



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

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GOVT WORKING TOWARDS SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON RETURNING VBP  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON A PROGRAMME OF ORDERLY RETURN TO VIETNAM OF BOAT PEOPLE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT AS NOT BEING REFUGEES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING A FACTORY IN TSUEN WAN, THE GOVERNOR SAID THIS REMAINED THE OBJECTIVE AS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY IN YESTERDAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

"WE WANT TO GET THAT AGREEMENT AND THOSE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE, REALLY AS SOON AS WE CAN AND CERTAINLY BEFORE THE START OF THE NEXT SAILING SEASON NEXT YEAR. BUT WE HAVEN'T GOT THERE YET," HE SAID.

"WE'VE GOT TO GET AN AGREEMENT WHICH WE THINK IS SATISFACTORY AND THEN WE'VE GOT TO GET THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE," HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT THE FUNDING OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT, SIR DAVID SAID IT DID NOT DEPEND ON USING THE LAND FUND OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

"WE'RE MAKING THE ASSUMPTIONS ON FUNDINGS WHICH ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON USING THE SAR LAND FUND. THERE WAS AN EARLIER COMMENT FROM THE BANK OF CHINA ECONOMIC BULLETIN SUGGESTING THAT THE LAND FUND MIGHT BE USED.

"AND THAT WAS A POSITIVE WAY OF LOOKING AT THE USE OF THE LAND FUND," HE SAID.

"WE WENT TO CONSULTANTS ON THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OF COURSE LOOKED INTO IT EXTREMELY CAREFULLY AND, AS A RESULT, ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE FUNDING WILL BE THERE," HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT A LETTER SENT FROM THE POLITICAL ADVISER TO THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE WOULD NOT RELEASE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES, BUT THAT WAS, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ONLY LETTER THAT WENT FROM THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S OFFICE TO THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

"BUT LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR. THAT WAS NOT RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT. WE DON'T AS A PRACTICE RELEASE THE CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. THAT'S NORMAL PRACTICE," HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON A CALL FOR DISBANDING OF THE HONG KONG ALLIANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN CHINA, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT MUST BE A MATTER ENTIRELY FOR THE ALLIANCE.

"THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TRY TO DICTATE TO ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE LEGAL, WHAT THEY SHOULD DO OR WHAT THEY SHOULDN'T DO. IT'S ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE ORGANISATIONS THEMSELVES," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR VISITS PHOTOCOPIER FACTORY IN TSUEN WAN

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, VISITED A JAPANESE-OWNED PHOTOCOPIER MANUFACTURING PLANT IN TSUEN WAN TODAY (THURSDAY) TO KEEP UP WITH CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, THE GOVERNOR VISITED MITA INDUSTRIAL COMPANY (HONG KONG) LIMITED, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF DESK-TOP PHOTOCOPYING MACHINES.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT MITA IS CURRENTLY THE LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF PHOTOCOPIERS IN HONG KONG, PRODUCING 240,000 MACHINES FOR THE AMERICAN, AUSTRALIAN AND EEC MARKETS EVERY YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO LEARNT THAT, SINCE COMING TO HONG KONG 10 YEARS AGO, MITA HAS BEEN EXPANDING ITS OPERATIONS AND HAS CONVINCED A NUMBER OF JAPANESE COMPONENT SUPPLIERS TO ALSO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS IN THE TERRITORY, THEREBY PROVIDING A MUCH LARGER BASE FOR THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY.

MITA OWNS TWO FACTORY PREMISES IN HONG KONG, ONE IN TSUEN WAN AND THE OTHER IN CHEUNG SHA WAN. THEY OCCUPY A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF MORE THAN 40,000 SQUARE METRES.

SIR DAVID WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE MODERN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY IN THE MITA PLANT, AND WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON "QUALITY AND RELIABILITY" IN ITS PRODUCTION PROCESS.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT MITA'S INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG HAS INTRODUCED NEW PRODUCTS, MANUFACTURING PROCESSES, TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT METHODS TO THE TERRITORY, AND HAS HELPED TO STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S VITAL LINKAGE INDUSTRIES," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST INVESTMENT OUTSIDE JAPAN IN ASIA, AND THAT LAST YEAR THIS INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WENT UP BY ABOUT \$1 BILLION.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THEY PAY A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG AND, IN THAT WAY, HAVE SHOWN GREAT CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMY," HE SAID.

AS AT THE END OF 1988, JAPAN WAS THE SECOND LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, ACCOUNTING FOR 27 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

THE ELECTRONICS SECTOR ACCOUNTS FOR 34 PER CENT OF TOTAL JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG AND THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN THIS SECTOR HAS BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY.

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HK HAS STRONG FOUNDATION TO BUILD ON: STI

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THERE IS A STRONG FOUNDATION UPON WHICH HONG KONG CAN BUILD, AND THEREBY CONTINUE TO GROW, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE KIEL INSTITUTE OF WORLD ECONOMICS IN WEST GERMANY DURING HIS DUTY VISIT TO EUROPE, MR CHAN ASSURED THAT HONG KONG WOULD NOT GO DOWN THE DRAIN.

"THE GOVERNMENT WON'T LET IT HAPPEN. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WON'T LET IT HAPPEN. AND CHINA, IN HER OWN INTERESTS, WON'T LET IT HAPPEN EITHER," HE SAID.

GIVING SOME FACTS AND FIGURES TO THE AUDIENCE, MR CHAN SAID ALL THESE GAVE THE PICTURE OF A BUSINESS METROPOLIS WHICH WAS TRULY COSMOPOLITAN IN OUTLOOK, WITH A FAST-GROWING ECONOMY AND A HIGH LEVEL OF AFFLUENCE.

"ABOVE ALL, IT IS THE PICTURE OF A CITY WHICH OFFERS ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S PER CAPITA GDP IN 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT US\$9,600, WHICH WAS SECOND ONLY TO JAPAN IN ASIA AND HIGHER THAN SOME MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

"ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, HONG KONG IS THE 10TH LARGEST TRADING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD. IN 1988, OUR TOTAL EXTERNAL TRADE WAS WORTH US\$127 BILLION, 31 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT OF 1987.

"OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS EXPANDED RAPIDLY AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. OUR IMPORTS GREW EVEN FASTER BY 14 PER CENT A YEAR, AND OUR RE-EXPORTS STILL FASTER AT 26 PER CENT A YEAR, AGAIN IN REAL TERMS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT HONG KONG HAD THE WORLD'S BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN TERMS OF THROUGHPUT. "OUR AIRPORT ALSO HANDLES MORE CARGO THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE TERMINAL IN THE WORLD."

HE SAID WELL OVER 400 FOREIGN BANKS FROM SOME 50 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED IN HONG KONG AND 136 OF THEM HAD FULL BRANCHES IN THE TERRITORY. HONG KONG RANKS THIRD IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF OVERSEAS BANK REPRESENTATION.

"AND HONG KONG IS THE FOURTH LARGEST STOCK MARKET IN ASIA, AS WELL AS THE THIRD LARGEST GOLD MARKET IN THE WORLD AFTER LONDON AND ZURICH IN TERMS OF TRADING VOLUME," HE SAID.

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TURNING TO THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, WHICH HE SAID WAS ONE OF THE KEYS TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN CHINA, ACCOUNTING FOR AROUND 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL IN TERMS OF BOTH THE NUMBER OF VENTURES SET UP AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY INVESTED.

"IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, CHINESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG HAS ALSO GROWN TREMENDOUSLY, AND HAS DIVERSIFIED FROM THE TRADITIONAL TRADE-RELATED SECTORS INTO VARIOUS NEW AREAS SUCH AS PROPERTY INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, MANUFACTURING AND INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS."

HE SAID THAT IN OVERALL TERMS CHINA WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE LARGEST SINGLE SOURCE OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"AND WE KNOW THAT, IN THE SPECIFIC AREA OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, CHINA IS NOW THE THIRD LARGEST SOURCE AFTER THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, ACCOUNTING FOR AROUND EIGHT PER CENT OF THE TOTAL."

MR CHAN SAID THIS VERY CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA HAD PLACED HONG KONG IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"WITH ITS LONG EXPERIENCE AND PROVEN EXPERTISE IN TRADING WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND ITS KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA, HONG KONG WILL HAVE MUCH TO OFFER TO THE WESTERN TRADER WHO IS KEEN ON EXPLOITING THE VAST CHINESE MARKET," HE SAID.

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LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO BENEFIT FROM SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET  
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE HAS EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS, WITH THEIR FLEXIBILITY AND CAPABILITY, WOULD BE ABLE TO REAP BENEFITS FROM THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET IN 1992.

BUT IN ORDER TO CAPITALISE ON THE OPPORTUNITIES AND TO GUARD AGAINST SOME OF THE PITFALLS THAT MIGHT ARISE WHEN 1992 COMES, HE CALLED ON PARTIES CONCERNED TO CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON DEVELOPMENTS.

MR LEUNG WAS ADDRESSING THE CHINESE EXECUTIVES CLUB OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF "EUROPE 1992" FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

/MR LEUNG .....

MR LEUNG SAID AS THE EEC WAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER, ACCOUNTING FOR 20 PER CENT OF ALL WORLD TRADE, HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AN OPEN MARKET INSTEAD OF DEVELOPING INTO A "FORTRESS EUROPE".

QUOTING A REPORT RELEASED LAST YEAR BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE INTERNAL MARKET, MR LEUNG SAID ECONOMISTS BELIEVED THAT THE REMOVAL OF INTERNAL FRONTIERS, THE OPENING OF MARKETS TO COMPETITION, THE ABOLITION OF TECHNICAL TRADE BARRIERS, AND THE INTEGRATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

ECONOMISTS OF THE COMMISSION PREDICTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A ONE-OFF GAIN OF BETWEEN 170 AND 250 ECU BILLION (EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT) ARISING FROM ECONOMIES OF SCALE, COST BENEFITS AND COMPETITION.

MR LEUNG SAID THE COMPLETION OF AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN MARKET OF 320 MILLION PEOPLE WOULD CREATE THE LARGEST TRADING BLOC IN THE WORLD, RIVALLING THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

HE SAID THIS DEVELOPMENT MIGHT HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

"THE INCREASED COMPETITION THAT WILL ARISE FROM FREE TRADE AMONG MEMBER STATES (MSS) SHOULD LEAD EEC CONSUMERS TO DEMAND A HIGHER QUALITY/PRICE RATIO.

"EEC MANUFACTURERS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE UNDER PRESSURE TO SEEK EVEN MORE COMPETITIVE SUPPLIES, WHETHER COMPONENT PARTS OR FINAL PRODUCTS.

"SOME COULD WELL BE MORE DISPOSED TO LOOK BEYOND THEIR BORDERS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, WHERE HONG KONG OCCUPIES A PIVOTAL POSITION," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE MORE BUOYANT ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY MIGHT ENABLE IT TO ADOPT A MORE LIBERAL TRADE POLICY, WHICH SHOULD BENEFIT HONG KONG'S EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY.

OTHER ADVANTAGES TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT INCLUDED THE ELIMINATION OF CUMBERSOME ADMINISTRATIVE AND CUSTOMS PAPERWORK, THE REMOVAL OF FRONTIER CONTROL AND REGIONAL LIMITS FOR QUOTAS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AS WELL AS THE HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS RELATING TO QUALITY, HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF GOODS.

MR LEUNG BELIEVED ALL THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD IMPROVE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY.

TALKING ABOUT THE DISADVANTAGES THAT MIGHT ARISE, MR LEUNG SAID HE WORRIED THAT INCREASED COMPETITION MIGHT LEAD TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURE FROM INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE EEC, INCLUDING THE DEMAND FOR PRODUCTION SUBSIDIES.

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ANOTHER WORRY HE HAD WAS THAT THE COMMUNITY MIGHT BECOME "INWARD-LOOKING".

"IT COULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN TRADE AMONGST MSS THAN WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"THIS INWARD APPROACH WOULD ERODE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MOST-FAVoured NATION AND THE MULTILATERALISM ENSHRINED IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) TO WHICH HONG KONG FULLY SUBSCRIBES," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HARMONISATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO BENEFIT THE LARGER MULTINATIONAL MANUFACTURERS OF EUROPE, THE USA AND JAPAN THAN MOST OF HONG KONG'S SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED MANUFACTURERS.

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SUFFICIENT SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES IN 1991  
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THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR ABOUT 95.2 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE 15 YAERS AGE GROUP BY 1991, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A JOINT DINNER MEETING OF SEVERAL LIONS CLUBS, MR LI SAID ALL CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH NINE YEARS FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION WISHING TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES BEYOND SECONDARY 3 WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND SECONDARY 4 IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS OR OTHER SCHOOLS, OR IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.

IN THE MEANTIME, A DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME (DSS) WOULD BE INTRODUCED AND GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY, ON A PER PUPIL BASIS BUT NOT EXCEEDING THE COST OF AN AIDED PLACE, WOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAT HAD ATTAINED THE REQUIRED STANDARDS WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD STOPPED, BY STAGES, BUYING PLACES FROM THOSE LESS DESIRABLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS UNDER THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME (BPS), MR LI SAID.

"THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED IN ITS REPORT NO.3 THAT THE BPS SHOULD BE PHASED OUT BY THE YEAR 2000 AND THAT A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE SET UP SO AS TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TOWARDS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

TO ASSIST BPS SCHOOLS TO PROGRESSIVELY ATTAIN THE STANDARDS OF AN AIDED SCHOOL, MR LI SAID APPROPRIATE AND PRACTICABLE IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT WOULD BE INTRODUCED THROUGH A SYSTEM OF CONTRACTS TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE DSS BY THE TIME THE PHASING OUT OF THE BPS BEGAN.

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ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY ENDORSED A PROPOSAL THAT THE ONE-YEAR SIXTH-FORM PROGRAMME RUN BY THE CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY THE TWO-YEAR SIXTH FORM COURSE CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN ANGLO-CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM WOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, BE BROADENED TO PROVIDE A WORTHWHILE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH A WIDER RANGE OF ABILITY, MR LI SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE RANGE OF SUBJECTS OFFERED AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL WOULD BE BROADENED TO COVER TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL COURSES, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW INTERMEDIATE LEVEL SUBJECTS WOULD HELP FURTHER BROADEN THE CURRICULUM FOR SIXTH FORMERS.

TURNING TO THE QUALITATIVE ASPECT OF EDUCATION, MR LI SAID THERE HAD BEEN REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN THE TEACHER PREPARATION IN RECENT YEARS.

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS, MR LI SAID A THREE-YEAR PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE FOR ENTRANTS WITH CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION QUALIFICATION WAS INTRODUCED IN 1980 IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF A 1979 WHITE PAPER.

"STUDENTS HOLDING ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS COULD BE ADMITTED DIRECTLY TO A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE COURSE PROVIDED THEY POSSESS ADEQUATE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.

"IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES AND REFRESHER COURSES ARE OFFERED FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS AND HEADMASTERS," MR LI SAID.

FOR GRADUATE TEACHERS, HE SAID MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PROVIDE A STRONG INDUCEMENT TO THOSE GRADUATES WHO MADE TEACHING THEIR LIFE-LONG CAREER TO TAKE A COURSE OF TEACHER TRAINING ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE POST-GRADUATE TRAINING OBLIGATORY.

"A RECENT ENRICHMENT IN THIS RESPECT HAS BEEN THE INTRODUCTION IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG OF A BA DEGREE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADS," HE SAID.

DEGREE COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE ALSO BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED, MR LI ADDED.

TO MAINTAIN THE LEADING ROLE OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, MR LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ATTACHED MUCH IMPORTANCE TO LANGUAGE EDUCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, TWO ADDITIONAL GRADUATE-TEACHERS HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR EVERY STANDARD SECONDARY SCHOOL TO STRENGTHEN THE REMEDIAL LANGUAGE TEACHING OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH SINCE SEPTEMBER 1982, HE SAID.

"IN THE SAME YEAR, THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF LANGUAGE TEACHING," MR LI SAID, ADDING THAT THOUSANDS OF TEACHERS FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD COMPLETED IMMERSION COURSES ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE AND BEEN ABLE TO TRANSLATE WHAT WAS LEARNED INTO CLASSROOM REALITY.

TO PREVENT ANY CONSEQUENTIAL DROP IN THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH, MR LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN 1988 INTRODUCED A POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION POLICY IN FAVOUR OF THOSE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH ADOPTED CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

"A WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN SET UP TO REVIEW THE EXISTING LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES. IN ITS REPORT WHICH WILL BE RELEASED VERY SHORTLY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROMOTE BILINGUAL SKILLS AMONG OUR STUDENTS ARE MADE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION, MR LI SAID THEY INCLUDED THE REGULAR REVIEWING AND MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ENCOURAGEMENT TOWARDS THE EXTENSION OF THE "ACTIVITY APPROACH", RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEDIAL TEACHING AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TEACHER/CLASS RATIO FROM 1.1: 1 TO 1.2: 1.

ALTHOUGH LIMITED RESOURCES PREVENTED THE IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF BI-SESSIONALISM IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, MR LI SAID WHOLE DAY PRIMARY EDUCATION WAS DEFINITELY THE GOAL OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUTURE AND WOULD BE GRADUALLY INTRODUCED, STARTING WITH CLASSES AT UPPER PRIMARY LEVELS.

ON SECONDARY EDUCATION, HE SAID THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM HAD EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CIVIC EDUCATION, MORAL EDUCATION AND COMPUTER STUDIES. A SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS INTRODUCED RECENTLY AND THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES WERE RE-ORGANISED TO ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE MORE TEACHER PARTICIPATION.

REFERRING TO PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, MR LI SAID A KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME WOULD BE INTRODUCED. IT WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN LINE WITH OTHER SIMILAR SCHEMES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT AN ENHANCED TEACHER AND PUPIL RATIO OF 1: 20 WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY 1990.

"AMONG THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION, IT HAS BEEN APPROVED THAT AN IMPROVED TRAINING COURSE FOR QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN DISTRICT CENTRES WITH FLEXIBLE TRAINING HOURS," MR LI SAID.

"A RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALE WOULD BE INTRODUCED AND KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PAY THEIR TEACHERS ACCORDING TO THE SCALE.

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"MOREOVER, A WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE SET UP TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED POLICIES, TO SEE IF ANY FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WERE POSSIBLE AND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF UNIFICATION OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES," HE ADDED.

ON HIGHER EDUCATION, MR LI POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER AND CAPACITY OF TERTIARY INSTITUTES OFFERING DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMMES WERE ON THE INCREASE.

"THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE LEGCO A NEW TARGET OF PROVIDING DEGREE COURSES FOR OVER 18 PER CENT OF OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS IN 1995.

"A THIRD UNIVERSITY, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, IS BEING ESTABLISHED AND IS EXPECTED TO ADMIT ITS FIRST INTAKES IN 1990-91," HE SAID.

TAKING DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE COURSES INTO CONSIDERATION, THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH TERTIARY PLACES FOR 25 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP IN 1995.

"WE HAVE ALSO THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE OPEN EDUCATION AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL IN A LARGE VARIETY OF SUBJECT AREAS." MR LI CONCLUDED.

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VBP TO MOVE TO HIGH ISLAND, WHITEHEAD CENTRES

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NEW ACCOMMODATION FOR SOME 4,900 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE (VBP) WILL COME ON STREAM PROGRESSIVELY FROM NEXT WEEK UPON THE COMPLETION OF PARTS OF THE HIGH ISLAND AND WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRES.

"A SERIES OF TRANSFERS IS BEING ARRANGED TO MOVE BOAT PEOPLE OUT FROM THEIR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION IN SHEK KWU CHAU AND ON FERRIES, AND ALSO FROM THE ERSKINE CAMP WHICH WILL BE VACATED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALL ALONG PLANNED TO DO SO ONCE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

"THE SERIES OF MOVEMENTS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 31) AND BE FULLY COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 17."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID NEW ACCOMMODATION WOULD BE READY FOR SOME 3,300 VBP AT STAGE I OF THE HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE AND FOR ANOTHER 1,200 VBP AT STAGE II.

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IN THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE, STAGE IIC WILL PROVIDE NEW SPACES FOR A FURTHER 400 VBP, HE ADDED.

UNDER TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, THE FIRST TO GO WILL BE 1,517 VBP FROM SHEK KWU CHAU TO HIGH ISLAND STAGE I BETWEEN OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 3.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY 1,816 VBP MOVING FROM THE ERSKINE CAMP TO HIGH ISLAND STAGE I FROM NOVEMBER 4 TO 7.

ON NOVEMBER 7, 400 VBP FROM ONE OF THE FOUR FERRIES AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND WILL MOVE TO THE WHITEHEAD STAGE IIC. ANOTHER 1,200 VBP FROM THE REMAINING THREE FERRIES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO HIGH ISLAND STAGE II BETWEEN NOVEMBER 15 AND 17.

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#### SFC LEVY ON FUTURES CONTRACTS

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF A \$2.50 LEVY PER LEVIABLE TRANSACTION IN FUTURES CONTRACTS ON THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE (HKFE), PAYABLE TO THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE LEVY WAS INTRODUCED UNDER SECTION 52 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE.

"THE LEVY WILL TAKE EFFECT ON OCTOBER 31, 1989, WITH A WAIVER TO BE GRANTED TO TRANSACTIONS IN NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS IN THEIR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF TRADING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE THE IMPOSITION OF A STATUTORY LEVY ON TRANSACTIONS RECORDED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG (SEHK) AND THE HKFE AS PART OF THE MARKET CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FUNDING FOR THE SFC.

THE LEVY ON THE SEHK WAS INTRODUCED ON MAY 1 THIS YEAR UPON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SFC; WHEREAS THAT ON THE HKFE WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMMENCEMENT IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, SUBJECT TO A REVIEW OF THE MARKET SITUATION IN AUGUST.

THE SFC UNDERTOOK A REVIEW OF THE FUTURES MARKET IN AUGUST AND FOUND THAT THE MARKET SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE LEVY WAS FIRST ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MARCH.

HAVING CONSULTED THE HKFE, THE SFC RECOMMENDED THAT THE LEVY BE INTRODUCED AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MARCH, BUT SUBJECT TO THE WAIVER FOR NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS.

/THE SFC .....

THE SFC BELIEVED THAT THE WAIVER FOR NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS WOULD SEND A SIGNAL OF SUPPORT TO THE MARKET AND ITS PARTICIPANTS AND ENCOURAGE MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

"THE ADMINISTRATION, HAVING CONSIDERED THE MARKET REVIEW BY THE SFC, SUPPORTS ITS RECOMMENDATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEVY IS IN LINE WITH THE FUNDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE SFC AND THE LEVEL OF THE LEVY IS BROADLY COMPARABLE TO THAT APPLIED TO THE SEHK IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP IT BEARS TO TOTAL TRANSACTIONS COSTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE NOTE THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE HKFE ABOUT HIGH TRANSACTION COSTS ON FUTURES CONTRACTS. THESE, HOWEVER, RESULT LARGELY FROM THE \$30 LIFEBOAT LEVY ON THE HANG SENG INDEX FUTURES CONTRACTS WHICH IS FOR REPAYING THE LIFEBOAT FACILITY ACCORDING TO TERMS PREVIOUSLY AGREED," HE SAID.

"WE ALSO NOTE THAT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEVY, THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HKFE WOULD STILL BE VERY MUCH LESS THAN THE COST OF RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY THE SFC TO OVERSEE THE EXCHANGE," HE ADDED.

THE SFC ESTIMATED THAT THE LEVY WOULD GENERATE \$3 MILLION PER ANNUM, ACCOUNTING FOR TWO PER CENT OF THE SFC BUDGET (\$140 MILLION AT 1989 PRICES EXCLUDING THE START-UP COST).

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER PUBLISHED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER 1989.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84/SEP. 85 = 100) FOR SEPTEMBER 1989 WERE 132.6 AND 131.9 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 10.1 PER CENT AND 9.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER SEPTEMBER 1988.

THESE RATES OF INCREASE WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THOSE RECORDED IN AUGUST 1989, WHICH WERE 9.9 PER CENT AND 9.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. BUT THEY WERE LOWER THAN THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE RECORDED IN JUNE (11.0 PER CENT AND 10.3 PER CENT) AND IN JULY (10.3 PER CENT AND 10.0 PER CENT).

COMPARING SEPTEMBER WITH AUGUST 1989, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 1.5 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 1.3 PER CENT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS, AND HIGHER SCHOOL FEES AND TEXTBOOK PRICES.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1989, AT 126.4 AND 126.1 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.6 PER CENT AND 9.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1988.

/DURING THE .....

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 1989, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.7 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER 1989 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1989 AND SEPTEMBER 1988, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100) CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR SEP. 89	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 89	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 88	INDEX FOR SEP. 89	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 89	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 88
FOODSTUFFS	135.0	+1.6	+11.5	136.0	+1.4	+12.0
HOUSING	123.8	+1.2	+7.3	118.5	+0.6	+5.8
FUEL AND LIGHT	95.8	-0.1	+3.3	96.1	-0.1	+2.9
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	133.6	+0.1	+7.4	134.8	+0.1	+7.7
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	135.0	+0.2	+10.0	138.0	+0.3	+10.5
DURABLE GOODS	122.2	+0.4	+2.3	121.3	+0.6	+2.3
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	132.5	+0.1	+7.4	132.4	+0.5	+7.0
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	137.8	+0.7	+13.9	136.7	+0.6	+13.7
SERVICES	149.1	+4.8	+13.4	148.5	+4.0	+13.2
ALL ITEMS	132.6	+1.5	+10.1	131.9	+1.3	+9.9

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, LIVE POULTRY AND MOONCAKES AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

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THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER AIRPLANE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 4.8 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 4.0 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER SCHOOL FEES AND TEXTBOOK PRICES.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR SEPTEMBER 1989, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.5 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE MADE AT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 138.8 IN SEPTEMBER 1989, UP BY 1.5 PER CENT OVER AUGUST 1989 AND UP BY 11.0 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1988.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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#### PREVENTION OF CHILD NEGLECT CAMPAIGN BEGINS ON SATURDAY

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THE CHILD NEGLECT PREVENTION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL GET UNDERWAY ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28) WHEN A "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE EXHIBITION SQUARE OF SHUN TAK CENTRE IN SHEUNG WAN.

A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MRS ROSANNA TAM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM.

/THE CAMPAIGN .....

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THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING LAUNCHED JOINTLY BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND PROPER CHILD CARE AMONG THE COMMUNITY AND TO AROUSE PUBLIC CONCERN ON THE ISSUE OF CHILD NEGLECT AND CHILD ABUSE.

IT ALSO FORMS PART OF ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

A THEMATIC POSTER, AN ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND A LEAFLET ON REPORTING CHILD ABUSE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AS PART OF CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

A SERIES OF THREE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST (API'S) ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD IS NOW BEING SCREENED ON TELEVISION, WITH THE AIM OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD PARENTING AND PROPER CHILD CARE AND REDUCING THE OCCURRENCE OF CHILD NEGLECT, AND CHILD ABUSE.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR HUI YIN-FAT; DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG; DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU; CHAIRMAN OF THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MRS PATRICIA CHU; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILD NEGLECT PREVENTION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, MR PETER MOSS.

THE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD EXHIBITION, ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE CHILD NEGLECT PREVENTION PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

THIS TWO-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY AND FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY.

FORTY PANELS DEPICT, IN CARTOON ILLUSTRATIONS, HOW TWO FAMILIES ADOPT DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS RESOLVING THEIR FAMILY PROBLEMS AND THE EFFECT OF CHILD REARING UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.

FAMILIES WITH CHILD REARING PROBLEMS ARE URGED TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AS A POSITIVE STEP TO PREVENT A WORSENING OF THE SITUATION.

CHILD CARE EXPERTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE EXHIBITION TO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY THEIR SKILL AT A GAME INTENDED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD. BESIDES PROVIDING FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT, THIS GAME ALSO SERVES TO INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF GOOD PARENTING.

/SOUVENIRS WILL .....

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SOUVENIRS WILL BE GIVEN AWAY TO VISITORS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT THE FAMILY CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT VICTORIA PARK IN CAUSEWAY BAY ON DECEMBER 9 AND LATER IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE EXHIBITION AT THE EXHIBITION SQUARE, THIRD FLOOR, SHUN TAK CENTRE, SHEUNG WAN. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD REPORT TO THE PRESS RECEPTION DESK BEFORE 10.45 AM.

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SURVEY REPORT ON ELDERLY IN MONG KOK

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MEDICAL CARE, CHEAPER TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION ARE THE MOST URGENT SERVICES REQUIRED BY THE ELDERLY IN MONG KOK, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

A REPORT ON THE SURVEY HAS THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY, AND STRENGTHEN HOSPITAL FACILITIES. IT NOTED THAT THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN THE DISTRICT.

THE REPORT HAS ALSO APPEALED TO DOCTORS IN THE DISTRICT TO OFFER PREFERENTIAL SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT ARE, ON AVERAGE, 70 YEARS OF AGE, AND REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION.

MOST OF THEM HAVE TO GO TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN OTHER DISTRICTS OR GO TO PRIVATE DOCTORS, WHICH IS MORE EXPENSIVE. FOR THOSE ELDERLY WHO HAVE LOW INCOMES, THE PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS ARE A FINANCIAL BURDEN.

THE REPORT HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PREFERENTIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ELDERLY, TO INCREASE THEIR SCOPE OF MOBILITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND CALL ON PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES TO TAKE PART," THE REPORT SUGGESTS.

WITH A BETTER CHANCE TO MOVE AROUND, THE REPORT CONTINUES, THE ELDERLY CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME, TO THE BENEFIT OF THEIR MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH.

/ON CARE .....

- 16 -

ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT. THUS, THEY WILL SUFFER IF THEIR FAMILIES FAIL TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM.

"THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED SHOULD THEREFORE IMPROVE CARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN MONG KOK IN BOTH QUALITY AND QUANTITY. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD ALSO STEP UP PUBLICITY SO THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL BE MORE AWARE OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM," THE REPORT RECOMMENDS.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH CASH ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH CARE RATHER THAN CULTURAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES, DUE MAINLY TO A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED LAST AUGUST AND ONE OF ITS AIMS WAS TO ADVISE CENTRAL AND DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS.

THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE PASSED ON TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

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#### CLEAN HARBOUR MESSAGE FOR BOAT DWELLERS

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MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL VISIT TYPHOON SHELTERS ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28) TO APPEAL TO BOAT DWELLERS TO KEEP THE HARBOUR CLEAN.

THE OPERATION IS A JOINT EFFORT WITH EIGHT FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SANITATION AND CLEANLINESS IN HONG KONG WATERS.

THE MEMBERS WILL TRAVEL ON A LAUNCH AND WILL CALL ON BOAT DWELLERS IN THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER, THE CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING BASIN AND THE CAUSEWAY BAY TYPHOON SHELTER. T-SHIRTS AND PUBLICITY PENNANTS CARRYING THE CLEAN THE HARBOUR MESSAGE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

TAKING PART IN THE VISIT WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS CHANG KING-YIU; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MRS BETTY YUNG.

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#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT TO EASTERN DISTRICT TYPHOON SHELTERS ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28). THE FIRST STOP WILL BE THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE FUNCTION ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 2 PM AT THE SHAU KEI WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.

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SOUTHERN TO LAUNCH DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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THE THIRD SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL WILL OPEN WITH A SPECTACULAR VARIETY SHOW AT THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND IN WONG CHUK HANG ON NOVEMBER 4.

THE SHOW WILL START AT 6.30 PM.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT A SWITCHING-ON AND RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL.

THE STAR-STUDED SHOW, TO BE PRODUCED BY YIU WING ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY, WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS SUCH AS SHIRLEY KWAN, GINA LAM, EDDIE NG AND YOLINDA YAN.

THERE WILL BE A TALK SHOW BY DISC JOCKEYS ERIC KOT AND JAN LAM (THE WHIZ KIDS), AND A CANTONESE OPERA PERFORMED BY TELEVISION ARTISTES KAM KWOK-WAI AND WONG MAN-YEE. DISC JOCKEY BRENDA LO WILL COMPERE THE THREE-HOUR SHOW.

AS A PRELUDE TO THE SHOW, FLOATS WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREAS THAT DAY TO DISTRIBUTE PROGRAMME LEAFLETS AND SOUVENIRS.

THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL WILL LAST UNTIL DECEMBER 3, OFFERING MORE THAN 20 CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES.

FREE TICKETS FOR THE VARIETY SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT ABERDEEN CENTRE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES IN STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD, WAH FU ESTATE, LEI TUNG ESTATE AND ABBA COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

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YAU TSIM DB TO REVIEW 'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SCHEME

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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD WILL REVIEW ITS "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

A TOTAL OF 207 CASES WERE RECEIVED UNDER THE SCHEME FROM APRIL 1, 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR. MOST OF THEM WERE ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE CONCERNING HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PERSONAL MATTERS.

ACTION ON 189 CASES HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE REMAINING 18 CASES ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE BOARD.

/OTHER AGENDA .....

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE DISCUSSION ON AN APPLICATION BY THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS FOR THE USE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD LOGO ON THEIR DISTRICT FLAG, A WORK REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS, THE DISTRICT WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 1989 AND THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL SITUATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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#### GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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

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

THIS IS THE LAST ANNOUNCEMENT MADE ON BEACH WATER QUALITY GRADING THIS YEAR AS THE BATHING SEASON HAS COME TO AN END.

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

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

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

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

BATHING WATERS COMMONLY BECOME WORSE DUE TO HEAVY USAGE DURING THE SUMMER. HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

/THE SYSTEM .....

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS LESS THAN 100 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS LESS THAN SEVEN CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS LESS THAN 1,000 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS LESS THAN 18 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS 18 OR MORE CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

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

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO RE-OPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, SIX BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSE, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS. THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA, ROCKY BAY AND TING KAU.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE SIX BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.10.89)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 26.10.89)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	A	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	A	A
DEEP WATER BAY	A	A

HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	A	A
REPULSE BAY	A	B
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	A	A
ST STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	A	A
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A
ISLANDS DISTRICT		
-----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	A	A
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A
KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	A	A
SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	A
TUNG O*	A	A
SAI KUNG DISTRICT		
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CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	A	A

/HAP MUN BAY .....

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HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	A	A
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT  
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ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	A	A
CASAM	A	A
GEMINI	A	A
HOI MEI WAN	A	A
LIDO	A	A
TING KAU	X	X
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT  
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OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	B	B
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	B	B
BUTTERFLY	B	B

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

THE FOLLOWING BEACH HAS CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

REPULSE BAY, FROM "A" TO "B".

THE CHANGE IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE  
BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACH.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID AN ANNUAL REVIEW ON THE WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BATHING BEACHES IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1989 WILL BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE REPORT WILL ALSO GIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES FOR SWIMMING PURPOSE IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1990.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR MALCOLM J. BROOM, ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF THE EPD, ON TEL. 5-8351234.

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TWO GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF TWO SITES AT TSING YI ISLAND AND TUEN MUN.

THE FIRST LOT IS A 6,500-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT AREA 8, TSING YI ISLAND.

IT IS FOR LANDSCAPE GARDENING, PLANT NURSERY AND/OR COMMERCIAL GARDENING INCLUDING GROWING GARDEN PRODUCTS, AND STORAGE AND SALE OF POTTED PLANTS AND OTHER ANCILLARY GARDEN PRODUCTS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

MEASURING ABOUT 4,310 SQUARE METRES, THE SECOND LOT IS AT AREA 17, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN. IT IS TO BE USED AS A PUBLIC CARPARK FOR GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR BOTH LOTS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 10.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING, TUEN MUN AND KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

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NEW FIRE STATION FOR SAU MAU PING

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$10.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION AT KAI TIN ROAD, SAU MAU PING, KOWLOON.

THE FACILITIES OF THE THREE-STOREY STATION WILL INCLUDE A DRILL YARD, APPLIANCE ROOMS, SUPPORTING OFFICES, BARRACK ACCOMMODATION, CANTEEN AND RECREATION AREA, AN EXERCISE ROOM AND STORES FACILITIES.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1991.

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RESURFACING OF CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL LANES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ADVISES MOTORISTS THAT STARTING FROM SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28), THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY WILL REPAVE ITS TOLL LANES.

TO FACILITATE THE PROJECT, THE 14 TOLL BOOTHS OF THE TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED ONE BY ONE, FOR FOUR DAYS EACH, UNTIL THE SCHEDULED COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME IN EARLY JANUARY.

IN VIEW OF THE ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC CONGESTION RESULTING FROM THE CLOSURE OF THE TOLL BOOTHS, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE OTHER TRANSPORT FACILITIES OR DIVERT THEIR ROUTES THROUGH THE EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE MIDDLE AND OUTER LANES OF TSING WUN ROAD IN TUEN MUN NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH PUI TO ROAD WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN REPAIR WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BAN ON RIGHT-TURNING FROM TSING WUN ROAD NORTHBOUND ONTO PUI TO ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL TUESDAY (OCTOBER 31).

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

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SPEED LIMIT ON KWUN TONG ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28), THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWUN TONG ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH THE WESTERN END OF THE FLYOVER JOINING WAI YIP STREET AND ITS JUNCTION WITH PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN KWAI CHUNG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 28), THE SECTION OF TA CHUEN PING STREET IN KWAI CHUNG BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH WO YI HOP ROAD AND A POINT 20 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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