



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

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ANSON CHAN ON TRANSITION OF CIVIL SERVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT SEES NO NEED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO DECLARE WHETHER THEY INTEND TO STAY IN THE SERVICE AFTER 1997, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER OFFICIATING AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL IN PAT HEUNG, MRS CHAN SAID EVERYONE WOULD AGREE THAT AN EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE WAS CRUCIAL FOR HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

"IN PARTICULAR, CONTINUITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT," SHE SAID.

"BOTH THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION SET OUT IN DETAILS THE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT SERVING CIVIL SERVANTS CAN EXPECT TO REMAIN IN SERVICE AFTER 1997."

SO FAR AS THE FILLING OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS ARE CONCERNED, MRS CHAN SAID THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION ALSO MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE POSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE FILLED BY CHINESE NATIONALS WITHOUT RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

"WE ARE ALREADY MAKING PLANS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICERS TO FILL THESE POSTS AFTER 1997," SHE ADDED.

SHE THOUGHT CIVIL SERVANTS WANTED AN ASSURANCE FROM THE CHINESE PARTICULARLY THAT WOULD SET THEIR MIND AT EASE.

"THESE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE PROPERLY DISCUSSED AT A FORUM RECOGNISED BY BOTH PARTIES.

"I HAVE SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT WE STAND READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS CIVIL SERVICE MATTERS WITH THE CHINESE AS SOON AS THEY ARE READY.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER."

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TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN'S MEDIA SESSION AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT PASSING-OUT PARADE TODAY (THURSDAY):

MRS CHAN : I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE CIVIL SERVICE. WE HAVE IN HONG KONG A FIRST CLASS CIVIL SERVICE, EFFICIENT AND DEDICATED. I THINK EVERYONE AGREES INCLUDING THE CHINESE THAT AN EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE IS CRUCIAL FOR HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, AND IN PARTICULAR CONTINUITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. BOTH THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION SET OUT IN DETAILS THE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT SERVING CIVIL SERVANTS CAN EXPECT TO REMAIN IN SERVICE AFTER 1997. SO WE SEE NO NEED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO HAVE TO DECLARE THEIR INTENTION AS TO WHETHER THEY INTEND TO STAY IN THE SERVICE AFTER 1997. INSOFAR AS THE FILLING OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS ARE CONCERNED, AGAIN THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE POSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE FILLED BY CHINESE NATIONALS WITHOUT RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. WE ARE ALREADY MAKING PLANS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICERS TO FILL THESE POSTS AFTER 1997.

QUESTION : (FOR REACTION TO PWC STATEMENT) ?

MRS CHAN : THE CHINESE HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR IN STATEMENTS OVER QUITE A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. I RECALL PARTICULARLY MR LU PING HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO ASSURE CIVIL SERVANTS THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY. THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL FILL PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THE TRANSITION TO 1997 ARE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES. I THINK CIVIL SERVANTS NOW WANT AN ASSURANCE FROM THE CHINESE PARTICULARLY THAT WILL SET THEIR MIND AT EASE. THESE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE PROPERLY DISCUSSED AT A FORUM RECOGNIZED BY BOTH PARTIES. I HAVE SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT WE STAND READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS CIVIL SERVICE MATTERS WITH THE CHINESE AS SOON AS THEY ARE READY. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

QUESTION : DO YOU THINK THAT THE DOCUMENT YOU MENTIONED IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN TRUST FOR THE 1997 TAKE-OVER ?

MRS CHAN : THE CHINESE AGAIN HAS STRESSED THAT THEY INTEND FULLY TO ADHERE TO THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION. AS I HAVE JUST SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING CIVIL SERVANTS ARE VERY CLEARLY LAID DOWN IN THESE TWO DOCUMENTS. BOTH SIDES ARE CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO ENSURE THAT WE ABIDE BY THESE DOCUMENTS.

GOVT SEEKS FC APPROVAL TO PROCEED ON ACP WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK APPROVAL IN APRIL FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ENABLE SOME URGENT GOVERNMENT WORKS TO PROCEED ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

THEY INVOLVE GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AT THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AMOUNTING TO \$3,877 MILLION AT MONEY OF THE DAY PRICES AND FURTHER WORKS ON THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AT \$423 MILLION (MOD PRICES).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE \$3,877 MILLION BEING SOUGHT FOR GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AT CHEK LAP KOK WAS FOR THE FURTHER PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

APART FROM AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS, FITTING OUT AND EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND THE AIR CARGO COMPLEX AND STAND ALONE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, FOR EXAMPLE POLICE STATION, WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "SITE FORMATION FOR THE AIRPORT ISLAND AT CHEK LAP KOK IS ALREADY ONE-HALF COMPLETED. DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN CRITICAL WORKS ARE ALSO UNDERWAY.

"TO TIE IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE ITS OWN FACILITIES TO SERVE THE AIRPORT READY IN GOOD TIME.

"THE LEAD TIME FOR THE DESIGN OF THE SOPHISTICATED SYSTEMS, FACILITIES AND BUILDINGS, AND TO TENDER, CONSTRUCT AND COMMISSION THEM IS AT LEAST TWO TO THREE YEARS."

THE \$423 MILLION FOR THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION COVERS THE NEXT PHASE OF WORK IN THE SOUTHERN AREA OF THE RECLAMATION WHICH HAS TO START IN MAY 1994 TO ENABLE THE COMPLEMENTARY ROAD NETWORK AND SUPPORTING UTILITIES FOR THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION DEVELOPMENT AREAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF 1996 AS SCHEDULED.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO ADJUST THE SCOPE OF THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION PHASE I PROJECT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE EXTRA WORKS TO ALLOW FOR THE COMPLETION OF MAJOR NEW AND REFURBISHED UTILITY WORKS IN HARBOUR VIEW STREET.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO USE FUNDS SET ASIDE IN THE PROJECT CONTINGENCY TO FUND THESE EXTRA WORKS COSTING \$64 MILLION AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AGREES TO REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT CONSTRUCTS THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THEREFORE THERE WILL NOT BE ANY ADDITIONAL OUTLAY OF FUNDS INVOLVED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HE SAID THE PROPOSED EXTRA WORKS COVERED THE DEMOLITION OF THE ELEVATED WALKWAY AND THREE CONNECTING FOOTBRIDGES ABOVE THE CENTRAL PROMENADE AT THE HARBOUR VIEW STREET TO MAKE WAY FOR THE LAYING OF NEW HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC CABLES TO SERVE THE BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL.

THESE ALSO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF DIAPHRAGM WALLING AND ESSENTIAL PORTIONS OF THE FUTURE AIRPORT RAILWAY HONG KONG CENTRAL SUBWAY FOR PEDESTRIANS UNDER THE HARBOUR VIEW STREET.

ALL THESE EXTRA WORKS MUST BEGIN BY APRIL 22, 1994 IF PROGRAMME DELAY TO THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION PHASE I PROJECT IS TO BE AVOIDED.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A "POOL" OF GOVERNMENT ACP PROJECT CONTINGENCIES.

HE EXPLAINED: "AT PRESENT, WE DO NOT HAVE THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO RE-DEPLOY APPROVED PROJECT CONTINGENCY FUNDS OR SAVINGS FROM ONE GOVERNMENT ACP PROJECT TO ANOTHER PROJECT TO MEET PROGRAMME AND OTHER CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS."

THE "POOLING" OF PROJECT CONTINGENCIES WOULD CREATE A MORE FLEXIBLE MECHANISM THAT WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO "MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF SAVINGS IDENTIFIED FOR ONE GOVERNMENT ACP PROJECT TO MEET SHORTFALLS NEEDED FOR ANOTHER ACP PROJECT PROVIDED THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE APPROVED SCOPE OF WORKS AND THE AMOUNT OF CONTINGENCIES DEPLOYED TO A PROJECT NOT EXCEEDING 10 PER CENT OF ITS APPROVED PROJECT ESTIMATE.

"IT WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO RE-DEPLOY PROJECT CONTINGENCIES IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE TO MEET URGENT NEEDS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS PROPOSAL TO "POOL" PROJECT CONTINGENCIES TOGETHER CARRIES NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AS IT INVOLVES ONLY THE INTERNAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS ALREADY APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DISCUSSION PAPERS CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED FUNDING HAVE BEEN ISSUED TODAY TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCING OF THE ACP.

THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED AT A MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APRIL 6, IN ADVANCE OF A PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 13.

EXCO ENDORSES MORE CONTROL OVER MAHJONG PARLOURS
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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO STEP UP MEASURES TO CONTROL LICENSED MAHJONG PARLOURS (LMPS), MAHJONG PLAYING IN CLUBS AND RESTAURANTS, AND PROMOTIONAL AND SELLING ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN LOTTERIES IN HONG KONG.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) REGULATION L994. THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL WILL BE GAZETTED ON APRIL 15 AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 27.

OUTLINING THE PROPOSALS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID ADDITIONAL LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR LMPS WOULD INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT ALL EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS OF THE LICENSEE AT THESE LICENSED PREMISES WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING (CTEL).

SECONDLY, ALL LICENSEES OF THESE PARLOURS SHOULD KEEP A DETAILED REGISTER OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY CTEL AND POLICE OFFICERS.

THIRDLY, THE LICENSEE OR HIS AGENT MUST BE PRESENT AT THE PREMISES THROUGHOUT THE HOURS OF PLAY.

FOURTHLY, THE LICENCE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

ALL THESE MEASURES, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, ARE DESIGNED TO FACILITATE CTEL AND THE POLICE TO MONITOR THE OPERATION OF LMPS AND MINIMISE TRIAD INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR OPERATION.

TURNING TO MAHJONG PLAYING IN CLUBS AND RESTAURANTS, HE SAID THAT IT WAS STILL THE POLICY INTENTION TO ALLOW LAWFUL GAMING IN THE FORM OF SOCIAL RECREATION IN THESE PREMISES.

TO CONTINUE WITH THIS POLICY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AMEND THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE SO THAT LAWFUL GAMING WAS PERMITTED IN LICENSED RESTAURANTS OR IN CLUBS LICENSED UNDER THE CLUBS (SAFETY OF PREMISES) ORDINANCE.

AND TO FURTHER REGULATE THE OPERATION OF MAHJONG PLAYING IN THESE PREMISES, THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE MANAGEMENT OR EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE GAMES WITH THEIR CLIENTS.

"THIS IS TO PREVENT THE OPERATORS FROM MAKING PROFIT THROUGH THIS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

FURTHERMORE, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR A SET OF MAHJONG TILES BE REVISED FROM \$20 TO \$80 A DAY.

THE CURRENT FEE WAS SET IN 1977 AND THE PROPOSED REVISION IS GENERALLY IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

THE ABOVE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WHILE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE TRADE ASSOCIATION HAVE ALSO BEEN SOUGHT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE GENERALLY SUPPORTED.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE SECTIONS IN THE ORDINANCE AND THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING FOREIGN LOTTERIES BE FINE-TUNED SO THAT ALL OVERSEAS LOTTERIES WOULD BE PUT ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BUYING FOREIGN LOTTERY TICKETS BY HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE PERMITTED. IT WOULD BE AN OFFENCE TO PROMOTE OR PUBLICISE FOREIGN LOTTERIES, OR TO SELL FOREIGN LOTTERY TICKETS IN HONG KONG," HE POINTED OUT.

HOWEVER, ADVERTISEMENTS OF A FOREIGN LOTTERY IN AN INTERNATIONALLY CIRCULATED PUBLICATION NOT PRINTED OR PRODUCED IN HONG KONG WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PROMOTION, HE SAID.

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THREE LOTS SOLD FOR \$3,700 MILLION
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THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD AT A TOTAL OF \$3,700 MILLION AT A PUBLIC LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT, AT 665 KING'S ROAD, WAS BOUGHT BY RANDASH INVESTMENT LTD AT \$2,200 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$1,600 MILLION.

COVERING AN AREA OF 2,661 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, EXCLUDING PETROL-FILLING STATION, GODOWN, WAREHOUSE AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL.

THE SECOND LOT, AT AREA 11, ON YIU STREET, SHA TIN, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 6,515 SQUARE METRES, WAS BOUGHT BY MARBRAD COMPANY LTD AT \$650 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$460 MILLION.

IT IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN (WITH ANCILLARY OFFICES) USE.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 19,545 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1998.

THE THIRD LOT, SITUATED AT AREA 11, TUEN MUN, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,781 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO ENNICH INVESTMENT LTD AT \$850 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$600 MILLION.

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IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, RESIDENTIAL, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT AND PETROL FILLING STATION) USE, INCLUDING MULTI-STOREY PUBLIC CAR PARK.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 24,000 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1998.

THE AUCTION WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR TIMOTHY MILLS.

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AIRPORT COMMITTEE EXPERTS MEET

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IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUERIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT EXPERTS FROM THE TWO SIDES OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MET THIS MORNING.

THERE WAS A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL AND ON THE AWARD OF FRANCHISES FOR KEY AIRPORT SERVICES.

THE MEETING WAS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF REGULAR EXPERT EXCHANGES.

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BRIDGE TOWERS CONNECTED ACROSS MA WAN CHANNEL

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THE TWIN TOWERS OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE HAVE BEEN SPANNED, WITH THE HOISTING OF THE FIRST OF TWO WIRES, EACH 3,000 METRES IN LENGTH, ACROSS THE MA WAN CHANNEL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE OPERATION, LINKING MA WAN ISLAND WITH THE REST OF HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME, MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TRANSPORT NETWORK LEADING TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE WIRES - FUNCTIONING MUCH LIKE A CLOTHESLINE - WILL BE USED TO HAUL MATERIALS BETWEEN THE TWO TOWERS OVER THE WATER. FURTHER WIRES WILL BE ADDED LATER TO CONSTRUCT TWO TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGES, OR CATWALKS, WHICH WILL BE USED AS WORKING PLATFORMS WHILE THE MAIN CABLES OF THE BRIDGE ARE FORMED USING A TECHNIQUE KNOWN AS AERIAL SPINNING.

IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S OPERATION, ONE END OF THE WIRE HAD BEEN FED FROM A DRUM ON THE WATER'S EDGE BY THE MA WAN TOWER. IT WAS LIFTED UP AND OVER A PULLEY AT THE TOP OF ONE OF THE TOWER LEGS - TALLER THAN THE HONGKONG BANK BUILDING - AND THEN FED DOWN THE OTHER SIDE TO BE ATTACHED TO A WINCH AT THE TOWER BASE.

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BEGINNING AT 6 AM, THE DRUM WAS LOADED ONTO A BARGE. THE BARGE THEN MOVED SLOWLY ACROSS THE CHANNEL, UNREELING THE WIRE INTO THE WATER AND ONTO THE SEABED UNTIL IT REACHED TSING YI ISLAND. THERE THE REMAINING LENGTH OF THE WIRE WAS UNLOADED, LIFTED OVER THE TOP OF ONE OF THE TSING YI TOWER LEGS AND ATTACHED TO ANOTHER WINCH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOWER BASE.

THE WINCHES ON BOTH ISLANDS WERE THEN DRIVEN TO TIGHTEN THE WIRE, WHICH EMERGED GLISTENING FROM THE SEA AND WAS PULLED TO ITS FINAL POSITION.

THE 16 MM WIRE - ONLY AS THICK AS A THUMB - NOW HANGS IN A GRACEFUL CURVE BETWEEN THE TWO TOWERS WITH ITS LOWEST POINT ABOUT 80 METRES CLEAR OF THE WATER, WELL ABOVE SHIP MAST HEIGHT.

THE WHOLE OPERATION TODAY TOOK ABOUT FIVE-AND-A-HALF HOURS, DURING WHICH THE CHANNEL WAS CLOSED TO MARINE TRAFFIC.

THE CATWALKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JUNE, ENABLING THE SPINNING OF THE MAIN CABLES TO COMMENCE IN JULY.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE, WHICH WILL BE ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION IN 1997, WILL HAVE A SPAN OF 1,377 METRES MAKING IT THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN THE WORLD CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC.

IT WILL BE A SPECTACULAR NEW LANDMARK FOR HONG KONG, WITH THE TOWERS STANDING 206 METRES HIGH.

THE BRIDGE IS BUILT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND WILL FORM PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING - ONE OF THE 10 PROJECTS IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

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AIRPORT RAILWAY AREA PLAN

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE ALIGNMENT OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, FROM THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN TO KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

THE ALIGNMENT WILL RUN ALONG THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU, ACROSS TO TSING YI VIA THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING AND ALONG THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE ALIGNMENT WAS PUBLISHED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY IT OF WHERE THE RAILWAY WOULD BE BUILT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ALIGNMENT WOULD BE MAINLY ON RECLAIMED LAND AND VERY FEW EXISTING DEVELOPED AREAS WOULD BE AFFECTED.

HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROJECT.

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GOVT DECIDES TO COMPILE
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT STATISTICS FOR HONG KONG

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SET UP A SYSTEM TO COMPILE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP) STATISTICS FOR HONG KONG.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) STATISTICS HAVE ALREADY BEEN AVAILABLE FOR MANY YEARS.

THE MOVE TO EXTEND THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM TO COVER GNP STATISTICS IS TO MEET A GROWING NEED FOR SUCH DATA TO ANALYSE THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

THIS SHOULD ENABLE BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN JUNE 1992, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ASKED THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE COMPILATION OF GNP STATISTICS FOR HONG KONG.

"THE STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ON THE BASIS OF ITS RESULTS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIRECTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH WORK FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM," SAID COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS MR FREDERICK HO.

"THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS ALSO TO ESTABLISH THE MINIMUM-COST APPROACH, WHEREBY COSTS IN TERMS OF DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT AND REPORTING BURDEN ON PROSPECTIVE DATA SUPPLIERS WILL BE MINIMISED," HE ADDED.

STAFF OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT THE NECESSARY RESEARCH, CONSULTED INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AND INTERVIEWED A LARGE NUMBER OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS DURING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

MR HO EXPLAINED: "FOR A REFERENCE PERIOD, GDP MEASURES THE TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF AN ECONOMIC TERRITORY. CONCURRENTLY, IT MEASURES THE INCOME ARISING FROM SUCH PRODUCTION.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, GNP MEASURES THE TOTAL INCOME OF RESIDENTS OF A TERRITORY, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE INCOME IS EARNED FROM INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE TERRITORY OR OUTSIDE.

"RESIDENTS OF A TERRITORY INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS. FOR INDIVIDUALS, RESIDENTS REFER TO THOSE WHO NORMALLY STAY IN THE TERRITORY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR NATIONALITIES. FOR ORGANISATIONS, RESIDENTS REFER TO THOSE WHICH ORDINARILY OPERATE IN THE TERRITORY. CONCEPTUALLY, THE RESIDENCE STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS DEPEND ON THEIR CENTRE OF ECONOMIC INTEREST.

"FOR COMPILING GNP ESTIMATES FOR HONG KONG, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE DATA ON BOTH INCOME EARNED BY HONG KONG RESIDENTS FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG AND INCOME EARNED BY NON-HONG KONG-RESIDENTS FROM WITHIN HONG KONG. GNP IS OBTAINED BY ADDING THE FORMER INCOME TO, AND SUBTRACTING THE LATTER INCOME FROM, GDP."

IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN FAST-INCREASING INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG MADE BY EXTERNAL INVESTORS AS WELL AS INVESTMENTS BY HONG KONG INVESTORS OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY IN CHINA.

INCOME FLOWS GENERATED FROM SUCH INVESTMENTS ARE ACCORDINGLY GROWING FAST.

GNP STATISTICS EMBRACING THESE EXTERNAL INCOME FLOWS WILL THEREFORE PROVIDE A VERY USEFUL COMPLEMENTARY MEASURE OF HONG KONG'S OVERALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID: "BOTH GDP AND GNP ARE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS. THE PURPOSE OF COMPILING GNP IS NOT TO REPLACE GDP. TO SUPPORT DIFFERENT ECONOMIC ANALYSES, MOST COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES COMPILE BOTH GDP AND GNP STATISTICS."

REGARDING DATA COLLECTION, MR HO SAID: "WE HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT THE NECESSARY DATA NEEDED FOR COMPILING GNP STATISTICS WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH STATISTICAL SURVEYS."

HE SAID THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE WOULD PROVIDE THE LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR DATA COLLECTION AND THE ORDINANCE ALSO REQUIRED ALL DATA RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS OR PERSONS TO BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

THE TOTAL INCOME EARNED BY RESIDENTS FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCLUDES TWO TYPES OF FACTOR INCOME: INVESTMENT INCOME AND LABOUR INCOME. CAPITAL GAINS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

SINCE EXTERNAL INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE MAINLY CONDUCTED THROUGH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, EFFORTS OF SURVEYS WILL BE FOCUSED ON INCOME FLOWS ROUTED THROUGH RELEVANT BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE SURVEY WILL COVER AROUND 12,000 COMPANIES IN VARIOUS KINDS OF BUSINESSES IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, COMMERCIAL COMPANIES AND MANUFACTURING FIRMS.

INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STATISTICAL STANDARDS WILL BE USED IN THE SURVEYS WITH REGARD TO DEFINITIONS OF INCOME FLOWS AND THE DELINEATION OF RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS.

VARIOUS TECHNICAL MATTERS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND MR HO ASSURES THAT THE DATA REQUIRED FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS WILL BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM AND THE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE EXPLAINED CLEARLY TO THEM.

THE COST OF COMPILING GNP STATISTICS IS AROUND \$9.5 MILLION ANNUALLY.

THE FIRST ROUND OF THE PLANNED SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM OCTOBER THIS YEAR. THE FIRST SET OF GNP STATISTICS, IN RESPECT OF LAST YEAR, WILL BE AVAILABLE BY END 1995. IN DUE COURSE, DATA COLLECTION WILL BE EXPEDITED SO THAT BY 1998 THE RELEASE OF GNP IN RESPECT OF 1996 WILL BE ADVANCED TO MARCH 1998.

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ESTATE AGENTS WORKING GROUP ENDORSES LICENSING

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THE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS HELD ITS MEETING YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AND ENDORSED THAT THE LICENSING SYSTEM SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES APPLICABLE TO ESTATE AGENTS, CORPORATIONS AND FRONT-LINE SALESPERSONS.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WISHED TO APPLY FOR AN ESTATE AGENT'S LICENCE SHOULD MEET A NUMBER OF REQUIREMENTS:

- * HE MUST BE AT LEAST OF A MINIMUM AGE AS SPECIFIED BY THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY;
- * HE MUST BE A FIT AND PROPER PERSON, E.G. HE SHOULD HAVE NO RECORD OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OR COMPLAINTS THAT, IN THE VIEW OF THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, RENDER HIM UNSUITABLE TO BE AN ESTATE AGENT; AND
- * HE DEMONSTRATES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT HE HAS A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS OF AN ESTATE AGENT AND THE RULES OF CONDUCT AND PRACTICE PRESCRIBED BY THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

A CORPORATION THAT WANTS TO OPERATE AN ESTATE AGENT BUSINESS MUST OBTAIN A CORPORATION LICENCE FIRST.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CORPORATION LICENCE SHOULD BE:

- * THE CORPORATIONS' DIRECTORS MUST BE FIT AND PROPER INDIVIDUALS;
- * THE CORPORATION SHOULD HAVE ITS DIRECTORS A NUMBER OF LICENSED ESTATE AGENTS AS SPECIFIED BY THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (E.G. THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY MAY SPECIFY THAT AT LEAST HALF OF THE CORPORATIONS' DIRECTORS SHOULD BE LICENSED ESTATE AGENTS); AND
- * THE CORPORATION HAS A LICENSED ESTATE AGENT ACTING AS THE OFFICER IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ITS ESTATE AGENT BUSINESS.

/MEMBERS ALSO

MEMBERS ALSO AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH INCLUDE THE ISSUE OF PROVISIONAL LICENCES, TO BRING ESTATE AGENTS INTO THE REGULATORY SYSTEM WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

THEY FELT THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ENSURE THAT DISRUPTION OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WOULD BE MINIMISED.

IT WOULD ALSO ADDRESS ANXIETIES OF THE TRADE THAT THE LICENSING WOULD FORCE MANY PEOPLE OUT OF WORK.

UNDER THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS, ALL PRACTISING ESTATE AGENTS AND SALESPERSONS CAN APPLY FOR A LICENCE.

THE APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE A FULL LICENCE IS ISSUED.

THE POWERS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATORY AUTHORITY SHOULD INCLUDE SETTING RULES OF CONDUCT AND STANDARD PRACTICE, AND IMPOSING PENALTIES ON OFFENDERS.

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DEPUTY AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS FOR HKIED ANNOUNCED

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THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (PGC) OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) HAS SELECTED DR PANG KING CHEE AND PROFESSOR RAYMOND ANDERSON AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (ACADEMIC) OF THE INSTITUTE RESPECTIVELY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PGC, MR SIMON IP, WELCOMED THE SELECTION.

"DR PANG IS A WELL-RESPECTED ACADEMIC, AN EXPERIENCED TEACHER EDUCATOR AND SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD HANDS OF EXPERIENCE IN SHAPING THE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT METHODS FOR LOCAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS," SAID MR IP.

"HIS DEEP KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LOCAL EDUCATION SCENE AND TEACHER EDUCATION WILL BE A GREAT ASSET TO THE HKIED.

"PROFESSOR ANDERSON HAS HAD VAST EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM DESIGN AND RESTRUCTURING TEACHER EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA.

"HE WILL BRING AN OVERSEAS PERSPECTIVE OF TEACHER EDUCATION TO HONG KONG."

MR IP SAID DR PANG AND PROFESSOR ANDERSON WOULD FORM THE CORE TEAM TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE.

"THE COUNCIL IS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SETTING UP OF THE INSTITUTE AND THE UPGRADING OF THE QUALITY OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

/BOTH DR

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BOTH DR PANG AND PROFESSOR ANDERSON ARE EXPECTED TO ASSUME DUTY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND HOPEFULLY BEFORE MID 1994.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON DR PANG AND PROFESSOR ANDERSON:

DR PANG KING CHEE

DR PANG IS CURRENTLY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CDI) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

HE HAS ALSO BEEN A PRACTITIONER IN TEACHER EDUCATION: HE WAS A SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER AND A LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION AND SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

DR PANG GRADUATED FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY, CANADA, AND OBTAINED HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE IN TEACHER EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

HE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLICATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TEACHER EDUCATION AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

PROFESSOR RAYMOND ANDERSON

PROFESSOR ANDERSON IS THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, FACULTY OF EDUCATION AT THE MONASH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA.

HE GRADUATED FROM MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA, AND OBTAINED HIS PHD IN CURRICULUM AND TEACHER EDUCATION FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1981.

HE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MERGER OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE MERGER OF THE CHISHOLM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY AND IS CURRENTLY ALSO THE CAMPUS DIRECTOR, PENINSULA CAMPUS, FRANKSTON, MONASH UNIVERSITY.

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GATT PRINCIPLE VITAL FOR GROWTH

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) EMPHASISED THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH BASIC GATT PRINCIPLES HAD MADE TO THE GROWTH OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ALUMNI SOCIETY.

"THE ENORMOUS POST-WORLD EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) PRINCIPLE," SAID MR MILLER.

"WITHOUT IT, I DOUBT WHETHER THE WORLD WOULD HAVE WITNESSED THE EXTRAORDINARILY RAPID EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH EAST ASIA OR THE RISE IN STANDARDS OF LIVING WHICH HAVE FOLLOWED."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT THE TERM "MOST FAVOURED NATION", WAS A SIMPLE CONCEPT BUT OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

"MFN IS NOT ABOUT GIVING SPECIAL TRADING PRIVILEGES TO PARTICULAR TRADING PARTNERS. IT IS ABOUT TREATING ALL TRADING PARTNERS EQUALLY, EXTENDING TO ALL THE BEST TERMS A COUNTRY IS PREPARED TO OFFER ANY OTHER."

DESCRIBING THE "BEGGAR THY NEIGHBOUR" POLICY WHICH HAD STRANGLERED PRE-WAR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CONTRIBUTED TO WORLD-WIDE RECESSION, MR MILLER CAUTIONED AGAINST FORGETTING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST.

"TRADE BENEFITS ALL WHO ENGAGE IN IT. IT IS NOT A ZERO SUM GAME. A COUNTRY WHICH BUYS GOODS FROM ANOTHER BENEFITS FROM THAT TRANSACTION EVEN IF THE OTHER COUNTRY BUYS NONE OF ITS PRODUCTS IN RETURN. THE ONLY LOSERS ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT ENGAGE IN TRADE, WHO DO NOT ALLOW THEIR CONSUMERS TO BUY WHAT CAN BE PRODUCED CHEAPER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY ABROAD."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT COUNTRIES ALL TOO OFTEN EXTERNALISED INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BY BLAMING THEM INCORRECTLY ON TRADE IMBALANCES.

"THERE IS AN UNFORTUNATE TREND, DESPITE THE LESSONS OF THE PAST AND THE LEARNING OF THE TRADE ECONOMISTS, TOWARDS FOCUSING ON BILATERAL BALANCES OF TRADE, TO INSIST THAT, IF I BUY \$10 WORTH OF GOODS FROM YOU, YOU SHOULD BUY AT LEAST AS MUCH FROM ME. THIS NOTION OF RECIPROCITY IS NONSENSE, AND IT IS VERY DANGEROUS NONSENSE. IT IS PRECISELY THE SORT OF FALSE LOGIC WHICH LED TO THE FAILURE OF THE PRE-WAR TRADING SYSTEM.

"RECIPROCITY IS THE ANTITHESIS OF MFN.

"RECIPROCITY IS WHEN THE SCHOOL BULLY TELLS YOU THAT YOU ARE GOING TO TRADE YOUR CHOCOLATES FOR HIS STALE BISCUITS, AND YOU ARE EXPECTED TO SAY THANK YOU. MFN IS THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF SEVERAL SCHOOL BOYS DIVIDING UP THEIR LUNCHES SO THAT EACH GETS A BIT OF WHAT THEY WANT AND COULD NOT HAVE HAD WITHOUT AN AMICABLE EXCHANGE."

/MR MILLER

MR MILLER WENT ON TO PRAISE THE OUTCOME OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AND THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION.

"THIS IS A VICTORY FOR THE MFN BASED GATT SYSTEM. IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR SMALLER ECONOMIES, LIKE HONG KONG, WHICH LACK THE POLITICAL CLOUT TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DEALS WITHOUT DISADVANTAGE. IT IS THEREFORE ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT THAT WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION, ALL MEMBERS PLAY BY THE SAME SET OF RULES AND ESCHEW RECOURSE TO UNILATERAL ACTION."

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FOUR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FOUR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLANS FOR PING KONG, PING CHE AND TA KWU LING IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG IN SHA TIN, AND NGAU TAM MEI IN NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THESE DPA'S ARE AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK FARMING AS WELL AS OPEN STORAGE AND RURAL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES MIXED WITH RURAL SETTLEMENTS.

IN RECENT YEARS, MANY OF THE FALLOW AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITH EASY ACCESS HAVE GRADUALLY BEEN CONVERTED TO WORKSHOPS, CAR DUMPING OR REPAIRING YARDS AND OPEN STORAGE GROUNDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT THESE USES HAD CAUSED GENERAL DEGRADATION TO THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

"THE DPA PLANS WILL INTRODUCE PROPER PLANNING CONTROL TO THESE AREAS AND PROVIDE A PLANNING FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THEM.

"ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THESE AREAS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

IN PING CHE AND TA KWU LING DPA, A TOTAL OF ABOUT 139 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE USE, REPRESENTING ABOUT 50% OF TOTAL LAND AREA DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE USE IN ALL DPA PLANS.

"ONLY THOSE OPEN STORAGE USES WHICH HAVE NO ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THIS ZONE.

"STORAGE USES WHICH MAY CAUSE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND DRAINAGE WOULD REQUIRE PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD SO THAT THE BOARD COULD ASSESS AN APPLICATION ON INDIVIDUAL MERITS AND IMPOSE APPROPRIATE MITIGATION MEASURES IF AND WHEN NECESSARY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG DPA, ABOUT 0.6 HECTARES OF LAND HAS BEEN ZONED "COUNTRY PARK". ANY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THIS ZONE IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY AND NO SEPARATE PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD IS REQUIRED.

IN THE NGAU TAM MEI DPA, ABOUT 28 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ZONED "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)" WITH A DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTION OF A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.4, SITE COVERAGE OF 20% AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF TWO STOREYS OVER ONE LEVEL OF CARPORT OR THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

"MINOR RELAXATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS MAY BE ALLOWED UPON APPLICATION TO THE BOARD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER LAND USES ON THESE PLANS INCLUDE "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT", "GREEN BELT", "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY", "UNSPECIFIED USE" AREA AND ROAD RESERVE.

THE PLANS ARE NOW EXHIBITED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL APRIL 7 IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICES.

COPIES OF THE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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NEW RATE VALUATION LISTS OPEN FOR INSPECTION

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THE NEWLY DECLARED VALUATION LISTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE TREASURY IN IMMIGRATION TOWER, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG FROM APRIL 6 UNTIL MAY 31.

COPIES OF THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THE LIST WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN EACH OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

DURING THE DISPLAY PERIOD ANYONE MAY TAKE AN EXTRACT FROM THE LIST BY CALLING, DURING OFFICE HOURS, AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN QUESTION.

PROPOSALS OBJECTING TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES MAY ALSO BE MADE DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THAT IS, IN APRIL AND MAY 1994.

SUCH PROPOSALS SHOULD BE MADE ON THE SPECIFIED FORM (R20A) AND EITHER DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY HAND OR SENT BY POST.

TRANSMISSION BY FAX IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

PROPOSALS SERVED BEFORE APRIL AND AFTER MAY 31 CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

THE NECESSARY FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED EITHER FROM THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE AT 17TH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, OR FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

NOTICES REGARDING THE DISPLAY OF THE LISTS APPEAR TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE GAZETTE AND WILL APPEAR IN PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

ALL RATEABLE VALUES ARE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS TO ENSURE THAT THE RATES LIABILITY IS DISTRIBUTED FAIRLY AMONG RATEPAYERS IN PROPORTION TO UP-TO-DATE RENTAL VALUES OF THEIR PROPERTIES.

THE OVERALL AVERAGE INCREASE IN RATEABLE VALUE IS 33 PER CENT BUT FOR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THE ACTUAL INCREASE WILL VARY.

IN FACT FOR A FEW PROPERTIES THE RATEABLE VALUES WILL BE REDUCED.

TO CUSHION THE INITIAL IMPACT OF THE RATES INCREASE ON RATEPAYERS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS PROPOSED A LIMIT OF 20 PER CENT ON ANY INCREASE IN RATES IN EACH OF THE YEARS 1994/95 AND 1995/96.

FOLLOWING THE REVALUATION, COMPENSATION TO TENANTS IN RESPECT OF ANY PROPERTY WHERE THE LANDLORD REQUIRES POSSESSION FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND THE TENANCY IS PROTECTED BY PARTS II OR IV OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WILL BE BASED ON 1.7 TIMES THE NEW RATEABLE VALUE.

RATE DEMANDS TO BE ISSUED OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR SO WILL SHOW THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES.

THESE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LEAFLET EXPLAINING THE REVALUATION AND THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF THE RATEPAYER IS IN DOUBT ABOUT THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES.

THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES ARE INVITED TO TELEPHONE OR CALL AT THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

THE DEMANDS MUST BE PAID ON THE DUE DATE WHETHER OR NOT AN OBJECTION IS MADE TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUE.

IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE TO THE RATEABLE VALUE AS A RESULT OF AN OBJECTION THIS WILL DATE BACK TO APRIL 1, 1994 AND IF THERE IS ANY REDUCTION IN RATES ANY OVERPAYMENT WILL BE REFUNDED.

WORKS ON TING KAU BRIDGE TO BEGIN SOON

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WORKS ON THE TING KAU BRIDGE AND APPROACH VIADUCT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE RELIEF TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE TING KAU - TSUEN WAN - KWAI CHUNG CORRIDOR, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1997.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE PROJECT WHICH WILL BE TOTALLY FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$3.7 BILLION.

THE BRIDGE WILL CONNECT TSING YI ISLAND AND TING KAU AND WILL PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WILL FORM PART OF THE ROUTE 3, A MAJOR NEW TRUNK ROAD WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY LINK UP YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KOWLOON AND THE HONG KONG ISLAND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID THE PROJECT INCLUDED THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE AND A VIADUCT ACROSS THE RAMBLER CHANNEL WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF ABOUT 1,775 METRES.

IT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ELEVATED SLIP ROADS LINKING TUEN MUN ROAD.

THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED ON A "DESIGN AND BUILD" BASIS AND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MITIGATION IN BOTH CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION STAGES.

THE KWAI TSING AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICTS BOARDS AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PROJECT. NONE OF THEM RAISED ANY OBJECTION.

THE NOTICE OF THE AUTHORISATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

PLANS OF THE PROJECT CAN BE SEEN AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT LAND OFFICES IN TUSEN WAN AND KWAI TSING. IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

SHOPS URGED TO DISPOSE OF MEDICINES WITH TIGER INGREDIENTS

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LOCAL CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOP OPERATORS AND TRADERS ARE TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED TO DISPOSE OF MEDICINES CONTAINING OR CLAIMING TO CONTAIN TIGER INGREDIENTS BY APRIL 28.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S (AFD) SENIOR CONVERSATION OFFICER, MR J K CHAN, SAID AFTER APRIL 28, POSSESSION OF MEDICINES CONTAINING OR CLAIMING TO CONTAIN TIGER INGREDIENTS WOULD BE PROHIBITED EXCEPT UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LICENCE ISSUED IN ADVANCE BY AFD.

MR CHAN SAID THE NEW CONTROLS ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF SUCH ITEMS HAD BECOME EFFECTIVE SINCE JANUARY 28 THIS YEAR FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE.

SINCE THEN, NO LICENCE HAS BEEN ISSUED AND THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF SUCH ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED.

HE SAID: "AS REGARDS POSSESSION OF THOSE MEDICINES ACQUIRED BEFORE JANUARY 28, THE OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISPOSE OF THEM IN THREE MONTHS."

THEREAFTER POSSESSION AND SALE WILL BE PROHIBITED.

"ONLY UNDER VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT A POSSESSION LICENCE WILL BE ISSUED BY AFD."

MR CHAN WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT LOCAL CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOP OPERATORS AND TRADERS GENERALLY PAID HEED TO THE NEW CONTROLS.

HE URGED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR GOOD EFFORTS TO HELP SAVE TIGERS AND TO UPHOLD HONG KONG'S GOOD IMAGE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION.

ON THE PUBLIC EDUCATION FRONT, A LARGE QUANTITY OF PUBLICITY STICKERS HAD BEEN PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY AFD TO CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOPS FOR DISPLAY.

THE STICKER PLEDGES THAT THESE SHOPS, IN SUPPORT OF THE "PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES CAMPAIGN", DO NOT SELL MEDICINES CONTAINING OR CLAIMING TO CONTAIN TIGER OR RHINO INGREDIENTS AS WELL AS OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.

OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES COVERED BY THE NEW CONTROLS COMPRISE OF AMERICAN BLACK BEAR, AMERICAN OSTRICH, CERTAIN HORNBILLS, BAIKAL TEAL, CERTAIN AIR PLANTS, VENUS FLY-TRAP, BRAZILIAN ROSEWOOD, AFRICAN TEAK AND MAHOGANY, AND SO ON.

MR CHAN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND RESIDENTS VISITING CHINA OR OVERSEAS COUNTRIES DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS NOT TO CONTRAVENE THE ORDINANCE BY BRINGING BACK ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG.

OVER 8,000 SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS, WHETHER ALIVE OR DEAD, THEIR STUFFED SPECIMEN, PARTS OR DERIVATIVES SUCH AS SKINS, MEAT, SCALE IVORY OR HORN ARE PROTECTED BY THE ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF IMPORTING, EXPORTING OR POSSESSING ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHOUT A LICENCE ISSUED BY AFD WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM OF \$25,000 ON FIRST CONVICTION, AND \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE NEW CONTROLS AND THE ORDINANCE CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE AFD'S FAUNA CONSERVATION SECTION ON TEL 733 2123 OR 733 2284.

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ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION TO BE CONSTRUCTED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT THE ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION (TAI LAM TUNNEL AND YUEN LONG APPROACH ROAD) PHASE I WORKS.

THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION BETWEEN TING KAU AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AT AU TAU IS A VITAL PORTION OF ROUTE 3 CONNECTING THE BORDER WITH KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND AND WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO EXPRESSWAY STANDARDS.

THE PHASE I WORKS, UPON COMPLETION, WILL PROVIDE A DUAL THREE-LANE BORED TUNNEL (TAI LAM TUNNEL) ABOUT 3.8 KILOMETRE LONG UNDER THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK BETWEEN TING KAU IN THE SOUTH AND HO PUI IN THE NORTH.

PORTAL BUILDINGS, VEHICULAR UNDERPASSES, VENTILATION ADITS AND BUILDINGS WILL BE BUILT ADJAENT TO BOTH TUNNEL PORTALS ALL OF WHICH ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY PARK.

THE SOUTHERN PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL WILL BE CONNECTED VIA AN INTERCHANGE WITH THE EXISTING TUEN MUN ROAD AND THE PROPOSED TING KAU BRIDGE.

AN ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRE LONG DUAL THREE-LANE OPEN EXPRESSWAY, WHICH WILL FORM THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE YUEN LONG APPROACH ROAD, WILL BE CONSTRUCTED LEADING TO THE NORTHERN PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL.

A TOLL PLAZA, TOGETHER WITH AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, PARKING AREAS, WORKSHOPS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES, WILL BE PROVIDED ABOUT 1.3 KILOMETRE NORTH OF THE TAI LAM TUNNEL.

SERVICE ROADS, A VEHICULAR BRIDGE, A FOOTBRIDGE AND A VEHICULAR UNDERPASS WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO THE TOLL PLAZA.

THE PHASE I WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ABOUT 1.4 KILOMETRE LONG SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY LINKING KAM SHEUNG ROAD WITH THE TUNNEL ADMINISTRATION AREA FOR LOCAL TRAFFIC AND FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK.

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHASE I WORKS IS SCHEDULED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1998.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME MAY BE SEEN BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE AT

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/TSUEN WAN, TENTH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/TUEN MUN, SIXTH-SEVENTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/YUEN LONG, NINTH-ELEVENTH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST-SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES AND
- * THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NOT LATER THAN MAY 30 THIS YEAR, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS OR THE USE.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

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HK FIRE SERVICES ENVIABLE IN THE WORLD

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ENJOYS AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION AMONG FIRE BRIGADES AROUND THE WORLD, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S 103RD PASSING-OUT PARADE, MRS CHAN SAID THE REPUTATION HAD BEEN EARNED BY THE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THEIR PREDECESSORS OVER MANY YEARS.

IN ORDER TO FURTHER IMPROVE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN ON A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN RECENT YEARS, SHE SAID.

"ON THE ONE HAND, NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE DUTIES WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SO THAT MEMBERS CAN CONCENTRATE ON THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROVISION OF PARA-MEDICAL SERVICES IS BEING EXTENDED. THIS WILL ENABLE OUR FIRE-FIGHTERS TO PROVIDE TRAINED HELP TO ACCIDENT VICTIMS AT AN EARLY STAGE TO SAVE LIVES."

MRS CHAN PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S AMBULANCE-AID MOTOR-CYCLE SERVICE, WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN SUPPLEMENTING THE NORMAL AMBULANCE SERVICES IN AREAS PRONE TO SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THE RECRUITS HAD CHOSEN A WORTHWHILE AND NOBLE CAREER, ONE WHICH WAS HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY THE COMMUNITY.

SHE CONGRATULATED TWO FEMALE STATION OFFICERS ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE HONG KONG'S FIRE SERVICES.

"THESE TWO LADIES HAVE ALREADY PROVED THAT THEY HAVE THE SAME DETERMINATION AND FORTITUDE AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS BY COMPLETING THE VERY RIGOROUS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN THIS SCHOOL," SHE NOTED.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

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FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE

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GRAVE SWEEPERS ARE URGED TO TAKE EXTREME CARE WHEN HANDLING BURNING MATERIALS, SUCH AS JOSS STICKS, JOSS PAPER AND CANDLES, DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

"THEY SHOULD EXTINGUISH ALL LIGHTED MATERIALS AFTER THE RITUALS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE 2,644 VEGETATION FIRES LAST YEAR. LAST WEEKEND (MARCH 26 AND 27) ALONE, ABOUT 100 FIRES INVOLVING VEGETATION BROKE OUT THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED HOLIDAY PICNICKERS NOT TO PLACE ANY COMBUSTIBLE OR INFLAMMABLE STUFF NEAR THEIR BARBECUE SITES WHILE LIGHTING FIRES.

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CENSUS & STATISTICS DEPT CONDUCTS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DURING THE QUARTER FROM APRIL TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS SINCE AUGUST 1981, COLLECTS INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS' EXPENDITURE ABROAD, RIGHT OF RESIDENCE ABROAD, HAWKER SITUATION AND HAWKER PATRONAGE BEHAVIOUR, ORGAN DONATION, HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON RENT WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY.

EACH QUARTER, ABOUT 11,800 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION, THE SURVEY ADOPTS AN OVERLAPPING SAMPLE DESIGN SUCH THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE HOUSEHOLDS ENUMERATED IN A GIVEN QUARTER ARE THE SAME AS THOSE ENUMERATED IN THE QUARTER BEFORE.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION IN THE SURVEY.

CENSUS OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT HOUSEHOLDS CONCERNED TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

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WHEN THEY VISIT HOUSEHOLDS, CENSUS OFFICERS CARRY WITH THEM GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARDS AND CERTIFICATES FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY. THEY WILL MAKE SUCH DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY HOUSEHOLDS TO CONFIRM THEIR IDENTITIES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE, DATA RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL PERSONS OR HOUSEHOLDS COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, ANY PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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AUSTIN ROAD TO BE WIDENED
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF AUSTIN ROAD BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND JORDAN PATH, AND OF COX'S ROAD BETWEEN AUSTIN ROAD AND TAK SHING STREET.

THE WORKS INCLUDE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ABOVE SECTIONS OF ROADS AND THE ADJOINING FOOTPATHS, THE PROVISION OF SIGNAL CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT THE JUNCTION OF AUSTIN ROAD, COX'S ROAD AND PINE TREE HILL ROAD AND THE PROVISION OF ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE WORKS.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER, 1995.

A NOTICE ON THE TENDER INVITATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MANUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD, 12TH FLOOR, 1 KOWLOON PARK DRIVE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 376 2299.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON APRIL 22 THIS YEAR.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MANUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD FOR HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS INVITED

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ASD) IS INVITING PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS FOR TENDERING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTRALISED GOVERNMENT GODOWN IN CHAI WAN, THE GAZETTE NOTIFIED TODAY (THURSDAY)

THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST \$450 MILLION, COMPRISES A 14-STOREY GODOWN OF ABOUT 65,000 SQUARE METRES GROSS FLOOR AREA, PROVIDING STORAGE FACILITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

CONTRACTORS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ARCHITECT/4, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES. 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED NOT LATER THAN NOON ON APRIL 25.

TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE INVITED IN JUNE FROM A SELECTED LIST OF CONTRACTORS ESTABLISHED BY THE PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE.

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LANDS TO BE RESUMED FOR PYLON CONSTRUCTION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME PRIVATE LOTS IN FOUR AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO PROVIDE LAND FOR A PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT POWER PYLONS.

IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TAI PO AND SAI KUNG, A TOTAL OF 29,317 SQUARE METRES COMPRISING WHOLE OR PORTIONS OF 79 PRIVATE LOTS OF AGRICULTURAL, BUILDING AND SPECIAL PURPOSE LAND WILL BE RESUMED.

THE RESUMPTION OF LAND IS REQUIRED TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF PYLONS BY THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED TO CARRY TWO OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES FROM THE BLACK POINT LARGE THERMAL POWER STATION TO SHA TIN SUBSTATION, AND FROM TSEUNG KWAN O SUBSTATION TO TSZ WAN SHAN SUBSTATION.

THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

RESUMPTION DETAILS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

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TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DIAPHRAGM WALL
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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DIAPHRAGM WALLS FOR THE MAIN PUMPING STATION ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

THE WORKS, WHICH FORM PART OF STAGE 1 OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME (SSDS), ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN JUNE FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT 11 MONTHS.

THE STAGE I OF THE SSDS IS TO COLLECT AND TREAT SEWAGE FROM KOWLOON BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TSEUNG KWAN O AND FROM THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

A NOTICE OF THE TENDER INVITATION WAS GAZETTED TODAY (THURSDAY).

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MONTGOMERY WATSON HONG KONG LIMITED, 1911 WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE TENDER CLOSING DATE IS NOON ON MAY 6.

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SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON SALARY STATISTICS OF
MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
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THE JANUARY 1994 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE WHICH OUTLINES THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSES OF THE FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) FOR THE PERIOD 1984 TO 1993.

THE SURVEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ANNUALLY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SINCE 1984 TO COLLECT INFORMATION RELATING TO SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM 200 LARGE COMPANIES IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS.

DURING THE DECADE UNDER REVIEW, THE AVERAGE SALARY RATE FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE SECTOR SHOWED A HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASE AS COMPARED WITH OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS.

ANALYSED BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP, EMPLOYEES IN BANKING AND INSURANCE MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING AND PURCHASING MANAGEMENT ENJOYED A HIGHER RATE OF INCREASE IN SALARY.

THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINS STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1993 ON THE AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY OF SELECTED COMMON OCCUPATIONS ACROSS DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND THE PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO VARIOUS KINDS OF FRINGE BENEFITS.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS AVAILABLE AT \$48 A COPY.

PURCHASE CAN BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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ROADS IN KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA.

THE WORKS COMPRISE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SECTIONS OF LAI YIP STREET, WAI YIP STREET, SHING YIP STREET, HOI YUEN ROAD AND THE WHOLE LENGTH OF HUNG TO ROAD, AND UPGRADING OF ASSOCIATED ROAD DRAINAGE.

WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND WILL COMPLETE IN SEPTEMBER 1996.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) REGION, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE ON THE TENDER INVITATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/KOWLOON, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, ROOM 1321, NAN FUNG COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 19 LAM LOK STREET, KOWLOON BAY, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 707 7439.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX AT THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON APRIL 29.

LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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WINNING STUDENT ACTORS TO PERFORM FOR PUBLIC

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THE BEST ACTORS AND ACTRESSES AMONG 4,200 STUDENTS FROM 114 SECONDARY AND 32 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHO TOOK PART IN THE 1993/94 HONG KONG SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENTS AT THE GALA EVENINGS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES IN APRIL AND MAY.

THE WINNING TEAMS AWARDED THE CERTIFICATES OF MERIT IN THE PERFORMANCE PHASE WILL PERFORM AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, THE CIVIC CENTRES AT SAI WAN HO AND SHEUNG WAN BETWEEN APRIL 13 AND 20.

THE OUTSTANDING TEAMS IN THESE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES WILL THEN BE INVITED TO PERFORM IN THE GALA EVENINGS AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES AT THE SAI WAN HO CIVIC CENTRE ON MAY 5 AND 6.

THE 1993/94 HONG KONG SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL IS PRESENTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE DRAMA FESTIVAL COMPRISED CHINESE AND ENGLISH SECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PRIZES WOULD BE GIVEN TO TEAMS WHICH WERE COMMENDED FOR STAGE EFFECT; SCRIPT ORIGINALITY AND INTERPRETATION; ACTORS; ACTRESSES AND DIRECTORS.

TICKETS OF \$20 FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AND GALA EVENINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CIVIC CENTRES OF SAI WAN HO AND SHEUNG WAN, TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, AND THE URBIX OUTLETS. THERE WILL BE 50 PER CENT DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS AND PERSONS AGED 60 OR ABOVE.

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RECONSTRUCTION OF WYLIE ROAD

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WYLIE ROAD.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WYLIE ROAD, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE JUNCTION OF WYLIE ROAD/KING'S PARK RISE, AND THE ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORKS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TO START IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND WILL COMPLETE IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE ON THE TENDER INVITATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/KOWLOON, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, ROOM 1321, NAN FUNG COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 19 LAM LOK STREET, KOWLOON BAY, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 707 7423.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX AT THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON APRIL 29.

LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----	TIME (HOURS) -----	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION) -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,993	0930	+946
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,766	1000	+846
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+1,990
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+3,863	1200	+3,575
LAF TODAY	-3,090	1500	+3,865
		1600	+3,863

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.0 *-0.2* 31.3.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.12 PCT	17 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.72	4.89
1 MONTH	3.33 PCT	20 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.60	5.11
3 MONTHS	3.73 PCT	23 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.44	5.35
6 MONTHS	3.99 PCT	31 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.30	5.84
12 MONTHS	4.45 PCT	34 MONTHS	3701	4.60	96.54	6.04

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,871 MN

CLOSED 31 MARCH 1994

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