



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

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CHIEF SECRETARY TO MEET VICE PRESIDENT GORE ON FRIDAY

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, WILL EXTEND HER VISIT TO WASHINGTON DC BY ONE DAY TO MEET WITH VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT THE WHITE HOUSE LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 29).

BY AGREEING TO CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT, MRS CHAN HAS HAD TO CURTAIL SLIGHTLY HER SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS PLANNED FOR NEW YORK ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

SOME OF MRS CHAN'S MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 27) WERE ALSO RESCHEDULED OWING TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR THE LATE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON AND THE CONSEQUENT CLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

SHE DID, HOWEVER MEET WITH SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MR LLOYD BENSTEN AND DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AT THE WHITE HOUSE MR SANDY BERGER.

AT LUNCHTIME TODAY MRS CHAN ADDRESSED THE U.S.-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL ON HONG KONG AS AMERICA'S BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS IN ASIA. THE CAPACITY CROWD INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND KEY LEADING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

MRS CHAN'S PROGRAMME ON WEDNESDAY ALSO ALLOWED HER TO BRIEF JOURNALISTS FROM MAJOR U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND WIRE SERVICES.

FOLLOWING THE DAY'S APPOINTMENTS, MRS CHAN TOLD THE MEDIA THAT SHE FELT IT HAD BEEN AN EXTREMELY BUSY BUT PRODUCTIVE THREE DAYS AND A TIMELY VISIT.

SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN SO WELL RECEIVED BY EVERYONE SHE HAD MET.

"I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ACROSS THE HONG KONG POINT OF VIEW NOT ONLY ON THE MFN ISSUE BUT ALSO TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, IN PARTICULAR THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND HOW WE SEE OUR FUTURE," MRS CHAN SAID.

BASED ON HER DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING MFN STATUS FOR CHINA, MRS CHAN SAID THAT HER IMPRESSION WAS THAT NO ONE WISHES TO SEE TOTAL REVOCATION OF MFN BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

SHE ADDED: "BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO OBVIOUSLY HAVE VIEWS, AND STRONG VIEWS, WHICH WE ENTIRELY RESPECT, ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA, AND ABOUT WHAT IS THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

"I THINK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD VERY MUCH WISH TO SEE FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE IN MEETING THE CONDITIONS THAT ARE LAID OUT IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ENABLE PRESIDENT CLINTON TO CERTIFY THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE FOR MFN TO BE RENEWED," MRS CHAN SAID.

/"BUT IF, .....

"BUT IF, FOR ANY REASON, SUFFICIENT PROGRESS ISN'T MADE," MRS CHAN CONTINUED, "THEN ONE HAS TO REALISE THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES HERE, AND IN THAT EVENT I THINK THERE WILL BE A DILEMMA FACING THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD."

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SUGGESTION OF SELECTIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST STATE ENTERPRISES IS GAINING MOMENTUM AMONG THE PEOPLE SHE MET, MRS CHAN SAID THE ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS ARE VERY MUCH A SECOND-BEST ALTERNATIVE.

"IN MY VIEW IT IS NOT, IN FACT, AN ALTERNATIVE," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID SHE HAD ALSO TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN RAISED AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING ON THE INCREASING COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF SPIRALLING PROPERTY PRICES.

"THERE I WAS ABLE TO SAY THAT IT IS A CONCERN THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ENTIRELY SHARES," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE SAID SHE POINTED OUT TO THE AUDIENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO TAKE ACTION AND HOPED IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS TIME TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS THAT WOULD HELP TO ARREST THE SPIRALLING, AND MODERATE PRICES, WITHOUT CAUSING A COLLAPSE IN THE PROPERTY MARKET WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN ANYBODY'S INTEREST.

TURNING TO THE REMAINDER OF THE PROGRAMME, MRS CHAN SAID SHE WOULD PROCEED TO NEW YORK ON THURSDAY (APRIL 28) AFTER MEETINGS WITH COMMERCE SECRETARY RON BROWN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE GARY ACKERMAN.

SUMMING UP THE PAST THREE DAYS, MRS CHAN SAID SHE FELT THAT THE VISIT HAD RESULTED IN A BETTER APPRECIATION OF HONG KONG'S CONCERNS, OF HONG KONG'S POSITION AND HOW MFN WOULD IMPACT ON THE TERRITORY, NOT ONLY NOW BUT IMPACT ON STABILITY AND PROSPERITY AFTER 1997.

"I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THOSE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," MRS CHAN SAID.

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TRANSCRIPT OF CHIEF SECRETARY'S DOOR-STEP INTERVIEW

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A DOOR-STEP INTERVIEW OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER CALLING ON SENATOR MAX BAUCUS IN WASHINGTON DC ON APRIL 26:

CHIEF SECRETARY: THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND WILL KNOW THAT I'VE HAD A VERY HECTIC TWO DAYS. I THINK I'VE NOW SEEN MOST OF THE KEY PLAYERS ON THE MFN ISSUE. I'VE MET WITH THE SENIOR LEADERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND IN CONGRESS AND THE SENATE, INCLUDING NANCY PELOSI, SPEAKER TOM FOLEY, MR GEORGE MITCHELL, DAVE MCCURDY. I'VE ALSO SEEN AMBASSADOR LORD AND SENATOR MAX BAUCUS.

/I'VE HAD .....

I'VE HAD VERY, VERY GOOD DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE, BEEN ABLE TO PUT ACROSS THE HONG KONG CASE. THEY'VE LISTENED VERY ATTENTIVELY, AND I THINK AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON COMES TO MAKE HIS FINAL DECISION THAT HE WILL HAVE REGARD TO HONG KONG'S POSITION ON THE MFN ISSUE.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET THE IMPRESSION FROM YOUR MEETING WITH MR LORD THAT THE DECISION -- HE SAYS THE DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN. DO YOU THINK IT STILL IS UP IN THE AIR STILL, THAT STILL THERE'S ROOM FOR MOVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION?

CHIEF SECRETARY: WELL, I THINK THAT A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN. IT'S TOO EARLY TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT, AND I THINK OBVIOUSLY THERE IS STILL A FEW WEEKS TO GO BEFORE JUNE THE THIRD, WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS TO MAKE UP HIS MIND.

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REASONS BEHIND HK'S THRIVING ECONOMY

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HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAS THRIVED BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES AND SMALL GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 27).

ADDRESSING THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SAN FRANCISCO, MR TSANG SAID ONLY IN THIS WAY COULD THE GOVERNMENT ENSURE THAT BUSINESS WOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO GENERATE THE WEALTH THE SOCIETY NEEDED.

"I AM SURE THAT A MAJOR REASON FOR OUR SUCCESS IS THAT WE HAVE RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO SPEND MONEY SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAVE IT.

"INSTEAD, WE HAVE MADE SURE THAT GOVERNMENT SPENDING GROWS NO FASTER THAN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

MR TSANG POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S TAXES WERE VERY LOW.

"ABOUT HALF OF OUR WORKING POPULATION PAYS NO SALARIES TAX AT ALL AND TAX RATES FOR THE REST ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD.

"YOU WILL NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE WORLD COMPETITIVENESS REPORT (DAVOS) 1992 ESTIMATED THAT HONG KONG'S TOTAL TAX REVENUE - AT ONLY 11.25 PER CENT OF GDP - WAS THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF ALL 36 ECONOMIES SURVEYED," HE ADDED.

MR TSANG NOTED THAT THE VALUE OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, IN TERMS OF SAVING PUBLIC RESOURCES, HAD BEEN ENORMOUS.

BEYOND THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, HE SAID, HONG KONG HAD ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED A VERY LONG RECORD, OF OVER A CENTURY, OF BRINGING PRIVATE SECTOR EQUITY OR LOAN CAPITAL INTO PLAY IN ITS MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

"BY ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO FUND ITS EXTENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMMES WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC DEBTS, A MASSIVE PUBLIC SECTOR OR CRIPPLING TAXATION.

/"WE ACCEPT .....

"WE ACCEPT WELFARE AS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY OBLIGATIONS; BUT WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN TIGHT CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE," HE SAID.

MR TSANG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO FREE TRADE, LOW TAXES, A STABLE CURRENCY, A SOUND FINANCIAL SYSTEM, AND PRUDENT BUDGETS.

"SO FAR, THESE POLICIES HAVE SERVED US WELL. WE AIM TO ENSURE THAT OUR PAST SUCCESS CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

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EXCO ENDORSES CHANGES TO ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE WHICH TRANSFER SOME OF THE REGULATION MAKING POWERS TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW(FRIDAY), THE POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS WHICH ARE OPERATIONAL IN NATURE AND TO REVISE THE ROAD USERS' CODE WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS IN THE MORE SENSITIVE AREAS, SUCH AS FEES AND CHARGES, PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES, POWER OF ARREST AND POLICE POWERS, WILL BE RETAINED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL."

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD NOT AFFECT THE POWER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN APPROVING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO SEEKS TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PUBLIC OFFICER SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL TO HEAR APPEALS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS, AND TO ALLOW THE TRIBUNAL TO SELECT ITS OWN LEGAL ADVISER, RATHER THAN CHOOSING FROM A PANEL APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BILL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO SUSPEND OR CANCEL THE LICENCE OF VEHICLES WHEN THEIR VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN TAMPERED.

IT ALSO EXTENDS THE CONTROL ON BICYCLE AND TRICYCLE TO MULTI-CYCLES WHICH ARE A NEW TYPE OF PEDAL CYCLE WITH FOUR WHEELS.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "IN THE INTERESTS OF ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, THE USE OF MULTI-CYCLES WILL BE CONFINED TO AREAS, SUCH AS CYCLE TRACKS AND CYCLE GROUNDS, DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT BY MEANS OF TRAFFIC SIGNS."

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL WILL RECEIVE ITS FIRST READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 11, 1994.

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CONSULTATION STARTS ON 1995 BUDGET

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (THURSDAY) BEGAN HIS CONSULTATION WITH LEGCO MEMBERS ON NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET BY BRIEFING THEM ON THE MAIN FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING ON EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS IN GROUPS IN THE SECOND AND THIRD WEEKS OF MAY TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON THE AREAS TO BE ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR BOTH RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN PREPARATION OF THE 1995/96 ESTIMATES.

SIR HAMISH NOTED THAT CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 1994 BUDGET AND HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR MEMBERS' SUPPORT IN THE BUDGET DEBATE.

HE SAID THE TIMING OF THIS YEAR'S CONSULTATION HAD BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD SLIGHTLY SO THAT MEMBERS' VIEWS COULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE.

IN DRAWING UP NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE MAIN BUDGETARY GUIDELINE THAT EXPENDITURE GROWTH MUST BE KEPT WITHIN THE TREND GROWTH RATE OF GDP, WHICH WAS PROVISIONALLY FORECAST TO BE FIVE PER CENT.

"THIS MEANS THAT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN 1995/96 IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ROUGHLY \$5 BILLION IN REAL TERMS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THIS SUM HAD ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED TO MEET THE FULL-YEAR COST OF INITIATIVES STARTED IN 1994/95 AND THE RECURRENT CONSEQUENCES OF CAPITAL PROJECTS COMING ON STREAM.

IT ALSO HAD TO BE USED TO MEET STATUTORY AND CONTRACTUAL GROWTH SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, STUDENT GRANTS AND CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS AS WELL AS FURTHER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IN 1995/96 TOWARDS MEETING THE 1997 TARGETS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS 1992 AND 1993 POLICY ADDRESSES.

"FOR EXAMPLE, MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED FOR MORE CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES FOR THE ELDERLY, MORE HOME HELP TEAMS, EXTRA CHILD CARE PLACES, EXPANSION IN FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED AND MORE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.

"FUNDS HAVE ALSO BEEN SET ASIDE FOR MORE TEACHERS, MORE HOSPITAL BEDS, NEW CLINICS AND HEALTH CENTRES, AND CLEANING UP THE COUNTRYSIDE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ON TOP OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS, FURTHER NEW SERVICES COULD BE FUNDED BY THE BALANCE OF THE NEW MONEY AND REDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND BETTER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

/HE HOPED .....

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HE HOPED THAT CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS WOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT MAP OUT HOW BEST TO DIRECT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

ON RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, SIR HAMISH NOTED THAT THIS HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT 33 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, FROM 1989/90 TO 1993/94.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON KEY AREAS LIKE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION HAD EVEN EXCEEDED THIS RATE OF GROWTH, HE SAID.

ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, HE NOTED THAT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON MAJOR NON-AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AMOUNTED TO \$66 BILLION.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS THAT IN SUGGESTING NEW PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, THEY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS ON THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND THAT IT NORMALLY TOOK A LEAD TIME OF AT LEAST TWO YEARS TO START NEW PROJECTS.

AFTER SEEKING MEMBERS' VIEWS ON EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL LATER IN THE YEAR CONDUCT ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS ON THE REVENUE ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET.

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#### HK TO BUILD ITS FIRST RIVER TRADE TERMINAL

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HONG KONG PLANS TO BUILD ITS FIRST TERMINAL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO HANDLE RIVER CARGOES FROM THE PEARL RIVER DELTA.

A PRIVATE COMPANY WILL BUILD AND OPERATE THE TERMINAL, AT AREA 38, TUEN MUN. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CALL TENDERS FOR THE TERMINAL LATER THIS YEAR AND THE FIRST PHASE WILL PROBABLY BEGIN OPERATING BY LATE 1997.

THE PROJECT WAS OUTLINED AT THE MEETING OF THE RIVER TRADE CARGO ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL (RTT) BECAUSE OF PROJECTED HUGE INCREASES IN RIVER TRADE.

THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD ESTIMATES THAT THE 20.7 MILLION TONNES OF FREIGHT CARRIED BY RIVER LAST YEAR WILL DOUBLE BY 2001 AND QUADRUPLE BY 2011.

IF THE RTT DOES NOT BEGIN OPERATING, THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WILL LOSE \$13.3 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2011.

IT WILL MEAN THAT 7.4 MILLION 20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS (TEUS) OF CONTAINERISED FREIGHT AND 15.2 MILLION TONNES OF BREAK-BULK CARGO DOES NOT MOVE THROUGH THE PORT.

/THERE IS .....

THERE IS ALSO A GROWING NEED FOR DEDICATED CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITIES FOR RIVER TRADE.

ALTHOUGH CONTAINERISATION ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 10 PER CENT OF RIVER CARGOES IN 1991, THE PROPORTION INCREASED TO 20 PER CENT IN 1993. FORECASTS SHOW IT WILL REACH 41 PER CENT BY 2011.

RIVER CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES, MAINLY PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, ARE EXPECTED TO REACH CAPACITY BY 1996.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REDUCE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE TERMINAL ON THE TUEN MUN AREA. THIS WILL BE IN LINE WITH CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA AS A WHOLE.

AMONG THE MEASURES ALREADY PLANNED ARE THE CAREFUL ALIGNMENT OF ROADS AND THE USE OF SPECIAL ROAD SURFACE MATERIALS TO CUT DOWN TRAFFIC NOISE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO UPGRADE THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK TO TIE IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND AVOID CONGESTION BY TERMINAL TRAFFIC. THIS WILL INCLUDE WIDENING A SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD AND BUILDING A NEW BYPASS ALONG THE CASTLE PEAK FOOTHILLS.

THE ESTIMATED COST IS \$892 MILLION AT 1993 PRICES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND ANOTHER \$39 MILLION TO PROVIDE CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND FIRE SERVICE FACILITIES.

PLANNERS HAVE CONSULTED THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD OVER THE TERMINAL SINCE AUGUST 1990 AND HAVE TAKEN LOCAL CONCERNS ABOUT TRAFFIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL GAZETTE THE TERMINAL UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED (RECLAMATION) ORDINANCE AND THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE. IT WILL CONSULT THE DISTRICT BOARD AT REGULAR INTERVALS DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS.

THE TERMINAL DEVELOPER WILL HAVE TO ASSESS CAREFULLY THE LIKELY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE TERMINAL AND PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE MITIGATION MEASURES.

THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REPORT IN 1988 RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL. IN MARCH 1992, THE RIVER TRADE CARGO ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORTED THAT THE NEED WAS BECOMING PRESSING.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT, IN APRIL 1992, CALLED FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN BUILDING AND OPERATING THE TERMINALS, SEVERAL PRIVATE COMPANIES RESPONDED.

THE MULTI-PURPOSE TERMINAL WILL ENABLE THE OPERATORS TO SORT, STORE AND CONSOLIDATE RIVER TRADE CARGO. THEY CAN THEN TRANSFER IT TO BIGGER VESSELS AND TRANSPORT IT TO CONTAINER TERMINALS OR OTHER PORT FACILITIES FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT.

THE LOCATION OF THE RTT MEANS THAT MOST RIVER VESSELS WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID THE BUSY MA WAN CHANNEL. THEY WILL ALSO AVOID OCEAN-GOING VESSELS USING KWAI CHUNG AND THE NEW LANTAU PORT.

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INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HELPS BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT ASSIST INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG TO STRIVE FOR GREATER PRODUCTIVITY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRODUCTIVITY SHOWCASE COCKTAIL RECEPTION ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (HKPC), MISS YUE SAID PRODUCTIVITY DIRECTLY DETERMINED THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN THE GLOBAL MARKET.

"IT IS THUS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IS CRUCIALLY DEPENDENT ON ITS ABILITY TO ACHIEVE CONTINUOUS PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT," SHE SAID.

MISS YUE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAD ACHIEVED FRUITFUL RESULTS IN ITS PURSUIT OF PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH.

"PER CAPITA PRODUCTIVITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GREW BY AN AVERAGE OF 10 PER CENT IN THE PERIOD OF 1986/92."

"PER CAPITA PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH LAST YEAR WAS EVEN HIGHER, REGISTERING SOME 12 PER CENT," SHE SAID.

"WITHOUT THIS SUSTAINED PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO PRODUCE, IN REAL TERMS, 25 PER CENT MORE THAN IT DID SEVEN YEARS AGO, BUT WITH ONLY THREE-FIFTHS OF THE LABOUR FORCE THEN," SHE ADDED.

MISS YUE CONGRATULATED THE HKPC FOR ORGANISING THE PRODUCTIVITY SHOWCASE WHICH FEATURED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST WINNERS OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY IN THE PRODUCTIVITY CATEGORY AND OF THE HKPC PRODUCTIVITY AWARD OR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH 1994

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BOTH RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS RECORDED NOTABLE GROWTH IN MARCH OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1993, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO BE SLACK.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS, AT \$71.1 BILLION IN MARCH, WAS \$7.7 BILLION OR 12% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY \$1.4 BILLION OR 8.2% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$15.9 BILLION IN MARCH.

/TAKING RE-EXPORTS .....

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TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$6.2 BILLION OR 7.7% TO \$87.1 BILLION IN MARCH. MEANWHILE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$9.4 BILLION OR 11% TO \$96.2 BILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN MARCH WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$9.2 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 9.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED. THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$6.0 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 7.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN MARCH 1993.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 8.6% OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR. AMONGST THIS, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 13%, WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY 8.1%.

SUPPORTED LARGELY BY THE CONTINUED EXPANSION IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 9.8%.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$13.9 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.4% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED. THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$10.1 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.4% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

COMMENTING ON THE TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PERFORMANCE OF RE-EXPORTS WAS STILL ROBUST, ALTHOUGH THE GROWTH RATE HAD MODERATED FROM LAST YEAR.

THE GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS TO SOME MARKETS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LESS RAPID LATELY. MEANWHILE, THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED SLUGGISH.

RETAINED IMPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 8.9% IN MARCH, AFTER A DROP OF 5.4% IN FEBRUARY. FOR THE FIRST QUARTER AS A WHOLE, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS WAS HIGHER BY 4.3% OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

REFLECTING THE CONTINUOUS STRUCTURAL SHIFT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE FURTHER TO 82% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, FROM 78% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-MAY.

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/PROVISIONAL FIGURES .....

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## PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH 1994

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$15,930 million
Re-exports :	\$71,120 million
Total Exports :	\$87,050 million
Imports :	\$96,238 million
Trade balance :	-\$9,188 million

## COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Jan 94 to	Jan 93 to	Change	
	Mar 94	Mar 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	44,744	48,709	-3,965	-8.1
(% of Total Exports)	(18.5%)	(21.9%)		
Re-exports	197,257	174,198	+23,059	+13.2
Total Exports	242,001	222,907	+19,093	+8.6
Imports	255,920	233,054	+22,866	+9.8
Trade balance	-13,919	-10,147	-3,772	

  

Same month last year	March	March	Change	
	1994	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	15,930	17,343	-1,414	-8.2
(% of Total Exports)	(18.3%)	(21.5%)		
Re-exports	71,120	63,469	+7,652	+12.1
Total Exports	87,050	80,812	+6,238	+7.7
Imports	96,238	86,855	+9,382	+10.8
Trade balance	-9,188	-6,043	-3,144	

  

Last month	March	February	Change	
	1994	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	15,930	13,474	+2,455	+18.2
(% of Total Exports)	(18.3%)	(18.5%)		
Re-exports	71,120	59,365	+11,755	+19.8
Total Exports	87,050	72,839	+14,211	+19.5
Imports	96,238	79,305	+16,933	+21.4
Trade balance	-9,188	-6,465	-2,722	

  

Last 12 months	Apr 93 to	Apr 92 to	Change	
	Mar 94	Mar 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	219,061	234,126	-15,065	-6.4
(% of Total Exports)	(20.6%)	(24.4%)		
Re-exports	846,282	725,416	+120,867	+16.7
Total Exports	1,065,344	959,542	+105,802	+11.0
Imports	1,095,463	990,393	+105,071	+10.6
Trade balance	-30,120	-30,851	+731	

28 April 1994  
CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

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## GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTRO-INTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- \* GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- \* GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- \* GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

/\* GRADE "4" .....

\* GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES, NAMELY ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF RECENT BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 28.4.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----	
BIG WAVE BAY	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2
DEEP WATER BAY	1
HAIRPIN	2
MIDDLE BAY	1
REPULSE BAY	1
SHEK O	2
SOUTH BAY	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1
TURTLE COVE	1
STANLEY MAIN	2
ROCKY BAY	X
TO TEI WAN*	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----	
OLD CAFETERIA	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3
CASTLE PEAK	X
KADOORIE	3
BUTTERFLY	2

SAI KUNG DISTRICT  
-----

CAMPERS	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1
HAP MUN BAY	1
KIU TSUI	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1
SILVERSTRAND	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT  
-----

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1
TONG FUK	1
LO SO SHING	1
PUI O	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1
TUNG O*	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT  
-----

ANGLERS'	X
APPROACH	3
CASAM	2
GEMINI	3
HOI MEI WAN	2
LIDO	2
TING KAU	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PRUPOSES.  
\* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

IN ADDITION TO THIS REGULAR REPORTING SYSTEM, AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUATLITY OF ALL THE BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED BY EPD AFTER EACH BATHING SEASON.

THIS WILL ADVISE THE BEACH MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES ON THE SUITABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL BEACHES FOR SWIMMING PRUPOSES.

THE LATEST ANNUAL REPORT ENTITLED "BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG, 1993" (ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS), FOR THE BATHING SEASON OF 1993, IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER DR MALCOLM BROOM ON TEL 835 1234.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING FOR P6 PUPILS

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PARENTS OF PRIMARY 6 PUPILS WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BE TOLD THE GROUPING OF THEIR CHILDREN IN TERMS OF THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN IN ENGLISH OR CHINESE.

THE INFORMATION WILL ENABLE PARENTS TO CHOOSE A SECONDARY SCHOOL WHICH OFFERS A SUITABLE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF 85,560 PRIMARY 6 PUPILS PARTICIPATING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SCHEME HAS BEEN ASSESSED UNDER THE 'MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING ASSESSMENT' (MIGA) EXERCISE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT MIGA IS ADOPTED TO GROUP SECONDARY 1 ENTRANTS BY REFERENCE TO A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN WHICH THEY CAN LEARN EFFECTIVELY."

THE GROUPING IS BASED ON THE SCHOOLS' INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS ON PUPILS AT THE END OF PRIMARY 5 AND DURING THE MID-YEAR OF PRIMARY 6, BOTH OF WHICH ARE SCALED BY THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST.

PUPILS IN GROUP I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE. PUPILS IN GROUP II SHOULD LEARN MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE CHINESE MEDIUM. THOSE IN GROUP III SHOULD LEARN BETTER THROUGH THE CHINESE MEDIUM BUT PROBABLY ALSO BE ABLE TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY IN ENGLISH.

THIS YEAR, AMONG THE 85,560 PRIMARY 6 PUPILS PARTICIPATING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SCHEME, A TOTAL OF 28,510 PUPILS (33.32 PER CENT) ARE IN GROUP I, WHILE 50,359 PUPILS (58.86 PER CENT) ARE IN GROUP II AND 6,407 PUPILS (7.49 PER CENT) IN GROUP III.

MIGA IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE NON-CHINESE SPEAKING PUPILS AND THE PUPILS WITH INCOMPLETE ASSESSMENTS. A TOTAL OF 284 PUPILS (0.33 PER CENT) BELONG TO THIS GROUP.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT INFORMATION ON MIGA FOR SECONDARY 1 ENTRANTS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS THROUGH THE PUPILS' PRIMARY SCHOOLS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A LEAFLET ON MIGA TOGETHER WITH A LEAFLET PROMOTING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE ISSUED TO PARENTS AT THE SAME TIME.

IN ADDITION, PARENTS WILL RECEIVE A SECONDARY SCHOOLS LIST SHOWING SCHOOLS' CHOICE OF TEACHING MEDIUM.

"THE INFORMATION WILL SERVE AS USEFUL REFERENCE FOR PARENTS IN CHOOSING A SECONDARY SCHOOL WHICH OFFERS A SUITABLE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THEIR CHILDREN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THE RESULTS OF MIGA SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON TEL 891 2200 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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#### BOE MEMBERS VISIT NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LED BY ITS NEW CHAIRMAN, DR TAM MAN-KWAN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), DAVID PUN, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT POKFULAM TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE FIVE MEMBERS WERE MR MICHAEL HONG MAN-HOI, MR HERMAN HU SHAO-MING, MRS GRACE HUI WONG KING-MAN, MRS MINNIE LAI WEI KIT-LIN AND MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK.

ON ARRIVAL, THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED BY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, MRS ALICE S K CHENG, BEFORE TOURING THE COLLEGE CAMPUS. MEMBERS VISITED THE LIBRARY, THE CANTEEN, THE STUDENT UNION ROOM, THE INDOOR GYMNASIUM, THE COMPUTER ROOMS AND THE VARIOUS TEACHING DEPARTMENTS.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THE COLLEGE OFFERS BOTH 3-YEAR AND 2-YEAR PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

TO ACQUAINT SERVING TEACHERS WITH MODERN TEACHING METHODS AND APPROACHES, THE COLLEGE ALSO OFFERS A PART-TIME REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE IN SECONDARY TEACHING AND A ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME ADVANCED COURSE OF TEACHER EDUCATION FOR NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS OF HOME MANAGEMENT AND DRESS DESIGN.

"ACCORDING TO A RECOMMENDATION BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 5, THE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE OTHER THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WILL BE UPGRADED AND MERGED TO FORM THE NEW HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) IN SEPTEMBER 1994," MRS CHENG SAID.

SHE ADDED: "IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE HKIED, WHEN IT STARTS OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER, WOULD PROVIDE SEPARATE TRAINING FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS SO AS TO ENABLE STUDENT-TEACHERS TO PREPARE IN DEPTH TO TEACH AT EITHER LEVEL."

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GOVERNOR RECEIVES CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES REPORT

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) HAD SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR THE 1995 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE BEC'S REPORT WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (MAY 4).

"THIS IS REQUIRED BY LAW AND WILL ENSURE TRANSPARENCY OF THE BOUNDARY DEMARCATION PROCESS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY ARE ABLE TO SEE THE BEC'S ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES ANY CHANGES TO THEM, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE BEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMENTS ON THEM.

THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES WILL THEN BE GAZETTED IN THE FORM OF ORDERS (SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION), WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY.

THE ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO COMPLETE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS RELATING TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES BY EARLY JULY THIS YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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BEC COMPLETES REPORT ON  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) TODAY (THURSDAY) SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DELINEATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IN RESPECT OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONTAINED IN A THREE-VOLUME REPORT.

VOLUME I IS THE REPORT PROPER WITH REASONS AND EXPLANATIONS AS TO HOW THE COMMISSION CARRIED OUT ITS DEMARCATION WORK AND HOW IT ARRIVED AT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

VOLUME II CONTAINS THE MAPS SHOWING THE RECOMMENDED DELINEATION OF CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES AND A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES.

VOLUME III COMPILES THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN MARCH.

A BEC SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMISSION RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 57 WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS AND HELD NINE MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO RECEIVE THEIR REPRESENTATIONS.

HE SAID THE REPORT WOULD BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE BEC CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, WILL HOST A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3.30 PM ON MAY 4 TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE REPORT.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BEC CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEDIA FOR ADVANCE READING STARTING 2.30 PM THAT DAY.

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UPGC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BEIJING VISIT

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A DELEGATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) HAS RETURNED TO HONG KONG AFTER A THREE-DAY VISIT TO BEIJING FROM APRIL 19 TO 21.

"THE BRIEF VISIT HAS ENABLED US TO UNDERSTAND BETTER CHINA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND POLICY, WHICH IS THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT," UPGC CHAIRMAN, MR ANTONY LEUNG, SAID.

"ON OUR ARRIVAL WE HAD A LENGTHY AND USEFUL MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE STATE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM A NUMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN BEIJING," HE ADDED.

THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON CURRENT EDUCATION POLICY AND PRACTICE IN CHINA, INCLUDING THE FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY, HE SAID.

THE DELEGATION VISITED THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, QINGHUA UNIVERSITY, BEIJING UNIVERSITY AND BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR STAFF, RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS.

DURING THE VISIT, THE DELEGATION MET VICE-PREMIER OF THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL, MR LI LANQING, AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN HONG KONG, CHINA AND INTERNATIONALLY.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS ALSO VISITED THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE AND HAD A BRIEF MEETING WITH ITS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR CHEN ZIYING.

/"DURING ALL .....

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"DURING ALL OF OUR MEETINGS, WE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UPGC IN HONG KONG'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE SHORT VISIT TO BEIJING HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AS THE DELEGATION HAD INITIATED A USEFUL DIALOGUE WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONS ON MANY EDUCATIONAL ISSUES AND HAD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CHINA.

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TWO MORE MONTHS TO COMMENT ON HIGHER EDUCATION REPORT

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THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR ITS INTERIM REPORT "HIGHER EDUCATION 1991 - 2001" WOULD BE EXTENDED FOR TWO MONTHS UNTIL END JULY.

IN MARCH 1994, THE UPGC PUBLISHED THE INTERIM REPORT AND A DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

COPIES OF THE INTERIM REPORT HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ALL LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, RELEVANT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND MANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES FOR THEIR INFORMATION AND COMMENT.

IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE TIME FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO STUDY AND COMMENT ON THE REPORT, THE UPGC AT ITS MEETING ON APRIL 17 AND 18 DECIDED THAT THE CONSULTATION PERIOD SHOULD BE EXTENDED FROM MAY 31 TO JULY 31.

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT SHOULD BE SENT TO THE UPGC SECRETARIAT AT SUITE 202, HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD.

ALL RELEVANT COMMENTS WILL BE STUDIED BY THE UPGC VERY CAREFULLY AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PREPARATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT IN 1995.

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GROUP SET UP TO MONITOR FIRE SERVICE

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THIRTY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO JOIN THE NEWLY FORMED FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC LIAISON GROUP, RECEIVED THEIR APPOINTMENT CERTIFICATES TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE APPOINTMENT CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP WAS TO FOSTER BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE DEPARTMENT WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICES.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH UNDERTAKES TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE FIRE-FIGHTING, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GROUP OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO ANNOUNCE ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE IN 1992.

"THE PLEDGE COVERS THE RESPONSE TO FIRE CALLS FOR BUILDINGS, EMERGENCY AMBULANCE CALLS AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT FIRE HAZARDS OR DANGEROUS GOODS," MR LAM SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT MET 88.8 PER CENT OF ALL FIRE CALLS FOR BUILDINGS WITHIN THE GRADED RESPONSE TIME LAST YEAR.

"WE ARE GOING TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE TARGET TO 90 PER CENT THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO OFFER HIGHER EFFICIENCY AND BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE THE PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF GROUP MEMBERS.

"I HOPE THAT BY OUR CONCERTED EFFORT, WE COULD ATTAIN HIGHER PERFECTION IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICES," HE ADDED.

THE CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP EARLIER THIS YEAR RECEIVED AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC. A TOTAL OF 101 APPLICATIONS WERE LODGED, WHICH WELL EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF SEATS OFFERED.

A RANDOM DRAW WAS CONDUCTED ON MARCH 17 TO SELECT 30 CANDIDATES - 10 EACH FROM THE HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES REGIONS.

THE GROUP HELD ITS FIRST MEETING THIS EVENING AFTER THE APPOINTMENT CEREMONY AND A TOUR OF TSIM TUNG FIRE STATION AND THE FIRE SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTRE.

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#### SUMMER HEALTH TIPS

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GOOD PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND SAFE FOOD ARE THE STRONGEST SHIELD TO GUARD AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR MAHOMMED ALI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DR ALI WAS APPEALING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST THE DISEASES WITH THE APPROACH OF THE SUMMER SEASON.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, VIRAL HEPATITIS A, DYSENTERY, TYPHOID AND FOOD POISONING LIKE THE RECENT OCCURRENCE OF BIOTOXIN CASES ARE COMMON IN THE SUMMER SEASON AS A RESULT OF EATING UNCLEAN OR DETERIORATED FOOD, OR DRINKING CONTAMINATED WATER.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO PATRONISE ILLEGAL HAWKERS AND UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES AS THEIR FOOD MAY BE UNCLEAN AND MAY POSE A SERIOUS RISK TO HEALTH," HE SAID.

/DR ALI .....

DR ALI SAID: "DO NOT BUY CUT FRUIT AS OPEN CUT FRUIT CAN EASILY GET CONTAMINATED.

"WHEN CONSUMING SEAFOOD, IN PARTICULAR THE BIVALVE SHELLFISH, PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID EATING THEIR INTERNAL ORGANS AND SHOULD NOT EAT TOO MUCH AT A TIME.

"WHEN THE TOXIC RED TIDE OCCURS, THEY SHOULD AVOID EATING BIVALVE SHELLFISH," DR ALI URGED.

HE ALSO ADVISED PEOPLE TRAVELLING TO TROPICAL COUNTRIES TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS IN CHOOSING THEIR FOODS AND DRINKS.

DR ALI CITED 10 POINTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE TO GUARD AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES:-

- \* MAINTAIN A CLEAN KITCHEN;
- \* CLEAN THE CHOPPING BLOCK AND KNIFE BEFORE USE, ESPECIALLY AFTER CUTTING RAW MEAT AND POULTRY;
- \* USE CLEAN COOKING UTENSILS;
- \* WASH HANDS AFTER VISITING THE TOILET AND BEFORE PREPARING AND EATING FOOD;
- \* STORE IN THE REFRIGERATOR PERISHABLE FOOD NOT MEANT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION;
- \* WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING;
- \* COOK FOOD, ESPECIALLY MEAT AND SHELLFISH, THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION;
- \* EAT HOT FOOD WHILE IT IS STILL HOT AND COLD FOOD WHILE IT IS COLD. DO NOT LEAVE IT EXPOSED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME;
- \* FOOD TO BE KEPT OVERNIGHT SHOULD BE PUT IN A REFRIGERATOR AND REHEATED THOROUGHLY BEFORE EATING; AND
- \* ALL GARBAGE AND WASTE PENDING DISPOSAL SHOULD BE STORED IN A COVERED CONTAINER.

DR ALI STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE POSITIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES THROUGH FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION GIVEN TO LICENSEES AND STAFF IN THE FOOD TRADE.

PUBLICITY WOULD ALSO BE STEPPED UP TO DISSEMINATE HEALTH MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC ON FOOD, PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, HE ADDED.

SEMINARS SPREAD MESSAGE ON SUMMER JOB TRAPS AND SAFETY

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MORE THAN 200 CAREERS TEACHERS RECEIVED INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON SUMMER JOB TRAPS AND SAFETY AT WORK AT TWO SEMINARS HELD THIS MONTH.

"WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE SEMINARS, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WERE SO WELL-RECEIVED," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MR RAYMOND CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"WE HOPE THAT THE TWO SEMINARS WOULD HELP TO EQUIP CAREERS TEACHERS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE MORE EFFECTIVELY AND WIDELY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE INTENDING TO TAKE UP JOBS DURING THE COMING SUMMER VACATION," HE ADDED.

ATTRACTING SOME 100 CAREERS TEACHERS, THE SECOND SEMINAR TOOK PLACE THIS MORNING AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

CAREERS TEACHERS WERE PROVIDED WITH AN INFORMATION KIT CONTAINING ADVICE ON POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT TRAPS AND WORK SAFETY, AS WELL AS THE CHANNELS FOR ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS.

A LABOUR OFFICER FROM THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, MR GEOFFREY WONG, GAVE A TALK ON POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT TRAPS IN VARIOUS TRADES, THE DIFFERENT FACTORS STUDENTS HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE CHOOSING SUITABLE JOBS AND THE PROPER FORM OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

DURING THE SEMINAR, A FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHU CHUN-WAH, ALSO GAVE A TALK ON WORK SAFETY, WITH EMPHASIS ON WORK ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND RESTAURANTS, AND JOBS THAT REQUIRED THE HANDLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND HEAVY MACHINERY.

MR CHU POINTED OUT THAT CONSTRUCTION SITES INVOLVED A GREAT VARIETY OF DANGEROUS WORK PROCESSES AND THUS WERE NOT SUITABLE FOR YOUNG PERSONS WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

"IN FACT, THE LEGISLATION PROHIBITING UNTRAINED YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 FROM WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION SITES HAD BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEEK," HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, THE CHIEF COMPLAINT AND ADVICE OFFICER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MR CHAN WING-KAI, AND A CHIEF POLICE INSPECTOR FROM THE POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, MR TAM PING-WAH, GAVE THEIR VIEWS AND ADVICE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,643	0930	+104
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,647	1000	+104
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+44
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+44	1200	+44
LAF TODAY	+960	1500	+44
		1600	+44

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 124.7 \*-0.1\* 28.4.94

/HONG KONG .....

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.72	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.35	5.33
1 MONTH	3.19	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.16	5.56
3 MONTHS	3.77	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.97	6.05
6 MONTHS	4.25	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	96.30	6.17
12 MONTHS	4.80	36 MONTHS	3704	6.15	99.91	6.28

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,579 MN

CLOSED 28 APRIL 1994

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