



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
A BALANCED POLICY IN PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS CONTROL	1
OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC FLAT SALE SCHEME ELABORATED	3
MOTION TO ADD CHARGES TO NEW TELEPHONE SERVICES PASSED	5
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR FIRST QUARTER TABLED	6
LDC OFFERS GENERALLY FAIR	6
GOVT CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO CONTROL MEDICAL SERVICES COST	8
INSOLVENCY FUND COVERAGE UNDER PERIODICAL REVIEW	9
SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PROVIDED ON TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS	9
GOVT INTENDS TO BETTER WAGE PROTECTION TO IMPORTED WORKERS	10
ALL EFFORTS DONE TO PREVENT WEAPON-MAKING IN VM'S CAMPS	12
NO PLANS FOR MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR CRIMES INVOLVING FIREARMS	13
VARIOUS POLICE MEASURES TO CURB CRIMES IN TSUEN/KWAI	14
GOVT RECOGNISES DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY CHINA	15
TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	15
GOVT'S WATCHDOG ROLE OVER CLP WILL BE STRONGER WITH NEW SCA	16
CRITERIA OF AWARDING CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS EXPLAINED	17
FOUR-HOUR DEBATE ON PUBLIC HOUSING FLAT SALE IN LEGCO	18
PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER	19
GOVERNOR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE	21
JLG XXI	22
STI'S STATEMENT ON MFN	22
STI'S STATEMENT ON THE SPECIAL 301 NEGOTIATIONS	23
SURVEY ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES RELEASED	24
269 VM'S RETURNED TODAY	26
LATEST DATE FOR LOCAL X'MAS CARD POSTING REMINDED	26
RELAXING VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN HK AND POLAND	27
TEN ARRESTED FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY	27
GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER	28
FRESH WATER SUSPENSION	29
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	29

A BALANCED POLICY IN PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS CONTROL

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND LEGISLATION IN THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES AIM TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION AND THE NEED TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ANY POSSIBLE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF SUCH ARTICLES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON CONTROL OF PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS, MR SO SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO SOUGHT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGING STANDARDS OF PROPRIETY IN THE COMMUNITY BY MEANS OF A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND EDUCATORS IN PROVIDING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUIDING THEM TOWARDS WHOLESOME ACTIVITIES.

"THE EXISTING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CLEAR YARDSTICK FOR THE EXERCISE OF THE NECESSARY CONTROL AND GUIDANCE," HE SAID.

MR SO SAID THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE (CAP. 390), ENACTED IN 1987, HAD TWO DISTINCT ELEMENTS.

"FIRSTLY, INSTEAD OF IMPOSING A STRICT CENSORSHIP, IT PROVIDES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF ALL OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES BY AN OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL INTO THREE CLASSES.

"CLASS I ARTICLES ARE THOSE FOR GENERAL CONSUMPTION AND MAY BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

"CLASS II ARE THOSE WHICH ARE INDECENT BUT, SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR DISPLAY, SALE AND ACCESS, MAY BE SOLD TO PERSONS OVER 18 YEARS OLD. THESE RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE PUTTING THE ARTICLE IN A WRAPPER AND CARRYING A WARNING AGAINST ITS SALE TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS.

"CLASS III ARTICLES ARE THOSE WHICH ARE OBSCENE AND ARE BANNED ALTOGETHER.

"IN THIS WAY, THE ORDINANCE SEVERELY RESTRICTS THE ACCESS TO INDECENT MATERIALS BY YOUNG PEOPLE, WHILE STILL ALLOWING ADULTS THE FREEDOM TO OBTAIN THEM. IT ALSO PROVIDES A CLEAR YARDSTICK FOR PARENTAL CONTROL AND GUIDANCE TO BE EXERCISED," HE SAID.

SECONDLY, MR SO POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL, NOT THE ORDINANCE, WHICH DEFINED "OBSCENITY" AND "INDECENCY".

"THE TRIBUNAL IS MADE UP OF A PRESIDING MAGISTRATE WITH TWO OR MORE MEMBERS DRAWN FROM A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE FROM PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

"AS SUCH, OUR PEERS WILL DETERMINE WHAT ARE THE ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF PROPRIETY IN OUR COMMUNITY AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

"BY REQUIRING THE TRIBUNAL TO MAINTAIN A REPOSITORY OF ALL CLASSIFIED MATERIALS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE, AND BY ALLOWING PARTIES CONCERNED TO SEEK A FULL HEARING OF THE TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF SUSPECTED INCONSISTENCY, A LARGE MEASURE OF CONSISTENCY IS ASSURED," HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 3,605 ARTICLES HAD BEEN EXAMINED AND CLASSIFIED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 1987 TO SEPTEMBER 1991.

OF THESE, 582 WERE CLASSIFIED AS OBSCENE, 2,796 WERE FOUND TO BE INDECENT AND THE REMAINING 227 WERE FOUND TO BE NEITHER.

THE SECRETARY SAID ENFORCEMENT WAS DONE BY THE POLICE, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA).

"INSPECTORS FROM TELA KEEP CONSTANT VIGILANCE BY MAKING REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF BOOKSTORES, NEWSPAPER STANDS, VIDEO SHOPS AND OTHER OUTLETS.

"IF ARTICLES LIKELY TO INFRINGE THE LAW ARE FOUND, THEY WILL BE REFERRED TO THE TRIBUNAL FOR CLASSIFICATION AND FOLLOW UP ACTION," MR SO SAID.

HE SAID THE TELA WOULD NORMALLY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ISSUE A WARNING LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER, DISTRIBUTOR, AUTHOR OR SHOP OWNER TO DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO THE PROVISION OF THE LAW AND REMIND THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE TRIBUNAL FOR THE PUBLICATION, DISPLAY AND SALE OF THE ARTICLE.

THE MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR PROSECUTION IF THE ADVICE WAS NOT NEEDED, HE ADDED.

MR SO SAID IN THE FOUR YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 1987 TO AUGUST 1991, POLICE AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OFFICERS HAD SEIZED A TOTAL OF 135,609 OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES, RESULTING IN 1,073 PROSECUTIONS, 938 CONVICTIONS WITH FINES RANGING FROM \$300 TO \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FROM ONE TO 18MONTHS.

MR SO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS TAKING STEPS TO PLUG AN EXISTING LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW BY INTRODUCING AN AMENDMENT LEGISLATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BRING FILMS WHICH WERE INTENDED FOR SALE AND RENTING RATHER THAN FOR EXHIBITION TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME CONTROLS UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE.

AT PRESENT, FILMS AND VIDEO TAPES ALREADY CLASSIFIED UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE (CAP. 392) DO NOT FALL UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE (CAP. 390).

"BECAUSE THE STANDARDS OF CLASSIFICATION UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE IS GENERALLY MORE RELAXED IN VIEW OF THE HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE ACCESS OF CATEGORY III FILMS TO YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18, THIS PARTICULAR LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW HAS RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF CATEGORY III FILMS BECOMING READILY AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR HIRE AT VIDEO SHOPS," MR SO SAID.

THE AMENDMENT BILL WILL ALSO AMEND THE WORDING OF THE WARNING NOTICE REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED ON THE COVER OF ARTICLES CLASSIFIED AS INDECENT BY THE TRIBUNAL TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT INDECENT ARTICLES MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED, CIRCULATED, SOLD OR HIRED TO YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

MR SO APPEALED TO THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING PARENTS, SCHOOL TEACHERS, PUBLISHERS, AUTHORS, DISTRIBUTORS AND SHOP OWNERS, TO DO THEIR PART IN ORDER TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

"ONLY WITH THE COMBINED EFFORT OF THE COMMUNITY AT ALL LEVELS, AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH VIGILANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION COULD WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PUT A CHECK ON THE PROLIFERATION OF PORNOGRAPHIC ARTICLES IN OUR COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC FLAT SALE SCHEME ELABORATED

* * * * *

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME OF SELLING PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS TO SITTING TENANTS FROM THE OUTSET IS TO PROVIDE MORE FAMILIES WITH AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO OWN THEIR HOME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WHEN WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WHILE CONCEDED THAT THERE WERE MANY LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE TO THE SCHEME, MR BARNES SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD REACH A VIEW AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES, INCLUDING THE SCHEME BEING DEBATED.

"THE DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE TO THE OFFER HAS LED MANY INTO THINKING THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION, OR THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD COMPLETELY IGNORED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING CONSULTATION.

"NEITHER OF THESE ALLEGATIONS IS TRUE. THE PROPOSAL TO SELL FLATS TO SITTING TENANTS HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDE CONSULTATION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS FROM MID-OCTOBER, 1990 TO MID-JANUARY, 1991.

"THE AUTHORITY HAD, IN ITS DELIBERATIONS, TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT COMMENTS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC BEFORE LAUNCHING THE SCHEME," HE SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO AN ALLEGATION THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS TRYING TO REAP A PROFIT OUT OF THE SCHEME OR THAT IT WAS MOVING AWAY FROM ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THE NEEDY, MR BARNES DEFENDED THAT ANY NET REVENUE GENERATED UNDER THE SCHEME WOULD BE PLOUGHED BACK INTO THE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES.

"WITHOUT A STRONG FINANCIAL BASE, THE AUTHORITY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAN ITS HOUSING PROGRAMME YEARS AHEAD AND TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF PRICING, MR BARNES SAID THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE SCHEME HAD RECOMMENDED THAT PRICING SHOULD FOLLOW THE USUAL HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) METHOD, WITH DUE ALLOWANCE BEING GIVEN TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE RENTAL BLOCKS COMPARED TO THE PURPOSE-BUILT HOS BLOCKS.

"THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATION, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE PERCEPTION THAT HOS PRICES WERE ALREADY ON THE HIGH SIDE, AND PARTLY BECAUSE MANY BELIEVED THAT PRICES SHOULD ONLY REFLECT THE HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION COST, WITH SOME ADJUSTMENT, IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO THE SITTING TENANTS," HE NOTED.

BECAUSE OF THESE CONCERNS, HE SAID THE LEVEL OF DISCOUNT WAS INCREASED BEYOND THAT INDICATED IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT.

THE FINAL PRICING HAD INCLUDED A FURTHER 10 PER CENT DISCOUNT OF THE ASSESSED MARKET VALUE.

MOREOVER, GENEROUS ALLOWANCE WAS ALSO MADE FOR THE DESIGN, CONDITION AND THE AGE OF THE BLOCKS, WITH THE RESULT THAT PRICES WERE AROUND HALF THE LEVEL OF CURRENT HOS PRICES AND AROUND A THIRD OF PRICES OF NEWLY-COMPLETED PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTIES IN THE SAME DISTRICT, MR BARNES ADDED.

"IN ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION, THE AUTHORITY WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO PRODUCE PRICES WHICH SHOULD BE FAIR AND REASONABLE.

"THERE IS ALSO NEED TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE WITH THE PRICES UNDER THE HOS BECAUSE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TWO SCHEMES HAVE MANY COMMON FEATURES, AND PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS MAY CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM," HE EXPLAINED.

FACTORS AFFECTING PRICING WERE LIKELY TO BE EXAMINED AGAIN IF THE AUTHORITY DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW, MR BARNES ADDED.

ADDRESSING THE CONCERN OVER THE QUALITY AND MAINTENANCE CONDITION OF THE SALE BLOCKS, MR BARNES SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD ALREADY TAKEN ADEQUATE STEPS TO ALLAY TENANTS' CONCERNS THROUGH THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT.

"PRIOR TO SALE, A CONDITION SURVEY OF THE COMMON AREAS IN THE BLOCK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY AN INDEPENDENT SURVEYOR AND THAT ANY DEFECTS IDENTIFIED BY THIS SURVEY, AND OTHER DEFECTS INSIDE THE FLATS WHICH THE TENANTS HAD REPORTED, WOULD BE REPAIRED AND THE WORK GUARANTEED FOR A FURTHER YEAR," MR BARNES SAID.

ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS SUCH AS WATER SEEPAGE, PLUMBING AND OTHER MINOR PROBLEMS, HE SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD ALREADY AGREED TO MAKE GOOD THE DEFECTS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THESE FLATS WOULD BE SOLD.

THE AUTHORITY WILL ALSO CONSIDER EXPANDING ITS COMPREHENSIVE REPAIR PROGRAMME TO COVER HOUSING ESTATES BUILT IN THE MID 1980S, HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 5 -

MOTION TO ADD CHARGES TO NEW TELEPHONE SERVICES PASSED

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT IT APPROVED TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE BY ADDING TO IT CHARGES THAT THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED PROPOSES TO LEVY ON TWO NEW SERVICES.

THE SERVICES WERE THE DUPLEX RINGING FEATURE AND DAYTIME MANAGER ALTERATION.

MOVING A MOTION TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN SAID: "I HAVE EXAMINED THE PROPOSED CHARGES, AND CONSIDER THEM TO BE A REASONABLE REFLECTION OF THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES."

SHE SAID THE DUPLEX RINGING FEATURE WOULD PROVIDE TWO DIRECTORY NUMBERS WITH DIFFERENT RINGING TONES ON ONE TELEPHONE LINE.

THAT WOULD ALLOW SUBSCRIBERS TO USE A SINGLE LINE FOR A TELEPHONE AND A FACSIMILE MACHINE WITH SEPARATE NUMBERS, MRS CHAN NOTED.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE DIFFERENT RINGING TONES FOR THE DIFFERENT NUMBERS COULD BE USED TO DISTINGUISH DOMESTIC FROM BUSINESS CALLS, OR CALLS TO DIFFERENT USERS OF THE SAME TELEPHONE, SHE ADDED.

THE TELEPHONE COMPANY PROPOSED TO CHARGE AN EXTRA \$216 ANNUALLY PER LINE FOR THIS OPTIONAL FEATURE AND IT WORKED OUT AT AN EXTRA \$18 PER MONTH.

MEANWHILE, MRS CHAN SAID THE TELEPHONE COMPANY CURRENTLY RUNS A SERVICE CALLED INTERNATIONAL TOLL-FREE SERVICE.

THIS SERVICE ALLOWED PEOPLE OUTSIDE HONG KONG TO CALL LOCAL SUBSCRIBERS FREE OF CHARGE ON INTERNATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS IN RESPONSE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO A BUSINESS PROMOTION.

THE CALL CHARGES WERE PAID FOR BY THE LOCAL SUBSCRIBERS.

AS PART OF THE SERVICE, MRS CHAN NOTED, THE COMPANY PROVIDED, FREE OF CHARGE, A "DAYTIME MANAGER" SERVICE.

THIS ENABLED LOCAL SUBSCRIBERS TO ROUTE INCOMING TOLL-FREE CALLS TO DIFFERENT TELEPHONES AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPANY NOW WISHED TO PROVIDE FOR ALTERATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL CALL ROUTING AT A COST OF \$90 PER ALTERATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 6 -

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE
FOR FIRST QUARTER TABLED

* * * * *

A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1991-92 IS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL ON THE SUMMARY REPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, SAID SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$154.4 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

SUCH PROVISION WAS FULLY OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS.

DURING THE PERIOD, NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$555.1 MILLION, NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$142 MILLION WERE APPROVED AND APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$68.2 MILLION WERE REVOTED.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, A NET DECREASE OF 812 POSTS WAS APPROVED, MR YEUNG SAID.

ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY. THE LATTER HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LDC OFFERS GENERALLY FAIR

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT COMPENSATION OFFERS MADE BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DURING ITS URBAN RENEWAL SCHEMES ARE GENERALLY FAIR, BUT REVIEW SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN DUE COURSE TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE SO.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MR FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION THINK THAT AFTER SEVERAL ADJUSTMENTS OF THE OFFERS MADE THEY ARE GENERALLY FAIR AND ABOUT RIGHT.

"I AGREE HOWEVER THAT THE CORPORATION AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION AFTER SOME OF THE LARGER CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE SO," HE SAID.

/IN PASSING

IN PASSING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ORDINANCE IN 1989, MR BARNES SAID, IT WAS ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE ORDINANCE GAVE ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO OWNERS AND TENANTS AFFECTED AS WELL AS PROVIDING A REASONABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CORPORATION TO ATTRACT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO JOIN IN ITS SCHEMES.

FOR THIS REASON, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDED IN THE PROCEDURE, WHICH WERE AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE RIGHTS OF OWNERS AND TENANTS HAD ADEQUATE PROTECTION, HE SAID.

THE STIPULATIONS ON COMPENSATION WERE QUITE CLEAR, HE SAID.

"IF THE CORPORATION HAS NOT, IN THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION, OFFERED REASONABLE TERMS, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT PUT AN APPLICATION FOR RESUMPTION TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

"REASONABLE TERMS" ESSENTIALLY MEANS SIMILAR OFFERS TO THOSE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WOULD MAKE IN THE CONTEXT OF A RESUMPTION, WHICH, BROADLY SPEAKING, ARE REQUIRED BY THE ORDINANCE TO REFLECT THE MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY.

"AGAIN AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO AGREEING A RESUMPTION THE SECRETARY (FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS) MUST BE SATISFIED THAT THE CORPORATION HAS PROVIDED APPROPRIATE REHOUSING TO THOSE LIVING IN THE AREA.

"THIS CAN TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS, VARYING FROM SIMPLE CASH PAYMENTS TO THE PROVISION OF FLATS ON A RENTAL BASIS TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY A FLAT OF THEIR OWN," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE CORPORATION DID NOT HAVE THE ADVANTAGE ENJOYED BY THE HOUSING SOCIETY AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF A SUBSTANTIAL POOL OF LOW-PRICED OR LOW-RENTAL OR TEMPORARY HOUSING TO ASSIST IN ITS CLEARANCE, BUT IT HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO BUY AND ADAPT PRIVATE FLATS TO ASSIST THOSE MOST IN NEED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE IT LAUNCHED ITS OVERALL PLAN FOR URBAN RENEWAL, THE CORPORATION COMMISSIONED A SERIES OF STUDIES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO LOOK INTO THE ADEQUACY OF COMMUNITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, THE BUILDING CONDITIONS, AND THE LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERN WITHIN VARIOUS STUDY AREAS IN HONG KONG.

"THE STUDIES ENABLED THE CORPORATION TO PREPARE ITS PLANS FOR URBAN RENEWAL SCHEMES," HE SAID.

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE CORPORATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE IN ITS SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOARD, MR BARNES SAID.

"WITHIN THESE REQUIREMENTS THE CORPORATION PLANS ITS OWN SCHEMES, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE AND POTENTIAL OF THE AREA, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE DIFFERENT USES, AND TAKING ADVICE FROM THE LOCAL PLANNING OFFICE.

"ITS DETAILED PROPOSALS MUST GO THROUGH TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE PROCEDURES, INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND PUBLIC OBJECTION PROCEDURES," HE SAID.

GOVT CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO CONTROL MEDICAL SERVICES COST

* * * * *

THE RISE IN THE COST OF MEDICAL SERVICES IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF INFLATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT WITH ADVANCES IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY AND RISING PUBLIC ASPIRATIONS FOR MORE AND BETTER SERVICES, THE COST WAS ESCALATING THE WORLD OVER AND HONG KONG WAS NO EXCEPTION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID: "WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO CONTAIN COST AND TO MAXIMISE DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BEARING IN MIND THAT GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL SERVICES IS PAID FOR FROM THE PUBLIC PURSE: THAT IS TO SAY SHOULDERED BY THE PUBLIC EITHER THROUGH FEES AND CHARGES OR THROUGH GENERAL TAXATION THAT IS, FROM DIFFERENT POCKETS OF THE SAME PURSE."

A MAJOR STEP IN THIS DIRECTION IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE OBJECTIVE BEHIND WHICH IS TO IMPROVE COST-EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BETTER UTILISATION OF RESOURCES AND TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY THROUGH HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT REFORMS.

FROM THE COMMUNITY HEALTH POINT OF VIEW, MRS WONG SAID, IT IS MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO KEEP PEOPLE HEALTHY AND WELL.

AND IN THIS LIGHT, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND AMBULATORY CARE SERVICES.

THE EMPHASIS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IS ON PREVENTION, HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION OF SELF-CARE.

"THE AIM IS TO MAKE FOR A HEALTHY LIFE STYLE AND A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," SHE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO CONDUCT VALUE-FOR-MONEY STUDIES AND TO REVIEW, ON AN ON-GOING BASIS, THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF SERVICES DELIVERED.

"THROUGH THESE, WE HAVE STREAMLINED PROCEDURES, ELIMINATED OUTDATED PRACTICES AND INTRODUCED NEW WAYS OF DELIVERING SERVICES."

AS REGARDS HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY WHICH IS LABOUR-INTENSIVE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED TO INTRODUCE AUTOMATION AND PROVIDE LAY SUPPORT TO ASSIST PROFESSIONAL STAFF.

THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE OTHER POSSIBILITIES AND IMPLEMENT FURTHER MEASURES AS PRACTICABLE SO AS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY PATIENT CARE IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY.

TURNING TO FEES AND CHARGES AT PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, MRS WONG SAID THEY ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

"IN THE LIGHT OF ESCALATING COST AND VARIOUS CALLS FOR REVIEW OF THE EXISTING POLICY, WE WILL BE RE-EXAMINING OUR FEES AND WAIVER ARRANGEMENTS.

"OUR AIM WOULD BE TO ACHIEVE A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN USERS AND THE GENERAL TAXPAYERS, TO ALLOW GREATER CHOICE FOR PATIENTS AND TO FACILITATE MORE COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES.

"NOBODY SHOULD BE PREVENTED, THROUGH LACK OF MEANS, FROM OBTAINING ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT," SHE STATED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INSOLVENCY FUND COVERAGE UNDER PERIODICAL REVIEW

* * * * *

THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND IS DUE FOR ANOTHER REVIEW IN JULY NEXT YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAN SAID SINCE THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1985, THREE REVIEWS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN 1986, 1988 AND LAST YEAR.

THE FUND WHICH ORIGINALLY COVERED ARREARS OF WAGES ONLY, WAS EXTENDED TO COVER SEVEN DAYS' WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE UP TO \$2,000 IN 1987, TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENT UP TO \$4,000 IN 1989 AND TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM COVERAGE OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT TO \$8,000 PLUS 50 PER CENT OF ANY ENTITLEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$8,000 THIS YEAR.

"THE MAXIMUM LEVELS OF PAYMENT FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND WILL CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY," MR CHAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PROVIDED ON TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS

* * * * *

THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME IS CLOSELY MONITORED TO ENSURE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL PLACES IN THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE IS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMAND OF ALL DISTRICTS AT ALL TIMES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN NG MING-YUM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO MINIMISE DISTRICT IMBALANCES BY SITING NEW SCHOOLS IN AREAS WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED OR BY ADJUSTING THE SCHOOL NETS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES.

"HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A COMPLETE BALANCE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN EACH INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT DUE TO FREQUENT DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES UP TO THE APPROVED TARGETS ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.

TO COPE WITH HIGH DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ADVISES SCHOOLS TO OPERATE MORE LOWER FORM CLASSES BY ADOPTING THE 8-8-8-4-4 CLASS STRUCTURE AT THE INITIAL STAGE.

OTHER MEASURES MAY INCLUDE ADVANCED OPENING OF NEW SCHOOLS IN BORROWED OR SHARED PREMISES.

TURNING TO SCHOOL PLACES IN TUEN MUN, MR CHAN SAID THE DISTRICT IS AT PRESENT PROVIDED WITH TWO GOVERNMENT AND 30 AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE OR WILL HAVE FLOATING CLASSES.

AN OLD STANDARD-DESIGN SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH 24 CLASSROOMS AND 12 SPECIAL ROOMS CAN OPERATE A MAXIMUM OF 30 CLASSES (INCLUDING UP TO SIX FLOATING CLASSES) WHILE A NEW STANDARD-DESIGN SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH 26 CLASSROOMS AND 14 SPECIAL ROOMS CAN OPERATE A MAXIMUM OF 30 CLASSES (INCLUDING UP TO FOUR FLOATING CLASSES) IF NECESSARY.

IN THE CASE OF SURPLUS SCHOOL PLACES BEING FOUND, THE NUMBER OF FLOATING CLASSES WILL BE REDUCED.

MR CHAN SAID IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE ESTIMATED DEMAND FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN TUEN MUN IN THE NEXT DECADE, SINCE DEMAND FIGURES ARE CALCULATED FOR THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS.

AS AT THIS YEAR, THE DEMAND FIGURE FOR SECONDARY 1 PLACES (WHICH REPRESENTED THE ACTUAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION FIGURE) IN TUEN MUN WAS 9,224 WHILE THE PROVISION FIGURE STOOD AT 8,239. AT THE SAME TIME, 36,700 SECONDARY 1-7 SCHOOL PLACES WERE AVAILABLE.

"AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BUILD SIX MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN TUEN MUN IN THE NEXT DECADE PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL 6,960 PLACES," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT INTENDS TO BETTER WAGE PROTECTION TO IMPORTED WORKERS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES PAYABLE TO IMPORTED WORKERS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

OUTLINING MEASURES TO PROTECT FOREIGN WORKERS UNDER LOCAL LABOUR LEGISLATION, MR CHAN SAID IN FUTURE, THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WOULD CONTAIN A SPECIFIC CLAUSE REQUIRING PAYMENT OF WAGES TO THE WORKER'S BANK ACCOUNT.

"IN ADDITION, AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR VISA EXTENSION FOR IMPORTED WORKERS (UPON COMPLETION OF ONE YEAR'S SERVICE), THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WILL REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO CERTIFY THAT WAGES AS STIPULATED IN THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS ARE BEING PAID.

"PROVISION OF FALSE INFORMATION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 OR 14 YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY STEPPED UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION, WITH 1,540 INSPECTIONS MADE TO PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT AND LIVING QUARTERS OF 60 PER CENT OF THE IMPORTED WORKERS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE LABOUR INSPECTORS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTING TO INDIVIDUAL WORKERS INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS WHILE EMPLOYERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT WAGES SHOULD BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THE WORKERS' BANK ACCOUNTS.

ON MEASURES TO ASSIST FOREIGN WORKERS WHOSE WAGES HAD BEEN DEDUCTED, MR CHAN SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT INTERVENED BY ASKING THE EMPLOYER CONCERNED TO PAY BACK ANY OUTSTANDING WAGES.

"SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE WORKER ABOUT ANY DEDUCTION OR UNDERPAYMENT, THE CASE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION," HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT ASSISTS THE WORKERS CONCERNED IN APPLYING FOR EXTENSIONS OF STAY IN ORDER TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS, AND ASSISTS WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN DISMISSED AS A RESULT OF THEIR COMPLAINTS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

REGARDING COMPLAINT CASES OF WAGE DEDUCTIONS, MR CHAN SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD DETECTED 334 SUSPECTED ITEMS OF WAGE UNDERPAYMENT AND DEDUCTION UP TO END-OCTOBER THIS YEAR DURING INSPECTIONS INCLUDING COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN WORKERS.

HE NOTED THAT 53 ITEMS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED AND THE REST WERE EITHER UNSUBSTANTIATED OR STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

UP TO NOVEMBER 22 THIS YEAR, ONE EMPLOYER HAS BEEN CONVICTED FOR UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES AND WAS FINED \$1,000 FOR EACH OF THE TWO SUMMONSES.

PROSECUTION ACTION HAD BEEN INITIATED AGAINST FOUR OTHER EMPLOYERS AND IS BEING CONSIDERED AGAINST NINE OTHER EMPLOYERS.

IN ADDITION, TWO OTHER CASES HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL WHICH WERE STILL PENDING.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS THE SPECIFIC CASE INVOLVING 18 IMPORTED WORKERS WHO ALLEGED THAT THEIR WAGES HAD BEEN UNDERPAID AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNREASONABLY DISMISSED, MR CHAN SAID FOUR OF THE WORKERS HAD DECIDED TO TAKE THEIR CASE TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION WHILE THE REMAINDER HAD DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS.

WHILE THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 11, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS TAKING SEPARATE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE EMPLOYER CONCERNED HAS CONTRAVENED THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO PREDICT HOW LONG THESE INVESTIGATIONS WILL TAKE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, BEING UNDERTAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ALL EFFORTS DONE TO PREVENT WEAPON-MAKING IN VM'S CAMPS

* * * * *

GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE CAMPS FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AND THE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS THERE, CAMP MANagements ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO PREVENT THE MAKING OF WEAPONS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR ASPREY SAID PAST EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT WEAPONS WERE MADE WITHIN THE CENTRES AND NOT OBTAINED FROM OUTSIDE.

HE SAID THEY WERE MANUFACTURED FROM METAL OR OTHER HARD FIXTURES AND FITTINGS IN THE CENTRES, SUCH AS RAILINGS FROM THE BUNK BEDS, ELECTRICAL WIRE TUBING, WATER PIPES, WINDOW FRAMES AND WINDOW BARS. THE WORK WAS CARRIED OUT MOSTLY AT NIGHT.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AS DORMITORIES IN THE CENTRES WERE CONGESTED WITH BUNKS AND THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, IT WAS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THE OWNERS OF ANY WEAPONS DISCOVERED.

"NEVERTHELESS, WHENEVER SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT A PROSECUTION, CHARGES ARE BROUGHT AGAINST THE OFFENDERS," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID WEAPONS WERE PRODUCED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE FACTIONAL RIVALRIES IN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

"WE TRY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PLACES OF ORIGIN AND TO KEEP DIFFERENT REGIONAL GROUPS APART IN AN ATTEMPT TO MINIMISE THESE FACTIONAL RIVALRIES," THE SECRETARY SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT DISPUTES ALSO OFTEN AROUSE BETWEEN DIFFERENT LOCAL GROUPS OR SIMPLY BETWEEN GANGS FROM WITHIN THE SAME AREA.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO TRYING TO REDUCE THE RAW MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS.

WHENEVER MAJOR FITTINGS OR INSTALLATIONS WERE REPLACED IN THE CENTRES, NON-METAL COMPONENTS, SUCH AS FIBRE GLASS OR PLASTIC, WERE USED AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, HE SAID.

"IT IS, HOWEVER, IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE ALL METAL OR OTHER HARD MATERIALS FROM THE CENTRES," HE EXPLAINED.

MR ASPREY ALSO NOTED THAT REGULAR WEAPONS SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED IN EACH CENTRE, AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS WITH POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT FROM TIME TO TIME.

PRODUCTION AND POSSESSION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IN DETENTION CENTRES, HE SAID, WAS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, AND UNDER THE IMMIGRATION (VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE) (DETENTION CENTRE) RULES 1989 MADE UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

COURT AND POLICE RECORDS INDICATED THAT BETWEEN JANUARY 1989 AND JUNE LAST YEAR, 233 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WERE CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, 143 WERE CONVICTED. SENTENCES IMPOSED RANGED FROM 14 DAYS TO 18 MONTHS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO PLANS FOR MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR CRIMES INVOLVING FIREARMS
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO PROPOSE A MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR USE OF FIREARMS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON J.D. MCGREGOR AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT MAXIMUM PENALTIES ARE, BY ANY STANDARDS, SEVERE AND BELIEVED TO BE ADEQUATE.

"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS EMPOWERED TO SEEK A REVIEW OF THE SENTENCE IN A PARTICULAR CASE IF HE CONSIDERS THAT IT IS MANIFESTLY INADEQUATE OR WRONG IN PRINCIPLE," HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS WITHOUT A LICENCE IS A FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 14 YEARS; FOR ROBBERY IT IS LIFE IMPRISONMENT; AND FOR CARRYING FIREARMS OR IMITATION FIREARMS WITH INTENT TO COMMIT AN ARRESTABLE OFFENCE, IT IS ALSO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 14 -

VARIOUS POLICE MEASURES TO CURB CRIMES IN TSUEN/KWAI

* * * * *

THE POLICE ARE TAKING VARIOUS MEASURES TO COMBAT INCREASING CRIME IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG DISTRICTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR ASPREY SAID THEY HAD STRENGTHENED POLICING AT STREET LEVEL AND STEPPED UP INVESTIGATION WORK.

HE SAID POLICING IN THE STREETS BY OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICTS WAS AUGMENTED BY PATROLS BY THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT AND EMERGENCY UNIT.

"IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, AN EXTRA POLICE TACTICAL UNIT COMPANY OF 160 MEN WAS DEPLOYED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE DISTRICT COMMANDERS WERE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT MAXIMUM MANPOWER WAS DEPLOYED TO OPERATIONAL DUTIES AND TO MAINTAIN POLICE PRESENCE ON THE GROUND.

THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT AND EMERGENCY UNITS ARE KEPT AT FULL STRENGTH, HE ADDED.

A COMPARISON OF TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, SHOWED A RISE OF 18.6 PER CENT IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT AND 12.4 PER CENT IN KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH OF DISCIPLINED STAFF IN THE TSUEN WAN POLICE DISTRICT ARE 590 AND 515, AND IN THE KWAI CHUNG POLICE DISTRICT 522 AND 425 RESPECTIVELY.

VACANCIES ARE MOSTLY IN THE UNIFORMED BRANCH, CID UNITS ARE GENERALLY AT FULL STRENGTH.

OVERALL, THE POLICE AT PRESENT HAVE AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 24,288 JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS WITH 23,329 OFFICERS IN POST.

REGARDING HOW LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN BE INFORMED OF THE CRIME SITUATION IN THE DISTRICT, MR ASPREY SAID THERE ARE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION.

THESE INCLUDED THE DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, AND AREA COMMITTEES; ALL OF WHICH ARE ATTENDED BY POLICE OFFICERS.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER IN EACH DISTRICT, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 15 -

GOVT RECOGNISES DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY CHINA

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE RELEVANT CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO DIE IN CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR ASPREY SAID REGISTRATION OF DEATHS WHICH OCCURRED IN CHINA WAS A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADVISED THOSE PEOPLE WHO ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SUCH CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR FRIENDS OR RELATIVES TO APPROACH THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY.

MR ASPREY ADDED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION HAD NOT COME ACROSS ANY CASES WHERE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING DEATH CERTIFICATES IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO DIED IN CHINA.

"FOR THAT REASON, WE HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED ANY SPECIAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION ON THIS MATTER WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

"HOWEVER, IF WE DO RECEIVE ANY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE NCNA." MR ASPREY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

* * * * *

A TIME LIMIT IS IMPOSED ON COMPLETION UNDER THE BUILDING COVENANT CONTAINED IN THE CONDITIONS OF LAND GRANT BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FEDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE.

MR BARNES SAID A TYPICAL COVENANT FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE 36 MONTHS.

FOR PARTICULARLY LARGE AND MORE COMPLICATED DEVELOPMENTS, THE TIME LIMIT MIGHT BE LONGER AND MIGHT BE PHASED, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 16 -

GOVT'S WATCHDOG ROLE OVER CLP WILL BE STRONGER WITH NEW SCA

* * * * *

A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF THE NEW SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENT (SCA) HAVE BEEN AGREED TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CHINA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY LIMITED (CLP), EXXON AND THEIR ASSOCIATED GENERATED COMPANIES (THE COMPANIES).

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REGARDING THE NEGOTIATION WITH THE COMPANIES ON THE SCA RENEWAL, THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE TERMS OF THE NEW SCA WHICH PROVIDED FOR AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS AND SHAREHOLDERS.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOME URGENCY IN COMPLETING THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THE COMPANIES WOULD SHORTLY NEED TO BEGIN RAISING FINANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED NEW POWER STATION AT BLACK POINT, THE FIRST UNITS OF WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED SOMETIME BETWEEN 1996 AND 1998.

"SOME POTENTIAL INVESTORS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY CONSIDER AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF THE NEW SCA TO BE A PREREQUISITE TO MAJOR LOAN FINANCE FOR THE PROJECT," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONCLUDED IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING WHICH THE REVISED TERMS OF THE NEW SCA WERE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER.

"ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR A FULL BRIEFING OF OMELCO MEMBERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES PANEL. THIS BRIEFING TOOK PLACE ON 11 NOVEMBER," THE SECRETARY SAID.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT CLP DID NOT HAVE A FRANCHISE OR ANY EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY.

THE PRESENT SCA BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANIES, WHICH EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1993, IS A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ON MUTUALLY AGREED TERMS.

"WITHOUT THIS VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION PLANS OF THE COMPANIES OR TO APPROVE THEIR TARIFFS," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH STARTED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR LEADING UP TO THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE COMPANIES ON THE EXTENSION OF THE SCA FOR A FURTHER 15 YEARS FROM 1993 WERE CONDUCTED IN CONFIDENCE AND NO SPECIFIC CONSULTATION WAS HELD WITH GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS.

/"HOWEVER," SHE

"HOWEVER," SHE SAID, "THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE SINCE 1982 AND, OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON ITS TERMS BY THE PUBLIC, IN THE MEDIA AND FOLLOWING FROM PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO INTERESTED PARTIES, SUCH AS OMELCO AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL."

"WHILE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE, IF ANY, ADVERSE COMMENT ON ELECTRICITY TARIFF LEVELS OR THE RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY, CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ON THE RATE OF PERMITTED RETURN, ON THE POTENTIAL SCOPE FOR THE COMPANIES TO OVER-BUILD CAPACITY IN ORDER TO EARN MORE PROFIT AND ON THE EFFECT OF ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT."

"THE SECRETARY SAID ALL THESE CONCERNS WERE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BY THE ADMINISTRATION DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXTENSIVE AND PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMPANIES."

MRS CHAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SERIOUSLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC BEFORE REACHING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE COMPANIES.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED IN THE JLG, TO KEEP THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF MAJOR FRANCHISES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND 1997, THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE NEW AGREEMENT BEFORE IT IS FINALISED," SHE ADDED.

----- 0 -----

CRITERIA OF AWARDING CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS EXPLAINED

* * * *

A QUALITATIVE APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT IS MADE AS TO THE BIDDING FIRMS' CAPABILITIES AND SUITABILITY TO CARRY OUT THE SPECIFIC PROJECT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS EMPLOYING A FIRM OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, LOCAL OR OVERSEAS, TO CARRY OUT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EDWARD HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT SUCH PROCEDURES ALSO APPLIED TO PROJECTS UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, MR BLAKE SAID THE ASSESSMENT BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BIDDER, TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ITS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE TYPE OF PROJECT ENVISAGED, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE; ITS GENERAL PERFORMANCE RECORD, AND ITS CAPABILITIES FOR THE SIZE OF PROJECT ENVISAGED.

OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDED THE STRENGTH OF THE BIDDER'S LOCAL PERSONNEL, AND IN PARTICULAR LOCAL PARTNERS, AS WELL AS ITS EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AS THE CLIENT, HE ADDED.

MR BLAKE EXPLAINED THAT OVERSEAS FIRMS WHICH WERE EMPLOYED TO CARRY OUT WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT WERE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN, FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR ENGAGEMENT, AN OFFICE IN HONG KONG UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A PROJECT DIRECTOR WHO HAD TO HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY AND ADEQUATE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO ENSURE PROGRESS TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT WHICH COMPELLED FIRMS, WITHOUT LOCAL WORKING EXPERIENCE TO ASSOCIATE WITH LOCAL FIRMS, IF THEY ARE TO WORK ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

HE SAID SUCH ASSOCIATIONS DID OCCUR NATURALLY HOWEVER, TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY BRIEFS.

"WHEN FOREIGN CONSULTANTS WORK IN HONG KONG, THEY NORMALLY EMPLOY LOCAL PROFESSIONALS. ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN THEIR CONSULTANT MANAGEMENT CAPACITY HAVE CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH THESE FIRMS.

"THESE TOGETHER WITH THE FREQUENT PRACTICE OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN FIRMS COMING TOGETHER IN CONSORTIA, OR LOCAL FIRMS ENGAGING FOREIGN SPECIALIST FIRMS AS SUB-CONSULTANTS, PROVIDE THE CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS WHICH RESULT IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM FOREIGN FIRMS TO LOCAL PROFESSIONALS," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FOUR-HOUR DEBATE ON PUBLIC HOUSING FLAT SALE IN LEGCO

* * * * *

A MOTION ON THE SALE OF PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS TO SITTING TENANTS BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT WAS PASSED AFTER A FOUR-HOUR DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEE'S MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL URGES THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO WIDELY CONSULT THE PUBLIC IN REVIEWING THE OBJECTIVE, PRICING, MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER ASPECTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS TO SITTING TENANTS."

A TOTAL OF 18 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE MOTION DEBATE, WITH THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AN AMENDED MOTION MOVED BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG WAS DEFEATED.

MEANWHILE, SIX MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE CONTROL OF PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS RAISED BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG. THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO REPLIED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TWO BILLS - STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) BILL 1991 - WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

THREE OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1991, BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

A MOTION, MOVED BY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES MRS ANSON CHAN UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE, WAS ALSO PASSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 19 -

PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER

* * * * *

RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW SUBSTANTIALLY WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS REGISTERED A MODERATE DECLINE IN OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED, THOUGH AT A LESS RAPID RATE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS MONTHS.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN OCTOBER ROSE BY \$9,259 MILLION OR 22.1% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$51,098 MILLION.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN OCTOBER, AT \$21,296 MILLION, WAS \$889 MILLION OR 4.0% LOWER.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$8,370 MILLION OR 13.1% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$72,394 MILLION IN OCTOBER.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$6,074 MILLION OR 9.6% TO \$69,282 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$3,112 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN OCTOBER 1991.

THE SURPLUS RECORDED IN OCTOBER 1990 WAS \$816 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.3% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1991, AT \$430,055 MILLION, ROSE BY \$95,522 MILLION OR 28.6% OVER THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY \$4,504 MILLION OR 2.5% TO \$188,289 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AT \$618,344 MILLION, WAS THUS \$100,026 MILLION OR 19.3% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS GREW BY \$112,217 MILLION OR 21.6% TO \$631,293 MILLION. A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$12,949 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.1% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1991.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$758 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.1% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1990.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE MODERATE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN OCTOBER WAS PARTLY DUE TO A HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

/BUT MORE

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT REFLECTED AN UNDERLYING TREND OF CONTINUOUS RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES ACROSS THE BORDER.

THE EXPANSION OF OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTED TO THE RAPID INCREASE IN RE-EXPORTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT, AFTER A FAST GROWTH IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR, IMPORTS RETAINED FOR DOMESTIC USE SLOWED DOWN MARKEDLY, RECORDING A YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE OF 7.9% IN VALUE TERMS IN OCTOBER.

NEVERTHELESS, FOR THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1991 TAKEN TOGETHER, THERE WAS STILL A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 12.5% IN THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1991:

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS :	\$21,296 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS :	\$51,098 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS :	\$72,394 MILLION	
	IMPORTS :	\$69,282 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE :	\$3,112 MILLION	[IN SURPLUS]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	AUG 91 TO	AUG 90 TO	INCREASE	
	OCT 91	OCT 90	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	62,186	62,838	-652	-1.0
RE-EXPORTS	148,434	115,242	33,192	28.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	210,620	178,080	32,540	18.3
IMPORTS	202,990	172,764	30,226	17.5
TRADE BALANCE	7,630	5,316	2,314	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	INCREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,296	22,185	-889	-4.0
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(29.4%)	(34.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	51,098	41,839	9,259	22.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	72,394	64,024	8,370	13.1
IMPORTS	69,282	63,208	6,074	9.6
TRADE BALANCE	3,112	816	2,296	

/LAST MONTH

- 21 -

LAST MONTH	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	INCREASE	
	1991	1991	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,296	20,526	770	3.8
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(29.4%)	(29.1%)		
RE-EXPORTS	51,098	50,131	967	1.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	72,394	70,657	1,737	2.5
IMPORTS	69,282	66,953	2,329	3.5
TRADE BALANCE	3,112	3,704	-592	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-OCT	JAN-OCT	INCREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	188,289	183,785	4,504	2.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.5%)	(35.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	430,055	334,533	95,522	28.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	618,344	518,318	100,026	19.3
IMPORTS	631,293	519,076	112,217	21.6
TRADE BALANCE	-12,949	-758	-12,191	

LAST 12 MONTHS	NOV 90 TO	NOV 89 TO	INCREASE	
	OCT 91	OCT 90	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	230,379	223,113	7,266	3.3
RE-EXPORTS	509,521	394,165	115,356	29.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	739,900	617,278	122,622	19.9
IMPORTS	754,747	612,864	141,883	23.2
TRADE BALANCE	-14,847	4,414	-19,261	

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE

* * * * *

AS HONG KONG PEOPLE SEEK TO IMPROVE THE CITY, THEY MUST LOOK FOR WAYS TO MAINTAIN ITS CHARACTER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE REOPENING OF THE WESTERN MARKET AFTER IT HAS BEEN RENOVATED BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC).

THE GOVERNOR SAID WHERE OTHERS SAW WESTERN MARKET AS NO MORE THAN AN OLD BUILDING TO BE PULLED DOWN AND REDEVELOPED, THE LDC SAW SOMETHING OF ARCHITECTURAL VALUE WHICH COULD BE TRANSFORMED TO FILL A VERY MODERN NEED.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID PRAISED THE LDC'S SUCCESS IN TRANSFORMING THE WESTERN MARKET INTO A UNIQUE NEW MARKET PLACE IN WHICH HERITAGE, ART AND UTILITY HAD BEEN BLENDED TOGETHER WITH SENSITIVITY AND IMAGINATION.

"THE CONCEPT HAS DRAWN SOMETHING FROM LONDON'S COVENT GARDEN AND WASHINGTON'S UNION STATION.

"BUT IT ALSO CAPTURES MUCH THAT IS UNIQUE TO HONG KONG.

"IT WILL SERVE THE HOUSEWIFE FROM HONG KONG JUST AS MUCH AS THE TOURIST FROM HOUSTON," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE REFURBISHED WESTERN MARKET HAD SET AN EXAMPLE OF SENSIBLE PRESERVATION AND ADAPTATION.

"I HOPE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW IT," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JLG XXI
* * *

THE FCO ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT THE 21ST MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 3 - 5.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ANTHONY GALSWORTHY. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MICHAEL SZE (SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, HONG KONG), MR ALAN PAUL (COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HONG KONG), MR PETER RICKETTS (HEAD, HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, FCO), AND MR WILLIAM EHRMAN (POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG).

- - - - 0 - - - -

STI'S STATEMENT ON MFN
* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON THE PASSAGE BY THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF MFN TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST 24 HOURS HAVE BEEN VERY RAPID, THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL BY THE HOUSE IS NOT UNEXPECTED.

"OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE SENATE HAS NOT YET VOTED ON THE BILL. WE ARE MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

/"I BELIEVE

"I BELIEVE THE BASIC SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD VETO ANY BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PUT CONDITIONS ON CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS.

"WHEN THE SENATE VOTED IN JULY ON THE EARLIER VERSION OF THIS BILL, THERE WERE 44 VOTES AGAINST THE BILL, WHICH WAS MORE THAN THE 34 VOTES NEEDED BY PRESIDENT BUSH TO SUSTAIN A VETO."

- - - - 0 - - - -

STI'S STATEMENT ON THE SPECIAL 301 NEGOTIATIONS

* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY BY THE US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SPECIAL 301 NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) :

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS ON MANY OCCASIONS EXPRESSED TO THE US AUTHORITIES ITS CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE EFFECTS WHICH SPECIAL 301 ACTION AGAINST CHINESE PRODUCTS MIGHT HAVE ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

"WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE US AUTHORITIES THAT OUR CONCERN HAS BEEN NOTED.

"THIS IS PRIMARILY A BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA. HONG KONG HAS NO DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN IT," MR CHAU SAID.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED THAT THE US AND CHINA HAVE APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND THAT THE US WILL PUBLISH TOMORROW A LIST OF CHINESE PRODUCTS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO RETALIATORY TARIFFS.

"WE HOPE THAT, IN SPITE OF THIS, THE TWO SIDES WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE A BILATERAL SOLUTION," HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO THE US STATEMENT, THE LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVITING COMMENTS FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WITHIN A 30 DAY PERIOD, BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE BY THE US TO IMPLEMENT ANY RETALIATORY TARIFFS.

THE US STATEMENT ALSO INDICATES THAT NEGOTIATIONS MAY CONTINUE DURING THIS 30 DAY PERIOD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 24 -

SURVEY ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES RELEASED

* * * * *

JAPAN HAS NOW BECOME THE LEADING SOURCE COUNTRY OF INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, ACCOUNTING FOR 32 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

THIS IS REVEALED IN THE LATEST SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

PRESENTING RESULTS OF THE SURVEY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THIS WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE TREND IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WHICH SAW SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN JAPANESE INVESTMENT.

"IN FACT, OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE GROSS ADDITION TO FIXED ASSETS IN 1990 WAS MADE BY JAPAN," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE UNITED STATES (WITH 31 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL) WAS THE SECOND LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR AFTER JAPAN.

CHINA (WITH 11 PER CENT) AND THE UK (WITH 7 PER CENT) STAYED IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH PLACES RESPECTIVELY.

"I SHOULD ADD THAT INVESTMENTS FROM THESE 'BIG FOUR' HAVE ALL INCREASED IN 1990 COMPARED WITH 1989 THOUGH THE RATE OF INCREASE VARIES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID A TOTAL OF 545 COMPANIES WITH OVERSEAS INVESTMENT RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

"THE TOTAL VALUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AT THE END OF 1990 WAS \$30.9 BILLION, \$1.2 BILLION (OR 4 PER CENT) HIGHER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND NEARLY THREE TIMES THE 1984 FIGURE OF \$11.4 BILLION," HE SAID.

MR BARMA ADDED THAT THE STOCK OF FIXED ASSETS, AT \$20.2 BILLION, WAS 15 PER CENT HIGHER THAN 1989.

"THIS SIGNIFIES THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING INCREASE IN NEW INVESTMENT AND REINVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DESPITE SOME OVERSEAS COMPANIES RELOCATING PARTS OF THEIR OPERATIONS TO LOWER COST PRODUCTION CENTRES SUCH AS CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING SECTORS, MR BARMA SAID OVER 60 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT LAST YEAR WAS MADE IN THE ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

MR BARMA SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT.

/"WE BELIEVE

"WE BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS MUST UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE.

"AND THE AIM OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S INWARD INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME IS TO ENCOURAGE OVERSEAS INVESTORS TO INTRODUCE TO HONG KONG, THROUGH THEIR INVESTMENTS, NEW OR IMPROVED PRODUCTS, TECHNOLOGY, DESIGNS AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES," HE SAID.

IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE COMPANIES WITH AN OVERSEAS INTEREST WERE JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL PARTNERS, A FORM OF CO-OPERATION WHICH PROVIDED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

"IN ABOUT THE SAME PROPORTION OF COMPANIES, STAFF HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED FROM THE OVERSEAS PARENT COMPANIES TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE OR ASSISTANCE IN AREAS SUCH AS COMPANY MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID 328 COMPANIES (60 PER CENT) REPORTED THAT THEY EITHER HAD LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE OVERSEAS PARENT COMPANY, OR HAD RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR HELP IN ACQUIRING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM THEM.

MOREOVER, 87 (16 PER CENT) COMPANIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, REPORTED THAT OVERSEAS INVESTORS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

"OBVIOUSLY, OVERSEAS INVESTMENT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ASSISTING THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO UPGRADE ITS PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE SURVEY TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF OVERSEAS INVESTORS ON THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING BASE.

HE SAID EACH COMPANY WAS GIVEN A LIST OF 12 FACTORS WHICH, BY AND LARGE, MADE UP THE OVERALL INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING BASE.

THESE FACTORS INCLUDED A RANGE OF NORMAL BUSINESS FACTORS, SUCH AS INFRASTRUCTURE, BANKING AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES, THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL, AND ALSO SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS HONG KONG'S POLITICAL CLIMATE AND ITS FUTURE.

SEVEN OUT OF THE 12 FACTORS USED IN THE SURVEY WERE CONSIDERED BY MORE THAN HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS TO BE FAVOURABLE.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, HONG KONG'S REGIONAL LOCATION AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY WERE THE KEY FACTORS SEEN AS MOST FAVOURABLE.

"THE SURVEY ALSO CONFIRMED SEVERAL COMMONLY RECOGNISED FACTORS CAUSING CONCERN, SUCH AS LABOUR COST, COST OF FACTORY AND OFFICE SPACE, AND HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE," HE SAID.

/MR BARMA

MR BARMA SAID IT WAS WORTH NOTING THAT 292 COMPANIES - 56 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS - CONSIDERED THAT THE OVERALL MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG WAS FAVOURABLE.

"A TOTAL OF 187 COMPANIES (36 PER CENT) ALSO HAD PLANS FOR EXPANSION IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ON BUSINESS PROSPECTS, MR BARMA SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE COMPANIES (72 PER CENT) EXPECTED BUSINESS THIS YEAR TO BE GOOD TO SATISFACTORY, WHILE 315 COMPANIES (61 PER CENT) FELT THE SAME ABOUT BUSINESS PROSPECTS NEXT YEAR.

MR BARMA SAID THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WERE RATHER POSITIVE.

"NOT ONLY DO THEY INDICATE THAT THE PROCESS OF ENRICHING OUR LOCAL MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS CONTINUING, BUT THEY ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT IN 1990 HONG KONG REMAINED AN ATTRACTIVE LOCATION FOR INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING AND THAT BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS IN THE COMING YEAR ARE FAVOURABLE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

269 VM'S RETURNED TODAY

* * * * *

A GROUP OF 269 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 94 MEN, 73 WOMEN, 49 BOYS AND 53 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 78TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 6,351 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 12,647 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LATEST DATE FOR LOCAL X'MAS CARD POSTING REMINDED

* * * * *

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR POSTING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOCAL DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20.

POSTING AFTER THIS DATE MIGHT RUN THE RISK OF NOT BEING DELIVERED IN TIME BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED PRESSURES.

HE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO POST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID A LAST-MINUTE RUSH.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERIES WOULD BE PROVIDED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AND ON BOXING DAY, DECEMBER 26. NO DELIVERIES WOULD BE MADE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

ALL POST OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1991

- 27 -

RELAXING VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN HK AND POLAND

* * * * *

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW:

- * HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORT HOLDERS AND BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT HOLDERS MAY BE PERMITTED TO VISIT POLAND WITHOUT VISAS FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN DAYS; AND
- * SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WILL BE MADE FOR POLISH PASSPORT HOLDERS VISITING HONG KONG ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO FACILITATE TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO TERRITORIES, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEN ARRESTED FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY

* * * * *

IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, FOUR TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS AND FOUR FOREIGN VISITORS FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY DURING A SERIES OF OPERATIONS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

TEN RESIDENTIAL FLATS AND 11 BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WERE VISITED. IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ALSO CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON 375 PERSONS.

THE TWO FEMALE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, AGED 21 AND 38, WERE ARRESTED AT A CHIU CHOW FOOD STALL IN SAI YING PUN. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE SNEAKED INTO HONG KONG EARLIER THIS MONTH AND LATER MANAGED TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT THE FOOD STALL.

AMONG THE GROUP OF TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS INTERCEPTED, THREE OF THEM, TWO WOMEN AND A MAN, WERE FOUND TO HAVE OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG.

THE FOURTH ONE, AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD MAN, WAS FOUND WORKING IN THE KITCHEN OF A KWUN TONG RESTAURANT.

THE OTHER FOUR VISITORS, THREE PAKISTANIS AND AN INDIAN OVERSTAYER, AGED FROM 18 TO 26, WERE ARRESTED AT A FACTORY IN SAN PO KONG. THEY ADMITTED TO HAVE TAKEN UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT AS CASUAL WORKERS.

FOUR HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY GRANTED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO REMINDED THAT VISITORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE UP ANY EMPLOYMENT, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

HE REMINDED THAT THOSE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND UPON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

PEOPLE WHO AID AND ABET OTHERS TO COMMIT THESE OFFENCES ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT FUNG SHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN, KOWLOON.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,000 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS) AND/OR FEE PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED).

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED AT ON LAI STREET, AREA 11, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 10,400 SQUARE METRES, IT IS EITHER FOR:

- * A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF PRIVATE CARS, LIGHT VANS, LORRIES, BUSES, TRACTORS AND TRAILERS (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND CONTAINERS ON TRAILERS) WHICH ARE CURRENTLY LICENSED FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, OR
- * STORAGE OF GOODS INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINERS ON TRAILERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS AS DEFINED IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH LOTS ARE LOCATED IN AREA 16B, WONG CHUK YEUNG STREET, FO TAN, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TWO SITES WITH AREAS OF ABOUT 1,500 AND 1,150 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY ARE FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND/OR MOTOR VEHICLES SCRAP YARD.

EACH TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

/THE DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 13.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRESH WATER SUSPENSION

* * * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 29) TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT SEUNG SZE WAN ROAD, SEUNG SZE WAN VILLAGE AND SIU HANG HAU VILLAGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	26.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	27.11.91	+88
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-88
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.8 *+0.2* 27.11.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1WEEK	3.81 PCT	24MONTH	2311	6.25	101.33	5.58
1MONTH	3.85 PCT					
3MONTH	3.91 PCT					
6MONTH	4.10 PCT					
12MONTH	4.77 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 4,213 MN, BONDS 77 MN

- - - - 0 - - - -