



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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LORD WILSON WELCOMES MR PATTEN AS NEW GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, TODAY (FRIDAY) WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR CHRISTOPHER PATTEN TO SUCCEED HIM AS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR SAID:

"I HAVE KNOWN MR PATTEN FOR MANY YEARS, HE WILL BE AN EXCELLENT GOVERNOR FOR A MOST IMPORTANT PERIOD IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY. HE HAS A FINE REPUTATION AS AN IMMENSELY ABLE PERSON WITH A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MR PATTEN WHEN I AM IN LONDON NEXT WEEK."

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SHOOTING INCIDENT APPALLED

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COMMENTING ON THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IN KOWLOON TODAY (FRIDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID HE WAS APPALLED AT THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF FIREARMS, ENDANGERING INNOCENT LIVES.

"I AM SADDENED AT THE INJURIES TO BOTH INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND POLICE OFFICERS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ARREST AND BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE," HE SAID.

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BILL TO STREAMLINE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR LEGAL PROFESSION

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DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES OF BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS WILL BE STREAMLINED UNDER PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 WHICH IS GAZETTED TODAY.

THE BILL CONTAINS NEW DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR BOTH SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS.

UNDER THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR SOLICITORS, THE CHIEF JUSTICE WILL APPOINT A SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL PANEL CONSISTING OF NOT MORE THAN 30 PRACTISING SOLICITORS OF AT LEAST 10 YEARS' STANDING AND 10 LAY PERSONS.

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IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL BE EMPOWERED TO REQUIRE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS WHEN INVESTIGATING A SOLICITOR'S FITNESS TO PRACTISE.

IF THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT THE SOLICITOR MAY BE UNFIT TO PRACTISE, IT SHALL REFER THE MATTER TO THE TRIBUNAL AND MAY SUSPEND THE SOLICITOR FROM PRACTICE PENDING A DECISION OF THE SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL.

WHERE THE COUNCIL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT AND CONSIDERS THAT THE CONDUCT OF A SOLICITOR SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED, THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT THE COMPLAINT TO THE TRIBUNAL.

IF THE COUNCIL DOES NOT SO REFER THE COMPLAINT, THE COMPLAINANT MAY APPLY TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO SUBMIT THE MATTER TO THE TRIBUNAL.

WHEN THE TRIBUNAL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT FROM THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF JUSTICE, A SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL CONSISTING OF TWO SOLICITORS AND ONE LAY PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINT.

AFTER COMPLETING ITS INVESTIGATION, THE TRIBUNAL WILL HAVE POWER, IN ADDITION TO EXISTING POWERS TO SUSPEND OR STRIKE OFF, TO ALLOW THE SOLICITOR TO PRACTISE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY THAT THE TRIBUNAL CAN IMPOSE WILL BE INCREASED TO \$500,000 FROM \$50,000.

THE TRIBUNAL WILL HAVE THE POWER TO ORDER THE SOLICITOR TO REPAY THE FEES AND EXPENSES CHARGED TO THE COMPLAINANT.

THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR AN APPEAL FROM A DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL TO BE HEARD IN OPEN COURT BY THE COURT OF APPEAL.

SIMILAR DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR BARRISTERS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE WILL APPOINT A BARRISTERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL PANEL CONSISTING OF NOT MORE THAN SIX QUEEN'S COUNSEL, SIX PRACTISING BARRISTERS, AND FIVE LAY PERSONS.

WHEN THE TRIBUNAL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT FROM THE BAR COUNCIL OR CHIEF JUSTICE, A BARRISTERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL CONSISTING OF ONE QUEEN'S COUNSEL, A BARRISTER AND A LAY PERSON, SHALL BE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE COMPLAINT.

THE BARRISTERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL WILL HAVE POWERS TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$500,000 AND ORDER THE PAYMENT TO THE COMPLAINANT OF THE AMOUNT PAID TO THE BARRISTER IN RELATION TO THE COMPLAINANT'S MATTERS IN DISPUTE.

AN APPEAL FROM A DECISION OF THE BARRISTERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL SHALL BE HEARD IN OPEN COURT BY THE COURT OF APPEAL.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 6 THIS YEAR.

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CHANGE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S POWER TO ENTER
A NOLLE PROSEQUI PROPOSED
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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1992 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) PROPOSES THE ABOLITION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S POWER TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI IN PURELY SUMMARY CASES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING VENUE OF CRIMINAL TRIAL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS A COMMON LAW RIGHT TO DISCONTINUE ANY CRIMINAL PROSECUTION BY ENTERING A NOLLE PROSEQUI.

THE EFFECT OF ENTERING A NOLLE PROSEQUI IS TO TERMINATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE PROSECUTION'S RIGHT TO REINSTITUTE THEM AT A LATER DATE.

A NOLLE PROSEQUI MAY BE ENTERED, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE A DEFENDANT IS UNFIT TO STAND TRIAL THROUGH MENTAL OR PHYSICAL INCAPACITY.

IN THE ABSENCE OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS, THE NOLLE PROSEQUI HAS ALSO BEEN USED TO CHANGE THE VENUE OF TRIAL.

ON OCCASION FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF A CASE TO THE DISTRICT COURT OR COMMITTAL TO THE HIGH COURT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED RENDERING AN ALLEGED OFFENCE OF GREATER OR LESSER SERIOUSNESS THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

THE SCHEDULED COURT HAS THUS BECOME INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AND IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENCING THE PROSECUTION AFRESH.

FOLLOWING A REVIEW CARRIED OUT AT THE END OF 1988, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DECIDED THAT THE POWER TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI IN PURELY SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AS BEING UNNECESSARY AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A STATUTORY PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING THE VENUE OF TRIAL.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 6.

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QUARTERLY CRIME FIGURES RELEASED

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A TOTAL OF 174 SUCCESSFUL ANTI-TRIAD OPERATIONS WERE MOUNTED BY POLICE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, RESULTING IN THE ARREST OF 237 PERSONS FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CRIME, MR TSANG YAM-PUI, SAID THESE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS WERE THE RESULT OF A GREATER WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE VICTIMS, THROUGH PERSUASION BY POLICE, TO COME FORWARD TO ACT AS WITNESSES.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 20,049 CRIME REPORTS WERE RECEIVED BY THE POLICE, WHICH WAS 10.49 PER CENT LESS THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 1.43 PER CENT LESS THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

"DETECTION RATE WAS 43.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 41.9 PER CENT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 44.2 PER CENT IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

"VIOLENT CRIME TOTALLED 4,418 CASES, WHICH WAS 8.76 PER CENT LESS THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 4.2 PER CENT MORE THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991."

MR TSANG ALSO NOTED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL KINDS OF ROBBERIES IN THE PERIOD WAS 2,199, WHICH WAS 2.7 PER CENT LESS THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 10 PER CENT MORE THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

HE SAID THAT THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR, HOWEVER, WAS CHARACTERISED BY A SPATE OF RATHER VIOLENT ROBBERIES INVOLVING THE USE OF GENUINE FIREARMS OR HAND GRENADES. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 18 OF THESE CASES COMPARED WITH 17 IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND NINE CASES IN THE FIRST QUARTER LAST YEAR.

AS A RESULT OF THE COURAGEOUS AND RESOLUTE POLICE ACTION AGAINST THE CULPRITS INVOLVED, 29 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED, FIVE FIREARMS SEIZED AND FIVE POLICE OFFICERS INJURED, HE SAID.

"THREE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE ROBBERIES ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE WORK OF ONE CRIMINAL GANG. A FEW MEMBERS OF THIS GANG HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO APPREHEND THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE ADDED.

MR TSANG ALSO STRESSED THAT THE GREATER AVAILABILITY OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND WAS RECEIVING PRIORITY POLICE ATTENTION.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASED POLICE ACTION AGAINST TRIADS APPEARED TO HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON CASES OF WOUNDING AND ASSAULT, WHICH SHOWED A WELCOME DECLINE COMPARED WITH BOTH LAST QUARTER AND THE FIRST QUARTER LAST YEAR.

REFERRING TO BURGLARY FIGURES IN THE PERIOD, MR TSANG SAID THAT THEY SHOWED A SEVEN PER CENT DECREASE COMPARED WITH THE LAST QUARTER AND A 10 PER CENT INCREASE COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

COMMENTING ON THE VEHICLE CRIMES, HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEFT OF LUXURY CARS CONTINUED TO BE A MATTER FOR CONCERN. HE NOTED THAT A TOTAL OF 294 OF THESE CARS WERE STOLEN DURING THE PERIOD, COMPARED WITH 232 IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 308 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

"DURING THIS QUARTER, 16 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR THE THEFT AND HANDLING OF THIS TYPE OF CAR AND 83 LUXURY CARS WERE RECOVERED.

"TAKING CONVEYANCE WITHOUT AUTHORITY CASES DECREASED BY 23.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND 1.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991," HE SAID.

MR TSANG NOTED THAT GENERAL CRIME FIGURES HAD REMAINED STABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992.

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NO DECISION ON 1992 CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TODAY (FRIDAY) MET STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL, THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON THIS YEAR'S CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT.

MR WIGGHAM TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT NO DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ON THE SIZE OF THE PAY ADJUSTMENT THIS YEAR UNTIL THE PAY TREND SURVEY RESULTS ARE KNOWN.

"THE PAY TREND SURVEY IS IN PROGRESS AND THE FINDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN MID-MAY," HE SAID.

"STAFF WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THEN TO PUT THEIR CLAIM TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"THIS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, ALONG WITH OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, SUCH AS THE PAY TREND INDICATORS AND FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, IN DECIDING ON THE SIZE OF PAY ADJUSTMENT."

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT AS IN LAST YEAR, A DCISION WOULD BE MADE IN JUNE AND THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT WOULD TAKE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT EACH YEAR'S PAY ADJUSTMENT IS AN INDEPENDENT EXERCISE.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT BEING UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO PAY BACK ANY SHORTFALL FROM PREVIOUS YEARS," HE ADDED.

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ARGYLE STREET DETENTION CENTRE TO BE CLOSED NEXT MONTH

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THE ARGYLE STREET DETENTION CENTRE, UNTIL RECENTLY USED TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 1,000 VIETNAMESE DETAINEES INCLUDING PREGNANT VIETNAMESE WOMEN TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER CAMPS, WILL BE CLOSED NEXT MONTH.

THIS FOLLOWS THE GRADUAL REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANT POPULATION IN HONG KONG AND THE OPENING OF A NEW SECTION IN THE KAI TAK VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DEPARTURE CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE WOMEN AWAITING TRANSFER TO URBAN HOSPITALS.

ANNOUNCING THE CLOSURE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST CENTRE TO CLOSE SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM LAST OCTOBER.

"THIS REFLECTS THE DROP IN THE SIZE OF THE NON-REFUGEE POPULATION BY ABOUT 8,000 SINCE THEN," HE SAID.

"WITH THIS REDUCTION, AND WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW SECTION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AT THE KAI TAK CENTRE, THE ARGYLE CENTRE CAN BE CLOSED, THUS RELEASING ABOUT 60 POLICEMEN FOR NORMAL LAW AND ORDER DUTIES," HE ADDED.

CURRENTLY, PREGNANT VIETNAMESE WOMEN ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE ARGYLE CENTRE AT ABOUT 28 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY TO REDUCE THE RISK OF EMERGENCY TRANSFER BY SEA OR AIR AND TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE PRESSURE ON THE MATERNITY FACILITIES IN THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN.

THE KAI TAK DEPARTURE CENTRE HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN USED TO ACCOMMODATE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT.

THIS DEPARTURE FACILITY FOR REFUGEES WILL NOW BE MOVED TO THE ADJACENT FORMER NEW HORIZONS SCHOOL BUILDING, RENAMED THE NEW HORIZONS VIETNAMESE REFUGEE DEPARTURE CENTRE.

"THERE HAS BEEN A VIETNAMESE CENTRE OF SOME KIND AT ARGYLE FOR OVER A DECADE," MR LEEKS SAID.

"THE FACILITIES THERE ARE NOW VERY OLD AND GIVEN ITS CAPACITY OF ONLY ABOUT 1,000, TO KEEP THE CENTRE OPEN WILL NOT HELP TO THIN OUT THE POPULATION AT OTHER DETENTION CENTRES AND IS CERTAINLY NOT THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF USING OUR RESOURCES."

THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, WHO HAVE BEEN RUNNING THE ARGYLE CENTRE SINCE 1988 AND THE KAI TAK DEPARTURE CENTRE SINCE 1990, WILL NOW REDEPLOY THEIR MANPOWER TO CONTINUE RUNNING KAI TAK AND ALSO TO TAKE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ADJACENT NEW HORIZONS DEPARTURE CENTRE.

THE EXISTING KAI TAK DEPARTURE CENTRE WILL BE RENAMED THE KAI TAK VIETNAMESE MIGRANT TRANSIT CENTRE.

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APART FROM ITS NEW PREGNANT WOMEN'S SECTION, THE TRANSIT CENTRE WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED AS ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR RETURNEES UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME WHO CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE EXISTING LO WU OR SHEK KONG VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION CENTRES.

"WE ALSO INTEND TO USE THE CENTRE IN DUE COURSE TO ACCOMMODATE SMALL NUMBERS OF RETURNEES UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME PRIOR TO THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM," MR LEEKS ADDED.

"THE CLOSENESS OF THE CENTRE TO THE AIRPORT WILL HELP ENSURE THAT RETURNEES CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO THE AIRPORT WITH MINIMUM DISRUPTION TO NORMAL AIRPORT ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

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CS PRAISES WORK OF CAS

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THE GOVERNMENT CAN DEPEND ON THE CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) TO RESPOND PROMPTLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO A WIDE RANGE OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN TIMES OF DISASTER, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE CAS 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, SIR DAVID SAID THE CAS CONTINUED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE INDEED FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH AN EFFICIENT AND DEDICATED SERVICE WORKING FOR THEM.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS, SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THE CAS HAD BEEN EMPLOYED CONTINUOUSLY IN THIS DIFFICULT BUT NECESSARY TASK AT THE ARGYLE STREET AND KAI TAK CENTRES.

"THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SO IS SURELY A TRIBUTE TO THE DETERMINATION AND DEVOTION OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED.

"WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE SUSTAINED EFFORT REQUIRED OF AN AUXILIARY SERVICE TO MANAGE TWO CENTRES, DAY IN AND DAY OUT, FOR THIS LENGTH OF TIME," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE CAS WOULD SHORTLY TAKE OVER THE RUNNING OF THE FORMER NEW HORIZON SCHOOL REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTRE WHEN THE ARGYLE STREET CAMP FINALLY CLOSED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

CLEARLY ITS WORK IN THIS FIELD WAS NOT YET DONE, HOWEVER, SIR DAVID ASSURED THAT ITS EFFORTS WERE MUCH VALUED AND APPRECIATED.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT SO MANY PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO CARRY ON THE FINE TRADITION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE CAS.

"ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU," HE SAID.

"I FEEL SURE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON YOU IN THE YEARS AHEAD AS THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR YOU TO PLAY AND IN THIS CONTEXT."

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS PLEASING TO SEE THAT THE QUALITIES OF DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM AND LOYALTY WERE STILL SO STRONG IN THE CAS.

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INSURANCE AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT PROJECTS SIGNED
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THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED AN \$18.5 MILLION AGREEMENT WITH GILMAN SWIRE WILLIS LTD TO ARRANGE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SIX GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

AS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTANT INSURANCE BROKER FOR THE ACP, THE COMPANY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNMENT'S OWNER CONTROLLED INSURANCE PROGRAMME (OCIP) COVERING SIX OF THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PROJECTS.

THESE SIX PROJECTS ARE: THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENT PHASE I, NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, ROUTE THREE (ACP PART), WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION (PARTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CONTRACTUALLY COMMITTED), AND THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

THE AGREEMENT REQUIRES APPROACHING THE WORLD INSURANCE MARKET TO OBTAIN THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS, PLACING THE INSURANCE AND ADMINISTERING THE OCIP FOR THE DURATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND STATED MAINTENANCE PERIOD.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF NAPCO, MR S. S. LEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF GILMAN SWIRE WILLIS LTD, MR ANDREW YOUNG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR NAPCO SAID THE ACP INVOLVES A SERIES OF LARGE CONTRACTS, MOST OF WHICH ARE INTERLINKED WITH EACH OTHER IN PHYSICAL AND SCHEDULING TERMS.

THE GOVERNMENT'S USUAL PRACTICE CONCERNING INSURANCE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IS TO REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO ARRANGE THEIR OWN LIMITED INSURANCE.

THE PREMIUM, PLUS THE CONTRACTOR'S ON-COSTS AND PROFITS, ARE THEN PASSED BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CONTRACT PRICE.

BUT IN THE CASE OF THESE PROJECTS IN THE ACP, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT INSTEAD OF RELYING ON THE CONVENTIONAL CONTRACTOR-BORNE INSURANCE ON A CONTRACT-BY-CONTRACT BASIS, TOTAL PROJECT INSURANCE COULD BE BETTER EFFECTED UNDER AN OCIP.

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THIS IS A SINGLE INSURANCE PROGRAMME COVERING ALL PARTIES AND ALL CONTRACTS JOINTLY.

IT WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE EXTENT AND COST OF THE INSURANCE PROTECTION AND HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BETTER CONTROL AND CO-ORDINATION, TIMELY SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS AND REINSTATEMENT OF DAMAGED WORKS AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL COST SAVINGS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK INSURANCE COVERAGE IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE UNDER THE CONTRACTOR-CONTROLLED POLICIES.

THE OCIP FOR THE SIX ACP PROJECTS COVER CONTRACTORS' RISKS INCLUDING PHYSICAL LOSS OR DAMAGE TO THE WORKS BY WEATHER, ACCIDENT OR THEFT TOGETHER WITH THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE.

FOLLOWING A MARKETING EXERCISE BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, A MAJOR PART OF THE INSURANCE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN PLACED.

THE TOTAL PREMIUMS FOR INSURANCE POLICIES ALREADY PLACED STAND AT ABOUT \$240 MILLION.

IN TERMS OF VALUE, THE LARGEST PORTION HAS BEEN PLACED IN GERMANY (24 PER CENT), JAPAN (20 PER CENT), FRANCE (15 PER CENT) AND HONG KONG (13 PER CENT).

THE REST HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHINA (8 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (2.5 PER CENT) AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION TO CONTRACTOR-RELATED INSURANCES, THE GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE CONSULTANT BROKER, IS INVESTIGATING OTHER TYPES OF INSURANCE COVER INCLUDING DELAY INSURANCES AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY EXCESS.

THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE PROPOSED AIRPORT RAILWAY OPERATOR (MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION), AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING FRANCHISEE WILL MAKE THEIR OWN INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS IN THE ACP.

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ZHAO JIHUA TO VISIT HK

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, MR ZHAO JIHUA, DIRECTOR, HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE, CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM APRIL 26 TO MAY 2.

MR ZHAO, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OF HIS ASSISTANTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

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GOVT LAND FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE UP FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON MAY 18.

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT ON CHUEN STREET, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 471 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE AND ANY GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS).

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVNEANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 1,415 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 30, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 14,540 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, RETAIL SHOPS, A SUPERMARKET AND A PUBLIC CARPARK AND SUCH ANCILLARY USES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 13,894 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND SALES PLANS INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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

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TRIAL TRAFFIC SCHEME AT CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL KOWLOON EXIT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL IMPLEMENT FROM TUESDAY (APRIL 28) A PILOT SCHEME OF USING TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO REGULATE TRAFFIC ON HONG CHONG ROAD OUTSIDE THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA IN KOWLOON.

THE TRIAL SCHEME AIMS TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND REDUCE THE ACCIDENT RISK ARISING FROM THE HEAVY CROSS-WEAVING TRAFFIC MOVEMENT CURRENTLY OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA.

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE TRIAL SCHEME WOULD LAST FOR THREE WEEKS DURING WHICH TRAFFIC LIGHTS WOULD BE INSTALLED ON HONG CHONG ROAD NEAR HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL WILL REGULATE TRAFFIC FLOWS FROM SALISBURY ROAD AND THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND ALLOW THEM TO CROSS-WEAVE IN AN ORDERLY AND SYSTEMATIC WAY.

UNDER THE TRIAL SCHEME, THE TWO LEFT-HAND LANES NORTH OF THE TOLL PLAZA WILL BE SIGNAL-CONTROLLED AND SHOULD BE USED FOR TRAFFIC HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG, MONG KOK OR TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE TWO RIGHT-HAND LANES WILL REMAIN FREE-FLOWING AND SHOULD BE USED FOR TRAFFIC HEADING FOR SHA TIN AND KWUN TONG.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IS A MAJOR LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WITH AN AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC FLOW OF MORE THAN 120,000 VEHICLES BOTH DIRECTIONS, AND A PEAK-HOUR FLOW OF ABOUT 3,250 VEHICLES IN EACH DIRECTION.

THIS VERY HEAVY DAILY TRAFFIC FLOW OF 120,000 VEHICLES WELL EXCEEDS THE DESIGN CAPACITY OF 80,000 AND IS THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF THE TUNNEL.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS MAXIMUM CAPACITY SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRICTED IN ANY WAY BY TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE APPROACH ROADS OR EXIT ROADS OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE TRIAL WOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED ON SITE BY THE POLICE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE PROMPTLY TAKEN IN CASE OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION AFFECTING THE SURROUNDING ROAD NETWORKS.

MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED TO SELECT THE APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC LANES AND TOLL BOOTHS WHEN THEY COME OUT OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ON THE KOWLOON SIDE.

ADDITIONAL SIGNS AND MARKINGS WILL BE INSTALLED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS AT THE TUNNEL EXIT.

IF THE TRIAL SCHEME PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE TURNED INTO A PERMANENT SCHEME WITH HONG CHONG ROAD BEING WIDENED TO BECOME A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OUTSIDE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

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JOINT ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION MOUNTED

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A TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS RECENTLY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 137 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 53 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE REMAINING 84 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 13,750 PERSONS, 1,364 VEHICLES AND 267 VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,708 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 9,302 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

THIRTY-FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTION A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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RESUMPTION OF JUBILEE STREET/QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE RESUMPTION OF LAND AT JUBILEE STREET/QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC).

THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT WILL FEATURE A MULTI-STOREY COMMERCIAL BUILDING, IN WHICH 95,800 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE SPACE AND 6,900 SQUARE METRES OF RETAIL AREA WILL BE PROVIDED.

UNDERNEATH THE BUILDING, THERE WILL BE FOUR BASEMENTS.

THE FIRST ONE, WHICH IS 3,700 SQUARE METRES IN AREA, WILL BE USED FOR GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING A HAWKER BAZAAR, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND A DAY NURSERY.

THE OTHER THREE WILL BE USED AS CAR PARKS AND SERVICING AREAS.

IN ADDITION TO A LANDSCAPED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF ABOUT 1,500 SQUARE METRES AT GROUND LEVEL, THERE WILL BE PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES WITH NEARBY STREETS, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL/MID-LEVELS ESCALATOR WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1996, THE SCHEME WILL BRING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND PROVIDE UPGRADED FACILITIES FOR THE SURROUNDING AREA.

IN RECOMMENDING RESUMPTION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CORPORATION HAD TAKEN ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO ACQUIRE THESE INTERESTS ON TERMS THAT WERE FAIR AND REASONABLE, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ORDINANCE.

REVISED OFFERS TAKING ACCOUNT OF CHANGES IN MARKET VALUES HAD BEEN MADE AT VARIOUS TIMES, MOST RECENTLY IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

ABOUT 59 LOTS IN JUBILEE STREET, HING LUNG STREET, TUNG MAN STREET, WING ON STREET, GILMAN STREET, GILMAN'S BAZAAR AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL ARE AFFECTED BY THE RESUMPTION AND WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE RESUMPTION NOTICE THREE MONTHS FROM TODAY.

SOME 155 DOMESTIC OCCUPIERS ARE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT AND ELIGIBLE OCCUPIERS WILL BE OFFERED CASH COMPENSATION OR APPROPRIATE REHOUSING BY THE LDC.

REHOUSING WILL BE IN PROPERTIES ALREADY PURCHASED BY THE CORPORATION IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

OWNERS OF DOMESTIC PROPERTIES, APART FROM THEIR ENTITLEMENT FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE.

/OWNERS AND

OWNERS AND TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE RESUMPTION MAY MAKE STATUTORY CLAIMS UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE AND, IF THE CLAIMS CANNOT BE SETTLED BY AGREEMENT, MAY APPLY TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION.

ELDERLY SINGLETONS AND DOUBLETONS WILL BE OFFERED ACCOMMODATION IN CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION AND RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

OTHER SINGLETONS AND DOUBLETONS NOT ACCEPTING CASH COMPENSATION MAY BE OFFERED SPACE IN DORMITORY ACCOMMODATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE RESUMPTION AND CLEARANCE, THE LAND FOR THE PROJECT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,400 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE GRANTED BY LAND EXCHANGE TO THE LDC FOR REDEVELOPMENT.

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DETAILS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME EXPLAINED

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AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SYSTEM IS THAT THE BASIC RATE IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS AND SPECIAL GRANTS ARE MADE SO AS TO TAILOR ASSISTANCE TO MEET THE CLIENTS' PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, AT A MEETING OF THE OMELCO STANDING PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES TODAY (FRIDAY).

"A COMMON MISCONCEPTION IS THAT THE BASIC RATE IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT THE MAJORITY OF CLIENTS RECEIVES," MRS GOODSTADT SAID.

IN FACT, THE AVERAGE PAYMENT IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE RATE SINCE ABOUT 98 PER CENT OF THE CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVED RENT ALLOWANCE, SUPPLEMENTS AND SPECIAL GRANTS.

MRS GOODSTADT EXPLAINED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS TO PROVIDE CASH ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE THE CLIENTS HAD SUFFICIENT MONEY TO MEET THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

"ALTHOUGH NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CATEGORISE THE PAYMENT IN TERMS OF SOME THEORETICAL BASKET, A BROADBRUSH APPROACH HAD BEEN ADOPTED TO TAILOR THE LEVEL OF PAYMENTS TO THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLIENTS BY BUILDING SEVERAL COMPONENTS INTO THE SCHEME," SHE SAID.

THE COMPONENTS ARE:

* BASIC RATE - TO COVER ESSENTIAL NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD, FUEL AND CLOTHING, CURRENTLY AT \$825 FOR A SINGLE PERSON;

/* SUPPLEMENTS - TO

- * SUPPLEMENTS - TO COVER PERSONAL NEEDS ARISING OUT OF THE CLIENT'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES: WHETHER CHILDREN, ELDERLY, DISABLED, OR ON LONG-TERM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. CHILD SUPPLEMENT IS AT 25 PER CENT OF THE BASIC RATE AND THOSE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED ARE AT 50 PER CENT. HOWEVER, IF DISABILITY IS SEVERE, PAYMENT WILL BE INCREASED, UNDER SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE, TO 100 PER CENT OR 200 PER CENT;
- * RENT ALLOWANCE - TO COVER ACTUAL RENT UP TO A PRESCRIBED CEILING (\$743 FOR A SINGLE PERSON, \$1,718 FOR A FAMILY OF THREE TO FOUR MEMBERS, AND SO ON);
- * SPECIAL GRANTS - TO COVER VARIOUS NEEDS ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS, SUCH AS ESSENTIAL TRAVELLING, SCHOOL FEES, TEXT-BOOKS AND STATIONERY, SCHOOL UNIFORMS (INCLUDING TWO PAIRS OF SHOES), SPECTACLES, SPECIAL DIET (\$270-\$525), DENTURES AND SO ON EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL DIETS, ALL ARE PAID ACCORDING TO THE ACTUAL COST REQUIRED BY THE CLIENTS.

"THE COMBINATION OF A BASIC SUM FOR ALL, PLUS SPECIAL GRANTS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLIENTS, MEANS THAT THE SYSTEM CAN BE BOTH EFFICIENT AS WELL AS SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO MEET VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES," SHE ADDED.

IN THE MEETING, MRS GOODSTADT ALSO OUTLINED THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

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EXTENSION OF MARINE SPOIL GROUND OFF CHEUNG CHAU

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING MARINE SPOIL GROUND SOUTH OF CHEUNG CHAU IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE MARINE MUD TO BE DREDGED FROM VARIOUS RECLAMATION PROJECTS, IN PARTICULAR, THE NEW AIRPORT AND ITS CORE PROJECTS.

THE EXISTING SPOIL GROUND HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1988. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF DUMPING IT WILL SOON REACH ITS FULL DISPOSAL CAPACITY.

IN ORDER TO MAKE PROVISION FOR FORECAST DUMPING NEEDS AND ALSO TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT FLEXIBILITY IN ITS PLANNING OF DUMPING ACTIVITIES, THE EXISTING SPOIL GROUND HAS TO BE EXTENDED.

THE EXTENDED MARINE SPOIL GROUND WILL INVOLVE ABOUT 1,380 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING SPOIL GROUND.

ALTHOUGH THE EXTENSION WILL ENLARGE THE GAZETTED AREA, IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THE WHOLE AREA WILL BE USED FOR DUMPING AT ANY ONE TIME.

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UNDER CONTROLS THROUGH LICENSING CONDITIONS, DISPOSAL WITHIN THE GAZETTED AREA WILL BE RESTRICTED TO UNCONTAMINATED DREDGED SPOIL AND EXCAVATED MATERIALS, AND LESS THAN 30 PER CENT OF THE AREA WILL BE USED FOR DUMPING AT ANY GIVEN TIME, THUS MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND ALLOWING EARLY RECOVERY OF DISTURBED SECTIONS OF THE SEABED.

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

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY SUCH UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE APRIL 23, 1993.

THE NOTICE (IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE) TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN 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.

THEY CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE ISLAND DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES ON CHEUNG CHAU AND IN MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND.

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217 RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 217 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 85 MEN, 53 WOMEN, 44 BOYS AND 35 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 101ST BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,704 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 17,683 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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BANKING LICENCE REVOKED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE BANKING LICENCE OF SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK (SPNB) HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE REQUEST OF THE BANK.

SPNB MERGED WITH THE BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVING ASSOCIATION ON APRIL 22, 1992, AS A RESULT OF A MERGER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOLDING COMPANIES, SECURITY PACIFIC CORPORATION AND BANKAMERICA CORPORATION, IN THE UNITED STATES.

AFTER THE REVOCATION, THERE ARE 161 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 131 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN KENNEDY TOWN PROPOSED
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT A RANGE OF ROAD WORKS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC IN KENNEDY TOWN, HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE PROPOSED ROAD WORKS CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST PART IS TO EXTEND THE EXISTING ROCK HILL STREET TO PROVIDE AN ONE-WAY-TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY CONNECTING SANDS STREET AND SMITHFIELD ROAD.

THE SECOND PART IS TO RECONSTRUCT CATCHICK STREET AND PARTS OF CADOGAN STREET, DAVIS STREET, SMITHFIELD, NORTH STREET, BELCHER'S STREET AND SANDS STREET.

THE TRAM TRACKS ALONG CATCHICK STREET, CADOGAN STREET AND DAVIS STREET WILL ALSO BE REALIGNED AS PART OF THE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL NO LATER THAN JUNE 23 THIS YEAR, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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WORKS TO UPGRADE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE TONG MEI ROAD CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IN KOWLOON.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES RENOVATION TO THE EXISTING SITTING-OUT AREA, THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND THE TOILET BLOCK.

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WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND BE COMPLETED NEXT MARCH.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON, MAY 15.

FORM 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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FIRING PRACTICE IN MAY
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 21 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE FIRING PRACTICE:

DATE	TIME
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MAY 4 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 5 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 6 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 7 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 8 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
MAY 9 (SATURDAY)	0.01 AM - 5 PM
MAY 11 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 12 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 13 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 14 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 15 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 16 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 18 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 19 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 20 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 21 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 22 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 25 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 26 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 28 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MAY 29 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	23.4.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	24.4.92	-40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+700*

* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED ON 25.4.92

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.1 **0.0* 24.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.25 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.50	5.30
1 MONTH	4.00 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.80	5.69
3 MONTHS	3.94 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.05 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.59 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,920 MN

CLOSED 24 APRIL 1992

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