



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE/MA WAN VIADUCT CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (MONDAY) SIGNED A \$1.64 BILLION CONTRACT WITH KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT ON THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WILL BE A CABLE STAYED BRIDGE OF 820 METRES LENGTH WITH A MAIN SPAN OF 430 METRES, CROSSING THE CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF MA WAN AND LANTAU.

IT WILL BE THE WORLD'S LONGEST CABLE STAYED SPAN CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A CABLE STAYED DESIGN HAD BEEN USED FOR A ROAD BRIDGE IN HONG KONG.

IT IS REGARDED INTERNATIONALLY AS AN ADVANCED AND EXTREMELY COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR SUCH A STRUCTURE.

THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT WILL LINK THE TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE TO THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WITH COMBINED ROAD AND RAIL STRUCTURES.

THEY FORM A KEY PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS TO BUILD.

THE CONTRACT PRICE OF \$1.64 BILLION (IN MONEY OF THE DAY) FOR DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGE AND VIADUCT IS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE, INCLUDING THE CONTRACT CONTINGENCY, OF \$1.99 BILLION (MARCH 1991 PRICES).

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE PROJECT ESTIMATE IN JULY 1991 AND THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD DECIDED ON OCTOBER 16 TO ACCEPT THE TENDER FROM KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO AWARD THIS CONTRACT ON A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT BASIS BECAUSE VARIOUS CABLE STAYED DESIGNS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS WERE AVAILABLE INTERNATIONALLY.

THERE WAS ALSO SUFFICIENT TIME AVAILABLE FOR TENDERERS TO PREPARE THEIR OWN DESIGNS. THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ASSESS OPTIONS WAS TO CALL FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT TENDERS.

CABLE STAYED BRIDGES OFFER SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIES IN THE USE OF MATERIALS FOR SPANS BETWEEN ABOUT 150 AND 500 METRES, COMPARED WITH SUSPENSION BRIDGES WHICH ARE NORMALLY ONLY CONSIDERED FOR SPANS ABOVE 500 METRES.

"ON A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT CONTRACT, THE TENDERERS COMPETE BY PRODUCING DESIGNS THAT COMBINE THEIR SPECIALIST SKILLS AND THEIR SOURCES OF MATERIALS WITH THE LOWEST VIABLE PRICE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI

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"KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE HAS PRODUCED EXTREMELY ECONOMICAL DESIGNS THAT FULLY MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS."

THE DESIGN FOR THE BRIDGE COMPRISES CONCRETE MAIN SUPPORT TOWERS MORE THAN 150 METRES HIGH. FROM THESE TOWERS, CABLES WILL RADIATE DOWNWARDS TO SUPPORT THE MAIN CENTRAL 430-METRE SPAN, BUILT IN COMPOSITE STEEL AND CONCRETE.

THE MA WAN VIADUCT WILL CROSS THE ISLAND OF MA WAN BETWEEN THE TSING MA BRIDGE AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF 502 METRES.

IT WILL HAVE LARGE PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BOX GIRDERS, WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE THE ENCLOSED RAILWAY AND LOWER ROADWAY.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT VENTURE ARE KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) OF HONG KONG AND THREE COMPANIES FROM JAPAN: MAEDA CORPORATION, YOKOGAWA BRIDGE CORPORATION AND HITACHI Zosen CORPORATION.

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GOVERNOR ON LONDON VISIT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (MONDAY) BEGINS A BUSY SCHEDULE OF ENGAGEMENTS IN LONDON DURING HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT TO THE UK.

DURING HIS STAY, HE WILL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND OTHER MINISTERS.

TODAY HE WILL MEET WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION, AND MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. THIS EVENING, MR PATTEN WILL ATTEND A DINNER HOSTED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

ON TUESDAY, MR PATTEN WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATIVE BACKBENCH COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, AND ADDRESS THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE PEERS AT HOUSE OF LORDS.

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING THE GOVERNOR WILL ADDRESS THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT PLAISTERERS HALL.

ON THURSDAY, MR PATTEN WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG STAND AT THE WORLD TRAVEL MART EXHIBITION.

THE GOVERNOR WILL DEPART LONDON FOR HONG KONG ON FRIDAY.

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GOVT GUARANTEE ON RETIREMENT BENEFITS IMPRACTICABLE

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THE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE A FINANCIAL GUARANTEE TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS THROUGH FRAUD OR BAD MANAGEMENT IS NOT PRACTICABLE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

THIS IS BECAUSE SUCH A GUARANTEE WOULD PRODUCE AN IMMENSE CONTINGENT LIABILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT. IT MIGHT ALSO ENCOURAGE AGGRESSIVE OR UNSCRUPULOUS FUND MANAGEMENT.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL, CURRENTLY BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH THE MAIN AREAS OF CONCERN REGARDING THE SAFETY OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT TODAY (MONDAY), MR CHAN ALSO DISMISSED THE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BENEFITS PAYABLE UNDER THE PROPOSED RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY PROVIDED A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE ALSO COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS, AS WELL AS HEAVILY SUBSIDISED MEDICAL CARE AND PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM.

"WHILE THESE SERVICES MAY NOT SEEM DIRECTLY RELATED TO RETIREMENT PROTECTION OR OLD AGE BENEFITS, IN SOME COUNTRIES THEY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE VALUE OF THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION PACKAGE," MR CHAN SAID.

"AS THERE IS NO INTENTION OF REMOVING THESE BENEFITS ONCE THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM IS INTRODUCED, THEN THEIR VALUE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AS THEY ARE PROVIDED THROUGH GENERAL REVENUE AT MINIMAL OR NO COST TO THE RECIPIENT."

UNDER THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM UNVEILED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST MONTH, ALL EMPLOYEES IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE AGE OF 65 SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEME WHICH MEETS THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER, UNLESS THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED.

THERE ARE ARGUMENTS THAT PERSONS EARNING A VERY LOW WAGE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

IN RESPONSE, MR CHAN SAID IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SELECT AN ACCEPTABLE FIGURE AS THE CUT-OFF WAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS.

FURTHERMORE, IF LOW-PAID EMPLOYEES WERE TO BE EXEMPTED FROM CONTRIBUTING, THEN THE QUESTION WOULD STILL REMAIN AS TO HOW THEIR SHARE OF THE CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE FUNDED.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT TO SET THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION AT 10 PER CENT OF BASIC SALARY IS TO ENABLE SOMEONE WHO JOINS A SCHEME AT THE AGE OF 25 AND RETIRES AT 65 TO RECEIVE A LUMP SUM EQUIVALENT TO 48 MONTHS SALARY UPON RETIREMENT.

ON THE QUESTION OF TRANSFERABILITY OF BENEFITS, MR CHAN SAID THE BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION - THAT IS 10 PER CENT - MUST BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS EMPLOYER TO THE NEW ONE.

AS AN ALTERNATIVE, THE BENEFITS CAN REMAIN FROZEN IN THE PREVIOUS EMPLOYER'S SCHEME OR BE LOCKED IN A SEPARATE ACCOUNT INDEPENDENT OF BOTH EMPLOYERS.

HE SAID: "IN ANY CASE, THESE BENEFITS CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE RETIREMENT EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.

"I WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THIS IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO DENY THE BENEFICIARY THE USE OF HIS OWN MONEY. THE MONEY IS STILL HIS, AND HE WILL REAP THE BENEFITS OF IT WHEN HE RETIRES."

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT PRESENT SEEKING PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS AND NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE AS YET.

HE URGED THOSE WHO HAD VIEWS OR COMMENTS TO SEND THEM TO THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH BEFORE JANUARY 31, NEXT YEAR.

"ONCE WE HAVE EXAMINED ALL THE COMMENTS, AND COME TO AN AGREED POLICY ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION, THEN STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO INTRODUCE THIS POLICY THROUGH LEGISLATION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE," MR CHAN SAID.

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SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR OCTOBER

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER DECREASED BY 29.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND BY 59.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

IN ALL, 8,253 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS ABOUT \$24.26 BILLION.

THESE FIGURES WERE INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS REGISTERED IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

THERE WERE FIVE BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 12,637 OTHER MORTGAGES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH, COMPARED TO 10 AND 20,481 RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER, 1991.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$0.37 BILLION COMPARED WITH ABOUT \$0.38 BILLION IN OCTOBER, 1991.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DROPPED BY 44.1 PER CENT FROM ABOUT \$10.57 BILLION IN OCTOBER 1991 TO ABOUT \$5.91 BILLION IN OCTOBER, 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON BUILDING AND OTHER MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, DECREASED BY 17.1 PER CENT FROM ABOUT \$4.32 BILLION IN OCTOBER, 1991 TO ABOUT \$3.58 BILLION IN OCTOBER, 1992.

MEANWHILE, DETAILS OF LAND OFFICE CONSENTS GIVEN TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR SALES AND PURCHASES OF UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE ALSO RELEASED.

IN OCTOBER, THREE SUCH CONSENTS WERE GRANTED INVOLVING 268 UNITS IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 37 UNITS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
Consolidated Monthly Statistics in respect of deeds received for
registration in the Urban and New Territories District Land Registries

Month : October 1992

Item	Nature of Deeds	Number of Deeds received for Registration			Consideration (\$)		
		Urban	New Territories	Total	Urban	New Territories	Total
1.	Assignments of undivided shares	7,447 (7,714)	5,272 (5,301)	12,719 (13,015)	19,214,770,492.09	7,436,149,370.10	26,650,919,862.19
2.	Assignments of whole lot, section or sub-section	70	892	962	6,822,740,800.00	1,679,718,220.40	8,502,459,020.40
	Sub-total (1) + (2)	7,517	6,164	13,681	26,037,511,292.09	9,115,867,590.50	35,153,378,882.59
3.	Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges	4	1	5	327,000,000.00	42,900,000.00	369,900,000.00
4.	Mortgages/Legal Charges (other than item 3)	7,345	5,292	12,637	4,408,814,900.04	1,503,738,734.99	5,912,553,635.03
	Sub-total (3) + (4)	7,349	5,293	12,642	4,735,814,900.04	1,546,638,734.99	6,282,453,635.03
5.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Undivided Shares	4,812 (5,340)	3,441 (3,565)	8,253 (8,905)	17,650,630,163.80	6,611,321,729.94	24,261,951,893.74
6.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Whole Lot, Section or Sub-section	37	292	329	3,540,380,000.00	1,241,064,142.00	4,781,444,142.00
	Sub-total (5) + (6)	4,849	3,733	8,582	21,191,010,163.80	7,852,385,871.94	29,043,396,035.74
7.	Receipts/Discharge/Releases	6,462	3,967	10,429	2,605,084,911.97	978,110,453.51	3,583,195,365.48
8.	Leases/Tenancy Agreements	459	203	662			
9.	Exclusion Orders	0	0	0			
10.	Others	4,087	3,543	7,630			
	Total	30,723	22,903	53,626	54,569,421,267.90	19,493,002,650.94	74,062,423,918.84

Note : Figures within brackets denote number of units involved

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Period 1.4.1992 to 31.3.1993

Part I - Consent to forward sales given

1992/93	No. of Consents given		No. of Flats/Units involved		
	Urban	N.T.	Urban	N.T.	Total
April	3	3	3,313	1,044	4,357
May	-	3	-	1,140	1,140
June	2	4	436	1,716	2,152
July	4	3	1,583	2,196	3,779
August	1	4	38	2,600	2,638
September	1	3	1,546	2,995	4,541
October	1	2	268	37	305
November					
December					
January					
February					
March					
Total					

Part II - Number of Flats/Units transacted by Agreements for Sale and Purchase lodged for registration and registers/folios opened for the registration of Agreements for Sale and Purchase in respect of Flats/Units in new developments under the Land Office Consent Scheme and the Non-consent Scheme.

1992/93	Total No. of Flats/Units transacted (including re-sales, if any) by Agreements for Sale and Purchase lodged			No. of registers/folios opened for the registration of Agreements for Sale and Purchase in respect of Flats/Units in new developments					
	Urban	N.T.	Total	Non-consent Scheme			Consent Scheme		
	Urban	N.T.	Total	Urban	N.T.	Total	Urban	N.T.	Total
April	9,584	6,040	15,624	6,771	835	7,606	59	0	59
May	13,264	5,905	19,169	951	699	1,650	740	1,000	1,740
June	8,755	5,741	14,496	1,224	836	2,060	5,219	962	6,181
July	7,882	5,132	13,014	945	414	1,359	730	3,143	3,873
August	7,238	6,024	13,262	1,331	1,911	3,242	0	162	162
September	7,937	4,315	12,252	867	1,185	2,052	453	3,557	4,010
October	5,340	3,565	8,905	1,626	256	1,882	954	0	954
November									
December									
January									
February									
March									
Total									

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER WERE BOTH 1.9%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER WAS 2.0%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.8%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE IN RECENT MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD JULY - SEPTEMBER, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 51,400, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 52,600.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUAL GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 1992 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,800 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,300 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AROUND DECEMBER 21 AT \$15.50 A COPY.

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SAFE AND EFFICIENT HARBOUR TO MATCH WITH RAPID PORT GROWTH

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN KEEPING HONG KONG'S HARBOUR SAFE AND EFFICIENT, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE \$4.6 MILLION MARINE PATROL LAUNCH, MD 22 AT JOSS HOUSE BAY, MR MILLER SAID:

"MOST PEOPLE DO NOT REALISE IT, BUT HONG KONG HARBOUR NEVER SLEEPS.

"TRAFFIC MUST BE MANAGED AND MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY. THIS WE DO THROUGH HARBOUR PATROLS WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S COMPUTER AND RADAR BASED VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE."

MD 22 WILL JOIN MD 20 AND 21 IN THEIR 24-HOUR-A-DAY PATROLS.

THEY ARE TO HELP SHIPS ENTER AND CLEAR THE PORT OF HONG KONG SAFELY, AND TO WORK CARGOES EFFICIENTLY.

"THEY ARE THERE NOT ONLY TO ENFORCE THE LAW, BUT ALSO TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO ANY EMERGENCY," MR MILLER SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT SERVICES KEEP PACE WITH THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE PORT.

"WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LAG BEHIND," HE SAID.

THE NUMBER OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS HAS INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, COASTAL AND RIVER TRADE VESSELS BY OVER 30 PER CENT.

TOTAL THROUGHPUT HAS GROWN BY 42 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

"ALL THIS IS HAPPENING AT A TIME WHEN MASSIVE RECLAMATION IS SHRINKING THE OLD HARBOUR AREA AND ESTABLISHED WATERFRONT USERS ARE BEING RESITED. VIGILANCE IS VITAL IF SHIPS ARE TO MOVE SAFELY AND CARGO IS TO BE HANDLED EFFICIENTLY."

DURING THE CEREMONY, MR MILLER AND THE CREW OF MD 22 PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SEA GODDESS "TIN HAU".

MD 22 IS A STEEL-PLATE TWIN-ENGINE VESSEL CAPABLE OF 12 KNOTS. SHE IS 16.3 METRES LONG AND IS EQUIPPED WITH RADAR.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE THREE PATROL LAUNCHES AT A TOTAL COST OF \$8.8 MILLION TO AUGMENT ITS HARBOUR PATROL SERVICES.

MD 20 AND 21, BOTH GLASS-REINFORCED PLASTIC VESSELS CAPABLE OF 16 KNOTS, WERE COMMISSIONED IN APRIL AND MAY LAST YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST PORTS IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CONTAINER THROUGHPUT, TONNAGE OF SHIPPING USING ITS FACILITIES, CARGO HANDLED AND NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED.

SOME 130,000 OCEAN-GOING AND RIVER-TRADE VESSELS CALL AT HONG KONG EVERY YEAR AND THERE ARE ANOTHER 20,000 LOCAL VESSELS INCLUDING BARGES, FERRIES, FISHING BOATS AND PLEASURE VESSELS, WHICH OPERATE EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG.

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LINGNAN COLLEGE UPGRADED TO DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTION

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THE LINGNAN COLLEGE ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE AS A DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTION, CAME INTO EFFECT YESTERDAY (SUNDAY).

THE UPGRADING OF THE COLLEGE CONSTITUTES PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO EXPAND TERTIARY EDUCATION, UNDER WHICH A TOTAL OF 14,500 FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED TO 18 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE POPULATION OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP BY 1994/95.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID LINGNAN COLLEGE WOULD BE PROVIDING ABOUT 1,800 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT PLACES BY 1994/95, OF WHICH 690 WILL BE FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES.

THE COLLEGE IS CURRENTLY OFFERING TWO DEGREE PROGRAMMES - A BA PROGRAMME IN TRANSLATION AND A BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME, HE SAID.

ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS AGO AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL, LINGNAN COLLEGE GAINED RECOGNITION AS AN APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE UNDER THE POST SECONDARY COLLEGE ORDINANCE IN 1978.

IN 1987, A REVIEW BY THE UNITED KINGDOM COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS CONCLUDED THAT THE COURSES OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE WERE EQUIVALENT IN STANDARD TO THOSE OFFERED BY SOME TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC).

THE UPGC RECOMMENDED IN 1990 THAT THE COLLEGE SHOULD BE UPGRADED AS A DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTION.

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NURSES PRAISED FOR HIGH STANDARD OF WORK

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THE HIGH STANDARD OF WORK OF THE HONG KONG NURSES WHO ATTENDED A NURSING COURSE THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION OF THE MONASH UNIVERSITY OF AUSTRALIA REFLECTED A "COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION OF NURSING AND TO THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH".

THE TRIBUTE WAS MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY TO THE 112 NURSES WHO RECEIVED THEIR BACHELOR DEGREE IN NURSING AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD IN HONG KONG TODAY (MONDAY).

ECHOING THIS TRIBUTE TO THE GRADUATES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID QUALITY NURSING WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

"OUR NURSES' QUIET DEVOTION TO PATIENT CARE DESERVES A PARTICULAR WORD OF APPRECIATION," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST GROUP OF GRADUATES OF THE NURSING COURSE WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY SINCE NOVEMBER 1990.

ALL THE GRADUATES ARE REGISTERED NURSES WORKING IN A VARIETY OF CLINICAL SETTINGS, RANGING FROM GENERAL CARE TO EXTENDED NURSING SERVICES.

MONASH UNIVERSITY HAS A HISTORY OF 31 YEARS. MANY STUDENTS FROM HONG KONG AND FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE MONASH EXPERIENCE.

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY NOTABLY HAVE HELPED TO NURSE AND NURTURE BETTER RAPPORT AND CLOSER RELATIONS THROUGH THEIR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH MONASH IN DISTANCE EDUCATION.

APART FROM THE NURSING GRADUATES, 18 OTHERS ALSO RECEIVED THEIR DIPLOMA IN ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT TODAY'S GRADUATION CEREMONY.

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CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS FROM LAB ELECTION

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION FROM THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES CHINESE EMPLOYEES FREE UNION, HONG KONG, TO WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION OF MS CHEUNG WAI-LIN AS A CANDIDATE TO STAND IN THE COMING LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION.

CONSEQUENTLY, ONLY NINE CANDIDATES WILL VIE FOR FIVE SEATS AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM STARTING NEXT JANUARY.

/THEY ARE:

THEY ARE:

- * MR LEUNG FU-WAH
HONG KONG AND KOWLOON RUBBER AND PLASTIC WORKERS GENERAL UNION
- * MR CHEUNG KWOK-BUI, FELIX
HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS GENERAL UNION
- * MISS LI FUNG-YING
HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES' GENERAL UNION
- * MR CHU MING
HONG KONG PROSTHETISTS AND ORTHOTISTS ASSOCIATION
- * MR LEUNG CHOK-FU
HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CLOCK AND WATCH TRADE WORKERS UNION
- * MR CHEUNG PAK-CHI
CABLE AND WIRELESS (HK) LTD STAFF ASSOCIATION
- * MR LEUNG TSZ-LEUNG
HONG KONG BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS GENERAL UNION
- * MR LEUNG SHIU-CHUN
UNION OF HEADS OF AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF HONG KONG
- * CAPTAIN W B TUCKNOTT
HONG KONG AIRCREW OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5 AT WAH YAN COLLEGE IN KOWLOON.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AUDIT REPORT

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING THE TABLING OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 18).

THE REPORT SETS OUT THE ACCOUNTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 THIS YEAR AND THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS.

THE HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN THE MORNINGS OF NOVEMBER 23 (MONDAY) AND NOVEMBER 24 (TUESDAY), BEGINNING AT 8.30 AM.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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NEW MINIBUS SERVICE FOR SHA TIN AND SHEK LEI RESIDENTS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 403 PLYING BETWEEN SHEK LEI ESTATE AND SHA TIN WILL BE IN OPERATION FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 18).

THE NEW ROUTE WILL START FROM YI SHING SQUARE, SHA TIN WAI TO LEI PUI STREET, SHEK LEI ESTATE VIA SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE, SHING MUN TUNNEL AND WO YI HOP ROAD.

IT WILL RUN BETWEEN 6.45 AM AND 11 PM DAILY AT 10-MINUTE FREQUENCIES.

THE FARE WILL BE \$6.50 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN WONG TAI SIN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 18) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES BOUNDED BY CHOI HUNG ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, SHEUNG TAK STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD AND TAI SHING STREET, INCLUDING LUNG YAT HOUSE, LUNG CHACK HOUSE, LUNG SHUN HOUSE, LUNG WAH HOUSE, LUNG HONG HOUSE AND LUNG WING HOUSE OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, AS WELL AS TAK MING HOUSE AND KAI MING HOUSE OF KAI TAK ESTATE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 73.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 429.071 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 276.104 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 47.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	16 NOV 92
PAPER ON OFFER	GOVT BONDS
ISSUE NUMBER	2411
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,303 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN
AV PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	99.70 (4.84)
LOWEST PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	99.65 (4.87)
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 46 PCT
AV TENDER PRICE (YIELD)	99.57 (4.91)

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.7 *+0.1* 16.11.92	

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.98 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	6.25	101.63	4.19
1 MONTH	3.11 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.65	4.40
3 MONTHS	3.47 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.67	4.62
6 MONTHS	3.64 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.71	4.84
12 MONTHS	3.93 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,817 MN

CLOSED 16 NOVEMBER 1992

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