROUND \$127 BILLION.

ON THE PROBLEM OF THE BRAIN DRAIN, MR KWONG SAID THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION LAY IN THE EXPANSION OF THE TERRITORY'S HIGHER AND SPECIALIST EDUCATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BY 1995 TERTIARY PLACES IN HONG KONG WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 14 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE-GROUP TO NEARLY 25 PER CENT.

A TRAINING FUND WAS ALSO BEING ESTABLISHED TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO GIVE MANAGERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

THE SHORT-TERM SOLUTION, HE SAID, HOWEVER, RELIED ON THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE ANNOUNCED RECENTLY BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH FULL BRITISH PASSPORTS WITH THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK WOULD BE ISSUED TO KEY PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY IN HONG KONG.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, MR KWONG SAID ASSURANCES FOR THE TERRITORY'S WAY OF LIFE WERE CLEARLY SET OUT IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED IN 1984.

HE SAID THE DOCUMENT WAS THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR HONG KONG, DESPITE EVENTS IN CHINA LAST YEAR.

ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR KWONG SAID HONG KONG NOW ENJOYED A SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF GATT, THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AS WELL AS THE WORLD BANK.

IN CONCLUSION, HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS KNOWN FOR ITS ABILITY TO ADAPT, NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO IT IN THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND AT THE SAME TIME, OFFER TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHREWD AND FAR-SIGHTED BUSINESSMEN.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 8 -

HK HAS IMPORTANT ROLE IN WORLD ECONOMY

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HONG KONG IS A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, WITH A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF OUR BUSINESS AND TRADING PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD, THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO, MR PETER JOHNSON, SAID IN TEXAS ON WEDNESDAY (U.S. TIME).

ADDRESSING A MEETING OF THE AUSTIN METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB DURING A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO TEXAS, MR JOHNSON SAID HONG KONG WAS A RELATIVELY WEALTHY MARKET, WITH SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASING POWER, AND INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED TASTES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE HONG KONG HAD ALMOST NO NATURAL RESOURCES, IT HAD TO IMPORT VIRTUALLY ALL ITS NEEDS, FROM INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, THROUGH SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS FOR AN EVER ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND FOOD.

"HONG KONG IS A MARKET WHICH IS OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE ON EQUAL TERMS TO SUPPLIERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"THERE IS THE MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE, TAX RATES ARE LOW, THERE ARE NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS AND NO BARRIERS TO TRADE.

"IN OVERALL TERMS THE U.S. REMAINS OUR LARGEST MARKET, TAKING OVER 30 PER CENT OF OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, WORTH ABOUT US\$8.6 BILLION IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1989. IN THE SAME PERIOD THE U.S. WAS THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR RE-EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG, MOSTLY OF GOODS PRODUCED IN CHINA," HE SAID.

MR JOHNSON NOTED THAT ON A PER CAPITA BASIS, HONG KONG WAS BY FAR THE BEST MARKET IN THE WORLD FOR U.S. EXPORTS. U.S. EXPORTS TO HONG KONG IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR WERE US\$5.5 BILLION, PUTTING IT IN FOURTH PLACE AS A SUPPLIER, BEHIND CHINA, JAPAN AND TAIWAN.

"IN 1988 TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE FIVE TEXAS CUSTOMS DISTRICTS TOTALLED US\$432 MILLION, \$166 MILLION IN EXPORTS FROM TEXAS TO HONG KONG AND \$266 MILLION IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION," MR JOHNSON SAID.

HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITEMS SUCH AS TEXAS BEEF AND OTHER MEAT PRODUCTS, NOTING THAT EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN HONG KONG SPENT OVER US\$100 ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS.

MR JOHNSON ALSO STRESSED THAT THE SIZE OF THE U.S. PRESENCE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-HK RELATIONSHIP.

/"THERE ARE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 9 -

"THERE ARE AT PRESENT OVER 18,000 U.S. CITIZENS LIVING IN HONG KONG AND ABOUT 1,000 U.S. COMPANIES ARE OPERATING THERE. THEY ARE IN ALL FIELDS -- BANKING, THE LAW, TRADING, MANUFACTURING, ACCOUNTANCY, INSURANCE, SHIPPING, POWER GENERATION, PROPERTY -- AND U.S. INTERESTS ARE INCREASING."

TURNING TO THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY, MR JOHNSON EXPLAINED THAT BUSINESS CONFIDENCE REMAINED REMARKABLY HIGH, DESPITE TRAUMATIC EVENTS IN CHINA LAST SUMMER.

AN EXAMPLE OF THIS CONFIDENCE WAS LEADING BUSINESSMAN MR LI KA-SHING'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A US\$5 BILLION-PLUS INVESTMENT IN A NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL, POWER GENERATION AND A NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS, MR JOHNSON SAID.

"LAST OCTOBER, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AIRPORT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT KAI TAK, AND A FIVE-FOLD EXPANSION OF OUR CONTAINER PORT FACILITIES.

"THE TOTAL COST OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT WILL BE OVER US\$16 BILLION. SO THERE IS PLENTY OF SCOPE, AND PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES IN A VAST RANGE OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD OF ACTIVITY: RETAILING, IMPORT AND EXPORT, MANUFACTURING, PARTICULARLY DESIGN AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE PROFESSIONS, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HUGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND," HE ADDED.

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RVD PROPERTY REVIEW 1990 - PRELIMINARY FIGURES
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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS IN THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S 1990 PROPERTY REVIEW INDICATE THAT AT THE END OF 1989 PROPERTY VACANCIES WERE HIGHER THAN IN 1988, BOTH IN ABSOLUTE TERMS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF EXISTING STOCK, FOR ALL THE MAIN PROPERTY CLASSES.

THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS WERE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY).

PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT WAS THE AMOUNT OF VACANT OFFICE SPACE (261,000 SQUARE METRES) AT THE YEAR END WHICH WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT AT THE END OF 1988, BUT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE VACANT SPACE WAS COMPLETED IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1989.

/PRIVATE DOMESTIC

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL CLASSES)

36,500 DOMESTIC UNITS WERE COMPLETED IN 1989 WHICH WAS A MODEST INCREASE OVER 1988, BUT THE FORECAST SUPPLY FOR 1990 IS 25 PER CENT LESS AT AROUND 27,400 UNITS. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT, IN 1991, SUPPLY WILL RETURN TO A LEVEL SIMILAR TO THAT OF 1989.

THE 1989 TAKE-UP DROPPED QUITE SIGNIFICANTLY BY SOME 30 PER CENT TO 23,700 UNITS, BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE SUPPLY ONLY BECAME AVAILABLE DURING THE LAST QUARTER. VACANCIES AT THE YEAR END WERE CONSEQUENTLY 50 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1988, REPRESENTING ABOUT 4.2 PER CENT OF STOCK.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGE UNITS - 100 SQUARE METRES AND OVER)

IN CONTRAST TO THE MODEST INCREASE IN OVERALL SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC UNITS, SUPPLY OF LARGE UNITS DWINDLED FROM 3,150 UNITS IN 1988 TO 2,700 UNITS IN 1989 WHICH, COUPLED WITH A 59 PER CENT INCREASE IN TAKE-UP, LED TO A REDUCTION IN VACANCY LEVELS AT YEAR END TO 5.4 PER CENT OF STOCK. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER VACANT EXCEEDED THE TAKE-UP FOR EACH OF THE LAST THREE YEARS.

A TOTAL OF 2,850 UNITS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1990, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN IN 1989 BUT SUPPLY IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE TO ABOUT 1,600 IN 1991.

OFFICES

THE SUPPLY OF OFFICE SPACE IN 1989 INCREASED BY NEARLY 9 PER CENT TO 269,000 SQUARE METRES BUT THIS WAS DUE TO THE VERY LARGE INCREASE IN SUPPLY IN LESS ATTRACTIVE LOCATIONS (SECTOR III), 58 PER CENT OF WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN THE LAST QUARTER.

OVERALL TAKE-UP IN 1989 FELL BY ABOUT 71 PER CENT RESULTING IN A 110 PER CENT INCREASE IN VACANCY TO 261,000 SQUARE METRES OR 5.3 PER CENT OF STOCK. A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE INCREASE IN VACANCY WAS THAT 37 PER CENT OF THE 1989 SUPPLY WAS COMPLETED IN THE LAST QUARTER.

IN SECTOR I, SUPPLY CAME FROM ONLY TWO BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL WHICH WERE COMPLETED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 AND TAKE-UP DROPPED COMPARED TO 1988 RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN VACANCY TO 5.8 PER CENT OF STOCK. IN SECTOR II TAKE-UP WAS SIMILAR TO 1988 AND VACANCIES REDUCED. IN SECTOR III THE TOTAL SPACE OCCUPIED FELL SLIGHTLY DURING THE YEAR AND VACANCIES INCREASED TO 6.5 PER CENT OF STOCK BUT 44 PER CENT OF THE VACANT UNITS WERE IN BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN THE LAST QUARTER.

IN 1990 SUPPLY IN SECTOR III IS EXPECTED TO BE EVEN GREATER AT 177,000 SQUARE METRES WHILE THAT IN SECTOR II WILL REDUCE TO 48,000 SQUARE METRES. SUPPLY IN SECTOR I, FORECAST AT 70,000 SQUARE METRES, WILL REMAIN MUCH THE SAME AS FOR 1989. THE NET RESULT IN OVERALL TERMS WILL BE AN INCREASE OF 9.7 PER CENT TO 295,000 SQUARE METRES. A FURTHER INCREASE IN SUPPLY TO AROUND 388,000 SQUARE METRES IS EXPECTED IN 1991.

COMMERCIAL

SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL SPACE IN 1989 AT 197,000 SQUARE METRES WAS ABOUT 17 PER CENT LESS THAN THAT IN 1988 BUT IS FORECAST TO RISE TO 210,000 SQUARE METRES IN 1990. TAKE-UP IN 1989 ALSO FELL, RESULTING IN VACANCIES AT THE END OF 1989 BEING marginally HIGHER THAN IN 1988, AT 395,000 SQUARE METRES REPRESENTING 5.6 PER CENT OF STOCK. SUPPLY IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FURTHER IN 1991 TO 338,000 SQUARE METRES.

FLATTED FACTORIES

SUPPLY IN 1989 WAS 864,000 SQUARE METRES BEING 22 PER CENT LESS THAN THE HIGH LEVELS RECORDED FOR 1988. TAKE-UP WAS UP ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR BUT STILL FELL SHORT OF SUPPLY, SO VACANCIES AT THE END OF 1989 WERE ABOUT 18 PER CENT HIGHER, AT 833,000 SQUARE METRES REPRESENTING 5.1 PER CENT OF STOCK.

SUPPLY IN 1990 IS AGAIN EXPECTED TO REDUCE TO 652,000 SQUARE METRES WHICH WILL BE marginally LESS THAN THE TAKE-UP IN 1989. SUPPLY IN 1991 IS EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF 1990.

GENERAL

A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, TAKE-UP AND VACANCY IN THE MAIN SECTORS IS GIVEN BELOW.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FIGURES QUOTED ARE PRELIMINARY ONLY. FULL AND FINAL FIGURES WILL BE SHOWN IN THE 1990 PROPERTY REVIEW, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN APRIL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RELEASE MAY BE DIRECTED TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

MR K.S. WONG
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

TEL. 8957603

MRS M.A. BIRD
TECHNICAL SECRETARY

TEL. 8957614

SIX TABLES FROM THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ARE GIVEN FOLLOW:

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL CLASSES)

	(NO. OF UNITS)			
	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT*
1987	34,400	35,100	22,300	3.4
1988	34,500	33,900	20,200	2.9
1989	36,500	23,700	30,300	4.2
1990	[27,400]			
1991	[34,200]			

'PRIVATE DOMESTIC' EXCLUDES FLATS BUILT UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

* VACANCY AT THE END OF THE YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOCK.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGE UNITS - 100 SQUARE METRES AND OVER)

	(NO. OF UNITS)			
	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT
1987	2,000	2,650	2,300	4.5
1988	3,150	1,700	3,450	6.3
1989	2,700	2,700	3,100	5.4
1990	[2,850]			
1991	[1,600]			

/OFFICES (ALL

OFFICES (ALL SECTORS)

('000 SQUARE METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT
1987	247	269	241	5.5
1988	247	354	124	2.7
1989	269	102	261	5.3
1990	[295]			
1991	[388]			

OFFICES (SECTORAL ANALYSIS)

('000 SQUARE METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT
SECTOR I				
CENTRAL, GRADE A OFFICES				
1987	70	38	73	8.4
1988	88	156	5	0.5
1989	72	12	59	5.8
1990	[70]			
1991	[27]			

SECTOR- II

SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY & TSIM SHA TSUI, GRADE A OFFICES AND CENTRAL, GRADE B OFFICES

1987	102	74	65	4.6
1988	128	107	79	5.2
1989	86	102	55	3.4
1990	[48]			
1991	[91]			

/SECTOR III

- 14 -

SECTOR III

REMAINDER

1987	75	157	103	4.8
1988	31	91	40	1.8
1989	111	-12	147	6.5
1990	[177]			
1991	[270]			

COMMERCIAL

('000 SQUARE METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT
1987	284	358	368	5.4
1988	238	174	381	5.5
1989	197	126	395	5.6
1990	[210]			
1991	[338]			

FLATTED FACTORIES

('000 SQUARE METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	PER CENT
1987	541	804	247	1.7
1988	1,105	588	704	4.5
1989	864	672	833	5.1
1990	[652]			
1991	[662]			

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PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL TO ACCEPT PRIVATE PATIENTS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS DIRECTED THAT THE FACILITIES OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL MAY BE USED FOR SPECIALIST CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS ON A PRIVATE FEE-PAYING BASIS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ENABLE DENTISTS TO REFER PATIENTS WITH COMPLEX DENTAL PROBLEMS TO THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT AS PRIVATE PATIENTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS LAID DOWN IN THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL ORDINANCE, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE HOSPITAL IS TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE TRAINING OF DENTISTS AND OTHER ANCILLARY DENTAL PERSONNEL. HITHERTO PATIENTS COULD ONLY BE TREATED IN SUPPORT OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE TEACHING OF DENTAL STUDENTS.

"THIS NEW SCHEME TO ACCEPT REFERRED PATIENTS FOR CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT NOT NECESSARILY IN SUPPORT OF THE TEACHING PROGRAMME WILL HELP MAKE BETTER USE OF THE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AT THE HOSPITAL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT WILL BRING THE HOSPITAL INTO LINE WITH THE WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE AT THE TWO MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITALS - QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL - WHERE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL STAFF CAN TREAT PATIENTS ON A FEE-PAYING BASIS," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT, PRIVATE PATIENTS CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF THEY ARE REFERRED TO THE HOSPITAL BY AN OUTSIDE DENTAL PRACTITIONER. THE TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY SENIOR DENTAL ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL WHO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE.

"REVENUE FROM THE SCHEME WILL BE USED IN THE MAIN TO HELP FUND DENTAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING; THE REMAINDER WILL RESULT IN A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN THE GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF THE HOSPITAL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HOSPITAL WILL FIX THE CHARGES FOR TREATMENT. THESE CHARGES WILL BE RELATED TO THE CHARGES FOR SIMILAR PROCEDURES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE HOSPITAL WILL CIRCULATE FULL DETAILS OF THE SCHEME TO ALL REGISTERED DENTISTS ONCE THESE HAVE BEEN FINALISED.

"WE BELIEVE PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTITIONERS WILL WELCOME THE CHANCE TO REFER PATIENTS WITH COMPLEX DENTAL PROBLEMS TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIALIST CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CONSULTANCY STUDY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

* * * *

THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES, HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANT TO CARRY OUT A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG.

THE \$1.7 MILLION CONSULTANCY STUDY IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL (BTI), WHICH IS A PROGRAMME AT THE UNITED STATES' UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSESSMENTS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE.

THE TERM "BIOTECHNOLOGY" DESCRIBES THOSE TECHNIQUES THAT USE LIVING ORGANISMS, OR SUBSTANCES FROM THOSE ORGANISMS, TO MAKE OR MODIFY A PRODUCT.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE IN HUMAN HEALTH CARE, LIVESTOCK ENHANCEMENT, CROP IMPROVEMENT, FEED AND FOOD PRODUCTION, INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTION AND WASTE TREATMENT.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR LI, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, SAID THE CONCEPT OF A BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG WAS NEW.

"A MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY COULD BE ATTRACTIVE FOR HONG KONG BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO GENERATE A LINE OF PRODUCTS HAVING HIGH ADDED VALUE," HE EXPLAINED.

"IT WOULD TIE IN WITH THE TREND IN HONG KONG AWAY FROM LABOUR-INTENSIVE TO KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE AREAS."

PROF LI SAID THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY WAS TO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL AND SCOPE FOR EXPLOITING BIOTECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE INFRASTRUCTURE, RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT NEEDED TO UNDERPIN ITS DEVELOPMENT.

"THE STUDY WILL ALSO LOOK AT POSSIBLE AREAS OF COMMERCIAL COLLABORATION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES," HE SAID.

"INFORMATION FOR THE STUDY WILL BE GATHERED FROM HONG KONG, USA, CHINA AND THE NEARBY ECONOMIES. EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE MARKETING ASPECT OF THE PRODUCTS THAT CAN OFFER THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE STUDY WILL START SHORTLY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN FIVE MONTHS' TIME. THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WILL ASSIST BTI IN THE HONG KONG PART OF THE STUDY.

THE STUDY IS FINANCED BY A DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB. THE JOCKEY CLUB HAS ALSO DONATED \$300 MILLION TO THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF TWO BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 17 -

HKIA PRESIDENT'S PRIZE AWARDED TO HISTORICAL BUILDING

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THE RESTORATION OF A HISTORICAL BUILDING -- TAI FU TAI -- IN SAN TIN, YUEN LONG, WAS AWARDED THE 1989 PRESIDENT'S PRIZE BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (HKIA) FOR ITS EXCELLENCE OF DESIGN IN ARCHITECTURE.

THE PRESIDENT'S PRIZE IS ONE OF THE THREE HKIA ANNUAL AWARDS AIMED TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO OUTSTANDING BUILDINGS WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHITECTURE.

IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THE AWARDS WOULD FOSTER APPRECIATION FOR BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE THAT DESERVE WIDER PUBLIC NOTICE.

TAI FU TAI WAS PROBABLY BUILT IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF TONGZHI OF THE QING DYNASTY (1865).

RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL SPLENDOUR, THE BUILDING IS ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR FACETS OF HONG KONG'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE.

TAI FU TAI WAS DECLARED A HISTORICAL BUILDING UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE IN JULY 1987 BECAUSE OF ITS ARCHITECTURAL MERITS AND HISTORICAL VALUE.

RESTORATION WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN BY ARCHITECTS TRAINED IN THIS KIND OF WORK AND EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO RETAIN THE ORIGINAL MATERIAL, COLOUR, PAINTING AND DETAIL.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY AT TAI FU TAI ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10) TO PRESENT THE HKIA CERTIFICATES OF AWARD TO BOTH THE OWNER OF THE ELEGANT HOUSE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WHICH HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED \$2.5 MILLION TOWARDS THE RESTORATION WORK.

THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

MEMBERS OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

/THERE WILL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 18 -

THERE WILL BE A TOUR TO A NEARBY DECLARED MONUMENT, KUN TING STUDY HALL, PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY TO SEE THE RESTORATION WORK WHICH IS BEING CARRIED OUT THERE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE HKIA PRESIDENT'S PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND JOIN THE TOUR TO THE KUN TING STUDY HALL ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10) MORNING.

A COACH TAKING PRESS MEMBERS WILL LEAVE MIDDLE ROAD, AT ITS JUNCTION WITH HANKOW ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 9 AM. AN INFORMATION OFFICER OF RCB WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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NEW ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL WITH HORSE DESIGN

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE LABEL IMPRESSION OF THE ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL ISSUING MACHINE WILL BE CHANGED FROM THE SNAKE DESIGN TO THE HORSE DESIGN ON FEBRUARY 21.

ON THE SAME DAY, NEW LABEL PAPER WILL BE INTRODUCED BEARING A MOUNTAIN PATTERN IN THE BACKGROUND.

BOTH THE LABEL IMPRESSION AND THE BACKGROUND PATTERN OF THE LABEL PAPER WERE DESIGNED BY MR MICHAEL TUCKER.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS INTERESTED IN COLLECTING THE LABELS, PRE-PACKAGED SETS OF FOUR VALUES -- 10 CENT, 60 CENT, \$1.40 AND \$1.80 -- BEARING MACHINE CODES "01" (GPO) AND "02" (TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE) WILL BE PUT ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES ON FEBRUARY 21.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON THAT DAY. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE A HAND-BACK SERVICE FOR PRIVATELY-MADE FIRST DAY COVERS AT ALL THE POST OFFICES.

THE POST OFFICE WILL CHANGE THE DESIGN OF THE LABELS AND LABEL IMPRESSION EVERY YEAR TO INCORPORATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR ANIMAL. THE LAST ISSUE OF THE PRESENT ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL SERIES WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1998.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 19 -

FESTIVAL TREAT FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS

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SEVERAL OF ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 10 AND 11) TO CELEBRATE THE CHINESE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL.

THESE INCLUDE A CARNIVAL AND VARIETY SHOWS. THEY ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE TSZ WAN SHAN (SOUTH) AREA COMMITTEE, THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL AND THE WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS' AFFAIRS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ADMISSION TO THE FUNCTIONS IS FREE.

ON SATURDAY, A SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT A FOOTBALL PITCH ADJACENT TO ON KEI HOUSE, TSZ ON ESTATE IN TSZ WAN SHAN.

IT WILL START AT 2 PM WITH A CHILDREN'S COLOUR-SHADING COMPETITION AND AN EXHIBITION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TSZ WAN SHAN (SOUTH) AREA COMMITTEE, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS ASSOCIATION.

THE CARNIVAL'S HIGHLIGHT WILL BE A VARIETY SHOW, TO BEGIN AT 7.30 PM, FEATURING SINGING, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, LANTERN RIDDLES, PALM-READING AND CHINESE TRADITIONAL CRAFT.

ANOTHER VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY AT THE OPEN AIR THEATRE IN MORSE PARK. IT WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM.

THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY SINGERS MAN PUI-LING, CHEUNG LAP-KEI AND SO WING-HONG, AS WELL AS LANTERN RIDDLES.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE VARIETY SHOW AT MORSE PARK ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES, AND AT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL IN LUNG HING HOUSE, LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 322261 EXT. 361.

ON SUNDAY, A LANTERN FESTIVAL EVENING SHOW WILL BE HELD AT A COMPOUND IN UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

THE SHOW, WHICH BEGINS AT 8 PM, WILL FEATURE CANTONESE OPERA SONGS AND LANTERN RIDDLES.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 20 -

SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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MEMBERS OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, FACTORY OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL IN KWUN TONG ARE BEING INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT ON FEBRUARY 19 (MONDAY).

THE SEMINAR IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AS PART OF THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE MANAGEMENT CONCEPT IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING TEAM, LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE TALKS ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO LOCAL OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, AND FACTORY OWNERS TO INVITE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AT TUNG YAN STREET.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 3453104.

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CARNIVAL TO CELEBRATE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL

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A CARNIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND IN WAN CHAI TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING.

THE EVENT HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL TO CULTIVATE A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY AMONG RESIDENTS AND PROVIDE FREE ENTERTAINMENT TO THE PUBLIC.

THERE WILL BE DEMONSTRATIONS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FOLK CRAFT, LANTERN RIDDLES, CANTONESE OPERATIC AND POP SONGS AND A PALM READING STALL.

PARTICIPANTS CAN TAKE PART IN A LUCKY DRAW WHICH PROVIDES ATTRACTIVE PRIZES, INCLUDING THREE LARGE LANTERNS.

/OFFICIATING AT

- 21 -

OFFICIATING AT THE CARNIVAL'S OPENING AT 7.30 PM WILL BE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR DOMINIC CHAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND, WAN CHAI.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT YOUTH CHOIR TO GIVE CONCERT

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT YOUTH CHOIR WILL GIVE ITS ANNUAL CONCERT AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX THEATRE ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10).

THE 40-STRONG CHOIR WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1983 AND HAS SINCE GIVEN NUMEROUS PERFORMANCES AT VARIOUS DISTRICT FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVALS.

AT THE CONCERT, WHICH BEGINS AT 8 PM, THE CHOIR WILL PRESENT A VARIETY OF CHINESE AND WESTERN CLASSICAL AND POPULAR SONGS IN CHORUS, GROUP AND SOLO SINGING.

THE CONCERT IS BEING JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE CONCERT ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 5550187 AND 5520595.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 22 -

YUEN LONG TO HOLD EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN FOR ELDERLY

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FREE EYE EXAMINATION AND SPECTACLE SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO OLD PEOPLE IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT IN AN EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 24.

ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE AGED 60 OR ABOVE ARE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM THE CAMPAIGN WHICH IS THE 11TH ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND THE HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE ON THE EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN, MR YEUNG YUK-CHIU, SAID HE HOPED THE CAMPAIGN WOULD AROUSE THE CONCERN OF THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND HELP PROMOTE RESPECT TOWARDS SENIOR RESIDENTS.

OF THE \$350,000 BUDGET FOR THE CAMPAIGN, TUNG WAH CONTRIBUTED \$330,000 WHILE THE BALANCE WAS MET BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, AT 3 PM AT THE YUEN LONG PLAZA, 249 CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, AND CHAIRMAN OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR LAI KWOK-WING.

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NEW YEAR CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY

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A NEW YEAR CARNIVAL WILL BE ORGANISED FOR YAU TSIM RESIDENTS AT KOWLOON PARK ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 11) AFTERNOON.

THE CARNIVAL, WHICH STARTS AT 1.30 PM, WILL INCLUDE A PARADE OF CARTOON CHARACTERS, AN INFLATABLE TRAMPOLINE, FORTUNE TELLING, STALL GAMES AND A VARIETY SHOW. BALLOONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

/THE REGIONAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 23 -

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT ITS OPENING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT NEW YEAR CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT THE PIZZA OF KOWLOON PARK ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 11). IT WILL START AT 1.30 PM.

ART EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN NORTH DISTRICT
* * * * *

MORE THAN 300 PIECES OF CHINESE AND WESTERN PAINTINGS, CALLIGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE EXHIBITED AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10) UNTIL MONDAY (FEBRUARY 12).

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION (NDAAA) AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO PROMOTE APPRECIATION OF ART.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS AND MEMBERS OF THE NDAAA'S PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY CLASSES.

OUTSTANDING WORKS BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE EXHIBITED.

A DEMONSTRATION OF CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE EXHIBITION.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI, DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY, AND FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY. ADMISSION IS FREE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NORTH DISTRICT PAINTING, CALLIGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10) AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL, LUNG SUM AVENUE, SHEUNG SHUI. THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 24 -

MASTERCLASS BY EMPIRE BRASS QUINTET

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THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY WILL JOINTLY PRESENT A MASTERCLASS BY THE EMPIRE BRASS QUINTET ON FEBRUARY 17 (SATURDAY).

THE CLASS WILL BE HELD ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE ARTS CENTRE FROM 1 PM TO 5.30 PM.

THE EMPIRE BRASS QUINTET IS REGARDED AS THE FINEST QUINTET IN NORTH AMERICA AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POPULAR ATTRACTION FOR MUSIC LOVERS.

ITS PERFORMANCES FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THE WHITE HOUSE WERE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED. IT IS ALSO THE FIRST BRASS ENSEMBLE TO WIN THE PRESTIGIOUS NAUMBURG CHAMBER MUSIC AWARD IN WEST GERMANY.

AT THE MASTERCLASS ON FEBRUARY 17, MEMBERS OF THE QUINTET WILL LECTURE ON THE VARIOUS TECHNIQUES IN PLAYING THE TROMBONE, TRUMPET AND FRENCH HORN.

TICKETS AT \$20 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL URBIX OUTLETS. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 8235321.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TSING YI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10), SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS IN TSING YI WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS.

THE TAM KON SHAN INTERCHANGE BETWEEN TSING KING ROAD AND FUNG SHUE WO ROAD WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BECOME 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS:

- * TAM KON SHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON SHAN INTERCHANGE AND A POINT ABOUT 300 METRES TO THE NORTH;
- * TAM KON SHAN ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON SHAN INTERCHANGE AND A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES TO THE NORTH; AND

/* TSING KING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1990

- 25 -

* TSING KING ROAD BETWEEN TAM KON SHAN INTERCHANGE AND A POINT ABOUT 320 METRES NORTH OF TSING LUK STREET.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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BUS LANE TEMPORARILY LIFTED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE SEWER CONSTRUCTION WORKS, THE BUS LANE ON TO KWA WAN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN CHI KIANG STREET AND SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIFTED FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10).

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FLUSHING WATER CUT IN HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK

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FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 10) TO MIDNIGHT THE NEXT DAY (FEBRUARY 11) BECAUSE OF WATER WORKS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS LOCATED AT HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK DISTRICT, INCLUDING KING GEORGE V SCHOOL, HO MAN TIN ESTATE, OI MAN ESTATE, CHUN MAN COURT AND VALLEY ROAD ESTATE.

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