



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR AT A PUBLIC MEETING ON HIS POLICY ADDRESS AT HKU

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GOVERNOR: GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR COMING THIS EVENING. THE LAST TIME I WAS IN THIS HALL WAS TO HEAR A LECTURE WHICH SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE ATTENDED BY SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW. IT WAS AN OCCASION ON WHICH HE MADE HIS VIEWS UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR ON DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG AND RELATED ISSUES AND I SAID AT THE END OF THAT MEETING THAT I LOOKED FORWARD IN DUE COURSE AFTER 1997 TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING MY VIEWS CLEAR ON DEMOCRACY IN SINGAPORE. BUT TONIGHT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A SPEECH. TONIGHT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT I SAID IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS YEAR, OR ANY OTHER MATTERS.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT, ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH GOVERNMENT MAKES ITSELF ACCOUNTABLE IS BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND, IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE, YOU SPEND A LOT LONGER TRYING TO GET THE DECISIONS RIGHT.

THE FORM THIS EVENING, I THINK YOU KNOW. WE'VE GOT ABOUT AN HOUR AND A QUARTER AND I'LL CALL QUESTIONS IN GROUPS OF THREE AND WE'LL SEE HOW MANY QUESTIONS WE CAN GET THROUGH DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING. ACTUALLY GROUPS OF FOUR BECAUSE I CAN SEE THERE'S A MICROPHONE STAND UP IN THE GALLERY. THE ONE THING I WOULD ASK ALL QUESTIONERS, ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT ASKING QUESTIONS, OR WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASK QUESTIONS, IS TO KEEP THE QUESTIONS SHORT. QUITE APART FROM ANYTHING ELSE, I'LL LET YOU INTO A SECRET: SHORT QUESTIONS ARE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THAN LONG QUESTIONS. ANYWAY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO BEGIN IN THE TIME-HONOURED FASHION, ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO ASK A QUESTION PUT YOUR HAND UP, AND IF NOBODY WANTS TO ASK A QUESTION WE CAN ALL GO HOME EARLY. ALL RIGHT, HANDS UP. THERE'S A LADY WHO'S VERY ENERGETICALLY PUTTING HER HAND UP HERE, IF SHE'D LIKE TO GO TO MICROPHONE NUMBER ONE, THEN OVER THERE THERE'S A GENTLEMAN WITH GLASSES - IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO ROUND TO NUMBER TWO. THERE'S A GENTLEMAN AT THE BACK ALSO WITH GLASSES WITH HIS LEFT HAND IN THE AIR, IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO TO MICROPHONE THREE AND, IF THE ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS WOULD ALLOW, SOMEBODY UP IN THE GALLERY MAY WANT TO ASK A QUESTION AT NUMBER FOUR. ANYBODY IN THE GALLERY WANT TO ASK A QUESTION? ANYBODY APART FROM THE ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS? MR. PATTEN, WHY HAVE THEY CLEANED THE STREET THREE TIMES BEFORE YOU CAME TODAY? NOBODY AT NUMBER FOUR FOR A BIT. NUMBER ONE - QUESTION?

/QUESTION

QUESTION: MR. PATTEN, I'M THE RESIDENT REP OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE ALONE IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN SHEUNG SHUI AND TIN SAM IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO KNOW THAT IN YOUR ADDRESS THIS YEAR YOU STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER FLATS TO ALL CURRENT TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA RESIDENTS BY 1997. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES WHICH THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY GIVE US, BY 1995/96 SESSION THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEWLY BUILT SELF-CONTAINED FLATS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT WILL BE ONLY 488. THIS IS FAR FROM MEETING THE DEMAND. MR. GOVERNOR, WE ARE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POOR, SHABBY, UNBEARABLE CONDITIONS YEAR IN, YEAR OUT, SUFFERING THE EXTREME HEAT AND THE EXTREME COLD. BEING OFFERED PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION IS OUR LONG-AWAITED HOPE. WE HAVE TALKED TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BUT ONLY AN INCONCLUSIVE ANSWER WAS GIVEN TO US. WE HAVE NOW REACHED A POINT THAT WE NEED TO PRESENT OUR REQUEST TO YOU AND YOUR TOP EXECUTIVES IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. WE HAVE THREE SPECIFIC URGENT REQUESTS. ONE: WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSURED THAT THERE WILL BE ENOUGH SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR US WHO LIVE ALONE BY THE TIME THE SHEUNG SHUI TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IS PULLED DOWN. TWO: WE EARNESTLY REQUEST OUR FUTURE FLATS TO BE IN OR AROUND THE SHEUNG SHUI AREA. THREE: PLEASE INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SELF-CONTAINED FLATS IN THE HOUSING PLAN FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG. THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'VE VISITED NOW THREE OR FOUR TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND IN TWO OF THEM, IN PARTICULAR, SAW EXTREMELY BAD HOUSING CONDITIONS. WE ALL KNOW THE REASON FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. THEY'VE HAD TO HELP DEAL WITH SOME OF THE VERY DIFFICULT SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG, WITH OUR POPULATION INCREASING SO RAPIDLY, AND WITH MANY PEOPLE COMING FROM ELSEWHERE TO LIVE HERE. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO'VE BEEN LIVING IN SQUATTER AREAS. BUT I'VE BEEN DETERMINED TO SPEED UP THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA CLEARANCE PROGRAMME. 5,600 HOUSEHOLDS ARE GOING TO BE REHOUSED IN 1993/94, THAT'S I THINK ABOUT 14,000 PEOPLE. ABOUT 18,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN 6,000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE DUE TO BE REHOUSED NEXT YEAR. AS YOU SAID, OUR AIM IS TO BE ABLE TO OFFER EVERYONE WHO IS LIVING IN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AT THE MOMENT, TO OFFER THEM A FLAT BY 1997. BUT I ALSO WANT, IF WE POSSIBLY CAN, TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS INITIALLY ON CLEARING THE OLDEST OF THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WHERE USUALLY THE CONDITIONS ARE WORST. SO WE'RE PLANNING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CLEAR ALL THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA ACCOMMODATION WHICH WAS BUILT BEFORE 1984, BY 1996. YOUR OWN QUESTION RAISES IN PARTICULARLY SHARP FORM TWO OF THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE IN DEALING WITH TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. FIRST OF ALL PEOPLE, VERY OFTEN, WHEN THEY ARE MOVED FROM A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA HOME, WANT TO BE MOVED TO SOMEWHERE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY AND INEVITABLY THAT'S SOMETIMES DIFFICULT. SECONDLY, WHAT I THINK WE'RE ALL DISCOVERING, AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS DISCOVERING, IS THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT SORTS OF ACCOMMODATION WHICH PEOPLE REQUIRE ACCORDING TO THEIR FAMILY SIZE. SO, WHILE CONTINUING TO BUILD AS MUCH ACCOMMODATION AS WE POSSIBLY CAN FOR PEOPLE IN HOUSING NEED, WE NEED TO BE A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBLE IN THE WAY WE PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, FOR EXAMPLE, GIVING MORE ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE SINGLE ELDERLY. YOU RAISED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT. I'LL SPEAK TO ROSANNA WONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, ABOUT THE SPECIFIC POINTS THAT YOU RAISED WITH ME AND GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT THEM LATER. NUMBER TWO?

/QUESTION (THROUGH)

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, MY FIRST QUESTION IS: IN MID-AUGUST THERE WAS A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY AN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER AND THE FINDING WAS ABOUT 65 PER CENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED SUPPORT FULL DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE '95 LEGCO. MR GOVERNOR, WHY DON'T YOU GO ALONG WITH PUBLIC OPINION AND HOLD A FULL AND DIRECT ELECTION FOR THE '95 LEGCO?

MY SECOND QUESTION IS: LAST TIME WHEN YOU HAD THIS 'QUESTION TIME WITH THE GOVERNOR' YOU SAID IF THERE WAS NO DEAL BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN YOU MIGHT NEED TO HOLD AN EVEN LARGER CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO ASK FOR THE PEOPLE'S OPINIONS. IN THIS CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HOLD A REFERENDUM?

MY THIRD QUESTION IS: I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT CHINA AGREED TO SPLIT THE '94 AND '95 ELECTIONS INTO TWO ISSUES. MAY I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION: IF THERE IS AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE '94 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS BUT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT REGARDING THE '95 LEGCO ELECTION, WHAT WILL YOU DO? THANK YOU, MR GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK YOUR QUESTION AND THE FACT THAT YOUR QUESTION IS ONE WHICH IS EXPRESSED BY SO MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, IS AN INDICATION THAT THE PROPOSALS THAT I HAVE PUT FORWARD AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE PUT FORWARD ARE HARDLY RADICAL. I HAVE CONSTANTLY BEEN INTERESTED SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN THIS JOB, BY THE MODERATE WAY IN WHICH PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND OTHERS IN HONG KONG EXPRESS THE WHOLLY UNDERSTANDABLE ASPIRATION TO HAVE A GREATER SHARE IN DETERMINING YOUR OWN DESTINY. SO WHY, WHY WHEN THERE IS PRESSURE FROM YOU AND OTHERS FOR A TOTALLY DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995, AM I NOT ARGUING FOR THAT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE? I'LL TELL YOU WHY, THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BELIEVE IT IF YOU LISTENED TOO MUCH TO THE NCNA. FAR FROM BEING THE TRIPLE VIOLATOR, WHAT I AM ACTUALLY DOING IS NEGOTIATING WITHIN THE AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, MOST PARTICULARLY THE JOINT DECLARATION. WHAT THE JOINT DECLARATION PROMISES THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MADE UP BY ELECTION, AND IT FURTHER PROMISES THEM AN EXECUTIVE WHICH IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

NOW I WILL MAKE A CONFESSION. THE JOINT DECLARATION DOES NOT SAY THE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE FAIR, BUT I DON'T THINK THE PEOPLE WHO SIGNED THE JOINT DECLARATION THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE SIGNING A DECLARATION IN FAVOUR OF UNFAIR ELECTIONS. SO THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN OUR NEGOTIATORS AND CHINA'S ISN'T - THOUGH UNDERSTANDABLY YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE - ABOUT PRESSING FORWARD THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION, THE ARGUMENT IS ABOUT WHETHER THE AGREED STEPS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE FAIR OR UNFAIR.

/YOU SECONDLY

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YOU SECONDLY ASKED, WHY, IN ADDITION TO HAVING LARGER CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS - IF THERE IS A BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS, OR IF THERE ISN'T A BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS - YOU SAID, WHY, IN ADDITION TO THAT, DON'T YOU HAVE A REFERENDUM? WELL YOU HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU A VERY RARE POLITICAL LEADER. I MUST BE ONE OF THE FEW POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARGUES AGAINST A REFERENDUM, EVEN THOUGH I THINK WE WOULD WIN A REFERENDUM HANDS DOWN. THAT, AFTER ALL, AS YOU WERE SUGGESTING, IS WHAT THE OPINION POLLS TELL US. WE DO HAVE TO CONSULT THE COMMUNITY. WE CAN'T, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, GO FURTHER THAN THE COMMUNITY WANTS NOR CAN WE GO LESS FAR THAN THE COMMUNITY WANTS. BUT THE RIGHT WAY FOR US TO DO THAT AND THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH WE CAN SHAPE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT LEGISLATION IS THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AND I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WILL TAKE AWAY THE RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR ENCOURAGE SOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS TO THINK THAT THAT IS OTHER THAN THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CARRIED THROUGH HONOURABLY AND HONESTLY.

THIRD - DOING THE SPLITS. I AM SOMETIMES SURPRISED THAT I CAN SAY THE SAME THING DAY AFTER DAY AND SUDDENLY I SAY THE SAME THING AND IT GETS A CURIOUS HEADLINE IN SOME PLACES. BUT THAT IS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT GRUMBLE ABOUT THE NEWSPAPERS OR THE TELEVISION ANY MORE THAN FARMERS SHOULD GRUMBLE ABOUT THE WEATHER. LET ME SAY TODAY WHAT I SAID ON WEDNESDAY, IN FRONT OF SOME OF THOSE VERY DISTINGUISHED JOURNALISTS IN THE GALLERY WHO FOLLOW ME ROUND FROM DAY TO DAY AND CAN ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THEY HAVE PUT THEM - AND I GAVE THE SAME ANSWER YESTERDAY THAT SOME OF THE FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN THERE ON WEDNESDAY WEREN'T AROUND YESTERDAY, SO THE STORY CAME OUT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY. THE QUESTION OF SPLITTING THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND OTHER FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD MATTERS FROM THE MORE COMPLICATED ISSUES IS LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE QUESTION OF HOW LITTLE TIME WE HAVE LEFT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE WHOLE PACKAGE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THE TIME WE HAVE GOT LEFT IN THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL WAY.

WE HAVE HAD 13 ROUNDS OF TALKS. I'M TOLD THAT WE HAVE HAD ABOUT 120 HOURS OF TALKS. GIVEN THAT HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY, THAT IS ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME THAT IT TOOK THE ALMIGHTY TO CREATE THE EARTH. BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T GOT AN AGREEMENT. NOW THERE ARE SOME ISSUES WHICH ARE VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD. THE QUESTION OF THE ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WHICH IS BARELY TOUCHED ON BY THE JOINT DECLARATION OR THE BASIC LAW - THERE'S ONE FOR YOU. THEN THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE VOTING METHOD FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES ON WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS MADE ITS VIEWS PERFECTLY CLEAR. AND THIRDLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE VOTING AGE IN HONG KONG. IT IS 18 IN BRITAIN. IT IS 18 IN CHINA. SO WHY DO WE HAVE TO ARGUE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD BE 18 IN HONG KONG?

/NOW YOU

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT A REASONABLE MAN I AM, AND OUR TEAM NEGOTIATING IN THESE TALKS HAS OF COURSE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM THE ALUMNI OF HONG KONG U (UNIVERSITY), SO OUR TEAM IS BY DEFINITION VERY REASONABLE AS WELL. AND I HAVE SAID VERY CLEARLY THAT IF THE CHINESE NEGOTIATORS, NEXT TIME OUR NEGOTIATING TEAMS MEET, NEXT WEEK, SAY, "OF COURSE WE CAN SET ASIDE AS AGREED THE DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE VOTING METHOD AND THE VOTING AGE", IF THEY SAY WE CAN SET ASIDE THOSE MATTERS AS AGREED, I WOULD BE DELIGHTED! WE COULD PUT THAT IN THE BAG. AND THEN WE COULD CONCENTRATE ON THE REALLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, LIKE THE THROUGH TRAIN. SO ALL OF US WILL BEGIN THE 14TH ROUND WITH A SPRING IN OUR STEPS IF MR JIANG ENZHU FROM THE CHINESE SIDE CONFIRMS, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS, WHICH I HOPE SHOULD BE FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, THAT THOSE EASY MATTERS ARE ALL SETTLED NOW.

LASTLY: BUT EVEN IF HE DOES THAT, WE HAVE STILL GOT SOME DIFFICULT ISSUES TO TACKLE AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT. AND THAT IS NOT A PROVOCATIVE REMARK ON MY PART, IT IS A DESCRIPTION OF REALITY.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR. GOVERNOR, YOU JUST SAID THAT YOU WERE A VERY REASONABLE MAN, BUT I THINK IN SOME WAYS YOU CONTRADICT YOURSELF. IN YOUR LAST POLICY ADDRESS YOU TOLD US THAT THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION FOR '95 WILL BE BASED ON AN ELECTORATE OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION VOTERS, AND YOU TOLD US THAT THIS IS A FAIR, OPEN PRINCIPLE WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. BUT THIS YEAR YOU TOLD US THAT THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE BRITISH STANCE AND THE ELECTORATE WILL BE LESS THAN YOUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL BY TWO THIRDS, AND YOU STILL TOLD US THAT THIS IS ALSO FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. NOW, THIS IS MY QUESTION. MR GOVERNOR. ACTUALLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF ELECTION WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? HAVE YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE OPINION OF HONG KONG, SUCH AS THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM, RATHER THAN LEAVING THE MATTER TO THE LEGISLATURE WHICH YOU HINTED THAT IS NOT FAIR, NOT OPEN AND NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? I AM SORRY . . .

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): I MEAN THE LEGISLATURE WHICH IS NOT OPEN, NOT FAIR AND NOT ACCEPTABLE ENOUGH TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

GOVERNOR: OK, I THINK I'VE GOT THE DRIFT. I THINK THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT TWO THINGS. I THINK FIRST OF ALL THEY WANT DECENT ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS, BECAUSE THEY RECOGNISE THAT AN INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, PROPERLY ELECTED, IS AN IMPORTANT CENTRAL PART OF THE RULE OF LAW. SECOND, I THINK THAT THEY WANT, IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IT, A SMOOTH TRANSITION THROUGH 1997, WITH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND CHINA ABOUT THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS. I DON'T THINK THAT THEY BELIEVE WE SHOULD SACRIFICE OUR PRINCIPLES FOR AN AGREEMENT BUT THEY DO WANT US TO WORK AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR AN AGREEMENT. LAST AUTUMN, IN 1992, I PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS, UNDERLINE PROPOSALS, FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMUNITY AND WITH CHINA ABOUT OUR ELECTIONS IN 1994/95. THEY INCLUDED, AS YOU SAID, A SENSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WHICH HAS BEEN SUPPORTED IN OPINION POLL AFTER OPINION POLL, WHICH WOULD HAVE ENSURED THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE WORKING POPULATION WAS ABLE TO CAST A VOTE IN A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, THAT IS IT WOULD HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE VOTING IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO ABOUT 2.7 MILLION.

/NOW UNFORTUNATELY

NOW UNFORTUNATELY, DISCUSSION ON THOSE PROPOSALS DIDN'T START FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THAT WASN'T BECAUSE OF A LACK OF SINCERITY ON OUR PART. WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE STARTED DISCUSSIONS THERE AND THEN. I THINK, TO PUT IT POLITELY, THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY HAD TO GET ONE OR TWO THINGS OFF THEIR CHEST TO START WITH. BUT DISCUSSIONS STARTED AND WE'VE TRIED, THROUGHOUT THOSE DISCUSSIONS, TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT, AND THAT HAS MEANT THAT WE HAVE PUT FORWARD CONDITIONAL CONCESSIONS, WHICH WE STILL BELIEVE, AS PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE, WOULD PROVIDE FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS. THOSE CONDITIONAL CONCESSIONS INCLUDED A NEW PROPOSAL ON THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. IT WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE ELECTORATE, AS YOU SAID, FROM THE PROPOSED 2.7 MILLION BY ABOUT TWO THIRDS. I BELIEVE THAT WOULD STILL GIVE US FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS TO THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. I'VE SEEN SOME OTHER IDEAS ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WHICH WOULDN'T GIVE US FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS. WHETHER OR NOT THOSE PROPOSALS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE WOULD, I THINK, DEPEND ON THE OVERALL SHAPE OF AN AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPTABILITY WOULD BE TESTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. I DON'T THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD UNDERSTAND, I DON'T THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD ACCEPT IT, IF WE HAD GONE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, IF WE HAD SAT DOWN AT THE TABLE AND REFUSED TO BUDGE AN INCH. BUT I DON'T THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD FORGIVE ME, OR WOULD FORGIVE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, IF DURING THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WE GAVE AWAY ALL OUR PRINCIPLES. SO THAT'S WHERE WE ARE AT THE MOMENT, NEGOTIATING IN SINCERITY AND IN GOOD FAITH, TRYING TO FIND A DECENT BASIS FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS, BUT WE DO, I CAN ASSURE YOU, HAVE A BOTTOM LINE AND, IF ANYBODY DISBELIEVES US WHEN I SAY THAT, I HOPE THEY WON'T DISBELIEVE US FOR TOO LONG.

QUESTION: DEAR MR GOVERNOR, MY QUESTION IS RELATED TO YOUR RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER QUESTION, QUESTION NUMBER TWO, AND I BELIEVE QUESTIONER NUMBER THREE RAISED THE POINT, BUT I FEEL THAT AN ANSWER HAS YET TO BE GIVEN BY YOU. THE QUESTION IS, YOU MENTIONED EARLIER THAT YOU ARE AGAINST A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN HONG KONG AND THE REASON BEING THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY AWAY FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NOW MY QUESTION IS: THE PRESENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOT DIRECTLY ELECTED, IT DOESN'T FULFIL - IF I MAY QUOTE QUESTIONER NUMBER THREE - IT DOESN'T REALLY FULFIL THE VERY CRITERIA THAT YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE BEEN REPEATING ALL THE TIME. SO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOW CAN YOU AND HOW CAN WE AS CITIZENS OF HONG KONG BE CONFIDENT, BE SURE, THAT THE PRESENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL TRULY REFLECT AND REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY?

GOVERNOR: FIRST, THERE IS A STORY ABOUT SOMEBODY TRAVELLING IN IRELAND AND THEY GET LOST AND THEY STOP TO ASK THE WAY, AND THE OLD MAN THEY ASK TO TELL THEM THE WAY REPLIES: "WELL, I WOULDN'T START FROM HERE." THE FIRST THING I HAVE TO SAY IS THAT I HAVE TO START FROM HERE.

SECOND, THERE WAS ONCE A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS DESCRIBED BY A COLLEAGUE AS THE BEST PRIME MINISTER WE'VE GOT, WHICH A LOT OF PEOPLE THOUGHT WAS AN INSULT BUT IT WAS MEANT TO BE A REALISTIC DESCRIPTION.

NOW I HAVE TO START WHERE I AM AND OUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOT ONLY THE BEST ONE WE'VE GOT, IT'S THE ONLY ONE WE'VE GOT.

I SAID, IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLIER QUESTION, THAT IT IS NOT USUAL, WHEN POLITICIANS THINK THEY WOULD WIN A REFERENDUM FOR THEM TO BE AGAINST A REFERENDUM. AND GIVEN THAT I SAY THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO EITHER FURTHER OR LESS FAR THAN THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IT MIGHT STRIKE YOU AS DOUBLY CURIOUS THAT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A REFERENDUM. BUT EVEN IF WE HAD A REFERENDUM, IT WOULD BE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO MAKE DECISIONS ON LEGISLATION AFTER THAT REFERENDUM. THE QUESTION THAT YOU WOULD PUT TO A REFERENDUM WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED ONE. THE GENTLEMAN WHO ASKED A QUESTION EARLIER MIGHT BE IN FAVOUR OF WHAT WE WERE PROPOSING ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BUT LESS IN FAVOUR OF WHAT WE WERE PROPOSING ON THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. THOSE ARE ISSUES WHICH ULTIMATELY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT IS NOT AN ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THOUGH MANY OF ITS MEMBERS ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED, AND IT IS WORTH BEARING IN MIND THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED THINK I SHOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER, NOT THAT I AM GOING TOO FAR. BUT I'M SURE THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, IF IT COMES TO THIS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHETHER THE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED OR APPOINTED, WILL WANT TO DO THEIR BEST FOR HONG KONG AND WILL WANT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR DECISIONS.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PATTEN, I HAVE THREE QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

GOVERNOR: KEEP THEM NICE AND SHORT OTHERWISE NUMBER THREE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE FOR ANY OF HIS QUESTIONS.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): NOW MY FIRST QUESTION IS ABOUT THE FLOODING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS IS A LONG STANDING PROBLEM. THE FLOODING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE SILTING OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER IS A LONG STANDING PROBLEM BUT THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT THIS IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS. DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEGLECTED THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM?

THE SECOND QUESTION IS: IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU TOLD US THAT YOU WILL OPEN THE LOK MA CHAU BORDER FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, BUT IF YOU CANNOT SECURE THE CHINESE AGREEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BE ANSWERABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG?

MY THIRD QUESTION IS ON MEDICAL CARE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY 1997 THERE WILL BE A VERY GRAVE PROBLEM OF AGING POPULATION IN HONG KONG AND THE HOSPITAL SERVICES WILL BE USED MOSTLY BY THE ELDERLY PEOPLE. BUT DURING THE LEGCO DEBATE MOST OF THE LEGCO MEMBERS ARE STILL IN FAVOUR OF LINKING THE MEDICAL FEES TO COSTS, SO DO YOU MEAN THAT THE ELDERLY PEOPLE HAVE TO BUY THE VERY EXPENSIVE INSURANCE WHICH THEY CAN HARDLY AFFORD, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES?

GOVERNOR: IN REVERSE ORDER. YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT THAT AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF HEALTH COSTS ARE GOING TO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS CARING FOR THE ELDERLY BECAUSE WE HAVE AN AGING POPULATION WITH MORE VERY OLD PEOPLE AS WELL. THE GOOD NEWS IN HONG KONG IS THAT WE LIVE LONGER THAN MOST OTHER COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM - I HOPE THAT COVERS GOVERNORS TOO - BUT IT COSTS MONEY. I ANNOUNCED IN MY LEGCO SPEECH THAT BY 1997 WE WILL PROVIDE AN EXTRA 461 ACUTE-BEDS AND DAY-PLACES FOR ELDERLY PATIENTS, 1,200 MORE INFIRMARY BEDS, 1,400 MORE NURSING HOME PLACES, AND MORE SPECIALIST MEDICAL CARE AND SPECIALIST TEAMS FOR THE ELDERLY.

AND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ON FUNDING, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYBODY SHOULD BE DENIED PROPER MEDICAL CARE, PROPER HEALTH FACILITIES, BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY IN THEIR POCKET. OF COURSE THERE ARE SERIOUS FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR US TO TACKLE IN HEALTH CARE. THERE IS A VERY SERIOUS DEBATE WHICH THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO HAVE, BUT THE PRINCIPLE WHICH WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF IS THAT NO CIVILISED COMMUNITY DENIES HEALTH CARE TO PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY.

YOUR SECOND QUESTION. WE WANT TO OPEN THE BORDER AT LOK MA CHAU FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TRANSPORTATION. IT IS JUST A START, WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE MORE EXTENSIVE TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR OPENING BEFORE LONG. YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT THAT IF WE PROVIDE THE FACILITIES ON OUR SIDE OF THE BORDER BUT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AREN'T PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FACILITIES ON THEIR SIDE OF THE BORDER, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN IT FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THAT IS A QUESTION FOR THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES BUT TRAFFIC JAMS AND HOLD-UPS AT THE BORDER DAMAGE CHINA'S ECONOMY AS WELL AS OURS.

YOU ARE RIGHT TO SAY THAT FLOODING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR IT, INCLUDING FOR EXAMPLE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF DEAD CARS. THE SAD FACT THAT IN PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THE MAIN CROP SEEMS THESE DAYS TO BE CONTAINERS. BUT THE MAIN REASON IS BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES AND DRAINAGE ON THE SHENZHEN RIVER. IT HAS BEEN DEBATED BETWEEN US AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES FOR MANY YEARS. IT WAS CONFIRMED TO ME WHEN I WENT UP TO SEE THE FLOODING THE OTHER DAY THAT NOW, AT LAST, THE DESIGN WORK AND THE PLANNING FOR FLOOD-PREVENTION MEASURES IS WELL ADVANCED. IT IS EXPENSIVE WORK - I'M SPEAKING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD BUT I THINK THE FIGURE FOR THE TOTAL COST IS \$1.6 BILLION - BUT THE SOONER WE CAN START WORK ON IT THE BETTER BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY VILLAGERS WHO HAVE TO LIVE IN INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS WHENEVER THERE IS FLOODING.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR. PATTEN, I AM A FIRST YEAR STUDENT OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY, LINGNAN COLLEGE. IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS I AM VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE GOING TO SPEND 32 MILLION DOLLARS ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE BUT I WONDER WHY IS THERE SUCH A FEE STRUCTURE, A NEW FEE STRUCTURE PROPOSED, WHICH IS BASED ON COST, BUT THIS IS NOT MENTIONED IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH. SO, DO YOU THINK THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR PROPER MEDICAL CARE?

MY SECOND QUESTION IS ON THE MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE, AND I AM ALSO VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE GOING TO SPEND 410 MILLION DOLLARS ON THE WELFARE OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE. BUT, OBVIOUSLY, THEY ARE NOT LOOKED AFTER IN OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CASES IN WHICH SLIGHTLY MENTALLY RETARDED WOMEN WERE RAPED AND INDECENTLY ASSAULTED BUT THEIR CASES WERE ACQUITTED BY THE COURT BECAUSE THE WITNESSES WERE FOUND TO BE UNDER EXTREME DISTRESS. MR. PATTEN, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD SET UP A SPECIAL COURT TO LOOK AFTER THESE MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE, AND CAN YOU TELL ME WHY SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE JUDICIAL CIRCLE SAY THAT THERE IS NO SUCH NECESSITY?

GOVERNOR: ON THE SECOND POINT FIRST, I THINK THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE HAS CAUSED A GOOD DEAL OF ANXIETY IN THE COMMUNITY, AS HAS THE SAD, THE UNFORTUNATE DIFFICULTY IN SOME NEIGHBOURHOODS OF ESTABLISHING GOOD FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THE LEGAL PROFESSION ARE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATION OF THE RECENT COURT CASE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO LOOK INTO THOSE IMPLICATIONS AND TO SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THEM.

YOUR FIRST QUESTION. WE'RE SPENDING A BIT MORE THAN YOU WERE SUGGESTING ON HEALTH CARE. WE'RE SPENDING IN RECURRENT TERMS THIS YEAR I THINK 13.7 BILLION HONG KONG DOLLARS. THAT'S NINE PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR, AND WE'RE PROPOSING TO SPEND ANOTHER 950 MILLION IN RECURRENT SPENDING NEXT YEAR. NOW, I DON'T WANT TO PRE-EMPT THE DEBATE ABOUT FUNDING HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG. AT THE MOMENT WE PAY FOR OUR HEALTH SERVICE IN THREE WAYS: THROUGH OUR TAXES, THROUGH PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND THROUGH CHARGES OR FEES. WHAT WE HAVE TO DECIDE, AS A COMMUNITY, IS WHAT THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE THREE IS. IF, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE COMMUNITY CONCLUDES THAT WE SHOULDN'T PUSH UP CHARGES BY VERY MUCH MORE, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR INCREASED COSTS THROUGH EITHER HIGHER TAXES OR THROUGH MORE HEALTH INSURANCE. UNLESS WE STRIKE OIL IN HONG KONG, OR UNLESS WE FIND GOLD, THOSE ARE THE ONLY OPTIONS. BUT I SUSPECT IT WILL BE A DEBATE WHICH WILL CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS AHEAD, CONCEIVABLY EVEN BEYOND THE 30TH JUNE 1997 WHEN THE 28TH AND LAST BRITISH GOVERNOR SADLY DEPARTS.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR. PATTEN, MY FRIENDS AND I THINK THAT YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY SECOND QUESTION. WE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE FOR THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL COURT FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE AND ALSO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE AGAINST A MEDICAL FEE STRUCTURE BASED ON COST.

GOVERNOR: ON THE SECOND POINT, THAT'S A POINT WHICH I'M SURE YOU'LL ARGUE IN THE COMMUNITY AND MAY CONCEIVABLY IN THE FUTURE ARGUE IF YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. ON THE FIRST POINT, I AM SURE, AS I SAID EARLIER, THAT THE CASE THAT YOU RAISED HAS SUBSTANTIAL AND WORRYING IMPLICATIONS, BUT I AM NOT A LAWYER MYSELF AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR WHAT THE LAWYERS HAVE TO SAY BEFORE I COME TO ANY JUDGEMENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR COMING THIS EVENING. I WOULD LIKE THOUGH PRINCIPALLY TO THANK NOT YOU, BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE DISGRACEFUL FLATTERY, I'D LIKE PRINCIPALLY TO THANK THOSE WHO'VE BEEN INTERPRETING YOU AND INTERPRETING ME THIS EVENING. THEY'VE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB, THEY'LL BE - SEE HOW HUMBLE THEY ARE. THEY WON'T BE REQUIRED AFTER 30TH JUNE 1997 BECAUSE, WHEN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR COMES TO MEETINGS LIKE THIS, SHE OR HE, I HOPE I GOT THAT THE RIGHT WAY ROUND, WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AS, ALAS, I CAN'T IN BOTH CANTONESE AND ENGLISH. BUT BEFORE THEY BECOME REDUNDANT, LET'S GIVE THE INTERPRETERS A CLAP.

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GOVERNOR CANCELS VISIT TO EUROPE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS VISIT TO LONDON ON NOVEMBER 8 TO 13 AND WOULD NOT BE VISITING EUROPE THE FOLLOWING WEEK AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR HAD ASKED THE CHIEF SECRETARY (DESIGNATE), MRS ANSON CHAN, TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE TO LEAD A MAJOR HONG KONG PROMOTION IN GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS FROM NOVEMBER 14 TO 19.

"DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON, MR PATTEN WILL BE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON THE LATEST SITUATION IN THE TALKS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE GOVERNOR HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE ONLY WEEKS REMAINING BEFORE IMPORTANT DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE ON THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS. HE THEREFORE WISHES TO RETURN TO HONG KONG FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSION IN LONDON."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNOR ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE HONG KONG PROMOTION WHICH IS BEING PLANNED FOR FRANKFURT, PARIS, AMSTERDAM AND THE HAGUE WHICH WILL PROVIDE EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND BUSINESSMEN WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, ENHANCE HONG KONG-EUROPE LINKS, AND EMPHASISES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPE ON BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

"THE GOVERNOR IS DELIGHTED THAT MRS CHAN, OUR FIRST LOCAL CHIEF SECRETARY, WILL CARRY THE HONG KONG MESSAGE TO SUCH IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MRS CHAN WOULD BE LEAVING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK WHERE SHE WOULD HAVE A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

HEADING THE LIST OF APPOINTMENTS IS A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD.

MRS CHAN WILL REMAIN IN LONDON AFTER THIS ROUND OF MEETINGS TO JOIN THE GOVERNOR IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS BEFORE FLYING TO FRANKFURT TO LEAD THE HONG KONG PROMOTION IN EUROPE.

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SALES OF OVERSEAS TRUST BANK COMPLETED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE SALE OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (OTB) HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THE GOVERNMENT SIGNED A CONDITIONAL AGREEMENT WITH GUOCO GROUP LTD. ON JULY 31, THIS YEAR TO SELL THE ENTIRE SHARE CAPITAL OF THE OTB.

ALL CONDITIONS HAVING BEEN SATISFIED, THE TRANSACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE TODAY. THE TOTAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE SALE IS \$4.457 BILLION.

/ "THE CONSIDERATION

"THE CONSIDERATION IS MORE THAN THE NOMINAL AMOUNT OF THE \$4 BILLION WE INJECTED IN 1985", THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT AMOUNT TO A PROFIT IN REAL TERMS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COST OF OUR CAPITAL OUTLAY OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

"WE DID NOT IN ANY CASE EXPECT TO MAKE A PROFIT OUT OF THE RESCUE EXERCISE," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESCUED OTB IN JUNE 1985 USING THE EXCHANGE FUND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF THE BANKING SECTOR AND THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

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CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SUBSCRIPTION TV ENDORSED

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY ENDORSED A CODE OF PRACTICE ON CUSTOMER SERVICE DRAWN UP BY WHARF CABLE LTD IN PREPARATION FOR THE LAUNCH OF ITS SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICE AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE, WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC, WILL ENSURE THAT REQUESTS FOR THE SERVICE AND ANY MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DEALT WITH PROMPTLY BY THE LICENSEE.

THE AUTHORITY FEELS STRONGLY THAT CONSUMERS' INTERESTS SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED, PARTICULARLY IN THE SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION BUSINESS WHERE THE LICENSEE WILL HAVE MANY DEALINGS DIRECTLY WITH THE PUBLIC.

IN APPROVING THE CODE THE BA DECIDED TO REVIEW IT AFTER SIX MONTHS IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

THE AUTHORITY ALSO CONSIDERED SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, AMONG THEM THE TELEVISION PROGRAMME "HONG KONG CRIMINAL ARCHIVES II", SHOWN ON ATV HOME BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7.55 PM.

THE AUTHORITY RECOGNISED THAT THE SERIES CONTAINED DRAMATISED RECONSTRUCTIONS OF REAL-LIFE EVENTS THAT COULD BE REGARDED AS FACTUAL AND INFORMATIVE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE AUTHORITY FELT THAT THE SERIES, UNLIKE MANY OTHER CONVENTIONAL DOCUMENTARIES SHOWN AT DIFFERENT TIMES, WAS, AS A WHOLE, NOT SUITABLE FOR BROADCAST DURING FAMILY VIEWING HOURS BECAUSE THE SUBJECT MATTER REVOLVED AROUND NOTORIOUS MURDER CASES AND INVOLVED THE DEPICTION OF VIOLENCE AND MURDER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID THE AUTHORITY FELT STRONGLY THAT THE FAMILY VIEWING HOUR POLICY SHOULD BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

"MATERIAL BROADCAST IN FAMILY VIEWING HOURS SHOULD NOT BE UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN OR REQUIRE ANY PARENTAL GUIDANCE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SOME SCENES SHOWING THE RAPE AND MURDER OF A YOUNG COUPLE AND THE TORTURING OF A WOMAN WITH ELECTRIC SHOCKS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE AND WHOLLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR BROADCAST IN THE EARLY EVENING.

AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION, THE AUTHORITY DECIDED TO IMPOSE FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON ATV TOTTALLING \$160,000 AND TO ISSUE WARNINGS AND ADVICE TO THE STATION.

THE AUTHORITY ALSO STRONGLY ADVISED TVB TO OBSERVE MORE CLOSELY THE PROVISIONS IN THE TELEVISION PROGRAMME STANDARDS RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY VIEWING POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH THE VIOLENCE SEQUENCES IN THE DRAMA SERIES "GAMBLING ON LIFE" WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON TVB JADE BETWEEN 7.25 PM AND 8.30 PM.

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CHINA MARKET OPENS FOR NEW CHALLENGES

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THE OPENING OF THE CHINA MARKET NOT ONLY PROVIDES MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG WITH OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO BRINGS THEM NEW CHALLENGES, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TONIGHT (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG PLASTICS MACHINERY ASSOCIATION, MISS YUE SAID WITH THE MOVING OF LABOUR-INTENSIVE OPERATIONS TO THE NORTH, THERE WAS AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR MANAGEMENT TALENTS IN THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

MOREOVER, MANY MANUFACTURERS HAVE REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN ADDITION TO INCREASING PRODUCTION.

"THEREFORE, MANPOWER TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCT DESIGN ARE ALL NEW CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS," SHE SAID.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS MACHINERY INDUSTRY, MISS YUE SAID THE INDUSTRY HAD BEEN PLAYING A SUPPORTING ROLE TO MANY OTHER INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

TODAY, PLASTICS HAVE BEEN WIDELY USED IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND STATIONERY, AND EVEN SOME HI-TECH PRODUCTS SUCH AS WIRELESS PHONES AND FAX MACHINES.

"THE FLEXIBLE SUPPORT RENDERED BY THE PLASTICS MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS IS AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT BEHIND THE SUCCESSFUL MANUFACTURE OF ALL THESE PRODUCTS," SHE SAID.

APART FROM MEETING DOMESTIC DEMANDS, MISS YUE SAID THE PLASTICS MACHINERY INDUSTRY HAD ALSO DEVELOPED INTO A MAJOR EXPORTING INDUSTRY OCCUPYING A VITAL POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF INJECTION MOULDING MACHINES WAS INCREASED FROM 9,100 IN 1990 TO 12,000 IN 1992, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 30 PER CENT.

EXPORTS OF OTHER TYPES OF PLASTICS MACHINES ALSO EXPERIENCED AN APPRECIABLE GROWTH, SHE SAID.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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AMS LAUNCHES PERFORMANCE PLEDGES

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THE LAUNCHING OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES' PERFORMANCE PLEDGE PROGRAMME MARKS A MILESTONE IN FURTHER ENHANCING ITS EFFICIENCY OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) MESS FUNCTION, MR PATTEN SAID ITS ONGOING PARTICIPATION IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER OPERATIONS WERE SPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS MOST REASSURING TO LEARN THAT AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE (ERTF) HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AND HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESPONDED THE CALLS FOR EMERGENCY DUTIES.

NOTING THAT AMS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN MEDICAL DEFENCE, MR PATTEN SAID THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE PROUD OF HAVING SUCH AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE FUNCTION, AMS COMMISSIONER DR S H LEE SAID: "WE PLEDGE TO REPORT AT A SCENE OF DISASTER WHENEVER BEING CALLED UPON TO RENDER SUPPLEMENTARY PARAMEDIC CARE.

"WE ALSO PLEDGE TO AUGMENT THE FIRE SERVICES AMBULANCE DEPOTS IN FIRST AID COVERAGE AND ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE MANNING WITHIN 30 TO 45 MINUTES AFTER THE HOISTING OF TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR ABOVE." DR LEE SAID.

HE SAID AMS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROVIDING FIRST AID AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN COUNTRY PARKS AND AT MAJOR PUBLIC FUNCTIONS.

APART FROM BEING IN FULL READINESS TO PERFORM EMERGENCY ROLES AND FUNCTIONS, AMS MEMBERS ALSO HELPED IN THE OPERATION OF CLINICS IN VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS DETENTION CENTRES, METHADONE CLINICS, LIFE GUARD DUTIES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES.

DR LEE NOTED THAT MORE THAN 617,000 MAN-HOURS WERE SPENT ON SUCH ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR.

ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DR LEE SAID AMS WAS MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO MODERNISE THE OPERATION OF THE SERVICES SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY.

HE SAID 390 AMS MEMBERS HAD RECEIVED INTENSIFIED TRAINING IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE AFTER THE SETTING UP OF THE ERTF IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

DR LEE SAID AMS WOULD ALSO HOST AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM NEXT MONTH TO ENABLE EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO EXCHANGE THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE AREA OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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FCC STUDY OF RECIDIVISM RELEASED

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FINDINGS OF A LONG-TERM STUDY OF RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS WERE RELEASED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (FCC) TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE STUDY, STARTED IN 1987, WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FCC SAID THE STUDY WAS TO COLLECT AND TO ANALYSE DATA ON FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS WITH A VIEW TO REFINING REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR THEM.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE STUDY COVERED A TOTAL OF 1,559 MALE YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO WERE CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND WERE ADMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION OPERATED BY THE CSD, OR PLACED UNDER PROBATION, OR IN BOYS' HOMES RUN BY THE SWD DURING JUNE 1987 TO JUNE 1988.

THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ON DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OFFENDERS REVEAL SOME SIMILARITIES IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE RECIDIVISTS. THESE INCLUDE ADVERSE PEER INFLUENCE, POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AT VERY YOUNG AGE.

"THIS STUDY EMBRACED ONLY YOUTHS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSION ON WHETHER THE CHARACTERISTICS EXHIBITED BY THESE YOUNG OFFENDERS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF OTHER YOUNGSTERS IN THE SAME AGE GROUP."

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PROPOSED PUBLIC GOLF COURSE IN KAU SAI CHAU

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IN JUST OVER TWO YEARS HONG KONG WILL SEE ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL STANDARD PUBLIC GOLF CENTRE.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC GOLF CENTRE WITH TWO 18-HOLE COURSES IN KAU SAI CHAU, AN ISLAND TO THE EAST OF SAI KUNG TOWN.

A POTENTIAL SITE MEASURING 112 HECTARES HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND AS SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT INTO A PUBLIC GOLF CENTRE.

THE LAND IS NOT USED FOR ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE AT PRESENT AND IS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROJECT.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT REPRESENTS A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP GOLF AS A POPULAR SPORT.

INTEREST IN GOLF HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS.

/THE HONG

THE HONG KONG GOLF ASSOCIATION HAS FORMULATED A FOUR-YEAR PLAN WITH JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF THE MAJOR FEATURES.

THE ASSOCIATION HOPES TO SEE SOME 50,000 GOLFERS EMERGING IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

HOWEVER, UP TO NOW THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM TAKING UP THE SPORT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID "IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST AND ECHOING THE GOVERNMENT'S BID TO PROMOTE GOLF TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, TO TAKE THE PROPOSED GOLF CENTRE ON AS ITS NEXT MAJOR CHARITABLE PROJECT.

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CLUB WILL BE DRAWN UP SHORTLY BUT THE JOCKEY CLUB WILL MEET ALL THE COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOLF CENTRE.

IN ADDITION, THE JOCKEY CLUB WILL ALSO MANAGE THE CENTRE INITIALLY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, AT THE JOCKEY CLUB'S EXPENSE, UNTIL THE CENTRE IS RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY WHEN IT MAY BE HANDED OVER TO AN ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT BODY.

"THE GOLF CENTRE WILL REMAIN A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING WITH THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR IT," MR SO ADDED.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT KAU SAI CHAU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY FINDINGS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER NECESSARY STUDIES, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY RECOMMENDED MEASURES, TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT STANDARDS.

"IN PARTICULAR, STAGE I OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PROJECT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SHOW POSITIVE RESULTS BEFORE THE PROJECT CAN BE AUTHORISED TO GO AHEAD," MR SO SAID.

IT IS HOPED THAT CONSTRUCTION WOULD START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR PORT WORKS MAINTENANCE

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (CED) IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO SEAWALLS, PIERS AND OTHER PORT WORKS FOR THE YEAR 1994/95.

THE WORKS INCLUDE DREDGING AND MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF SEAWALLS, PIERS AND OTHER MARINE STRUCTURES, TOGETHER WITH CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MINOR MARINE WORKS.

THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF CED WILL DESIGN AND SUPERVISE THE WORKS.

THE CONTRACT PERIOD COVERS 24 MONTHS STARTING FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 5.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PORT WORKS DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS FOR JUNE - AUGUST

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1993 WAS 2%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD JULY - SEPTEMBER 1993 WAS 2%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.3%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET HAS TIGHTENED SLIGHTLY FURTHER IN RECENT MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD JUNE - AUGUST 1993, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 58,400, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 42,100.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1993 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,900 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,200 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL BY END OF DECEMBER AT \$23.50 A COPY.

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LEVY PERCENTAGES UNDER THE
TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT UNDER THE TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS SPECIFIED BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE THAT THE FUND LEVY SHOULD BE SET AT 0.35% AND THE COUNCIL LEVY AT 0.15%.

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG (TIC) COLLECTS FROM LICENSED TRAVEL AGENTS A 0.5% LEVY ON ALL OUTBOUND PACKAGE TOUR FARES, ON BEHALF OF ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANY, THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND (TICRF).

IN RETURN, TIC RECEIVES FROM TICRF PART OF THE REVENUE COLLECTED TO FINANCE ITS OPERATIONS.

THE ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT FROM TODAY. TICRF IS THUS REPLACED BY A NEW STATUTORY FUND, THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE 0.5% LEVY IS SPLIT INTO TWO DISCRETE LEVIES: A FUND LEVY AND A COUNCIL LEVY, BOTH TO BE PAID BY LICENSED TRAVEL AGENTS ON THE BASIS OF OUTBOUND PACKAGE TOUR FARES. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY SPECIFY THE PERCENTAGES OF THESE TWO LEVIES FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE PERCENTAGES NOW SPECIFIED REFLECT CLOSELY THE ALLOCATION OF LEVY MONIES BY TICRF TO TIC OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THE 0.35% FUND LEVY WILL GO TO THE NEW TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND FOR THE COMPENSATION OF AGGRIEVED TRAVELLERS UPON DEFAULT OF TRAVEL AGENTS, WHILE THE 0.15% COUNCIL LEVY WILL GO TO TIC TO HELP FINANCE ITS SELF-REGULATORY EFFORTS, INCLUDING COLLECTION OF THE LEVIES.

INCOME FROM THE 0.15% COUNCIL LEVY WILL BE USED TO FINANCE 80% OF TIC RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

"WITH THIS SECURED SOURCE OF INCOME, TIC WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEVELOP FURTHER A DURABLE SELF-REGULATORY REGIME FOR THE OUTBOUND TRAVEL INDUSTRY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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AGC OFFERS TRAINING GROUND TO LOCAL LAW GRADUATES

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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING APPLICANTS ORDINARILY LIVED IN HONG KONG TO FILL TRAINEE VACANCIES UNDER THE LEGAL TRAINEE SCHEME (LTS) FROM AUGUST 1 NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO A PROGRAMME OF LOCALISATION, THEREFORE THE QUOTA FOR THE LTS HAD BEEN EXPANDED TO FIVE PLACES IN THE BARRISTER STREAM AND FIVE IN THE SOLICITOR STREAM IN 1994.

THIS IS TO GIVE MORE LEGAL TRAINEES A CHANCE TO ACQUIRE EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS TYPES OF LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT LAWYERS, HE SAID.

/THE LTS

THE LTS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF THE HONG KONG OR THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL GRADUATES OF LOCAL UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNICS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SERVING IN LEGAL/JUDICIAL GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS WHO HOLD QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNISED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

MORE THAN 100 APPLICANTS HAD TO FIGHT FOR FIVE PLACES WHEN IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH NO OBLIGATION IS PLACED ON LEGAL TRAINEES TO JOIN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT ON COMPLETION OF TRAINING, NOR IS THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OBLIGED TO OFFER APPOINTMENT TO THEM, THE LTS PROVIDES A CONSTANT POOL OF HIGH QUALITY YOUNG LOCAL LAWYERS WHICH IS MUCH-NEEDED IN THE SPEEDING UP OF THE LOCALISATION PROGRAMME OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS (AGC).

TRAINEE SOLICITORS WILL JOIN THE LTS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

THE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME WILL COMPRISE ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGC'S CIVIL DIVISION AND PROSECUTIONS DIVISION, PRIVATE LAW FIRM AND THE LEGAL/JUDICIAL GROUP OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO THE PREFERENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TRAINEE.

MEANWHILE, TRAINEE BARRISTERS WILL JOIN THE LTS FOR ONE YEAR AND WILL UNDERGO A 12-MONTH PUPILLAGE PROGRAMME COMPRISING ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGC'S CIVIL DIVISION AND PROSECUTIONS DIVISION, A JUDGE'S MARSHAL AND A PRACTISING BARRISTER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

LEGAL TRAINEES WILL RECEIVE A MONTHLY HONORARIUM OF \$23,965 IN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS AND \$25,090 IN THE SECOND 12 MONTHS.

CANDIDATES SHOULD APPLY IN WRITING WITH A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM (GF 340) TO THE SENIOR TRAINING OFFICER, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG BY OCTOBER 30.

AN ACADEMIC REFERENCE IS REQUIRED FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT SERVING OFFICERS AND SHOULD BE SENT DIRECT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR FACULTY OF LAW TO THE SAME ADDRESS BEFORE THE DEADLINE.

FOR ENQUIRIES CALL 867 2173.

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GOVT TO INTRODUCE ELECTRICAL PRODUCT SAFETY RULES

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IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS MADE BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT A SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS ON SAFETY OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS WOULD START BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE SUBSEQUENT EVALUATION OF COMMENTS, LAW DRAFTING AND FINAL DECISION-MAKING SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO ENABLE THE NEW REGULATIONS TO BE GAZETTED BY MID-1995.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE REGULATIONS IS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE USE OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES BY:

- * INTRODUCING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS;
- * IMPOSING A STATUTORY DUTY ON MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS AND SUPPLIERS IN ENSURING ADHERENCE TO THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS; AND
- * PROHIBITING THE SALE, HIRE OR USE OF ANY UNSAFE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTROLS WOULD COVER ALL DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS, IMPORTED OR ON SALE IN HONG KONG.

IN FUTURE ALL SUCH PRODUCTS WILL HAVE TO BE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED WITH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ELECTRIC SHOCK AND OVERHEATING.

THEY MUST NOT BE MADE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON PROPER USE.

SOME COMMONLY USED ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, LIKE PLUGS AND PLUG ADAPTERS, WILL, IN ADDITION, BE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL THAT MANY PLUGS ON SALE LOCALLY ARE UNABLE TO PASS SAFETY TESTS.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF STIPULATING SPECIFIC SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PLUGS AND PLUG ADAPTERS BEFORE THE MAIN REGULATIONS COME INTO EFFECT," HE SAID.

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PUBLIC URGED TO PREVENT HILL FIRES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TO HELP PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCENIC COUNTRYSIDE BY PREVENTING HILL FIRES.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S (AFD) COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER MR CHAN PING-KWONG AT THE LAUNCHING OF THIS YEAR'S COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION DRIVE AT THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT 221 HILL FIRES OCCURRED IN COUNTRY PARKS AND ITS VICINITY IN THE LAST DRY SEASON, DAMAGING SOME 193,000 TREES ON 2,700 HECTARES OF LAND.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF HILL FIRES WERE NOT PARTICULARLY HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS, A LOT OF THESE FIRES COULD BE AVOIDED IF THE PUBLIC TOOK MORE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

/"DESTRUCTION CAUSED

"DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY HILL FIRES WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT COUNTRYSIDE VEGETATION, IT WILL ALSO DAMAGE LANDSCAPE QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND SOIL STABILITY," HE ADDED.

A FEW SIMPLE MEASURES WHICH CAN REDUCE HILL FIRES ARE:

- * COUNTRY PARK VISITORS SHOULD ONLY LIGHT FIRE IN DESIGNATED BARBECUE SITES:
- * PUBLIC SHOULD NOT DISCARD BURNING CIGARETTE ENDS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE:
- * VILLAGERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN BURNING OFF WEEDS AND RUBBISH ON FARMLAND NEAR THE HILLSIDES: AND
- * GRAVE-WORSHIPPERS SHOULD LIGHT JOSS PAPER IN CONTAINERS AND NEVER LEAVE BURNING JOSS STICKS AND PAPER UNATTENDED.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO PREVENT HILL FIRES, MR CHAN SAID AFD WOULD HAVE FIRE FIGHTING TEAMS IN FORCE DURING THE DRY SEASON.

THEY WILL MONITOR ANY OUTBREAK OF FIRE FROM 10 FIRE LOOKOUTS SO THAT ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO SAVE THE COUNTRYSIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT INCLUDE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL AID SERVICES AND THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE.

AT TODAY'S FUNCTION, THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE DISPLAYED A NEWLY PURCHASED HELICOPTER WHICH COULD LIFT A BUCKET FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF EXISTING ONES TO HELP IN WATER BOMBING TASK. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A HILL FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION AT A SITE IN LIN FA SHAN.

ON THIS YEAR'S COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION DRIVE, MR CHAN SAID A NUMBER OF PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES AND EXHIBITIONS WOULD BE PREPARED BY THE AFD.

THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO PRODUCE NEW POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS TO SPREAD THE COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGE.

MR CHAN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND GRAVE-SWEEPERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WHEN BURNING JOSS STICKS AND PAPERS DURING THE FORTHCOMING CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL.

"ANY PERSON WHO CAUSES HILL FIRES AND DAMAGE TO OUR VALUABLE COUNTRYSIDE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

THERE WERE FIVE PROSECUTIONS AGAINST THE ILLEGAL USE OF FIRES IN COUNTRY PARKS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND OFFENDERS WERE FINED UP TO \$1,000.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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FIRE PREVENTION DRIVE

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES COMMAND WILL LAUNCH A FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 17).

THE EVENT, WHICH FORMS PART OF A PROGRAMME TO COMMEMORATE THE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY, WILL BE HELD AT LEVEL 3, NEW TOWN PLAZA, PHASE I, SHA TIN BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT USED BY FIRE SERVICES STAFF IN FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, INCLUDING HOLMATRO RESCUE TOOLS, THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA, SURVIVAL DETECTOR AND DEFIBRILLATOR.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF FIRE PREVENTION INFORMATION AND HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS ON FIRE SERVICES.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR TSANG KWONG-YU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CAMPAIGN AT 10.30 AM.

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SAFETY ON NGONG PING ROAD GREATLY ENHANCED

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SAFETY ON NGONG PING ROAD ON LANTAU ISLAND HAS BEEN TREMENDOUSLY ENHANCED AFTER THE RECENT COMPLETION OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS THERE.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TODAY (FRIDAY) TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO NGONG PING ROAD, THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR CHEUNG TAI-YAN, SAID THE FORMER CONDITION OF THE ROAD WAS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY.

IT WAS DUE TO THE DIFFICULT TERRAIN AND SEVERAL NARROW SECTIONS OF THE ROAD THAT COULD ONLY ALLOW ONE-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC, HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY AND TO COPE WITH THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE COMPLETION OF THE BIG BUDDHA AT PO LIN MONASTERY, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO IMPROVE NGONG PING ROAD TO ALL TWO-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR DANIEL LAM; THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PO LIN MONASTERY, REV SIK CHI-WAI; THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN; AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER (ISLANDS), MR CHRISTOPHER WONG; JOINTLY UNVEILED A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS STARTED IN MAY 1991.

IT INCLUDED THE REALIGNMENT AND WIDENING OF NGONG PING ROAD AND A SECTION OF SHAM WAT ROAD TO A STANDARD 7.3-METER WIDE TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY FOR A TOTAL LENGTH OF 2.6 KILOMETRES; CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS OF BETWEEN 1.5 METRES AND THREE METRES ALONG THE CARRIAGEWAY, ROADSIDE BUS BAYS; A TAXI STAND AND A CAR PARK.

A NEW BUS TERMINUS AND COACH PARK AT NGONG PING HAS ALSO BEEN CONSTRUCTED UNDER A SEPARATE PROJECT.

THE \$65-MILLION PROJECT ALSO COVERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS, EMBANKMENTS, DRAINAGE WORKS AND A 90-METER LONG ROAD BRIDGE OVER A VALLEY.

MR CHEUNG SAID TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF ROAD USERS, TRAFFIC AIDS, PROPER ROAD LIGHTINGS, EMERGENCY TELEPHONES, PEDESTRIAN RAILINGS AND SAFETY FENCES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.

IN ADDITION, THE 180-DEGREE HAIR PIN BEND ON THE ROAD HAS ALSO BEEN WIDENED TO IMPROVE THE VISIBILITY OF TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AND THE GRADIENT OF THE STEEPEST SECTION OF THE ROAD HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 1:8 FROM 1:5.

"SINCE THE CARRIAGEWAY IS A TOURIST ROUTE PASSING THROUGH THE LANTAU COUNTRY PARK AND LEADING TO PO LIN MONASTERY, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN AT THE DESIGN STAGE TO INCORPORATE LANDSCAPE WORKS INTO THE PROJECT AND TO INTEGRATE IT WITH THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT," MR CHEUNG ADDED.

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE ROADWORKS LAST MONTH, THE PREVIOUS PROHIBITION ON THIS ROAD HAS BEEN RELAXED TO ALLOW CARS TO ENTER NGONG PING ROAD FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAY MORNINGS.

BUT TO REGULATE THE TRAFFIC FLOW ON POPULAR DAYS, SHAM WAT ROAD AND NGONG PING ROAD HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT TAXIS, BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

NGONG PING ROAD WAS BUILT IN THE EARLY 1960'S AS A JEEP TRACK BY LOCALS WITH SMALL-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS AFTERWARDS.

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GOVT ACQUIRES ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY VAN
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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON TODAY (FRIDAY) TOOK DELIVERY OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC VEHICLE - AN ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY GOODS VAN THAT CAUSES NO EMISSION AND RUNS QUIETLY ON THE ROAD.

AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE HANDING OVER OF THE VEHICLE BY THE LOCAL AGENTS OF THE FRENCH MANUFACTURER, MR EASON TEST-DROVE THE WHITE VAN, CHARACTERISED BY A GREEN LOGO WITH "ELECTRIC VEHICLE" IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH PAINTED ON IT.

MR EASON SAID THE VAN WAS THE FIRST OF TWO ELECTRIC VEHICLES ORDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF WIDER USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN HONG KONG.

"WITH THIS VEHICLE, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO LAUNCH A TRIAL SCHEME FOR INTRODUCING ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN THE GOVERNMENT FLEET WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF AIR POLLUTION CAUSED BY CAR EMISSION AND THE USE OF ELECTRIC CARS IS A POSSIBLE ANSWER, PARTICULARLY IN A DENSE TRAFFIC ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG," MR EASON SAID.

THE VEHICLE WILL BE USED INITIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSPORT AGENCY.

THE SECOND ELECTRIC VAN IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR USE BY THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

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NATURALISATION FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME APPLICANTS
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED NON-BRITISH NATIONALS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME TO APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 13, THIS YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME WOULD BE OPEN FOR APPLICATION FROM JANUARY 3 TO MARCH NEXT YEAR.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY, NON-BRITISH NATIONALS SUCH AS HOLDERS OF CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY MUST FIRST APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS.

IN A DIRECTION ISSUED TO THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 13, AS THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR NATURALISATION FOR NON-BRITISH NATIONALS WHO WISH TO APPLY UNDER THIS SCHEME.

"THIS CUT-OFF DATE, HOWEVER, WILL NOT AFFECT PERSONS WHO ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE SCHEME; NOR DOES IT AFFECT PERSONS WHO ARE ALREADY BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS OR BRITISH NATIONALS (OVERSEAS) " HE STRESSED.

THE PUBLIC MAY CALL 824 6111 FOR ENQUIRIES.

A GENERAL GUIDE TO THE FINAL PHASE OF BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME, WHICH GIVES DETAILS OF THE REVISED POINTS SYSTEM AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND IMMIGRATION OFFICES FREE OF CHARGE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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SECRETARY FOR WORKS VISITS HARBOUR HYDRAULIC LABORATORY

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THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED THE HARBOUR HYDRAULIC LABORATORY OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND WAS BRIEFED ON HOW A MODEL OF THE HONG KONG HARBOUR IS USED TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT ON TIDAL REGIME.

MR BLAKE WAS SHOWN HOW ENGINEERS USED A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM TO SIMULATE TIDAL CURRENT AND TO MEASURE EFFECTS OF HOW COASTAL CHANGES, SUCH AS RECLAMATIONS AFFECT THE FLOW OF TIDES.

THE \$10 MILLION MODEL AND LABORATORY WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL DATA ON HOW RECLAMATION PROJECTS AFFECT WAVE MOVEMENT, TIDAL FLOW AND WATER QUALITY.

MR BLAKE ALSO VISITED THE TUEN MUN PORT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO FIND OUT THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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TIDE GAUGE HOUSE TO BE BUILT IN LANTAU

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CONSTRUCT A PLATFORM ADJACENT TO THE SHEK PIK PIER AT TUNG WAN ON LANTAU ISLAND TO ACCOMMODATE A NEW TIDE GAUGE HOUSE.

THE WORKS WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MID NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AFFECTED BY THE WORKS IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION BEFORE OCTOBER 15, NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, AND AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE PLAN CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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FIRE SERVICES COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR COVERS ON SALE

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A SPECIAL SOUVENIR COVER TO COMMEMORATE THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON SALE AT THREE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES FROM OCTOBER 20 - 26, EXCEPT OCT 23 AND 24 WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND SUNDAY RESPECTIVELY.

THE SOUVENIR COVER, DESIGNED BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT, CARRIES DRAWINGS OF TWO FIRE ENGINES, AN AMBULANCE AND A FIRE BOAT, AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT WHICH DATES BACK TO 1868.

THESE SOUVENIR COVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$1 EACH AT THE PUBLIC HALL OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHATIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

HANDBACK SERVICES FOR THE STAMPING OF A SPECIAL POSTMARK ON THE SOUVENIR COVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 27 AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC POST OFFICES - GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, PEAK, TSIM SHA TSUI, GRANVILLE ROAD AND SHATIN CENTRAL.

"PHILATELISTS WISHING TO HAVE THIS SERVICE SHOULD PRESENT THE COVER AFFIXED WITH AT LEAST 80-CENT STAMP AT ANY OF THE ABOVE PHILATELIC POST OFFICES," A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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AMENDMENT TO DRAFT DPA PLAN ANNOUNCED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) AN AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT TSENG LAN SHUE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLAN.

THE AMENDMENT IS TO REZONE AN AREA NORTH OF PO LAM ROAD NEAR THE SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS FROM 'GREEN BELT' TO 'GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY' IN ORDER TO FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL.

THE AMENDED PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES UNTIL NOVEMBER 5:

- * SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * SAI KUNG & TSEUNG KWAN O DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, SUITE 1209, 12TH FLOOR, CHINACHEM GOLDEN PLAZA, 77 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

/ANY PERSON

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENT MAY SUBMIT OBJECTIONS IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5.

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

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SMITHFIELD EXTENSION PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO EXTEND SMITHFIELD TO LINK UP WITH POK FU LAM ROAD TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

THE PROPOSED WORK WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTING A DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR ROAD WHICH CARRIES TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM EXISTING SMITHFIELD TO POK FU LAM ROAD, A VEHICULAR AND A PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS ACROSS POK FU LAM ROAD, AND AN ELEVATED ROAD TO LINK MOUNT DAVIS ROAD AND POK FU LAM ROAD.

THE WORK IS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT AND TO CATER FOR THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC THROUGH WESTERN DISTRICT UPON OPENING OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

THE SMITHFIELD EXTENSION IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE AT THE SAME TIME AS BELCHER BAY RECLAMATION AND ROCKHILL STREET IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRE SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 14.

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PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR TING KAU BRIDGE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM CONTRACTORS FOR PREQUALIFICATION IN TENDERING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE TING KAU BRIDGE AND APPROACH VIADUCT.

A NOTICE OF THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TING KAU BRIDGE AND APPROACH VIADUCT WILL BE TOTALLY FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE BRIDGE WILL PROVIDE LINKS WITH THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, THE TSING YI SECTION OF ROUTE 3 AND THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

PROVISIONS FOR A CONNECTION TO THE PROPOSED TAI LAM TUNNEL OF THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION OF ROUTE 3 WILL ALSO BE MADE.

UPON COMPLETION, THE BRIDGE WILL PROVIDE EASY ACCESS FROM THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES TO URBAN KOWLOON AND LANTAU.

THE WORKS WILL INVOLVE THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE AND A VIADUCT ACROSS THE RAMBLER CHANNEL WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF ABOUT 1,775 METRES.

TWO ELEVATED SLIP ROADS WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE CONNECTIONS TO TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, AND AN INTERCHANGE WITH TSING MA BRIDGE.

APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE PREQUALIFICATION. APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR/LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, 15TH FLOOR HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE PREQUALIFICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11.

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BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROPOSED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S TSUEN WAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE HAS PROPOSED TO RECONSTRUCT THE VEHICULAR BRIDGE IN CHUEN LUNG.

THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGE ACROSS A STREAM IN CHUEN LUNG AS WELL AS ASSOCIATED ROAD AND EARTH WORKS IN THE APPROACH AREAS.

THE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 12 MONTHS.

A NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

/THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, FIRST AND 10TH FLOOR RESPECTIVELY, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14 DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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REPATRIATION OF ECVII'S BY AIR

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A TOTAL OF 110 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVII'S) WERE REPATRIATED TO HAINAN TODAY (THURSDAY) ON TWO FLIGHTS ON THE LAST DAY OF A THREE-DAY REPATRIATION EXERCISE BY AIR.

THE TWO GROUPS COMPRISED 45 MEN, 22 WOMEN, 32 BOYS AND 11 GIRLS.

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266 VM'S WENT HOME TODAY

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A GROUP OF 266 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 111 MEN, 61 WOMEN, 49 BOYS AND 45 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 170TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 7,374 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 33,686 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,000
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-590
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,410

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.5 *+0.2* 15.10.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.64 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.61	3.12
1 MONTH	2.54 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.89	3.31
3 MONTHS	2.64 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.33	3.56
6 MONTHS	2.73 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.74	3.67
12 MONTHS	3.08 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,283 MN

CLOSED 15 OCTOBER 1993

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