



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Planners actively identifying more housing sites

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The Planning Department has been actively identifying additional sites for residential development to meet the demand from a larger and more affluent population, the Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, said at a meet-the-media session today (Thursday).

"At the district level, work is in progress to identify and rezone suitable sites for housing development. The possibility of redeveloping some military sites will also be examined," Dr Pun said.

Dr Pun also disclosed that the department would commission a consultancy study next month to assess the redevelopment potential of individual buildings or sites in the metropolitan area under public or private ownership, and to estimate the annual flat production from redevelopment.

The study is scheduled to be completed in the middle of next year.

He added that, however, the availability of industrial land and premises to meet the needs of changing industrial structure was also important.

"A study on the restructuring of obsolete industrial areas has been completed, and we will carry out case studies this year to examine the broad alternative approaches identified in the study.

"Another study on the provision of industrial premises and the development of planning guidelines and design parameters for new industrial areas and business parks was also commissioned in July last year to assess future changes in industrial requirements; review and formulate planning standards and guidelines; and develop detailed design parameters for the preparation of layouts for industrial areas and business parks," Dr Pun said.

Another major area where the department had been making substantial efforts was enforcement actions against unauthorised developments in the New Territories.

During last year, 147 cases of suspected unauthorised developments, mainly in Yuen Long and northeast New Territories, were subject to enforcement action.

A total of 157 enforcement notices and five reinstatement notices were issued after investigation.

Meanwhile, a total of 57 planning applications in respect of the unauthorised developments were submitted to the Town Planning Board.

Of these, 14 were approved, 29 rejected, nine withdrawn and five being processed.

"The large number of planning applications resulting from the enforcement actions shows that people are becoming more familiar with planning requirements and are aware of the government's determination to clear the black spots. By the end of 1994, 156 unauthorised development cases involving about 80 hectares of land had been discontinued or regularised. This is an encouraging sign indeed," Dr Pun said.

The Director also noted that immediate prosecution taken since November 1993 had speeded up the whole enforcement process by over six months.

Of the 143 summonses laid last year, 30 per cent were subject to immediate prosecution action without issuing enforcement notices.

In the year, the court convicted 77 defendants in respect of 44 cases, and handed down fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$199,000 with a daily fine from \$100 to \$5,000.

"Apart from stepping up enforcement actions, we are now considering heavier penalties to achieve a stronger deterrent effect. Sites have also been identified on Outline Zoning Plans for directing unplanned uses to more properly planned sites," Dr Pun explained.

On the Territorial Development Strategy (TDS) review, Dr Pun said his department was incorporating public comments into the final report which was scheduled for completion in mid-1995. "The Recommended Strategy will comprise two long-term (2011) development options under two assumed development scenarios, complemented by a medium term (2006) strategy," he said.

Dr Pun also gave a brief account of his department's work related to the Metroplan.

He said public consultation on the findings of the Development Statements for West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan-Kwai Tsing and Southeast Kowloon was completed in December last year.

Two consultancy studies on the preparation of Development Statements for Hong Kong Island West as well as Central and East Kowloon began last year for completion in April 1995 and February 1996 respectively, he added.

"Progress was also made on the review of development strategies for various sub-regions in the New Territories.

"The Northwest NT development strategy review will be finalised following completion of the TDS review. Both the Southwest NT and the Northeast NT reviews are expected to finish this year," Dr Pun said.

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Opening hours of Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang during Chinese New Year

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The Hong Kong Government and the department concerned of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government have jointly announced that the Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang border crossing will only be open from 7 am to 10 pm daily for seven days during the Chinese New Year period from January 30, 1995 (Lunar New Year's Eve) to February 5, 1995 (Sixth day of the Chinese New Year).

- The 24-hour service will be resumed on the night of February 6, 1995.

The operation hours of the Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang control point during this period will be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>(Lunar calendar)</u>	<u>Hours of operation</u>
January 30, 95	(Lunar New Year's Eve)	Close at 10 pm
January 31, 95	(First day)	7 am - 10 pm
February 1, 95	(Second day)	7 am - 10 pm
February 2, 95	(Third day)	7 am - 10 pm
February 3, 95	(Fourth day)	7 am - 10 pm
February 4, 95	(Fifth day)	7 am - 10 pm
February 5, 95	(Sixth day)	7 am - 10 pm

February 6, 95

(Seventh day)

Open at 7 am
and remain open
thereafter

A Hong Kong Government spokesman said that cross border traffic was expected to be very low during this period. This was the case last year when there were only 300 - 1,900 vehicles a day from the first day to the sixth day of the Chinese New Year compared with the daily average of over 10,000 on a normal day.

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S6 English programme streamlined

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The Intensive English Programme (IEP) specially designed for Secondary 6 and 7 students using Chinese as the medium of instruction will be revised this summer to enhance effectiveness of the programme, Senior Assistant Director of Education Mr T F Kwan said today (Thursday).

Under the revised arrangement, students will start the programme before entering Secondary 6, Mr Kwan said.

The revised programme will comprise a two-week pre-S6 course, a four-week post-S6 course and a four-week post-S7 course, compared with the present programme which comprises a four-week post-S6 course and a six-week post-S7 course.

"The restructuring of the programme resulting in an earlier start of the course will better equip students for the S6 English curriculum and boost the effectiveness of the English programme on the whole," Mr Kwan said.

"It will also streamline procedures by eliminating the need for the Hong Kong Examinations Authority to advance its timetable for the Use of English Examination which had created inconvenience to the majority of candidates taking the A-level Examination."

Mr Kwan said the Supplementary English Examination (SEE) at the end of the IEP will be replaced by a new system of continuous assessment and end-of-course tests carried out through the joint effort of the British Council, which provided the courses, and the Hong Kong Examinations Authority.

"Based on the assessment, the latter will compile a list of students whom the Authority regard as having a standard which meets the entrance requirements for tertiary courses that normally accept a grade "E" in Use of English," he said.

"At the same time, the number of intakes of the IEP courses will be increased to 1,900 through a grant offered by the Language Fund."

The IEP was first proposed in the Education Commission Report No. 4 as a positive discrimination measure targeted to improve the English standard of Chinese-medium students taking the A-level Examinations for admission to local tertiary institutions.

Those who were successful in satisfying the requirement of the SEE were accepted by local tertiary institutions as being equivalent to the level of performance needed for admission to courses for which grade "E" in Use of English is required.

Mr Kwan said the new pre-S6 course of the revised programme will be introduced in late August 1995. However, the post-S7 course and the Supplementary English Examination in 1995, which were really part of the previous programme, would remain unchanged.

Fees for the programme starting in 1995 are as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Post-S7	six weeks	\$830
Post-S6	four weeks	\$550
Pre-S6	two weeks	\$280

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\$8 million drug money confiscated

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The Customs have obtained an order from the High Court to have HK\$8 million of proceeds of drug trafficking confiscated.

The money belongs to a principal member of a US-based drug syndicate.

This is Customs' second confiscation made under the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) (Designated Countries and Territories) Order 1991.

The confiscation is the result of a four-year long joint investigation by the Hong Kong Customs and the US Drug Enforcement Administration into a New York-based international drug trafficking syndicate.

Five principal members of the syndicate in Hong Kong were arrested in 1991. They have been extradited to the US for trial.

The first confiscation case involved HK\$2 million in July 1993.

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Year of the Traveller 1995 campaign begins

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The Customs and Excise Department, in association with the World Customs Organisation, launched the "Year of the Traveller 1995" campaign this (Thursday) evening at a ceremony marking the International Customs Day.

The ceremony, held at the Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess, was officiated by the Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourist Association, Mr Martin Barrow.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Don Watson, Mr Barrow unveiled a poster for the campaign.

The World Customs Organisation has recommended to its 136 members to launch the "Year of the Traveller 1995" campaign simultaneously on the International Customs Day.

In a welcoming speech, Mr Watson said: "The World Customs Organisation felt that it would be timely in 1995 to make the travelling public more aware of the efforts made by the international customs community to facilitate their journeys with minimum inconvenience, whilst at the same time educating the public of our responsibility to protect society against the illegal movement of restricted goods across international boundaries."

"In other words, we hope to reinforce the spirit of professionalism among our customs officers at points of entry in order to better facilitate entry procedures without sacrificing our enforcement effectiveness.

"So, from today, not only in Hong Kong but across the world, we and our sister customs administrations will be striving to provide the travelling public with a more professional service," Mr Watson added.

In his speech, Mr Barrow said the Hong Kong Tourist Association gave full support to the campaign which aimed at enhancing the professional and efficient handling of travellers, and facilitating their movement.

"Travellers' first impressions on arrival are crucial in forming their overall opinion of a destination," Mr Barrow said.

In promoting the campaign, the Customs and Excise Department has sent out posters, stickers and information leaflets to overseas government offices, and Trade Development Council offices, airlines and travel agencies, requesting them to display the posters and distribute the leaflets to travellers.

Hong Kong has celebrated International Customs Day today for the eighth year since it became a full member of the organisation in 1987.

Today's activity was attended by more than 400 guests, comprising members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, senior government officials, consuls-general and foreign officials, and top executives from trade and business organisations.

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Fieldwork for 1995 Crime Victimization Survey completed

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The 1995 Crime Victimization Survey, which lasted from January 11 to 25, had been successfully completed.

In the 15-day survey period, enumerators of the Census and Statistics Department had interviewed some 20,000 sampled households in Hong Kong to collect information about crimes, victims and their attitude towards reporting crime.

The 1995 Crime Victimization Survey is conducted under the auspices of the Fight Crime Committee and is the fifth round of its kind conducted in Hong Kong.

The Commissioner for Census and Statistics expressed his thanks to all the households which co-operated in this survey.

The data collected will be carefully edited and processed. Statistical tables will be compiled and detailed analyses will be made with a view to providing a basis for the Government to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention and to plan anti-crime strategies.

A report containing the results of the survey is expected to be published towards the end of the year.

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New form for textiles export "quota" licence

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A new textiles export licence Form 5 will be put into use as from February 6, the Trade Department announced today (Thursday).

Export licence Form 5 (Form TIC 353A), commonly known as the "blue" or "quota" licence, is used to cover the export of textiles subject to specific quota restraint and basket categories quota restraint, other than the export to the United States under quota of finished or semi-finished piece-knitted garments made from knit-to-shape panels knitted in Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the Department said when using the new Form 5, applicants should pay special attention to changes on the licence forms as follows :

- * declared exporters or manufacturers, who are not registered with the Department for textiles controls purposes and who do not have a Textiles Controls Registration number, are required fill in their Business Registration number;
- * the exporter's and manufacturer's declarations have been modified;
- * the conditions of licence and explanatory notes at the back of the licence form have been updated; and
- * the important warning at the back of the licence form has been revised in accordance with amendments to the Import and Export Ordinance and its subsidiary Regulations.

The spokesman said the new Form 5 would be available for sale from February 6 at \$20 per pad at the department's Collection Office in Room 813, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon.

"The current forms will continue to be accepted until March 4, 1995; from March 6, only the new Form 5 will be accepted for fresh applications," he said.

"The department periodically reviews textiles forms to ensure that they meet changing needs of the trade and that they are in line with the textiles export control system," he added.

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List of EIA reports released

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The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) released a list of environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports of major development projects completed in the last three months.

The department will continue to keep the public informed of EIA reports that have been completed as well as those which will be completed in the coming 12 months on a regular basis.

Under Government policy, proponent departments of major projects are required to place Government-owned EIA reports for public reference at the relevant District Offices, Urban Council/Regional Council Public Reference Libraries, the Office of Members of Legislative Council Library and EPD headquarters. Private sector proponents are encouraged to do the same.

Following is a list of EIA reports completed in the last three months:

1. Central Reclamation - Phase II
(Territory Development Department)
2. Restoration of Tseung Kwan O Landfills
(Environmental Protection Department)
3. Flyover across Castle Peak Road (Road 3/2), Tsuen Wan
(Territory Development Department)
4. North Lantau Expressway - Yam O Interchange
(Civil Engineering Department)
5. West Kowloon Reclamation Roadworks
(Territory Development Department)

6. West of Sulphur Channel Marine Borrow Area - Focused EIA
(Civil Engineering Department)

Major EIAs that are likely to be completed in the next 12 months include:

1. Ting Kau & Sham Tseng Sewerage Scheme
(Drainage Services Department)
2. Feasibility Study for Castle Peak Road Improvement between Area 2 and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan
(Highways Department)
3. Container Terminals No. 10 & 11 - Preliminary Design
(Civil Engineering Department)
4. Container Terminals No. 10 & 11 - Ancillary Works (Design)
(Civil Engineering Department)
5. Backfilling of South Tsing Yi Marine Borrow Area
(Civil Engineering Department)
6. West Kowloon Refuse Transfer Station Detailed EIA
(Environmental Protection Department)
7. Centralised Incineration Facilities (CIF)
(Environmental Protection Department)
8. Green Island Cement Manufacturing and Concrete Batching Area 17, Southwest Tsing Yi (Relocation of the Kennedy Town)
(Green Island Cement)
9. Hongkong Electric Company's Lamma Power Station Jetty and Navigation Channel
(Hongkong Electric Company Ltd)
10. Hong Kong Cement/Concrete Batching Plant and Material Storage Facilities at Northwest Tsing Yi Island
(Hong Kong Cement/Sun Hung Kai)
11. Eight Potential Land Based Borrow Areas
(Civil Engineering Department)

12. Main Drainage Channels for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin
(Territory Development Department)
13. Northwest New Territories (NWNT) Landfills Restoration
(Environmental Protection Department)
14. Outlying Island Refuse Transfer Facilities
(Environmental Protection Department)
15. Reclamation by Public Dump for District Open Space and
Government/Institute/Community, North Tsing Yi
(Civil Engineering Department)
16. Restoration of Urban Landfills - Stage II
(Environmental Protection Department)
17. Route 5 - Section between Shek Wai Kok and Chai Wan Kok
(Highways Department)
18. Shenzhen River Regulation Project Stage 2 Works
(Drainage Services Department, Hong Kong Government/Shenzhen
River Regulation Office of Municipal Government)
19. Sheung Shui Slaughter House
(Regional Services Department)
20. Tuen Mun Area 38, Special Industrial Area :
Reclamation & Servicing
(Territory Development Department)
21. Main Drainage Channels for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin :
EIA Study for Kam Tin Section (43CD) & Village Flood Protection
Works (30CD)
(Territory Development Department)
22. San Miguel Brewery, Yuen Long Industrial Estate
(San Miguel Brewery)
23. North West New Territories Development, Kam Tin By-pass Stage I
EIA
(Highways Department)

24. Tuen Mun Area 38 for Special Industrial Area :
Improvements to Roads & Junctions within Tuen Mun
(Highways Department)
25. Tseung Kwan O Development - Town Centre North
(Territory Development Department)
26. Commercial/Residential Development at Shiu Wing Steel Mill Site in
Tseung Kwan O Area 72
(Shiu Wing Steel Ltd)
27. Residential Development at Hong Kong Oxygen Plant Site in Areas 50
& 51, Tseung Kwan O
(Hong Kong Oxygen & Acetylene Co. Ltd)
28. Green Island Reclamation (Part) - Public Dump
(Civil Engineering Department)
29. Central, Western & Wan Chai West Sewerage
(Implementation)
(Drainage Services Department)
30. Island West Refuse Transfer Station
(Environmental Protection Department)
31. Chai Wan Road/Wing Tai Road Widening
(Highways Department)
32. EIA for Four Potential Housing Development Sites
(Environmental Protection Department)
33. Route 16: From West Kowloon to Shatin
(Highways Department)
34. Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility
(Provisional Airport Authority)
35. Aviation Fuel Supply System - Tsing Yi Pipeline
(Provisional Airport Authority)
36. Sham Tseng Link Feasibility Study
(Highways Department)

37. Backfilling of North Lantau Marine Borrow Area
(Civil Engineering Department)
38. West Kowloon Reclamation - Sandwich Class Housing North of Man
Cheong Street
(Housing Society)
39. Sand Extraction and Backfilling of Eastern Waters Marine Borrow
Areas
(Civil Engineering Department)
40. Central Reclamation, Phase III
(Territory Development Department)
41. West Kowloon Reclamation Comprehensive Traffic Analysis Review
and EIA
(Territory Development Department)
42. Sha Lo Tung Revised Development Supplementary EIA
(Sha Lo Tung Development Co Ltd)
43. Discovery Bay Development Extension
(Hong Kong Resort Co Ltd)
44. Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage 1, Implementation Stage EIA
(Drainage Services Department)
45. Design of Reclamation & Edge Structures for Container Terminals 10 &
11 and Back-up Areas
(Civil Engineering Department)
46. Hong Kong Ferry Pier Development at Central Reclamation, Phase I
(Hong Kong Ferry)
47. 40,000 Tonnes Lifting Capacity Floating Dock - Yam O, North Lantau
(Hong Kong United Dockyards Ltd)
48. Reclamation for Shipyard at To Kau Wan, EIA for Operation Phase
(Civil Engineering Department)
49. Tsung Pak Long Flood Protection Scheme
(Civil Engineering Department)

50. Main Drainage Channel for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland
(Civil Engineering Department)
51. Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme
(Civil Engineering Department)

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Cabinet at airport to remind travellers not to bring back endangered species

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A display cabinet has been installed at the Hong Kong International Airport's departure hall to remind travellers not to bring back endangered species on their return from overseas visits.

Specimens of endangered species, seized previously from travellers at checkpoints and shops respectively by officers of the Customs and Excise (C&E) and Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), are being displayed.

Another cabinet is being installed at the airport's arrival hall and expected to be ready soon.

Commenting on the new facility, an AFD conservation officer, Dr So Ping-man said its installation was timed to remind passengers going on overseas trips on flight during the Lunar New Year period to abide by the endangered species protection law.

"The reminder also extends to people visiting China and overseas countries who will use other means of transport," Dr So said.

He drew the public's attention that the maximum penalties under the related Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance had been substantially increased earlier this month.

The maximum penalty for people convicted of illegally trading in highly endangered species could be a \$5 million fine and two years' imprisonment.

Highly endangered species under this category include rhino, tiger, most bears, sea turtles, some wild orchids as well as medicine containing or claiming to contain rhino or tiger ingredients.

Under the amended legislation, the maximum penalty of illegal trading in less endangered species will be a \$500,000 fine plus one year's imprisonment. This covers endangered animals and plants including their parts and derivatives, such as leopard cat, slow loris, pangolin, owls, most parrots, crocodile, stony corals, wild orchids and wild American ginseng.

"The substantial increases in penalties reflect the Government's determination to deter the illegal import, export and possession of endangered species items," he said.

Turning to enforcement, Dr So pointed out that C&E and AFD officers will step up checks at border checkpoints and medicinal shops respectively during the Lunar New Year period.

End/Thursday, January 26, 1995

Private companies to file annual returns

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Private companies with a share capital should file annual returns within 42 days of the anniversaries of the dates of incorporation, a spokesman for the Companies Registry said today (Thursday).

"Under the Companies (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 1993 which came into operation on April 29 last year" the spokesman said, "private companies having a share capital are no longer required to file their annual returns within 42 days of their annual general meetings.

"Instead, unless exempted by the ordinance, they should file annual returns to the Registrar of Companies within 42 days of the anniversaries of their dates of incorporation.

"Unfortunately, some company directors and secretaries are not complying with the requirement on time, with the result that additional filing fees have to be paid.

"Failure to file annual return is of course an offence for which companies and their officers are liable to prosecution," the spokesman added.

The spokesman pointed out that annual returns must be separately signed by both a director and the secretary of the Company, otherwise these would not be accepted for filing.

Further information can be obtained from the Companies Registry, 14th Floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. Telephone enquiries can be made on tel 2867 4507.

End/Thursday, January 26, 1995

Yau Tong Maternal and Child Health Centre to close

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Yau Tong Maternal and Child Health Centre will be closed on February 1.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said today (Thursday) that the closure was necessary owing to a redevelopment programme at the Yau Tong Estate.

He said all the clients of the centre had been directed to Yung Fung Shee Maternal and Child Health Centre in Kwun Tong and Lam Tin Maternal and Child Health Centre in Lam Tin.

End/Thursday, January 26, 1995

Medical licentiate examination results announced

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The Licentiate Committee of the Medical Council of Hong Kong announced today (Thursday) that 52 candidates had passed Part I of the Licentiate Examination for unregistrable doctors.

A total of 241 candidates sat the examination on January 5 this year. Part I is a multiple-choice-question paper on professional subjects.

Part II of the examination, designed to test the candidates' English for professional purposes, will take place on March 2 and May 2. Candidates may choose to take the Part II Licentiate Examination on either date.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,031	0930	+13
Closing balance in the account	3,512	1000	+27
Change attributable to :		1100	+11
Money market activity	+11	1200	+11
LAF today	+1,470	1500	+11
		1600	+11

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.0 *+0.0* 26.1.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.78	16 months	2605	6.35	98.75	7.50
1 month	6.14	22 months	2611	6.90	94.18	7.95
3 months	6.59	27 months	3704	6.15	97.81	8.09
6 months	6.85	36 months	3801	8.00	99.81	8.24
12 months	7.31	59 months	5912	8.15	98.78	8.63

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$22,997 MN

Closed January 26, 1995

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