



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

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FEBRUARY ORDERS-ON-HAND,
EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES RELEASED

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IN FEBRUARY 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 2% WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991, BUT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN FEBRUARY 1991 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY. THESE INCREASES WERE TO A LARGE EXTENT DUE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ORDERS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BUT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN FEBRUARY 1991 DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE TEXTILES AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY AND SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN FEBRUARY 1991 DECREASED BY 2% WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991, AND BY 10% WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991, EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1991 DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN ALL THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED. AS REPORTED BY SOME MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED, THESE DECREASES WERE PARTLY CAUSED BY THE HIGHER TURNOVER OF WORKERS AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1991 DECREASED IN ALL THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH THE LARGEST DECREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES.

ON PER CAPITA EARNINGS, COMPARISON OF FEBRUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1991 AND FEBRUARY 1990 WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

WHILE MOST COMPANIES SURVEYED ISSUED THEIR DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN DECEMBER 1989 AND JANUARY 1990 AHEAD OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, THEY DID SO IN JANUARY 1991 AND FEBRUARY 1991 AS THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FELL IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

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THUS IT IS MORE MEANINGFUL TO COMPARE THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1989 - FEBRUARY 1990.

FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 TAKEN TOGETHER, THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 19%, IN MONEY TERMS, OVER THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1989 - FEBRUARY 1990.

ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED REPORTED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991 AND MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990. THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER DECEMBER 1989 - FEBRUARY 1990.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT IN JANUARY 1991, BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER FEBRUARY 1990.

THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER DECEMBER 1989 - FEBRUARY 1990 IN ALL THE SERVICE SECTORS SURVEYED.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY IS NOT BASED ON A SCIENTIFICALLY SELECTED SAMPLE, THE MAGNITUDES OF CHANGE INDICATED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE MERELY A REFLECTION OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPANIES SURVEYED.

HOWEVER, GIVEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1991 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3222.

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 1991 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN JAN 91 (%)	COMPARED WITH FEB 90 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.32	+2	*
WEARING APPAREL	4.71	+2	+1
TEXTILES	2.36	+8	-5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.85	+10	-15
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.21	*	-2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.25	+1	*
OTHERS	4.09	*	-1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 1991	
	CHANGE WHEN JAN 91 (%)	COMPARED WITH FEB 90 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	-2	-10
FOOD AND DRINKS	-2	-2
WEARING APPAREL	-2	-9
TEXTILES	-3	-19
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-6	-28
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-1	-2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	-11
OTHERS	-2	-5

CONSTRUCTION #	-1	-8
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SERVICES	*	+2
-----	-	--
BANKS	-1	+4
HOTELS	-2	-4
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*
OTHERS	*	+5

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS			** CHANGE IN AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR		
	AVERAGE AS IN FEB 91	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH		DEC 1989	1990-FEB 1991	1991 OVER 1990
	(HK\$)	JAN 91 (%)	FEB 90 (%)	DEC 1989	1990-FEB 1991	1991 OVER 1990
				FOR OVER (%)		
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	7,413	-23	+40		+19	
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FOOD AND DRINKS	7,173	-28	+19		+14	
WEARING APPAREL	5,372	-17	+31		+13	
TEXTILES	6,545	-28	+44		+20	
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	7,566	-30	+52		+21	
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	7,126	-33	+25		+17	
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	7,824	-15	+49		+22	
OTHERS	9,992	-28	+38		+17	
CONSTRUCTION #	11,137	+12	+58		+18	
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SERVICES	11,330	-23	+19		+13	
-----	-----	-----	-----		-----	
BANKS	9,816	-32	+9		+11	
HOTELS	14,861	+7	+132		+12	
PUBLIC UTILITIES	10,620	-26	+18		+13	
OTHERS	13,071	-17	+15		+12	

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

** DUE TO THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN 1990 AND 1991 (I.E. LATE JANUARY IN 1990 BUT MID-FEBRUARY IN 1991), THE TIMING OF ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN THE TWO YEARS DIFFERS IN SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED. THIS AFFECTS THE COMPARISON OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990. A FURTHER COMPARISON IS THUS PROVIDED TO SHOW CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DEC 90 - FEB 91 OVER DEC 89 - FEB 90.

NOTE : DUE TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :

UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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POST OFFICE PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
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WHILE THE BACKBONE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE REMAINS THE DELIVERY OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL, IT HAS IN RECENT YEARS PLAYED AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OVERSEEING THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS TONIGHT (FRIDAY) WHEN OFFICIATING AT A LIGHTING CEREMONY OF A BILLBOARD PUT UP OUTSIDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE POST OFFICE NOW LICENSES PUBLIC SERVICES RANGING FROM RADIO PAGING TO MOBILE DATA SERVICES, AS WELL AS PRIVATE MOBILE RADIO SERVICES, FOR WHICH SOME 70,000 SEPARATE LICENCES WERE ISSUED LAST YEAR.

"OVER 700,000 PAGER CUSTOMERS AND 130,000 PORTABLE 'PHONE USERS' NOW ENJOY MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

"WITH NEW SERVICES DUE TO BE LAUNCHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE GROWTH IN THIS AREA SHOWS NO SIGN OF LETTING UP," SHE SAID.

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MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THE POST OFFICE IS A MAJOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT EMPLOYING OVER 5,000 STAFF AND PROVIDING POSTAL SERVICES THROUGH 117 BRANCH OFFICES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"WE STILL RELY HEAVILY ON THE DEDICATION AND EFFICIENCY OF THE POSTAL WORKERS TO SORT AND DELIVER MAIL TO OUR DOORS ON A DAILY BASIS.

"HOWEVER, RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO HANDLING THE EVER-INCREASING VOLUME OF MAIL PASSING THROUGH THE POST OFFICE SYSTEM.

"IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NUMBER OF ITEMS HANDLED BY THE POST OFFICE HAS GROWN FROM 405 MILLION TO 870 MILLION PER YEAR," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT IN JULY LAST YEAR, THE POST OFFICE INSTALLED THE MECHANISED LETTER SORTING SYSTEM WHICH USES THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO READ ADDRESSES WITHOUT THE ACCESS TO POSTCODES OR ZIPCODES, AND WHICH CAN SORT OVER ONE AND A HALF MILLION ITEMS EVERY DAY.

"THIS HAS IN TURN RESULTED IN SAVINGS OF SOME 200 POSTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION AND HAS HELPED THE DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN ITS RENOWNED EFFICIENCY," SHE SAID.

IN ANOTHER CEREMONY TONIGHT, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, AND MRS WONG SWITCHED ON ANOTHER HONG KONG POST OFFICE 150TH ANNIVERSARY BILLBOARD OUTSIDE THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

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BILL TO REINFORCE GOVT'S RIGHT TO DETAIN VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS
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PROPOSALS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REINFORCE THE LEGISLATION EMPOWERING THE GOVERNMENT TO DETAIN VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN HONG KONG.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AS A RESULT OF CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE IN RECENT COURT CASES, QUESTIONS HAD BEEN RAISED AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE PROVISIONS GIVING LEGAL BACKING TO THE DETENTION POLICY.

"IT IS NECESSARY, THEREFORE, TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE ADEQUATE POWERS TO IMPLEMENT THE SCREENING AND REPATRIATION OF THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION," HE EXPLAINED.

THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WHICH WAS GAZETTED TODAY, PROVIDES A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POWERS TO DETAIN ILLEGAL ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM PENDING DETERMINATION OF THEIR STATUS AND, IN THE CASE OF THOSE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES, PENDING THEIR REPATRIATION.

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IT ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT A PERSON WHO ENTERS HONG KONG UNLAWFULLY FROM VIETNAM MAY BE DETAINED WHETHER OR NOT HE EXPRESSES A WISH TO SEEK ASYLUM OR APPLY FOR REFUGEE STATUS HERE.

THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR SCREENING IS NOW ABOUT TWO YEARS.

"GIVEN THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT THIS TASK, AND IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING INFLOW OF NEW ARRIVALS, IT WILL BE HARD TO REDUCE THIS WAITING TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BUT WE SHALL AIM TO SCREEN ALL NEW ARRIVALS WITHIN ABOUT 18 MONTHS OF ARRIVAL, WHEN RESOURCES ALLOW," HE ADDED.

IN KEEPING WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE OF DETERMINING EACH INDIVIDUAL'S STATUS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLY POSSIBLE, THE BILL ALLOWS FOR DETENTION FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

AN "AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT" CLAUSE WILL BE ADDED TO THE ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POWER TO TRANSFER DETAINEES BETWEEN DETENTION CENTRES. PROVISION WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR APPEALS WHERE SUCH A TRANSFER IS MADE ON THE GROUNDS OF ORDER OR GOOD MANAGEMENT IN A DETENTION CENTRE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE POWERS WERE ESSENTIAL FROM A MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY POINT OF VIEW IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER IN THE CENTRES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CENTRE POPULATIONS THEMSELVES.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO BEING TAKEN TO MAKE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS PROVISIONS. THEY INCLUDE A SECTION WHICH STATES CLEARLY THAT ALL DECISIONS OF THE REFUGEE STATUS REVIEW BOARD AND NOT JUST ITS ULTIMATE DECISIONS ARE EXEMPT FROM REVIEW.

"THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL INTENTION OF THE SECTION AND THE REVISED WORDING WILL REMOVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THIS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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EMPLOYEES TO BE BETTER PROTECTED FOR COMPENSATION

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WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS MAY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THEIR COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENT INCLUDING COMMON LAW AWARDS, IN DEFAULT CASES ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYER'S FAILURE TO INSURE THEM OR FROM THE INSURER'S INSOLVENCY.

UNDER THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE BILL 1991 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), EMPLOYERS MAY ALSO BE INDEMNIFIED IN RESPECT OF THEIR LIABILITY FOR SUCH COMPENSATION SHOULD THEIR INSURER BECOME INSOLVENT.

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"EMPLOYEES OR DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION OR DAMAGES AWARDED FOR A WORK INJURY SUSTAINED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984 MAY APPLY FOR PAYMENT FROM THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE FUND BOARD WHICH WILL SOON BE SET UP," THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID.

"APPLICANTS MUST PROVE THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL AND FINANCIALLY VIABLE CHANNELS OF RECOVERY BEFORE THEIR APPLICATIONS CAN BE APPROVED," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED SCHEME CAME FROM A LEVY UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES ORDINANCE.

"SINCE JULY 1, 1990, EMPLOYERS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO PAY A LEVY OF ONE PER CENT OF EACH EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR THIS SCHEME," MR CHAN SAID.

"EMPLOYERS MUST HAVE PAID THE LEVY IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR PROTECTION UNDER THIS SCHEME.

"THEREFORE EMPLOYERS WHOSE INSURANCE POLICIES WERE ISSUED BEFORE JULY 1, 1990 BUT WHO WISH TO BE PROTECTED BY THE SCHEME SHOULD CONSIDER RENEWING THEIR POLICIES OR TAKING OUT NEW ONES WITH EFFECT FROM A CURRENT DATE AND PAY THE LEVY."

EMPLOYEES HAVING A VALID CLAIM ARE ENTITLED TO RECOVER THE LEGAL COSTS THEY HAVE INCURRED IN MAKING AN APPLICATION WHILE COSTS INCURRED BY EMPLOYERS WILL ONLY BE REIMBURSED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE FUND BOARD.

MR CHAN SAID SHOULD THERE BE INSUFFICIENT MONEY TO PAY ALL APPLICATIONS, THE FUND BOARD WOULD OPERATE A QUEUEING SYSTEM, WITH PRIORITY FOR PAYMENT BEING DETERMINED BY THE NATURE OF THE CLAIM AND THE DATE OF THE ACCIDENT.

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TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 GAZETTED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE BILL WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD PERMIT SHARES IN TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO AND HELD IN THE NAMES OF NOMINEES WHILST AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT THE POTENTIAL TO CONTROL LICENSEES REMAINED WITH PERSONS AND COMPANIES ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG.

"THE BILL IS THE RESULT OF LONG AND COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

"THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 24," HE ADDED.

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BILL TO CLARIFY VALIDITY OF LOAN SECURITY

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THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMON PRACTICE OF BANKS AND OTHER LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO SEEK TO SECURE LOANS AND CREDIT FACILITIES BY TAKING CHARGES OVER CASH DEPOSITS HELD WITH THEM BY BORROWERS OR THIRD PARTIES HAD BEEN THROWN INTO DOUBT BY A COURT DECISION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1986.

"THE BILL IS INTENDED TO PUT IT BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE PRACTICE IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN VALID," HE SAID.

IN RE. CHARGE CARD SERVICES LTD (1986) 3 WLR697, IT WAS HELD THAT, WHEREAS A PERSON MIGHT TAKE A VALID SECURITY OVER A DEBT DUE BY ANOTHER, HE COULD NOT TAKE SUCH A SECURITY OVER A DEBT DUE FROM HIMSELF.

"A BANK DEPOSIT IS A DEBT DUE BY A BANK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE DECISION IMPLIES THAT A BANK MIGHT TAKE A VALID SECURITY OVER A DEPOSIT HELD BY A THIRD PARTY, SAY ANOTHER BANK OR A SUBSIDIARY DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANY, BUT IT COULD NOT TAKE A MORTGAGE OR CHARGE OVER A DEPOSIT LODGED BY THE BORROWER OR A THIRD PARTY WITH ITSELF," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CHARGE CARD DECISION HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AND CONFUSION WITHIN THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITIES BOTH IN ENGLAND AND HONG KONG, AND HAD LED TO CONSIDERABLE DISRUPTION TO BANKING PRACTICE IN HONG KONG.

"A REVIEW OF THE CHARGE CARD DECISION BY AN ENGLISH SUPERIOR COURT APPEARS UNLIKELY SINCE THIS PARTICULAR POINT WAS NOT CONSIDERED ON APPEAL ON THE CASE, AND ENGLISH INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION HAS BEEN AMENDED SUBSEQUENTLY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STATE OF UNCERTAINTY WAS HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY.

"AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGAL AND BANKING COMMUNITY IN AUGUST 1990 ON HOW THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE DEALT WITH, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY WAY OF LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT," HE SAID.

THE BILL SEEKS TO ADD A NEW SECTION TO THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE TO PUT IT BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE PRACTICE OF A LENDING INSTITUTION SECURING A LOAN MADE BY IT BY TAKING A CHARGE OR MORTGAGE OVER AN ACTION AT LAW ENFORCEABLE LEVEL AGAINST IT BY THE BORROWER OR BY A THIRD PARTY IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN VALID.

THE BILL IS EXPECTD TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 29.

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AMENDMENT BILL ON VALIDITY PERIOD OF PRACTISING
CERTIFICATES FOR PARAMEDICS

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A BILL WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGARDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATES FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 SOUGHT TO PROVIDE THAT ALL THESE PRACTISING CERTIFICATES SHOULD END ON JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR.

"THIS IS A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE PRACTISING CERTIFICATES IS IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON APRIL 26 AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 29.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION IN TSEUNG KWAN O, TSING CHAU TSAI

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DESIGNATE AN AREA OF ABOUT 20 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN TSEUNG KWAN O FOR RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

THE WORK IN AREA 87 OF TSEUNG KWAN O WILL BEGIN IN JUNE AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT FOUR YEARS.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THIS UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE APRIL 18 NEXT YEAR.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG.

/MEANWHILE, THE

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO USE THE SEABED WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 54.4 HECTARES NEAR FA PENG, TSING CHAU TSAI, LANTAU FOR THE PURPOSES OF TEMPORARY STOCKPILING OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL FROM AN ADJACENT ROCK BORROW AREA, TO BE DEVELOPED ON TSING CHAU TSAI PENINSULA, AND FOR THE MOORING OF BARGES FOR LOADING AND TRANSPORT OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE TERRITORY.

THIS AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IS SCHEDULED FOR EVENTUAL INCORPORATION INTO THE PROPOSED LANTAU PORT PENINSULA DEVELOPMENT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS ALSO DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 18 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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SUBMARINE CABLE BETWEEN KENNEDY TOWN AND OUTLYING ISLANDS

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE CO. LTD TO LAY AN OPTICAL FIBRE SUBMARINE CABLE FROM HONG KONG ISLAND TO HEI LING CHAU, LANTAU ISLAND AND CHEUNG CHAU WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 189.6 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN THE AREA.

THE CABLE LINK WILL PERMIT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO EXPAND AND UPGRADE ITS SERVICES TO CATER FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON HEI LING CHAU, LANTAU AND CHEUNG CHAU.

THE WORK IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN JULY AND BE COMPLETED BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

/ANY PERSON

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 18 THIS YEAR.

THE LETTER OF OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE OF THE PROSECT TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE'S MUI WO SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MUI WO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 NGAN KWONG WAN ROAD, MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND; AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE'S CHEUNG CHAU SUB-OFFICE, 22 SAN HING STREET, GROUND FLOOR, CHEUNG CHAU.

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TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT FIRE STATION AT KAI TAK

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE, WHICH HAS TO BE RELOCATED TO MAKE WAY FOR WORKS ON AN ADDITIONAL APRON AREA.

THE NEW APRON AREA, PLANNED TO BE OPENED IN 1993 TO THE NORTH OF KOWLOON BAY, IS PART OF THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT WORKS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE OPERATION OF THE AIRPORT AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIRE STATION IS EXPECTED TO START IN MID-JUNE THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN MID-MAY 1992.

THE STATION WILL BE LOCATED AT THE WESTERN END OF KOWLOON BAY AND ADJACENT TO THE AIRPORT RUNWAY.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A COVERED PARKING AREA FOR FIRE SERVICE VEHICLES; A TWO-STOREY BUILDING ON EACH SIDE OF THE PARKING AREA FOR OFFICES, EXERCISE ROOMS, LECTURE ROOMS AND STOREROOMS; A VEHICLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP; AND FACILITIES FOR UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MAY 10.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

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PROJECTS AT HOSPITALS GAZETTED

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS EXERCISE FOR AN EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT AT BLOCK B OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE UPGRADING OF FINISHES, FITTINGS AND BUILDING SERVICES OF THE EIGHT-STOREY HOSPITAL BLOCK WHICH HAS A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 36,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE HOSPITAL'S OPERATION MUST BE MAINTAINED WHILE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS IN PROGRESS.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 34 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I GROUP "C" OR THOSE ON LIST II MAY APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD WRITE TO THE CHIEF PROPERTY SERVICES MANAGER/3 OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SEVENTH FLOOR, APB CENTRE, 9 SUNG PING STREET, TO KWA WAN, BEFORE NOON ON APRIL 30.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MINOR OPERATING THEATRE LAMPS AND CEILING MOUNTED EXAMINATION LAMPS AT THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL.

THE PROJECT, DUE TO BEGIN IN JULY THIS YEAR, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 1992.

TENDERS FOR THIS PROJECT MUST BE PLACED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOX ON THE 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY BEFORE NOON ON MAY 10.

BOTH THE NOTICE ON THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE AND THE TENDER NOTICE WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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// APPLICATION FEES FOR UNDERTAKING AERIAL ROPEWAYS DUTIES REVISED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) GAZETTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE AERIAL ROPEWAYS (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) REGULATIONS TO REVISE THE PRESCRIBED FEES.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE REGULATIONS SETS OUT THE FEES PAYABLE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ANY PERSON AS A SURVEYOR, COMPETENT PERSON, CONTROLLER OR OPERATOR IN CONNECTION WITH AERIAL ROPEWAYS DUTIES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FEES HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1981 AND A REVISION WAS NECESSARY TO OFFSET THE INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATION COSTS OVER THE YEARS.

THE NEW FEES UNDER THE AERIAL ROPEWAYS (OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991 TOOK EFFECT TODAY.

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VALUATION WORK ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PROPERTIES

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IN RESPONSE TO A REPORT PUBLISHED IN A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS TODAY (FRIDAY) CONCERNING THE OUTSTANDING VALUATION WORK ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PROPERTIES AND THE EFFECT OF SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES ON SUCH WORK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT CLARIFIED THAT IN RESPECT OF NEWLY ASSESSED PREMISES, THE MAXIMUM BACK-DATING OF RATES LIABILITY IS TWO YEARS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OR ALTERED PREMISES, RATES WERE PAYABLE FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE DATE OF OCCUPATION, OR IF THE PREMISES WERE VACANT, THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION PERMIT IN THE CASE OF DOMESTIC PREMISES AND SIX MONTHS IN THE CASE OF NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES.

"HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY CHARGE RATES 24 MONTHS RETROSPECTIVELY FROM THE ISSUE OF THE FIRST RATES DEMAND, EVEN THOUGH THE PROPERTY MAY HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED OR CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

"NORMALLY, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ASSESS NEW PREMISES LESS THAN TWO YEARS AFTER THEY ARE COMPLETED," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

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FURTHER ACTION AGAINST UBW'S

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STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) POSTED 124 ORDERS TO REMOVE PROJECTING UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS (UBW'S) IN A TO KWA WAN BUILDING AS PART OF THE "OPERATION APPENDAGES" - A GOVERNMENT OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS.

THE ORDERS REQUIRED THE REMOVAL OF UBW'S PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF BLOCK A OF I-FENG MANSION AT 237 TO KWA WAN ROAD AND 24-40 CHI KIANG STREET, KOWLOON.

THE BUILDING IS ONE OF THE 30 BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS IDENTIFIED AS TARGETS FOR CLEARANCE OF PROJECTING UBW'S IN "OPERATION APPENDAGES".

THE ACTING GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR, MR CHEUNG HAU-WAI, SAID: "THERE ARE NUMEROUS PROJECTIONS INCLUDING METAL CAGES, CANOPIES AND METAL FLOWER RACKS IN THE BUILDING.

"THEY ALL LACK MAINTENANCE AND SOME ARE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS. THEY ARE ALSO ENVIRONMENTALLY AND AESTHETICALLY UNDESIRABLE," MR CHEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE PROJECTIONS CONSTITUTE A RISK TO PEOPLE USING THE PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES IN TO KWA WAN ROAD AND CHI KIANG STREET AND THE CENTRAL OPEN YARDS WHICH SERVE AS THE ENTRANCES TO THIS LARGE ESTATE.

"THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY THE BUILDING HAS BEEN SELECTED," MR CHEUNG SAID.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

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THE 124 REMOVAL ORDERS POSTED TODAY WERE ONLY PHASE 1 OF THE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME AGAINST I-FENG MANSION.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT 356 MORE ORDERS WILL BE ISSUED IN SUBSEQUENT PHASES, RESULTING IN A TOTAL OF 480 ORDERS REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF 500 UBW'S IN THE BUILDING.

"OPERATION APPENDAGES" IS A LARGE-SCALE OPERATION LAUNCHED IN MARCH TO REMOVE THE DANGER OF UBW'S FALLING ONTO BUSY PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES.

SO FAR, 1,850 ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO REQUIRE DEMOLITION OF SOME 2,400 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN 18 BUILDINGS.

ANOTHER 1,650 ORDERS REQUIRING REMOVAL OF ABOUT 2,100 UBW'S WILL BE ISSUED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SO FAR, THE OPERATION HAS BEEN FAVOURABLY RECEIVED BY MANY OF THE OWNERS, WHO RECEIVED REMOVAL ORDERS.

OWNERS HAVE STARTED REMOVAL WORKS ON SOME 270 UNAUTHORISED PROJECTIONS IN 15 OF THE BUILDINGS TARGETTED IN THE OPERATION.

"I AM PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE," MR CHEUNG SAID, ADDING THAT HE BELIEVED MOST OWNERS WILL REMOVE THE UBW'S THEMSELVES.

MR CHEUNG ASKED OWNERS TO APPOINT RESPONSIBLE AND EXPERIENCED CONTRACTORS TO CARRY OUT THE REMOVAL WORKS TO ENSURE THE WORKS CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN A SAFE MANNER.

"IF THEY WISH TO SEEK ANY ADVICE ON THE METHOD OF REMOVAL, THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICERS OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, WHOSE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE GIVEN IN THE DEPARTMENT'S LETTER ISSUED WITH THE REMOVAL ORDERS," HE ADDED.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT REMOVE THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN 60 DAYS AND IN A SAFE MANNER, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS WILL CARRY OUT THE WORK, WITH ITS COST TO BE MET BY THE OWNERS, PLUS SUPERVISION CHARGE.

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS

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A ROVING EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED THIS WEEKEND TO HELP THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND QUARRY BAY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORK OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND TO PROMOTE THE 1991 MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS ON MAY 5.

"DUE TO OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO THIS EXHIBITION HELD DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN VARIOUS DENSELY-POPULATED DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AREAS, WE ARE STAGING THE EXHIBITION IN A FEW MORE PLACES IN THE COMING WEEKENDS UNTIL THE ELECTION DAY ON MAY 5," AN URBAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

/THE EXHIBITION

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW AND AT KORNHILL, QUARRY BAY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. OPENING HOURS OF THE EXHIBITION ON BOTH DAYS ARE FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM.

TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE COUNCIL'S MULTIFARIOUS ROLES IN SERVING THE URBAN COMMUNITY, THE EXHIBITIONS WILL FEATURE THE COUNCIL'S THREE MAIN AREAS OF WORK - PUBLIC HEALTH, LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES.

"APART FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS, A TAILOR-MADE FOUR-MINUTE VIDEO ON THE WIDE-RANGING SERVICES OF THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE SHOWN, AND A LEAFLET DETAILING THE WORK OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC AT THE EXHIBITIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ACTIVITIES IN WAN CHAI TO PROMOTE UC ELECTIONS

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ORGANISE A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES TO PUBLICISE THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MAY 5.

AN EXHIBITION ON THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE STAGED AT THE ENTRANCE TO HOPEWELL CENTRE IN THE AFTERNOONS OF TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND SUNDAY (APRIL 21). THE EXHIBITION WILL BE MOVED TO TAI YAU ARCADE FROM APRIL 27 TO MAY 5.

AN ELECTION FORUM WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 27 AT THE ENTRANCE TO HOPEWELL CENTRE FOR THE DISTRICT'S CANDIDATES, MR STEPHEN WONG AND MS SUSANNA YEUNG, TO INTRODUCE THEIR PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

THERE WILL ALSO BE BUS AND TRAM TOURS, DISPLAY OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AT PRIME LOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION SOUVENIRS TO RESIDENTS.

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BUS TO PROMOTE UC ELECTIONS

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AN OPEN-TOP DOUBLE-DECKER BUS WILL TOUR AROUND THE SHOPPING AREAS AND BUSY STREETS IN EASTERN DISTRICT ON SUNDAY (APRIL 21) TO PUBLICISE THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MAY 5.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, AND HIS TEAM OF ABOUT 20 DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL DISTRIBUTE PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND SOUVENIRS DURING THE TOUR WHICH WILL START AT THE NEW JADE SHOPPING ARCADE IN CHAI WAN AT 10.45 AM.

/FROM THERE

FROM THERE, THE BUS WILL MOVE ON TO SIU SAI WAN ESTATE, HENG FA CHUEN, KORNHILL AND MAXI MALL IN NORTH POINT. THE TOUR WILL END AT THE TIN HAU MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION, ABOUT 4.30 PM.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS PUBLICITY BUS TOUR IN EASTERN DISTRICT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE BY 10.30 AM ON SUNDAY (APRIL 21) AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO.

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PMH INSTALLS NEW ANGIOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT
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THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL HAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ANGIOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT IN HONG KONG WHICH PROVIDES IMMEDIATE AND OPTIMAL VIEWING OF THE VASCULAR SYSTEM.

THE NEW EQUIPMENT, WHICH WAS PUT INTO SERVICE LAST MONTH, IS INSTALLED IN THE HOSPITAL'S X-RAY DEPARTMENT. IT REPLACES THE OLD ANGIOGRAPHIC MACHINE WHICH HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE 1975.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE EQUIPMENT IS USED IN DIAGNOSTIC AND REMEDIAL PROCEDURES OF THE VASCULAR SYSTEM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ANGIOGRAPHY IS THE RADIOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE VASCULAR SYSTEM. THE EQUIPMENT PRODUCES COMPUTERISED DIGITAL IMAGES OF BLOOD VESSELS THROUGHOUT THE BODY.

NO LONGER IS IT NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR FILMS TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE DARK ROOM BEFORE A DOCTOR CAN DECIDE ON FURTHER MANAGEMENT OF A PROCEDURE, THUS SAVING VALUABLE EXAMINATION TIME.

"THE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FEATURES LIVE VIEWING OF BLOOD VESSEL IMAGES, PROVIDING PHYSICIANS WITH AN IMMEDIATE AND OPTIMAL DIAGNOSTIC TOOL.

"THIS EQUIPMENT IS THE MOST VERSATILE MODEL AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG AND FEATURES THE HIGHEST GRAPHIC IMAGE RESOLUTION."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE SYSTEM IS SO DESIGNED THAT IT OFFERS FLEXIBILITY IN RADIOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS WITH OPTIMAL PATIENT ACCESS FROM ALL SIDES AND WITHOUT REPOSITIONING THE PATIENT.

APART FROM PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, THE OTHER FOUR REGIONAL HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND TUEN MUN HOSPITAL - ARE ALL EQUIPPED WITH ANGIOGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

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1991 FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN TO START IN JUNE
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL TERRITORY-WIDE FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR WILL BEGIN IN JUNE AND WILL LAST FOR THREE MONTHS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CAMPAIGN, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, AIMS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF GOOD FOOD AND PERSONAL HYGIENE PRACTICES SO AS TO MINIMISE THE CHANCES OF FOOD-BORNE DISEASES.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, 24 FOOD HYGIENE SEMINARS ON "FOOD SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS" WILL BE HELD AT CONVENIENTLY-LOCATED VENUES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR PEOPLE IN THE FOOD TRADE, INCLUDING LICENSEES AND STAFF OF LICENSED PREMISES, COOKED FOOD STALLS AND CANTEENS.

THE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS WILL EACH COMPRISE A TALK, A SLIDE SHOW AND A FILM ON FOOD HYGIENE FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN DISCUSSION.

INFORMATION MATERIALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE AT THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED PEOPLE IN THE FOOD TRADE TO SIGN UP FOR THE SEMINARS ADMISSION TO WHICH IS FREE.

INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE TARGET GROUPS. THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD RETURN THE COMPLETED ENTRY FORM BY APRIL 30.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE INVITATION MAY CONTACT THE ORGANISER ON TEL. 787 1230.

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SHA TIN, EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DB CHAIRMEN ELECTED

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MR CHOY KAN-PUI, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG AND MRS PEGGY LAM WERE ELECTED CHAIRMEN OF THE SHA TIN, EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARDS RESPECTIVELY AT SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS TODAY (FRIDAY).

ALL OF THE CHAIRMEN WERE RETURNED UNCONTESTED. BOTH MR SHUM AND MRS LAM WERE RE-ELECTED WHILE MR CHOY WAS ELECTED DB CHAIRMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

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POK OI HOSPITAL PRAISED FOR PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES

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DEMANDS FOR HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES WILL REQUIRE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE BORNE BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE POK OI HOSPITAL, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE MADE THE REMARKS DURING A COURTESY VISIT BY THE HOSPITAL'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION THIS MORNING.

"THE EXPANSION OF THE HOSPITAL, WITH THE OPENING OF A CLINIC AND EMERGENCY WARD, WILL MEAN HAVING TO COPE WITH MORE PEOPLE," MR HSU SAID.

"PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF BETTER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT," HE ADDED.

MR HSU BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE A BIGGER GROWTH IN THE HOSPITAL'S SERVICES AFTER IT JOINED THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

HE ALSO COMMENDED POK OI FOR THE HIGH STANDARD OF TEACHING AT ITS SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS AND FOR OFFERING CHILD CARE AND ELDERLY SERVICES.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	18.4.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	19.4.91	+80
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-80
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.1 **0.7* 19.4.91		

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Q115	10.7.91	390	+90
Q116	17.7.91	390	+90
Q104	24.4.91	569.5	-89.5
Q105	1.5.91	720	-240
Q106	8.5.91	583.5	-103.5
Q107	15.5.91	551	-71
Q108	22.5.91	400	+80
Q109	29.5.91	470	+10
Q110	5.6.91	340	+140
Q111	12.6.91	500	-20
Q112	19.6.91	540	-60
Q113	26.6.91	550	-70
Q114	3.7.91	460	+20

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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H001	1.5.91	180	+80
H002	15.5.91	237.5	+22.5
H003	29.5.91	240	+20
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	133	+127
H156	24.7.91	150	+110
H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	110	+150
H159	4.9.91	50	+210
H160	18.9.91	190	+70
H161	2.10.91	0	+260
H162	17.10.91	140	+120

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Y187	26.2.92	180	+80
Y188	25.3.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 19.4.91 WAS 3,922 MN