



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1993

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RULE OF LAW A FOUNDATION OF HONG KONG LIFE

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MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT THE LIFE WHICH THEY'VE CREATED FOR THEMSELVES TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AND THEY KNOW THAT ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF THAT SOCIETY IS THE RULE OF LAW, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN KOWLOON, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "THEY WANT OUR FREE AND OPEN AND PROSPEROUS AND STABLE SOCIETY TO CONTINUE.

"THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN HAVING QUITE A LONG DISCUSSION WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES ABOUT HOW TO SAFEGUARD THE RULE OF LAW BY ENSURING THAT WE HAVE HERE IN HONG KONG ELECTIONS WHICH ARE FAIR AND ELECTIONS WHICH GIVE PEOPLE A GENUINE CHOICE, ELECTIONS WHICH AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, CAN'T BE MANIPULATED.

"THAT WAS VERY CLEAR THAT AFTER THE FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED IN THE HOUSE OF THE COMMONS, ALL THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO SPOKE FROM EVERY POLITICAL PARTY RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM OF WESTMINSTER SUPPORTED THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE BEEN TAKING, NOT FOR A GREAT DASH FORWARD FOR MORE DEMOCRACY, THOUGH SOME PEOPLE THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING THAT, BUT TO SECURE FAIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR ELECTIONS HERE IN HONG KONG."

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE TALKS LONGER CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING AND THE BRITISH TEAM WOULD NEVER BE IN A POSITION OF WALKING AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

ON THE QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER 1997, MR PATTEN SAID:"I'M SURE THAT THE PROPOSALS THAT EMERGED FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY, WHICH IS A CREDIBLE INSTITUTION, WILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IF THOSE PROPOSALS EMERGED WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WILL MEAN THAT THEY WOULD NECESSARILY BE OVERTURNED IN 1997, BECAUSE I'M SURE THAT WE'LL PRODUCE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS VERY BROADLY BALANCED."

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BRITISH FULLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUING TALKS

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THE BRITISH TEAM IS SINCERE AND REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE WITH THE CHINESE IN AN EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER THE 1993 CIVIL SERVICE WALK FOR CHARITY AWARDS PRESENTATION, MRS CHAN SAID : "INDEED, WE HAVE PROPOSED AN 18TH ROUND AND WE AWAIT A RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE."

ON THE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED THIS WEEK, MRS CHAN SAID THEY HAD BEEN FORMULATED IN HONG KONG AND HAD RECEIVED WARM SUPPORT AT ALL LEVELS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

/ "THEY HAVE

"THEY HAVE BEEN DEBATED TWICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND, AS YOU KNOW, ON BOTH OCCASIONS, THEY RECEIVED MAJORITY SUPPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS," SHE SAID.

"THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF HAS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WILL GO NO FURTHER BUT NO LESS FAR THAN WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISH HIM TO."

MRS CHAN ALSO SAID SHE VERY MUCH WELCOMED DIRECTOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY HONG KONG BRANCH MR ZHOU NAN'S POSITIVE ASSURANCE ABOUT A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR HONG KONG AND MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

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GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING FUNG TAK ESTATE

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GOVERNOR: GOOD AFTERNOON. I'VE VERY MUCH ENJOYED ANOTHER AFTERNOON LOOKING AT OUR HOUSING IN HONG KONG. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY'S GOT ANY DOUBT AT ALL THAT HOUSING IS PROBABLY THE SOCIAL ISSUE THAT MOST CONCERNS PEOPLE AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S HOUSING. BUT THERE IS, OF COURSE, STILL SOME WAY TO GO. THE FIRST ESTATE I SAW THIS AFTERNOON WILL IN DUE COURSE BE REDEVELOPED. THE ESTATE WE'VE BEEN IN IS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, ROSANNA AND HER PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES ARE ABLE TO DO. I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, AS YOU KNOW, ABOUT HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND I WAS THEREFORE PLEASED TO SEE SOME OF THE PROVISION THAT IS BEING MADE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE ON THIS ESTATE, PARTICULARLY THE SHELTERED SCHEME THAT WE'VE SEEN AND I KNOW THAT ROSANNA AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ARE CONCERNED TO PROVIDE A LOT MORE HOUSING FOR OLD PEOPLE. TWO THINGS ALWAYS STRIKE ME WHEN I COME ON THESE VISITS TO HOUSING ESTATES. THE FIRST IS THE TERRIFICALLY WARM WELCOME THAT I GET AND I THINK THAT IS TYPICAL OF HONG KONG WHICH IS A VERY WARM-HEARTED COMMUNITY. SECOND, I THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT WHAT MOST PEOPLE, MOST FAMILIES WANT IS VERY SIMPLE. THEY WANT THE LIFE WHICH THEY'VE CREATED FOR THEMSELVES IN HONG KONG TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE. THEY WANT OUR FREE AND OPEN AND PROSPEROUS AND STABLE SOCIETY TO CONTINUE AND I THINK THEY KNOW THAT ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF THAT SOCIETY IS THE RULE OF LAW. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN HAVING QUITE A LONG DISCUSSION WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES ABOUT HOW TO SAFEGUARD THE RULE OF LAW BY ENSURING THAT WE HAVE HERE IN HONG KONG ELECTIONS WHICH ARE FAIR AND ELECTIONS WHICH GIVE PEOPLE A GENUINE CHOICE, ELECTIONS WHICH AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, CAN'T BE MANIPULATED. THAT WAS VERY CLEAR THAT AFTER THE FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED IN THE HOUSE OF THE COMMONS, ALL THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO SPOKE FROM EVERY POLITICAL PARTY RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM OF WESTMINSTER SUPPORTED THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE BEEN TAKING, NOT FOR A GREAT DASH FORWARD FOR MORE DEMOCRACY, THOUGH SOME PEOPLE THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING THAT, BUT TO SECURE FAIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR ELECTIONS HERE IN HONG KONG. SO, IT'S ONCE AGAIN BEEN VERY USEFUL FOR ME TO BE OUT LOOKING AT OUR HOUSING PROBLEMS AND I'LL BE DOING THIS WITH CONTINUING REGULARITY OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE SIDE.....THE 18TH ROUND OF THE TALKS?

/GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE AN 18TH ROUND OF THE TALKS. AS WE'VE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE MAIN REASON FOR THE DECISION THAT WE TOOK TO INTRODUCE A BILL DEALING WITH WHAT I THINK ARE GENERALLY RECOGNISED AS THE SIMPLE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD ISSUES WAS SO THAT WE HAVE MORE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, THE ELECTION COMMITTEE, THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE THROUGH-TRAIN. UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS, WE HAVEN'T EVEN REACHED AGREEMENT ON VERY MUCH AT ALL, ALMOST WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VOTING AGE. BUT, NEVERTHELESS, WE WANT TO GIVE TALKS LONGER CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING AND WE WILL NEVER BE IN A POSITION OF WALKING AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. IT WAS OUR IDEA THAT WE SHOULD HAVE TALKS. WE PRESSED FOR TALKS FROM OCTOBER 1992 AND I STILL LIKE TO SEE TALKS LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT BUT NOT, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, AT ANY PRICE.

QUESTION: BUT DO YOU ADMIT THAT THE LONG PERIOD OF SILENCE FROM CHINA IS A BAD SIGN FOR HOPES OF ROUND 18?

GOVERNOR: THERE IS AN EXPRESSION WHILE THERE'S LIFE THERE'S HOPE, AND I'LL GO ON HOPING. BUT YOU HAVE TO BE REALISTIC AS WELL, WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO ARRANGE THE ELECTIONS. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY'S UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS THAT THE TIME PRESSURES ON US ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE INTENSE. WE DON'T MAKE IT UP. YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL KNOWS IT'S TRUE. SO WE HAVE TO CARRY ON WITH OUR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT WE'RE ALWAYS THERE, ALWAYS PREPARED TO TALK, ALWAYS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE. DURING THE TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS, WE OFFERED A NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS CONDITIONALLY. UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T THINK ANYBODY FEELS THAT WAS RECIPROCATED WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.

QUESTION: THE PWC IS GOING TO FIND ITS OWN WAY IN FORMING THE FIRST LEGCO AFTER 1997. HOW CAN PEOPLE HERE BE ASSURED OF THE CREDITABILITY OF THEIR LEGCO IF THE CHANCES ARE IT WON'T LAST BEYOND THE CHINESE TAKEOVER?

GOVERNOR: I'M SURE THAT THE PROPOSALS THAT EMERGED FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY, WHICH IS A CREDIBLE INSTITUTION, WILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IF THOSE PROPOSALS EMERGED WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WILL MEAN THAT THEY WOULD NECESSARILY BE OVERTURNED IN 1997, BECAUSE I'M SURE THAT WE'LL PRODUCE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS VERY BROADLY BALANCED. I THINK THAT IT IS VERY ODD FOR SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS TO SAY WE SHOULD DISMISS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HERE, THAT WE SHOULDN'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF IT EVEN THOUGH IT IS A CREDIBLE INSTITUTION WHICH HAS BEEN VOTED FOR BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND YET ON THE OTHER SIDE, THEY SAY THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE PWC WHICH I DON'T THINK ANYBODY BELIEVES HAS THE SAME CREDIBILITY AS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. BUT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THESE THINGS AMICABLY. AND THAT IS, I THINK, WHAT EVERYBODY HERE WANTS TO SEE AS WELL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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GOVERNOR SEES ESTATE LIFE

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAW FOR HIMSELF THE DAILY LIFE OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS DURING A VISIT TO LOWER NGAU TAU KOK AND FUNG TAK ESTATES TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHAIRMAN OF HOUSING AUTHORITY, MS ROSANNA WONG, AND DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FUNG TUNG.

MR PATTEN WAS INFORMED THAT LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE 28,000 PERSONS LIVING IN THE MARK IV AND V BLOCKS OF LOWER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED AFTER COMPLETION OF A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THE MAJOR WORKS WERE REDECORATION OF THE BLOCKS AND CONVERSION OF THREE CLEARED HAWKER SITES INTO REST GARDENS, PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKING SPACES.

MR PATTEN FIRST VISITED A FAMILY OF SIX LIVING IN A 24-SQUARE-METRE FLAT AT BLOCK 8. HE BROUGHT ALONG A TEDDY BEAR FOR THEM.

HE WAS SERVED WITH A CUP OF CHIU CHOW TEA IN TRADITIONAL STYLE AND SHARED A FEW WORDS WITH THE FAMILY DURING TEA TIME.

HE WENT ON TO MEET THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OF BLOCK 8 AND LEARNED THAT THEY WERE ACTIVE IN ORGANISING AND PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS CHARITY GALAS AND FESTIVE EVENTS.

DURING THE TOUR ROUND THE ESTATE, MR PATTEN SAW ELDERLY PEOPLE RELAX AT A REST GARDEN AND HOUSEWIVES BUY FOOD AND DAILY NECESSITIES FROM SOME OF THE 500 GRADED SHOPS.

MR PATTEN THEN DEPARTED FOR A RELATIVELY NEW ESTATE IN WONG TAI SIN - FUNG TAK ESTATE - COMPLETED TWO YEARS AGO.

ON ARRIVAL, HE VISITED 130 ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING IN SHELTERED HOUSING AT TOI FUNG HOUSE AND WAS SHOWN AROUND THE COMMON ROOM WHERE THEY WERE WATCHING TELEVISION.

HE WAS THEN BRIEFED ON THE DESIGN OF HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY TO BE BUILT IN URBAN AREA IN RESPONSE TO HIS RECENT POLICY ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE ALSO SAW THE PARTITIONED FLATS, EACH COMPRISING A LIVING ROOM, A KITCHEN, A BATHROOM AND TWO OR THREE BEDROOMS.

HE NOTED THAT THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WERE BEING LOOKED AFTER BY AN ESTATE LIAISON OFFICER OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND EACH FLAT WAS INSTALLED WITH AN EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEM TO ENABLE THEM TO SEEK HELP IN AN EMERGENCY.

ON HIS WAY TO THE COMMERCIAL AREA, MR PATTEN PASSED THROUGH A COVERED PLAY AREA WHERE CHILDREN WERE PLAYING BADMINTON.

/HE LEARNED

HE LEARNED THAT THE ESTATE ALSO PROVIDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUCH AS COURTS FOR PLAYING SQUASH, TABLE-TENNIS, BASKETBALL, MINI-SOCCER AND VOLLEY BALL, A SKATING RINK AND FOUR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.

TOURING THE MODERNISED AND SELF-CONTAINED FUNG TAK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, MR PATTEN NOTED THE CONVENIENT SHOPPING FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE 21,000 RESIDENTS OF THE ESTATE AND A NEARBY HOME OWNERSHIP COURT.

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INJECTION OF ADDITIONAL LIQUIDITY INTO BANKING SYSTEM

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THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) HAS INJECTED ADDITIONAL LIQUIDITY INTO THE BANKING SYSTEM.

THE BALANCE OF HONGKONGBANK'S ACCOUNT MAINTAINED WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND WAS INCREASED FROM \$3 BILLION TO \$4 BILLION THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR HKMA SAID THE ADDITIONAL LIQUIDITY WAS INJECTED IN ORDER TO RELIEVE THE TIGHTNESS OF THE INTERBANK MARKET.

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INTERBANK LIQUIDITY TIGHT IN LAST FEW DAYS

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INTERBANK LIQUIDITY IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN TIGHT, MAINLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY INVESTOR INTEREST IN NEW SHARE ISSUES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THE TIGHTNESS WAS DUE PARTLY TO THE PROCESS OF RECYCLING OF FUNDS TIED UP.

TO RELIEVE THE TIGHTNESS IN THE INTERBANK LIQUIDITY, THE HKMA INJECTED \$1 BILLION INTO THE MARKET EARLY TODAY.

THE HEAVY SUBSCRIPTION TODAY RESULTED IN THE HKMA ALSO LENDING OVER \$14 BILLION THROUGH THE LIQUIDITY ADJUSTMENT FACILITY (LAF) TO BANKS SHORT OF MONEY AND TAKING \$18 BILLION FROM BANKS FINDING THEMSELVES WITH SURPLUS FUNDS LATE IN THE DAY.

"THE LAF OPERATED BY THE HKMA ONCE AGAIN PERFORMED EXACTLY AS DESIGNED TO ASSIST BANKS TO MAKE LATE ADJUSTMENTS TO THEIR LIQUIDITY POSITIONS, AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE MONEY MARKET," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE INTERBANK MARKET WAS TIGHT THROUGHOUT THE DAY, OVERNIGHT HONG KONG INTERBANK OFFER RATE CLOSED AT 3.5 PER CENT TO 4 PER CENT, WHICH IS BELOW THE OFFER RATE OF LAF.

THESE OPERATIONS ENABLED THE EXCHANGE RATE TO REMAIN STABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

"THE BANKS OBVIOUSLY HAD DIFFICULTY TODAY IN POSITIONING THEIR LIQUIDITY IN FUNDING THE NEW SHARE ISSUE.

"THE HKMA WILL BE REVIEWING THE MATTER WITH THE BANKS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

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A GREEN CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS THROWING OUT A CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT A SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVING HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

LAUNCHING THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW(*), CALLED "A GREEN CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY", MR EASON SAID:

"WE IN GOVERNMENT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES IN PROGRESS AND EVEN MORE ARE PLANNED. THEY ARE SET OUT IN THE REVIEW, WHICH IS PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A CLEAR AND COLOURFUL WAY, WITH COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT."

BUT GOVERNMENT ACTION IS NOT ENOUGH, HE SAID, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PUBLIC ACTION ARE ALSO NEEDED.

"WE HOPE THIS REVIEW WILL STIMULATE INTEREST, SPARK DEBATE, AND GENERATE POSITIVE ACTION BY INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE, BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, AND BY BUSINESS, WORKING WITH US IN GOVERNMENT."

IN A PREFACE TO THE REVIEW, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAYS:

"ONE THEME RUNS THROUGH ALL THE REVIEW'S PAGES: THE THEME OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"WE ARE ALL - GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS - RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. OUR ACTIONS AND CHOICES HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES. WE HAVE TO LEARN, ALL OF US, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN ALL WE DO. THAT APPLIES AS MUCH TO THE INDIVIDUAL SUPERMARKET SHOPPER AS TO THE MIGHTIEST BUSINESS."

MR PATTEN'S MESSAGE IS THAT WHILE A START HAS BEEN MADE, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE:

"WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE IN HONG KONG. UNLIKE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, HERE WE ACTUALLY HAVE AN ECONOMY WHICH IS GENERATING THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO FUND SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION."

MR EASON SAID THE REVIEW: EXAMINED PROGRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME; SET DOWN THE BASIS FOR FUTURE ACTION; EXPLAINED NEW INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING A LEAD BY INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, BY PROVIDING INCREASED FUNDS, AND BY SETTING AN EXAMPLE IN ITS OWN OPERATIONS.

"BUT THIS WILL BE OF LITTLE BENEFIT ON ITS OWN. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS URGENTLY NEEDED. PEOPLE MUST CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND BE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT," HE SAID.

THE REVIEW THEREFORE SETS DOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME 10 FOUNDATION STONES TO GUIDE COMMUNITY ACTION.

THESE INCLUDE: ACCEPTING STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS; SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS; APPLYING THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE; AND WIDENING DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES IN RECENT YEARS SO THAT IT HAD RISEN TO 2.8% OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 0.8% IN 1988/89.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSING EIGHT SETS OF REGULATIONS IN 1994 TO: BAN OPEN BURNING; CONTROL CONSTRUCTION DUST; CONTROL PERCUSSIVE PILING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION NOISE; CONTROL THE MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS; CONTROL VEHICLE EMISSIONS; INTRODUCE SEWAGE CHARGES; INTRODUCE CHARGES FOR SOME CATEGORIES OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSALS AT LANDFILLS; AND INTRODUCE CHARGES FOR DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE.

MR EASON LISTED EIGHT KEY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT:

- * CURBING NOISE ON CONSTRUCTION SITES BY INTRODUCING CONTROLS NEXT YEAR ON THE USE OF DIESEL HAMMERS, PERCUSSIVE CONCRETE CRUSHERS, AND POWERED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT;
- * REDUCING THE IMPACT OF AIRCRAFT NOISE FROM KAI TAK AIRPORT BY PHASING OUT "NOISY" AIRCRAFT (DESIGNATED INTERNATIONALLY AS "CHAPTER TWO AIRCRAFT");
- * ON THE ROADS, CURBING AIR POLLUTION FROM DIESEL ENGINES AND CONTROLLING MOTOR VEHICLE NOISE;
- * IMPLEMENTING PLANS FOR 1,000 HECTARES OF GREEN AND LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACES TO BE DEVELOPED IN MAIN URBAN AREAS, AND EXTENDING THE COUNTRY PARKS;
- * PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME TO CONTROL TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS FOLLOWING A CONSULTANCY STUDY NOW IN PROGRESS;
- * CLEANING UP THE HARBOUR BY IMPLEMENTING THE SEWAGE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME AND BY PROGRESSIVELY DECLARING THE HARBOUR AS A WATER CONTROL ZONE BETWEEN 1994 AND 1997;
- * ESTABLISHING A MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY IN 1994 TO DESIGNATE, MANAGE, AND DEVELOP MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES;
- * EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) TO INCLUDE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND RENAMING IT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE REVIEW ALSO CONTAINED DETAILS OF FOUR INNOVATIONS OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 6:

- * ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND TO HELP PAY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES RANGING FROM SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO GREEN GROUP ACTIVITIES. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO RESEARCH PROPOSALS WHICH STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF POLLUTANTS, AND TO OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH STIMULATE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THIS FUND WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH A CAPITAL INJECTION OF AT LEAST \$50 MILLION.

- * APPOINTMENT OF "GREEN MANAGERS" IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS PART OF A SERIES OF MEASURES ON "GREEN HOUSEKEEPING". THEY WILL ENSURE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS CONDUCTED IN THE DEPARTMENTS ARE PROPERLY INTRODUCED AND CONDUCTED.
- * ENCOURAGEMENT OF BUSINESSES TO APPOINT "GREEN MANAGERS" AND TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDITS.
- * CREATION OF A TASK FORCE FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO CLEAN UP THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

MR EASON SAID: "THESE MEASURES NEED TO BE BACKED UP BY PUBLIC ACTIVITY. THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP, AND THESE ARE SET OUT IN THE REVIEW. FOR EXAMPLE:

- * HOUSEHOLDERS CAN REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN A NUMBER OF WAYS SUCH AS USING ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES, SETTING TEMPERATURE CONTROLS AT ECONOMICAL LEVELS, AND USING FUEL-EFFICIENT CARS AND DRIVING TECHNIQUES.
- * SHOPPERS CAN INFLUENCE RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS BY REFUSING TO BUY ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING PRODUCTS, BY BUYING RECYCLED PRODUCTS WHERE AVAILABLE, AND BY NOT PURCHASING GOODS MADE OF SCARCE MATERIALS SUCH AS HARDWOOD.
- * CONSUMERS CAN REDUCE THE NEED FOR LANDFILLS BY REDUCING WASTE THROUGH USING RECYCLING FACILITIES.
- * AS GOOD NEIGHBOURS, KEEP NOISE LEVELS DOWN, PUT LITTER IN BINS OR TAKE IT HOME, AND PREVENT AIR-CONDITIONERS FROM DRIPPING.

HE SAID THE REVIEW SHOWED HOW THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A PRO-ACTIVE ROLE IN PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT.

"WE NOW HOPE THAT THE REVIEW WILL SPARK PUBLIC DEBATE AND INVOLVEMENT, SO THAT WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE.

"I APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC TO GIVE US THEIR VIEWS AND TO BECOME INVOLVED, AND I ALSO APPEAL TO BUSINESSMEN TO TAKE A LEAD AND SET AN EXAMPLE," HE ADDED.

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(*) THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT: A GREEN CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY. SECOND REVIEW OF THE 1989 WHITE PAPER: POLLUTION IN HONG KONG - A TIME TO ACT.

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BOOKLET ON PROSECUTION POLICY PUBLISHED

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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) MAKES PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME THE GUIDANCE GIVEN TO CROWN COUNSEL ON THE POLICY AND THE CRITERIA FOR MAKING PROSECUTION DECISIONS.

THE MOVE IS TO HELP THE COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND BETTER THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RULE OF LAW.

LAUNCHING THE FIRST BOOKLET ON PROSECUTION POLICY GUIDANCE FOR CROWN COUNSEL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, EXPLAINED THAT AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RULE OF LAW WAS THE ASSURANCE THAT DECISIONS TO PROSECUTE WERE MADE ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA, IMPARTIALLY AND FREE FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.

HE ALSO SAID IT WAS NOT THE DUTY OF A PROSECUTOR TO OBTAIN A CONVICTION AT ALL COSTS BUT TO PRESENT THE CASE IN A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL MANNER.

"TO PROSECUTE ANYBODY WITH THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF HIS OR HER LIBERTY IS AN IMPORTANT HUMAN DECISION WHICH MAY HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

"IT IS, THEREFORE, RIGHT THAT THE GREATEST CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH DECISIONS TO PROSECUTE AND THAT IS THE REASON WHY DECISIONS TO PROSECUTE CASES IN THE HIGH COURT AND DISTRICT COURT HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY DIRECTORATE OFFICERS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

MR MATHEWS LISTED TWO IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN A DECISION WAS BEING MADE ON WHETHER TO PROSECUTE.

THEY WERE WHETHER EVIDENCE WAS SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND, IF SO, WHETHER SUCH PROCEEDINGS WERE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

"THE SECOND PRINCIPLE DOES NOT COME INTO OPERATION UNTIL THE FIRST IS ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

"THE PUBLIC INTEREST DOES NOT COME INTO IT UNLESS WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ENSURE A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF CONVICTION," HE SAID.

APART FROM SETTING OUT THE FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DECIDING ON THE EVIDENCE AND THE MERITS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE GUIDE ALSO LISTED THE FACTORS THAT NEEDED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND THE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS PROSECUTORS HAD TO KEEP IN MIND IN DEALING WITH THE ELDERLY, THOSE UNDER MENTAL DISABILITY AND CHILDREN.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT WHERE THERE WAS EVIDENCE TO PROVE AN OFFENCE IT DID NOT MEAN THAT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS MUST NECESSARILY FOLLOW.

"WE MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF BOTH THE OFFENCE AND THE OFFENDER AND, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO CHILDREN, WHERE THERE ARE OTHER MEANS OF DEALING WITH THE CASE," HE SAID.

"DECISION-MAKING IS DIFFICULT; IT IS FAR FROM BEING AN EXACT SCIENCE BUT IT IS A DUTY WE PERFORM DAY AFTER DAY. IT IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT DUTY BECAUSE WE ARE AWARE THAT BY DECIDING TO PROSECUTE WE MAY BE PUTTING THE LIBERTY OF THE OFFENDER AT RISK.

"IT IS A DUTY WE PERFORM VERY SERIOUSLY AND WITH GREAT CARE AND INTEGRITY," MR MATHEWS ADDED.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC OFFICERS WORKING ON PROSECUTION INCLUDING POLICE, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS, JUDGES, THE LEGAL PROFESSION, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES, DISTRICT OFFICES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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FOOD SURVEILLANCE FIGURES FOR THIRD QUARTER RELEASED

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THE HYGIENE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS TAKEN 6,542 FOOD SAMPLES FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THIS IS PART OF ITS REGULAR FOOD SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME CONDUCTED TO ENSURE THAT THE FOOD SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY IS WHOLESOME, UNCONTAMINATED, PROPERLY LABELLED AND OF NUTRITIOUS QUALITY.

EXAMINATION REPORTS REVEALED THAT 6,506 SAMPLES WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 36 OR 0.55 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ALSO SHOWS THAT OUT OF THE 2,810 SAMPLES TAKEN, 2,636 WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 174 OR 6.2 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

MOST OF THE UNSATISFACTORY CASES INCLUDED HIGH BACTERIAL COUNT IN SHELLFISH, FISH FOR EATEN RAW AND MEAT PRODUCTS.

OTHERS WERE MAINLY SEAFOOD CONTAINING HIGHER LEVEL OF HEAVY METAL AND FOOD CONTAINING NON-PERMITTED OR EXCESSIVE FOOD ADDITIVES.

THE UNSATISFACTORY CASES FOR MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS WERE MAINLY DUE TO IMPROPER HANDLING AND STORAGE OF THESE FOODS IN RETAIL OUTLETS.

THE DIVISION CARRIED OUT 61 PROSECUTIONS AND ISSUED 89 WARNING LETTERS.

THE DIVISION ALSO CHECKED 3,815 LABELS FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD, ISSUED 47 WARNING LETTERS AND EXECUTED 14 PROSECUTIONS.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE DIVISION INSPECTED 2,026,062 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED MEAT AND 3,420,203 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED POULTRY IN 645 INSPECTIONS.

A TOTAL OF 227,714 KILOGRAMS OF FOOD WERE FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND WERE DESTROYED.

/THIRTY-FOUR

THIRTY-FOUR INCIDENTS OF FOOD POISONING INVOLVING 190 PERSONS WERE REPORTED. INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT EIGHT WERE DOMESTIC OUTBREAKS AND 26 WERE FOOD-PREMISES OUTBREAKS.

THE REASON FOR AN INCREASED NUMBER OF FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK OCCURRED IN FOOD PREMISES WAS DUE TO IMPROPER MANAGEMENT OF A PARTICULAR RESTAURANT IN WAX CHAI.

THAT INCIDENT INVOLVED 115 PERSONS RESULTING IN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF WORK OF A FOOD WORKER AND PROSECUTION OF THE RESTAURANT OWNER.

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CHINA, HK AND MACAU REVIEW DRUG ABUSE MATTERS

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THE COMMISSONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ALASDAIR SINCLAIR, TODAY (TUESDAY) DEPARTED FOR MACAU TO ATTEND A MEETING ON DRUG ABUSE HELD AMONG CHINA, HONG KONG AND MACAU.

THE FOUR-DAY MEETING WILL REVIEW THE DRUG ABUSE SITUATION IN THE THREE JURISDICTIONS AND THEIR PROGRAMMES FOR REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR ILLICIT DRUGS.

NAMED "DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMMES FOR DRUG ABUSE IN CHINA, HONG KONG AND MACAU", IT WILL ALSO EXPLORE THE PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION.

"THIS IS AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION. IT PROVIDES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SHARE EXPERIENCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE," MR SINCLAIR SAID.

LAST YEAR, A SIMILAR MEETING WAS HELD IN BEIJING AND THERE WAS ONE IN HONG KONG THE YEAR BEFORE.

"DRUG ABUSE AFFECTS US ALL. BY LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER WE CAN HOPE TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

CHINESE OFFICIALS TAKING PART THIS YEAR COME FROM BEIJING, GUANGDONG, GUANGXI, GUIZHOU, YUNNAN AND GANSU.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

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REPORT ON ELDERLY SERVICES READY NEXT AUGUST

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THE WORKING GROUP ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WILL CONCLUDE ITS DELIBERATIONS AND WILL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR BY AUGUST NEXT YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS Y C LIANG MEMORIAL HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, YUEN LONG, MR STRACHAN SAID THIS WORKING GROUP HAD ALREADY STARTED ITS WORK.

THE GROUP WILL REVIEW EXISTING POLICIES ON HOUSING, SOCIAL SECURITY, WELFARE SERVICES, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, RESIDENTIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

IT WILL ALSO IDENTIFY THE DEMAND FOR AND THE WAYS TO CO-ORDINATE THESE SERVICES.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE HOME, MR STRACHAN SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF RESIDENTIAL CARE.

"THEY REQUIRE SOME FORM OF CARE BECAUSE THEIR HEALTH HAS DETERIORATED AND BECAUSE THEY EITHER DO NOT HAVE A FAMILY OR THEIR FAMILIES ARE, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, NOT ABLE TO LOOK AFTER THEM," HE ADDED.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS TO PROVIDE 5,800 ADDITIONAL SUBVENTED PLACES IN CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES AND IN HOMES FOR AGED WITHIN THESE FOUR FINANCIAL YEARS.

BY 1997, THERE WILL BE NEARLY 20,000 SUCH SUBVENTED PLACES.

BY THAT TIME, THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A NETWORK OF SEVEN NURSING HOMES WITH 1,400 PLACES.

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FIRST ECOTOXICOLOGY WORKSHOP HELD IN HK

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A THREE-DAY WORKSHOP ON ECOTOXICOLOGY ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT IS LAUNCHED TODAY (TUESDAY).

ECOTOXICOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES ON LIVING ORGANISMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE WORKSHOP, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, WILL EXAMINE HOW DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE APPROACHED THIS PROBLEM SO AS TO HELP DEVELOP NEW STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG.

THESE TOXICS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF WHICH IS COMPLEX INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES, MAY PERSIST IN THE ENVIRONMENT FOR MANY YEARS DISRUPTING ECOSYSTEM AND AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF HUMAN BEINGS EITHER DIRECTLY OR AS A RESULT OF ENTERING THE HUMAN FOOD CHAIN, FOR EXAMPLE THROUGH CONTAMINATION OF SEAFOOD.

A TOTAL OF SEVEN EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL TAKE PART IN THE WORKSHOP, WHICH WILL INCLUDE VISITS, PRESENTATIONS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AS WELL AS A FIELD EXCURSION AND TECHNICAL SESSION.

THROUGH THIS WORKSHOP, IT IS HOPED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND EMISSION STANDARDS, THAT TRULY REFLECT THE DEGREE OF RISK THAT POLLUTANTS POSE TO THE COMPONENTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM, COULD EVENTUALLY BE SET.

/SPEAKING AT

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING ADDRESS OF THE WORKSHOP, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS COMMITTED TO USING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AND TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE AS WELL AS ADOPTING A PRUDENT APPROACH THAT GAVE THE BENEFIT OF ANY DOUBT TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

HE STRESSED: "WE HAVE A DUTY TO SEARCH VIGOROUSLY FOR NEW INFORMATION AND NEW TECHNIQUES TO PROVIDE A MORE SOUND SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE ASSESSMENTS WE ARE OBLIGED TO MAKE AND THE ADVICE WE ARE OBLIGED TO GIVE.

"IN THE SAME VEIN, WE MUST PROMPT AND SUPPORT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK THAT IS AIMED AT PROVIDING BETTER ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES."

HE HOPES THAT ALL OF THESE THINGS, IN SOME MEASURE, COULD BE ACHIEVED DURING THE WORKSHOP.

HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO LEARNING HOW THE TECHNIQUES OF ECOTOXICOLOGY WERE APPLIED ELSEWHERE, AND HOPED THAT THE WORKSHOP WOULD LEAD TO AN INCREASED FOCUS ON ECOTOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN HONG KONG'S TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

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GOVT TO SURVEY TIU KENG LENG COTTAGE AREA

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SURVEY THE ACTUAL FLOOR AREA OF ALL STRUCTURES IN THE COTTAGE AREA OF TIU KENG LENG DUE TO BE CLEARED FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING A SITE FOR 12,000 PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE SURVEY WOULD FORM PART OF THE EXERCISE CURRENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE (EGA) RATES FOR THE CLEAREES.

"THE DOOR-TO-DOOR SURVEY ALSO PROVIDES UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR CALCULATING THE EGA RATES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT OVER TWO TO THREE MONTHS, HE ADDED.

THE SURVEY IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS MONTH.

IN ADDITION TO THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, ELIGIBLE CLEAREES WILL BE OFFERED ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEWLY COMPLETED HAU TAK ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O, EARMARKED FOR RESIDENTS OF THE TIU KENG LENG COTTAGE AREA.

"THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER OTHER MEANS TO ASSIST THE CLEAREES TO FIND ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATION.

"THESE WILL INCLUDE REHOUSING IN OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IF THEY SO WISH AND OPTIONS TO BUY THEIR OWN FLATS UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS WOULD ENSURE THAT ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES IN THE AREA WILL BE MAINTAINED BEFORE THE CLEARANCE, NOW TARGETTED TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY 1995.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1993

- 14 -

AIR MAIL TO INDIA SUSPENDED

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ALL AIR MAIL SERVICES TO INDIA HAVE NOW BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF A STRIKE BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTRY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE AFFECTED SERVICES COVER AIR LETTERS, AIR PARCELS AND SPEEDPOST ITEMS.

MR PAGLIARI SAID: "A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THE SERVICES RESUME."

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318 VMS RETURN

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TWO GROUPS OF 318 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 141 MEN, 74 WOMEN, 44 BOYS AND 59 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 185TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 10,888 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 37,200 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	7 DEC 93	7 DEC 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q349	Q379
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD3,080 MN	HKD1,820 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,000 MN	HKD400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.97 PCT	3.14 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.99 PCT	3.15 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 40 PCT	ABOUT 62 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.02 PCT	3.18 PCT

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 13 DEC 1993 -

TENDER DATE 14 DEC 93
 PAPER ON OFFER EF BILLS
 ISSUE NUMBER Q350
 ISSUE DATE 15 DEC 93
 MATURITY DATE 16 MAR 94
 TENOR 91 DAYS
 AMOUNT ON OFFER HKD1,000 + 200 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
 MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

	\$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,240
REVERSAL OF LAF	-240
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	+1,000
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-3,996
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	4

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.5 *-0.2* 7.12.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.72 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.38	3.59
1 MONTH	3.01 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.93	3.84
3 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.07	4.00
6 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	24 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.06	4.16
12 MONTHS	3.45 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.07	4.60

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 26.033 MN

CLOSED 7 DECEMBER 1993

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