# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR STARTS EUROPEAN TOUR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, BEGAN THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY A GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TO GERMANY, BELGIUM AND FRANCE WITH A BUSY SCHEDULE OF ENGAGEMENTS IN BONN TODAY (MONDAY).

THE GOVERNOR CALLED FIRST ON THE STATE SECRETARY AT THE WEST GERMAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR JURGEN SUDHOFF, WHO HOSTED A LUNCH FOR SIR DAVID AFTER THE MEETING.

THE MINISTRY HAS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND DR SUDHOFF SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE MANNER IN WHICH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND HONG KONG WERE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP.

EXAMPLES OF THIS INCLUDE THE STRONG GROWTH IN TOURISM BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES, WITH BOTH CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AND LUFTHANSA INCREASING THEIR SERVICES.

WEST GERMANY'S IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG IS FURTHER REFLECTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS IN FRANKFURT.

SIR DAVID BRIEFED THE STATE SECRETARY ON HONG KONG'S LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS AND ON PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

HE DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S IMPORTANCE AS A DOMESTIC MARKET, A CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA.

AT THE LUNCH GIVEN BY DR SUDHOFF, THE GOVERNOR MET WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST IN HONG KONG.

THEY INCLUDED THE GERMAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG, DR EIKE BRACKLO; FORMER CONSUL-GENERAL MR H.J. DIETRICH; THE OWNER OF FIDUCIA LTD. (A COMPANY IN HONG KONG), MR JURGEN KRACHT; THE DIRECTOR OF THE HAMBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MEMBER OF THE EASTERN ASIA ASSOCIATION, MR MICHAEL PFEIFFER AND THE HEAD OF THE FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR SCHEEL.

THE GOVERNOR CALLED NEXT ON THE STATE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DR DIETER VON WURZEN.

IN THE MEETINTG IT WAS AGREED THAT WEST GERMANY'S LIBERAL TRADE POLICY MADE HONG KONG A NATURAL PARTNER.

TWO-WAY TRADE IS GROWING STEADILY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS OVERTAKEN BRITAIN AS HONG KONG'S FIFTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, AND IS NOW THE TERRITORY'S THIRD LARGEST MARKET AFTER THE U.S.A. AND CHINA. WEST GERMANY TOOK EIGHT PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1987. ITS EXPORTS TO HONG KONG TOTALLED 2.2 MILLION DEUTCHMARKS IN THE SAME YEAR, AN INCREASE OF EIGHT PER CENT OVER 1986.

/WEST GERMAN .....

WEST GERMAN BUSINESSMEN ARE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN HONG KONG, WHERE THERE ARE EIGHT OF THEIR OWN BANKS TO CALL UPON, AND A GROWING INTEREST IS BEING SHOWN IN THE TERRITORY'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN SERVICES AND FOR INVESTMENT AND THAT HONG KONG ALWAYS WELCOMED BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE INTERESTED IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM.

THE MAJOR FUNCTION IN THE GOVERNOR'S PROGRAMME WAS A TALK GIVEN TO THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE (DIHT) ENTITLED "HONG KONG ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY."

DIHT IS THE UMBRELLA ORGANISATION OF THE 69 CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN WEST GERMANY AS WELL AS THE 40 CHAMBERS OVERSEAS. IT PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT PLATFORM FOR ADDRESSING GERMAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND PREVIOUS SPEAKERS HAVE INCLUDED A NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS.

ON THIS OCCASION, SOME 100 SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BANKS, IMPORT AND EXPORT HOUSES, SHIPPING COMPANIES, ENGINEERING FIRMS AND A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER BUSINESSES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TURNED OUT TO HEAR THE GOVERNOR SPEAK.

THE TALK WAS CO-ORGANISED BY THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IT WAS FOUNDED AS AN INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION IN 1955 TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RELATING TO EUROPEAN POLICY, SAFETY AND ECONOMY AND TO PROMOTE THEIR SCIENTIFIC STUDY, TO COLLECT DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THESE MATTERS AND TO IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THROUGH STUDY GROUPS, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 1,400 INCLUDES PERSONALITIES FROM POLITICAL, ACADEMIC, INDUSTRIAL, TRADE UNION, MEDIA AND SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUNDS.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE GOVERNOR GAVE PRESS INTERVIEWS TO JOURNALISTS FROM THE MAJOR MEDIA ORGANISATIONS IN WEST GERMANY. THEY INCLUDED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICE OF THE GERMAN PRESS AGENCY AND DEUTSCHE WELLE, THE NATIONAL RADIO SERVICE.

THE GOVERNOR ROUNDED OFF HIS PROGRAMME IN BONN BY ATTENDING A DINNER HOSTED BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SIR CHRISTOPHER MALLABY.

THE GUESTS INCLUDED CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF A MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORE, MAIL ORDER COMPANY AND OTHER CONCERNS WITH A BUSINESS INTEREST IN HONG KONG; THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN HONG KONG, DR GOEST FUNCK AND THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE F.R.G., MR MEI ZHAORONG.

THE GOVERNOR, ACCOMPANIED BY LADY WILSON AND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR RICHARD HOARE, WILL LEAVE BONN TOMORROW TO CONTINUE HIS WEEK-LONG TOUR, WITH VISITS TO BRUSSELS AND PARIS.

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HK IS IDEAL SPRINGBOARD TO CHINA BUSINESS: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG IS THE BEST SPRINGBOARD FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN CHINA, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD A GROUP OF GERMAN EXECUTIVES IN BONN TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE DURING A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO EUROPE, SIR DAVID STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE WHEN DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA.

"HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN, WHO ARE AS KEEN AS ANYBODY ON PROFITABILITY, ARE PUTTING A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT INTO THEIR CHINA VENTURES," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"THEY KNOW THAT MORE INVOLVEMENT IN THE MARKET BRINGS MORE AND BETTER BUSINESS," HE ADDED.

"AS A RESULT, THEY UNDERSTAND, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, HOW TO DO BUSINESS IN CHINA. HONG KONG FIRMS ARE, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERTS ON THIS MARKET, AND THEIR EXPERTISE GROWS WITH EVERY NEW DEAL," HE SAID.

"HAVING A HONG KONG PARTNER MAY NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS; BUT IT CERTAINLY HELPS," SAID THE GOVERNOR.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA CONTINUED TO DEVELOP WITH BILATERAL TRADE HAVING INCREASED 19 TIMES SINCE 1982 TO US$26 BILLION.

"HONG KONG ACCOUNTS FOR TWO-THIRDS OF ALL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA," SIR DAVID SAID.

"CHINA IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT INVESTOR IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT WHEN CHINA'S CURRENT OPEN ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE FIRST INTRODUCED, SOME PEOPLE PREDICTED THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE SUPERSEDED AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA BY SOME OTHER CITIES ON THE MAINLAND SUCH AS SHANGHAI OR TIANJIN.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, HONG KONG HAD BECOME, ON THE CONTRARY, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO CHINA THAN IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO.

"WE ARE THEIR WINDOW ON THE CAPITALIST WORLD. WE ARE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF HARD CURRENCY. WE ARE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR EXPORTS. WE MAINTAIN A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE ON THEIR DOORSTEP. WE PROVIDE A TRAINING GROUND FOR THEIR BUSINESSMEN," SIR DAVID SAID.

/TURNING TO .....

TURNING TO THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN OMMUNITY AND THE FAR EAST, SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACIFIC AREA SHOULD NOT MAKE EUROPEANS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.

"IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A THREAT, BUT AS A CHALLENGE AND A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY.

"AS YOU MOVE TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET, I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO KEEP PART OF YOUR MIND ON THE OPPORTUNITIES IN ASIA," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID TOLD THE GERMAN BUSINESSMEN THAT HONG KONG FOLLOWED THE DISCUSSIONS OF 1992 HALF WITH HOPE AND HALF WITH ANXIETY.

"HOPE -- THAT EUROPE WILL APPLY OPEN MARKET PRINCIPLES TO HER TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. ANXIETY -- THAT SHE MAY TURN INWARDS, CONCERNING HERSELF ONLY WITH HER OWN AFFAIRS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

NOTING THAT GERMAN BUSINESS PRESENCE IN THE FAR EAST WAS SUBSTANTIAL, SIR DAVID SAID THE NUMBER OF GERMAN COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WAS GROWING ALL THE TIME.

"ABOUT 1,600 PEOPLE FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC LIVE IN THE TERRITORY. OUR BILATERAL TRADE IS WORTH NEARLY US$4 BILLION A YEAR; AND IT IS INCREASING.

"THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS NOW HONG KONG'S FIFTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER. IT IS HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN EUROPE. AROUND NINE PER CENT OF EUROPEAN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG MANUFACTURING COMES FROM GERMANY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG VALUED HIGHLY THE TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY THAT WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF GERMAN MANUFACTURING.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT NEARLY 17 PER CENT OF THE PRIVATE CARS IN THE TERRITORY WERE GERMAN, MOST OF WHICH WERE AT THE TOP END OF THE MARKET.

"WE DO NOT HAVE ANY NATIONALISTIC OR CULTURAL BARRIERS TO IMPORTED GOODS. OUR POPULATION IS VERY INTERNATIONALLY MINDED," SIR DAVID SAID.

"NOBODY RESENTS THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS. NO DISTINCTIONS ARE MADE BETWEEN FOREIGN COMPANIES AND LOCAL ONES. NOR BETWEEN FOREIGN PRODUCTS AND LOCAL ONES," HE CONTINUED.

"UNLIKE THE OTHER SUCCESSFUL ECONOMICS OF THE FAR EAST WITH WHOM WE ARE OFTEN BRACKETED, HONG KONG'S TRADE IS ROUGHLY IN BALANCE. WE BUY AS MUCH AS WE SELL. AND WE ARE QUITE HAPPY WITH THAT SITUATION," HE ADDED.

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FUTURE PLANS AND EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE 1991-94 TRIENNIUM.

"PLACES IN OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WILL BE EXPANDED BY MORE THAN 20 PER CENT FROM 40,050 IN 1991 TO 48,800 IN 1994," SAID A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN.

THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

| | FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1990/91 | 1993/94 |
| HONG KONG UNIVERSITY | 8,150 | 9,100 |
| CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG | 7,400 | 8,700 |
| HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG | 8,000 | 10,800 |
| HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE | 3,000 | 3,250 |
| HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | -- | 3,450 |
| | 40,050 | 48,800 |

(ACTUAL ENROLMENTS IN 1988/89 ARE 35,910)

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY ARE THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED COMPLETION OF PHASE II OF ITS NEW CAMPUS IN KOWLOON TONG, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WILL ADMIT ITS FIRST BATCH OF 700 STUDENTS IN 1991," HE SAID.

"FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP THE PARTICIPATION RATE FOR FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE STUDIES WILL INCREASE FROM SIX PER CENT NOW TO ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT IN 1991 AND TO ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN 1994.

/"BUT OUR .....

"BUT OUR EXPANSION WILL NOT STOP IN 1994. THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN IS TO CONTINUE THE EXPANSION AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY TO REACH THEIR CAPACITY OF 10,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES EACH BY 1997, AND AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC TO REACH ITS CAPACITY OF 13,500 BY THE SAME YEAR."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER GROWTH HAD ALSO BEEN PLANNED FOR THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

"EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE BAPTIST COLLEGE TO EXPAND TO 4,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES BY 1997 AND TO 5,000 BY THE YEAR 2000," HE SAID.

"FOR HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AFTER PHASE II OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN THE 1994-97 TRIENNIUM WHICH WILL PROVIDE 7,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES, IT WILL CONTINUE WITH A PHASE III DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE UP TO 10,100 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

"IF THESE PLANS ARE ALL REALISED, PROVISION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION WILL INCREASE FROM 48,800 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES IN 1994 TO 62,100 BY THE YEAR 2000, AN IMPRESSIVE INCREASE OF MORE THAN 27 PER CENT.

"THE PARTICIPATION RATE FOR FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE STUDIES WILL INCREASE FROM ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN 1994 TO OVER 14 PER CENT BY THE YEAR 2000," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LOOKING FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "AS THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS CAPACITY NOW, HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC WILL BE IN THE SAME POSITION BY 1997, AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AND HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BY THE YEAR 2000, IT MAY BE NECESSARY, IF DEMANDS SO REQUIRE, FOR US TO SET UP ANOTHER NEW INSTITUTION OF A MAJOR SIZE, FOR EXAMPLE A THIRD POLYTECHNIC, EARLY IN THE NEXT CENTURY.

"WE WILL BE KEEPING THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A DECISION EARLY IN THE 1990S.

"HONG KONG NEEDS TO PROVIDE A QUALIFIED WORKFORCE ESSENTIAL FOR ITS CONTINUOUS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF THE SPECIFIC STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS FOR 1991-94 TRIENNIUM AND ITS LONG TERM PLANNING PROJECTIONS CLEARLY UNDERLINE ITS DETERMINATION TO ACCORD A VERY HIGH PRIORITY TO THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION TO MEET HONG KONG'S REQUIREMENTS."

MORE CONSUMER PROTECTION SHOULD BE PROVIDED
IN INSURANCE INDUSTRY
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THE ACTIVITIES OF INSURANCE INTERMEDIARIES SHOULD BE REGULATED TO PROVIDE A GREATER DEGREE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION IN WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT AREA OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF INSURANCE BROKERS LTD, MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT SELF-REGULATION BY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS.

"IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR THE REGULATION OF INSURANCE INTERMEDIARIES," HE SAID, RECALLING THAT THE COMMISSION PRODUCED IN JANUARY 1986 A REPORT ON THE LAWS ON INSURANCE.

THE REPORT EXAMINED TWO AREAS OF CONCERN: PERCEIVED INEQUALITIES IN INSURANCE CONTRACT LAW BETWEEN THE INSURED AND THE INSURER; AND THE ABSENCE OF CONTROL OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF INSURANCE INTERMEDIARIES.

"THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT LEGISLATION BE INTRODUCED TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERMEDIARIES.

"THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WAS THAT INSURANCE CONSUMERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH CLEARLY BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIARY GIVING IMPARTIAL PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AND THE AGENT REPRESENTING A PARTICULAR INSURANCE COMPANY.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIARIES BE REQUIRED TO MEET SPECIFIED STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT; THAT INSURERS BE REQUIRED TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH WHOM THEY WERE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED; AND THAT THE INSURANCE CONSUMER BE PLACED IN A POSITION TO KNOW ON WHAT BASIS HE WAS BEING ADVISED," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY SET UP A WORKING GROUP IN MARCH 1987 DRAWN FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE INDUSTRY TO FORMULATE PROPOSALS FOR SELF-REGULATION.

"IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE WORKING GROUP SUBMITTED ITS STATEMENT ON SELF-REGULATION TO THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING GROUP, WHILE GIVING BROAD SUPPORT TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONTROL OF INTERMEDIARIES, HOWEVER RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF CODES OF PRACTICE PLUS ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS BY INSURANCE COMPANIES AS A BETTER MEANS OF PROTECTING THE CONSUMERS IN THE FIELD OF INSURANCE CONTRACT LAW.

"WE IN GOVERNMENT ARE WELL AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF OVER-REGULATION. WE DO NOT WANT TO STIFLE ENTERPRISE OR UNDULY INTERFERE IN THE FREE PLAY OF MARKET FORCES.

"WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO CREATE A LARGE AND COSTLY REGULATORY AGENCY WHICH WOULD ADD TO THE BURDEN UPON TAX-PAYERS," HE STRESSED.

MR NENDICK SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD A DUTY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE CONSUMER AND TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKET.

"OUR AIM IS TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSURANCE MARKET IN HONG KONG.

"WE THUS WELCOME THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION," HE SAID.

"THE APPROACH WE FAVOUR THEN IS FOR SELF-IMPOSED RULES FOR MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF CONDUCT TO BE BACKED BY NECESSARY LEGISLATION LAYING DOWN BASIC REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIARIES; MINIMUM STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, EXPERIENCE AND CONDUCT FOR INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIARIES; AND STATUTORY RECOGNITION OF SELF-REGULATING MARKET ASSOCIATIONS WHOSE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEET THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND WHERE MEMBERSHIP WOULD AUTOMATICALLY CONFER LICENSED STATUS.

HE SAID THE LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO NEED TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF AGENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INSURER AND AGENT.

"IN OUR VIEW, THE LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT SEEK TO EXTEND THE INSURER'S LIABILITY BEYOND THE EXISTING LAW OF AGENCY.

"ANY EXTENSION SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE VOLUNTARY CODES OF PRACTICE TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF INSURERS," MR NENDICK ADDED.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THESE CODES OF PRACTICE WOULD NEED TO GOVERN TRAINING, RECRUITMENT AND CONTROL OF AGENTS; LAY DOWN OR PROVIDE FOR STANDARD AGENCY CONTRACTS, AND EMPHASISE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AN INSURER FOR THE ACTIONS OF ITS AGENTS, NOT ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF AGENCY BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD INSURANCE ETHICS AND PRACTICE.

"MUCH WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IN DEVELOPING THE NECESSARY RULES AND CODES OF PRACTICE BEFORE LEGISLATION CAN BE INTRODUCED.

"THERE IS LITTLE POINT IN SETTING UP THE FRAMEWORK IF THE SUBSTANCE OF SELF-REGULATION IS NOT IN PLACE. IN PARTICULAR, WORKABLE MACHINERY FOR ENFORCEMENT MUST BE DEVISED. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT COMPLIANCE IS THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE SELF-REGULATION," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROCESS WOULD NECESSARILY TAKE TIME AND INVOLVE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND APPROPRIATE BODIES IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.

"IT IS OUR AIM TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE INDUSTRY IN THE COURSE OF NEXT YEAR SO THAT LEGISLATION CAN BE DRAFTED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING ITS NEXT SESSION," HE SAID.

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## EMPLOYMENT ADVICE SERVICES COULD HELP SOLVE LABOUR SHORTAGE

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS OVER THE YEARS DEVOTED MUCH EFFORT AND A GREAT DEAL OF RESOURCES TOWARDS BUILDING UP A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID.

ITS OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL JOB-SEEKERS.

ADDRESSING A "MANAGING THE VACANT POSITION" CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), MR HAMMOND SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICES HAVE ASSUMED A FAR MORE ACTIVE ROLE OF REACHING OUT TO EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

A SPECIAL NEW SERVICE CALLED "JOB BAZAAR" HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO RECRUIT EMPLOYEES MORE EASILY AND QUICKLY.

/"WE HAVE .....

"WE HAVE HELD THREE VERY SUCCESSFUL JOB BAZAARS SO FAR - THE FIRST WAS AT NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN, THE SECOND WAS AT CITY PLAZA ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND, RECENTLY, A THIRD ONE WAS HELD AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL IN KOWLOON.

"EMPLOYERS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS HAVE FOUND THESE JOB BAZAARS VERY USEFUL IN THEIR RECRUITMENT DRIVES AND THEY HAVE ATTRACTED A GREAT NUMBER OF PROSPECTIVE JOB-SEEKERS."

MR HAMMOND TOLD THE GATHERING THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDED A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF WELL-ESTABLISHED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE TO EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS.

THESE INCLUDE THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHICH PROVIDES A REGULAR EMPLOYMENT SERVICE THROUGH 15 DISTRICT OFFICES FOR JOB-SEEKERS LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT A JUNIOR LEVEL WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE SKILL OR EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE SOME 49,000 JOB-SEEKERS ON THE LIVE REGISTER OF THIS SERVICE.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE CATERS TO JOB-SEEKERS WHO POSSESS HIGHER EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

OF THE 3,000 JOB-SEEKERS ON THE LIVE REGISTER OF THIS SERVICE, MORE THAN ONE-THIRD ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES RETURNING FROM CANADA, 25 PER CENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA, AND AN EQUAL PROPORTION FROM LOCAL TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE JOB-SEEKERS COVER A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES INCLUDING COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, FINANCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, STATISTICS AND ACCOUNTING.

THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE PROVIDES FREE ASSISTANCE TO PHYSICALLY DISABLED, MENTALLY RETARDED AND EX-MENTALLY ILL PERSONS SEEKING OPEN EMPLOYMENT. LAST YEAR, THIS SERVICE FOUND JOBS FOR JUST OVER 1,000 DISABLED PEOPLE.

TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE THE POTENTIAL WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE, MR HAMMOND SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO HOLDS A LARGE-SCALE CAREERS EXHIBITION EVERY YEAR AND ORGANISES WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO SEE THE ACTUAL WORK ENVIRONMENT IN A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS.

HE EXPRESSED HOPES THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SERVICES TO HELP SOLVE THEIR LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEMS.

## TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) THE PRESENT PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TAC SUB-COMMITTEE ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW.

APPLICATIONS FROM THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXI ASSOCIATIONS FOR A FARE INCREASE WILL BE CONSIDERED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME 1989-1993.

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## WAGE INDEXES FOR JUNE PUBLISHED

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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR JUNE 1988, AT 161.0, INCREASED BY 9.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987 AND BY 2.6 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1988, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE JUNE 1988 AND JUNE 1987 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 8.3 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 12.6 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 10.8 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 16.8 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 13.8 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE JUNE 1988 AND MARCH 1988 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 2.4 PER CENT ; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 2.1 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.8 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 5.9 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.3 PER CENT.

THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1987 TO JUNE 1988 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX, AT 109.8 IN JUNE 1988, WAS 3.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN JUNE 1987 AND 0.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN MARCH 1988.

/FROM JUNE .....

FROM JUNE 1987 TO JUNE 1988, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 5.7 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.0 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 9.6 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 6.8 PER CENT.

COMPARING JUNE 1988 WITH MARCH 1988, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 1.5 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.8 PER CENT; FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 1.2 PER CENT WHILE FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1987 TO JUNE 1988 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THESE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED EACH QUARTER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING WORKERS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR, THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR.

SUCH INDEXES MEASURE CHANGES IN WAGE RATES BY HOLDING THE STRUCTURAL PATTERN OF THE LABOUR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, SEX AND MODE OF PAYMENT TO THE SAME AS THAT OF MARCH 1982, WHICH IS THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURES CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE WAGES RECEIVED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE ALSO PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE.

IN ADDITION, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES THAT ARE PAID LESS FREQUENTLY THAN MONTHLY, ARE CONVERTED TO AN EQUIVALENT MONTHLY RATE WHEN COMPILING THE WAGE RATE INDEXES.

/TOTAL PAYROLL, .....

TOTAL PAYROLL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS. APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASH RECEIPTS, IT ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGE RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOL. I, JUNE 1988 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

THE VOL. II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES MAY BE MADE TO THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234744 OR 5-8234747.

TABLE 1 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

| SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS | INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | JUN. 1987 | SEPT. 1987 | DEC. 1987 | MAR. 1988 | JUN. 1988 |
| MANUFACTURING | 146.2 | 148.4 | 149.5 | 154.6 | 158.3 |
| WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS | 137.5 | 141.5 | 146.5 | 151.6 | 154.8 |
| TRANSPORT SERVICES | 166.6 | 170.4 | 170.3 | 177.9 | 184.6 |
| BUSINESS SERVICES | 152.6 | 155.8 | 155.8 | 168.2 | 178.2 |
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 141.0 | 145.7 | 146.6 | 155.3 | 160.5 |
| ALL SECTORS ABOVE | 146.5 | 149.4 | 151.2 | 156.9 | 161.0 |

/TABLE 2 : .....

TABLE 2 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

| INDUSTRY | INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | JUN. 1987 | SEPT. 1987 | DEC. 1987 | MAR. 1988 | JUN. 1988 |
| GARMENTS | 132.2 | 132.5 | 133.1 | 135.7 | 138.0 |
| GLOVES | 152.2 | 154.3 | 153.9 | 159.5 | 164.2 |
| HANDBAGS | 136.7 | 141.9 | 142.8 | 147.2 | 146.9 |
| COTTON SPINNING/WEAVING | 163.0 | 164.6 | 165.5 | 172.0 | 173.6 |
| KNITTING | 146.5 | 148.3 | 148.2 | 150.0 | 152.4 |
| BLEACHING AND DYEING | 167.2 | 168.3 | 169.3 | 175.2 | 180.1 |
| PRINTING | 160.6 | 162.4 | 164.1 | 170.5 | 182.5 |
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | 146.4 | 146.8 | 146.4 | 151.2 | 156.5 |
| METAL PRODUCTS | 151.4 | 153.0 | 154.3 | 160.9 | 166.3 |
| ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES | 163.0 | 165.6 | 168.6 | 177.2 | 182.5 |
| ELECTRONICS | 155.6 | 162.3 | 165.0 | 175.3 | 180.4 |
| WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 171.8 | 174.9 | 176.1 | 182.8 | 187.3 |
| MANUFACTURING | 146.2 | 148.4 | 149.5 | 154.6 | 158.3 |

/TABLE 3 : .....

TABLE 3 : REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

| SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS | INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | JUN. 1987 | SEPT. 1987 | DEC. 1987 | MAR. 1988 | JUN. 1988 |
| MANUFACTURING | 106.3 | 106.9 | 105.6 | 107.7 | 108.0 |
| WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS | 99.9 | 101.9 | 103.4 | 105.6 | 105.6 |
| TRANSPORT SERVICES | 121.1 | 122.8 | 120.2 | 124.0 | 125.9 |
| BUSINESS SERVICES | 110.9 | 112.2 | 110.0 | 117.2 | 121.6 |
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 102.5 | 105.0 | 103.6 | 108.2 | 109.5 |
| ALL SECTORS ABOVE | 106.5 | 107.7 | 106.8 | 109.4 | 109.8 |

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ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION AT MTR STATIONS LAUNCHED

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AN EXHIBITION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ABUSE AND HONG KONG'S ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS WAS STAGED AT THE MTR MONG KOK STATION, KOWLOON TODAY (MONDAY).

THE EXHIBITION, PUT UP NEAR THE ARGYLE STREET EXIT OF THE STATION, WILL BE ON DISPLAY UNTIL WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 19).

IT WILL THEN MOVE TO THE MTR TSUEN WAN STATION FOR DISPLAY FROM THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20) TO SATURDAY (OCTOBER 22).

MANNED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THE EXHIBITION IS AIMED AT EDUCATING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE PERILS OF DRUG ABUSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANTI-DRUG WEEK PROGRAMME.

IT IS OPENED BETWEEN 10 AM AND 7 PM DAILY.

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/16 .....

EPD PROSECUTES SIX FARMERS FOR BREACHING ORDINANCE

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PROSECUTED LIVESTOCK FARM OPERATORS FOR ALLEGEDLY BREACHING THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT IN JUNE.

SIX LIVESTOCK FARM OPERATORS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED FOR CONTINUING LIVESTOCK BREEDING IN THE PROHIBITION AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE SIX FARM OPERATORS WHO WERE PROSECUTED TODAY, HAD REPEATEDLY IGNORED ADVICE AND WARNINGS GIVEN BY EPD STAFF," HE SAID.

"WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 24 THIS YEAR, LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE PROHIBITION AREAS WAS, BY LAW, BANNED AND FARMERS WERE GIVEN PRIOR NOTICE SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE TO THAT EFFECT," HE ADDED.

"OF THE MORE THAN 800 FARMS IN THE PROHIBITION AREAS, ALL BUT 15 HAVE ALREADY CEASED BUSINESS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SO FAR, EPD STAFF HAVE CONDUCTED 611 FARM VISITS IN THE PROHIBITION AREAS, AND HAVE GIVEN A TOTAL OF 134 VERBAL WARNINGS, 63 WRITTEN WARNINGS, 44 FINAL WARNINGS TO FARM OPERATORS WHO WERE STILL KEEPING LIVESTOCK IN THE AREAS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANY PERSON KEEPING LIVESTOCK IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE PROHIBITION AREAS AFTER JUNE 24 WAS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE AND LIABLE TO A FINE OF $10,000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE, OR A FINE OF $50,000 FOR A SECOND OR A SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE, AND AN ADDITIONAL FINE OF $500 FOR EACH DAY IF THE OFFENCE IS A CONTINUING ONE.

THE PROHIBITION AREAS COVER HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON, AND THE NEW TOWNS IN SHA TIN, TAI PO, FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TIN SHUI WAI AND JUNK BAY.

IN ADDITION, ALSO FROM JUNE 24, LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS COVERING TOLO HARBOUR AND TOLO CHANNEL, MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH AREAS WAS SUBJECT TO CONTROL IN RELATION TO THE COLLECTION, STORAGE, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE FROM THE FARMS.

AS UNDERTAKEN, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR ADOPTED A FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROL IN THESE THREE AREAS.

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON PROVIDING ADVICE TO FARMERS IN THE CONTROL AREAS TO HELP THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW MEASURES.

/THESE INCLUDED .....

THESE INCLUDED SENDING TECHNICAL ADVICE TEAMS TO VISIT LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THESE AREAS TO ASSIST FARMERS TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THE FARMERS INCLUDED CAPITAL GRANTS AND LOANS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ON-FARM TREATMENT FACILITIES, AND EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE WHO OPT TO CEASE OPERATION.

"NOW THAT MORE THAN THREE MONTHS HAVE LAPSED, STAFF FROM THE EPD WILL BE WARNING LIVESTOCK FARM OPERATORS WHO FAILED TO ADOPT APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW CONTROL. PROSECUTION WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE WARNING IS REPEATEDLY IGNORED," HE SAID.

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NEW POST OFFICE IN MONG KOK

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A NEW POST OFFICE SERVING THE MONG KOK AREA WILL BE OPENED ON OCTOBER 24 (MONDAY) TO REPLACE THE CHANG SHA STREET POST OFFICE.

LOCATED AT SHOP NO. 11-14 ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF KWONG FAI MANSION, 3-13 KWONG WA STREET, MONG KOK, THE NEW POST OFFICE WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT POST OFFICE WHICH WILL CLOSE FOR BUSINESS AT 1 PM ON OCTOBER 22.

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE NEW POST OFFICE ARE 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEEK DAYS AND 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS. THE OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 3-856859.

IN THE INTEREST OF LOCAL PHILATELISTS, ON OCTOBER 22 A SPECIAL HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CHANG SHA STREET POST OFFICE FOR LOCALLY ADDRESSED COVERS BEARING THE SUPERSCRIPTION "LAST DAY OF SERVICE" OR "LAST DAY COVER".

ON OCTOBER 24, THE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE NEW POST OFFICE FOR LOCALLY ADDRESSED COVERS BEARING THE SUPERSCRIPTION "FIRST DAY COVER".

SUCH COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER, IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSONS PRESENTING THEM.

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/18 .....

DB TO DISCUSS MOTION ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A MOTION, PROPOSED BY A MEMBER, TO REFLECT THE BOARD'S VIEWS ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ISSUE AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS OF THE MEETING INCLUDE THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE; A MID-YEAR REVIEW ON THE DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND ITS PRESENT POSITION; AND REPORTS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES UNDER THE BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 9.30 AM IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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DB TO DISCUSS ACTION AGAINST CAR REPAIR WORKSHOPS

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST CAR REPAIR WORKSHOPS IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

UNDER A PROPOSAL BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/HONG KONG WEST, LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST CAR REPAIR WORKSHOPS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, AND IN EXISTING NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WHEN SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE IDENTIFIED TO BE DANGEROUS AND OBNOXIOUS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 1988 PREPARED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP LIBERALISATION POLICY, THE PAYMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND THE WASTAGE OF MEDICAL DOCTORS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, 8/F TUNG WAH BUILDING, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

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/19 .....

## DB TO DISCUSS IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN LABOUR

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MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTATION OF EXPERIENCED OVERSEAS WORKERS TO MEET THE LABOUR SHORTAGE IN HONG KONG.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR WU WING-KAI, WILL URGE THE GOVERNMENT ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF OVERSEAS LABOUR, AND HE WILL OFFER THREE SUGGESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

AT THE MEETING, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR H.T. LUI, WILL GIVE A BRIEFING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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## PUBLIC SUPPORT CALLED FOR TO SAVE PLANTATIONS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION TO HELP SAVE HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE PLANTATIONS FROM DAMAGES BY HILL FIRES.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED A VERY HIGH FIRE TOLL RECORDED YESTERDAY BY THE DEPARTMENT WHEN 12 HILL FIRES SWEPT 52 HECTARES OF COUNTRY PARK AREAS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE DRY SEASON.

SINCE SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN A TOTAL OF 26 FIRES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS, DAMAGING A TOTAL OF 89 HECTARES OF PLANTATION AREAS AND 7,100 TREES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR C.W. LAI, SAID WITH THE EXCEPTIONALLY DRY WEATHER, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE PUBLIC, WORSHIPPERS IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD TAKE EXTRA CARE TO SAFEGUARD OUR COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST FIRES.

"DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC VISITING THEIR ANCESTORS' GRAVES SHOULD LIGHT JOSS STICKS AND CEREMONIAL PAPERS ONLY IN METAL CONTAINERS AND NEVER LEAVE BURNING JOSS STICKS UNATTENDED," HE SAID.

IN FACT, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT HAD PROVIDED METAL CONTAINERS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS INSIDE COUNTRY PARK AREAS FOR THEIR USE.

ON THE LAST CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL DAY, 25 FIRES OCCURRED IN COUNTRY PARKS, AFFECTING 125 HECTARE AREAS AND 5,100 TREES.

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KWUN TONG LAUNCHES 'GOOD YOUNGSTERS MOVEMENT'

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AN AWARD SCHEME, WHICH AIMS AT PROMOTING MORAL EDUCATION, ENCOURAGING GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND INSTILLING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING AMONG YOUNGSTERS, HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN KWUN TONG.

THE "KWUN TONG GOOD YOUNGSTERS MOVEMENT", ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, STARTED EARLIER THIS MONTH AND WILL CONCLUDE IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE PROJECT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, CHAIRMAN OF THE "GOOD YOUNGSTERS MOVEMENT" ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR TSE CHUN-KEUNG, SAID THE AWARD SCHEME WAS OPEN TO PUPILS FROM PRIMARY FOUR TO SIX AND STUDENTS FROM FORM ONE TO THREE.

MR TSE SAID THE PROJECT WOULD BE IN FORM OF AN AWARD SCHEME IN WHICH PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ASSESSED ON EIGHT MERIT ITEMS - SELP-DISCIPLINE, HONESTY, DILLIGENCE, TIDINESS, COURTESY, CO-OPERATIVENESS, PUBLIC SPIRIT AND SERVICE.

"AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH PARTICIPANT WAS ISSUED WITH A GOOD YOUNGSTER PASSPORT WHICH SERVES AS AN ASSESSMENT RECORD OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PARTICIPANT IN RESPECT OF THE EIGHT MERITS," HE SAID.

STARTING FROM OCTOBER THIS YEAR, ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE BI-WEEKLY IN RESPECT OF ONE MERIT ITEM AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JANUARY, 1989 WHEN ALL MERIT ITEMS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

"AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH BI-WEEKLY CYCLE, PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TWO SEPARATE ASSESSMENT COLUMNS IN THE PASSPORT. ON COMPLETION OF ONE CYCLE, ALL PASSPORTS WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO TEACHERS WHO WILL THEN MAKE THE FINAL EVALUATION TO DECIDE WHETHER A PARTICIPANT HAS ACHIEVED A STANDARD LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE," MR TSE EXPLAINED.

"AT THE END OF THE 16-WEEK ASSESSMENT PERIOD, PARTICIPANTS WHOSE PERFORMANCE HAVE REACHED A RECOGNISED LEVEL WILL BE AWARDED THE 'GOOD YOUNGSTER CERTIFICATES'," HE SAID.

"DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS, ON RECOMMENDATION BY THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, WILL BE ADDITIONALLY HONOURED WITH THE 'GOOD YOUNGSTER GOLD BADGE' OR THE 'SILVER BADGE'," HE ADDED.

MR TSE NOTED THAT OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIE FOR THE TOP HONOUR OF 'GOOD YOUNGSTER', WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

/ALSO SPEAKING .....

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE, SAID THE PROJECT NOT ONLY HAD THE IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF PROMOTING GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND CIVIC MINDEDNESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT ALSO WOULD ENABLE STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS, THROUGH THEIR JOINT PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT, TO DEVELOP WITHIN THEMSELVES THIS LOFTILY SOCIAL OBJECTIVE.

"THIS WILL HAVE A DIRECT AND POSITIVE EFFECT ON BUILDING AN INTEGRATED SOCIETY, AND WILL ENHANCE THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS HARMONY AS A WHOLE," DR TSE SAID.

CHAIRMAN OF THE KWUN TONG SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, MR TONG PO-KWAI, SPEAKING OF THE "GOOD YOUNGSTERS MOVEMENT" HOPED THAT IT WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE IN KWUN TONG AND THAT PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WOULD TRY THEIR BEST TO MAKE THE SCHEME A SUCCESS.

A TOTAL OF 24,000 YOUNG PEOPLE -- 20,000 PUPILS FROM 68 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 4,000 STUDENTS FROM 10 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KWUN TONG - ARE TAKING PART IN THE PROJECT WHICH COSTS $140,000 TO IMPLEMENT.

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## HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON WEDNESDAY, THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THE EIGHT CLINICS WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSE.

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## WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 43.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 256.438 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 411.669 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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## INTERRUPTION TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING INTERRUPTION TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY DUE TO WATER WORKS:

* THE SUPPLY TO ALL VILLAGES AND PREMISES ON BOTH SIDES OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM SHEUNG SHUI TO PAK SHEK AU AND FAN KAM ROAD FROM SHEUNG SHUI TO YING PUN TSUEN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20) TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY.

* THE SUPPLY TO MARYKNOLL COLLEGE BLOCK NOS. 7 - 10 KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD) ESTATE, SAN ON HOUSE AND KIN ON HOUSE WO LOK ESTATE AND NOS. 20 - 28 HIU MING STREET, WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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## TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN WING LOK STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WING LOK STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 146 AND 166 IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20).

THIS MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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

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## ROAD CLOSURE IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TRIANGLE STREET BETWEEN JOHNSTON ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20).

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WAN CHAI ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR JOHNSTON ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TAI WO STREET.

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