



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1988

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SGD OUTLINES REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

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THE SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOOD WORK ALREADY BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND BEYOND.

SPEAKING AT THE U.S. - HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CONFERENCE, MR WIGGHAM SAID HIS OPTIMISM WAS BASED ON THREE MAIN REASONS.

"FIRST, THERE IS NO CONCEIVABLE BENEFIT TO ANYONE, LEAST OF ALL THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE AGREEMENT NOT TO WORK," HE SAID.

"THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, TO THE IMAGINATIVE POLICY OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'.

"IT WAS FOR THIS REASONS THAT THE CHINESE ENGAGED IN TWO YEARS OF CONCENTRATED HARD WORK, TOGETHER WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, TO PRODUCE THE JOINT DECLARATION."

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT HONG KONG COULD CONTRIBUTE ENORMOUSLY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS OVER-RIDING ECONOMIC GOALS AND THAT HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO MAKE THIS CONTRIBUTION DEPENDED ON THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS SYSTEMS, AND ON THE CONFIDENCE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"THERE IS THEREFORE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHINA WOULD RISK THE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, THAT WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT FROM RENEGING ON AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

THE SECOND REASON FOR OPTIMISM WAS THAT THE EVIDENCE OF THE PAST THREE YEARS SHOWED THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS WORKING.

"WHY SHOULD CHINA PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO THIS, IF ONLY TO SEE IT DISMANTLED IN EIGHT YEARS' TIME?" HE COMMENTED.

"MY LAST, IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT, REASON FOR OPTIMISM IS MY CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," MR WIGGHAM CONTINUED.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS BLESSED WITH INTELLIGENT AND MULTI-TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAD TRANSFORMED THE TERRITORY INTO ONE OF THE WORLD'S BUSIEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES.

THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD BE A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SPUR A PLACE THEY CALLED HOME TO NEW HEIGHTS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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REFERRING TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR WIGGHAM SAID MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE GROUP HAD COME TO RESPECT THE CHINESE SIDE FOR THEIR CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH, AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE CARE AND SENSE OF PURPOSE WITH WHICH THEY HAD CONSIDERED ALL THE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

HE PUT EMPHASIS ON THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR, ADDING THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEPENDED LARGELY ON ITS ABILITY TO TRADE FREELY AND INDEPENDENTLY.

MR WIGGHAM SAID AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WERE OF CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

THIS WAS SO INDIVIDUALLY BUT, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE AGREEMENTS COLLECTIVELY PLACED HONG KONG FIRMLY IN ITS PROPER INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT.

THEY PROVIDED VISIBLE PROOF THAT CONCRETE STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TOWARDS FULFILLING PROMISES MADE IN 1984.

IN ADDITION, THE AGREEMENTS SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HONG KONG WOULD MAINTAIN ITS EXISTING ROLE AS A THRIVING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

TURNING TO THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, MR WIGGHAM SAID HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY HOW OPEN THAT PROCESS HAD BEEN, AND HOW RECEPTIVE THE CHINESE HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE.

"THIS FIRST CONSULTATION EXERCISE HAS SHOWN THAT THE DRAFTING AND CONSULTATION PROCESSES ARE NOT PERFUNCTORY," HE SAID.

"PUBLIC OPINION IS BEING TAKEN ACCOUNT OF - THOUGH OF COURSE IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO MEET EVERYONE'S WISHES."

HE HOPED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, DUE EARLY NEXT YEAR, WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE THE CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS IN THE DETERMINATION OF ALL CONCERNED TO PRODUCE THE BEST POSSIBLE VERSION OF THE BASIC LAW.

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FESTIVE SEASON: RESIDENTS URGED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL LEUNG, TODAY (MONDAY) APPEALED TO RESIDENTS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO AVOID CONGESTION DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FESTIVE LIGHTINGS AND ACTIVITIES, MR LEUNG URGED RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS OR YOUNG CHILDREN, TO EXERCISE CARE IN CONGESTED AREAS.

"PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT MOST PEOPLE VIEW THE LIGHTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND THAT TSIM SHA TSUI HAS BY FAR THE BIGGEST CROWDS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT MOST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WOULD BE ON FOR SOME TIME, AND RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY THEM AT THEIR LEISURE.

APART FROM THE CENTRES OF ATTRACTION IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND CENTRAL, THERE WERE ALSO CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS AND NUMEROUS PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES IN OTHER DISTRICTS WHICH PEOPLE COULD ENJOY WITHOUT TRAVELLING TOO FAR FROM THEIR HOMES.

THE VARIOUS ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING VARIETY SHOWS AND FESTIVAL CARNIVALS ORGANISED BY LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES, WERE ALSO EXPECTED TO ATTRACT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, A CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER, MR CHOY HON-LEUNG, ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WOULD BE EXTENDED DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

"MOST PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT, PEAK TRAM, TRAMS, BUSES AND FERRIES, WILL BE RUNNING EITHER ALL NIGHT OR WELL INTO THE EARLY MORNING BOTH ON DECEMBER 25 AND ON JANUARY 1," MR CHOY SAID.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT SCHEMES AND ROAD CLOSURES, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THE POLICE WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS SHORTLY.

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GOVERNOR VISITS CIVIL AID SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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HONG KONG IS FORTUNATE IN ITS AUXILIARY SERVICES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) AFTER PAYING A VISIT TO THE CIVIL AID SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

"MANY PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO DEVOTE LONG PERIODS OF THEIR LEISURE TIME TO WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT IS GREATLY TO THE CREDIT OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE. IT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY THOSE WHO DESCRIBE OUR SOCIETY AS MATERIALISTIC."

THE GOVERNOR BEGAN HIS VISIT AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT AT CAROLINE HILL ROAD.

HE WAS MET BY THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR JOHN FORTUNE, WHO BRIEFED HIM ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE CADET CORPS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS TOLD THAT, HAVING FULFILLED ITS TASK OF MANAGING RECEPTION CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE CAS COULD NOW DEVOTE MORE TIME TO TRAINING VOLUNTEERS - TRAINING THEM FOR ALL KINDS OF CRISES THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG, BE THEY NATURAL OR MAN MADE.

SIR DAVID THEN TOURED THE CAS HEADQUARTERS OFFICES, WHERE HE MET THE TRAINING STAFF AND INSPECTED TRAINING FACILITIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO WATCHED A 10-MINUTE VIDEO ON "CAS TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES".

THE GOVERNOR VISITED THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE AT ARGYLE STREET WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A SHORT BRIEFING ON THE FACILITIES AND PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE.

HE WATCHED A COMMUNICATION EXERCISE TAKING PLACE, AND WAS SHOWN DEMONSTRATIONS OF "RESCUE AND CASUALTY HANDLING" AND "CASUALTY SIMULATION" AND A DISPLAY ON "HEAVY RESCUE" AND "MOUNTAIN RESCUE" EQUIPMENT.

SIR DAVID ENDED HIS VISIT BY MEETING STAFF AND SENIOR VOLUNTEERS AT A TEA RECEPTION IN THE OFFICERS MESS.

HE COMMENDED THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTEER MEMBERS FOR THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THAT THE CAS HAS MADE TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

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PUBLIC REMINDED OF FIREWORKS PROHIBITION

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE UNLICENSED POSSESSION OR DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS, FIRE-CRACKERS, PISTOL CAPS AND PARTY POPPERS IS PROHIBITED.

UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON WHO POSSESSES OR DISCHARGES ANY FIREWORKS WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"SPOT CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S MINES DIVISION, ESPECIALLY AROUND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR, ON SHOPS AND PREMISES SUSPECTED OF SELLING OR STORING SUCH GOODS," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ANY UNLICENSED FIREWORKS FOUND WILL BE SEIZED AND THE OFFENDERS PROSECUTED."

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS CONFISCATED MORE THAN 1,120 PIECES OF PARTY POPPERS AND 9,460 ROUNDS OF PISTOL CAPS LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, 1,544 KILOGRAMS OF UNLICENSED FIREWORKS SEIZED BY THE POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WERE HANDED OVER TO THE DIVISION LAST YEAR.

HE URGED THOSE IN POSSESSION OF ANY FIREWORKS OR CATEGORY I DANGEROUS GOODS TO SURRENDER THEM IMMEDIATELY TO THE MINES DIVISION AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KOWLOON.

THEY CAN ALSO TELEPHONE THE EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS ON 3-7332383 OR 3-7332384 FOR SUCH GOODS TO BE COLLECTED.

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AAB MEMBERS LOOK AT AIRPORT TERMINAL EXTENSION

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MEMBERS OF THE AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED THE AIRPORT PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND LOOKED OVER THE STAGE V EXTENSION TO THE PASSENGER TERMINAL WHICH CAME INTO FULL OPERATION LAST WEEK.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR TREVOR THORPE, THE MEMBERS INCLUDED MR EUGENE SULLIVAN; MR ALEX WU; MR MARTIN BARROW; MR EDMOND LAU; DR PHILIP LAI; MR HELMUT SOHMEN, AND MR DAVID GLEDHILL.

/DURING THEIR .....

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DURING THEIR TOUR OF THE NEW ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AREAS, MEMBERS LEARNED THAT PASSENGER TRAFFIC THROUGH KAI TAK HAD SUSTAINED VERY STRONG GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS.

FOLLOWING THE ALMOST 20 PER CENT INCREASE IN 1987, THE TOTAL ANNUAL PASSENGER THROUGHPUT SHOULD EXCEED 15 MILLION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE COMPLETION OF THE \$273-MILLION STAGE V PROJECT OFFERS A TIMELY RELIEF TO THE ORIGINAL TERMINAL BUILDING WHICH HAS FOR THE PAST YEAR BEEN OPERATING ABOVE ITS DESIGN CAPACITY OF 12 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR.

THE PEAK HOUR PASSENGER PROCESSING CAPACITY HAS NOW BEEN RAISED FROM 3,400 TO 5,300 PER HOUR, AND INCREASED THE ANNUAL CAPACITY TO 20 MILLION PASSENGERS.

MEMBERS OBSERVED PASSENGER CHECK-INS AT THE TWO NEW AIRLINE CHECK-IN ISLANDS IN THE DEPARTURES HALL, BEFORE PROCEEDING THROUGH THE NEW TRANSFER COACH TERMINUS TO THE BASEMENT TO WATCH THE OPERATION OF THE ELEVATED DEPARTURE BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM.

AT THE END OF THEIR TOUR, MEMBERS VISITED THE ARRIVALS CUSTOMS HALL WHERE THEY SAW A COMPARISON OF THE OLD AND NEW WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND THE TWO NEW BAGGAGE RECLAIM UNITS IN USE.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT AN EXTENSIVE PROJECT TO REFURBISH THE BUILDING FINISHES AND MODERNISE VARIOUS FITTINGS OF THE ORIGINAL TERMINAL WOULD BEGIN SHORTLY SO THAT ALL FACILITIES IN THE TERMINAL WOULD BE BROUGHT UP TO THE STANDARD OF THE STAGE V EXTENSION.

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#### VIGILANTE GROUPS NOT NECESSARY

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE POLICE WERE ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF PRESERVING LAW AND ORDER IN TUEN MUN AND THAT VIGILANTE GROUPS WERE UNNECESSARY.

MR HANSON HOPED THAT THE RESIDENTS OF SIU HONG COURT WOULD REPORT ANY INCIDENTS OF DISORDER TO THE POLICE AND DISCUSS THEIR GENERAL CONCERNS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

HE ADDED THAT THE PACE OF THE LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEE CENTRES IN TUEN MUN COULD BE ADJUSTED IF MAJOR LAW AND ORDER DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THE POLICE WERE ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE SITUATION.

FOLLOWING THE RECENT MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN WORKING GROUP ON THE LIBERALISATION OF REFUGEE CENTRES, THE POLICE HAD STRENGTHENED THEIR PATROLS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF SIU HONG COURT.

THE WORKING GROUP HAD ALSO AGREED TO STRENGTHEN THE CULTURAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WOULD CONVENE A SEMINAR AND INVITE WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, REFUGEE REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

"THE CONCERN OF LOCAL PEOPLE MUST BE ADDRESSED BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE KEEP THE ISSUES IN PERSPECTIVE," MR HANSON SAID.

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COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION UNDER REVIEW

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A LAW REFORM COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE IS AT PRESENT CONDUCTING A WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF LOCAL COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AND HOPES TO SUBMIT A REPORT BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT THE U.S.-HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CONFERENCE CO-ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE ASIAN AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT IT TOOK TIME FOR THE LAW TO CATCH UP WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM'S COPYRIGHT (COMPUTER SOFTWARE) AMENDMENT ACT OF 1985, WHICH WAS RECENTLY EXTENDED TO HONG KONG, CONFIRMING THAT COMPUTER PROGRAMS WERE PROTECTED IN WHATEVER FORM THEY TOOK, WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY STOP-GAP MEASURE PENDING THE ENACTMENT OF MODERN COMPREHENSIVE COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG.

MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE STRONG PROTECTION FOR COPYRIGHT MATERIALS AND WOULD HAVE REGARD TO PARTICULAR VULNERABILITY OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS TO COPYRIGHT PIRACY.

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"THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS WILL SEE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGIME, CONSOLIDATING AND IMPROVING OUR ALREADY ADVANCED LEGISLATION, COUPLED WITH A CONTINUING HIGH STANDARD OF ENFORCEMENT," HE SAID.

CURRENTLY BOTH CRIMINAL AND CIVIL SANCTIONS WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE IN HONG KONG.

THE EXISTING COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT OFFENCES WERE COMMITTED FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT AND FOR THE POSSESSION OR USE OF EQUIPMENT FOR PRODUCING INFRINGING COPIES.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, WHICH CARRIED OUT THE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROTECTION LEGISLATION, WAS HIGHLY REGARDED BY ITS COUNTERPARTS AROUND THE WORLD FOR ITS INTEGRITY DEDICATION AND EFFICIENCY.

"THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT OPERATE ENTIRELY EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS WHOSE RIGHTS ARE BEING INFRINGED," HE SAID.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD SEIZED \$14.43 WORTH OF PIRATED SOFTWARE AND MANUALS THIS YEAR, HE ADDED.

THE TWO-DAY U.S.-HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CONFERENCE WHICH BEGAN AT THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL TODAY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A ONE-DAY FACTORY VISIT.

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TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME TO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

ANOTHER MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE TAC WILL BE THE INTRODUCTION OF A DRIVING TEST FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE DRIVERS.

THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME (1989-1993) AND THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION OF ITS FRANCHISE WILL ALSO BE EXAMINED.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE EXISTING AND PLANNED MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARKING, LOADING AND UNLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

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PAC PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 21), BEGINNING AT 9.30 AM.

SENIOR OFFICIALS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT (PARAGRAPHS 16.1 TO 16.3 - "AGREEMENTS WITH THE POWER COMPANIES FOR PUBLIC LIGHTING").

THEY ARE THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON; SENIOR PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR BRIAN JENNEY; AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR ALAN DEEPROSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE PUBLIC HEARING ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT WHICH WAS ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 16.

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OCTOBER ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED

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IN OCTOBER 1988, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN SEPTEMBER 1988, BUT SHOWED A DECREASE OF TWO PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987.

THIS IS SHOWN BY THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND INCREASED marginally IN THE WEARING APPAREL, TEXTILES AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BUT DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE ORDERS POSITION IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987, THE ORDERS POSITION IN OCTOBER 1988 DROPPED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES AND MODERATELY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY, BUT INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

/THE AVERAGE .....

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THE OCTOBER 1988 LEVEL WAS LOWER BY ONE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1988 AND BY SIX PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, EMPLOYMENT DECREASED APPRECIABLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987, EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER 1988 DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND MODERATELY IN MOST OTHER INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, EXCEPT FOR THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WHICH REGISTERED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN OCTOBER 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, BUT INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS OVER OCTOBER 1987.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1988 WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, BUT DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN OCTOBER 1988 INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER 1988 INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER BOTH SEPTEMBER 1988 AND OCTOBER 1987. PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED MODERATELY OVER SEPTEMBER 1988 AND SUBSTANTIALLY OVER OCTOBER 1987.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS SECTOR COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SERVICE SECTORS SURVEYED, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER 1988 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, BUT INCREASED MODERATELY OVER OCTOBER 1987.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN OCTOBER 1988 DECREASED MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1988, FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF BONUSES BY SOME FIRMS IN THE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND IN OTHER SERVICE SECTORS IN THE PRECEDING TWO MONTHS.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1988 WITH OCTOBER 1987, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE SERVICE SECTOR SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY IN BANKS AND HOTELS.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT THE MAGNITUDES OF CHANGES INDICATED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

NEVERTHELESS, THESE ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1988 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234820.

TABLE 1: ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF OCTOBER 1988 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
		SEP. 88 (%)	OCT. 87 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.28	*	-2
WEARING APPAREL	4.66	+1	-4
TEXTILES	2.34	+3	-18
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.51	-4	-13
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.46	+2	+4
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.13	*	+2
OTHERS	4.17	*	-1

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

/TABLE 2: .....

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF OCTOBER 1988	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	SEP. 88	OCT. 87
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	-1	-6
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	-4
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-6
TEXTILES	-1	-5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-5	-20
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	+2	+1
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	-5
OTHERS	*	-4
CONSTRUCTION <sup>#</sup>	+1	+2
SERVICES	*	+4
BANKS	+1	+4
HOTELS	+1	*
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*
OTHERS	+1	+12

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

# PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3: PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS		
	AVERAGE AS IN OCTOBER 1988	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	(HK\$)	SEP. 88 (%)	OCT. 87 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4,465	*	+17
FOOD AND DRINKS	5,172	-1	+16
WEARING APPAREL	3,833	+4	+17
TEXTILES	4,423	+3	+16
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	4,416	-4	+23
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4,325	*	+20
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	4,240	-2	+17
OTHERS	5,752	+2	+16
CONSTRUCTION <sup>#</sup>	6,607	+4	+21
SERVICES	7,395	-4	+14
BANKS	7,018	*	+19
HOTELS	4,834	+1	+18
PUBLIC UTILITIES	7,648	-5	+11
OTHERS	8,071	-7	+11

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

# PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTES TO TABLES 1-3: UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE FIRMS SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE FIRMS SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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MEMBERS OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- POSITION REPORT ON THE 1988-89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT;
- PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES;
- PROGRAMME OF 1988-89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN ACTIVITIES;
- RECYCLING OF PLASTIC BAGS COLLECTED IN THE COURSE OF REFUSE COLLECTION;
- PUBLICITY AND ACTION PROGRAMME FOR 1989-90 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL.

A BRIEFING SESSION FOR THE MEDIA WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A PAPER PREPARED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH ON THE LICENSING GUIDELINES IN RESPECT OF AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE MORE STRINGENT CRITERIA ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES TO OPERATE SUCH CENTRES.

/WRITTEN QUESTIONS .....

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE TRAM DEPOT IN WAN CHAI, DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS, THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES, WILL ALSO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE WORK OF WAN CHAI BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT, AND A REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY MR CHAN YING-LUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD STARTING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, EIGHTH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

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GAMES CENTRES LICENSING GUIDELINES TO BE EXPLAINED

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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ENTERTAINMENT) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH, MR DAVID WEBB, WILL ATTEND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO EXPLAIN TO MEMBERS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES.

HE WILL OUTLINE THE BACKGROUND OF THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES ORDINANCE, THE AGE LIMIT FOR ADMISSION TO GAMES CENTRES AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

DURING THE MEETING, THE REPORTS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WHICH WILL START AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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WATER BILLS CAN BE SETTLED BY AUTOPAY

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THE PUBLIC CAN NOW SETTLE THEIR WATER BILLS IN A MORE CONVENIENT WAY - BY AUTOPAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE WATER AUTHORITY SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THIS WAS ONE OF SEVERAL NEW SERVICES TO BE INTRODUCED BY PHASES OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

IT ARISES FROM ENHANCEMENT OF THE WATER AUTHORITY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM.

ANY CONSUMER WHO HAS A CURRENT OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT WITH A LICENSED BANK IN HONG KONG CAN USE THIS SERVICE.

THE CONSUMER SHOULD COMPLETE A DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION FORM, OBTAINABLE FROM MAJOR BANKS IN HONG KONG, THE DISTRICT OFFICES, THE TREASURY COLLECTION OFFICES OR THE WATER AUTHORITY CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRES, AND RETURN IT TO THE WATER AUTHORITY.

"WE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF ALL THE FORMS. AS IT WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX WEEKS FOR US TO PROCESS THE COMPLETED FORMS, CONSUMERS WILL NEED TO PAY THEIR WATER BILLS IN THE USUAL WAY UNTIL THEY RECEIVE ONE PRINTED WITH THE NOTE 'PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY AS AUTHORISED'," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IF A CONSUMER SO WISHES HE MAY SET A LIMIT FOR HIS PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY.

"IF THE AMOUNT OF CHARGES ON THE BILL EXCEEDS THIS AUTOPAY LIMIT, THE CONSUMER WILL NEED TO SEPARATELY SETTLE THE EXCESS AMOUNT INDICATED ON THE WATER BILL.

"BY USING THE AUTOPAY SERVICE, CONSUMERS CAN AVOID THE INCONVENIENCE OF HAVING TO QUEUE TO PAY, AND THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY WHETHER OR NOT THEIR CHEQUES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY US ON TIME.

"THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS WILL BE DEBITED ON THE LAST DAY BEFORE SURCHARGE IS IMPOSED AND THERE IS NO RISK OF LATE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS."

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CONSUMERS, THE WATER AUTHORITY WILL, FROM JANUARY, ALSO SEND ALL THE CONSUMERS A DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION FORM TOGETHER WITH THEIR NEXT WATER BILLS.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE AUTOPAY SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING THE OFFICE OF THE WATER AUTHORITY ON 5-8900221 (12 LINES) OR BY CALLING IN PERSON AT ANY OF THE WATER AUTHORITY'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRES.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE SEPTEMBER, CONSUMERS HAD ALSO BEEN ABLE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THEIR ACCOUNTS IN A SIMPLE WAY.

THEY WOULD SUPPLY THE WATER AUTHORITY WITH THEIR SERVICE ADDRESSES, OR IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS (OR BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE NUMBERS IN THE CASE OF TRADE CONSUMERS), WITHOUT NECESSARILY QUOTING THEIR WATER ACCOUNT NUMBERS AS REQUIRED IN THE PAST.

"STARTING FROM THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, THE CHANGE OF CONSUMERSHIP CAN BE EFFECTED INSTANTLY OVER THE COUNTER ON THE CONSUMER'S APPLICATION IN PERSON AT OUR DESIGNATED CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRES SO THAT THE CONSUMER CAN MAKE SURE THAT WATER SUPPLY WILL NOT BE INTERRUPTED ON A CHANGE OF CONSUMERSHIP," HE ADDED.

"WE SHALL INTRODUCE, FROM THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, MONTHLY BILLING OF WATER CHARGES FOR OUR LARGE TRADE CONSUMERS WHOSE METER SIZE IS ONE-AND-A-HALF INCHES OR ABOVE SO THAT WE CAN READ THESE METERS MORE FREQUENTLY TO DETECT AND RECTIFY LEAKAGES, DAMAGES OR DEFECTIVE METERS MORE PROMPTLY.

"INDIVIDUAL CONSUMERS CONCERNED WILL BE INFORMED OF THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF WATER DEPOSITS REQUIRED, IN ABOUT A MONTH'S TIME."

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#### ANTIQUE BIRD CAGES A HIGHLIGHT OF NORTH SHOW

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A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF SOME 20 ANTIQUE CAGES FOR BIRDS WILL BE PUT ON PUBLIC DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THESE CAGES, MADE OF FINE BAMBOO AND SHOWING EXCELLENT CRAFTSMANSHIP, WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE SECOND NORTH DISTRICT (1988) FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT AND FISH SHOW, TO BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 23 (FRIDAY) TO DECEMBER 27.

IN ADDITION, A LARGE NUMBER OF BIRDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

THE FIVE-DAY SHOW, SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND AND THE ADJACENT FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE.

/COMPETITIONS WILL .....

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COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD IN FIVE CATEGORIES OF FLOWERS AND PLANTS ON DISPLAY -- POT PLANTS, MINIATURE POT PLANTS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, BONSAI-TYPE PLANTS AND ORCHIDS.

OTHER, NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS WILL BE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS.

THE ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE AIRLINE COMPANIES, FLORAL GROUPS BOTH LOCAL AND FROM CHINA, AND THE KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID ASSOCIATION.

THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PROVIDING EXHIBITS.

THE FLOWER SECTION INCLUDES VARIEGATED AFRICAN VIOLETS AND A HYBRID FORM, CALLED "PIN-WHEEL AFRICAN VIOLETS"; A BONSAI-TYPE PLANT FIRST CULTIVATED BY A MONK IN THE TANG DYNASTY; FLOWERS FROM NEW ZEALAND WHICH CAN GROW ANYWHERE WITHOUT WATER OR SOIL; AND VARIOUS ORCHIDS.

LANDSCAPING FEATURES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SHOW FOR THE FIRST TIME. EXPERTS WILL BE ON HAND TO GIVE ADVICE.

OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE WILL BE ILLUSTRATED SPECIMENS AND PICTURES OF COMMON WOODLAND INSECTS IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS BUTTERFLIES, BEES, BEETLES, CRICKETS, WHICH ARE BEING PROVIDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

EIGHT TANKS OF VARIOUS SPECIES OF GOLDFISH WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

THE MOST DISTINCTIVE EXHIBIT WILL BE A PAIR OF HYBRID GOLDFISH WITH BLACK HEADS AND RED DOTS ON WHITE BODIES.

A LOCAL EXPERT DEVELOPED THIS RARE SPECIES OVER FOUR YEARS.

A SERIES OF FRINGE ACTIVITIES -- SUCH AS BEE SHOWS, TALKS ON ORCHIDS, AFRICAN VIOLETS AND BONSAI CULTIVATION, WITH QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS -- HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR VISITORS.

DURING THE SHOW, VISITORS WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY PERFORMANCES BY A CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND BY AN ORCHESTRA, AS WELL AS BY SONGS AND DANCES BY TELEVISION ARTISTES.

THE SHOW WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 1 PM TO 5.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 23); BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 5.30 PM FROM SATURDAY (DECEMBER 24) TO MONDAY (DECEMBER 26); AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 27).

THE ADMISSION FEE IS \$5 FOR ADULTS AND \$2 FOR CHILDREN.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVIORS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 39.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 230.213 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 360.687 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 61.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MAIN-LAYING IN SIU SAI WAN

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF A FRESH WATER PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION MAIN IN SIU SAI WAN.

THE PROJECT, WHICH INVOLVES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 370 METRES OF 600-MILLIMETRE DIAMETER STEEL FRESH WATER PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION MAIN, IS RELATED TO SITE FORMATION WORK NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

THE MAIN WILL FORM PART OF THE NEW FRESH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM BEING IMPLEMENTED TO MEET THE FUTURE WATER DEMAND GENERATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT MARCH AND TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOON ON JANUARY 6.

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