



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR ASSURED GREAT STEP FORWARD IN PUBLIC HOUSING PROVISION	1
MEETING WITH ZHOU KICKS OFF WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS: GOVERNOR	3
INSPECTOR APPOINTED UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE	4
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR APRIL - JUNE	4
MANAGEMENT OF GOVT TUNNELS	5
DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS ON TSING YI	6
PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WORKS	7
OFFICIALS TO VISIT CHINA	7
MA ON SHAN SITE UP FOR SALE	8
STUDENTS ADVISED ON CHOOSING COURSE ENROLMENT	8
AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT NGAU CHI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN	9
NEW FIREMEN SPURRED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY	10
TIN SHUI WAI TO GET MORE WELFARE FACILITIES	11
LANGUAGE LEARNING STRESSED	11
SCHOOL SPONSORS PRAISED	12
FUNDING SOUGHT FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION	12
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	14

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 1 -

GOVERNOR ASSURED GREAT STEP FORWARD IN PUBLIC HOUSING PROVISION

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HONG KONG HAS SPENT AND WILL BE SPENDING TWICE AS MUCH MONEY ON PUBLIC HOUSING AS ON THE NEW AIRPORT, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT ABOUT \$80 BILLION HAD BEEN SPENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, WHILE A FURTHER \$80 BILLION WOULD BE SPENT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF ANOTHER SUBSTANTIAL MOVE FORWARD IN HOUSING PROVISION," HE SAID, AFTER COMPLETING A DAY'S VISIT TO NEW TOWNS AND VARIOUS HOUSING PROJECTS.

"THE INVESTMENT IS PARTLY GOING INTO NEW TOWNS AND NEW ESTATES, AND PARTLY INTO KNOCKING DOWN SOME OF THE OLDER ESTATES THAT HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE LAST 30 YEARS," HE EXPLAINED.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HOME-OWNERS OVER THE YEARS.

"THAT FIGURE TODAY STANDS AT ABOUT 41 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION.

"BUT WE EXPECT IT TO RISE TO ABOUT 66 PER CENT, ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG BY 2001," HE ADDED.

AS FOR THE SITTING TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE GOVERNOR ALSO ASSURED THEM THAT SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PUT INTO IMPROVING THEIR HOMES.

"WE ALL KNOW THAT GOOD QUALITY HOMES, GOOD QUALITY FLATS, AND GOOD QUALITY HOUSING ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO FAMILY LIFE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED ONE OF THE GREATEST RECORDS IN PROVIDING NEW PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE LAST GENERATION, WHICH HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN HONG KONG.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING HOUSING POLICY WAS BOTH SENSIBLE AND REASONABLE, WITH A GREAT DEAL MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE PROVISION OF FLATS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE SINGLE.

ON THE PROBLEM FOR THE SANDWICHED CLASS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND HE WOULD BE MAKING SOME PROPOSALS ON THAT SUBJECT LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO STRESSED THAT ANY CORRUPTION OR GANGSTERISM INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WOULD BE PURSUED RIGOROUSLY AND VIGOROUSLY.

"IT IS OBVIOUSLY AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT IN PROVIDING SUB-CONTRACTING SERVICES FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHERS, WE GET THE BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY AND THE BEST POSSIBLE BARGAIN FOR THE TAXPAYERS AND FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY," HE SAID.

/DURING TODAY'S

DURING TODAY'S VISIT, MR PATTEN WAS BRIEFED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, AND THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, ON HOUSING POLICY, NEW TOWN PROGRAMME AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR EASON AND MR BLAKE, THE GOVERNOR TOOK A HELICOPTER TO TIN SHUI WAI TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

THE NEW TOWN WILL PROVIDE HOMES FOR 140,000 PEOPLE WITH A FULL RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES INCLUDING SCHOOLS, CLINICS, A PARK, A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, A SPORTS STADIUM AND AN INDOOR-RECREATIONAL CENTRE.

HE THEN PROCEEDED TO TSEUNG KWAN O FOR A TOUR OF THE NEW TOWN DESIGNED FOR A POPULATION OF 443,000 WITH FACILITIES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN TIN SHUI WAI.

APART FROM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, TSEUNG KWAN O WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND PORT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING A DOCKYARD AND DEEP WATERFRONT INDUSTRY.

AFTERWARDS, HE VISITED THE NEARBY YAU YUE WAN RESITE VILLAGE. IT WAS BUILT IN 1988 TO REHOUSE ABOUT 200 VILLAGERS FROM THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

HAVING SEEN THE NEW TOWNS, MR PATTEN PROCEEDED TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS. HE HAD LUNCH WITH CHAIRMEN OF THE AUTHORITY'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE OVERALL PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME BY AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR DEREK MESSLING.

HE SAW THE APPLICATIONS SECTION AND PRIORITY SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

ACCOMPANIED BY SIR DAVID AND MR MESSLING, HE TOURED UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, ONE OF THE EARLIER ESTATES WHICH IS TO BE REPLACED UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. HE VISITED A FAMILY WHICH HAD BEEN LIVING THERE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS.

FROM THERE, HE WENT TO SEE PHASE 7 OF THE NEW WANG TAU HOM ESTATE, WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. HE WAS SHOWN DIFFERENT TYPES OF FLATS WITH BETTER ORGANISED LIVING SPACE IN THE NEW HARMONY BLOCK SERIES.

HE ALSO VISITED TAK TIN ESTATE, ONE OF THE NEWLY BUILT ESTATES FOR REHOUSING TENANTS FROM NEARBY LAM TIN ESTATE, WHICH IS BEING REDEVELOPED.

HE LEARNED ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME FOR REPLACING OLD PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND FOR REHOUSING TENANTS AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT. HE THEN CALLED ON A FAMILY RELOCATED FROM LAM TIN ESTATE.

THE GOVERNOR ENDED HIS VISIT WITH A TOUR OF TAK TIN ESTATE'S SHOPPING CENTRE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 3 -

MEETING WITH ZHOU KICKS OFF WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, MR ZHOU NAN, NEXT WEEK WILL BE THE FIRST OF MANY WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER HIS VISIT TO NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

WHEN ASKED IF THE NEW AIRPORT WAS ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING, THE GOVERNOR SAID:

"IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THE AIRPORT WASN'T ONE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT WE DISCUSS. BUT WE WON'T BE NEGOTIATING BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE FOR THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE."

HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH MR ZHOU ON MATTERS WHICH WERE OF COMMON INTEREST AND COMMON CONCERN TO CHINA AND TO HONG KONG.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE US-HONG KONG ACT 1992, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SURPRISING THAT A COUNTRY WHICH DID SO MUCH TRADE WITH HONG KONG BE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

"I THINK THAT FREE TRADE IS GOOD FOR HONG KONG, GOOD FOR UNITED STATES AND GOOD FOR CHINA. I THINK IT IS GOOD FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

"WE ALL KNOW THAT THE WORLD EXPECTS TO SEE THE JOINT DECLARATION FULFILLED AND IMPLEMENTED IN EVERY PARTICULAR AND THAT IS OF COURSE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN."

ON WHETHER THE US-HONG KONG ACT WAS AN INTERFERENCE OF CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR PATTEN SAID: "NO, I DON'T THINK IT IS INTERFERENCE."

NOTING THAT UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INVESTORS IN HONG KONG, HE REITERATED THAT HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SURPRISING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG.

"IT DOES A GREAT DEAL OF TRADE WITH HONG KONG AND I WANT TO SEE IT DOING MORE TRADE WITH HONG KONG BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

"WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ON THAT BILL PERFECTLY WELL-KNOWN, MORE TO THE POINT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN THAT WE ARE IN FAVOUR OF UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA.

"FREE TRADE, IN MY VIEW, HAS BEEN AND INVARIABLY ALWAYS WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF PROGRESS," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED IF HIS INCREASING POPULARITY AMONG HONG KONG CITIZENS MIGHT RAISE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION, MR PATTEN SAID HE MADE NO PROMISES THAT HE COULD DELIVER EVERY ASPIRATION OR EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE WANTED.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 4 -

"I AM THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, I AM NOT FATHER CHRISTMAS. WHAT I CAN DO IS TO GO ON BEING AS OPEN WITH PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. WHAT I CAN AND WILL DO IS TO GO ON TELLING PEOPLE WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE TRUTH."

HE SAID WHAT HE WOULD BE DOING WHEN MAKING HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER WAS SETTING OUT WHERE HE THOUGHT HONG KONG SHOULD BE GOING ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MATTERS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"AND WHAT I WANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO PEOPLE IS THAT I DO WHAT I SAY, THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE WHAT'S IMPORTANT," MR PATTEN SAID.

ANY POLITICAL LEADER SHOULD RECOGNISE THAT POLITICS WAS ABOUT A LONG AGENDA OF VERY DIFFICULT AND TOUGH CHOICES, HE SAID.

"AND YOU CAN'T ALWAYS DO WHAT IS POPULAR IN THE SHORT TERM, WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT," HE ADDED.

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INSPECTOR APPOINTED UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM BY SECTION 143(1) (C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 32), HAS APPOINTED MR NICHOLAS ALLEN OF COOPERS AND LYBRAND AS INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF ALLIED GROUP LIMITED, ALLIED PROPERTIES (HK) LIMITED, CRUSADER HOLDINGS LIMITED, PARAGON HOLDINGS LIMITED AND WAI YICK LIMITED.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR APRIL - JUNE

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD APRIL - JUNE 1992 WAS 2.3%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.2%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD MAY - JULY 1992 WAS 2.1%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.2%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET MAY HAVE TIGHTENED UP AGAIN IN RECENT MONTHS, GIVEN THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS EDGED DOWN FURTHER.

MEANWHILE, THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE HAS REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE.

/DURING THE

DURING THE PERIOD APRIL - JUNE 1992, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 65,800, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 62,000.

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

THE SURVEY FOR APRIL - JUNE 1992 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,700 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,200 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WERE OBTAINED BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 21 AT \$15.5 A COPY.

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MANAGEMENT OF GOVT TUNNELS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) AWARDED THE CONTRACTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FOUR GOVERNMENT TUNNELS TO TWO SEPARATE TUNNEL OPERATORS.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE SHING MUN AND TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNELS IS AWARDED TO MACK & COMPANY TUNNEL MANAGEMENT LIMITED WHILE THAT FOR THE LION ROCK AND AIRPORT TUNNELS GOES TO SERCO GUARDIAN (F.M.) LIMITED.

THE THREE-YEAR CONTRACTS WILL START IN JANUARY 1993, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AIRPORT TUNNEL, ALL THE OTHER THREE TUNNELS ARE TOLL TUNNELS.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL RETAIN FULL CONTROL OVER THE TUNNEL TOLLS AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OPERATORS.

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MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN HELPING THE 300 TUNNEL STAFF AFFECTED IN SEEKING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

AS A RESULT OF SUCH EFFORTS, 160 TUNNEL STAFF HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING RE-DEPLOYED TO OTHER JOBS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, 17 STAFF HAVE OPTED TO RETIRE.

AS FOR THE REMAINING STAFF, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO FINDING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR THEM AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE.

APART FROM OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, A FAIR NUMBER OF THEM ARE EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED BY THE INCOMING OPERATORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS ON TSING YI

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 19.4 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT THE SOUTH COAST OF TSING YI ISLAND TO PROVIDE LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL USE.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE USED FOR THE BULK STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND PETROCHEMICALS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PIERS.

THE WORKS WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN 1995.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 13 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE (IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE) TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLANS CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); AND AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRE, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 7 -

PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO SEEK PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNG CHUNG SECTION OF THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE 2.6-KILOMETRE FUNG CHUNG SECTION WOULD BE BUILT PARTLY ON HILLSIDE AND PARTLY ON RECLAIMED LAND.

WORKS WILL COMPRISE A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, THE FORMATION OF RESERVES FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGES AND THE INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS AND A TRUNK SEWER.

PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED, 12TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, 30 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. THE CLOSING DATE IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 11.

DETAILS OF THE TENDERS ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FOLLOWING THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE, THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO INVITE TENDERS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS IN LATE THIS YEAR.

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OFFICIALS TO VISIT CHINA

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SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, WILL BE VISITING CHINA FROM AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 2 AT THE INVITATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE.

MR CHAU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVEN OTHER HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 8 -

MA ON SHAN SITE UP FOR SALE

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN AREA 92, MA ON SHAN, SHA TIN.

AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,500 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR A PETROL-FILLING STATION INCLUDING LUBRICATING AND CAR WASHING FACILITIES BUT EXCLUDING VEHICLE REPAIR WORKSHOPS AND SERVICING FACILITIES.

THE STATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR OPERATION BY DECEMBER 31, 1994.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 11.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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

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STUDENTS ADVISED ON CHOOSING COURSE ENROLMENT

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TODAY (FRIDAY) ARE ADVISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN THEY ARE SEEKING ENROLMENT IN VARIOUS COURSES INCLUDING THOSE LEADING TO THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (HKCEE).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ALLEGING THAT SOME INSTITUTIONS OFFERING SUCH COURSES MAY ACTUALLY BE UNREGISTERED ESTABLISHMENTS.

STUDENTS SHOULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES OR THE REGISTRATION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT THE INSTITUTION OF THEIR CHOICE WAS REGISTERED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MOST OF THE COURSES ARE AIMED AT SECONDARY 5 STUDENTS WHO WERE UNSATISFIED WITH THEIR RESULTS IN THIS YEAR'S HKCEE.

THE COURSES ARE ADVERTISED TO BE TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS TO SECURE GOOD GRADES IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS.

COMMERCIAL AND COMPUTER COURSES ARE ALSO POPULAR SUBJECTS ADVERTISED BY SUCH INSTITUTIONS.

/AN EDUCATIONAL

AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT IS PROPERLY REGISTERED SHOULD BE ABLE, ON REQUEST, TO PRODUCE THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

- (1) A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OR ADDRESSES OF THE INSTITUTION; AND
- (2) A FEES CERTIFICATE DETAILING THE APPROVED COURSES WITH THEIR SCALE OF CHARGES.

ANYONE WHO IS IN DOUBT OF THE REGISTRATION STATUS OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION SHOULD APPROACH THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT NGAU CHI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT NGAU CHI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN (NO. S/K12/3).

ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS IS THE REZONING OF A SITE IN NGAU CHI WAN NORTH VILLAGE FROM "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT", WHICH IS MADE UNDER SECTION 6(7) OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

AMENDMENTS MADE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE THE REZONING OF A SITE AT CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD FROM "OPEN SPACE" TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" AND THE RENAMING OF A SITE AT PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD FROM "CEMETERY" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "CEMETERY".

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTES OF THE PLAN HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE.

DETAILS CAN NOW BE INSPECTED AT:

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KOWLOON; AND
- * KOWLOON DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT OBJECTIONS IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 28 AND SEPTEMBER 4 FOR AMENDMENT MADE UNDER SECTION 6(7) AND THOSE MADE UNDER SECTION 7 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE OBJECTIONS

THE OBJECTIONS SHOULD SET OUT THE NATURE OF AND REASONS FOR THE OBJECTION; AND IF THE OBJECTION WOULD BE REMOVED BY AN ALTERATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN, ANY ALTERATION PROPOSED.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN (PLAN NO. S/K12/4) ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, OR AT THE KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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NEW FIREMEN SPURRED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, URGED FRESH GRADUATES OF THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND TO ENHANCE THE REPUTATION OF THEIR DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE 95TH PASSING-OUT PARADE THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING, MR SUEN TOLD THE FIREMEN THAT THEY HAD TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS IN SERVING HONG KONG AND ITS COMMUNITY.

"HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY HAS CREATED A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WITH CROWDED HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AND MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEXES IN THE MAIN URBAN CENTRE.

"ON THE FRINGES, WE FIND CONGESTED SQUATTER ACCOMMODATIONS AND A FLOATING POPULATION IN OUR TYPHOON SHELTERS."

ALL THESE, HE SAID, TRANSLATE IN FIRE SAFETY TERMS TO CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE WORK.

HE ALSO TOLD THE NEW RECRUITS THAT THEY HAD A FINE TRADITION AND A HIGH REPUTATION TO UPHOLD.

"THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICE IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THE HIGH REPUTATION IT ENJOYS WORLDWIDE HAS BEEN EARNED BY THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF MEMBERS OF ALL RANKS IN THE FIRE SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT, OVER MANY YEARS," HE SAID.

AT THE END OF THE PARADE, MR SUEN PRESENTED THE BEST RECRUIT AWARDS TO STATION OFFICER LEE KOON-YAU AND FIREMAN CHONG SZE-HON FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES DURING TRAINING.

THE PASSING-OUT SQUADS COMPRISED 13 STATION OFFICERS AND 34 FIREMEN.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 11 -

TIN SHUI WAI TO GET MORE WELFARE FACILITIES
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES IN AREA 24, TIN SHUI WAI, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STOREY NURSERY, AND CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE OCCUPYING A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 1,500 SQUARE METRES.

EXTERNAL WORKS SUCH AS ERECTION OF BOUNDARY FENCE WALL, PLANTERS AND EXTERNAL PAVINGS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

UPON COMPLETION, THE BUILDING WILL PROVIDE DIVERSIFIED FACILITIES SUCH AS READING ROOM, MUSIC ROOM, DARK ROOM, STORES, GAMES ROOMS, GROUP ACTIVITIES ROOMS, KITCHEN, DOMESTIC SCIENCE ROOM, TOILETS AND REST AREAS.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MID-NOVEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON SEPTEMBER 4.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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LANGUAGE LEARNING STRESSED
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MR DOMINIC S W WONG TODAY (FRIDAY) APPEALED TO SCHOOLS TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO TEACHING BASIC GRAMMAR, PRONUNCIATION AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.

LANGUAGE LEARNING, MR WONG SAID, REQUIRED PATIENCE AND REGULAR PRACTICE.

IN LAUNCHING THE "ONE MINUTE OF ENGLISH" PROGRAMME PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK), HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD APPROACH PUBLISHERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PUBLISH MORE TEXTBOOKS OR REFERENCE MATERIAL TO HELP DEVELOP THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS.

HE NOTED THAT OWNING TO THE EVOLUTION OF AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNIQUES IN THE 90S, MANY PEOPLE HAD SWITCHED FROM READING TO WATCHING TELEVISION OR MOVIES.

"SOME EDUCATIONISTS ATTRIBUTED THIS CHANGE IN HABIT AS ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS LEADING TO A DECLINE IN LANGUAGE STANDARD," HE SAID.

/"MANY EMPLOYERS

"MANY EMPLOYERS ALSO FEEL THAT THE LANGUAGE STANDARD OF THEIR STAFF IS RELATIVELY LOW AND WORRY THAT THIS MAY AFFECT THE TERRITORY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," HE CONTINUED.

MR WONG PRAISED THE RTHK FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND THANKED THE HANG SENG BANK FOR ITS SPONSORSHIP.

HE ADDED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE ONE-MINUTE PROGRAMME WOULD BE POPULAR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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SCHOOL SPONSORS PRAISED
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, PRAISED NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING DIVERSIFIED EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THIS DURING A COURTESY VISIT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YAN OI TONG THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH SPONSORING BODIES WHICH HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, ESPECIALLY THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

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FUNDING SOUGHT FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION
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THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC) OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC) HAS RECOMMENDED TO EXPLORE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING SUPPORT, OTHER THAN THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, TO FUND THE SETTING UP OF DESK-TOP-MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES.

SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE TC MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TC, DR RAYMOND HO, SAID OPERATING THE DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES ON A FEE-CHARGING BASIS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE DAYS.

DR HO SAID THE TC HAD BEEN EXAMINING THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION STUDY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND HAD NOW COME UP WITH ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS.

HE SAID IN STUDYING THE REPORT, THE TC HAD ALSO SOUGHT COMMENTS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 13 -

DR HO SAID THE TC SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE THE CONSULTANTS' PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP AN INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION TASK FORCE TO HELP MANUFACTURERS TO GO AUTOMATION.

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE TO BE DRAWN UP BY THE TC IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CONSULTANTS.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT VIDEOTAPES ON INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION SHOULD BE PRODUCED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MANUFACTURERS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

IF FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, THE POSSIBILITY OF EITHER PRODUCING TELEVISION PROGRAMMES OR EDITING MATERIALS CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED VIDEOTAPES INTO SUCH PROGRAMMES FOR BROADCAST SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT A LATER STAGE, HE ADDED.

ON SOURCING OF INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGIES, DR HO SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT WHILE IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY FOR TECHNOLOGY ATTACHES TO BE POSTED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES OVERSEAS, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER STRENGTHENING THE TECHNOLOGICAL WORK OF ITS OVERSEAS OFFICES IF SUCH NEED AROSE IN THE FUTURE.

"THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHING SECTOR-SPECIFIC COMMITTEES ON AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGIES UNDER THE ITDC SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN A YEAR'S TIME," HE ADDED.

DR HO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE SOME OF THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS HAD, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BEEN ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED BY EXISTING POLICIES OR MEASURES, THE TC WAS THEREFORE OF THE VIEW THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE NECESSARY.

HE SAID THE TC CONSIDERED THAT THE 12 MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSULTANTS IN THE REPORT WERE USEFUL IN THAT THEY HAD PROVIDED A BASIS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ITDC AT A LATER STAGE.

"ALTHOUGH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TOTALLY ACCEPTED BY THE TC, THIS SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AS A REFLECTION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONSULTANTS IN THE STUDY OR THE QUALITY OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS," HE NOTED.

THE TC WOULD SUBMIT ITS VIEWS ON THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT AND ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ITDC LATER THIS YEAR.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE VIEWS OF THE TC, THE ITDC WOULD THEN ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO TAKE TO ENHANCE INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION IN HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1992

- 14 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,900
REVERSAL OF LAF	-400
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+1,270
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,770
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 109.7 *-0.2* 14.8.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.48 PCT	15 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.57	3.35
1 MONTH	2.40 PCT	18 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.75	3.64
3 MONTHS	2.39 PCT	21 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.74	3.90
6 MONTHS	2.55 PCT					
12 MONTHS	3.08 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,884 MN

CLOSED 14 AUGUST 1992

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