



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1993

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL	1
BLD INTRODUCES MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC AGAINST DANGEROUS BUILDINGS	2
WAGE INDICES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992	3
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST TEXTILES ORIGIN ABUSES	7
STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, ON CATHAY PACIFIC STRIKE	7
REORGANISATION OF REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT	8
NEW YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER APPOINTED	9
LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY	10
FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	11

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1993

- 1 -

BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL

* * * * *

AN INDEPENDENT THREE-MEMBER COMMISSION WILL BE SET UP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES AND OVERSEE THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE THIS FRIDAY, SETS OUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION, ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND THE CRITERIA WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS TO FOLLOW IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS COMMISSION, WHICH WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN MAIN CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS AS WELL AS IN THE MAKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ALL MEMBERS ARE TO BE POLITICALLY NEUTRAL PERSONS AND APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, ONE OF WHOM WILL BE NOMINATED BY THE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. TO ENHANCE THE NEUTRALITY OF THE COMMISSION, THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE A HIGH COURT JUDGE." HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES WILL HAVE REGARD TO PRESENTATION FROM THE PUBLIC.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THEY ARE REPORTED TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ALSO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SCRUTINISE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION ON THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL'S DECISION RELATING TO CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE GIVEN STATUTORY POWERS TO MAKE REGULATIONS RELATING TO ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES, AND TO APPOINT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR CONDUCTING THE ELECTIONS.

THE COMMISSION WILL PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS THROUGH A CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND SERVICED BY THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, WHICH WILL BE STRENGTHENED FOR THE PURPOSE.

BOTH THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE WILL REMAIN WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW STATUTORY CRITERIA IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES.

/ONE OF

- 2 -

ONE OF THE CRITERIA IS THAT AS FAR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THE POPULATION IN EACH CONSTITUENCY SHOULD NOT DIFFER FROM THE AVERAGE POPULATION PER CONSTITUENCY BY MORE THAN 25%.

"THE COMMISSION IS REQUIRED TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATIONS TO COMMUNITY IDENTITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENCIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE NEXT ROUND OF DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BEFORE THE END OF 1993, WHILE THOSE CONCERNING THE 1995 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER 1994.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BLD INTRODUCES MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC
AGAINST DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

* * * * *

FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT 28-30 WING ON STREET, CENTRAL, ON OCTOBER 18 LAST YEAR, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED SEVERAL MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.

THE MEASURES, CONTAINED IN A REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, ARE:

- * DEMOLITION TO BE ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY AND TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY;
- * ADVICE TO BE GIVEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED REGARDING THE NEED FOR PRECAUTIONARY AND PREPARATORY WORK;
- * INSTRUCTIONS TO BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE'S TERM CONTRACTOR TO BE SPECIFIC IN RESPECT OF THE DATES FOR COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF DEMOLITION WORKS;
- * BUILDINGS CLOSED UNDER CLOSURE ORDERS TO BE KEPT UNDER INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE;
- * TIMELY CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE EFFECTS OF WORKS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE VICINITY OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS; AND
- * IN ENFORCING BUILDING SAFETY, GREATER EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON THE BUILDING OWNERS' STATUTORY DUTIES AND LEGAL LIABILITY.

/AT THE

AT THE TIME OF THE COLLAPSE, THE BUILDINGS HAD BEEN DECLARED DANGEROUS AND CLOSED UNDER A CLOSURE ORDER.

THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) TEAM INVESTIGATING THE COLLAPSE HAD IDENTIFIED AND ANALYSED THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- * POOR STANDARD OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION;
- * AGEING AND DETERIORATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF CONSTRUCTION;
- * THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 32, WING ON STREET;
- * THE FIRE ON JUNE 26, 1991;
- * DISTURBANCE CAUSED BY CLOSURE OF THE BUILDINGS;
- * DISTURBANCE CAUSED BY THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE DEMOLITION;
- * MOVEMENT OF FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS;
- * VIBRATION FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN THE AREA; AND
- * REMOVAL OF SOME FLOOR JOISTS BY DEMOLITION WORKMEN.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, NO DEFINITIVE CAUSE OF COLLAPSE CAN BE ESTABLISHED.

THE BOO IS, HOWEVER, OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ONE FACTOR ALONE COULD HAVE CAUSED THE COLLAPSE THOUGH SOME OF THE IDENTIFIED FACTORS DID HAVE THE EFFECT OF WEAKENING THE BUILDINGS IN VARYING DEGREE.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE COLLAPSE "MAY BE EQUATED TO A VERY OLD PERSON SUFFERING FROM A MULTITUDE OF DISEASES PASSING AWAY".

- - - - 0 - - - -

WAGE INDICES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992

* * * * *

THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 WAS 10.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1991, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INFLATION, THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 SHOWED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.3 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1991.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1992 WITH MARCH 1992, THE OVERALL WAGE INDEX SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 5.3 PER CENT IN NOMINAL TERMS. AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

/ANALYSED BY

ANALYSED BY INDIVIDUAL SECTORS, THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX IN PERSONAL SERVICES SHOWED THE FASTEST YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE (12.2%), FOLLOWED BY TRANSPORT SERVICES (12.1%), MANUFACTURING (10.3%), BUSINESS SERVICES (9.8%), AND WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (8.9%).

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON COULD BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE LARGEST INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE TRANSPORT SERVICES (8.7%), FOLLOWED BY MANUFACTURING (5.9%), PERSONAL SERVICES (4.0%), WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (2.9%), AND BUSINESS SERVICES (1.7%).

THE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDICES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1991 TO SEPTEMBER 1992 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 RESPECTIVELY. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THE WAGE INDICES ARE DERIVED FROM THE RESULTS OF THE HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING EMPLOYEES AT ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN FIVE MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDICES IS MARCH 1982.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDICES AND THE INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO WAGES WHICH INCLUDE ALL THE REGULAR PAYMENTS, PAYROLL ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCE.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ON HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOLUME I, SEPTEMBER 1992 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT \$10 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WANCHAI, HONG KONG.

VOLUME II OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN MID-FEBRUARY 1993.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4744 OR 582 5595.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDICES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	% CHANGE		INDICES (MARCH 1982 = 100)		
	SEP. 1991	MAR. 1992	% CHANGE SEP. 1992	SEP. 1992/ MAR. 1992	SEP. 1992/ SEP. 1991
MANUFACTURING	223.9	233.1	246.9	+5.9	+10.3
WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	221.7	234.7	241.5	+2.9	+8.9
TRANSPORT SERVICES	288.2	297.1	323.0	+8.7	+12.1
BUSINESS SERVICES	280.2	302.5	307.7	+1.7	+9.8
PERSONAL SERVICES	255.4	275.5	286.6	+4.0	+12.2
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	232.5	243.3	256.1	+5.3	+10.2

TABLE 2: REAL WAGE INDICES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	% CHANGE		INDICES (MARCH 1982 = 100)		
	SEP. 1991	MAR. 1992	% CHANGE SEP. 1992	SEP. 1992/ MAR. 1992	SEP. 1992/ SEP. 1991
MANUFACTURING	110.0	109.1	110.4	+1.2	+0.4
WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	108.9	109.9	108.0	-1.7	-0.8
TRANSPORT SERVICES	141.6	139.1	144.4	+3.8	+2.0
BUSINESS SERVICES	137.6	141.6	137.6	-2.8	0
PERSONAL SERVICES	125.4	129.0	128.1	-0.7	+2.2
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	114.2	113.9	114.5	+0.5	+0.3

TABLE 3: NOMINAL WAGE INDICES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE

 MANUFACTURING SECTOR

SELECTED MAJOR INDUSTRIES	INDICES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	SEP. 1991	MAR. 1992	SEP. 1992	% CHANGE SEP. 1992/ MAR. 1992	% CHANGE SEP. 1992/ SEP. 1991
GARMENTS	186.6	189.9	201.1	+5.9	+7.8
GLOVES	224.8	226.3	230.5	+1.9	+2.5
HANDBAGS	221.4	237.7	252.3	+6.1	+14.0
COTTON SPINNING/ WEAVING	238.3	256.5	260.6	+1.6	+9.4
KNITTING	197.6	205.8	216.5	+5.2	+9.6
BLEACHING AND DYEING	242.6	254.3	272.9	+7.3	+12.5
PRINTING	298.9	313.6	338.8	+8.0	+13.3
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	218.7	226.4	241.9	+6.8	+10.6
METAL PRODUCTS	233.1	242.0	258.3	+6.7	+10.8
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	276.4	283.9	299.3	+5.4	+8.3
ELECTRONICS	278.9	296.7	317.3	+6.9	+13.8
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	259.5	270.6	286.9	+6.0	+10.6
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
MANUFACTURING SECTOR	223.9	233.1	246.9	+5.9	+10.3

- 7 -

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST TEXTILES ORIGIN ABUSES

* * * * *

MANUFACTURERS, CONTRACTORS AND QUOTA SUPPLIERS IN THE TEXTILES TRADE ARE ADVISED TO TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE TEXTILE PRODUCTS EXPORTED OR TO BE EXPORTED TO RESTRAINED MARKETS UNDER HONG KONG QUOTAS ARE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY), REMINDS THE TEXTILES TRADE THAT THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE INFRINGEMENT OF TEXTILES ORIGIN RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WILL BE IMPOSED ON OFFENDERS.

"HONG KONG TAKES ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SERIOUSLY. ON TEXTILES TRADE, HONG KONG HAS PUT IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF CONTROL.

"THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, IN THE FORM OF FORFEITURE OF QUOTA OR WHERE NECESSARY DENIAL OF LICENSING FACILITIES, AGAINST CONTRACTORS, MANUFACTURERS AND EVEN QUOTA SUPPLIERS SHOULD CASES OF TEXTILES ORIGIN ABUSE ARE FOUNDED," A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 100 ADMINISTRATIVE CASES WERE INITIATED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER REMINDS TRADERS THAT PROSECUTION UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE MAY BE TAKEN IN CASES OF INFRINGEMENT OF TEXTILE ORIGIN RULES APART FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OFFENDERS UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE IS A FINE OF \$500,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE JUDICIAL GUIDELINE FOR PENALTY ISSUED BY THE HIGH COURT IS 40 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE GOODS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK,
ON CATHAY PACIFIC STRIKE

* * * * *

IN A LABOUR DISPUTE INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STAY NEUTRAL AND LET THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PERFORM ITS CONCILIATOR ROLE.

THIS IS AN ESTABLISHED POLICY BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE.

IN THE CATHAY PACIFIC DISPUTE THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HAS BEEN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ACTIVELY ASSISTING THE TWO PARTIES TO REACH A SETTLEMENT.

/IN FACT,

IN FACT, LONG BEFORE THE STRIKE BEGAN WE WERE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH BOTH PARTIES AND GAVE THEM ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE WHERE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE.

SINCE THE STRIKE BEGAN WE HAVE CONDUCTED MANY CONCILIATION MEETINGS AND CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS RESOLVING THE DISPUTE.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT.

WHILE CONCILIATION IS IN PROGRESS THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THE PRESENT LABOUR LAW ON SETTLEMENT OF TRADE DISPUTES ADEQUATE.

HOWEVER, IT IS THE POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO REGULARLY REVIEW ALL LABOUR LAWS IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REORGANISATION OF REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

* * * * *

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IS UNDERGOING ITS FINAL PHASE OF REORGANISATION TO IMPROVE SERVICES.

UNTIL RECENTLY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, THROUGH HIS DEPARTMENT, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A VERY WIDE RANGE OF STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY ACTIVITIES.

THESE INCLUDED:

- * AS LAND OFFICER LAND REGISTRATION UNDER THE LAND REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (CAP 128) AND A LEGAL ADVISORY AND CONVEYANCING SERVICE FOR GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS (THE LAND OFFICE);
- * AS REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CAP 32) (THE COMPANIES REGISTRY);
- * AS REGISTRAR OF MONEY LENDERS A REGISTRATION SERVICE UNDER THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE (CAP 163) (THE MONEY LENDERS REGISTRY);
- * AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER PROVIDING AN INSOLVENCY SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE (CAP 6) AND THE WINDING-UP PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE);
- * AS REGISTRAR OF TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS PROVIDING AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION SERVICE UNDER THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE (CAP 43) AND THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS ORDINANCE (CAP 42) (TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES);

* AS INSURANCE AUTHORITY THE REGULATION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CAP 41) (THE INSURANCE DIVISION) AS WELL AS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR (SUPREME COURT RULES) AND THE OFFICIAL AND JUDICIAL TRUSTEE UNDER THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE (CAP 29).

OVER THE PAST YEARS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RGD STEADILY EXPANDED IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

RECENT REVIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANCY, CONCLUDED THAT THESE ACTIVITIES WERE DIVERSE AND UNRELATED, THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND EFFICIENTLY TO RAPID CHANGES IN DEMAND FOR SERVICES BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND SHOULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED BY ONE SINGLE DEPARTMENT.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEWS, THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED THAT THE RGD SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED INTO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS.

IN JUNE 1990, A NEW OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE WAS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO REPLACE THE FORMER INSURANCE DIVISION IN RGD.

IN JULY 1990, THE TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES WERE ESTABLISHED AS A NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT UNDER THE POLICY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND IN AUGUST 1991 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AS THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR, OFFICIAL TRUSTEE, AND JUDICIAL TRUSTEE WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID.

IN JUNE 1992 THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER' OFFICE OF THE RGD WAS ESTABLISHED AS THE NEW OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE UNDER THE POLICY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS WHILE IN DECEMBER 1992 THE LEGAL ADVISORY AND CONVEYANCING SECTION OF THE LAND OFFICE WAS MERGED WITH THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE FINAL PHASE OF THE RE-ORGANISATION OF RGD WILL BE THE ESTABLISHMENT, PROBABLY IN APRIL 1993, OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY AND THE REGISTRATION SECTION OF THE LAND OFFICE RESPECTIVELY AS A SEPARATE COMPANIES REGISTRY AND LAND REGISTRY AND THE CHANGE FROM VOTE FUNDING OF THE NEW REGISTRIES TO TRADING FUNDING LATER IN THE YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER APPOINTED

* * * * *

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ECONOMIC SERVICES) OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, MR ROBIN MCLEISH, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DISTRICT OFFICER OF YUEN LONG, TO SUCCEED MR ROBIN IP.

HIS APPOINTMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MR MCLEISH HAS BEEN WITH THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH SINCE JULY 1986.

/HE JOINED

- 10 -

HE JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1984, AND SERVED IN THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AFTER A ONE-MONTH ATTACHMENT TO THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE.

MR MCLEISH SPEAKS CANTONESE FLUENTLY AFTER TAKING TWO TRAINING COURSES DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

* * * * *

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS:

- * FRIDAY (JANUARY 22): VIEWING CROWD CONTROL/SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VICTORIA PARK FLOWER BAZAAR.
- * SUNDAY (JANUARY 24): VIEWING CROWD CONTROL/SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TSIM SHA TSUI WATERFRONT DURING FIREWORKS DISPLAY.
- * STUDYING BACKGROUND MATERIAL GENERALLY.

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 26) UP TO 4.30 PM:

- * LIAISING WITH FIRE SERVICES, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE.
- * CORRESPONDENCE.

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 27) UP TO 4.30 PM:

- * STUDYING MATERIAL RECEIVED TODAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE POLICE AND THE MTRC'S CROWD CONTROL CONSULTANT.
- * IDENTIFYING PARTICULAR MATTERS TO BE EXPLORED DURING NEXT WEEK'S OPEN SESSIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY

* * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 29) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1993

- 11 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.30 *+0.3* 27.1.1993

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS				HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS		
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.53 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.64	3.94
1 MONTH	2.71 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.65	4.23
3 MONTHS	2.87 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.80	4.56
6 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.79	4.80
12 MONTHS	3.89 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 21,338MN

CLOSED 27 JANUARY 1993

- - - - 0 - - - -