



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1991

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1991

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STI ON SPECIAL 301 NEGOTIATIONS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE SPECIAL 301 NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY):

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. AND CHINA HAVE BOTH MADE CLEAR THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN CONTINUE IN THE COMING WEEKS, DESPITE THE U.S. DECISION TO PUBLISH A LIST OF PRODUCTS ON WHICH THEY MAY TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION IF THE NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT END IN AGREEMENT.

"I WELCOME THIS POSITIVE APPROACH, AND REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE."

COMMENTING ON THE LIST OF PRODUCTS WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO RETALIATION THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF TARIFFS AS HIGH AS 100 PER CENT, MR CHAU SAID:

"THE U.S. HAS DEVELOPED A LIST OF PRODUCTS ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY US\$1.5 BILLION OF CHINESE IMPORTS INTO THE U.S.

"WE MUST KEEP THIS IN PERSPECTIVE. WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT, IF THE U.S. DOES TAKE ACTION, ON PAST PRACTICE ONLY A PORTION OF ITEMS ON THE LIST WILL BE AFFECTED. THE U.S. WILL CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THE LIST BEFORE COMING TO ANY FINAL DECISION.

"THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IS STILL EXAMINING THE POTENTIAL EFFECT ON HONG KONG. THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES OVER THE PRECISE AMOUNT OF TRADE COVERED BY THE LIST.

"THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY AWARE OF OUR CONCERN THAT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS OUGHT TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY DECISION WHICH THE U.S. MAY TAKE. WE WILL, IF NECESSARY, SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE U.S. ON THE COVERAGE OF THEIR LIST, AND GIVE THEM SUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN CONCERNING OUR RE-EXPORT DATA."

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL MEET THE RELEVANT TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE LATER TODAY TO BRIEF THEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. LIST INCLUDES BEER, ORE, SILK TEXTILES, PHARMACEUTICALS, FOOTWEAR, IMITATION JEWELLERY, HARDWARE, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS, AND WATCHES. RESTRAINED TEXTILES AND TOYS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

"DETAILS OF THE LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. FEDERAL REGISTER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS."

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GOVT INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CURB PROPERTY SPECULATION

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A BILL DESIGNED TO CURB SPECULATION IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE MOVE FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON NOVEMBER 6 THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO IMPOSE STAMP DUTY ON SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID STAMP DUTY WAS NOW ONLY PAYABLE ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PROPERTY, IN OTHER WORDS, ON THE DOCUMENT BY WHICH LEGAL TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WAS TRANSFERRED.

IT WAS NOT PAYABLE ON SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT.

"SO THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL COST INVOLVED FOR SPECULATORS BUYING AND SELLING A PROPERTY SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE ASSIGNMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS TYPE OF SPECULATION HAD BEEN THE TARGET OF MUCH PUBLIC CRITICISM AND HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SHARP INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

THE BILL PROPOSED THAT SELLERS AND PURCHASERS GENERALLY BE REQUIRED TO PAY STAMP DUTY, ON AN AD VALOREM SLIDING SCALE, ON ALL SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

"WHERE THERE IS A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS FOR THE SAME PROPERTY, THE AMOUNT OF DUTY PAYABLE WILL MULTIPLY. THIS WILL ADD A LOT TO SPECULATORS' OVERHEADS, AND SHOULD DAMP DOWN THEIR ACTIVITIES SUBSTANTIALLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE PROPERTY MARKET.

"BUT WHEN THE MARKET IS ARTIFICIALLY HEATED BY SPECULATIVE PRESSURE, WE MUST TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE THE NORMAL MARKET MECHANISM," HE ADDED.

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO CURB SPECULATION SO AS TO HELP GENUINE HOME-BUYERS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE REQUIREMENT TO PAY DUTY TO NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

"THE PUBLIC IS MAINLY WORRIED ABOUT SPECULATORS IN DOMESTIC FLATS AND THE EFFECTS THEIR ACTIVITIES HAVE ON THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET.

"IT IS TRUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME MINOR SPECULATION IN THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE SECTOR.

"IF THIS TREND WERE TO CONTINUE, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE ACTION. BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, WE PROPOSE THAT THE NEW STAMP DUTY REQUIREMENT SHOULD ONLY APPLY TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY," HE SAID.

"CERTAIN TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, WHICH ARE NOT SUBJECT TO SPECULATION, WILL ALSO BE EXEMPTED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THESE INCLUDE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS, CONSULAR PREMISES AND PROPERTY BOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

UNDER THE BILL, BOTH THE BUYER AND THE SELLER OF ANY LAND OR BUILDINGS WILL HAVE TO EXECUTE A WRITTEN SALE AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT MUST CONTAIN A DECLARATION AS TO WHETHER THE PROPERTY IS RESIDENTIAL OR NON-RESIDENTIAL.

"NO DUTY WILL BE PAYABLE IF THE PROPERTY IS DECLARED TO BE ENTIRELY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE HAS NO DOUBTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE INTENTION OF THE BILL IS TO PROMOTE GENUINE HOME PURCHASES AND TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATIVE TRANSACTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, THE STAMP DUTY PAYABLE ON THE ACTUAL CONVEYANCE OF A PROPERTY WILL BE LIMITED TO A NOMINAL \$100."

MOST OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WILL BE CONTAINED IN A NEW PART (PART III A) OF THE STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE.

"THIS WILL MAKE THEIR INTENTION CLEARER, AND ALSO MAKE IT EASIER TO INTRODUCE ANY AMENDMENTS WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW MEASURES WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1993. THEY CAN THEN BE ONLY EXTENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WE WILL REVIEW THE CONTINUED NEED FOR THE MEASURES ABOUT SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE EXPIRY DATE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY AND ESPECIALLY IN THE PROPERTY MARKET," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE MEASURES DESIGNED TO COMBAT RECENT LEVELS OF SPECULATION IN DOMESTIC PROPERTY, THE BILL ALSO CLOSED AN EXISTING TAX AVOIDANCE LOOPHOLE.

"AS THE LAW STANDS, A SHAREHOLDER IN A COMPANY WHICH OWNS PROPERTY CAN TRANSFER HIS INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY BY SELLING HIS SHARES TO ANOTHER PARTY. HE IS THEN ONLY LIABLE TO PAY DUTY AT THE CONTRACT NOTE RATE, THAT IS \$5 PER \$1,000," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"IN SOME CASES, A COMPANY IS DELIBERATELY SET UP TO AVOID THE NEED TO PAY DUTY AT THE HIGHER, CONVEYANCING RATE, THAT IS \$27.50 PER \$1,000. THE BILL CONTAINS PROVISIONS TO MINIMISE THIS FORM OF TAX AVOIDANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE PROVISIONS SHOULD FORM A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE ORDINANCE.

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THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT TO VISIT HONG KONG  
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THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 2) FOR AN EIGHT-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

WHILE IN HONG KONG, THEY WILL HAVE EXTENSIVE AND SEPARATE PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING VISITS TO VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTIONS, OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF CONFERENCES ON ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE DUKE WILL VISIT THE CONTAINER PORT IN KWAI CHUNG ON DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWED BY VISITS TO A HOUSING ESTATE IN WONG TAI SIN, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND VARIOUS FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORT.

ON DECEMBER 6, THE DUKE, WILL TAKE A DRIVE THROUGH THE EASTERN HARBOUR AND TATE'S CAIRN TUNNELS AND WILL TAKE A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE BORDER, THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION.

ON DECEMBER 7, THE DUKE ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, WILL ATTEND A CEREMONY AT SAI WAN MILITARY CEMETERY TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION AND FALL OF HONG KONG. HE WILL THEN VISIT THE STANLEY MILITARY CEMETERY.

THE ITINERARY OF THE DUCHESS INCLUDES A VISIT TO THE CHESHIRE HOME IN SHA TIN ON DECEMBER 4; AND A VISIT TO QUAN CHUEN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY IN ABERDEEN AND A MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS AND THE ARMY CATERING CORPS AND THEIR SPOUSES IN STONECUTTERS ISLAND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE DUCHESS WILL VISIT THE HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL AND BEFRIENDERS INTERNATIONAL ON DECEMBER 7. SHE WILL ALSO ATTEND THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION INAUGURAL FUND RAISING EVENT IN THE EVENING.

ON DECEMBER 9, THE DUKE WILL OPEN THE POLMET '91 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION WHILE THE DUCHESS WILL ADDRESS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY BEFORE LEAVING FOR LONDON IN THE EVENING.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY  
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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND ONLY IN THIS CO-OPERATIVE WAY CAN MAXIMUM SAFETY BE ASSURED, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TRY TO TAKE ON SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

/"IF THEY .....

"IF THEY DO, THEY RUN THE RISK OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS BECOMING COMPLACENT, LAZY OR NEGLIGENT.

"RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE SHARED. IT MUST BE SHARED BETWEEN THOSE WHO OWN MACHINES, THOSE WHO OPERATE THEM, THOSE WHO INSPECT THEM AND THOSE IN GOVERNMENT WHO SET THE STANDARDS," HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEVENTH RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

MR MILLER SAID: "THE EXPERTISE OF MARINE ENGINEERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOUGHT AFTER WORLDWIDE BY REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FOR ATTENDING TO THE TASK OF ENSURING SAFETY IN THE USE OF BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ASHORE AS WELL ON SHIPS.

"THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS INDEED PLEASED AT THE CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT THAT HAS EXISTED OVER MANY DECADES IN DISCHARGING THE IMPORTANT DUTIES OF OVERSEEING THE SAFETY OF BOILERS AND PRESSURISED EQUIPMENT ON LAND.

"I AM GLAD THAT THE SYSTEM OF SECONDING TECHNICAL OFFICERS TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PERFORMING REASONABLY SATISFACTORILY.

"THE BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE HAS RECENTLY BEEN UPDATED AND THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION HAS THE ONEROUS RESPONSIBILITY OF MONITORING THE OPERATION OF 59,341 PIECES OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT."

MR MILLER SAID A CREDITABLE SAFETY RECORD HAD BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGH THE CONSCIENTIOUS MONITORING BY THE STAFF OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION AND WITH THE INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED APPOINTED EXAMINERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE SAID THE RECORD OF SAFETY IN THIS FIELD WAS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

FOR ALMOST THREE DECADES, THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTING EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS AS APPOINTED EXAMINERS TO CARRY OUT REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS HAD BEEN WORKING OUT SATISFACTORILY.

MR MILLER SAID: "IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO INCREASE THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF LOCAL RECOGNISED INSPECTION BODIES, BOTH IN THE AREA OF INSPECTION AND MONITORING DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS, AND ALSO IN THEIR SUBSEQUENT MAINTENANCE.

"TO BE RECOGNISED AS AN INSPECTION BODY, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT THE CORPORATION AND ITS STAFF MUST CARRY OUT THE VERIFICATION TESTS WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY AND TECHNICAL COMPETENCE.

"THE IMPARTIALITY OF INSPECTION STAFF IS PARAMOUNT IF THE INSPECTION BODIES ARE TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ENSURING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY."

THE TWO-DAY RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, APPOINTED EXAMINERS AND OFFICERS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS  
ORDINANCE ORDER TO BE GAZETTED  
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN ORDER WHICH ENABLES THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC) TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS ABOUT MALADMINISTRATION RELATING TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THESE INCLUDE ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, WHICH HAVE HITHERTO BEEN MANAGED BY THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

"THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 1) NO. 2 ORDER SEEKS TO ENABLE THE COMAC TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THESE HOSPITALS AND TO THE HA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE ORDER, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S GAZETTE, THE HA WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH THE COMAC ORDINANCE APPLIES.

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CONTRACT FOR FIRST UNDERGROUND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AWARDED  
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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$147 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERGROUND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND ANCILLARY WORKS IN STANLEY, ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT, THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE PROJECT OF ITS KIND TO BE BUILT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WILL BE LOCATED TO THE SOUTH OF STANLEY PRISON WITHIN A CAVERN TO BE EXCAVATED MAINLY IN ROCK.

IT WILL RUN BENEATH THE ROCKY STANLEY PENINSULA TO THE SOUTH OF THE TOWNSHIP.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE PLANT WILL SERVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 27,000 PEOPLE IN THE AREAS OF STANLEY, CHUNG HOM KOK AND TAI TAM.

THE CONTRACT, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR NG YEE-YUM, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAIN PUMPING STATION AT THE LOCATION OF THE EXISTING IMHOFF TANK AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE STANLEY MARKET AREA, AND THE INSTALLATION OF 840 METRES OF A TWIN PUMPING MAIN TO CONNECT THE TREATMENT PLANT WITH THE PUMPING STATION.

/MR NG .....

MR NG NOTED THAT THE DESIGN OF THE SYSTEM WAS TO ENABLE ALL SEWERS WITHIN THE CATCHMENT OF STANLEY, CHUNG HOM KOK AND TAI TAM TO BE COLLECTED INTO THE MAIN PUMPING STATION AND PUMPED TO THE SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT FOR FULL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PRIOR TO DISINFECTION.

THE TREATED EFFLUENT FROM THE TREATMENT PLANT WOULD THEN BE DISCHARGED VIA A 600-MILLIMETRE DIAMETER SUBMARINE OUTFALL ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES LONG OFF TWEED BAY CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN A SEPARATE CONTRACT.

ACCORDING TO MR NG, THE MAIN BENEFIT OF SITING THE TREATMENT PLANT UNDERGROUND WAS THE MUCH REDUCED IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

"LOW LAND TAKE WAS ALSO A VITAL FACTOR IN THE CHOICE OF SITE.

"THERE ARE ALSO SOME BENEFITS TO THE PLANT IN THAT THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE CAVERN IS READILY CONTROLLED AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO WEATHER RESTRICTIONS," HE EXPLAINED.

MR NG POINTED OUT THAT THE PLANT WOULD BE HOUSED IN FOUR PRINCIPAL CAVERNS, IN LENGTHS UP TO ABOUT 120 METRES LONG WITH THE LARGEST ONE COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO, SAY THE CENTRAL MTR STATION.

ACCESS WILL BE GAINED FROM WONG MA KOK ROAD ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE PENINSULA AND THE PLANT WILL REACH ALMOST TO THE OTHER SIDE ABOVE TWEED BAY.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT, WHICH WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PAUL Y-SPIE BATIGNOLLE JOINT VENTURE, ARE EXPECTED TO START NEXT MONTH AND THE PLANT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMMISSIONING IN TWO YEARS.

SUPERVISION OF THE CONTRACT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY WATSON HAWKSLEY (HK) LTD ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE CONSULTING FIRM HAS ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN AND SITE INVESTIGATION FOR THE PROJECT SINCE 1989.

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#### GOVT CONSIDERS TRAINING FOR WORKERS OF TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WAYS OF AUGMENTING ITS TRAINING EFFORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFICALLY FOR EMPLOYEES DISPLACED FROM THE TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES THAT ARE NO LONGER GROWING, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, SAID IN BANGKOK YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHEN WAS SPEAKING AS HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONDING TO THE MAJOR SHIFTS IN HONG KONG'S LABOUR MARKET AS A RESULT OF ITS ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING AND TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE OPTIMAL UTILISATION OF ITS LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES.

"THE STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A CORRESPONDING SHIFT IN THE EMPLOYMENT PATTERN, FROM MANUFACTURING TO SERVICES," HE SAID.

MR CHEN POINTED OUT THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S SHARE OF THE EMPLOYED WORKFORCE DROPPED FROM 47 PER CENT IN 1971 TO 28 PER CENT LAST YEAR WHILE THE SERVICES SECTOR'S SHARE OF THE WORKFORCE INCREASED FROM 41 PER CENT TO 62 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

"APART FROM THIS MAJOR SHIFT IN EMPLOYMENT PATTERN, HONG KONG HAS FACED THE FURTHER PROBLEM OF LABOUR SHORTAGE IN RECENT YEARS," MR CHEN NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG HAD EXPERIENCED VIRTUALLY FULL EMPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT THE LAST THREE YEARS AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF FACILITATING INVESTMENT AND FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

"THIS HAS CREATED SERIOUS BOTTLENECKS IN SOME OF OUR KEY INDUSTRIES AND HAD ALSO HAD AN INHIBITING EFFECT ON FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH," MR CHEN SAID.

"TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS WE HAVE INTRODUCED SCHEMES TO ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR," HE SAID, ADDING THAT ABOUT 13,700 FOREIGN WORKERS HAD BEEN IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG SINCE 1989, WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT 0.48 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE.

"IN SETTING DOWN THE RULES FOR LABOUR IMPORTATION, AN UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE IS THE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF LOCAL WORKERS' INTERESTS, INCLUDING THEIR WAGE LEVELS AS WELL AS THEIR JOB OPPORTUNITIES," HE SAID.

"THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FREE ENTERPRISE AND MARKET ECONOMY HAD PROVIDED A BASIS FOR OUR ENTREPRENEURS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN OUR ECONOMY.

"THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTS A MANPOWER STRATEGY AIMED AT EQUIPPING THE WORKFORCE WITH THE SKILLS WHICH OUR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY REQUIRE, AND PROVIDING WORKERS WITH ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO UTILISE THEIR SKILLS AND DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL," HE SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE EFFORTS OF SPECIFIC TRAINING AUTHORITIES FOR THE CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES, OPPORTUNITIES HAD BEEN EXPANDED FOR MANY MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN A WIDE RANGE AND DIFFERENT LEVELS OF JOBS.

"IN TANDEM WITH THE EFFORTS TO BOOST TRAINING FOR THE WORKFORCE, WE ALSO PROVIDE SUPPORTING SERVICES THROUGH ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO MAKE OUR INDUSTRIES MORE EFFICIENT THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCT INNOVATION," HE SAID.

"WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER THROUGH AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME," MR CHEN SAID. "SUCH MEASURES ARE INTENDED TO HELP HONG KONG TO MOVE UP FURTHER ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL LADDER."

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) CONTINUED THEIR TOURS OF SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES BY VISITING THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

THE COLLEGE, ONE OF THE FOUR FULL-TIME GOVERNMENT TEACHER INSTITUTES IN HONG KONG, WAS FOUNDED IN 1960.

BOARD MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT APART FROM FULL-TIME TRAINING FOR STUDENT-TEACHERS, IT ALSO RUNS A TWO-YEAR PART-TIME IN-SERVICE COURSE OF TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES; CHILDREN WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROBLEMS; THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED; THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED; THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED; THE HEARING IMPAIRED, THE MALADJUSTED AND SOCIALLY DEPRIVED.

JOINING TODAY'S TOUR WERE BOARD CHAIRMAN MR TIMOTHY HA, AND MEMBERS MR CHAN KIN-HUNG, MS AUDREY EU, MR PETER LEE, DR LESLIE LO, MISS SO YAN-LAP AND DR ANDREW WONG KAM-CHEUNG.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), MR Y.P. CHAN, AND THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL, DR KONG YUN-FUN.

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A KOWLOON BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED A BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI TO BE DANGEROUS.

THE BUILDING, KUNG SHEUNG MANSIONS, IS LOCATED AT 113-119 SHANGHAI STREET.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BUILDING, BUILT IN 1958, WAS AN EIGHT-STORY REINFORCED CONCRETE FRAMED STRUCTURE SERVED BY TWO STAIRCASES WHICH WERE INTERCONNECTED BY AN EXTERNAL CORRIDOR ON EACH OF THE UPPER FLOORS FOR PROVIDING THE MEANS OF ESCAPE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

/THE BUILDING .....

THE BUILDING IS COMMERCIALY OCCUPIED ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND DOMESTICALLY ON THE UPPER FLOORS.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN ITS RECENT INSPECTION FOUND THAT ON EACH OF THE UPPER FLOORS CERTAIN UNAPPROVED ALTERATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE TO THE STAIRCASES AND THE INTERCONNECTING BALCONIES, THUS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDISING THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCY.

HE SAID THE BUILDING HAS BEEN RENDERED DANGEROUS BY THE LACK OF ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE CLOSED UNTIL THE ORIGINALLY APPROVED MEANS OF ESCAPE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN REINSTATED.

IN THIS REGARD, THE OWNERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY REINSTATEMENT WORKS BEFORE JANUARY 8 NEXT YEAR, FAILING WHICH AN APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN RESPECT OF THE UPPER FLOORS WILL BE MADE BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER IN THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 10 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

ADDITIONALLY A FURTHER ORDER HAS BEEN SERVED UPON THE OWNERS TO CARRY OUT GENERAL REPAIRS TO COMMON AREAS, AND INDIVIDUAL UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION, THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING.

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#### BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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MORE THAN 100 PRIVATE FLAT-OWNERS IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL BE GIVEN PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON HOW TO SELECT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES AT A SEMINAR AT THE CAUSEWAY BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

THE PROPERTY MANAGER OF KUMAGAI GUMI (HONG KONG) LTD, MR JOHNNIE CHAN, WILL GIVE HIS EXPERT OPINIONS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS.

A SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHEUNG PING-KUEN, AND FOREX INSURANCE COMPANY'S MANAGER, MR DENNIS CHAN, WILL TALK ON THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF LIFTS AND BUILDING INSURANCE RESPECTIVELY.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATIONS WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 30) IN THE HALL OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7 FOOK YUM ROAD.

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## NEW GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE IN SHUN TIN ESTATE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A NEW GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE, ROUTE 54, SERVING BETWEEN SHUN TIN AND LOK FU WILL START OPERATION ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

FROM SHUN TIN TO LOK FU, THE SERVICE WILL RUN VIA SHUN ON ROAD, LEE ON ROAD, NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, HAMMER HILL ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, FUNG MO STREET, FU MEI STREET, FU KEUNG STREET AND WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD.

FROM LOK FU TO SHUN TIN, THE SERVICE WILL RUN VIA WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MEI STREET, FUNG MO STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD, HAMMER HILL ROAD, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, SAN LEE STREET, LEE ON ROAD, SHUN ON ROAD, SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, SAU MAU PING ROAD AND SHUN ON ROAD.

THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM AT A FREQUENCY OF 10 TO 15 MINUTES. SINGLE JOURNEY FARE IS \$4.50.

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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	27.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	28.11.91	+30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.1 *+0.3*	28.11.91	

## HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

## EF BILLS

## HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.84 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.38	5.58
1 MONTH	3.92 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.95 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.13 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.77 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 5,755 MN, BONDS 18 MN

CLOSED 28 NOVEMBER 1991

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