



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1990

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COMMITMENTS TO FURTHER SCHEMES OF ASSURANCES: MAUDE

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BRITAIN'S APPEAL TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO COME FORWARD WITH SCHEMES OF ASSURANCES FOR HONG KONG HAS RESULTED IN FIRM COMMITMENTS AND POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MR MAUDE SAID: "WE HAVE DONE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO SECURE THESE COMMITMENTS AND POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS, BUT THAT WORK IS NOT YET DONE.

"THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME WHICH WILL PROVIDE PASSPORTS OR RIGHTS OF ENTRY FOR UP TO 1,500 EMPLOYEES OF FRENCH COMPANIES AND THEIR FAMILIES -- THAT IS UP TO 1,500 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND THEIR FAMILIES," MR MAUDE SAID.

"GERMANY, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG ARE ABOUT TO FINALISE SCHEMES OF BROADLY THE SAME NATURE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WHAT THEY CAN DO," HE ADDED.

THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THE SINGAPORE SCHEME WAS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE AND WAS ALREADY PROVIDING SOME SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FLEXIBILITY EXISTED WITHIN BOTH THE AUSTRALIAN AND THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION RULES WHICH HAD PROVIDED AND COULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, SOME ADDITIONAL INSURANCE IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER MEASURES.

MR MAUDE SAID THAT IN THE UNITED STATES THERE WAS AN EXISTING AMENDMENT TO THE IMMIGRATION BILL TO INCREASE THE QUOTA FROM HONG KONG TO 20,000.

"THERE IS NOW A FURTHER AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO IT WHICH WOULD ENABLE APPLICANTS TO DEFER TAKING UP THEIR RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR ANOTHER 12 YEARS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SAME SORT OF EFFECT AS OUR OWN NATIONALITY PACKAGE," THE MINISTER SAID.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TRY TO DELIVER FURTHER COMMITMENTS ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG. BUT IF THESE COMMITMENTS AND POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS ALL MATERIALISE AND WITH THE FLEXIBILITY FROM CANADA AND AUSTRALIA THAT I HAVE REFERRED TO, THIS COULD CAUSE THE EFFECTS OF OUR OWN NATIONALITY PACKAGE TO MULTIPLY AND THAT I THINK IS VERY GOOD NEWS INDEED FOR HONG KONG," MR MAUDE SAID.

THE MINISTER STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO INTERNATIONALISE MATTERS WHICH WERE PROPERLY FOR CHINA AND BRITAIN TO DEAL WITH TOGETHER.

"BUT WE'VE EXPLAINED TO CHINA THAT HONG KONG IS IN ITS NATURE AN INTERNATIONAL PLACE. THERE ARE BIG INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS.

/"IT DEPENDS

"IT DEPENDS ON ITS SUCCESS, FOR ITS SUCCESS, ON THIS SORT OF INTERNATIONAL ENDEAVOUR AND IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER THEN FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE EMPLOYEES OF THEIR OWN COMPANIES WHICH ARE OPERATING HERE," MR MAUDE SAID.

"AND THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE SOUGHT TO HAVE DONE AND THAT'S WHAT IS BEING DONE. I WOULD BE SURPRISED THAT CHINA REACTS IN A HOSTILE WAY TO THIS. IT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY TO WHICH WE ARE BOTH COMMITTED," HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR FOREIGN PASSPORT HOLDERS, MR MAUDE SAID: "THE JOINT DECLARATION ALLOWS FOR, COMMITS CHINA TO ALLOWING ENTRY AND EXIT FOR PEOPLE WITH FOREIGN PASSPORTS LEGITIMATELY ACQUIRED."

"IT IS UP TO EACH COUNTRY WHETHER IT GIVES CONSULAR PROTECTION TO ITS OWN NATIONALS WITHIN HONG KONG AND I HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE SHOULD DO SO," HE ADDED.

ON BRITAIN'S NATIONALITY PACKAGE, MR MAUDE SAID: "THE FACT THAT CONFIDENCE IS BEING ENHANCED BY THESE MEASURES. THE FACT THAT THESE MEASURES WILL KEEP MANY MORE OF THE KEY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH WILL BENEFIT EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG, BECAUSE HONG KONG DEPEND ON ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS ON THE KEY PEOPLE REMAINING HERE."

THE MINISTER SAID THE CLEAR MESSAGE HE WAS GETTING FROM HONG KONG WAS THE VIEW THAT ALTHOUGH NOT EVERYONE WOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE TOTALITY OF THE PACKAGE, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT IT WENT THROUGH (PARLIAMENT).

"THIS IS A PACKAGE VERY MUCH BETTER THAN NOTHING, AND HONG KONG DEPENDS FOR ITS FUTURE SUCCESS ON IT GOING THROUGH. AND WHILE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE WANTED IT TO BE LARGER, IT'S A VERY GOOD PACKAGE INDEED," MR MAUDE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON MR MAUDE'S REMARKS AFTER ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID ALL OF THESE WERE PART OF AN EFFORT TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE REMAINED IN HONG KONG.

"THAT IS CRUCIAL TO EVERYTHING THAT WE'RE DOING AND EVERYTHING THAT WE WOULD WANT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BE DOING ON OUR BEHALF, KEEPING PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THAT'S THE KEY OF IT ALL," THE GOVERNOR STRESSED.

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT CHINA'S OBJECTION TO THE EFFORTS, SIR DAVID SAID: "I HOPE CHINA WILL REALISE THE REAL OBJECTIVE OF WHAT IS BEING DONE AND THAT'S TO DO THINGS WHICH SHORE UP THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG."

"AND I THINK WE HAVE TO GO ON EXPLAINING TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT THAT IS THE OBJECTIVE, AND THERE IS NO OTHER PURPOSE BEHIND IT," HE SAID.

"AND I HOPE THAT THEY WILL GRADUALLY COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS SO," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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NO GOING BACK ON MANDATORY REPATRIATION : MAUDE

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THERE IS NO GOING BACK ON THE POLICY OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN, MR MAUDE SAID THE FIRST STEP ON MANDATORY REPATRIATION WAS TAKEN IN DECEMBER AND IT WAS EFFECTIVE.

"IT STARTED THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS, ESPECIALLY IN NORTH VIETNAM, THAT THERE WAS NOWHERE FOR THESE PEOPLE TO GO EXCEPT BACK TO VIETNAM AND OF COURSE IT REMAINS UNDERPINNING THE WHOLE OF OUR POLICY ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"THE POLICY THAT IN THE LAST RESORT THERE REMAINS MANDATORY REPATRIATION AND WE HAVE KEPT OPEN AT EVERY STAGE THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT START IT AGAIN," HE SAID.

THE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT IF THERE WAS NO INFLUX OF BOAT PEOPLE IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT ONE WOULD WANT TO USE MANDATORY REPATRIATION, ADDING: "BUT THERE REMAINS BEHIND THIS POLICY ALL THE TIME THE UNDERPINNING OF IT IS THE CERTAINTY THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO BE SENT BACK THERE."

"IF THEY GO BACK VOLUNTARILY SO MUCH THE BETTER BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANY SENSE OF THERE BEING AN OPTION. THE ONLY PLACE FOR THESE PEOPLE TO GO IS BACK TO VIETNAM," HE SAID.

"AND THAT'S ACCEPTED BY EVERYBODY. BY VIETNAM, BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND VERY CLEARLY BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES WHO HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE POLICY OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION," MR MAUDE SAID.

THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THE FIRST REPATRIATION WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT CONSULTING THE UNITED STATES, ADDING: "IT ISN'T OPEN TO THEM TO VETO THESE MATTERS. THESE ARE MATTERS FOR US TO DECIDE WITH THE COUNTRY WHICH RECEIVES THEM BACK."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NOW MORE BOAT PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG THAN ARRIVING BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS RETURNING.

"THERE IS A BACKLOG. THERE ARE SOMETHING LIKE 1,500, 1,600 PEOPLE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM. THE PROBLEM SO FAR HAS BEEN THE INABILITY OF VIETNAM TO ACCEPT THEM BACK," MR MAUDE SAID.

"WHAT I SOUGHT TO DO WHEN I WAS IN HANOI TWO MONTHS AGO WAS TO PERSUADE THEM TO REACH AGREEMENT THAT THOSE NUMBERS COULD BE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED. THEY WERE, THOSE NUMBERS WERE INCREASED FIVE TIMES.

"THAT SHOULD MEAN WITH THE PRESENT RATE OF VOLUNTEERING, THE BACKLOG SHOULD BE CLEARED PERHAPS BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS SUMMER," MR MAUDE SAID.

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AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF NEW AIRPORT WORKS

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A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT TOOK PLACE TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, SIGNED A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH DR HANK TOWNSEND, OF BECHTEL, WHICH WILL CARRY OUT PHASE ONE OF THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW AIRPORT WORKS.

THE VALUE OF THE PHASE ONE CONSULTANCY IS ESTIMATED TO BE HK\$90 MILLION AND IT IS TO RUN FROM APRIL 1990 TO DECEMBER 1991.

THE SELECTION OF BECHTEL WAS MADE ON THE BASIS OF ITS IN-DEPTH INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE ON LARGE SCALE, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MEGA-PROJECTS. "AN OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY OF THIS MAGNITUDE HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED IN HONG KONG," SAID MR KWOK.

LAST OCTOBER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, LOCATED ON THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU ISLAND, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING AIRPORT AT KAI TAK IN URBAN KOWLOON.

THE TARGET DATE FOR THE OPENING OF THE FIRST RUNWAY AT THE NEW AIRPORT, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE A CAPACITY OF 80 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR, IS EARLY 1997.

THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ARE VITAL TO ENSURE THE FUTURE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

THE NEW AIRPORT IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER FACILITIES.

THESE PROJECTS ARE INDIVIDUALLY LARGE AND COMPLEX AND HAVE CHALLENGING PROBLEMS WITHIN THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THEIR INTERFACES WITH OTHER PROJECTS. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO VERY CHALLENGING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND PROGRAMMES.

THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST CIVIL WORKS UNDERTAKINGS, WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIME PERIODS, IN THE WORLD.

TO ENSURE A COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT AND TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM, THE AMERICAN FIRM, BECHTEL, HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO ASSIST THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON COORDINATING PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND MONITORING THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT.

THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT WILL REQUIRE CLOSE-KNIT TEAMWORK BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.

/THE MAIN

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THE MAIN COMPONENT PROJECTS ARE: THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK; THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING; THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY; THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY; THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING; THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION; AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, AN INTEGRATED PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED COMPRISING EXPERIENCED WORKS BRANCH STAFF AND BECHTEL WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE JOINT PROJECT OFFICE.

DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS WILL REMAIN THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICY BRANCHES AND WORKS DEPARTMENTS WHICH HAVE OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORDS FOR PERFORMING MAJOR PROJECTS. THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS REMAINS THE OVERALL COORDINATOR FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL PROJECTS RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

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CIVIL SERVICE OFFERED 15 PER CENT PAY ADJUSTMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR KEITH SHIPLEY, TODAY (TUESDAY) MET THE STAFF SIDES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL, THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1990 PAY ADJUSTMENT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH ALSO MET THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL.

MR SHIPLEY SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MORNING CONSIDERED THE RESULTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PAY TREND SURVEY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 1989 TO JANUARY 31, 1990.

"ALSO CONSIDERED WERE THE INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING, THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, THE BUDGETARY SITUATION, AND THE PAY CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY THE STAFF SIDES," HE SAID.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED US TO OFFER THE STAFF SIDES A PAY AWARD OF 15 PER CENT CROSS THE BOARD, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

"THIS IS LOWER THAN THE PAY TREND INDICATORS FOR THE UPPER AND MIDDLE BANDS OF 17 PER CENT AND 16.46 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, BUT IS IN LINE WITH THE PAY TREND INDICATOR FOR THE LOWER BAND OF 15.11 PER CENT.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND THE BUDGETARY SITUATION, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO FOLLOW THE PAY TREND INDICATORS FOR THE UPPER AND MIDDLE BANDS.

/"THE PAY

"THE PAY AWARD WILL REPRESENT A REAL INCREASE OF FIVE PER CENT OVER THE 1989 INFLATION RATE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT."

THE UPPER BAND OF SALARIES IS FROM \$20,020 TO \$40,710 A MONTH, THE MIDDLE BAND FROM \$6,560 TO \$20,019 A MONTH, AND THE LOWER BAND IS BELOW \$6,560 A MONTH.

THE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR THE DIRECTORATE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES - 7.5 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, AND THE REMAINING 7.5 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1990 PAY ADJUSTMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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STANDING COMMISSION'S SECOND REPORT ON
1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW PUBLISHED

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THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAS RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF ALMOST HALF OF THE 126 INDIVIDUAL GRADES IT HAS FINISHED REVIEWING.

THE STANDING COMMISSION WILL LOOK AT THE REMAINING 216 INDIVIDUAL GRADES IN THE NEXT PHASE OF ITS REVIEW DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"IT HAS DECIDED TO REVIEW THE REMAINING GRADES IN ONE PHASE SO THAT THE QUESTION OF PRIORITIES WILL NOT ARISE," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THIS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONTAINED IN THE STANDING COMMISSION'S SECOND REPORT ON THE 1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW WHICH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AND ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"THE REPORT ALSO COVERS A NUMBER OF GENERAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE MODEL SCALE 1, THE QUALIFICATION GROUP BENCHMARKS, THE MASTER PAY SCALE AND THE TRAINING PAY SCALE," HE SAID.

"IT IS ONE OF A SERIES PRODUCED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION AS PART OF AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVICE GRADES OUTSIDE THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND THE JUDICIAL SERVICE, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST OVERALL REVIEW IN 1979."

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN REVIEWING THE FIRST GROUP OF 126 INDIVIDUAL GRADES, THE STANDING COMMISSION HAD APPLIED THE AGREED PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR USE IN DETERMINING THE PAY STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL GRADES, AND HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROBLEMS FACED BY A NUMBER OF GRADES.

"THIS GROUP INCLUDES THE FIVE GRADES WHICH ARE RECEIVING TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE. PAYMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE WILL CEASE WHEN THE PERMANENT CHANGES TO THEIR SALARY STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED IN THIS REPORT ARE IMPLEMENTED," HE SAID.

"APART FROM THIS, THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT TO THE PAY SCALE OF TRAINING RANKS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECRUITMENT DIFFICULTIES FACING THESE RANKS, AS WELL AS SOME IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PAY SCALES OF SENIOR NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVANTS.

"THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL GRADES AND TRAINING RANKS, IF APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STANDING COMMISSION INCLUDED TRANSFERRING THE SENIOR ARTISAN AND ARTISAN GRADES FROM THE MODEL SCALE I TO THE MASTER PAY SCALE.

"THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS ALSO PROPOSED IMPROVING THE LEAVE-EARNING RATES OF THESE GRADES AND OF WORKMEN I AND WORKMEN II WITH LESS THAN 10 YEARS OF SERVICE," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, IT HAS PROPOSED INCREASING THE PAY BENCHMARKS USED TO SET THE STARTING PAY OF ENTRY RANKS OF A NUMBER OF JUNIOR GRADES ON THE MASTER PAY SCALE AND THE MODEL SCALE I.

"THIS HAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY ON PRIVATE-SECTOR PAY CONDUCTED BY THE PAY SURVEY AND RESEARCH UNIT LAST YEAR.

"THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE MODEL SCALE I AND THE PAY BENCHMARKS BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER IT HAS COMPLETED REVIEWING ALL THE 342 INDIVIDUAL GRADES.

"DURING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE REVIEW, THE STANDING COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER HOW THE REVISED PAY BENCHMARKS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THE PAY SCALES OF THE INDIVIDUAL GRADES AFFECTED, AS WELL AS THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE SENIOR ARTISAN AND ARTISAN GRADES TO THE MASTER PAY SCALE."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD NOT LOSE OUT AS A RESULT OF THE TIMING OF THE REVIEW OF THEIR GRADE OR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS, BECAUSE ANY PERMANENT CHANGES TO EXISTING PAY SCALES ARISING FROM THE CURRENT REVIEW WOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM THE COMMON DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 1989.

TAC DISCUSSES URBAN TAXI FARE INCREASE

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) CONSIDERED AN APPLICATION FOR AN INCREASE IN URBAN TAXI FARES.

MEMBERS DID NOT ACCEPT THE PACKAGE PROPOSED BY THE TRADE IN THE INCREASE IN URBAN TAXI FARE BY 24 PER CENT TO 55 PER CENT BUT RECOMMENDED A LOWER RATE OF INCREASE.

THE INCREASE IN OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN FULLY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

IN ASSESSING THE APPLICATION, THE TAC NOTED THAT A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF URBAN TAXIS SHOWED THAT THE MONTHLY PROFIT OF URBAN TAXI OPERATORS HAD DROPPED MAINLY AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASED OPERATING COSTS, INCLUDING THE LATEST REVISED DIESEL TAX AND PRICE.

THE RECOMMENDED GENERAL FARE INCREASE WILL ALSO YIELD AN INCREASE IN MONTHLY DRIVER INCOME TO OFFSET THE INCREASED DIESEL PRICE.

THE SURVEY RESULTS ALSO INDICATE THAT THE DEMAND FOR URBAN TAXIS IS STILL HIGH. TO MAINTAIN A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF SERVICE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE EVER INCREASING DEMAND FOR TAXIS AND THE TRAFFIC VOLUME THAT THE ROADS CAN BEAR.

THE TAC ALSO RECOMMENDED A MODERATE INCREASE IN RADIO-CALL AND LUGGAGE FEES, NOTING THAT THESE CHARGES HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE MARCH 1987.

THE PROPOSED FARE RISE WILL HELP TO WIDEN THE FARE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN URBAN TAXIS AND THE MASS CARRIERS WHICH IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ESTABLISH A REASONABLE FARE DIFFERENTIAL AS A MEANS TO REGULATE THE GROWTH IN TAXI DEMAND.

THE RECOMMENDATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

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MORE BANKING OFFICES TO OPEN IN HK

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HONG KONG WILL HAVE ONE JAPANESE BANK OPENING A FULL SERVICE BRANCH, A SUBSIDIARY COMPANY OBTAINING A DEPOSIT-TAKING REGISTRATION AND FIVE BANKS OPENING REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES BY THIS SUMMER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR ANTHONY NICOLLE, THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF THE HOKUETSU BANK'S HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE.

"I REGARD ALL THIS AS A PARTICULAR MARK OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTRE," HE SAID.

"THE CLOSE AND CONTINUING LINKS BETWEEN JAPAN AND HONG KONG ARE IN BOTH PARTNERS' MUTUAL INTERESTS," HE ADDED.

HOKUETSU BANK, WHICH HAS CHOSEN HONG KONG AS THE BASE FOR ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, IS THE FIRST REGIONAL BANK FROM JAPAN TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN HONG KONG THIS YEAR.

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TERRITORY-WIDE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE DRUG-FREE LIFE

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A SERIES OF TERRITORY-WIDE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, ENTITLED "SAY 'YES' TO LIFE", WILL START ON SATURDAY (APRIL 14) TO TIE IN WITH THE ANTI-DRUG GRAND CONCERT TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM ON JULY 1.

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$600,000 AND \$200,000 FROM THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION AND THE SHAW FOUNDATION RESPECTIVELY, THE TWO-HOUR CONCERT IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED (TVB) AND WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON TVB-JADE.

TO PROMOTE THE CONCERT AND THE DRUG-FREE HEALTHY LIFE MESSAGE, A ROVING EXHIBITION, A SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION, A COLOURING COMPETITION AND A RADIO PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS.

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE SPONSORED BY THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION AND THE SHAW FOUNDATION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), A MEMBER OF ACAN, MR PAO PING-WING, SAID THE PRE-CONCERT ACTIVITIES AND THE CONCERT ITSELF WERE AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND APPEALING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND YOUNGSTERS IN PARTICULAR TO TAKE PART IN HEALTHY PURSUITS.

/CONSISTING PANEL

CONSISTING PANEL DISPLAYS AND VIDEO SHOWS, THE ROVING EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE SHOPPING CENTRES OF FIVE HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS BETWEEN APRIL 14 AND MAY 20.

THEY ARE:

- * LOK FU ESTATE, WANG TAU HOM (APRIL 14 AND 15);
- * CHEUNG FAT ESTATE, TSING YI (APRIL 21 AND 22);
- * AP LEI CHAU ESTATE, ABERDEEN (MAY 5 AND 6);
- * TAI WO ESTATE, TAI PO (MAY 12 AND 13); AND
- * YAU OI ESTATE, TUEN MUN (MAY 19 AND 20).

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10.30 AM TO 4.30 PM.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION CAN TAKE PART IN A QUIZ. FOUR HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS WHO GIVE THE CORRECT ANSWERS WILL EACH BE AWARDED TWO ADMISSION TICKETS TO THE CONCERT.

THE SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION WILL BE HELD BETWEEN APRIL 23 AND MAY 26. IT WILL COMPRISE TWO DIVISIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED FROM 12 TO 15 AND FROM 16 TO 20.

BOOK COUPONS OR SOUVENIRS PLUS CONCERT TICKETS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP EIGHT WINNERS OF EACH DIVISION. THERE WILL BE 380 CONSOLATION PRIZES CONSISTING CONCERT TICKETS.

THE COLOURING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD FROM MAY 7 TO JUNE 2. IT WILL BE OPEN TO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 12 YEARS.

SOUVENIRS AND CONCERT TICKETS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP 30 WINNERS. ANOTHER 370 OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO RECEIVE CONCERT TICKETS.

IN A JOINT EFFORT WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO 1'S MORNING PROGRAMME "GOOD DAY", ANTI-DRUG PUBLICITY WILL BE BROADCAST ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM MAY 22 TO JUNE 14.

IT WILL INCLUDE AN ANTI-DRUG DRAMA SERIES AND LISTENERS WHO PHONE IN TO THE PROGRAMME TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON HOW TO SAY "YES" TO LIFE WILL BE GIVEN CONCERT TICKETS.

MR PAO PING-WING SAID RESULTS OF THE QUIZ AND COMPETITIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AT A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL LOW BLOCK EXHIBITION HALL IN CENTRAL, ON JUNE 27 AND 28, IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING.

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ON BEHALF OF ACAN, MR PAO THANKED TVB, THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION AND THE SHAW FOUNDATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROJECT -- THE THIRD ONE UNDER THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY ACAN LAST MAY.

HE ALSO PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO POPULAR SINGER MR HACKEN LEE, WHO SANG THE 1990 ANTI-DRUG THEME SONG IN CANTONESE.

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NEW NPO OPENS AT TSEUNG KWAN O

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A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICE (NPO) WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED AT PO LAM ESTATE TODAY (TUESDAY) TO PROVIDE BETTER POLICING IN THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LAM NPO, THE POLICE REGIONAL COMMANDER (KOWLOON), MR PETER LEE LAM-CHUEN, SAID POLICE MANPOWER AND COMMITMENT TO TSEUNG KWAN O WOULD INCREASE TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH.

MR LEE SAID THE AIM OF ESTABLISHING THE NPO WAS TO FOSTER A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE FORCE IN A BID TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN THE AREA.

"THE NPO WILL BE MANNED FOR 15 MINUTES EVERY HOUR (BETWEEN THE HOUR AND QUARTER PAST) ON A 24-HOUR BASIS WHILE AT OTHER TIMES, THE OFFICER WILL BE A PATROL WITHIN PO LAM ESTATE.

"WHEN THE NPO IS CLOSED, A FREE TELEPHONE SITUATED OUTSIDE THE OFFICE ENABLES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE POLICE IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY," MR LEE ADDED.

A NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CO-ORDINATOR, WHO IS A SERGEANT, IS ALSO DEPLOYED FREQUENTLY TO THE NPO TO HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED POLICE ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

IN CONCLUSION, MR LEE URGED ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS TO RENDER THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE POLICE IN KEEPING THE AREA A SAFE AND PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE IN.

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MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICE FOR ELDERLY UNDER WAY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING ASSISTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-FINANCING CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN DOMESTIC PREMISES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHUK LAM MING TONG CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME IN SANDY BAY, MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT THE SHORTFALL IN THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES WAS THE MOST SEVERE, OF ALL THE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"ONE WAY TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE IS FOR GOVERNMENT TO BUY PLACES IN PRIVATE HOMES AND WE ARE ALREADY PROCEEDING THIS YEAR WITH THE PURCHASE OF 500 SUCH PLACES," HE SAID.

ANOTHER WAY, HE ADDED, WOULD BE TO ASSIST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-FINANCING HOMES IN DOMESTIC PREMISES. THE FEASIBILITY OF THAT APPROACH WAS BEING ASSESSED.

"THERE ARE CURRENTLY 2,557 PLACES IN SUBVENTED AND NON-PROFIT-MAKING HOMES WITH A WAITING LIST OF 8,600 APPLICATIONS. A TOTAL OF 606 ADDITIONAL PLACES WILL COME ON STREAM THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR CARTLAND POINTED OUT THAT THE THEORETICAL DEMAND WOULD NOT BE FULLY MET UNTIL 1994-95 ON THE BASIS OF A PLANNING RATIO OF EIGHT PLACES FOR EVERY 1,000 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE POPULATION.

HE SAID THE OPENING OF THE CHUK LAM MING TONG CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME WOULD HELP TO MEET AN ACUTE DEMAND.

THE HOME IS A COMBINED ONE WITH A CAPACITY OF 60 PLACES FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED OF SOME DEGREE OF PERSONAL CARE, AND 120 PLACES FOR FRAIL ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO REQUIRE BOTH CARE AND ATTENTION.

HE COMMENDED THE DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOME.

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SERVICES FOR ELDERLY UNDER CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN MAKING EFFORTS TO WIDEN AND IMPROVE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FAMILY WELFARE) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A VEGETARIAN FEAST ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S WONG TAI SIN/SAI KUNG DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELDERLY SERVICE IN THE DISTRICTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, IN THIS RESPECT, HAS FOCUSED ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CARE. IN DOING SO, WE HOPE THE ELDERLY COULD SPEND THEIR LIFETIME HAPPILY WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY," HE SAID.

MR CHUI POINTED OUT THAT WONG TAI SIN AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS WERE PARTICULARLY IN NEED OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ELDERLY THERE.

"WE HAVE BEEN IMPROVING OUR SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY. AN EXAMPLE WAS THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES FROM THIS MONTH," HE SAID.

MR CHUI ALSO NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD BEEN OFFERING A VARIETY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF HOME HELP SERVICE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL CENTRES, SOCIAL CLUBS AND THE WORKING GROUP ON HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

ALSO ATTENDING THE FEAST TODAY WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (YOUTH AND REHABILITATION), MR KWOK KA-CHI, AND THE REGIONAL OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR LOK MAN-PAN.

MORE THAN 1,000 ELDERLY WERE TREATED TO DELICIOUS VEGETARIAN FOOD AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR ARTISTES.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED \$17,360 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO EIGHT VICTIMS INJURED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON MARCH 17.

EIGHTEEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT WHEN A DOUBLE-DECKER BUS OVERTURNED AT AP LEI CHAU.

THE TAVA SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW PROCESSING ONE OTHER APPLICATION WHILE THE REMAINING APPLICATIONS WERE FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY.

/HOWEVER, THOSE

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HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE OTHER DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME. BUT IN ANY CASE, THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID WOULD NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION AWARDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT MAKING APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SCHEME MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION AT 15 WATSON ROAD, VICTORIA CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG OR BY TELEPHONING 570 2410.

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RESTRICTED AREA ON WAGLAN
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A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED AREA WITHIN 100 METRES OF THE LOW WATER MARK ON WAGLAN ISLAND WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST EXTREMITY OF HONG KONG WATERS.

NO VESSEL IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE RESTRICTED AREA EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

WAGLAN ISLAND HOUSES A VESSEL TRAFFIC RELAY STATION AND A LIGHTHOUSE.

THE AMENDED SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL REGULATIONS PROVIDE FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$5,000 IN FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR THOSE WHO CONTRAVENE THE REGULATIONS.

THE AMENDMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN A GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND A NOTICE TO MARINERS ISSUED.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' SERVICES
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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PLAN FOR 1990-91.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

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STREET SLEEPERS TOLD TO LEAVE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT
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STREET SLEEPERS SQUATTING AT THE O'BRIEN ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN WAN CHAI WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) TOLD TO LEAVE THE PLACE FOR GOOD AND MAKE USE OF HOSTELS FOR STREET SLEEPERS IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY RECEIVED THE MESSAGE DURING A SPECIAL CLEARANCE OPERATION CO-ORDINATED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, POINTED OUT THAT THE STREET SLEEPERS WERE CAUSING MUCH INCONVENIENCE BY DWELLING AND PLACING JUNK IN AN AREA WHICH IS FREQUENTED BY THOUSANDS OF PEDESTRIANS EVERYDAY.

"THERE ARE A MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY EXIT AND A PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER RUN BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT, AND MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICES NEARBY.

"VERY OFTEN, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GAIN ACCESS TO THESE PUBLIC FACILITIES HAVE TO ZIGZAG THEIR WAY BECAUSE OF THE OBSTRUCTIONS POSED BY THE STREET SLEEPERS," MR MANN SAID.

"THESE PEOPLE ARE ALSO A CONSTANT TARGET OF COMPLAINT BY NEARBY RESIDENTS," HE ADDED.

/MR MAIN

MR MANN SAID THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN THE SHORT TERM WAS TO STEP UP CLEARANCE ACTIONS, AS THERE WAS AS YET NO SPECIAL LEGISLATION AGAINST STREET-SLEEPING.

"AT PRESENT, WE CLEAR THE PLACE TWICE A WEEK. BUT WE WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THE FREQUENCY IF THE SITUATION DOES NOT IMPROVE.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO SET UP A NEW HOSTEL FOR STREET SLEEPERS IN THE DISTRICT, WITH FUNDS DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB," MR MANN SAID.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE. NOTICES OF THE CLEARANCE HAD BEEN SERVED TO THE STREET SLEEPERS IN ADVANCE BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF.

"IF THESE PEOPLE WANT ANY HELP, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO GIVE IT. HOWEVER, THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SQUAT IN THE O'BRIEN ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT WHICH IS THE HEART OF WAN CHAI," MR MANN ADDED.

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LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION PRIZE PRESENTATION

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TWENTY-NINE WINNERS OF A "GREEN PLANT PROJECT" LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES AT A CEREMONY AT THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12).

THE PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG.

THE COMPETITION IS PART OF THE "GREEN PLANT PROJECT", AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ORGANISED BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN BEAUTIFYING THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

THE FIRST STAGE, INVOLVING ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT'S 28 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, IS NOW UNDER WAY. IF PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE PROJECT WILL BE EXTENDED TO OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SEMINAR ON BASIC GARDENING TECHNIQUES TO BE CONDUCTED BY HORTICULTURAL EXPERTS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

/MORE THAN

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MORE THAN 200 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN "GREEN PLANT PROJECT" LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND THE SEMINAR ON BASIC GARDENING TECHNIQUES TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12) IN THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 104 CHING TAK STREET, KOWLOON.

THE PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 PM.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT EIGHT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS ON APRIL 13 AND 16 (FRIDAY AND MONDAY).

THE EIGHT CLINICS ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE, YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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PUBLIC URGED TO PLANT TREES DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PLANNING TO VISIT THE COUNTRY PARKS DURING THE COMING EASTER HOLIDAYS MAY AS WELL MAKE USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP CONSERVE OUR COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT BY PLANTING TREES IN THE DESIGNATED PLANTING SITES.

THEY ARE URGED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO TAKE PART IN THE 1990 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG HIKING AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES GROUPS.

/THE SCHEME

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THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED ON MARCH 4 AND WILL CLOSE ON APRIL 30.

ON ALL SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH, TREE SEEDLINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FREE FOR PLANTING BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN COUNTRY PARKS AT TAI MO SHAN, TAI MEI TUK, PAK TAM CHUNG, QUARRY BAY, MUI WO AND CLEAR WATER BAY.

AFD STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY AT THE SITES TO PROVIDE TOOLS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PLANTING.

MEANWHILE, TREE PLANTING BY SCHOOLS AND ORGANISED GROUPS CAN BE ARRANGED FOR WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS DURING THE PERIOD.

INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOLS CAN CONTACT AFD'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT ON 733 2121 FOR REGISTRATION.

GOOD RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THIS YEAR'S SCHEME. MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE VOLUNTEERED THEIR SUPPORT AND PLANTED A TOTAL OF SOME 13,700 TREES.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR ANOTHER 110 GROUPS OF ABOUT 7,000 PEOPLE TO PLANT TREES IN THE COMING WEEKS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR M.K. CHEUNG, SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE GOOD RESPONSE WHICH WAS INDICATIVE OF THE INCREASING PUBLIC SUPPORT IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

MR CHEUNG SAID TREE PLANTING WAS ESSENTIAL IN STOPPING SOIL EROSION, IN BEAUTIFYING OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND IN REPLENISHING THE STOCK OF TREES DAMAGED BY HILL FIRES.

"IT HAS LONG BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN PLANTING AND CARING FOR TREES IN OUR COUNTRY PARKS TO MAKE THEM REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE COUNTRYSIDE CLEAN AND GREEN," HE SAID.

THE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME HAS BEEN AN ANNUAL EVENT, SINCE 1957, TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION.

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CONTRACTOR SELECTED TO RUN GOVERNMENT CAR PARKS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT WILSON PARKING (HONG KONG) LIMITED HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF 14 GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS, AND THE PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND SALE OF GOVERNMENT TUNNEL TICKETS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE COMPANY HAD BEEN SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AMONG NINE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS BIDDING FOR THE CONTRACT.

A TOTAL OF 26 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS HAD APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT AFTER THE TENDER INVITATION WAS ANNOUNCED AND PAID A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$800.

THE NEW CONTRACT WILL LAST FOR THREE YEARS COMMENCING MAY 1, THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE CONTRACT CONSISTED OF TWO AGREEMENTS. THE FIRST AGREEMENT IS FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF 14 MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS TALLING 8,173 PARKING BAYS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE SECOND AGREEMENT IS FOR THE PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND SALE OF TUNNEL TICKETS OF THE LION ROCK, ABERDEEN, SHING MUN AND JUNK BAY TUNNELS AT THE GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS AND OTHER OUTLETS TO BE PROPOSED BY THE CONTRACTOR AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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WATER CUT ON LANTAU
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES ON LANTAU ISLAND WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT MUI WO CHUNG HAU STREET, CHUNG HAU, MUI WO RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, LUK TEI TONG, TAI TEI TONG, CHOI YUEN TSUEN, TSENG TAU SAN TSUEN, PAK NGAN HEUNG, WONG KUNG TIN, NAM PING, WANG TONG, METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTRE, OUTDOOR RECREATION CAMP, TUNG WAU TAU, KIU TAU TSUEN AND WO TIN.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12), CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TAI HO ROAD AND SHA TSUI ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS 24 HOURS DAILY:

THEY ARE:

- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI HO ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 140 METRES SOUTHWEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TSUI ROAD AND HOI PA STREET;
- * THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI HO ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES NORTHEAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TSUI ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 135 METRES SOUTHWEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHA TSUI ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 180 METRES NORTHWEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHA TSUI ROAD BETWEEN WO TIK STREET AND YUEN TUN CIRCUIT.

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 ABOVE SECTIONS OF TAI HO ROAD AND THE EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND SECTIONS OF SHA TSUI ROAD WILL BE CANCELLED.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES IN NEW TERRITORIES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 12) TO APRIL 24, THE NORTHBOUND INNERMOST AND CENTRE LANES OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT AND KAI LENG ELEVATED ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FROM 8 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY, WHILE ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE TIME.

FROM APRIL 22 TO 30, THE SOUTHBOUND INNERMOST AND CENTRE LANES OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT AND KAI LENG ELEVATED ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY, WHILE ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE TIME.

FROM MAY 1 TO 8, THE SOUTHBOUND OUTERMOST AND CENTRE LANES OF TAI PO (FANLING) BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT AND KAI LENG ELEVATED ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY, WHILE ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE TIME.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 12), A ONE-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN SAM SHING STREET AND TUEN MUN ROAD FLYOVER FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE RIGHT-TURN MOVEMENT FROM SAM SHING STREET ONTO SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY BANNED.

VEHICLES ON SAM SHING STREET HEADING FOR SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD CAN MAKE USE OF NORTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TSING HOI CIRCUIT.

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BAN ZONES IN SHAU KEI WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 17), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING EIGHT METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORKS:

- * THE SECTION BETWEEN KAM WA STREET AND SAI YUN LANE; AND
- * THE SECTION BETWEEN BASEL ROAD AND THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR GROUND LEVEL ROAD.

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