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on 24 AUG 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1993

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PRESS STATEMENT ON MR HAN DONGFANG

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IN ANSWER TO MEDIA INQUIRIES REGARDING CHINA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF MR HAN DONGFANG'S PASSPORT, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF RENDERING MR HAN STATELESS. THAT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, FOR EXAMPLE AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 15 OF THE UNIVERSEAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN URGED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW MR HAN TO ENTER CHINA. THE CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT DOES NOT AFFECT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION'S RECENT DECISION TO EXTEND MR HAN'S PERMISSION TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR A FURTHER MONTH."

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CLEARANCE IN TO KWA WAN DEFERRED

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THE LAND AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED TO DEFER FOR SEVEN MONTHS THE CLEARANCE IN THE SIX STREETS IN TO KWA WAN RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY.

THE DEFERRAL WAS AIMED TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER THE REQUESTS FROM THE SHOP OWNERS AND OPERATORS CONCERNING COMPENSATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID.

A MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT THURSDAY (AUGUST 26) FOR THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, MR ROBERT POPE, TO DISCUSS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLEAREES ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THEM.

THE SITE IS BOUNDED BY MA TAU KOK ROAD, PAK TAI STREET, SAN SHAN ROAD AND PAU CHUNG STREET. IT INVOLVES 114 TENEMENT BUILDINGS AND FOUR SITES OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEMOLISHED.

THE BUILDINGS INVOLVED WERE BUILT EITHER BEFORE OR SHORTLY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND ARE IN POOR CONDITION.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, COMPRISING 824 FLATS IN SIX RESIDENTIAL TOWERS ABOVE A TWO-STOREY PODIUM, WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA AND PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED HOUSING.

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE 1,800 SQUARE METRES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND A SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR THE DISABLED.

THE RESUMPTION NOTICE WAS GAZETTED IN JULY LAST YEAR AND THE SITE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A TOTAL OF 3,500 DOMESTIC OCCUPIERS FROM 1,600 HOUSEHOLDS AND ABOUT 120 BUSINESSES WERE AFFECTED BY THE RESUMPTION.

"THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE AND EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE UNDER THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICY.

"LEGAL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF RESUMED PROPERTIES ARE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR LOSSES, WHICH INCLUDE THE OPEN MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES; LOSS OR DAMAGE TO BUSINESS; REMOVAL EXPENSES AND PROFESSIONAL FEE FOR OBTAINING ADVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR CLAIM.

"THE ASSESSMENT OF OPEN MARKET VALUE OF PROPERTY IS BASED ON MARKET EVIDENCE AS ON THE DATE OF RESUMPTION AND THE EXISTING USE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS LOCATION, AGE AND CONDITION.

"MOST OF THE OWNERS OF THE DOMESTIC UNITS HAVE ACCEPTED CASH COMPENSATION WHILE MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE ELIGIBLE DOMESTIC OCCUPANTS HAVE ACCEPTED REHOUSING OFFERS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CLEARANCE OF THE SITE WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THE MONTH, BUT IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE SHOP OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DEFER THE DATE UNTIL MARCH NEXT YEAR.

"OWNER-OCCUPIERS OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION FOR THEIR PREMISES PLUS BUSINESS LOSS AND REMOVAL ALLOWANCE, WHILE OCCUPIERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BUSINESS LOSS AND REMOVAL EXPENSES.

"THEIR CLAIMS MAY INCLUDE LOSS OF BUSINESS GOODWILL AFTER RELOCATION, LOSS OF TEMPORARY PROFIT DURING RELOCATION, REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYEES, COST OF PHYSICAL REMOVAL AND COSTS OF SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATIVE PREMISES.

"AS SUCH LOSSES AND COSTS CANNOT BE ASSESSED UNTIL REMOVAL OR CESSATION OF THE BUSINESS HAS TAKEN PLACE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS THESE CLAIMS NOW," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN OFFER OF COMPENSATION PRIOR TO REMOVAL."

"AS DIFFICULTIES FACED BY OCCUPIERS ARE RECOGNISED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED AN EX-GRATIA REMOVAL ALLOWANCE TO FACILITATE REMOVAL."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IF AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED, CLAIMANTS ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFER CLAIMS TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR DETERMINATION.

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CONTAINER PORT EMERGENCY CENTRE ACTIVATED

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IN ANTICIPATION OF A HEAVY INCREASE OF TRAFFIC AT THE CONTAINER PORT AREA FOLLOWING THE PARTIAL CLOSURE OF THE CONTAINER TERMINALS FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS, THE CONTAINER PORT EMERGENCY TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE WAS ACTIVATED AT 7.30 AM THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

THE CONTROL CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED SUBSEQUENT TO THE SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION INCIDENT ON JUNE 28 THIS YEAR.

THE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AMONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATIONS, CONTAINER DRIVERS AND THE CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION IN EXECUTING THE MOST APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC MEASURES TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION FROM ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, TRAFFIC CONGESTION HAS BEEN MANAGED EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SUPPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL POLICE MANPOWER ON SITE.

THE RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT OPERATIONS OF THE THREE CONTAINER TERMINALS TODAY HAD ALSO HELPED TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

THIS IS COUPLED WITH VALUABLE ADVICE AND EFFORT FROM THE CONTAINER TRACTORS OWNERS ASSOCIATION AND THE CONTAINER TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION.

BETWEEN 10 AM AND 2 PM, NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG KWAI CHUNG ROAD WAS VERY CONGESTED PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE VERY HEAVY TRAFFIC VOLUME, BOTH FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE CONTAINER PORT, AS WELL AS THE LIMITED CAPACITY AT THE KWAI TSING INTERCHANGE.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENT WORK AT KWAI TSING AND TEXACO ROAD INTERCHANGES ARE IN PROGRESS AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY AND MID-1994 RESPECTIVELY.

BY THAT TIME, TRAFFIC ON THIS CORRIDOR BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING WILL BE MUCH SMOOTHER.

DURING THE PEAK TRAFFIC PERIOD AT 1 PM WHEN TRAFFIC CONGESTION EXTENDED TO TSING YI ISLAND, SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES WERE ARRANGED TO SERVE TSING YI RESIDENTS FROM TSING YI FERRY PIER TO TSIM SHA TSUI UNTIL 6.30 PM THIS EVENING.

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO UPGRADING INDUSTRIAL QUALITY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY BUILT UP A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO HONG KONG BUSINESSES IN UPGRADING QUALITY SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MRS REGINA IP, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIFTH HONG KONG QUALITY CIRCLES CONVENTION, MRS IP SAID HONG KONG HAD TO KEEP MOVING UP MARKET AND UPGRADING ITS QUALITY LEVEL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ITS MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE DEVELOPING NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF OUR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS," SHE SAID.

THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME AND THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ARE EXAMPLES OF THIS COMMITMENT, SHE NOTED.

"ALL THESE SERVICES HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FACILITATING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

MRS IP SAID THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED A QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN 1990 AND AT THE SAME TIME SET UP THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY TO UNDERTAKE QUALITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

"THESE INITIATIVES HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON QUALITY AWARENESS IN OUR MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTORS," SHE SAID.

"THROUGH THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, WE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING THE APPLICATION OF ISO 9000 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND THE CONCEPT OF A TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO RUNNING BUSINESS OPERATIONS," SHE ADDED.

"TODAY, MANY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN AWARDED ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION, AND MANY OTHERS ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION.

"WE ALSO SEE INCREASED INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES IN TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT," MRS IP SAID.

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MEETING IN GUANGZHOU ON ECVII'S

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A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED BY THE ACTING POLITICAL ADVISER, MR JOHN ASHTON, WILL ATTEND A MEETING IN GUANGZHOU ON MONDAY (AUGUST 23) TO DISCUSS EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVIIS).

MR ASHTON WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE; DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALEX YEUNG; AND ASSISTANT POLITICAL ADVISER, MS ANNETTE LEE.

THE MEETING HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS, WHICH WILL LEAD THE CHINESE SIDE. OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND FROM GUANGDONG AND NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENDING THE RECENT INFLUX OF ECVIIS TO HONG KONG, AND FOR RETURNING THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED TO CHINA.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MR ASHTON AND MR JOHN YEUNG WILL SPEAK TO THE MEDIA BEFORE BOARDING THEIR TRAIN AT HUNG HOM RAIL TERMINUS TOMORROW (SUNDAY) EVENING. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE VIP ROOM AT 5.30 PM.

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LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION

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FIFTY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,381,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE LECTURE HALL OF THE SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK 9000 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$830,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK FK18 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$210,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR FG8602 AND FF9965.

/FOLLOWING ARE

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FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION

	\$		\$		\$		\$
FG9388	16,000	FG8688	24,000	AL813	90,000	FF9668	10,000
FF9193	8,000	FH113	36,000	FH603	12,000	FG711	12,000
*FJ6868	36,000	*FC15	65,000	*FP19	60,000	*9000	830,000
XX3303	24,000	FG129	12,000	CX2886	30,000	FF8638	12,000
FG886	28,000	AL782	22,000	FF8826	14,000	FG8168	24,000
FH162	22,000	FF8018	12,000	BB8893	34,000	CR423	7,000
FG6889	8,000	AJ338	140,000	FG2328	32,000	FG1116	6,000
*CR83	50,000	*492	140,000	*FK18	210,000	*FP34	38,000
FF9293	4,000	FF8613	12,000	BB3129	18,000	FH1962	2,000
FG738	12,000	FG328	150,000	FG1800	28,000	FF776	10,000
FG2378	9,000	DD1312	14,000	*FP1122	18,000	FG7088	6,000
FG7662	5,000	DA1132	4,000	FG8602	1,000	*FC2727	22,000
FF9965	1,000	FG1494	WITHDRAWN				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

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

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

TODAY'S SALE, THE 200TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO \$211,201,905.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR FG1494. THIS VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

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LEVY RATE FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND REVISED

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THE REVISED RATE OF LEVY ON THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS EXCEEDING \$1 MILLION AND OF QUARRY PRODUCTS WILL TAKE EFFECT TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

IT IS TO ENABLE THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO MEET ITS LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS IN MAKING COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TO PNEUMOCONIOTICS UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE (PCO).

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE RATE OF LEVY FROM 0.02 PER CENT TO 0.3 PER CENT WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 21 AND GAZETTED ON JULY 23.

"THE REVISION IN THE RATE OF LEVY IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FINANCE AN IMPROVED COMPENSATION PACKAGE TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERERS," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

/FOLLOWING THE

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FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993, COMPENSATION PAYMENTS WILL BE PAID MONTHLY TO SUFFERERS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS DIAGNOSED AFTER 1981 UNTIL HIS DEATH, HE SAID.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IS TO ALLOW PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A LUMP SUM COMPENSATION TO FURTHER RECEIVE MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF THEY SUFFER ADDITIONAL INCAPACITY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE PCO, THE NEW LEVY RATE WILL NOT APPLY TO ANY CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR WHICH THE TENDER WAS SUBMITTED BEFORE AUGUST 22 THIS YEAR.

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VARIETY SHOW FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS

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THE MONTH-LONG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL END WITH A VARIETY SHOW TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THE SHOW WILL RUN FROM 2.30 PM TO 5 PM ON THE FORBES STREET PLAYGROUND IN KENNEDY TOWN.

HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE A TAEKWONDO DEMONSTRATION, AND SINGING, DANCING AND CHOIR PERFORMANCES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE NINE GAME STALLS WITH ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE.

OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, MR HOWARD LEE; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAM KIN-LAI AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAMME'S CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR BILLY LAM.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CLOSING CEREMONY CUM VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) ON THE FORBES STREET PLAYGROUND IN KENNEDY TOWN.

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FIRING PRACTICE IN SEPTEMBER

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

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

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES FOR THE FIRING PRACTICE:

DATE -----	TIME -----
SEPTEMBER 1 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 2 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 3 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 6 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 7 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 8 (WEDNESDAY)	5 AM - 11.59 PM
SEPTEMBER 9 (THURSDAY)	5 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 10 (FRIDAY)	5 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 13 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 14 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 15 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 16 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 17 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 20 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
SEPTEMBER 21 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
SEPTEMBER 22 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 24 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 25 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 27 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 28 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,880
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,880
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-320
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,560
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.2 *-0.2* 21.8.93

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GUESTHOUSES COME UNDER LICENSING CONTROL IN SEPTEMBER

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ALL TOURIST GUESTHOUSE OPERATORS WHO WISH TO OBTAIN A LICENCE TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS MUST COMPLETE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS BY THE END OF AUGUST, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE THESE ACCOMMODATIONS UNDER LICENSING CONTROL BY SEPTEMBER 1.

NOTING THAT THE SAFETY OF LODGERS SHOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, HE REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE EXEMPTION PERIOD.

UNDER THE HOTEL AND GUESTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION ORDINANCE, ANYONE WHO OPERATES A GUESTHOUSE WITHOUT A LICENCE OR A VALID CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION COMMITS AN OFFENCE.

THE OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$200,000 AND TWO-YEAR IMPRISONMENT AND TO A FURTHER FINE OF \$20,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1991 TO PROVIDE FOR A LICENSING SCHEME TO REGULATE THE FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY OF HOTELS AND GUESTHOUSES.

OPERATORS WERE THEN GIVEN A TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION PERIOD, DURING WHICH OFFICERS FROM THE CNTA'S LICENSING AUTHORITY (LA) INSPECTED THEIR PREMISES AND ADVISED THEM IN WRITING ON THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT OPERATORS WHO WERE STILL ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING OUT IMPROVEMENTS WERE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE LA OFFICE WHOSE STAFF WOULD BE PLEASED TO ADVISE.

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT A FIVE-DAY EXHIBITION IN SHAM SHUI PO TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED.

"THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED JOINTLY WITH SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL LIAISON COMMITTEE, FORMS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MRS JENNIE CHOR, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"IT WILL INTRODUCE THE DEPARTMENT'S FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE DISABLED AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS, ITS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS.

"ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHS OF DISABLED EMPLOYEES ON DIFFERENT KINDS OF JOBS," SHE SAID.

LEAFLETS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS AT THE VENUE.

MRS CHOR SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE DEPARTMENT CO-OPERATED WITH THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD IN ORGANISING SUCH EXHIBITIONS.

"WE HOPE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DISTRICT BOARDS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ABILITIES OF DISABLED WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ON MORE DISABLED WORKERS," SHE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION, TO BE HELD ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL CENTRE AT 489 - 491 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, CHEUNG SHA WAN, WILL BE OPEN FROM 2 PM TO 9 PM TOMORROW.

THE OPENING HOURS ARE 9 AM TO 9 PM FROM TUESDAY TO THURSDAY AND 9 AM TO NOON ON FRIDAY.

EMPLOYERS WHO WISH TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON VACANCIES CAN CONTACT THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT EITHER BY TELEPHONE ON 852 4809 OR BY FAX TO 541 5290.

DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS WHO WISH TO SEEK PLACEMENT SERVICES CAN APPROACH THE DIVISION EITHER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE ON 852 4809.

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CLINIC SERVICE TO SUSPEND ON SATURDAY

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE WOULD BE SUSPENDED ON THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON AUGUST 28.

HOWEVER, EIGHT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON AUGUST 30 (LIBERATION DAY AND THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST) WHICH IS ALSO A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; THE KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAUMATEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. ALL OTHER GENERAL OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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