



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989

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VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE: REPATRIATION

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A GROUP OF 51 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETERMINED TO BE NON-REFUGEES WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GROUP COMPRISED EIGHT MEN, 17 WOMEN AND 26 CHILDREN.

"THEIR RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY IS IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION WHICH WAS AGREED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR." HE SAID.

"THEY FLEW BACK TO HANOI IN THE COMPANY OF HONG KONG OFFICIALS, NONE OF WHOM WERE ARMED.

"TODAY'S OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT INCIDENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING PERSONS REFUSED PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN A TERRITORY."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THOSE WHO RETURNED TODAY WERE AMONG THE FIRST WHO HAD BEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE OF THE STATUS DETERMINATION PROCEDURES.

"THEY HAVE BEEN SCREENED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNHCR APPROVED PROCEDURES, UNDER A SYSTEM MONITORED BY THE UNHCR. THIS INCLUDED APPEALS TO AN INDEPENDENT BOARD OF REVIEW WHICH CONFIRMED THAT THEY WERE NOT REFUGEES UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION OF THAT TERM." HE SAID.

"THE UNHCR ARE INVOLVED AT EVERY STEP OF THE DETERMINATION PROCEDURES. THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONNAIRE ITSELF, WAS AGREED WITH THE UNHCR. THEY MONITOR THE PROCESS AND HELP WITH APPEALS.

"AT THE VERY END OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE THE UNHCR HAS A RIGHT TO GIVE REFUGEE STATUS TO ANY PERSON WHOSE APPEAL HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN. NO PERSON JUDGED BY THE UNHCR TO BE A REFUGEE IS BEING SENT BACK."

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN US FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THOSE RETURNING WOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR HAVING LEFT CLANDESTINELY, THAT THEY WOULD BE TREATED HUMANELY AND THAT THEIR TREATMENT COULD BE MONITORED AFTER RETURN.

"BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE WHO RETURNED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WILL HONOUR THEIR ASSURANCES OF GOOD TREATMENT."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AFTER THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM, THE GROUP'S SITUATION WOULD BE MONITORED.

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"IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THIS WILL BE DONE BY STAFF OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN HANOI BUT WE HOPE THAT THE UNHCR WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS TASK, POSSIBLY WORKING WITH OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

"WE HOPE THAT THE UNHCR WILL ACCEPT THIS ROLE AS A PART OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CPA."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE RETURNING AS WAS ALREADY THE CASE WITH THOSE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO RETURN UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

"REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IS DESIGNED TO HELP THOSE RETURNING TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN VIETNAM. IT IS ESSENTIALLY HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE AND WILL BENEFIT THE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CONCERNED," HE EXPLAINED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SINCE 1975, WHEN THE OUTFLOW OF BOAT PEOPLE BEGAN, 170,000 PEOPLE HAD REACHED HONG KONG FROM VIETNAM. NONE HAD BEEN TURNED AWAY. 34,000 HAD ARRIVED IN 1989 ALONE. ALL HAD BEEN FED, CLOTHED, GIVEN MEDICAL ATTENTION AND HOUSED. THIS HAD IMPOSED A GREAT STRAIN ON HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG IS PROUD OF ITS RECORD. WE WANT TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM. BUT WE CAN ONLY DO SO IF THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES ARE RETURNED QUICKLY AND SAFELY TO THEIR HOMELAND," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG'S POSITION IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM IN THE REGION, AS WE EXPLAINED TO COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN JUNE. UNLIKE OTHER PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM, SCREENING IN HONG KONG STARTED ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF AGO," HE SAID.

"THE CPA AGREED IN JUNE THIS YEAR COVERS A PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM. IT CONSISTS OF FOUR ELEMENTS: FIRST ASYLUM, SCREENING, RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES AND REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEES.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THIS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN FULL. THE RETURN OF NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE CPA AND IS IN LINE WITH STANDARD INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"IN OUR VIEW IT IS MORE HUMANE TO GO AHEAD WITH REPATRIATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS OF SCREENING AND APPEAL THAN TO LEAVE THEM WAITING ENDLESSLY IN CAMPS.

"THE HARSH REALITY IS THAT THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY WISH TO GO DO NOT CONSIDER THEM REFUGEES AND ARE NOT WILLING TO RESETTLE THEM. TO KEEP THEM IN HONG KONG ONLY FEEDS A FALSE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW, SOMETIME THESE COUNTRIES MAY CHANGE THEIR MINDS. WE THINK THEY HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME. "SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTINGLY FEW VOLUNTEERS," HE SAID, "BUT WE HOPE THAT MORE VOLUNTEERS WILL NOW COME FORWARD. BOTH REPATRIATION PROGRAMMES SHOULD PROCEED IN PARALLEL."

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR

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FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TO THE PRESS AFTER THE EXCO MEETING THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

GOVERNOR: "GOOD MORNING. YOU'D PROBABLY LIKE ME TO CONFIRM THE FACT, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THAT THIS MORNING WE RETURNED TO VIETNAM THE FIRST GROUP OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE. THIS WAS THE GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN CAREFULLY SCREENED AND HAD GONE THROUGH THE WHOLE APPEAL PROCESS TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE NOT POLITICAL REFUGEES.

"YOU KNOW TOO, THAT THIS IS OUR POLICY WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PUT INTO PLACE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW. WE HAVE ONLY DONE IT WITH A GREAT DEAL OF HEART-SEARCHING. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT ANYBODY PARTICULARLY WISHES TO DO.

"BUT, WE FACE THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AND THE REALITY IS THAT THE PLACES TO WHICH THESE PEOPLE WANT TO GO DO NOT ACCEPT THEM AS BEING REFUGEES. THEY WILL NOT GET RESETTLEMENT THERE. WE THINK IT IS QUITE WRONG THAT WE SHOULD BUILD UP ARTIFICIAL HOPES THAT ONE DAY THOSE PLACES WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS. AND IT IS FAR BETTER THAT PEOPLE SHOULD GO BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM WITH A CAREFULLY MONITORED PROGRAMME.

"AND THAT IS THE OTHER POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE. WE HAVE ENSURED IN AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING BACK TO VIETNAM WILL NOT BE PUNISHED FOR HAVING LEFT VIETNAM, THAT THEY WILL BE TREATED PROPERLY AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MONITOR WHAT IS DONE WITH THEM. NOW, I AM SURE THAT THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WHO WOULD DISAGREE WITH WHAT WE HAVE DONE. BUT THEY, SO FAR, HAVE NOT PUT FORWARD ANY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES.

"AND THE LAST POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT OVER MANY YEARS NOW SINCE 1975 WE HAVE NEVER TURNED AWAY A SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS ARRIVED HERE BY BOAT FROM VIETNAM. WE HAVE FED, WE HAVE CLOTHED, AND WE HAVE LOOKED AFTER SOMETHING LIKE 170,000 PEOPLE. AND I THINK THAT IS AN APPROACH AND A POLICY THAT HONG KONG CAN RIGHTLY BE PROUD OF.

"BUT, IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER PEOPLE WHO ARE GENUINE REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO MAY TURN OUT TO BE GENUINE REFUGEES, THEN WE MUST HAVE IN PLACE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES PEOPLE WHO ARE FOUND AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF SCREENING NOT TO BE POLITICAL REFUGEES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

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COST OF ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR VBP

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MORNING'S RETURN OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE TO VIETNAM, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE COST OF THE REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, EXCLUDING TRAVEL COST, WAS US\$620 PER HEAD.

"AND THE AVERAGE TOTAL COST UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE REGION OF US\$1,000 PER HEAD. THE COST WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS.

"EACH OF THE BOAT PEOPLE RETURNING TODAY WAS GIVEN POCKET MONEY OF US\$30 PER ADULT AND US\$15 PER CHILD.

"THE BALANCE OF THE REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE WILL BE DISBURSED BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN CASH OR IN KIND DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE RETURNEES."

ON THE MONITORING OF POST-RETURN CONDITIONS, THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN HANOI WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE.

"NOW THAT THE FIRST GROUP HAS RETURNED, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE UNHCR AGREEING TO TAKE ON THE TASK IN DUE COURSE, AS THEY HAVE DONE FOR NON-REFUGEES RETURNING TO LAOS FROM THAILAND."

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT A GOOD START HAD BEEN MADE ON THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR THOSE BOAT PEOPLE DETERMINED TO BE NON-REFUGEES.

"WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS PROGRAMME AND INTEND TO BUILD ON IT," HE SAID.

"FOR THE RETURN OF FURTHER GROUPS, WE ARE LOOKING AT VARIOUS OPTIONS. E.G. WHETHER IN THE LONG RUN WE SHOULD USE SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT.

"HOWEVER, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME MUST GO IN PARALLEL WITH VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION. INDEED WE HOPE MORE WILL NOW COME FORWARD TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY.

"IN FACT, ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE FOR TWO MORE FLIGHTS OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM THIS MONTH."

REFERRING TO THE SITUATION IN VBP CAMPS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SO FAR THINGS WERE QUIET.

"CAMP MANAGEMENT STAFF ARE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES OF BOAT PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS, EXPLAINING TO THEM THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME AND TODAY'S RETURN OF THE FIRST GROUP," HE SAID.

"GOVERNMENT COUNSELLING WILL CONTINUE."

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TEXTILE COUNCIL WILL HELP INDUSTRIES DEVELOP AND IMPROVE

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THE TEXTILE COUNCIL WILL HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THEIR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE TEXTILE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG LTD, SIR DAVID SAID THAT TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WERE MAJOR MANUFACTURED EXPORTS FOR HONG KONG AND THEY STILL ACCOUNTED FOR SOME 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1988, WITH THE INDUSTRY EMPLOYING SOME 365,000 WORKERS - OVER 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

"THESE IMPRESSIVE FIGURES ARE A REFLECTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDUSTRY TO HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE TEXTILE COUNCIL WOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN BRINGING TOGETHER THE MAJOR TEXTILE AND CLOTHING ASSOCIATIONS, AND THUS IN SPEAKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRY WITH ONE VOICE.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY RELIED HEAVILY ON ITS ABILITY TO GAIN AND MAINTAIN ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS.

"AS A FIRM SUPPORTER AND KEEN PRACTITIONER OF FREE TRADE, WE SEE IT AS VITAL TO DO ALL WE CAN TO COMBAT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES," HE SAID.

ON THE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS RECENTLY INSTITUTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - HONG KONG'S THIRD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER - AGAINST DENIM CLOTH ORIGINATING FROM HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE BELIEVE THAT ACCUSATION IS UNJUSTIFIED. THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DO ITS PART TO HELP INDUSTRY FIGHT THOSE PROCEEDINGS."

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THE FACT THAT THE INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT WERE WORKING TOGETHER TO COUNTER THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S ANTI-DUMPING ACTION SHOWED THE EXISTENCE OF A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

"THIS TYPE OF CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH IS ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH HAS HELPED TO MAKE HONG KONG A GREAT INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF TRADE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THAT AS COMPETITION FROM HONG KONG'S NEIGHBOURS INTENSIFIED, THE TERRITORY MUST REMAIN TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPETITIVE SO THAT IT MAINTAINED ITS POSITION IN WORLD MARKETS.

"THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN PARTICULAR WILL HAVE TO MOVE UP MARKET TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY.

"WE MUST ALSO AS A COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, RECOGNISE THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THE DECISION TO SET UP A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD ASSIST HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS TO DEVELOP AND APPLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

"THIS TOO HAS BEEN DONE IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE THE KEY TO ITS SUCCESS," HE SAID.

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MORE TERTIARY PLACES AND A TRAINING FUND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO EMBARK ON A MAJOR EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO ESTABLISH A TRAINING FUND TO HELP THE ABSORPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO COPE WITH THE CHALLENGE AHEAD.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO PROVIDE TERTIARY EDUCATION TO MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE TYPE OF EDUCATION PROVIDED MET THE NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY.

"WHILST EDUCATION PREPARES YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE, TRAINING PREPARES THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING FUND WOULD ENABLE EMPLOYERS TO SEND A MANAGER OR TECHNOLOGIST FOR TRAINING IN A NEW AND POTENTIALLY USEFUL TECHNOLOGY NOT CATERED FOR IN THE CONVENTIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM.

"THE TRAINING SCHEME WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE A REFERRAL SERVICE FOR PLACING MANAGERS IN WORKING ATTACHMENTS ABROAD.

"THE SIZE OF THE FUND WILL BE ABOUT \$70 MILLION, MADE UP OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, AND WILL BE ABLE TO FINANCE 400 TRAINEESHIPS A YEAR.

"IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED OVER \$300 MILLION IN THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND OTHER BODIES TO PROVIDE INDUSTRY WITH THE NECESSARY INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES," HE SAID.

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COMMITTEE ADVISES ON DATE FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL 9

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THE PORT COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED AT ITS MEETING THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON THAT THE FIRST BERTH OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 WILL BE REQUIRED IN FIVE YEARS' TIME, THAT IS, IN NOVEMBER 1994.

THE PORT COMMITTEE TOOK THIS VIEW ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL GROWTH IN CONTAINER TRAFFIC AT KWAI CHUNG OVER THE PAST 60-MONTH PERIOD UP TO THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

DURING THAT PERIOD THE GROWTH IN CONTAINER TRAFFIC AT KWAI CHUNG WAS 14.63 PER CENT.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WHO WILL DECIDE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS WHAT DETAILED PLANNING MUST NOW TAKE PLACE TO ENABLE THE TENDER FOR TERMINAL 9 TO BE ISSUED IN LATE 1991.

"THE PLANNING MECHANISMS FOR CONTAINER TERMINALS PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY," MR STRACHAN SAID.

"NO FINAL DECISION ON THE EXACT DATE FOR THE ISSUE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR TERMINAL 9 WILL BE MADE BEFORE THE LATTER PART OF 1991, WHICH WILL ALLOW FURTHER TIME TO REVIEW THE GROWTH OF TRADE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE SUPPLY OF CONTAINER TERMINALS WAS EQUATED WITH THE FORECAST OF DEMAND."

TERMINAL 9 WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF TSING YI ISLAND.

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MARICULTURISTS REMINDED TO DISPLAY LICENCE NUMBERS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED MARICULTURISTS TO DISPLAY THEIR MARICULTURE LICENCE NUMBERS CONSPICUOUSLY ON THEIR FISH RAFTS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE REQUIREMENT WAS STIPULATED IN REGULATION 7A OF THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE.

"THE REQUIREMENT IS TO FACILITATE EASY IDENTIFICATION OF THE OPERATORS OF THE FISH RAFTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES. ANYONE FOUND BREACHING THE REGULATION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$500.

"REGULAR PATROLS OF THE FISH CULTURE ZONES ARE UNDERTAKEN BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING AND REGULATORY SECTION.

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"OPERATORS NOT COMPLYING WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE ARE WARNED AND THOSE WHO FAIL TO HEED THE WARNINGS ARE PROSECUTED AND FINED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SO FAR THIS YEAR, 20 MARICULTURISTS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY LICENCES ON THEIR FISH RAFTS AND WERE FINED FROM \$100 TO \$500 EACH. OTHER CASES OF SIMILAR OFFENCES WERE PENDING COURT HEARING.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED OPERATORS THAT UNDER SECTIONS 6 AND 7 OF THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE, ALL FISH CULTURE OPERATIONS MUST BE PRACTISED UNDER LICENCE WITHIN DESIGNATED FISH CULTURE ZONES.

"THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR PRACTISING WITHOUT A LICENCE AND OPERATING OUTSIDE DESIGNATED CULTURE ZONES ARE \$20,000 PLUS ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT AND \$5,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT RESPECTIVELY." HE SAID.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, 45 OPERATORS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO COURT FOR BREACHING SECTIONS 6 AND 7 OF THE ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, AND IN DOING SO, IT WOULD ALSO BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW.

CURRENTLY 28 FISH CULTURE ZONES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED IN HONG KONG AND 1,780 LICENCES HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO MARICULTURISTS.

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY, WHICH STARTED IN NOVEMBER TO ASSESS THE EXTENT OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY MARICULTURE, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL NEXT YEAR.

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11 QUESTIONS ON LEGCO AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER FIVE BILLS, INCLUDING A PRIVATE BILL, AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SECOND READING DEBATES ON THE FIVE BILLS WILL BE RESUMED, AND EACH BILL IS THEN DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE FOUR GOVERNMENT BILLS ARE THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

THE PRIVATE BILL IS THE FIRST PACIFIC BANK LIMITED BILL 1989.

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SHA TOURS KOWLOON WALLED CITY

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING VISITED THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE PROGRESS OF THE CLEARANCE OPERATION THERE.

DURING THE VISIT, MR TSAO MET OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY KAIFONG ASSOCIATION AND LISTENED TO THEIR VIEWS ON THE CLEARANCE AND RESETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS.

HE ALSO VISITED CLINICS OPERATED BY UNLICENSED DENTISTS, SHOPS AND WORKSHOPS AS WELL AS HISTORICAL BUILDINGS INSIDE THE WALLED CITY.

SPEAKING AFTER THE FAMILIARISATION TOUR, MR TSAO SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT THE CLEARANCE OPERATION HAD BEEN GOING AHEAD SMOOTHLY.

"THIS PROGRESS WILL NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM ALL PARTIES CONCERNED," HE SAID.

BEFORE THE VISIT, MR TSAO WAS BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CLEARANCE OPERATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR LUI HAU-TUEN; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (CLEARANCE), MR LAU PO-CHI; GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR JOHN CORRIGALL; AND A DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, MR JOHN LEUNG.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MR TSAO ATTENDED THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AND VISITED THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

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MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AT DIAMOND HILL

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT TO ENSURE THAT CONSTRUCTION WORKS DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF RESIDENTS AT THE DIAMOND HILL SQUATTER AREAS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"MANY PROBLEMS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN LARGELY RESOLVED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE TUNNEL PROJECT CONTRACTORS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ALL COMPLAINTS KNOWN TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON NUISANCES CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKS HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR NECESSARY ACTION.

/THE NOISE

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THE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY BLASTING HAD BEEN REDUCED AS A RESULT OF THE CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT AS LITTLE BLASTING WORKS AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN 11 PM AND 6 AM. THE FREQUENCY OF BLASTING OUTSIDE THIS PERIOD AND THE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES USED HAD ALSO BEEN REDUCED.

THE PROBLEM WOULD BE FURTHER ALLEVIATED WHEN BLASTING WAS CARRIED OUT AT A DISTANCE FARTHER AWAY FROM THE TUNNEL PORTALS, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LANDSCAPED EMBANKMENT AND A SOUNDPROOF BARRIER AT THE WORK SITE HAD ALSO REDUCED THE NOISE AND VIBRATIONS CAUSED BY BLASTING, TRAFFIC AND OTHER TUNNEL WORKS.

AS REGARDS WATER SUPPLY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTRACTOR HAD BEEN ADVISED TO AVOID DAMAGING WATERMAINS.

"WHEN A WATERMAIN BURSTS, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS NOTIFIED AT ONCE SO THAT URGENT REPAIRS MAY BE CARRIED OUT. STANDPIPES IN THE AREA ARE ALSO TURNED ON TO PROVIDE WATER TO AFFECTED RESIDENTS.

"WATER CONTAINER VEHICLES ARE ALSO DESPATCHED TO THE SCENE IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES," HE ADDED.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED OR BEING CARRIED OUT INCLUDED THE ERECTION OF DIRECTORY BOARDS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE NEAR GRANDVIEW ROAD TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF TRUCKS USING THE ROAD, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CONTRACTOR HAD BEEN SHOWERING THE CONSTRUCTION SITE TO REDUCE DUST, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT GRANDVIEW ROAD AND DIAMOND ROAD WOULD BE IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED IN AN ACCEPTABLE CONDITION FOR USE BY RESIDENTS.

"TWO UNOCCUPIED STRUCTURES IN THE AREA WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND ALL REFUSE AND DEBRIS WILL BE CLEARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"ALL CHOKED DRAINS AND STREAMS CAUSED BY THE DEBRIS WILL BE CLEARED," HE SAID.

REGARDING LIGHTING IN THE AREA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NUMBER OF STREET LIGHTS IN THE 18TH LANE HAD BEEN INCREASED, WHILE MORE WOULD BE ERECTED AT GRANDVIEW ROAD WHEN WORK ON THE DIVERSION OF THE ROAD WAS COMPLETED IN A FEW WEEKS.

AND POLLUTION OF THE STREAM AT THE DIAMOND NEW VILLAGE HAD BEEN REDUCED AS A RESULT OF SEPARATE EFFORTS BY THE DYEING FACTORIES AND THE DISTRICT BOARD.

"THE SITUATION WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED EARLY NEXT MONTH WHEN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE IMPROVEMENT WORK IS CARRIED OUT," HE SAID.

/TO AVOID

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TO AVOID NUISANCE TO RESIDENTS, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND DISTRICT BOARD, CARRIED OUT AN OPERATION TWO MONTHS AGO TO CATCH STRAY DOGS AND CATS IN THE AREA.

"THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL REQUEST THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT ANOTHER OPERATION AT NIGHT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM COMPLETELY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT A LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP HAD COMMENDED SOME OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

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PLOT RATIO INCREASE ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE PLANNED PLOT RATIO INCREASE CONCERNING A PRIVATE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT SITE IN ROBINSON ROAD AT ITS MEETING ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 14).

THE MEETING WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO MAKE THEATRE LANE IN CENTRAL A THROUGH ROAD FOR VEHICLES.

A MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO SUGGEST IMPROVEMENT OF THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ARRANGEMENT IN D'AGUILAR STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

AN INFORMATION PAPER ON MEASURES TO REDUCE NOISE AT THE WHITTY STREET TRAM DEPOT WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989

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AWARDS TO POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

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FORTY-EIGHT SECONDARY AND PRIMARY STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT A CEREMONY ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 17) AFTERNOON FOR THEIR WINNING ENTRIES TO THE HONG KONG COMPETITION OF THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST.

THE "PICTURE A PEACEFUL WORLD" POSTER CONTEST WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 AND THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TWO MONTHS AGO.

THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE SENT TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST IN CHICAGO, USA.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MRS C.H. KONG, AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR PAUL FAN, WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES TO THE WINNERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 17), BEGINNING AT 3 PM IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE HILTON HOTEL, CENTRAL. MR CHENG CHUN-FAT, INSPECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 16) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL. THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

ED8988	ED113	ED8	CN162
BS217	EB2	AS988	EE1028
EE1231	DZ9328	ED139	BC4
EE313	EE188	EE213	ED7773
BB1987	EC23	CA200	EE709
EE233	EE8223	EE115	ED525
EE1298	EE918	EE736	ED9599
EC777	BH1313	ED8999	ED7870
DD268	EE230	ED3002	ED6166
EE883	AS1668	EE11	EE9968

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989

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SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 145TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE REPLACEMENT OF FLYOVER BRIDGE JOINTS, THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD TO CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 14) TO 6 AM ON DECEMBER 24; FROM 9 PM ON DECEMBER 27 TO 6 AM ON DECEMBER 30; AND FROM 9 PM ON JANUARY 2 TO 6 AM ON JANUARY 6.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD SOUTHBOUND ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HONG CHONG ROAD, THE ACCESS RAMP LEADING TO THE KCR KOWLOON STATION PODIUM, CHEONG WAN ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH; OR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HONG CHONG ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD.

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