DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH AUCTION RESULTS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE PRICES PAID IN TUESDAY'S LAND AUCTION, SINCE THE RESULTS REFLECT THE WISH OF BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE MODERATION OF PROPERTY PRICES, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR EASON SAID THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME OF TUESDAY'S AUCTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT ONE SHOULD NOT READ TOO MUCH INTO THE OUTCOME OF A SINGLE AUCTION WHICH WAS AFFECTED BY A VARIETY OF FACTORS.

MR EASON BELIEVED DEVELOPERS AT AUCTIONS WERE MOTIVATED LARGELY BY THEIR VIEWS OF THE MARKET AND THE INDIVIDUAL SITES PUT UP FOR SALE.

"THEY ARE JUST AS CONCERNED TO HAVE STABILITY IN THE MARKET AS THE GOVERNMENT, AND I DON'T THINK DEVELOPERS WOULD USE AUCTIONS TO SEND SIGNALS OR WARNINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT."

HE SAID THE THREE-MEMBER AUCTION REVIEW PANEL WOULD LOOK AT TUESDAY'S AUCTION JUST AS IT DID ON THE ONE HELD IN JULY AS PART OF ITS ONGOING REVIEW OF THE LAND SALE ARRANGEMENTS.

MR EASON REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE A HIGH LAND PRICES POLICY AND THE AUCTION ON TUESDAY SHOULD HELP CONFIRM THIS.

ON REVENUE FROM LAND SALES, MR EASON SAID: "SO FAR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, WE HAVE REALISED NEARLY $5 BILLION IN THREE AUCTIONS. THIS IS MUCH IN LINE WITH THE $18.4 BILLION ESTIMATE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST SEVEN MORE AUCTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE REST OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. THE REMAINING LAND SALES PROGRAMME FOR 1994/95 CONTAINS A GOOD MIX OF RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SITES LOCATED IN THE NEW TOWNS AND THE OLDER URBAN AREAS.

MR EASON ALSO REVIEWED PROGRESS ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY PRICES.

HE SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT'S SHORT-TERM MEASURES, IN PARTICULAR AS REGARDS PRE-SALE RESTRICTIONS, COMBINED WITH THE EFFECTS OF OTHER FACTORS, E.G. MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS AND INTEREST RATE INCREASES, SEEM TO HAVE HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT OF COOLING THE MARKET."

HE NOTED THAT THE CONSUMER WAS RESISTING MARKETING PRESSURE AND TAKING A MORE CAREFUL LOOK AT HIS POSITION.

"SPECULATORS HAVE LARGELY LEFT THE MARKET."

"PRICES HAVE MODERATED CONSIDERABLY RANGING FROM 10% TO 30%, DEPENDING ON LOCATION, SIZE AND AGE."

/"WHILE IT .....

"WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY, WE DON'T SEE THE NEED FOR FURTHER MEASURES FOR THE TIME BEING,"

"FOR THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM ON THE FLAT SUPPLY SIDE, WE ARE GETTING ON WELL WITH THE INTRODUCTION AND PREPARATION OF MEASURES," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW INTER-DEPARTMENTAL HOUSING PROJECT ACTION TEAM HAS BEEN SET UP TO TROUBLE-SHOOT PROJECT PROBLEMS.

"TWENTY PROJECTS INVOLVING 30,000 FLATS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR FAST TRACKING.

"WE HAVE PUT OUR PROPOSALS FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME THIS YEAR TO THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE LAND COMMISSION AND HOPE A MEETING CAN BE HELD SOON.

"WORK ON A FRESH ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING DEMAND, IDENTIFYING SITES FOR THE LAND RESERVE AND PREPARING FOR A NEW STUDY ON REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IS WELL IN HAND."

MR EASON ALSO REPORTED THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES BLACK SPOT TASK FORCE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

AN INITIAL PROGRAMME OF CLEARANCES OF BLACK SPOTS ON GOVERNMENT LAND ALONG THE MAIN ROADS IN THE SHEK KONG VALLEY AND ELSEWHERE IN THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT HAD BEEN DRAWN UP.

"ACTION AND VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT CAN BE EXPECTED VERY SHORTLY," HE SAID.

ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE, MR EASON SAID DURING THE YEAR LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED ON THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ITEMS:

- INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER CONTROL ZONES AT THE EASTERN AND WESTERN ENDS OF THE HARBOUR
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL PROGRAMME
- INTRODUCTION OF CLEANER VEHICLE FUEL AND QUIETER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
- SETTING UP OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND
- INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND DRAINAGE ORDINANCE AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO IMPROVING WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT.

IN THE COMING SESSION 1994/95, FURTHER MAJOR LEGISLATION WOULD BE PROCESSED. THIS WOULD INCLUDE:

- EXTENSION OF THE HARBOUR WATER CONTROL ZONE
- THE SEWAGE SERVICES BILL TO COVER SEWAGE CHARGES AND THE TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE

/- THE TOWN .....

- THE TOWN PLANNING WHITE BILL
- THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BILL
- THE MARINE PARKS ORDINANCE
- CHEMICAL WASTE AND LANDFILL CHARGES (IMPLEMENTING THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE)
- AIR POLLUTION MEASURES ON VEHICLE EMISSIONS, OPEN BURNING, ASBESTOS AND CONSTRUCTION SITE DUST
- NOISE CONTROL.

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ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH BASIC LAW

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON REITERATED THAT THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS.

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER HER VISIT TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE CHINESE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS' RESOLUTION, MRS CHAN SAID: "THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NPC CONSIDERS DISMANTLING THE THREE-TIER REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM IS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR THE NPC ITSELF TO CONSIDER. I SIMPLY WANT TO REITERATE THE FEW POINTS THAT WE HAVE MADE ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST."

SHE SAID THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAD FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS.

"THEY ARE CLEARLY WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS AND THEY WILL ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND WILL MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY AFTER 1997.

"I AM SURE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE CHINESE WILL MAKE THE DECISION THAT BEST PROTECTS HONG KONG INTERESTS," MRS CHAN SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE NPC RESOLUTION WOULD AFFECT THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MRS CHAN SAID: "IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM THE FACT THAT WE HAD A RECORD NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPTEMBER'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, THAT THE PUBLIC HAS FAITH IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

"THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A FAIR AND OPEN SYSTEM, AND THROUGH THIS SYSTEM WILL BE ELECTED THOSE WHO CAN BEST REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS.

"I AM SURE IT WILL BE THE TOP PRIORITY OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE ELECTED TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE SYSTEMS THAT WILL MAINTAIN OUR SMOOTH TRANSITION AND MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY AFTER 1997."

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TRANSCRIPT OF ACTING GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER HER VISIT TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

MRS CHAN : GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE. THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AND I FOUND IT AN EXTREMELY INTERESTING VISIT. FIRST OF ALL, I AM VERY GLAD TO SEE THE DEPARTMENT OPERATING IN SUCH A GOOD ACCOMMODATION, BECAUSE IT IS OBVIOUSLY VERY GOOD FOR THE CLIENTS, AND ALSO VERY GOOD FOR THE STAFF WHO HAVE TO WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT PERFORMS A VERY USEFUL FUNCTION, SEEING THAT IT COLLECTS SOME 66 PER CENT OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE. THE DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER AND ALL HIS STAFF ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF SERVICE. SO FAR IT HAS PUBLISHED 15 PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, AND I AM VERY GLAD TO KNOW THAT IN ALL THESE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS OUT-PERFORMED. THIS YEAR, PARTICULARLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED TWO NEW SERVICES - AN AUTOMATED PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE BY TELEPHONE AND ALSO PAYMENT BY PHONE SERVICE. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT SO FAR SOME 39,000 TELEPHONE PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THIS SERVICE IS EXTREMELY CONVENIENT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TO PAY TAX, AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO USE IT, AS WELL AS OF COURSE USING THE POSTAL SERVICE TO PAY TAXES, SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO COME PERSONALLY TO PAY TAXES.

QUESTION : (ON NPC RESOLUTION)

MRS CHAN : YES. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NPC CONSIDERS DISMANTLING THE THREE-TIER REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM IS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR THE NPC ITSELF TO CONSIDER. I SIMPLY WANT TO REITERATE THE FEW POINTS THAT WE HAVE MADE ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. FIRST OF ALL, THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS. THESE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL ENSURE THAT WE HAVE FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS. THEY ARE CLEARLY WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS AND THEY WILL ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND WILL MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY AFTER 1997. AND I AM SURE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE CHINESE WILL MAKE THE DECISION THAT BEST PROTECTS HONG KONG INTERESTS.

QUESTION : (WHETHER IT WILL AFFECT THE VOTING OF THE DB ELECTIONS ?)

MRS CHAN : I WANT TO ADD ONE OR TWO POINTS TO MY EARLIER STATEMENT. AND THAT IS THAT IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM THE FACT THAT WE HAD A RECORD NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPTEMBER'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION, THAT THE PUBLIC HAS FAITH IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A FAIR AND OPEN SYSTEM, AND THROUGH THIS SYSTEM WILL BE ELECTED THOSE WHO CAN BEST REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS. AND I AM SURE IT WILL BE THE TOP PRIORITY OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE ELECTED TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE SYSTEMS THAT WILL MAINTAIN OUR SMOOTH TRANSITION AND MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY AFTER 1997.

/QUESTION: IF .....

QUESTION : IF A DECISION IS REACHED BY THE NPC, WOULD IT BE A BLOW TO PEOPLE'S ENTHUSIASM ...

MRS CHAN : WELL, I THINK THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NPC DECIDES TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED IS CLEARLY A MATTER FOR THEM TO CONSIDER. I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO WHAT I'VE SAID EARLIER.

QUESTION : DURING YOUR POST AS ACTING GOVERNOR, DID YOUR OWN TAX STATUS CHANGE ?

MRS CHAN : DID MY OWN TAX..., NO. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF. NO.

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SHARK REPORT A FALSE ALARM

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THE SIGHTING OF WHAT WERE REPORTED TO BE SHARKS AT SILVERSTRAND BEACH IN SAI KUNG THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A FALSE ALARM, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A SPECIAL INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEETING WAS CONVENED TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE CONTINGENCY MEASURES HAD PROVED TO WORK VERY WELL IN PRACTICE, HE SAID.

THE SHARK PREVENTION NET INSTALLED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL THAT IS IN PLACE AT THE BEACH WAS FOUND TO BE INTACT. NO LARGE FISH WAS FOUND INSIDE THE ENCLOSED AREA.

THE BEACH, WHICH WAS CLOSED THIS MORNING, HAS BEEN REOPENED AT 4.45 PM.

THE SPOKESMAN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND SWIMMERS THAT A FEW POINTERS OUGHT TO BE HEEDED TO ENSURE SAFETY WHEN SWIMMING OFF BEACHES:

-- DO NOT SWIM WHEN THE SHARK WARNING FLAG IS HOISTED

-- DO NOT SWIM AT DAWN, AT DUSK OR AT NIGHT

-- DO NOT SWIM IF YOU ARE BLEEDING OR HAVE AN OPEN WOUND

-- IF SCHOOLING FISH START TO BEHAVE ERRATICALLY OR START TO CONGREGATE IN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBERS, LEAVE THE WATER

-- IF A LARGE FISH IS SIGHTED IN THE AREAS, LEAVE THE WATER AS QUICKLY AND CALMLY AS POSSIBLE

-- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE BEACH LIFEGUARD

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ALL CANDIDATES INFORMED OF NOMINATION VALIDITY

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ALL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY RELEVANT RETURNING OFFICERS AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THEIR NOMINATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

A TOTAL OF 10 NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN RULED INVALID. THE FINAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES STANDING FOR THE ELECTIONS IS NOW 757, INCLUDING 50 WHO WERE UNCONTESTED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

NOTICES OF NOMINATIONS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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POLL STATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE SAID TONIGHT THAT THE OFFICE HAD TAKEN INTO DISTRICT VIEWS AND CHANGED THE LOCATION OF 12 DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS FOR EASIER ACCESS OF ELECTORS FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

TWO MORE POLLING STATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED AND GAZETTED ON JULY 22 TO THE ORIGINAL LIST OF 440 GAZETTED IN APRIL.

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512 ELECTION COMPLAINTS LODGED

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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 512 COMPLAINTS ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES AS AT TODAY (THURSDAY).

OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS, 389 WERE RELATED TO ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS, 49 ON ELECTIONEERING IN PRIVATE PREMISES AND 74 ON OTHER MATTERS.

OUT OF THE 512 CASES, ACTION FOR 317 CASES HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

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FINANCIAL HELP FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, THE CONTROLLER OF THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY, MR ALFRED WONG, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY):

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT NO STUDENTS WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT, THROUGH LACK OF MEANS, THE OFFER OF A PLACE AT ANY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE-FUNDED TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO PURSUE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES.

"AS AT TODAY (THURSDAY), THE LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME HAS RECEIVED 19,964 APPLICATIONS FROM CURRENT STUDENTS, AN INCREASE OF 54.9 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE OF 12,888.

"WE WILL BE SENDING OUT 7,000 NOTIFICATIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND ANOTHER 7,000 IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. OTHER APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR RESULTS AS SOON AS THEIR APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED.

"ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THE TUITION FEE GRANT PORTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PAID TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF APPLICANTS DIRECT AFTER NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS. ACADEMIC EXPENSES GRANT WILL BE PAID TO THE APPLICANTS' BANK ACCOUNTS TOGETHER WITH THE LOANS UPON COMPLETION OF THE LOAN DOCUMENTS BY THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

"STUDENTS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME AND WHO HAVE PROBLEMS IN MEETING THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF THEIR TUITION FEES SHOULD NOTIFY IN ADVANCE THE STUDENT OFFICE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INSTITUTION FOR ASSISTANCE. THE STUDENT OFFICE WILL THEN LIAISE WITH THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY ON WAYS TO DEALING WITH SUCH CASES."

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TRADING FIRM FINED FOR GARMENT ORIGIN FRAUD

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A TRADING COMPANY AND ITS DIRECTOR WERE SENTENCED TO A $200,000 FINE AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT AT WAN CHAI DISTRICT COURT TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR FALSELY DECLARING THE ORIGIN OF $2.62 MILLION WORTH OF CHINA-MADE GARMENTS AND SUPPLYING THEM WITH FALSE LABELS OF ORIGIN.

CITY HAND LIMITED, A GARMENT TRADING COMPANY, AND ITS DIRECTOR FONG YUK-FAI PLEADED GUILTY TO TWO COUNTS OF AIDING, ABETTING, COUNSELLING OR PROCURING THE APPLICATION OF FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION TO 6,200 DOZEN PAIRS OF SHORTS AND 1,980 DOZENS OF TOPS AND PANTS SETS, AND TO TWO COUNTS OF SUPPLYING THE GARMENTS TO WHICH A FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION WAS APPLIED.

THE FIRM WAS FINED $200,000 AND FONG WAS SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, SUSPENDED 18 MONTHS.

/THE COURT .....

THE COURT HEARD THAT ACTING ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. CUSTOMS WHICH HAD SEIZED THE IMPORTED GOODS, HONG KONG CUSTOMS CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION ON THE COMPANY.

THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT BETWEEN AUGUST AND OCTOBER LAST YEAR, THE COMPANY HAD ARRANGED FOR THE GOODS TO BE MANUFACTURED AND LABELLED "MADE IN FIJI" IN CHINA. THE GOODS WERE THEN TRANSHIPPED FROM CHINA VIA SINGAPORE TO THE USA.

IN ORDER THAT THE GOODS COULD BE CUSTOMS-CLEARED AT THE U.S. END AS PRODUCTS OF FIJIAN ORIGIN, THE COMPANY PROVIDED THE U.S. BUYER WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING FORGED FIJIAN CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, FONG PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE TRANSACTIONS INCLUDING INSPECTION OF THE GOODS IN CHINA BY HERSELF.

THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR WONG CHUN KWONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONCERNED WITH TEXTILES TRANSHIPMENT FRAUD OF THIS KIND.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WOULD STEP UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO TRACK DOWN SUCH MALPRACTICE TO PROTECT THE COMMERCIAL REPUTATION OF HONG KONG.

"THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR EACH COUNT OF TRADE DESCRIPTION OFFENCE IS $500,000 FINE PLUS FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT ON INDICTMENT, AND $100,000 FINE PLUS TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT UPON SUMMARY CONVICTION," MR WONG ADDED.

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ACTING GOVERNOR SEES TAX COLLECTION WORK

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, VISITED THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO TAKE A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT ITS OPERATION AND RECENT EFFORTS TO FURTHER ENHANCE ITS SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR ANTHONY AU-YEUNG, MRS CHAN VISITED VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE TAX RETURN OFFICE, THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE AND THE ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE.

AT THE TAX RETURN OFFICE AND THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE, SHE SAW THE LATEST OFFICE AUTOMATION FACILITIES INCLUDING COMPUTER-BASED ON-LINE ENQUIRIES AND DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL USING IMAGING TECHNOLOGY.

DURING THE VISIT, MRS CHAN LEARNED THAT THE DEPARTMENT COLLECTED IN 1993/94 A RECORD OF $95.7 BILLION IN REVENUE WHICH WAS ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

/SHE WAS .....

SHE WAS TOLD THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD DEVOTED MORE MANPOWER RESOURCES TO TACKLE TAX EVASION AND HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO TAX-RELATED INFORMATION AND TO FURTHER ENHANCE ITS SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE THE EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE ENQUIRY FACILITIES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "COMPOSITE TAX RETURN" TO SIMPLIFY RETURN LODGMENT AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A "PAYMENT BY PHONE" FACILITY.

MRS CHAN CONCLUDED HER VISIT BY CALLING AT THE ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE TO SEE HOW THE DEPARTMENT'S HALF A MILLION ENQUIRIES ANNUALLY ARE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND EFFICIENTLY HANDLED.

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LICENSING OFFICES ON THE MOVE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL START OPERATING IN THEIR NEW PREMISES FROM TUESDAY (AUGUST 30).

THEY ARE ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF UNITED CENTRE ABOVE THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION IN QUEENSWAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW PREMISES WAS LARGER THAN THE EXISTING ONE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK.

"THE NEW PREMISES WILL OFFER BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR BOTH OUR CUSTOMERS AND STAFF, THUS IMPROVING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

THE OFFICES MOVED TO UNITED CENTRE ARE:

* THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE;

* THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION;

* THE HONG KONG REGION DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENT OFFICE;

* THE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS OFFICE OF THE VEHICLE INSPECTION AND RECORDS SECTION; AND

* THR DRIVING LICENCE RECORDS OFFICE OF THE VEHICLE INSPECTION AND RECORDS SECTION.

THE VEHICLE INSPECTION OFFICE (DEFECTIVE VEHICLE) AND THE VEHICLE RECORDS OFFICE ARE ALREADY OPERATING FROM THEIR NEW PREMISES ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR, LOW BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MOVE OF THE OFFICES WILL BRING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER AND IT WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE PUBLIC WHO VISIT THEM.

THE 24-HOUR LICENSING INFORMATION ENQUIRIES HOTLINE (801 7788) WILL BE CHANGED TO 804 2600 WITH EFFECT ALSO FROM TUESDAY (AUGUST 30).

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CLOSING DATE FOR PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL DRAWING COMPETITION

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH (RCB) TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT FOR THEM TO SUBMIT ENTRIES FOR THE DRAWING COMPETITION ON FEATURES OF THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS TO THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF RCB, 136 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI BEFORE AUGUST 31.

THE COMPETITION, ORGANISED BY THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WHICH WAS SET UP IN LATE 1992, IS AIMED AT PRESERVING AND PROMOTING HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE DRAWING COMPETITION WILL HELP ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO VISIT THE TRAIL. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THROUGH THE PAINTING BRUSHES OF ARTISTS, THE UNIQUE AND ELEGANT FACETS OF THE HISTORICAL STRUCTURES ALONG THE TRAIL CAN BE CAPTURED.

THE COMPETITION IS A TERRITORY-WIDE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. A PARTICIPANT, WHO MAY SUBMIT ANY NUMBER OF ENTRIES, CAN ENTER ONLY ONE CATEGORY (PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR OPEN) IN THE COMPETITION.

ENTRIES CAN BE PRODUCED IN ANY MEDIUM BUT THE DIMENSION OF AN ENTRY SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE METRE.

THE ENTRY FORM SHOULD BE PLACED IN AN ENVELOPE ATTACHED TO THE BACK OF THE DRAWING.

WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED BY A PANEL COMPRISING THREE RENOWNED ARTISTS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST. RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT MONTH.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE AWARDED THE FOLLOWING PRIZES:

I) PRIMARY STUDENT GROUP

FIRST	STATIONERY COUPON OF $3,000
SECOND	STATIONERY COUPON OF $2,000
THIRD	STATIONERY COUPON OF $1,000
MERIT (5 PRIZES)	STATIONERY COUPON OF $500

II) SECONDARY STUDENT GROUP

FIRST	$3,000
SECOND	$2,000
THIRD	$1,000
MERIT (5 PRIZES)	$500

III) OPEN GROUP

FIRST	$6,000
SECOND	$4,000
THIRD	$3,000
MERIT (5 PRIZES)	$1,000

/THE PING .....

THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG AND WAS OPENED IN DECEMBER 1993 WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE TRAIL, LOCATED AT PING SHAN, YUEN LONG, IS ABOUT ONE KILOMETRE LONG. IT LINKS UP TRADITIONAL CHINESE STRUCTURES WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE, PROVIDING VISITORS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECAPTURE ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE OLD DAYS IN A CONVENIENT HALF-DAY EXCURSION.

UNIQUE MONUMENTS ALONG THE TRAIL INCLUDE TSUI SHING LAU (HONG KONG'S ONLY HISTORIC PAGODA), TANG ANCESTRAL HALL (THE LARGEST ANCESTRAL HALL IN THE TERRITORY), SHEUNG CHEUNG WAI (A WALLED VILLAGE), KUN TING STUDY HALL (BUILT FOR STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THE IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION), HUNG SHING TEMPLE AND YEUNG HAU TEMPLE TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL OTHER CHINESE BUILDINGS.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, DISTRICT OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 721 2326.

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CARGO WORKING AREAS REMAIN OPEN ON GENERAL HOLIDAYS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WOULD STAY OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DURING THE GENERAL HOLIDAYS ON AUGUST 27 AND 29.

THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CHAI WAN, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING, TSUEN WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT WILL ALSO BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DURING THE HOLIDAYS."

MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL REMAIN OPEN 24 HOURS WHILE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 10 PM ON THESE DAYS.

THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE IN HARBOUR BUILDING WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON AUGUST 28 FOR ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE ONLY.

THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IN THE SAME BUILDING WILL ALSO BE OPEN ONLY FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON AUGUST 28.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE ($ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,221	0930	-834
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,637	1000	-684
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-684
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-684	1200	-684
LAF TODAY	+100	1500	-684
		1600	-684

LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER TWI 122.3 *+0.2* 25.8.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

TERMS	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.95
1 MONTH	4.16
3 MONTHS	4.38
6 MONTHS	4.71
12 MONTHS	5.24

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.15	5.81
24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	100.07	6.20
30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.95	6.53
33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.99	6.67
36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.61	6.83

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 29,130 MN

CLOSED 25 AUGUST 1994

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