



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1991

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SECOND QUARTER BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR GENERALLY EXPECT A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER.

THESE COMPARISONS ARE, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS. AS FAR AS MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IS CONCERNED, THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR IS USUALLY A SEASONAL LOW WHILE THE THIRD QUARTER IS NORMALLY MORE ACTIVE THAN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ARE SUMMARISED BELOW.

FIRMS IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, FIRMS IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE PLASTICS, FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES, ANTICIPATE AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS OVER THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE FIRMS SURVEYED EXPERIENCED A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND EXPECT THE SITUATION TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR, HOTELS EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WHILE RESTAURANTS RECORDED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BUSINESS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES REMAINED STABLE.

REGARDING THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, RESTAURANTS AND FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS, WHILE HOTELS ANTICIPATE THEIR BUSINESS TO REMAIN STABLE.

IN THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, BANKS AND FIRMS IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WHILE BUSINESS IN THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES REMAINED STABLE.

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REGARDING THE SHORT-TERM BUSINESS PROSPECTS, THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY.

THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GENERALLY ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH WAGE RATES, PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH MATERIAL PRICES, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS, AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, PRICE COMPETITION, SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR, AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS OR CONTRACTS WERE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO SUSTAIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR AND THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FIRMS CITED PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH STAFF COSTS, AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AS THEIR MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991.

IN ADDITION, HOTELS ALSO ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD "IMPROVED", "REMAINED THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATED" IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO "IMPROVE", "REMAIN THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATE" IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, SECOND QUARTER 1991".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE GROUP.

/THE DEPARTMENT .....

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PURCHASE COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$8 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3223.

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CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION  
AND BETTERMENT MEETS PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT, MR JOHN TODD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS, INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS, LAW SOCIETY, THE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

THEY, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION, FORM A PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ITS WORK.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT WILL PLAY A SPECIAL PART IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS OF THE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

"IT WILL BE CONSIDERING THE VERY CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER COMPENSATION SHOULD BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR TOWN PLANNING DECISIONS WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT PROPERTY RIGHTS," MR TODD SAID.

"IT WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERING WHETHER BETTERMENT SHOULD BE PAID TO THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE VALUE OF PROPERTY IS ENHANCED.

"AT PRESENT, LAND COMPENSATION IS ONLY PAID WHEN LAND IS RESUMED AND THERE ARE NO BETTERMENT CHARGES AS SUCH."

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PLANNING RESTRICTIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES LAST YEAR CAUSED MANY LANDHOLDERS THERE TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAY OUT COMPENSATION FOR PLANNING RESTRICTIONS AND PLANNING BLIGHT CAUSED BY THE ZONING OF LAND.

THE POINT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES DO NOT ONLY RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND BUT IN OTHER CASES ENHANCE ITS VALUE BY IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THROUGH PLANNING DECISIONS.

IF A MORE EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION IS TO BE INTRODUCED, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THERE SHOULD BE A COUNTER-BALANCING SYSTEM BY WHICH THOSE WHOSE PROPERTY VALUES ARE INCREASED SHOULD PAY A BETTERMENT LEVY TO THE GOVERNMENT. THIS WOULD OFFSET THE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE FALL ON THE GENERAL TAXPAYERS.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, IN ANNOUNCING LAST MONTH THAT THERE WOULD BE A PERIOD OF CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PLANNING BILL, EXPLAINED THAT THIS ISSUE NEEDED AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE WHOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND INCORPORATED IN THE OVERALL PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PLANNING ORDINANCE NEXT YEAR.

MR TODD WHO WAS FORMERLY SECRETARY FOR HOUSING HAS RETURNED FROM RETIREMENT IN AUSTRIA FOR THIS SIX-MONTH TASK. BEFORE BECOMING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, HE WAS DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND ALSO DEPUTY SECRETARY BOTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND, IN THE LATE 1970'S, FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN IS H.H. JUDGE CRUDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE MR GERRY FORSGATE, RECENTLY RETIRED CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL; PROFESSOR ANTHONY WALKER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURVEYING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (HKU); MR ALBERT CHEN HUNG-YEE, A SENIOR LECTURER IN THE LAW FACULTY OF THE HKU; MR SELWYN MAR, A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT; MR RONNY WONG FOOK-HUM, QUEEN'S COUNSEL; AND MR PATRICK WU PO-KONG, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF WING LUNG BANK.

THE PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS WILL RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ADVISE ON MATTERS REFERRED TO IT. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT THE MEMBERS WILL MAKE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL THEN DISCUSS THEM WITH THE PANEL.

"DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PANEL WOULD ONLY BE PART OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS," MR TODD EXPLAINED.

"THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT WILL AFFECT MANY SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND I HOPE THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED GROUPS AND FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC."

NOTING THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD FOR THE WHOLE EXERCISE WILL END ON NOVEMBER 30, AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL NEED TO PUT FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN TIME FOR SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR, MR TODD URGED THOSE WHO WISH TO APPROACH THE COMMITTEE TO DO SO EARLY.

"THERE WILL THEN BE TIME FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET AND DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SUBMITTED PROPOSALS BEFORE IT DRAWS UP ITS RECOMMENDATIONS," HE ADDED.

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ANYONE WISHING TO SUBMIT VIEWS ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT SHOULD DO SO EITHER IN WRITING OR IN PERSON TO THE CHAIRMAN OR TO THE SECRETARY, DR SIMON VICKERS, OR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MRS SARAH LEUNG, AT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S OFFICE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING, ICE HOUSE STREET.

NOTE:

MR JOHN TODD, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT, WILL BE HAPPY TO MEET THE MEDIA TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON OR DISCUSS HIS COMMITTEE'S WORK.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT MRS SARAH LEUNG (TEL. NO. 524 0205) OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR ARRANGEMENTS.

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#### HK OFFICIALS TO VISIT CHINA

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WILL BE VISITING CHINA FROM AUGUST 21 TO 31 AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

MRS WONG WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SIX OTHER HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF VISITS STARTED A FEW YEARS AGO FOR GENERAL FAMILIARISATION.

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#### CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS URGED TO CALL OFF INDUSTRIAL ACTION

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WONG KWOK-LAI, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) NOTED WITH REGRET THE DEPARTMENT'S HOUSE SERVICES INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION'S DECISION TO HOLD A PETITION RALLY AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT THIS SATURDAY (AUGUST 17) AS A MEANS TO ESCALATE ITS INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHICH STARTED TWO WEEKS AGO.

HE APPEALED TO THE CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS HOUSE SERVICES INSPECTORS) TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN PURSUING THEIR DEMANDS AND TO CALL OFF THEIR INDUSTRIAL ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

/A SPOKESMAN .....

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE ASSOCIATION'S DECISION CAME AS A SURPRISE BECAUSE, IN THE MEETING WITH EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), BOTH THE STAFF AND THE MANAGEMENT SIDES HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE WITH THE DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE THE DEMANDS OF THE CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS.

THE ASSOCIATION DEMANDED THE INCLUSION OF GRADE E IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS THE ENTRY QUALIFICATION, IMPROVED PROMOTION PROSPECT AND EXEMPTION FROM EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PLUMBING LICENCE.

"THE PRESENT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS PLACE EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL ABILITY BECAUSE THE WORKS OF THESE INSPECTORS REQUIRE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO THE ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY AGREED TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO CANDIDATES WITH GRADE E IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE RECRUITMENT OF CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS."

ON THE ASSOCIATION'S PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVED PROMOTION PROSPECT, THE SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CAREER OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. IT HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSAL WHICH SOUGHT THE CREATION OF A SENIOR RANK.

UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, THE CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF MOVING UP TO ASSISTANT WATERWORKS INSPECTOR AND OTHER SENIOR RANKS IN THE WATERWORKS INSPECTOR GRADE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

AS TO THE EXEMPTION FROM EXAMINATION FOR THE LICENSING OF PLUMBERS, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT CONSUMER SERVICES INSPECTORS WITH ADEQUATE YEARS OF SERVICE ARE ALREADY EXEMPTED FROM PART II OF THE EXAMINATION WHICH TESTS THE CANDIDATES' KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL CONSIDERING THE ASSOCIATION'S JUSTIFICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM PART I OF THE EXAMINATION WHICH TESTS THE CANDIDATES' COMPETENCE IN CARRYING OUT PLUMBING WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS NOT REJECTED THE ASSOCIATION'S DEMANDS BUT IS ALWAYS PREPARED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH IT WITH A VIEW TO REACHING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

SO FAR, THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION HAS NOT AFFECTED THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

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EXTENSION OF HK/CANADA TEXTILES AGREEMENT

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE HONG KONG/CANADA TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

"AGREEMENT ON THE EXTENSION HAS BEEN REACHED AND WILL BE RATIFIED ONCE INTERNAL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG SAID.

"THE EXTENSION WILL APPLY TO ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING GROWTH RATES AND FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS A ROLLOVER FOR TWO YEARS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 1991," HE SAID.

"THIS AGREEMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) AND OUR EARLIER AGREEMENTS WITH FINLAND, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES, HAS REMOVED THE UNCERTAINTY HITHERTO SURROUNDING HONG KONG'S TEXTILES TRADE ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO," MR TSANG SAID.

"WE WILL NOW DEVOTE OURSELVES FULLY TO THE TASK OF NEGOTIATING A NEW AND MORE LIBERAL MULTILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND," HE SAID.

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251 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 251 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 128 MEN, 54 WOMEN, 42 BOYS AND 27 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 63RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 8,803 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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SECTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO BE REBUILT

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$48 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST BETWEEN KING TAI STREET AND KOWLOON CITY INTERCHANGE, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS TO HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER (KOWLOON), MR CHIU WING-HUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FROM KING TAI STREET TO KOWLOON CITY ROUNDABOUT WOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED TO INCLUDE MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CARRIAGEWAY ALIGNMENTS AND STORM WATER DRAINS AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL LANE AT THE WESTBOUND APPROACH TO KOWLOON CITY ROUNDABOUT.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS TO THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WILL INCLUDE:

- \* CONSTRUCTION OF A GYRATORY SYSTEM IN OLYMPIC AVENUE AND SUNG WONG TOI ROAD;
- \* RE-ROUTING OF KOWLOON CITY ROAD BETWEEN MA TAU KOK ROAD AND SUNG WONG TOI ROAD TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND; AND
- \* JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS AT TO KWA WAN ROAD/SAN SHAN ROAD JUNCTION.

"LANDSCAPING WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT UPON COMPLETION OF THE NEW CARRIAGEWAYS," MR CHIU SAID.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, ONE EASTBOUND AND ONE WESTBOUND LANE IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST WILL BE OCCUPIED FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING FROM KOWLOON CITY ROUNDABOUT TO SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG ARE ADVISED TO USE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE VIA CHOI HUNG ROAD AND PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD TO THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL AND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS USING THIS ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FROM THE END OF THIS MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS.

FURTHER ADVICE TO MOTORISTS WILL BE ISSUED AS THE WORKS PROGRESS. MOTORISTS ARE REQUESTED TO BE PATIENT AND TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN THEY DRIVE THROUGH THE SITE OF THE WORKS.

THE EXISTING NUMBER OF TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE MAINTAINED IN SUNG WONG TOI ROAD AND OLYMPIC AVENUE UNTIL THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS ARE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

THE WORKS OF THIS CONTRACT WILL COMMENCE ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 16) AND THE ROADWORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 27 MONTHS.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

EMPLOYERS URGED TO MAKE TYPHOON ARRANGEMENTS

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EMPLOYERS ARE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED TO MAKE PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS.

SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE RULES FOR REPORTING TO WORK AND RELEASING EMPLOYEES FROM WORK, AND THE METHOD OF CALCULATING WAGES IN VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

ACTING CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER, MR FRANCIS HO, SAID THE LAW DID NOT LAY DOWN ANY PARTICULAR PROVISIONS ON WHAT ONE SHOULD DO IN A TYPHOON SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT NATURES AND REQUIREMENTS OF JOBS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

"IT WILL, NEVERTHELESS, BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR AN AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED TO AVOID CONFUSION," MR HO STRESSED, ADDING THAT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HE SAID EMPLOYERS SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THEIR WORKERS' SAFETY, BOTH AT THE WORKPLACE AND WHILE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM HOME DURING A TYPHOON.

"NORMALLY, EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT REQUIRE EMPLOYEES TO REPORT FOR DUTY OR TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR A HIGHER SIGNAL IS HOISTED, OR WHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS ABOUT TO STOP," HE SAID.

"THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPLY TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL OR EMERGENCY DUTIES DURING A TYPHOON. IN SUCH CASES, THE EMPLOYER SHOULD CLEARLY INFORM THE EMPLOYEES CONCERNED AT THEIR COMMENCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT," HE NOTED.

EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN DRAFTING OR PREPARING TYPHOON ARRANGEMENTS MAY APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICES FOR ADVICE.

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THREE GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF THREE LAND LOTS FOR OPEN STORAGE.

TWO LOTS, LOCATED AT YEN CHOW STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON AND SIU LAM, TUEN MUN, MEASURE ABOUT 865 AND 2,800 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THEY ARE BOTH FOR OPEN STORAGE, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY FOR THE LOTS IS FOR ONE YEAR AND TWO YEARS RESPECTIVELY AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD LOT, WHICH MEASURES ABOUT 1.64 HECTARES, IS LOCATED AT LAI CHI KOK RECLAMATION AREA, KOWLOON.

IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF CONTAINERS, INCLUDING STUFFING AND DESTUFFING OF CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 30.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE RELEVANT DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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MEETING TO PROMOTE BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN SHAM SHUI PO ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A BUILDING MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 3, AT THE LAI KOK COMMUNITY HALL.

PRIVATE BUILDING CARETAKERS AND RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND.

THE MEETING IS ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD TO ENHANCE LOCAL RESIDENT'S KNOWLEDGE IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

OFFICIALS FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL BE PRESENT.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37 TONKIN STREET.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS WILL BE AUGUST 23.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 361 7352.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1991

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24 S6 VACANCIES FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION

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A TOTAL OF 24 VACANT SECONDARY 6 PLACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS SHOULD REGISTER AT ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT CENTRES TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM.

THE AVAILABLE PLACES, COMPRISING 13 IN ARTS STREAM AND 11 IN SCIENCE STREAM, ARE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON OUTLYING ISLANDS.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	13.8.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	14.8.91	-327
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+327
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.0 *+0.2* 14.8.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	14.8.91	13.8.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.64 PCT	5.02 PCT
1 MONTH	5.19 PCT	5.25 PCT
3 MONTHS	5.63 PCT	5.55 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.93 PCT	5.88 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.42 PCT	6.41 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	8,090 MN	5,190 MN

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