



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1992

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STI COMMENTS ON MFN VOTE

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SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL ATTACHING CONDITIONS TO THE RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) TRADING STATUS YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) FAILED TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO IN THE U.S. SENATE. THE VOTE WAS 60 TO 38.

COMMENTING ON THIS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU SAID THE VOTE FELL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIRED TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO. THE BILL WAS THEREFORE DEAD.

"UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE MATTER AND WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT. UNDER THE RELEVANT U.S. LEGISLATION, THE PRESIDENT HAS TO RENEW MFN TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. HE HAS TO DO SO BY JUNE 3 EVERY YEAR BUT HIS DECISION CAN BE OVERTURNED BY A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION. THE CONGRESS COULD ALSO INTRODUCE A NEW BILL IN YET ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS."

"PRESIDENT BUSH, IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN HE VETOED THE BILL, MADE PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING."

"WE BELIEVE THAT HE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN DECIDING, BY JUNE 3, ON THE RENEWAL OF MFN TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA FOR ANOTHER YEAR," MR CHAU SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN SUPPORT OF UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS.

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GOVT INVESTS A LOT TO HELP INDUSTRIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVESTING A GREAT DEAL OF CAPITAL AND EFFORT IN PROVIDING A SOUND INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE DIRECTORS OF PO LEUNG KUK THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR CHAU SAID WHILE BUSINESS DECISIONS WERE LEFT TO BUSINESSMEN, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOTHING TO SUPPORT THE INDUSTRIES.

"OUR AIM IS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS FAVOURABLE TO INVESTMENT, AND WHICH ENABLES INDUSTRY TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY; AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH ENABLE INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE ITS COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCT INNOVATION.

/ "WE ALSO

"WE ALSO PROMOTE THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY THROUGH AN INWARD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

HE SAID WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS THE EXECUTIVE ARM.

"THE DEPARTMENT HELPS TO ENSURE THAT INDUSTRY HAS ACCESS TO THE LAND, TRAINED MANPOWER, WATER, RAW MATERIALS AND OTHER RESOURCES WHICH IT NEEDS. IT PROVIDES A RANGE OF QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, WHICH HOLDS HONG KONG'S OFFICIAL MEASUREMENT STANDARDS," HE SAID.

IT IS ALSO WORKING TO ENCOURAGE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY OVERSEAS COMPANIES TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE FOUND THAT THIS SORT OF INVESTMENT HAS BENEFICIAL SPIN-OFFS FOR MANUFACTURING AS A WHOLE," MR CHAU SAID.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL HELPED MANUFACTURERS TO FIND AFFORDABLE WAYS OF IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY.

"THE COUNCIL NOW HAS ABOUT 470 STAFF AND OPERATES OUT OF A BRAND NEW BUILDING IN KOWLOON TONG CONSTRUCTED SPECIALLY TO MEET ITS NEEDS," HE SAID.

"THROUGH THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, WE PROVIDE LAND ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL ESTATES FOR HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT FUNCTION IN THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WHICH HOUSE MOST HONG KONG FACTORIES.

"WE ARE CURRENTLY FORMING A THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AT TSEUNG KWAN O AT A DEVELOPMENT COST OF \$900 MILLION.

"WE ARE CONSTRUCTING A NEW INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WHICH WILL PROVIDE SPACE AND FACILITIES FOR FLEDGLING TECHNOLOGY-BASED COMPANIES. FUNDS TALLING \$438 MILLION HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR THE PROJECT," MR CHAU SAID.

MR CHAU SAID \$200 MILLION HAD RECENTLY BEEN SET ASIDE FOR INVESTMENT IN WORTHWHILE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE AIM WAS TO STIMULATE INNOVATION IN HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

"THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES WE OFFER IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD. THEY ADD UP TO A LARGE-SCALE INVESTMENT IN HELPING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG TO TRADE UP IN TERMS OF PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY AND CREATIVITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THIS AIM," HE STRESSED.

TURNING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION, MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH.

"THE FIRST IS IN GOVERNMENT PROVIDING THE 'HARDWARE', IN THE FORM OF LEGISLATION WHICH SETS DOWN THE GROUND RULES.

"THE MOST BASIC ARE ORDINANCES ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND TRADE DESCRIPTIONS WHICH PREVENT CHEATING," HE SAID.

MORE SOPHISTICATED ONES WERE THE SALE OF GOODS AND CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES WHICH AIMED TO AID THE INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER WHERE HE DID NOT ENJOY AN EQUAL BARGAINING POSITION AS THE SUPPLIER OF GOODS OR SERVICES.

"IN FUTURE, WE SHALL ALSO HAVE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR TOYS, CHILDREN PRODUCTS AND, EVENTUALLY, GENERAL CONSUMER GOODS," MR CHAU SAID.

HE SAID OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WAS THE CHAMPION OF CONSUMER INTERESTS.

"IT IS OPERATIONALLY AUTONOMOUS BUT IS FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTION IN THE GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, CONSUMER EDUCATION, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOOD COMMERCIAL PRACTICES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY THEIR WORK ON PRODUCT TESTING AND CONSUMER ADVOCACY THAT MIGHT HAVE ATTRACTED GREATER PUBLIC ATTENTION.

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TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS FORGING AHEAD

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THERE WILL BE MORE SPENDING ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, FURTHER EXPANSION AND UPGRADING OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND BETTER MANAGEMENT OF ROAD USE IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (THURSDAY) IN HIS PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES IN TRANSPORT PROGRAMME AREAS FOR 1992/93 TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, ABOUT \$4.26 BILLION WILL BE SPENT ON NEW ROADS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ROADS, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 65 PER CENT OVER EXPENDITURE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," HE SAID.

OF THIS SUM, \$2.29 BILLION WILL BE SPENT ON TRANSPORT LINKS TO THE NEW AIRPORT WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, ROUTE 3 FROM TSING YI TO WEST KOWLOON AND THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

\$1.5 BILLION WILL BE SPENT ON OTHER ROADS UNDER THE HIGHWAYS PROGRAMME SUCH AS BELCHER BAY LINK IN KENNEDY TOWN AND THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE, AND \$474 MILLION ON ROADS UNDER THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE TIN SHUI WAI WEST ACCESS ROAD AND WIDENING OF A SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

EXPENDITURE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF EXISTING ROAD WILL INCREASE FROM \$100 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO \$230 MILLION IN 1992/93.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, \$567 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON ROAD MAINTENANCE.

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID ABOUT 20 NEW BUS ROUTES WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE COMING YEAR AND ABOUT 130 ADDITIONAL AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO USE ON ROUTES ENDORSED BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

"THE EXEMPTION OF FRANCHISED BUSES FROM FUEL TAX WILL MEAN THAT FARE LEVELS SHOULD REMAIN STABLE IN 1992," HE SAID.

OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE PIPELINE ARE:

- * PROVISION OF SEVEN MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINI COMPRISING FIVE FOR BUSES, ONE FOR GREEN MINI-BUSES AND ONE FOR CROSS BORDER COACHES;
- * MORE EXPRESS BUS SERVICES AND FERRY SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL BUS PRIORITY SCHEMES TO RELIEVE PEAK HOUR CONGESTION IN THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR;
- * MTR TO UPGRADE ITS SIGNALLING SYSTEM, TO REFURBISH STATIONS, TO REPLACE VENTILATION EQUIPMENT AND TO INTRODUCE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT;
- * KCR TO DEVELOP THE HO TUNG LAU WORKSHOPS AND TO IMPROVE STATIONS;
- * LRT TO INCREASE ITS CARRYING CAPACITY BY 40 PER CENT LATER THIS YEAR WITH THE DELIVERY OF 30 NEW VEHICLES, TO UPGRADE AIR-CONDITIONING OF ITS VEHICLES AND TO COMMISSION THE TIN SHUI WAI LINK EARLY NEXT YEAR; AND
- * HYF TO STRENGTHEN ITS FERRY SERVICES TO TSING YI, TUEN MUN AND OUTLYING ISLANDS AND TO CONSIDER BUYING MORE HIGH-SPEED VESSELS.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ROAD USE, MR LEUNG SAID THREE MAJOR STRATEGIC STUDIES -- THE UPDATING OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY, THE FREIGHT TRANSPORT STUDY AND THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY -- HAD BEEN LAUNCHED AND WOULD BE COMPLETED BY NEXT YEAR.

AT THE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL, MR LEUNG SAID A NEW AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TSUEN WAN BY MID NEXT YEAR WHILE PLANNING FOR A SIMILAR SYSTEM IN SHA TIN WOULD CONTINUE.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMING YEAR WILL INCLUDE THE UPGRADING OF THE KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 1,650 DISTRICT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AND THE TRIALS OF AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEMS AT TUNNELS.

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MORE EFFECTIVE COST CONTROL ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

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A STUDY IS UNDERWAY TO SEE WHETHER THE CASH LIMITING COST CONTROL SYSTEMS DEVELOPED FOR THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS CAN BE APPLIED WITH SUITABLE MODIFICATION TO PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (PWP) PROJECTS.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN HE PRESENTED THE DRAFT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE OF WORKS BRANCH AND THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH FOR 1992/93 TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MR BLAKE SAID A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP THIS YEAR TO MAINTAIN THE PWP MORE EFFECTIVELY UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND TO HELP WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS IN DEALING WITH ANY DEVIATIONS OR PROBLEM AREAS THAT MAY EMERGE.

"WORK IS ALSO PROGRESSING TO DEVELOP COMPUTERISED SYSTEMS BOTH TO MONITOR EXPENDITURE AND PHYSICAL PROGRESS," HE SAID.

FOR BETTER CONTROL OF PROJECT ESTIMATES, MR BLAKE SAID RISK ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES, STARTING AT THE EARLY CONCEPTUAL STAGE OF DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, WOULD BE USED MORE SYSTEMATICALLY IN FUTURE.

IT WOULD RESULT IN BETTER UTILISATION OF AVAILABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR PWP, HE SAID.

MR BLAKE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CONDUCTING MANAGEMENT REVIEWS WHILE THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT WOULD START THEIR REVIEWS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WERE ALSO UNDER REVIEW FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO ENHANCE DEPARTMENTAL EFFICIENCY AND TO MAINTAIN RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY TO DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL CONSUMERS," HE SAID.

MR BLAKE SAID WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) WOULD RECOVER THE FULL COSTS OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE NEW OPERATING SERVICES ACCOUNT.

"THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL PUT THE EMSD VEHICLE WORKSHOP ON A QUASI-COMMERCIAL FOOTING. THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO EXTEND CHARGING TO OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOPS, TO PLANT MAINTENANCE AND EVENTUALLY TO BUILDING SERVICES MAINTENANCE WORK," HE SAID.

ON WATER SUPPLY, MR BLAKE SAID THE PROVISION IN 1992/93 WAS \$2,872 MILLION, INCLUDING \$1,142.7 MILLION FOR THE TOTAL COST OF WATER TO BE PURCHASED FROM CHINA.

/MR BLAKE

MR BLAKE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WAS LESS CONSUMPTION NOW THAN AT THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"A GENERAL REVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED LATER THIS YEAR, AND IF NECESSARY, THE LONG-TERM DEMAND FORECAST WILL BE REVISED," HE SAID.

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NEED TO DEVELOP CIVIL SERVANTS FOR CHANGE STRESSED

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PREPARING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE IS A SUBJECT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE OPENING OF A TRAINING CONFERENCE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THE INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

MR WIGGHAM SAID IT WAS ALSO A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH MUST BE SHARED BY ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH MAKING THE BEST USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

"IT HAS BECOME A TRUISM TO SAY THAT HONG KONG HAS NO NATURAL RESOURCES EXCEPT ITS PEOPLE.

"BUT IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THE MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE: AS SUCH THEY NEED NURTURING, AND WE, THE MANAGERS, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME IN THIS PLACE, HAVE A DUTY TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO DEVELOP PEOPLE FOR A CHANGE."

HE POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE, COLLECTIVELY WORKING FOR A COMMON PURPOSE, NEED MANAGEMENT; AND ONE ASPECT OF MANAGEMENT WAS TRAINING WHICH PROVIDED THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOP HIS OR HER POTENTIAL.

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN A GREAT BELIEVER IN TRAINING.

"WE NEED TO BE," HE SAID, "THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS A 'SERVICE INDUSTRY' : OUR OUTPUT IS THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CIVIL SERVANTS AND PEOPLE ARE THEREFORE OUR MAIN ASSET, OR LIABILITY IF THEY DO NOT DO THEIR JOB PROPERLY.

"SO WE NOT ONLY TRY TO RECRUIT THE RIGHT PEOPLE, BUT WE ALSO SPEND A LOT OF EFFORT GIVING THEM ADEQUATE TRAINING AFTER THEY ARE RECRUITED."

THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE WAS SET UP IN 1961.

/FROM A

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FROM A MODEST START WITH ONLY ONE TRAINING OFFICER, IT NOW HAS 80 OFFICERS IN THE CENTRE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE ABOUT 1,150 OFFICERS WORKING FULL-TIME ON TRAINING IN OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

IN TERMS OF OUTPUT, THE GOVERNMENT ORGANISED OVER TWO MILLION DAYS OF TRAINING, OR ABOUT 11 TRAINING DAYS PER CIVIL SERVANTS, IN 1990/91.

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT TRAINING, TODAY MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, MUST HAVE AS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENTS: PREPARING PEOPLE FOR CHANGE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 DOES REQUIRE PREPARATION.

"WE NEED TO INCREASE CIVIL SERVANTS' KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA, AND THEIR ABILITY TO OPERATE IN WRITTEN CHINESE AND PUTONGHUA AS WELL AS IN ENGLISH.

"TO THESE ENDS WE HAVE DEVELOPED A CHINA STUDIES PROGRAMME, WHICH INCLUDES SEMINARS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CHINA; FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO CHINA; AND COURSES ON WRITTEN CHINESE AND PUTONGHUA FOR VARIOUS GROUPS AND LEVELS OF CIVIL SERVANTS."

THERE ARE OTHER CHALLENGES OF CHANGE NOT RELATED TO 1997.

THESE INCLUDE THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY WHICH LEADS TO INCREASING DEMANDS ON THE CIVIL SERVICE; CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FINANCES IN THE 1990S; CHANGES IN THE LOCAL POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND ITS INTERFACE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION; AND THE INCREASING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE PACIFIC REGION.

IN LINE WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE CURRICULUM OF EXISTING COURSES WILL BE REVIEWED AND NEW PROGRAMMES INTRODUCED.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE PACIFIC REGION, AS AN ECONOMIC FOCAL POINT, IS DEVELOPING RAPIDLY.

HE SAID IF HONG KONG WAS TO BENEFIT FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT, IT MUST INCREASE LINKS WITH THE REST OF THE REGION.

"THE POINT IS WELL RECOGNISED BY THE HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN, BUT IT IS PERHAPS TIME WE CIVIL SERVANTS BECAME MORE FAMILIAR WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN ASIA.

"RECENTLY, I AND MEMBERS OF MY STAFF HAVE BEEN VARIOUSLY TO JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH KOREA AND SINGAPORE IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS, TO LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES AND TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING COURSES," MR WIGGHAM ADDED.

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KOWLOON TO HAVE NEW OUTLINE ZONING PLANS

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WORK WILL SOON BEGIN ON REVISING ALL OUTLINE ZONING PLANS IN KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE IMPACT OF THE REMOVAL OF THE KAI TAK AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE METROPLAN.

PRESENTING THE DRAFT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR 1992/93 UNDER HIS PORTFOLIO AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT AIMED TO CONVERT ABOUT HALF OF THE 30 DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS INTO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS IN 1992/93.

HE SAID THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO GIVE PRIORITY TO COMPLETE THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGY.

HE SAID OTHER MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN 1992/93 WOULD BE THE PREPARATION OF TOWN PLANS AT VARIOUS LEVELS TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS.

MR BARNES SAID THESE PRIORITIES WOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH STAFF REDEPLOYMENT AND ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY, SINCE THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED IN 1992/93 WOULD INCREASE marginally BY 2.2 PER CENT.

ON LAND ACQUISITION WORK OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR BARNES SAID IT WOULD FOCUS ON PADS RELATED PROJECTS, LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND HOUSING SOCIETY SCHEMES, PRIVATE STREET RESUMPTIONS, THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL AND THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BY-PASS.

HE SAID THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN BUILDING SAFETY AND THE INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERISED LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM.

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107 VMS RETURNED

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A GROUP OF 107 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 39 MEN, 31 WOMEN, 18 BOYS AND 19 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 95TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 2,586 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 16,565 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

/THE 107

THE 107 PEOPLE ON TODAY'S FLIGHT ARE SOUTHERNERS FROM SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE.

THEY HAVE ALL VOLUNTEERED SINCE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND ARE IN ADDITION TO THE 800 OR SO VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN THE SHEK KONG TRAGEDY WHOSE CLEARANCE FOR DEPARTURE AWAITS THE OUTCOME OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

NONE OF THE RETURNEES TODAY WERE IN ANYWAY INVOLVED IN THE SHEK KONG TRAGEDY.

THERE ARE ANOTHER 512 VOLUNTEERS AT SHEK KONG AND 590 AT LO WU WHO ARE AWAITING THEIR RETURN HOME ON FUTURE UNHCR FLIGHTS TO VIETNAM.

THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR MR CLINTON LEEKS WELCOMED THESE CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE MOMENTUM OF THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME HAD BEEN MAINTAINED DESPITE THE SHEK KONG TRAGEDY.

"THE IMPORTANT FACT IS THAT WE ARE SEEING PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS OF VIETNAM AND FROM ALL OUR DETENTION CENTRES DECIDING TO VOLUNTEER TO RETURN.

"THIS IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH THAT THE ONLY SENSIBLE OPTION FOR NON-REFUGEES IS TO RETURN HOME," HE SAID.

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SAN PO KONG EMPLOYMENT OFFICE REPROVISIONED

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THE SAN PO KONG OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) WILL BE REPROVISIONED TO NEW PREMISES ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF WANG CHIU HOUSE, WANG TAU HOM ESTATE ON SATURDAY (MARCH 21).

THE NEW LES WANG TAU HOM OFFICE WILL SERVICE JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL KOWLOON, INCLUDING HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON CITY, SAN PO KONG, WONG TAI SIN, TSZ WAN SHAN, NGAU CHI WAN, KOWLOON BAY (EXCLUDING TELFORD GARDEN), SAI KUNG AND CLEAR WATER BAY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 338 9787 AND 338 9843.

THE LES OPERATES 10 DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, AND PROVIDES FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

EMPLOYERS RECRUITING STAFF CAN TELEPHONE THEIR DISTRICT LES OFFICE TO PLACE JOB VACANCIES, OR SEND IN THEIR ORDERS BY MAIL OR IN PERSON.

/SUCH INFORMATION

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SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO ALL OTHER LES OFFICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL JOB-SEEKERS.

JOB-SEEKERS ARE REQUIRED ONLY TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER AT A LES OFFICE, WHERE THE STAFF WILL HELP THEM IN SELECTING SUITABLE JOBS AND WILL ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON MONDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE GENERAL PLANNING OBJECTIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AT ITS FOURTH MEETING NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 23).

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES; PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, DR TED PRYOR, AND A PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR BILL FARRELL.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEXE).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY CALLING MS LEUNG WING-CHONG ON TEL. 802 3511 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATS IN THE CONFERENCE HALL ARE LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	18.3.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	19.3.92	+94
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-94
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.6 **0.1* 19.3.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.60 PCT	20 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.18	6.23
1 MONTH	4.21 PCT	23 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.47	6.46
3 MONTHS	4.23 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.49 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.87 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,380 MN

CLOSED 19 MARCH 1992

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