



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1990

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IMPROVEMENT TO POLITICAL STRUCTURE SOUGHT: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA IS TO TRY TO ACHIEVE AN IMPROVEMENT TO HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING KWUN TONG DISTRICT, SIR DAVID SAID: "NOW IT MAY NOT GET AS FAR AS WE WOULD IDEALLY LIKE AT THIS STAGE, IN WHICH CASE, I HOPE THERE WILL BE EFFORTS TO REACH FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS LATER ON."

"IF THERE IS AN OUTCOME FROM THE DRAFTING PROCESS WHICH IS NOT AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR 1997, THEN I BELIEVE WE WOULD WISH TO GO ON DISCUSSING WHETHER THERE COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON THE BASIS OF THE EXPERIENCE THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OF THE SYSTEM AS IT DEVELOPS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE MAKING A BIG CHANGE IN 1991 IN THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE EXPERIENCE OF A NEW ELEMENT IN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM. IN OTHER WORDS, DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS.

"THAT WILL PROVIDE EXPERIENCE OF HOW WELL IT WORKS. ON THE BASIS OF THAT, THEN I THINK THERE IS A GOOD REASON FOR CONTINUING TO DISCUSS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED AS "ABSOLUTE NONSENSE" SUGGESTIONS THAT THE REPORTED AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA ON HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS A "SELL-OUT" OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS TO WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS IN GUANGZHOU.

"FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD TODAY ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE DRAFTING IN PEKING, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THINGS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR DISAGREED WITH A SUGGESTION THAT THERE WOULD BE A POLITICAL STAGNATION BETWEEN 1991 AND 1997. "WE IN 1991 WILL BRING IN A GREAT CHANGE TO THE SYSTEM AND WE WILL BRING IN A MUCH FASTER RATE OF DEVELOPMENT THAN WE WERE ORIGINALLY PLANNING IN 1988. I MEAN THAT IS FOR CERTAIN," HE SAID.

"WE OUGHT TO BE DEVELOPING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM WHICH WILL THEN BE ABLE TO GO ON AFTER 1997, AND IT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT THAT WE SHOULD BRING IN AT AN EARLY STAGE A GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE, IF THAT IS WHAT IS GOING TO COME IN, IN 1997," SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVERNOR SEES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON TODAY (THURSDAY) LOOKED AT MEASURES TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN KWUN TONG.

DURING A VISIT TO THE DISTRICT THIS AFTERNOON, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL FROM A FLAT IN SHUN ON ESTATE.

THIS AREA WAS AT ONE TIME A MAJOR SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS IN THE SHUN LEE AREA WHO WERE WORRIED ABOUT OBNOXIOUS SMELLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LANDFILL.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AS A RESULT OF THE JOINT EFFORT OF SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND THAT THE LANDFILL WOULD CEASE OPERATION IN MAY WHEN THE KOWLOON BAY REFUSE TRANSFER STATION IS COMPLETED.

ON THE PROBLEM OF SITING LANDFILLS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO BUILD THREE LARGE LANDFILLS IN THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES WELL AWAY FROM CENTRES OF POPULATION.

"THE NUISANCE CAUSED BY LANDFILLS IN THE URBAN AREA WILL SOON BE A PROBLEM OF THE PAST," HE SAID.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRIS WAN, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON HAD A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE AIRPORT AND KOWLOON BAY FROM THE ROOFTOP OF A BUILDING IN RICHLAND GARDENS.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY CONSULTANTS TO REDUCE THE PROBLEM OF NOISE FROM THE RUNNING OF AIRCRAFT ENGINES ON THE GROUND ARE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED. REMEDIAL WORKS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1992.

ON THE POLLUTION PROBLEM IN THE KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER, SIR DAVID SAID THE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE TACKLED SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT DEALING WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR THE WHOLE OF EAST KOWLOON.

"WORK ON PHASE I OF A MASSIVE \$968 MILLION SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STARTED LAST YEAR.

"THE WHOLE PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED BY 1992. THAT WILL TRANSFORM THE SITUATION IN THE WHOLE OF EAST KOWLOON," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON LATER TOURED THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA. THEY WERE SHOWN HOW THE OWNERS OF MAI HING INDUSTRIAL BUILDING HAVE UPGRADED THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS OF THEIR BUILDING AND IMPROVED SANITATION, MAINTENANCE AND FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS.

/"PROTECTING OUR

"PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT ALONE. EVERY CITIZEN OF HONG KONG HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY.

"WE COULD START BY PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE BUILDINGS WE OURSELVES LIVE IN, AND TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN THEIR MANAGEMENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN THE KWUN TONG TOWN CENTRE DURING A WALK IN THE AREA.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE ALLEVIATED BY REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING AND THE JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC.

THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A GROUND LEVEL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, AND PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGES CONNECTING WITH THE KWUN TONG MTR STATION. VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC WILL THEN BE SEGREGATED.

AT THE END OF THE VISIT, THE GOVERNOR MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL PERSONALITIES AT A TEA RECEPTION IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

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OCT-DEC UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS RELEASED

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED MARGINALLY DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1989.

THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET WAS STILL TIGHT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1989 WAS 1.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.4 PER CENT FOR THE THREE-MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1989. IT WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1989 WAS ESTIMATED AT 35,800, COMPARED WITH 37,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1989 AND 36,200 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1989 WAS 0.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1989 AND 0.7 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1988.

/THE INCREASES

THE INCREASES OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1989 WAS 22,800, COMPARED WITH 17,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1989 AND 18,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990 WAS 1.3 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT.

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

THIS SURVEY COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 51,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE 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 ILO.

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 DECEMBER 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MARCH 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

HONG KONG RANKS 6TH IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE SURVEY

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ACCORDING TO A REPORT ON GLOBAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET ACTIVITY PUBLISHED BY THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS (BIS), HONG KONG RANKED SIXTH AMONG THE 21 CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET SURVEY CONDUCTED IN APRIL 1989, FOLLOWING THE UK, THE USA, JAPAN, SWITZERLAND AND SINGAPORE.

"OF AN ESTIMATED GLOBAL DAILY TURNOVER OF US\$640 BILLION, AROUND EIGHT PER CENT INVOLVED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET OF HONG KONG," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE PATTERN OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, IN TERMS OF CURRENCY COMPOSITION, COUNTERPARTY ANALYSIS AND TYPE OF TRANSACTION, IS BROADLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF GLOBAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS," HE ADDED.

"THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE HONG KONG SURVEY HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER 1989 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

THE REPORT PRODUCED BY BIS CONTAINS SUMMARY RESULTS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET SURVEYS IN 21 COUNTRIES OR CITIES. IT ALSO INCLUDES AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE SCALE AND STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH. ANYONE PROFESSIONALLY INTERESTED IN THIS REPORT MAY WRITE TO MONETARY STATISTICS UNIT, MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, 24TH FLOOR, ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 2, 18 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG TO REQUEST A COPY.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY FOREIGN EXCHANGE TURNOVER IN APRIL 1989:

COUNTRY	AVERAGE DAILY FOREIGN EXCHANGE TURNOVER* IN APRIL 1989
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	(US\$BN)
UNITED KINGDOM	187
UNITED STATES	129
JAPAN	115
SWITZERLAND	57
SINGAPORE	55
HONG KONG	49

/AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA	30
FRANCE	26
CANADA	15
NETHERLANDS	13
DENMARK	13
SWEDEN	13
BELGIUM	10
ITALY	10
IRELAND	5.2
SPAIN	4.4
NORWAY	4.4
FINLAND	3.4
BAHRAIN	3.0
PORTUGAL	0.9
GREECE	0.4
TOTAL	744
ADJUSTMENT FOR CROSS-BORDER DOUBLE COUNTING **	-204
TOTAL REPORTED NET TURNOVER	540
ESTIMATED GAPS IN REPORTING	100
ESTIMATED GLOBAL TURNOVER	640

* THE FIGURES FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED FOR DOUBLE COUNTING ARISING FROM LOCAL INTERBANK BUSINESS.

** THE ADJUSTMENT IS MADE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF CROSS-BORDER INTERBANK TRANSACTIONS WERE WITH OTHER REPORTING ENTITIES.

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STATUTORY CORPORATION TO MANAGE AND CONTROL
PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE SETTING UP OF A STATUTORY CORPORATION TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY CENTRE.

IT HAS ALSO AGREED TO GRANT A SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF TAT CHEE AVENUE AND FA PO STREET IN YAU YAT TSUEN, MEASURING ABOUT 5,600 SQUARE METRES, TO THE CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MRS CLARIE LO, SAID THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WAS TO PROVIDE SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE RESEARCH ON AND PRODUCTION OF HIGH-TECH PRODUCTS.

"THE CENTRE WILL ALSO PROVIDE INDUSTRIALISTS WITH HIGH STANDARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THROUGH THE PROPOSED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AND THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FACILITIES," SHE SAID.

MRS LO SAID THE CORPORATION, TO BE KNOWN AS "THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CORPORATION", WOULD HAVE A BOARD CONSISTING OF A CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

"THE BOARD SHALL BE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CORPORATION WITH AUTHORITY, SUBJECT TO ANY DIRECTIONS THE GOVERNOR MAY GIVE AS WHEN NECESSARY.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE TO THE BOARD FOR MANAGING THE CENTRE," SHE SAID.

MRS LO SAID SITE FORMATION WORKS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PENDING THE ACTUAL GRANTING OF THE SITE.

"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1993," SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, MRS LO ADDED, DUE TO THE EXISTING DEMAND FOR THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AND THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FACILITIES, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO SET UP THESE FACILITIES TEMPORARILY IN THE PREMISES OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL'S NEW BUILDING AT YAU YAT TSUEN WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDED TO SET UP A LIMITED COMPANY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MANAGE THESE FACILITIES AND TO PERFORM THE NECESSARY FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF HAVING THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE OPERATIONAL IN 1993.

"THE FIRST TASK OF THE COMPANY WILL BE TO OVERSEE THE RECRUITMENT OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THEREAFTER TO ADVISE ON OTHER ASPECTS OF PLANNING PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATUTORY CORPORATION," MRS LO SAID.

/SHE ADDED

SHE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE CORPORATION WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE CORPORATION TO TAKE OVER ALL THE ASSETS, LIABILITIES, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE LIMITED COMPANY AND FOR THE COMPANY TO BE DISSOLVED ON THE DATE THE CORPORATION CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

"ALL COMMITMENTS ENTERED INTO BY THE LIMITED COMPANY WILL THEN BE ASSUMED BY THE STATUTORY CORPORATION," SHE SAID.

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NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

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A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGH WHICH ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN WORK TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, FORMED RECENTLY UPON APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR, HELD ITS INAUGURAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES, AT THE SAME TIME ENCOURAGING AND MOBILISING PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A BETTER ENVIRONMENT.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TO:

- * KEEP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSTANTLY BEFORE THE PUBLIC, THUS FOSTERING MORE ENLIGHTENED ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT;
- * KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLICITY EFFORTS AND PROGRAMMES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION;
- * PROVIDE A CHANNEL FOR ANY PRIVATE DONATIONS AND RESOURCES, OTHER THAN THOSE SECURED DIRECTLY BY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, AND/OR TO ADVISE THOSE CONCERNED ON THE BEST USE OF THOSE RESOURCES FOR PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS;
- * ENCOURAGE AND, WHERE NECESSARY, PROVIDE CO-ORDINATION OF VARIOUS PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES AND BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS; AND
- * PLAN AND OVERSEE ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED).

A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS PEGGY LAM, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

/OTHER MEMBERS

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OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE COMMITTEE ARE DR PETER HILLS, MR LAU KONG-WAH, MR VINCENT WONG PO-SUM, MR PHILLIP CRAWLEY, DR PANG HOK-TUEN, MR WILLIAM COURTAULD, MS LINDA SIDDALL, MR NIGEL WATT, MR WATER POON, MR HUNG WING-TAT, MRS CHUNG CHIU WAI-KAN, AND MR Y.C. YUNG.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS ARE THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS; DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION; DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES; DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE COMPRISES FOUR WORKING GROUPS: THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION CAMPAIGN, PUBLICITY, AND RESOURCES WORKING GROUPS.

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DISABLED AIRCRAFT RECOVERY TRANSPORTER SYSTEM FOR KAI TAK

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A UNIQUE TRANSPORTER SYSTEM SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO EXPEDITIOUSLY REMOVE DISABLED AIRCRAFT AT KAI TAK AIRPORT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION NEXT MONTH.

THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) TOOK DELIVERY OF THE \$10 MILLION DISABLED AIRCRAFT RECOVERY TRANSPORTER SYSTEM (DARTS) FROM WEST GERMANY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DARTS WAS THE FIRST SELF-PROPELLED AIRCRAFT RECOVERY SYSTEM PRODUCED. THE CONCEPT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LOCAL AVIATION INDUSTRY IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE IN AIRCRAFT RECOVERY AT KAI TAK.

THE DARTS IS A HIGHLY MANOEUVRABLE MODULAR SYSTEM CONSISTING OF THREE LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY TRANSPORTERS WITH AN OVERALL LIFTING CAPACITY OF 300 TONNES. EACH TRAILER CAN BE USED INDEPENDENTLY, OR COMBINED IN VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS WITH THE OTHER TWO TRAILERS.

"THIS IS NECESSARY TO CATER FOR DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT SIZES RANGING FROM BOEING 747 TO SMALL GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT, AND TO COPE WITH DIFFERENT ACCIDENT SITUATIONS VARYING FROM RELATIVELY MINOR TO MAJOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE," HE SAID.

WITH AN OVERALL PAYLOAD OF 300 TONNES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, THE DARTS WOULD LIFT A BOEING 747, THE HEAVIEST COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, WITHOUT THE TIME CONSTRAINT OF WEIGHT REDUCTION OTHER THAN DEFUELLING AND CARGO REMOVAL FOR SAFETY AND CENTRE OF GRAVITY CONTROL PURPOSES.

THE DARTS IS CONTROLLED BY A SINGLE OPERATOR THROUGH A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM AND, FITTED WITH A TOTAL OF 96 WHEELS, THE DISABLED AIRCRAFT CAN BE MOVED EXPEDITIOUSLY EVEN OVER SOFT GROUND.

/THE NEW

THE NEW EQUIPMENT WILL BE ASSEMBLED AND TESTED BEFORE IT COMES INTO OPERATION NEXT MONTH.

"THIS WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR CAPABILITY IN REMOVING DISABLED AIRCRAFT FROM THE RUNWAY AND ENABLE THE AIRPORT TO BE RETURNED TO NORMAL OPERATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE EVENT OF AN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE DARTS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THE MEDIA IN MID-MARCH.

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SHA ON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE

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THE CLEARANCE OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY, AND ABOUT HALF OF THE RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY MOVED OUT OF THE AREA, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PO LEUNG KUK LUNCHEON MEETING, MR TSAO SAID THE SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE, WHICH WAS SET UP FOR THE CLEARANCE OF THE WALLED CITY, HAD SO FAR TAKEN OVER 3,900 PREMISES, WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT HALF OF THE 8,000 PREMISES THERE.

THE 3,900 PREMISES INCLUDED 230 INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS AND CLINICS, HE ADDED.

MR TSAO ESTIMATED THAT DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE CLEARANCE, THE SPECIAL DUTIES OFFICE, THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL RESIDENTS HAD HELD ABOUT 1,000 MEETINGS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CLEARANCE.

HE NOTED THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD USED ALMOST A YEAR TO FORMULATE A FAIR COMPENSATION PACKAGE WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED AN AMOUNT OF ABOUT \$2,300 MILLION AS PAYMENT TO OWNERS AND TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE.

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HANDICRAFT AND DRAWINGS BY KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ON DISPLAY

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AN EXHIBITION ON HANDICRAFT AND DRAWINGS BY STUDENTS FROM 15 KINDERGARTENS IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE STAGED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE TWO-DAY EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE THEMES DEPICTED BY THE WORKS INCLUDE SEASONS, ANIMALS, FOOD, TRAFFIC, CLOTHING AND FAMILY.

THE EXHIBITION, ADMISSION TO WHICH IS FREE, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM TOMORROW AND FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW. OFFICIATING WILL BE THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (KINDERGARTEN), MRS NG CHEUK MAN-LING; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MISS CECILIA YEUNG; SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER FOR WONG TAI SIN, MR IP PO-KUEN; WONG TAI SIN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (WEST), MR WILLIAM KWAN; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG; AND CONVENER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE EXHIBITION, MISS CHAN SUK-HA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EXHIBITION ON HANDICRAFT AND DRAWINGS BY KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IN WONG TAI SIN TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND ON SATURDAY IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM TOMORROW AND FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAY.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE EXHIBITION HALL TOMORROW AT 10.30 AM.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1990

- 12 -

JOINT SCHOOL VARIETY SHOW IN NORTH DISTRICT

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STUDENTS FROM 10 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH DISTRICT WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ARTISTIC TALENT DURING A JOINT SCHOOL VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17) AFTERNOON.

THE VARIETY SHOW IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE NORTH DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADMASTERS' CONFERENCE WITH SPONSORSHIP BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL IN SHEUNG SHUI. THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE FOLK DANCE AND SONGS, DRAMA, ELECTRONIC PIANO PLAYING, AND PERFORMANCES BY CHOIRS AND PHILHARMONIC AND CHINESE ORCHESTRAS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG; AND SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (TAI PO AND NORTH), MR LIU TSO-TIM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NORTH DISTRICT JOINT SECONDARY SCHOOL VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17) AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL, LUNG SUM AVENUE, SHEUNG SHUI.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL START AT 2 PM.

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT GERMAN SWISS INT'L SCHOOL

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THE ADDRESS OF THE GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WHEN IT FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1969 WAS 1 BARKER ROAD.

SEVENTEEN YEARS AND FOUR MORE ADDRESSES LATER, INCLUDING THE UNION CHURCH IN KENNEDY ROAD, THE SCHOOL FINALLY ACQUIRED A PERMANENT ADDRESS AT 11 GUILDFORD ROAD AT THE PEAK, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS WERE TOLD THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN THEY VISITED THE SCHOOL.

FROM A MODEST BEGINNING OF A RECEPTIONAL AND SOME PRIMARY CLASSES, THE SCHOOL TODAY HAS 821 KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS IN 36 CLASSES.

/THE VISITORS,

THE VISITORS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR LUCAS CHAN, COMPRISED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TIMOTHY HA, AND BOARD MEMBERS DR SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI, MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MR TAM MAN-KWAN, MRS MINNIE LAI, MISS SO YAN-LAP, AND MRS NANCY YUNG.

THE GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PROVIDES THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GERMAN, SWISS AND BRITISH EDUCATION, AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN HONG KONG.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN ADMIRALTY AND CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17), THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION (WEST) BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BUS TERMINUS 24 HOURS DAILY.

IN ADDITION, THE LAYBY ADJACENT TO THE BUS TERMINUS WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING RIGHT-TURNING FROM EASTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL INTO QUEEN VICTORIA STREET WILL BE BANNED.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON EASTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL HEADING FOR QUEEN VICTORIA STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PEDDER STREET, WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL TO JOIN QUEEN VICTORIA STREET.

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- 14 -

URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY:

* THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF JOHNSTON ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH O'BRIEN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND

* O'BRIEN ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH JOHNSTON ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING RESTRICTION FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE SAME SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE CANCELLED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CHI FU

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17), THE CHI FU FA YUEN BUS TERMINUS IN POK FU LAM WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BUS TERMINUS 24 HOURS DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BAY BETWEEN CHI FU ROAD AND CHI FU FA YUEN BUS TERMINUS WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1990

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NO-STOP FOR TAXIS IN CHOI YUEN ROAD, SHEUNG SHUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17), ALL TAXIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS ALONG EASTBOUND CHOI YUEN ROAD (ROAD L10) IN SHEUNG SHUI BETWEEN CHOI YUEN ROAD ROUNDABOUT AND A POINT ABOUT 185 METRES WEST OF THE ROUNDABOUT.

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WATER CUTS IN TUEN MUN, HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17) TO 5 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT CERTAIN PREMISES LOCATED ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD, INCLUDING FU TEI, SHUN FUNG WAI, LAM TEI SAN TSUEN, FUK HANG TSUEN, FUK HANG ROAD, TUEN TSZ WAI, TSING CHUEN WAI, LAM TEI MAIN STREET, TIN HO RESTAURANT, FOON HEI RESTAURANT, KAR HEI RESTAURANT, CHIK YUEN, YEE LO, TO YUEN WAI, KEI TAK HOME FOR THE AGED AND KAI YAN INSTITUTION OF OLD AGE.

IT WILL ALSO AFFECT PREMISES ON HING PING ROAD, TUEN MUN REFUGEE CENTRE, NAI WAI, BOWRING CAMP, LAM TEI PUMPING STATION AND QUARTERS, FU TEI CHUNG TSUEN, FU HANG ROAD, SAN TAO YUEN, KING LO LOK YUEN, KONG ON HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, ST FRANCIS OLD AGE HOME, MAN CHUI YUEN HOME FOR THE OLD AGED AND GREENFIELD LODGE.

ON THE SAME DAY (FEBRUARY 17), FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 PM TO MIDNIGHT TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES LOCATED AT HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK, INCLUDING KING GEORGE V COLLEGE, HO MAN TIN ESTATE, OI MAN ESTATE, CHUN MAN COURT AND VALLEY ROAD ESTATE.

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