



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS ALSO APPLY TO CHINESE MEDICINES: SHW

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THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF ADULTERATION AND FALSE LABELLING OF DRUGS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, TOLD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU KIN-YEE, MR CHAU SAID THAT THESE PROVISIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO CHINESE MEDICINES AND TO OTHER DRUGS.

"ALSO, WHERE CHINESE MEDICINES ARE ADULTERATED BY WESTERN MEDICINE, THE GENERAL EXEMPTION FOR CHINESE MEDICINE FROM THE CONTROLS SPECIFIED IN THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE WOULD NOT APPLY," HE SAID.

IN A PARTICULAR CASE, WHERE TWO PERSONS LAPSED INTO A COMA AFTER CONSUMING HERBAL MEDICINE, INVESTIGATIONS SO FAR INDICATED THAT THE CAUSE WAS AN OVERDOSE OF THE HERB KWAI CHOW LUNG DAM CHO IN AN ATTEMPT AT SELF-MEDICATION, HE NOTED.

TWO TOXINS, DEOXYPODOPHYLLOTOXIN AND PODOPHYLLOTOXIN, WERE FOUND IN THE COOKED MIXTURE AND SAMPLES OF THE HERB TAKEN BOTH FROM THE MEDICINE COMPANY FROM WHICH THE HERBS WERE BOUGHT AND FROM THE IMPORTER OF THE HERB.

MR CHAU EXPLAINED THAT THESE TOXINS, WHICH WERE NATURALLY OCCURRING SUBSTANCES IN LUNG DAM CHO FROM KWAI CHOW, WOULD NOT HAVE PRODUCE A HARMFUL EFFECT IF THE CORRECT DOSAGE HAD BEEN TAKEN.

CHINESE TRADITIONAL HERBAL MEDICINES HAD BEEN COMMONLY USED IN CHINESE COMMUNITY, MOSTLY WITHOUT HARMFUL EFFECTS, NONETHELESS THERE WERE ROUNDS FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE UNCONTROLLED SALE AND INDISCRIMINATE USE OF SUCH MEDICINE, HE SAID.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS EXPLORING THE BEST MEANS OF REVIEWING THIS ISSUE, WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM AND IDENTIFYING THE EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO ENABLE AN ASSESSMENT TO BE MADE OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINES AND THEIR USE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC," MR CHAU ADDED.

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MARKET FORCES ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING WAGES

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IN A TIME OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AS AT PRESENT, MARKET FORCES ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IN PUTTING PRESSURE ON EMPLOYERS TO IMPROVE WAGES THAN WITH LEGISLATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, ON POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A MINIMUM WAGE FOR WORKERS, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT IN TIMES OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT THE PROPOSALS MIGHT SEEM ATTRACTIVE, BECAUSE AT SUCH TIMES WAGES TENDED TO GO DOWN.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT EVEN THEN, MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION MIGHT DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

QUOTING AN ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST, MR BRIDGE SAID: "TWO THINGS HAVE BEEN CLEAR: THAT A MINIMUM WAGE REDUCES JOB OPPORTUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE YOUNG, THE DISADVANTAGED AND MINORITIES, AND THAT ITS EFFECT ON POVERTY IS TINY."

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CHINESE NATIONAL TREATED LIKE OTHERS
WHO DON'T HAVE PERMISSION TO LAND

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CHINESE NATIONAL, MR CHEN JUN, WAS TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER PERSONS IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THEY DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SZETO WAH, WHO ASKED WHETHER ALL PASSENGERS WERE SEPERATED FROM THE PRESS WHEN THEY WERE IN TRANSIT, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT TRANSIT PASSENGERS AT THE AIRPORT WERE NOT REQUIRED TO PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR IMMIGRATION EXAMINATION.

THEY REMAINED IN THE TRANSIT LOUNGE UNTIL THEY BOARDED THEIR ONWARD FLIGHTS.

THE TRANSIT LOUNGE WAS A RESTRICTED AREA, AND FACILITIES WERE NOT PROVIDED THERE FOR THE PRESS TO MEET PASSENGERS.

"MR CHEN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT A TRANSIT PASSENGER," MR BARNES SAID.

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HE SAID THAT WHEN MR CHEN ARRIVED IN HONG KONG ON APRIL 7, HE PRESENTED HIMSELF WITH HIS CHINESE PASSPORT AND A COMPLETED ARRIVAL CARD TO AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER AND ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR FOUR DAYS TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF HIS WIFE.

"HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE DID NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED VISA FOR HONG KONG, HE WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND UNDER SECTION 11(1) OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE," MR BARNES SAID.

"AS IN NORMAL IN SUCH CASES HE WAS THEREFORE HOUSED IN THE IMMIGRATION RECEPTION CENTRE AT THE AIRPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18(1) OF THE SAME ORDINANCE WHILE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR HIM TO LEAVE HONG KONG FOR A COUNTRY OF HIS OWN CHOICE BY THE FIRST AVAILABLE FLIGHT.

"THIS IS A MATTER OF STANDARD PROCEDURE," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THE RECEPTION CENTRE CONSISTED OF A COMMON SITTING ROOM AND INDIVIDUAL BEDROOMS IN SEPERATE WINGS FOR MALES AND FEMALES, WITH SEPERATE TOILET AND WASHING FACILITIES.

PERSONS TEMPORARILY DETAINED THERE WERE PROVIDED WITH THREE MEALS A DAY AND WERE FREE TO MOVE ABOUT IN THE COMMON AREA WHERE THEY COULD TAKE MEALS AND WATCH TELEVISION.

THEY MIGHT TELEPHONE THEIR RELATIVES, FRIENDS, SOLICITORS OR CONSUL AND MIGHT ALSO ASK TO SEE THEM IF THEY SO WISHED.

A NOTICE TO THAT EFFECT WAS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS AND TELEGRAMS WERE ALSO ALLOWED BUT HAD TO BE PAID FOR.

"IN MR CHEN'S CASE HE ASKED FIRST TO TELEPHONE A FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES AND SOME TIME LATER SAID HE WISHED TO TELEPHONE HIS WIFE," MR BARNES SAID.

"BY THIS TIME IMMIGRATION STAFF HAD ALREADY PUT ARRANGEMENTS IN HAND FOR MR CHEN TO CALL HIS WIFE IN PEKING.

"SINCE HE DID NOT HAVE MUCH MONEY WITH HIM ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR HIS FRIEND IN AMERICA TO BE CONTACTED BY THE AIRLINE AND FOR THE CALL TO HIS WIFE IN PEKING TO BE AT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXPENSE," HE SAID.

"MEANWHILE, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR MR CHEN TO COMPLETE HIS JOURNEY TO THE US," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MR CHEN HELD AN AIR TICKET VALID FOR USE UP TO MAY 2, 1989, IT WAS A NON-ENDORSEABLE ONE WHICH WAS NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL WITH ANY AIRLINE OTHER THAN THE ONE SPECIFIED ON THE TICKET.

AS A RESULT MR CHEN WAS NOT ACCEPTED FOR THE FIRST FLIGHT TO THE US AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, AS THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN BY A DIFFERENT AIRLINE.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLIGHT TO THE US WAS DUE TO DEPART IN THE EVENING AND FOLLOWING CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE AIRLINE WHICH HAD ISSUED MR CHEN'S TICKET AND THE AIRLINE ON WHICH HE EVENTUALLY DEPARTED, THE FORMER AGREED TO REWRITE HIS TICKET TO ENABLE HIM TO DEPART FOR SAN FRANCISCO WITH AN ONWARD TICKET TO NEW YORK.

"DURING THE EIGHT HOURS MR CHEN SPENT IN THE RECEPTION CENTRE HE MADE NO REQUEST TO SPEAK TO THE PRESS, DESPITE HIS APPARENT KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR INTEREST," MR BARNES SAID.

"IT IS ANYWAY NOT THE PRACTICE FOR THE PRESS TO HAVE ACCESS TO PERSONS IN THE RECEPTION CENTRE AWAITING DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT CHILDREN
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THERE ARE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WHICH MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO DELIBERATELY ABUSE OR NEGLECT CHILDREN, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK HAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MICHAEL CHENG ON TRAGIC INCIDENTS INVOLVING DEATH OF YOUNG CHILDREN UNDER THE CARE OF CHILDMINDERS, MR CHAU SAID THAT THERE WERE ALSO PROVISIONS WHICH REGULATED CHILDMINDERS LOOKING AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YOUNG CHILDREN.

"UNDER SECTION 27 OF THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON ORDINANCE (CAP. 212), IT IS AN OFFENCE TO WILFULLY ASSAULT, ILL-TREAT, NEGLECT, ABANDON, OR EXPOSE ANY CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 16.

"UNDER THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE (CAP. 243), ANY PREMISES AT WHICH MORE THAN FIVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX ARE HABITUALLY RECEIVED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARE AND SUPERVISION ARE SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION AND REGULAR INSPECTION," HE SAID.

MR CHAU NOTED THAT A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SUCH CHILD CARE ESTABLISHMENTS HAD ALSO BEEN ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"SIMILAR PROVISIONS EXIST IN RESPECT OF KINDERGARTENS," HE ADDED.

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"I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALL CHILDMINDERS WHO LOOK AFTER ONE OR MORE CHILDREN FOR REWARD ANYWHERE OTHER THAN IN THE CHILD'S OWN HOME.

"I HAVE CONSIDERABLE DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER SUCH COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL IS PRACTICABLE OR EVEN DESIRABLE IN HONG KONG.

"I WILL BE EXAMINING THIS MORE FULLY AND WILL CONSIDER, IN PARTICULAR, THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGISLATIVE OR OTHER MEASURES WHICH COULD HELP TO AVOID THE KIND OF INCIDENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS QUESTION," HE SAID.

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RAILWAY EXTENSION IN 1990S

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WHEN THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TIN SHUI WAI WAS COMPLETED IN EARLY 1990S, THE BASIC NETWORK OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) EXTENSION SHOULD BE IN PLACE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WAH-SUM, MR LEUNG SAID THAT WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE SYSTEM FOR THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES IN 1983, A LINK TO TIN SHUI WAI WAS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL NETWORK.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES SUCH AS FOOTBRIDGES, ROAD MODIFICATIONS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS NECESSARY FOR THE LRT EXTENSION TO TIN SHUI WAI.

THESE WORKS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES COMMENCING AT THE END OF MAY 1989 FOR COMPLETION IN JUNE 1991.

THE COMPLETED WORKS WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION IN PHASES BETWEEN JUNE 1990 AND JUNE 1991.

TURNING TO THE PROPOSED MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY EXTENSION TO JUNK BAY, MR LEUNG SAID THAT A DECISION WAS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID THAT THIS EXTENSION HINGED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING THE POPULATION BUILD-UP OF THE NEW TOWN, THE SCALE AND PACE OF DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. THESE WERE BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

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MHD RECEIVES 132 MALPRACTICE COMPLAINTS

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 132 COMPLAINTS OF MALPRACTICE IN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICES BETWEEN 1986 AND 1988, WHEREAS 319 COMPLAINTS OF MALPRACTICE AND OTHER FORMS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT WERE LODGED WITH THE MEDICAL COUNCIL DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR CHAU SAID PERSONS AGGRIEVED BY OR SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF MALPRACTICE BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS COULD COMPLAIN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES OR TO THE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS IN RESPECT OF SUBVENTED HOSPITAL DOCTORS.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT MALPRACTICE BY ANY REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER COULD BE MADE TO THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

"AN AGGRIEVED PERSON MAY TAKE CIVIL ACTION TO SEEK PECUNIARY COMPENSATION FROM A DOCTOR IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE GROUNDS FOR A LEGAL SUIT," MR CHAU SAID.

"LEGAL AID IS AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS WHO SATISFY THE MEANS TEST AND THE MERIT TEST," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO PASS THE MEANS TEST, MR CHAU SAID, AN APPLICANT FOR LEGAL AID HAD TO SHOW THAT HIS DISPOSABLE INCOME DID NOT EXCEED \$2,200 A MONTH AND THAT HIS DISPOSABLE CAPITAL DID NOT EXCEED \$15,000.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE APPLICANT HAS TO SHOW THAT HE HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR INSTITUTING PROCEEDINGS ALLEGING PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE BY A SPECIFIC DOCTOR," HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO ADOPT FIRE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

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FIRE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES HAVE TO BE ADOPTED IN SCHOOLS ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN KEEPING A GOOD FIRE SAFETY RECORD, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG CHI-KONG, MR BRIDGE SAID THE GOOD FIRE SAFETY RECORD IN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY ENSURING A MINIMUM OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS IN THE BUILDING STRUCTURE, SUFFICIENT MEANS OF ESCAPE AND ADEQUATE VENTILATION ON ALL FLOORS.

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"ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN A FIRE HAS BROKEN OUT, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OF A MINOR NATURE," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG HAD ASKED WHAT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE USE OF A STANDARD 24-CLASSROOM SCHOOL FOR ACCOMODATING 30 OR MORE CLASSES OF STUDENTS FROM POSING FIRE AND HEALTH HAZARDS.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE DESIGN OF A STANDARD SECONDARY SCHOOL OF 24 CLASSROOMS AND 12 SPECIAL ROOMS PERMITTED 30 CLASSES TO BE ACCOMODATED AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN NORMAL PRACTICE SINCE 1974.

HE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES WAS SATISFIED WITH THE FIRE SAFETY OF THE STANDARD SCHOOL BUILDING.

"HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH SCHOOLS HAVE A GOOD FIRE SAFETY RECORD, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT ALL SCHOOLS WERE REQUIRED UNDER THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS TO MAINTAIN FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN GOOD WORKING ORDER, AND TO CONDUCT FIRE DRILLS ONCE A MONTH.

AS FOR THE HEALTH OF PUPILS AND STAFF, MR BRIDGE SAID THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS SET DOWN THE SPACE REQUIRED FOR EACH PUPIL IN A CLASSROOM, SO THAT CLASSES WOULD NOT BE OVERCROWDED.

"THE ACCOMMODATION OF FLOATING CLASSES IN SOME OF A SCHOOL'S SPECIAL ROOMS DOES NOT IN ITSELF LEAD TO OVERCROWDING," HE SAID.

"THE STANDARD SCHOOL DESIGN PROVIDES SUFFICIENT TOILET FACILITIES FOR PUPILS AND STAFF, INCLUDING THOSE IN FLOATING CLASSES."

ADEQUATE LIGHTING AND VENTILATION WAS ALSO ENSURED IN ALL CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL ROOMS, HE ADDED.

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AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS UNDER URGENT CONSIDERATION: FS

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HOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE \$2.4 BILLION IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE FOR KAI TAK AIRPORT COULD BE EFFECTED AND WHETHER IT COULD BE ACCELERATED WERE UNDER URGENT CONSIDERATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MR JACOBS NOTED THAT CONSULTANTS WERE COMMISSIONED IN OCTOBER 1987 TO ASSESS THE ULTIMATE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF KAI TAK AIRPORT.

/"THE STUDY

"THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND IT WAS FOUND THAT MANY ELEMENTS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM WERE ALREADY OPERATING CLOSE TO CAPACITY AND WOULD REACH SATURATION BY 1996, UNLESS A COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE COSTING SOME \$2.4 BILLION WAS IMPLEMENTED." HE ADDED.

"THIS PACKAGE INCLUDES MEASURES TO EXPAND AIRSIDE FACILITIES, OPTIMIZE USAGE OF THE SINGLE RUNWAY, IMPROVE THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, AND THE TERMINAL COMPLEX FACILITIES AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT."

HE SAID THAT THE CONSULTANTS HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE PACKAGE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OVER A PERIOD OF EIGHT YEARS.

"HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE HIGHER GROWTH RATE IN PASSENGER THROUGHPUT, WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO THE UNEXPECTED 200 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TAIWANESE VISITORS, THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY HOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACKAGE OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BEST BE EFFECTED AND WHETHER IT CAN BE ACCELERATED," MR JACOBS SAID.

"SO FAR, WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO SPEED UP THE ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF AIRPORT EXTENSION, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE EXPANSION OF THE APRON.

"THE CIVIL WORKS PORTION OF THE PASSENGER APRON EXTENSION HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED, FOUR MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. THIS PROVIDES THREE EXTRA WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT PARKING STANDS," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PROJECT TO EXTEND THE LONG TERM PASSENGER AND CARGO PARKING APRON WAS BEING UPGRADED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING THREE OTHER WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT PARKING STANDS BY SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

"A CATEGORY D ITEM WILL BE CREATED TO PROVIDE A ROUNDABOUT AT THE AIRPORT ENTRANCE AND TO WIDEN OLYMPIC AVENUE. AS REGARDS OTHER PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSULTANTS, IT IS OUR INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVEMENTS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE."

HE RECOGNISED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE WAS A COMPLEX EXERCISE, GIVEN THE FINANCIAL, LAND AND REPROVISIONING ISSUES INVOLVED.

"NEVERTHELESS, I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL THAT WE ARE FULLY ALIVE TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS ARE IMPLEMENTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT KAI TAK AIRPORT WILL BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE 1990S," MR JACOBS SAID.

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DEFINITION OF CONTINUOUS CONTRACT REVIEWED

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THE DEFINITION OF "CONTINUOUS CONTRACT" HAS BEEN REVIEWED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT WITH THE BOARD'S AGREEMENT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO ADOPT A NEW, LESS RIGID DEFINITION IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THE ORDINANCE TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.

"THE REVISED DEFINITION IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE INCLUDED IN A BILL WHICH IS NOW BEING DRAFTED.

"WE WILL FINALISE THE DRAFT BILL AS SOON AS WE CAN AND HOPE TO HAVE IT READY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," MR BRIDGE SAID.

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6611 PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES BILL PASSED IN LEGCO

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1989 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL WAS GIVEN A SECOND READING AND WENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

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GENEVA CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER RESETTLEMENT OF ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
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THE RESETTLEMENT OF ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PACKAGE OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES IN THE REGION WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA LATER THIS YEAR, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES SAID THAT BOTH BRITAIN AND HONG KONG HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE RESETTLEMENT OR REPATRIATION OF ALL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG MUST BE PURSUED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"AND NOT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PARTICULAR DEADLINE, BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY CREATE FOR HONG KONG NOW," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE INFORMED THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HONG KONG'S LAWS PREVENT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM BEING RECOGNISED AS 'ORDINARILY RESIDENT' IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH PERSONS ARE NOT ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG NOW NOR WOULD THEY BE SO RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997." HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POSITION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE CURRENTLY AWAITING RESETTLEMENT OR REPATRIATION MUST BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THAT OF THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF FORMER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO BECOME ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG.

"PERSONS IN THIS LATTER GROUP MAY BE ABLE, IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS OTHER ORDINARY RESIDENTS, TO BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

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HK OFFERS ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

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HONG KONG IS KNOWN AS A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS AT PRESENT, BUT THERE ARE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES THE TERRITORY HAS TO OFFER FOR THE FUTURE, THE MINISTER FOR HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON, MR PETER LO, SAID YESTERDAY (TUESDAY, APRIL 18).

HE SAID HONG KONG COULD OFFER THESE OPPORTUNITIES AS A MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT; AS A LOCATION FOR MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS; AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AND TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE; AND INCREASINGLY, AS AN ACTIVE PLAYER IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AFFAIRS.

"ON OUR ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA, WE NOW FACE ONE OF THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY," SAID MR LO.

ADDRESSING A MEETING OF THE MID-WEST/HONG KONG BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN CHICAGO, HE SAID HONG KONG ALSO GAVE CHINA A CONVENIENT DOOR TO THE CAPITALIST WORLD THROUGH MUCH NEEDED CAPITAL PLUS FINANCIAL, MANAGERIAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE 1970'S THE VOLUME OF TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA HAD INCREASED OVER 25 TIMES AND TODAY HONG KONG HAD BECOME CHINA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.

CHINA, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS HONG KONG'S NUMBER ONE SUPPLIER AND THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR ITS DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THE U.S., MR LO SAID, WAS HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER OVERALL AFTER CHINA AND IN 1988 MADE SALES TO HONG KONG OF OVER US\$5 BILLION. HONG KONG PEOPLE BOUGHT US\$640 WORTH OF AMERICAN GOODS PER PERSON WHICH WAS THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS JAPAN AND FOUR TIMES THAT OF THE EEC.

MR LO SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO THE TOP RANKING SUPPLIER OF GOODS TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WITH THE LATEST DEAL BEING A US\$54 MILLION CONTRACT FOR EIGHT SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS.

HOWEVER, MANY SECTORS OF THE HONG KONG MARKET STILL REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNTAPPED BY AMERICAN FIRMS, HE SAID, AS SHOWN BY A RECENT U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORT WHICH HAD IDENTIFIED STRONG SALES OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS.

MR LO SAID WHILE HONG KONG HOPED ITS EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO DO WELL, "WE HAVE SEEN SOME DARK CLOUDS LOOMING ON THE HORIZON - THE THREAT OF PROTECTIONISM."

/HE SAID

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HE SAID RECENTLY TERMS SUCH AS "MANAGED TRADE" HAD SURFACED, WHICH HE CONSIDERED WERE NO MORE THAN A EUPHEMISM FOR TRADE BARRIERS OR PROTECTIONIST MEASURES THAT WERE BOUND TO BE SELF-DEFEATING AS THEY WOULD INVITE RETALIATION AND CAUSE TRADE CONTRACTION LEADING TO AN EROSION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE HOPED THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS WOULD TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST PROTECTIONISM IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE.

TURNING TO EUROPE, MR LO SAID GIVEN THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WAS HONG KONG'S THIRD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, HONG KONG HAD GOOD REASON TO BE EXCITED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN THE EC'S PLAN FOR A SINGLE MARKET IN 1992.

BUT, MR LO SAID, HONG KONG WAS CONCERNED THAT IN THE COURSE OF REMOVING INTERNAL BARRIERS, THE COMMUNITY WOULD GIVE IN THE DEMANDS FOR INCREASED PROTECTION AGAINST NON EC-IMPORTS, OR WENT FURTHER DOWN THE PATH OF BILATERAL OR REGIONAL DEALS ON A DISCRIMINATORY BASIS WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

MR LO SAID HONG KONG REGARDED THE GATT AS THE CORNERSTONE OF ITS TRADE POLICY AND THAT WAS WHY IT WAS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH AIM TO FURTHER LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE AND STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF GATT.

HONG KONG, HE SAID, HAD BEEN A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT IN ITS OWN RIGHT SINCE APRIL 1986 AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFTER 1997.

MR LO SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HONG KONG IN THE 90'S AND BEYOND AND HE BELIEVED MOST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE TERRITORY WERE TOO.

"THEY KNOW WHAT A GREAT PLACE HONG KONG IS TO DO BUSINESS NOW AND CAN SEE THE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES IT OFFERS FOR THE FUTURE - AS A MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT; AS A LOCATION FOR MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS; AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AND TO THE ASIA - PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE; AND INCREASINGLY, AS AN ACTIVE PLAYER IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AFFAIRS," MR LO SAID.

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CALL FOR EARLY REGISTRATION OF LEGCO ELECTORS

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A THREE-WEEK VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL HAS BEGUN AND WILL LAST UNTIL MAY 6 FOR THE COMPILATION OF THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SECOND REGISTRATION PERIOD IN JUNE WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL REGISTER IN EARLY AUGUST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION POINTED OUT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE CURRENT EXERCISE WAS CONDUCTED TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAD BECOME ELIGIBLE SINCE THE LAST REGISTRATION IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO REGISTER AS ELECTORS.

"THESE INCLUDE NEW MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THOSE OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT AN ELECTION YEAR FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY FOR AN ELIGIBLE PERSON OR ORGANISATION TO SIGN UP AS AN ELECTOR, THUS HELPING TO CONSOLIDATE THE BASE OF THE ELECTORATE."

THE SPOKESMAN URGED ELIGIBLE PERSONS OR ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED TO DO SO EARLY.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO BECOME ELIGIBLE AS A CANDIDATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, A PERSON MUST FIRST BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION AT HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE FORMS HAVE ALSO BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONS SEEKING REGISTRATION IN THE MEDICAL, DENTAL, NURSING AND TEACHING PROFESSIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS MUST BE ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS BEFORE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORS.

"FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL, THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR REGISTRATION IN THAT ROLL NOW BEFORE SEEKING ENROLMENT ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ROLL IN 1990," HE ADDED.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE CURRENT REGISTRATION EXERCISE CAN BE OBTAINED AT TELEPHONE 5-8932837.

PUBLICITY STEPPED UP AGAINST FOOTWAY OBSTRUCTION

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AN EIGHT-MONTH CAMPAIGN AGAINST OBSTRUCTION ON PUBLIC FOOTWAYS IN KWUN TONG IS IN FULL SWING.

THE CAMPAIGN, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE TERRITORY, WAS LAUNCHED IN JANUARY BY A TASK FORCE FORMED UNDER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. IT COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLICE, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

DURING THE EDUCATION PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH ENDED IN FEBRUARY, PUBLICITY LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE TOWN CENTRE, TING HONG AND NGAU TAU KOK, WHERE THE PROBLEM IS MOST SERIOUS.

"THESE LEAFLETS AIM TO AROUSE THE CIVIC SPIRIT OF SHOP OPERATORS WHOSE GOODS AND ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS ARE OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENTS, AND EDUCATE THEM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE PAVEMENTS CLEAR," A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"SHOP OPERATORS ARE ALSO REMINDED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY THESE OBSTRUCTIONS TO BOTH PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT MANY OF THE SHOP OPERATORS HAVE TAKEN HEED OF OUR MESSAGE AND HAVE REMOVED GOODS AND OBJECTS OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENTS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE STILL SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT YET TAKEN ANY ACTION TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

AS THE CAMPAIGN HAS NOW ENTERED ITS PUBLICITY PHASE, EFFORTS WILL BE STEPPED UP TO ALERT RESIDENTS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND REMIND SHOP OPERATORS OF THE POSSIBLE COURT PENALTY.

"DURING THIS PHASE, PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBSTRUCTION BLACK SPOTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER AND A BROADCASTING VAN WILL TOUR THESE AREAS TO PUBLICISE THE NECESSITY OF KEEPING PAVEMENTS CLEAR FOR ROAD SAFETY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FINAL STAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN IN JUNE WHEN ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST OFFENDERS WHO WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 OR THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A BROADCASTING VAN WILL TOUR THE KWUN TONG TOWN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO PUBLICISE THE MESSAGE AGAINST OBSTRUCTION ON PUBLIC FOOTWAYS.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE TOUR ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 PM AT THE CARPARK OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER, MISS IRENE LAU, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1989

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD, AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY), WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANISED IN HONG KONG TO MARK THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) ON JUNE 5.

THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER SETTING UP A WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE WED.

AT THE MEETING MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 1989-90.

A MEMBER WILL PROPOSE THE PROVISION OF A SITTING-OUT AREA BEHIND THE CARMEL ENGLISH SCHOOL IN CHUNG HAU STREET, AND THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE HILLSIDE NEAR A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

ANOTHER MEMBER WILL SUGGEST TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ILLEGAL PARKING, PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION AND IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF REFUSE IN WHAMPOA ESTATE.

THE PROBLEM OF ACCUMULATION OF SAND AND DUST ON FOOTBRIDGES AND THE ROAD SURFACE IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE RAISED AT THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR CARRYING OUT IMPROVEMENT WORK TO DISTRICT DIRECTORY BOARDS AND NOTICE BOARDS, AND FOR REPLACING BENCHES IN A REAR LANE IN COOKE STREET, HUNG HOM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, KOWLOON.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1989

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY

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THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED ORGANISATIONS TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO SPONSOR THE 1990 LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY BY APRIL 29.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH ADVISED THAT APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES AT LEAST NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE PROPOSED FOR THE DISPLAY.

FIREWORKS DISPLAYS HAVE NORMALLY BEEN HELD IN THE EVENING OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE MSB HEADQUARTERS AT THE 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE APPLICATIONS AND TO DECLINE TO GIVE REASONS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS.

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SINGAPOREAN DELEGATION VISITS CSD

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A DELEGATION OF EIGHT SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PRISONS DEPARTMENT, AND THE SINGAPORE CORPORATION OF REHABILITATIVE ENTERPRISES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STARTED A THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD).

THE PARTY, LED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR TAN CHIN TIONG, AND THE DIRECTOR OF PRISONS, MR TEE TUA BA, ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG AND THE OPERATION OF LAUNDRY SERVICES PROVIDED BY CSD.

THEY FIRST CALLED ON THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, THIS MORNING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS.

AT A MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS ON PRISON MANAGEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR INMATES.

THEN, THE PARTY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER, VISITED TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, STANLEY PRISON, AND CSD'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

ARRANGEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THEM TO VISIT PIK UK PRISON, TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN, TAI LAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, SIU LAM PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE, MA PO PING PRISON, SHEK PIK PRISON AND SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE TOMORROW AND ON FRIDAY.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1989

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OLD ELM TREE IN BONSAI EXHIBITION

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A 400-YEAR-OLD HAIRY WILLOW ELM WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY TOGETHER WITH ABOUT 300 EXOTIC POTTED PLANTS IN THE 1989 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW AT THE CHING CHUNG KOON TAOIST MONASTERY FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 21) TO APRIL 30.

THE ONEMETRE TALL PLANT IS ONE OF THE RARE COLLECTIONS OF THE MONASTERY AND WILL BE EXHIBITED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

MANY OF THE OTHER POTTED PLANTS IN THE EXHIBITION SUCH AS FUKIEN TEA, HEDGE SAGERATIA AND FLOWERING TOMEGRANATE, ARE ATTACHED TO ROCKS OR DECORATED WITH FIGURINES TO DISPLAY THE ART OF POTTED LANDSCAPE.

ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE THE WINNING ENTRIES IN A BONSAI COMPETITION HELD IN THE DISTRICT.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE EXHIBITION, STUDENTS OF TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION TO ENHANCE THEIR APPRECIATION OF NATURE AND POTTED LANDSCAPE.

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BONSAI SHOW WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU; DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR HAIDER BARMA; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR YIP KAI-SANG; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR SO FAI-CHO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MONASTERY, THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY LTD.

IT WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1989 TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 21) AT THE CHING CHUNG KOON TAOIST MONASTERY, TUEN MUN.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1989

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICTS FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 21) FOR ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE SLIP ROAD LINKING THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND SECTIONS OF COTTON TREE DRIVE IN CENTRAL UNDERNEATH THE COTTON TREE DRIVE FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM ONE MINUTE PAST MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON WESTBOUND HARCOURT ROAD HEADING FOR LAMBETH WALK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARCOURT ROAD, MURRAY ROAD, THE SLIP ROAD OUTSIDE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND COTTON TREE DRIVE.

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WESTERN STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST; AND
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 121 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1989

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MONG KOK

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MONG KOK FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 21) FOR FOUR MONTHS.

THERE WILL BE NO LEFT TURN FROM SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET ONTO EASTBOUND DUNDAS STREET; AND THE SECTION OF HAMILTON STREET BETWEEN SHANGHAI STREET AND PORTLAND STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

DURING THIS PERIOD, MOTORISTS IN HAMILTON STREET WESTBOUND HEADING FOR SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA PORTLAND STREET, WESTBOUND CHANGSHA STREET AND SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET.

MEANWHILE, THE SEVEN METERED PARKING SPACES ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF HAMILTON STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF ANDERSON ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ANDERSON ROAD IN SAI KUNG WILL BE CLOSED FOR 15 CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 21) TO MAY 5 BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5.30 AM TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD HEADING FOR PO LAM ROAD AND VICE VERSA ARE ADVISED TO USE LEE ON ROAD, SHUN ON ROAD, SAU MAU PING ROAD AND PO LAM ROAD.

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