



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE	1
GOVT WORKING FLAT OUT TO RESTORE WATER SUPPLY	7
STATEMENT ON TUEN MUN WATER INTERRUPTION	7
FLOODING ROUNDUP	8
PORT VITAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH	9
TELA ISSUES ADVISORY LETTERS TO NEWSPAPER VENDORS	11
HEAVY PENALTIES FOR SMUGGLERS PROPOSED	12
PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS	14
POSSESSION AND SALE OF RHINO PRODUCTS ILLEGAL IN HK	14
TEAMS FOR NEEDY YOUNG PEOPLE	15
SUPERVISORY CO-OPERATION WITH BANK INDONESIA	16
TRAVEL AGENTS' LICENSING FEES TO BE REVISED	17
PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AT POK FU LAM ROAD AUTHORISED	18
A STYLE OF DISTINCTION	19
SMILING IMAGES OF HONG KONG	20
TWO LOTS TO BE AUCTIONED	21
MEMORIAL JOURNAL TO MARK FIRE SERVICES' 125TH ANNIVERSARY ...	22
CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE HOME FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE	23
URBAN COUNCILLORS AND DB MEMBERS BRIEFED ON ACP PROGRESS	23
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	24

TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

* * * * *

GOVERNOR: GOOD EVENING. AS YOU KNOW, I AM GOING TO LONDON THIS EVENING FOR A WEEK IN THE UK. WHILE I AM THERE I WILL BE HAVING MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE HOME SECRETARY, MR GOODLAD - THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS. I WILL ALSO BE MEETING THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, JOHN SMITH, AND THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, PADDY ASHDOWN.

I'M MAKING A NUMBER OF SPEECHES. I'M SPEAKING AT THE TDC ANNUAL DINNER IN LONDON, AND I'M SPEAKING AT THE IMPORTANT HONG KONG WORKS CONFERENCE WHICH WE HOPE WILL ATTRACT FURTHER INTEREST IN HONG KONG, FURTHER INVESTMENT TO HONG KONG AND STRENGTHEN TRADE WITH HONG KONG. IT IS AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT SO MANY PROMINENT MEMBERS OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BE TAKING PART IN IT.

I'LL ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF OTHER ENGAGEMENTS. I AM DELIVERING A LECTURE AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, THOUGH THAT WON'T BE ABOUT HONG KONG, AND I WILL BE GIVING MY LAST PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT HONG KONG-RELATED ISSUES BEFORE I TRAVEL UP TO NEWCASTLE FOR THAT ENGAGEMENT. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, I WILL BE MEETING A NUMBER OF OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG, AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG. AND I AM DELIGHTED TO SAY THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE IN BOTH CATEGORIES THESE DAYS.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO LONDON WILL BE TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE WHICH OVERSEES POLICY ON HONG KONG. WE'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SIR ROBIN MCLAREN, WHO HAS BEEN LEADING OUR TEAM IN 15 ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS, WE'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY WITH SIR ROBIN TO CONSIDER WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING THOSE TALKS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. WE DID THAT LAST WEEKEND. NOW SIR ROBIN AND I WILL BE ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE, WHICH I THINK WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES. FIRST OF ALL, TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR IN 15 ROUNDS OF TALKS. SECONDLY, TO ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. AND FINALLY, TO CONSIDER OUR STRATEGY FOR THE TIME THAT REMAINS, AND THAT, I GUESS, WILL BE OUR KEY CONCERN TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN DO WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PATIENT AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR PATIENCE, BUT AS THEY KNOW AND WE ALL KNOW WE HAVE TO AGREE ON WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN THE TIME REMAINING.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS BUT I THINK IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS STILL A DIFFERENCE IN OUR RESPECTIVE PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT CONSTITUTES OPEN AND FAIR ELECTIONS. I HOPE THAT WE CAN BRING THOSE PERCEPTIONS RATHER CLOSELY TOGETHER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TO DO WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. WE HAVE, AS INDEPENDENT LEGAL EXPERTS SAID TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THIS WEEK, WE HAVE TO ACT WITHIN THE LETTER OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WITHIN ITS SPIRIT AS WELL IN BRINGING FORWARD PROPOSALS. SO THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT AND I HOPE IT IS A SUCCESSFUL ONE.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WILL YOU BE RECOMMENDING A FIRM DEADLINE TO THE BRITISH CABINET OR A CONCLUSION TO THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ...?

GOVERNOR: WE WILL CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSING HOW MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE TIME REMAINING. WHAT WE WON'T BE DOING, AS I HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND I HOPE IT DOESN'T COME AS TOO GREAT A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING US, WE WON'T BE COMING OUT OF THE FRONT DOOR OF NUMBER TEN AND SAYING WE'VE GOT 'X' AMOUNT MORE TIME AND 'Y' WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T MAKE THE PROGRESS THAT WE WOULD LIKE. THAT IS NOT, I THINK, THE WAY YOU WOULD EXPECT US TO SHAPE OUR STRATEGY FOR THE TIME THAT REMAINS.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE THE CABINET MEETING THAT HELPS TO ASSESS THE PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS? IS IT MAINLY TO ATTAIN 'THROUGH TRAIN' IS ONE OF THE CRITERIA?

GOVERNOR: WELL, WE DO NEED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR THE THROUGH-TRAIN, AS I HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, AND WE NEED, AS I HAVE SAID EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY, TO AGREE ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE OPEN AND FAIR AND WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. OUR OBJECTIVES ON THOSE MATTERS HAVE NOT CHANGED. WE HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY, I BELIEVE. WE HAVE, AS I TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A FEW WEEKS AGO, MADE SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONAL CONCESSIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME MOVEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE AS WELL.

QUESTION: DESPITE WHAT YOU HAVE JUST SAID, SIR, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT IT WILL TAKE FROM CHINA TO AVOID ROUND 16 ... THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE TALKS?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T WANT TO PRE-EMPT THE CABINET COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION, AND I DON'T WANT TO ASSUME WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAPPEN IN ROUND 16 AND ANY OTHER ROUNDS THAT THERE MAY BE. I THINK THAT WHAT IS REQUIRED, TO BORROW A PHRASE, IS SINCERITY, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SHOWING IN SUCH ABUNDANCE ALONG WITH PATIENCE. I THINK WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A LITTLE CREATIVE AND POSITIVE THINKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE. AND I THINK WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A RECOGNITION THAT WHEN THE JOINT DECLARATION REFERRED IN ANNEX 1 TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEING COMPOSED THROUGH ELECTION, IT'S MEANT FAIR ELECTIONS NOT UNFAIR ELECTIONS. I THINK IF WE COULD GET A BIT OF AGREEMENT ON THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A PRETTY GOOD DEAL. A GOOD DEAL FOR HONG KONG, A GOOD DEAL FOR CHINA, AND A GOOD DEAL FOR BRITAIN.

QUESTION: I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT WHEN YOU SAY WEEKS NOT MONTHS, DO WE INTERPRET THAT AS A HOLLOW THREAT?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT I EVER MAKE THREATS, WHETHER PLUMP AND FILLED OUT OR EMACIATED AND HOLLOW. LET ME PUT THE POINT, YOU MAY THINK RATHER PROSAICALLY, YOU MAY THINK RATHER OBVIOUSLY, BUT LET ME PUT THE POINT IN A DIFFERENT WAY. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THESE ISSUES FOR ABOUT 16 MONTHS. IT IS OVER A YEAR SINCE I FIRST SPOKE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION, WHICH AS THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL EXPERTS THIS WEEK POINTED OUT, WERE ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE BASIC LAW AND THE AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. BUT THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO. IN A YEAR'S TIME IF I AM HAVING A PRESS CONFERENCE, WE WILL ALREADY HAVE TWO MONTHS BEHIND US, THE FIRST IN THAT ROUND OF ELECTIONS. SO IT IS LITERALLY THE CASE THAT WE CAN'T GO ON TALKING FOREVER. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK TO NEGOTIATE THE MASTRICHT TREATY BUT I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS 15 ROUNDS, IF THAT IS A HAPPY PRECEDENT. I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG IT TOOK TO NEGOTIATE THE TREATY OF ROME. IT IS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE, WITH GOODWILL AND SINCERITY AND AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT GO TO MAKE UP A FAIR ELECTORAL SYSTEM, TO REACH AGREEMENT REASONABLY PROMPTLY, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY WE HAVE DAYS RATHER THAN WEEKS ... BEFORE CONCLUSION ?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE TO GET INVOLVED IN CHRONOLOGICAL METAPHORS. DAYS WOULD IMPLY THAT THERE WAS LESS THAN A WEEK AND I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT THERE IS LESS THAN A WEEK. BUT I'VE POINTED OUT, WITHOUT I HOPE MAKING ANY THREATS, THE OBVIOUS. I REPEAT THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY PATIENT. PEOPLE IN HONG KONG KNOW THAT WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING, IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR WHAT THE CHINESE CALL SUBVERSION? IS THERE ANY WAY THAT THE BRITISH SIDE COULD COME TO AN AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION ... TO ... WHICH YOU COULD USE THE WORD, WHAT THE CHINESE TERM SUBVERSION, TO ... THE THROUGH-TRAIN?

GOVERNOR: THE PRECISE CRITERIA FOR THE THROUGH-TRAIN ARE MATTERS WHICH WE ARE PROPERLY DISCUSSING NOW IN THE TALKS. I THINK THAT - I'M JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER PRECISELY WHAT OATH I TOOK WHEN I BECAME CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER - I'M SURE THAT IT WAS AN OATH UNDER WHICH I UNDERTOOK TO BEHAVE WITHIN THE LAW. BUT THE PRECISE DETAILS OF THESE MATTERS ARE THINGS THAT WE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS. IF I CAN MAKE ATTRACTIVE AS I FIND THE PROSPECT, I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU BEFORE IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH CHINESE NEGOTIATORS. I THINK THAT THE KEY FACTS ARE THAT THE CRITERIA SHOULD BE REASONABLE AND OBJECTIVE AND THAT THE CRITERIA SHOULD BE PROSPECTIVE NOT RETROSPECTIVE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ACCEPTABLE RETROSPECTIVE CRITERIA, THAT IS A POINT WHICH I THINK HAS BEEN MADE IN A NUMBER OF VERY GOOD EDITORIALS IN THE PRESS RIGHT ACROSS THE BOARD IN HONG KONG OVER THE LAST WEEK.

QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL WORRIED THAT YOU WILL GRADUALLY LOSE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE PATIENT ABOUT THE TALKS?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT PUBLIC SUPPORT HAS HELD UP REMARKABLY STRONGLY OVER THE LAST 15 OR 16 MONTHS. IT HAS HELD UP REMARKABLY STRONGLY EVEN WHEN IT HAS BEEN ASSAULTED BY SOME PRETTY SALTY RHETORIC FROM TIME TO TIME. AND I AM SURE THAT IS A MATTER WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVED, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT SATISFACTION, IS FOR THEM TO ANSWER, BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY AND THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, AS WELL AS BY YOURSELVES.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, SINCE THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS CONCLUDED IN PEKING ... HERE, HAVE THE CHINESE INDICATED THROUGH ANY OF THE CHANNELS OPEN TO THEM A GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND CHANGE ... FROM THE POSITION AS IT WAS AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST FORMAL ROUND?

GOVERNOR: WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY SUBSTANTIVE MESSAGE SINCE THE END OF THE LAST ROUND WHICH HAS CHANGED THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES SINCE THE LAST ROUND. THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS, AS THERE ARE, BETWEEN ROUNDS OF TALKS, BUT THE CONTACTS HAVE BEEN BY AND LARGE ABOUT MATTERS THAT WE DISCUSSED IN THE 15TH ROUND AND IN THE PREVIOUS ROUNDS, NOT MAJOR ADDITIONS TO WHAT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE 15TH ROUND AND PREVIOUS ROUNDS.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE SET 1995 AS THE DEADLINE ... SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I AM NOT SURE ENTIRELY WHAT IS MEANT BY THAT. I HAVE SEEN SOME REFERENCES TO THINGS WHICH I THINK MEMBERS OF THE - PWC? - HAVE SAID THIS WEEK, WHICH I HAVE FOUND A BIT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. BUT THE CORRECT PLACE TO TALK ABOUT OBJECTIVE CRITERIA IS IN THE TALKS. I IMAGINE THAT OBJECTIVE CRITERIA WOULD APPLY TO WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN HONG KONG, SINCE PEOPLE, AS LEGISLATORS, WOULD BE TAKING THE USUAL OATHS, WHICH ARE FINE BY US, IN 1995 TO TAKE THEM THROUGH TO 1997, BUT THAT PRECISE POINT THAT YOU HAVE MADE HAS NOT YET COME UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS. TWO MORE.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, THESE TALKS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS.

GOVERNOR: YES.

QUESTION: BUT THE THROUGH-TRAIN IS NOT EXACTLY AN ARRANGEMENT. CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG BUT IT IS NOT ACTUALLY IN YOUR PROPOSALS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS. SO AREN'T THESE REALLY SEPARATE ISSUES AND WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE TALKS ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS AND THEN PERHAPS CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THE THROUGH-TRAIN? IS THIS NOT A WAY TO ACHIEVE THOSE ARRANGEMENTS?

GOVERNOR: IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BUT NOT DESIRABLE. I THINK THAT IF WE WERE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT - AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN AGREEMENT - ABOUT THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS BUT WE WERE NOT TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE ABOUT PEOPLE TRAVELLING ON THE CARRIAGES THAT WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER, YOU WOULD BE RIGHTLY CRITICAL. A POINT THAT I HAVE MADE WHICH I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IS PRETTY WELL BEYOND DISPUTE IS THAT IT DOES NOT MAKE VERY MUCH SENSE TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT IF THERE IS NOT ALSO AN AGREEMENT ABOUT HOW THOSE ARRANGEMENTS CAN TRANSPORT LEGISLATORS THROUGH THE CHANGE IN SOVEREIGNTY. SO I THINK THAT THE TWO MATTERS ARE IN PRACTICE RELATED, EVEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THEORETICALLY YOU COULD SEPARATE THEM OUT.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: IF I COULD JUST FOLLOW IT UP. BUT YOU HAVE POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY THE ... YOUR SEEKING WHEN YOU CUT BACKWARDS WITH THE TIME NEEDED TO PASS LEGISLATION BUT THE CUTS MEAN THAT STICKING POINT IS ... FOR THE THROUGH-TRAIN IN 1997, ON WHICH WE STILL HAVE MORE TIME. SO DOESN'T THIS FIGURE INTO HOW YOU CAN ACHIEVE YOUR SOLUTION?

GOVERNOR: WELL, YOU ARE CORRECT IN SAYING THAT - I THINK IF ONE WAS USING EUPHIMISMS AND TRYING NOT TO USE SOME OF THE EXPRESSIONS I HAVE USED BEFORE - YOU ARE CORRECT IN SAYING THAT WE ARE NOT, NOT CHALLENGED CHRONOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE THROUGH-TRAIN CRITERIA TO QUITE THE EXTENT THAT WE ARE ABOUT THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, I THINK THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF SKEPTICAL QUESTIONING OF ANY OVERALL AGREEMENT ON THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH DID NOT ALSO REFER TO THE THROUGH-TRAIN AND I AM SURE IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS DESIRABLE BY OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES, AS WELL AS DESIRABLE BY OURSELVES, TO HAVE A COMPENDIUM AGREEMENT WHICH COVERS BOTH. BUT I REPEAT, THE POINT THAT YOU HAVE MADE ABOUT TIMING IS CORRECT, THOUGH NOT, I SUSPECT, IMMENSELY HELPFUL. I THINK THAT WE HAVE GOT TO GET AN AGREEMENT ON BOTH.

QUESTION: NOT ABOUT THE TALKS. IT'S ABOUT FREEDOM OF PRESS. THE MING PAO REPORTER HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR MORE THAN A MONTH. SO, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD INTERVENE AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG. WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE?

GOVERNOR: AS YOU KNOW, IN THIS CASE AS IN OTHERS, WE TRY TO MOVE IN A WAY WHICH IS NOT ONLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY BUT MORE PARTICULARLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMPLOYER AND FAMILY OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED. THIS JOURNALIST HAS BEEN WORKING IN HONG KONG WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE, ALL OF US, A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM. HE DOESN'T HAVE HONG KONG CITIZENSHIP, SO HE IS IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CATEGORY TO SOME OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN DIFFICULTY OR TROUBLE IN THE PAST AND OVER WHOSE CASES WE HAVE INTERVENED. WE DID MAKE A NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES AND I THINK WE WENT AS FAR AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE JOURNALIST'S EMPLOYER AND FRIENDS AND FAMILY WISHED US TO GO. IF THEY WISH US TO GO FURTHER, THEN WE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO DO SO. WHAT I DON'T WANT TO DO IS TO SAY ANYTHING WHICH IS GOING TO MAKE THAT PARTICULAR CASE MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. BUT I CAN'T BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO OBVIOUSLY FEELS A GOOD DEAL OF ANXIETY AND CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF A JOURNALIST WHO IS ARRESTED, WHO IS HELD IN CONFINEMENT, WITHOUT ANY OF US BEING ENTIRELY SURE WHY, OR WITHOUT ANY OF US BEING ENTIRELY SURE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM. I RECOGNISE AND RESPECT CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY BUT ALL OF US, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF 1997 AND OUR CONCERNS FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN HONG KONG, MUST INEVITABLY FIND THAT RATHER TROUBLING.

QUESTION: THE CHINESE HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC AT THE TALKS EVEN IN THE FACE OF YOUR PROPOSALS, SO EVEN ... TIMETABLE OF THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE CABINET ...?

GOVERNOR: SORRY? THE CHINESE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO DE-COUPLE ON THE BASIS OF MY 1992 PROPOSALS?

QUESTION: YES. BUT GIVEN THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THIS PRESSING TIMETABLE FOR THE 94 ELECTIONS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE CABINET THIS TIME?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: WELL, I AM GOING TO TELL THE CABINET, OR REMIND THE CABINET, WHAT THE TIMETABLE IS. THAT WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO ADMINISTER HONG KONG AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, THAT WE HAVE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION BOTH - TO QUOTE THOSE INDEPENDENT LEGAL EXPERTS AGAIN - BOTH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, TO MOVE FORWARD AND BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN HONG KONG, WITHOUT IN ANY WAY BEING OUT OF LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND WE WILL HAVE IN DUE COURSE TO DISCHARGE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

CAN I JUST SAY ONE OTHER -- JONATHAN, THAT'S THE VERY, VERY LAST QUESTION, THE VERY LAST.

QUESTION: ... THE PWC HAS SUGGESTED THAT IF THERE IS NO AGREEMENT THERE MIGHT BE A PERIOD AFTER 1995 ... 1997, IF THERE WAS NO ... DIRECTLY AFTER THE ...

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE PWC WHO HAVE BEEN SAYING SOME PRETTY RUM THINGS SINCE THEY WERE APPOINTED. I SOMETIMES WONDER, WITHOUT BEING DISRESPECTFUL, WHETHER SOME OF THOSE APPOINTMENTS HAVE CAUSED A CERTAIN ANXIETY ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO MADE THEM BECAUSE WE HAVE HEARD SOME VERY CURIOUS THINGS SAID, AND THINGS WHICH MUST MAKE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WONDER FOR WHOM THE PWC IS ACTUALLY TALKING. I DON'T THINK THAT THAT ODD REMARK, WHICH I THINK ANYBODY WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO ACCOMMODATE WITHIN THE JOINT DECLARATION, OR THE BASIC LAW, I DON'T THINK THAT THAT ODD REMARK HAS BEEN MADE BY ANYBODY ELSE, CERTAINLY NOT BY SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS WHO MAY KNOW, WHO DO KNOW, A GOOD DEAL BETTER ABOUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS AND ABOUT THE EXPECTATIONS PERHAPS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. SO I JUST THOUGHT THAT WAS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF REMARKS BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE PWC WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER NOT MADE. WE HAVE HAD REMARKS ABOUT BANKNOTES, WE HAVE HAD REMARKS WHICH HAVE LED TO THE THREAT OF ACTION IN THE COURTS, WE HAVE HAD REMARKS ABOUT THE BILL OF RIGHTS. IT IS ALL PRETTY CURIOUS BUT IT MAKES ME EVEN MORE DELIGHTED THAT I HAVE SUCH SENSIBLE AND WISE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE OTHER THING. OBVIOUSLY, FOR VERY MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, FOR TOO MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THE MAIN CONCERN TONIGHT ISN'T GOING TO BE ABOUT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, IMPORTANT THOUGH THEY RECOGNISE THEM TO BE, THE MAIN CONCERN IS GOING TO BE ABOUT THEIR WATER SUPPLY OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE FLOODING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS CAUSED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN TUEN MUN, AND THE LANDSLIDE ON LANTAU HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS WITH THE DELIVERY OF WATER TO CHEUNG CHAU.

I'VE HAD REPORTS THROUGH THE DAY DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS. WE'LL BE WORKING FLAT-OUT 24-HOURS ROUND-THE-CLOCK AS HARD AS WE CAN TO RESTORE FULL WATER SUPPLIES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LOST. I HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED WILL BEAR WITH US WHILE WE ARE DOING THAT. WE WILL OF COURSE BE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVISION OF WATER THROUGH TANKERS, BUT IT RAISES FOR ALL OF US BIGGER AND LONGER TERM QUESTIONS WHICH I HAVE TALKED ABOUT IN THE PAST, IN RELATION TO FLOODING AND THE PROBLEMS IT CAUSES, AND WE MUST OBVIOUSLY DEAL WITH THOSE AS FAST AS WE CAN. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I WANT TO ASSURE ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY TODAY'S PROBLEMS, BY THE FLOODING, THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN TO RESTORE FULL WATER SUPPLY TO THEM AND THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1993

- 7 -

GOVT WORKING FLAT OUT TO RESTORE WATER SUPPLY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING ASSURED ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY TODAY'S FLOODINGS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD AND AS RAPIDLY AS IT COULD TO RESTORE FULL WATER SUPPLY TO THEM AND TO THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON, THE GOVERNOR SAID:

"I'VE HAD REPORTS THROUGH THE DAY DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS. WE WILL BE WORKING FLAT OUT 24 HOURS AROUND-THE-CLOCK AS FAST AS WE CAN TO RESTORE FULL WATER SUPPLIES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LOST.

"I HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITY AFFECTED WILL BEAR WITH US WHILE WE ARE DOING THAT."

MR PATTEN NOTED THAT THE FLOODING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD CAUSED SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY IN TUEN MUN AND THE LANDSLIDES ON LANTAU HAD CAUSED PROBLEMS WITH THE THE DELIVERY OF WATER TO CHEUNG CHAU.

"THE MAIN CONCERN IS GOING TO BE ABOUT THEIR WATER SUPPLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"WE'LL, OF COURSE, BE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVISION OF WATER THROUGH TANKERS BUT IT RAISES FOR ALL OF US BIGGER AND LONGER TERM QUESTIONS WHICH I'VE TALKED ABOUT IN THE PAST IN RELATION TO FLOODING AND THE PROBLEMS IT CAUSES.

"WE MUST OBVIOUSLY DEAL WITH THOSE AS FAST AS WE CAN." HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATEMENT ON TUEN MUN WATER INTERRUPTION

* * * * *

COMMENTING ON THE WATER INTERRUPTION IN TUEN MUN, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN DRAW EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY FROM ANY OF THE 64 WATER TANKERS ARRIVING THERE ABOUT 6.30 PM TODAY.

THE TANKERS, ARE TO DELIVER WATER TO 27 MAJOR LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT UNTIL NORMAL PIPE WATER SUPPLY IS RESUMED.

A WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE OPERATION HAD BEEN GOING ON SMOOTHLY. RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN QUEUING UP IN GOOD ORDER AND IN A CO-OPERATIVE MANNER.

ON THE REPAIRS WORK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SPECIAL TASK FORCE HAD BEEN SET UP TO REACTIVATE THE PUMPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

/STAFF OF

STAFF OF WATER SUPPLIES AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS WILL WORK ROUND-THE-CLOCK TO PUMP OUT THE FLOOD WATER TO ALLOW REPAIRS WORK TO START.

BUT DUE TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF FLOODING WHICH HAD COMPLETELY DEACTIVATED ALL THE PUMPS, THE TRANSFORMER AND THE ELECTRICITY PANEL IN THE PUMPING STATION, THE PRESENT INDICATION IS THAT IT MAY TAKE TWO TO THREE DAYS TO PUT SOME OF THE PUMPS BACK INTO OPERATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO MAINTAIN PIPE SUPPLY TO ESSENTIAL USERS, SUCH AS HOSPITALS AND FIRE SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TUEN MUN PUMPING STATION WAS DESIGNED TO COPE WITH ALL CONCEIVABLE RISKS.

THESE INCLUDE A DUAL PUMPING SYSTEM OPERATED BY BOTH ELECTRICITY AND DIESEL TO COPE WITH POWER FAILURE OR OTHER EMERGENCIES, A RING POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT THE STATION RECEIVES POWER SUPPLY FROM MORE THAN ONE SOURCE AND ALLOWANCE FOR FLOODING.

BUT THIS MORNING'S FLOODING WHICH WAS CAUSED BY A SUDDEN SURGE OF FLOOD WATER FROM THE ADJACENT NULLAH AS A RESULT OF 300 MM OF RAINFALL AND ILLEGAL LAND USE WHICH HAD CHANGED THE ORIGINAL DRAINAGE PATTERN IN THE GENERAL AREA WAS AN INCIDENT BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGN.

"WE WILL CERTAINLY LOOK INTO THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS ANY LESSON TO LEARN FROM IT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FLOODING ROUNDUP

* * *

HEAVY RAIN THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING HAS CAUSED 79 CASES OF FLOODING AND 15 LANDSLIP INCIDENTS, MAINLY IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG AND ON LANTAU ISLAND, RESULTING IN ONE DEATH AND SEVEN INJURIES.

WATER SUPPLY IN TUEN MUN AREA HAS BEEN DISRUPTED DUE TO SERIOUS FLOODING AT THE TUEN MUN TREATMENT WORKS.

REPAIR WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY.

STARTING FROM 6.30 PM, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL DEPLOY 64 WATER TANKERS TO 27 LOCATIONS IN TUEN MUN TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE RESIDENTS.

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED A TOTAL OF 41 TEMPORARY SHELTERS DURING THE HOSITING OF THE LANDSLIP WARNING SIGNAL BETWEEN 5.50 AM AND 2.05 PM TODAY.

A TOTAL OF 14 PEOPLE SOUGHT ACCOMMODATION IN THOSE SHELTERS.

/SINCE EARLY

SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING, DISTRICT OFFICERS AND STAFF OF ISLANDS, YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN HAVE BEEN OUT TO THE SCENE OF FLOODING AND LANDSLIP TO OFFER HELP TO THE AFFECTED RESIDENTS.

THIRTY-FIVE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE DELUGE IN MUI WO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF.

IN YUEN LONG, FLOODING AFFECTED THREE VILLAGE HUTS IN TAN KWAI CHUEN WHERE FIREMEN RESCUED A 40-YEAR-OLD MAN AND SENT HIM TO TUEN MUN HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

FIREMEN ALSO RESCUED A 78-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM A NEARBY NULLAH. HE WAS CERTIFIED DEAD AT POK OI HOSPITAL.

ANOTHER 63-YEAR-OLD WOMAN INJURED IN SHUNG CHING SUN CHUEN, YUEN LONG WAS ALSO RESCUED BY FIREMEN.

IN TUEN MUN, FIREMEN LED 50 PEOPLE TO SAFETY IN SO KWUN WAT AND TSENG TAU CHUNG CHUEN.

ALTOGETHER THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN WHO WERE INJURED DURING FLOODING IN TUEN MUN WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

ON LANTAU, A TAXI FELL INTO A RIVER DURING A SEVERE FLOODING AND THE DRIVER HAS YET TO BE LOCATED.

SEVERAL SECTIONS OF SOUTH LANTAU ROAD ARE STILL CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AND AFTERNOON SESSION SCHOOLS ON THE ISLAND HAD BEEN CLOSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PORT VITAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

* * * * *

ADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES AND THEIR EFFICIENT OPERATION ARE TWO MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PORT EXPANSION MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING ECONOMY.

THIS WAS THE MAIN MESSAGE IN A PAPER ON PORT DEVELOPMENT PRESENTED BY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES PANEL, AND LANDS AND WORKS PANEL TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR SIU TOLD MEMBERS THAT 87 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WENT THROUGH THE PORT.

PORT AND RELATED INDUSTRIES GENERATE 15 PER CENT OF GDP, PROVIDE 350,000 JOBS (12.5 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE) AND KEEP 20 PER CENT OF ALL COMPANIES IN BUSINESS.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: "ADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES AND THEIR EFFICIENT OPERATION ARE PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY. ANY IMPAIRING OF THESE OPERATIONS WILL AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF EVERYONE IN HONG KONG.

"THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE TERRITORY DEPENDS ON RECOGNITION OF THESE FACTS AND THE CAREFUL INCREMENTAL EXPANSION OF THE PORT TO MEET TRADE DEMANDS UPON IT."

EMPHASISING THE PORT'S IMPORTANCE, MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT IT HANDLED 100 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO LAST YEAR. THIS MADE HONG KONG NOT ONLY THE WORLD'S BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT BUT ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MERCHANDISE PORTS.

APART FROM CARGO, THE PORT LAST YEAR HANDLED 19 MILLION INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS AND 90 MILLION INTERNAL PASSENGERS.

THIS MADE HONG KONG ONE OF THE WORLD'S BUSIEST PORTS WITH ONE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING MOVEMENT EVERY TWO MINUTES.

MR SIU TOLD MEMBERS THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEED TO DOUBLE ITS CONTAINER HANDLING CAPACITY BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND DOUBLE IT AGAIN BY THE YEAR 2011.

HE SAID: "THIS WILL REQUIRE 21 ADDITIONAL CONTAINER BERTHS OVER AND ABOVE CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 WHICH IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED. FOUR OF THESE WILL BE AT CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 AND THE REST AT THE NEW PORT AT LANTAU."

MR SIU EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK ON CT9. IT WAS NEEDED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL PORT CAPACITY OVER AND ABOVE THAT AVAILABLE AT CT1 TO 8.

FAILURE TO GET CT9 INTO PLACE WOULD LEAD TO SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT KWAI TSING AND DEPRIVE THE PORT OF VITALLY NEEDED BACKUP AREAS.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE LANTAU PORT NEEDED TO BE COMMISSIONED AS SOON AS THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WAS OPENED, IN MAY 1997.

FUTURE PHASES WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO USE AS CARGO DEMANDS GREW WITH THE FINAL STAGE BEING COMPLETED BY 2011. PROVISION EXISTS IN CURRENT PLANS FOR A FURTHER FOUR BERTHS SHOULD THESE BE NEEDED.

MR SIU ADDED: "IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY AS DEMAND BUILDS UP. NOTHING WILL HAPPEN UNLESS THE DEVELOPMENT IS FINANCIALLY AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE."

LIKE THE EXISTING FACILITIES AT KWAI CHUNG, THE NEW PORT WOULD BE DEVELOPED AND OPERATED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR SIU SAID SINCE HONG KONG'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT HAD RISEN FROM ZERO TO EIGHT MILLION TEUS IN 25 YEARS, THERE WERE BOUND TO BE PROBLEMS.

THESE PROBLEMS NEEDED THE UNDERSTANDING AND HELP OF LEGCO MEMBERS.

ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS WAS THE RAPID RATE OF GROWTH. AT PRESENT RATES CONTAINER TERMINALS 1 TO 8 WILL BE WORKING AT FULL CAPACITY BY MID-1995.

IT HAD BEEN PLANNED THAT CT9 WOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN 1995 TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH, BUT THE OPENING OF CT9 WILL BE DELAYED.

THE TERMINAL AWAITED CHINA'S ENDORSEMENT, WITHOUT WHICH LOAN FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE.

MR SIU SAID: "COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROPOSED DEVELOPERS OF CT9 ARE WELL IN HAND. THERE ARE SOME OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH I BELIEVE CAN BE QUICKLY RESOLVED ONCE WE GET THE POLITICAL GO-AHEAD."

IN THE MEANTIME DELAYS TO CT9 WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE HARD TO OVERCOME, "BUT WE MUST TRY," SAID MR SIU.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SKIP THE BUILDING OF CT9 AND WAIT FOR THE OPENING OF CT10 ON LANTAU. THIS WAS BECAUSE CT10 WOULD NOT OPEN UNTIL 1997, BUT BETWEEN 1995 AND 1997 CARGO THROUGHPUT WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

"THEREFORE WE CAN EXPECT CONGESTION. WE MUST PLAN TO AVOID THE WORST OF THIS. MEANWHILE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE CHINESE SIDE FOR EARLY ENDORSEMENT OF CT9."

MR SIU DESCRIBED PLANS FOR THE NEW PORT AT LANTAU AS: "FAR SIGHTED AND AMBITIOUS. THEY WILL SERVE HONG KONG WELL INTO THE FUTURE."

- - - - 0 - - - -

TELA ISSUES ADVISORY LETTERS TO NEWSPAPER VENDORS

* * * * *

THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) HAS ISSUED ANOTHER ADVISORY LETTER TO NEWSPAPER VENDORS REMINDING THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE (COIAO).

AN ADVISORY LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL NEWSPAPER VENDORS IN LATE SEPTEMBER DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE LEGISLATION.

BUT SOME NEWSPAPER VENDORS WERE STILL FOUND DISPLAYING INDECENT MATTERS PUBLICLY AND SELLING INDECENT COMIC BOOKS TO UNDERAGED PERSONS INCLUDING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL UNIFORM.

CONCERTED ENFORCEMENT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY TELA AND THE POLICE AGAINST SUCH NEWSPAPER VENDORS AND PROSECUTION ACTION WOULD BE INITIATED UNDER THE COIAO.

/A SPOKESMAN

A SPOKESMAN FOR TELA TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID: "THIS SECOND ADVISORY LETTER AIMS TO DRAW NEWSPAPER VENDORS' ATTENTION TO THE RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST RECALCITRANT NEWSPAPER VENDORS.

"TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME REFERENCE, THE ADVISORY LETTER ALSO INCLUDES A LIST OF COMIC BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL AS INDECENT THIS YEAR.

"THE LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AND NEWSPAPER VENDORS ARE ADVISED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE PUBLISHERS OR THE TRIBUNAL IF NECESSARY."

IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, TELA HAS REFERRED 47 COMIC BOOKS WITH INDECENT CONTENT BUT WHICH FAILED TO CARRY THE PRESCRIBED WARNING NOTICE TO THE TRIBUNAL FOR CLASSIFICATION.

PROSECUTION WILL BE INITIATED ON THESE CONTRAVENTIONS SHORTLY UNDER THE COIAO.

TELA WILL ALSO CARRY OUT A SERIES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WORK.

A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT IN PUBLIC INTEREST (API) WILL BE SCREENED AND PUBLICITY LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO THE MATTER.

AN EPISODE OF THE RTHK PROGRAMME "COMMON SENSE" WAS ALSO SHOWN RECENTLY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF YOUNG PEOPLE READING COMIC BOOKS WITH INDECENT CONTENT AND HOW PARENTS AND TEACHERS SHOULD DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HEAVY PENALTIES FOR SMUGGLERS PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO MAKE MAJOR SMUGGLING OFFENCES TRIABLE ON INDICTMENT AND TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SMUGGLING.

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) PROPOSES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$2 MILLION FOR OFFENCES CONVICTED ON INDICTMENT.

THE EXISTING PENALTIES OF TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$500,000 FOR SUMMARY CONVICTION UNDER THE EXISTING IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE WOULD BE UNCHANGED.

MAJOR SMUGGLING OFFENCES RELATE TO:-

* ALTERATION OF VESSELS, AIRCRAFT OR VEHICLES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SMUGGLING;

- * CONSTRUCTION AND SO ON OF VESSELS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SMUGGLING;
- * ASSISTING IN THE COMMISSION OF INDICTABLE SMUGGLING OFFENCES;
- * THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF SPECIFIED ARTICLES (CURRENTLY LEFT-HAND DRIVE VEHICLES AND POWERFUL OUTBOARD ENGINES) EXCEPT UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LICENCE;
- * THE EXPORT OF PRESCRIBED ARTICLES (CURRENTLY TELEVISION SETS AND VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS AND PLAYERS) ON VESSELS OF LESS THAN 250 GROSS TONS EXCEPT UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LICENCE; AND
- * THE CARRIAGE OF PRESCRIBED ARTICLES (CURRENTLY TELEVISION SETS, VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS, VIDEO CASSETTE PLAYERS, AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, VEHICLES/VEHICLE PARTS AND POWERFUL OUTBOARD ENGINES) IN HONG KONG WATERS.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMUGGLING MEASURES HAD ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, THE SITUATION REMAINED SERIOUS.

THERE WAS A NEED FOR HIGHER PENALTIES FOR MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES AND TO ACT AS A DETERRENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ACTION ON THREE FRONTS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

"LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IN 1991 TO CURB THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF HIGH-POWERED SPEEDBOATS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR SMUGGLING AND TO CONTROL THE EXPORT AND CARRIAGE BY SMALL VESSELS OF POPULAR CONTRABAND ITEMS.

"IN 1992, CONTROLS WERE INTRODUCED ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF LEFT-HAND DRIVE VEHICLES AND HIGH-POWERED OUTBOARD ENGINES.

"IN 1993, THE PENALTY FOR CAR THEFT UNDER THE CRIMES ORDINANCE WAS INCREASED FROM THREE TO SEVEN YEARS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE ENFORCEMENT FRONT, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN 1991, AN ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE INVOLVING THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS WITH SUPPORT FROM HEADQUARTERS, BRITISH FORCES WAS SET UP TO MOUNT VIGOROUS AND SUSTAINED ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS.

ALSO, CO-OPERATION AND SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE WITH CHINESE SECURITY FORCES HAD BEEN STEPPED UP.

"BUT AS LONG AS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HUGE PROFITS REMAINS, SMUGGLING IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVELS. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD THEREFORE BE MADE TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 17, 1993.

PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS

* * * * *

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS FOR THE PHASE I INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS FOR TUNG CHUNG.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE WORKS WOULD COMPRISE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND ASSOCIATED STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE, A SECOND SEA CHANNEL BRIDGE CROSSING CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT, FOOTBRIDGE, SUBWAYS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE FACILITIES, NOISE BARRIERS, WATER MAINS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

A NOTICE INVITING PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I IN GROUP C FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS OR ON THE LIST II WERE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM THE PROJECT'S CONSULTANT, MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED, 12TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, 30 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 17.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POSSESSION AND SALE OF RHINO PRODUCTS ILLEGAL IN HK

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND OWNERS OF CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOPS ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED THAT THE POSSESSION AND LOCAL SALE OF RHINO PRODUCTS INCLUDING MEDICINE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS ARE ILLEGAL IN HONG KONG.

THE REMINDER WAS MADE BY SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR CHAN JEE-KEUNG, AFTER A SERIES OF OPERATION CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS TO CURB THE LOCAL SALE OF RHINO PRODUCTS.

MR CHAN SAID: "AMONG THE SEIZED ITEMS, THERE ARE AT LEAST 17 KINDS OF CHINESE MEDICINE THAT HAD CLAIMED TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS. THESE INCLUDE CHINESE MEDICINE MEANT FOR USE IN PAEDIATRICS, RHEUMATISM, DERMATOLOGY, COMMON COLD AND FEVER."

HE URGED TRADERS AND THE PUBLIC TO BE ON THE ALERT WHEN SELLING OR BUYING CHINESE MEDICINE.

"THEY SHOULD CHECK CAREFULLY WHETHER THESE MEDICINE CLAIMED TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS IN THEIR DECLARED CONTENTS AND STOP SELLING OR BUYING THOSE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN SUCH INGREDIENTS."

/MR CHAN

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT TOUGH LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST RHINO PRODUCTS TRADE WERE REQUIRED TO PROTECT THESE HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE PUBLIC CAN HELP BY REPORTING ON SUCH ILLEGAL TRADE OR LOCAL SALE TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

"THIS WILL HELP IN THE CONSERVATION OF RHINO SPECIES WHICH ARE FACING EXTINCTION."

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SEIZED SOME 200 SMALL PACKETS OF MEDICINE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS FROM 13 SHOPS DURING THEIR SEARCH OF 30 CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOPS.

UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, OFFENDERS WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$25,000 ON FIRST CONVICTION AND \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEAMS FOR NEEDY YOUNG PEOPLE

* * * * *

THE PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP INTEGRATED TEAMS IS ONE SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATION WHICH AIMS AT PROVIDING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES TO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG TAI WO CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, TAI PO TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES.

THE WORKING PARTY IS NOW CONSIDERING PUBLIC VIEWS COLLECTED IN THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE. A FINAL REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE WORKING GROUPS TOGETHER WITH THE VIEWS GATHERED FROM THE PUBLIC WILL PROVIDE A SOLID BASIS FOR US TO MAP OUT A SUITABLE PROGRAMME OF SERVICES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE 1990S AND BEYOND," MR STRACHAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, WE REALISE THE NEED TO GO FURTHER. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS OF PROFESSIONALS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED IN THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK."

A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED IN APRIL THIS YEAR UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE.

A WORKING GROUP ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH AT RISK UNDER THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS ALSO FORMED IN JULY TO EXAMINE THE EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.

THE WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL REGULARLY REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

"CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE TO POWERFUL INFLUENCES IN SOCIETY. CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTAIN A HEALTHY AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT, GIVING THEM GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE," MR STRACHAN SAID.

"OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE HARD TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY AT LARGE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUPERVISORY CO-OPERATION WITH BANK INDONESIA

* * * * *

THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY AND BANK INDONESIA (THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDONESIA) HAVE ENTERED INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE SUPERVISION OF THE CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS OF BANKS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES.

THE MEMORANDUM WAS SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 1 IN JAKARTA BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE MONETARY AUTHORITY, MR DAVID CARSE AND MR HENDROBUDIYANTO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BANK INDONESIA.

MR CARSE SAID: "EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION OF THE OVERSEAS OPERATIONS OF BANKS REQUIRES GOOD CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE HOME AND THE HOST BANKING AUTHORITIES.

"AS A RESULT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, WE NOW HAVE A MORE FORMAL FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL CO-OPERATION IN BANKING SUPERVISION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND INDONESIA."

THE MEMORANDUM HAS ADOPTED A NUMBER OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES AS A BASIS FOR PROMOTING SUPERVISORY CO-OPERATION, WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- * BOTH AUTHORITIES WILL CONSULT EACH OTHER ON ALL FUTURE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY BANKS OR OTHER INTERESTS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES TO ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE CROSS-BORDER BANKING OPERATIONS. APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE PRIOR CONSENT OF BOTH AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY ARE PERMITTED TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OR ACQUISITION.
- * BOTH AUTHORITIES WILL ALLOW EACH OTHER TO CONDUCT ON-SITE EXAMINATIONS OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE BRANCHES, SUBSIDIARIES AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES.

/* BOTH AUTHORITIES

* BOTH AUTHORITIES WILL PERMIT EACH OTHER TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM THE CROSS-BORDER BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES. ADDITIONALLY, BOTH AUTHORITIES WILL, TO THE EXENT PERMITTED BY LAW, BE PREPARED TO SHARE WITH EACH OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH WILL HELP IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS.

MR CARSE ADDED: "THE MEMORANDUM PUTS INTO EFFECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BASLE COMMITTEE ON BANKING SUPERVISION. IT SHOULD HELP TO ACHIEVE MORE CO-ORDINATED SUPERVISION OF HONG KONG AND INDONESIAN INSTITUTIONS".

THE ARRANGEMENT WITH BANK INDONESIA IS BROADLY SIMILAR TO THAT REACHED WITH THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF CHINA LAST YEAR. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING SOUGHT WITH OTHER SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAVEL AGENTS' LICENSING FEES TO BE REVISED
* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY HAD APPROVED REVISION TO THE TRAVEL AGENTS' LICENSING AND RELATED FEES, EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR.

THE REVISED FEES SET OUT IN THE TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

DETAILS OF THE REVISION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	EXISTING ----- \$	NEW RATE ----- \$
* FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE	520	575
* FOR A LICENCE OR THE RENEWAL OF A LICENCE (FOR EACH MONTH OF THE TERM)	400	440
* FOR AMENDING A LICENCE-		
(A) FOR AN ADDITIONAL ADDRESS, FOR EACH NEW PREMISES	550	605
(B) OTHERWISE	130	143

* FOR ISSUING A DUPLICATE OF A LICENCE	760	840
* FOR INSPECTING THE REGISTER OR ANY PART THEREOF	30	33
* FOR ISSUING OR SUPPLYING A COPY OF OR EXTRACT FROM ANY ENTRY IN THE REGISTER	30	33
* FOR CERTIFYING A COPY OF OR EXTRACT FROM ANY ENTRY IN THE REGISTER	70	77

THE TRAVEL AGENTS' LICENSING AND RELATED FEES WERE LAST REVISED ON JANUARY 1, THIS YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY ARE SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW.

THE REVISED RATES ARE SET TO RECOVER INCREASED COSTS IN PROVIDING THE RELEVANT SERVICE, HE SAID.

"REVENUE FROM THE REVISED FEES WILL RECOVER ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OPERATING COSTS OF THE REGISTRY OF TRAVEL AGENTS," HE SAID.

"THE REMAINING 30 PER CENT ARE INCURRED FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF OTHER NON-LICENSING REGULATORY FUNCTIONS WHICH AIM TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS."

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND IT ADVISES THAT THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE ARE ACCEPTABLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AT POK FU LAM ROAD AUTHORISED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY SYSTEM AND THE ASSOCIATED ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT THE JUNCTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD AND POKFIELD ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS ROAD JUNCTION WAS A BOTTLENECK FOR THE NORTH BOUND TRAFFIC AT POK FU LAM ROAD DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS. THIS PROJECT WOULD IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CAPACITY OF THIS SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, THE SUBWAY SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE A SAFE GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR PEDESTRIANS.

/IT WILL

IT WILL ALSO LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE TRAFFIC CAPACITY OF THIS ROAD JUNCTION BY UTILISING THE GREEN TIME ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED TO THE PEDESTRIAN PHASE FOR OTHER VEHICULAR PHASES, THUS ENHANCING THE THROUGHPUT OF RESPECTIVE APPROACHES AT THE JUNCTION.

THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

A STYLE OF DISTINCTION

* * * * *

THE WORLD'S GREAT CITIES HAVE A RECOGNISABLE STYLE ABOUT THEM, FROM THE WAY THEIR INHABITANTS GO ABOUT THEIR LIVES TO THE BUILDINGS THEY CHOOSE TO DO THEIR LIVING IN.

HONG KONG'S ARCHITECTURE IS DISTINGUISHED BY THE PACE OF CHANGE AS WELL AS THE VARIED STYLE OF ITS MAJOR BUILDINGS.

THIS VARIETY WILL BE AMONG THE KEY POINTS OF INTEREST IN AN EXHIBITION OF HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE WHICH WILL OPEN AT THE DEUTSCHES ARKITEKTUR-MUSEUM IN FRANKFURT ON NOVEMBER 14.

ENTITLED THE AESTHETICS OF DENSITY, THE EXHIBITION FEATURES MODELS, DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF NOTABLE HONG KONG BUILDINGS.

THEY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO REFLECT THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXHIBITION, WHICH LOOKS AT HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT FROM 1841 TO THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW CITY; SOME VISIONS OF WHAT MAY BE; AND A SPECIAL SECTION FOR PROFESSIONALS.

EXISTING STRUCTURES INCLUDE SIR NORMAN FOSTER'S HIGH-TECH MILESTONE, THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING, COMPLETED IN 1985; PACIFIC PLACE, DESIGNED BY W H LAM OF WANG & OUYANG; HONG KONG PARK, A DELIGHTFUL GREEN SPACE AT THE CITY'S HEART DESIGNED BY EDWARD HO AND JIM TONG OF WONG, TUNG AND PARTNERS LTD; AND I M PEI'S BANK OF CHINA BUILDING, COMPLETED IN 1989.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS INCLUDE CENTRAL PLAZA, WAN CHAI, AT 78 STOREYS ASIA'S TALLEST BUILDING AND DESIGNED BY DENNIS LAU OF NG CHUN MAN & ASSOCIATES; AND HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DESIGNED BY SIMON KWAN OF SIMON KWAN AND ASSOCIATES, ITS FIRST PHASE WAS COMPLETED IN 1991 AND ITS FIRST GRADUATES TOSSED THEIR MORTARBOARDS IN THE AIR THIS OCTOBER.

PROJECTS THAT LIE AHEAD INCLUDE HONG KONG'S NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND A MASSIVE REDEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON ON A SITE NOW OCCUPIED PARTLY BY THE EXISTING AIRPORT, KAI TAK.

SIR NORMAN FOSTER CAME TO HONG KONG RECENTLY TO SET UP HIS FAR EAST BRANCH, FOSTER ASIA.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1993

- 20 -

HIS HONG KONG OFFICE TEAMED UP WITH MOTT CONNELL AND BAA (THE FORMER BRITISH AIRPORT AUTHORITY) TO WIN A CONTRACT WORTH ABOUT US\$70 MILLION TO DESIGN THE AIRPORT TERMINAL AT CHEK LAP KOK.

IT IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1997 AND WILL EQUAL THE COMBINED AREA OF NEW YORK'S JFK AND LONDON'S HEATHROW.

HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL TOWN PLANNER DR E G PRYOR HAS CREATED AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KAI TAK AFTER THE AIRPORT IS RELOCATED AND THIS WILL FORM PART OF THE EXHIBITION SHOWING PROJECTIONS FOR THE TERRITORY.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRANKFURT ORGANISERS, A SPECIAL SECTION HAS BEEN CREATED FOR PROFESSIONALS - ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS AND PLANNERS - WHERE THE MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECTS ARE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

A FINELY PRINTED CATALOGUE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EXHIBITION DEALING AT LENGTH WITH HONG KONG'S HISTORY AND BUILDING PECULIARITIES. HONG KONG COVERS AN AREA OF 1,080 SQUARE KILOMETRES, BUT MUCH OF THAT CANNOT BE BUILT ON BECAUSE IT IS TOO STEEP, SO THE CITY'S SIX MILLION PEOPLE ARE CRAMMED INTO ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE SPACE.

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE MONG KOK DISTRICT WAS REGARDED AS THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED SQUARE MILE ON EARTH.

IN THESE CONDITIONS, THE TITLE OF THE EXHIBITION TAKES ON NEW MEANING AND INDICATES THE APPROACH NOW BEING TAKEN TO TACKLE THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN ACCOMMODATING SO MANY PEOPLE IN SUCH A SMALL AREA.

AS THE EXHIBITS DEMONSTRATE, THE RESULTS CAN BE QUITE INSPIRING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SMILING IMAGES OF HONG KONG

* * * * *

A TROUPE OF 17 PERFORMERS FROM HONG KONG'S ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WILL ENTERTAIN LEADING EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS AT A DINNER IN THE HAGUE LATER THIS MONTH.

THE PERFORMANCE, HONG KONG IMAGES, WILL COME AFTER DINNER IN THE KURHAUS HOTEL, THE HAGUE, ON NOVEMBER 16.

IT WILL COMBINE DANCE, MUSIC AND VISUAL IMAGES TO REFLECT HONG KONG'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ITS DEVELOPMENT INTO A MAJOR, MODERN INTERNATIONAL CITY.

KICKING OFF THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE A LIVELY, SIX-MINUTE FILM PRESENTING IMAGES OF HONG KONG INTERSPERSED WITH GLIMPSES OF A TRADITIONAL CHINESE MASKED CHARACTER, BIG-HEADED BUDDHA, WHO BEAMS A BIG, INFECTIOUS GRIN.

/WHEN THE

WHEN THE FILM ENDS, BIG-HEADED BUDDHA WILL EMERGE LIVE ONTO THE STAGE AND WILL INTRODUCE IN MIME THE PERFORMANCES TO FOLLOW.

A TRADITIONAL CHINESE FAN DANCE WILL START THE PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWED BY A FIVE-PIECE ENSEMBLE PLAYING TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTS THE ERHU (A VIOLIN-LIKE STRINGED INSTRUMENT), DIZI (FLUTE), PIPA (HARP), SHENG (PAN PIPES) AND ZHENG (A PLUCKED, ZITHER-LIKE INSTRUMENT).

A SOPRANO WILL THEN JOIN THE GROUP FOR A SONG FROM CHINA'S SICHUAN PROVINCE IN THE MANDARIN DIALECT.

AFTER THAT, BIG-HEADED BUDDHA WILL INTRODUCE FOUR MALE DANCERS IN CONTEMPORARY DRESS REFLECTING HONG KONG'S SOPHISTICATED NIGHTLIFE- ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOPRANO, WHO WILL CHANGE FROM CHINESE TRADITIONAL DRESS INTO A MODERN EVENING GOWN.

THE PERFORMANCE WILL END WITH THE ANHUI FLOWER DANCE, A SPECTACULAR, TRADITIONAL ITEM DRIVEN TO THE EVENING'S CLOSE BY LIVE CHINESE PERCUSSION.

THE ACADEMY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR GEORGE DERBYSHIRE, SAID THREE TECHNICAL ARTS STUDENTS AND THREE STAFF WOULD ACCOMPANY THE 10 DANCERS AND SEVEN MUSICIANS TO HOLLAND.

"WE HOPE TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE A FLAVOUR OF THE EXCITING MIX OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT WHICH CHARACTERISES HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"IT WILL ALSO GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THE TALENTS OF ACADEMY STUDENTS BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE."

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO LOTS TO BE AUCTIONED
* * * * *

TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON NOVEMBER 29, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 840 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING RESIDENTIAL, GODOWNS, HOTELS OR OFFICES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 840 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996.

THE OTHER LOT, LOCATED IN MA TIN ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,350 SQUARE METRES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USE.

/THE DEVELOPER

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,830 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

SALE PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH AND ISLANDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEMORIAL JOURNAL TO MARK FIRE SERVICES' 125TH ANNIVERSARY

* * * * *

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A JOURNAL TO COMMEMORATE ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

THE 64-PAGE BILINGUAL PUBLICATION CONTAINS A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT FROM 1868, NOTABLE INCIDENTS IN THE PAST SEVEN DECADES AND SERVICE EXPANSION OVER THE YEARS TO COPE WITH THE RAPID DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGING DEMANDS IN THE TERRITORY.

PEOPLE MAY NOT AWARE OF THE DISASTROUS FIRE AT THE HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE IN 1918 IN WHICH 570 PEOPLE WERE BURNED ALIVE OR TRAMPED UNDERFOOT.

MANY MAY HAVE SOME IMPRESSION OF THE TRAGIC SHEK KIP MEI SQUATTER FIRE IN 1953 WHICH MADE 53,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS, THE BUILDING COLLAPSE AT KOTEWALL ROAD AND THE LANDSLIDE AT SAU MAU PING RESITE AREA DURING A RAINSTORM IN 1972, KILLING 68 PEOPLE.

THESE INCIDENTS WERE VIVIDLY DEPICTED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE JOURNAL.

"THANKS TO THE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF ITS STAFF, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS DONE A REMARKABLE JOB IN PROTECTING THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE SIX MILLION PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAYS IN THE FOREWORD TO THE JOURNAL.

COMMENTING ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE BOOK, THE EDITOR, DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER HO CHAK-LAM, SAID HIS STAFF HAD SPENT ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO HUNT FOR THE NECESSARY INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL REPORTS AND NEWSPAPERS.

SOME OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE REPRODUCED BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1993

- 23 -

CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE HOME FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, WILL LAUNCH THE 1993/94 FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN CUM FIRE SERVICES 125TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 7).

THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FIRE RISK.

IN ADDITION TO PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY, VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE A SHORT DRAMA BY TELEVISION ARTISTES, EXHIBITION OF FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT, AND WATER DISPLAY BY FIRE BOAT IN THE VICTORIA HARBOUR.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE EXHIBITION. THE OPENING HOURS ARE: FROM 3.45 PM TO 7 PM ON SUNDAY, FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM ON MONDAY AND 10 AM TO 2 PM ON TUESDAY.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 7).

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN COUNCILLORS AND DB MEMBERS BRIEFED ON ACP PROGRESS

* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 11 URBAN COUNCILLORS AND 81 URBAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) TOLD THAT GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS.

DURING A FOUR-HOUR BOAT TOUR, THE GROUP WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST PROGRESS OF THE 10 ACP PROJECTS AND SAW THE WORKS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, THE TSING MA AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGES, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN RECLAMATION AND THE NEW AIRPORT WORKS.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR BILLY LAM, FIRST GAVE A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY BRIEFINGS ON THE LATEST PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL ACP PROJECTS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1993

- 24 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,980
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-380
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,620
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.3 *+0.1* 5.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.54 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.33	3.23
1 MONTH	2.81 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.56	3.52
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	94.94	3.83
6 MONTHS	2.98 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.20	3.96
12 MONTHS	3.31 PCT	36 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.37	4.48

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 26,642 MN

CLOSED 5 NOVEMBER 1993

----- 0 -----