



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SCREENING AND REPATRIATION
REMAIN LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO VR PROBLEM
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM POSITION ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IS THAT IT HOPES TO INTRODUCE A SCREENING PROGRAMME SO THAT AS A RESULT OF THE SCREENING SOME REFUGEES WOULD BE SENT BACK TO VIETNAM IF THEY ARE PROVED NOT TO BE REFUGEES IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, THIS AFTERNOON WHEN ASKED TO CLARIFY THE GOVERNMENT STAND ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

+THIS HAS BEEN OUR LONG TERM HOPE FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME AND IT DOES DEPEND ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BEING ABLE TO TAKE UP THE SITUATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR FORD SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS VERY WELL AWARE OF THE PRESSURES THERE WERE ON HONG KONG IN TERMS OF THE PROBLEM.

+IT'S NOT A PROBLEM THAT IS GOING AWAY EASILY, AND WE ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT IT, AND OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT OTHER OPTIONS OPEN TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IF REPATRIATION WAS NOT VIABLE, MR FORD SAID:

+THE OPTIONS ARE PRETTY LIMITED, AS YOU KNOW. WE ARE STILL WORKING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REPATRIATION, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.

+IF WE AREN'T ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT IN THAT WAY, THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO PRESS AHEAD ON RESETTLEMENT. THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAT'S OPEN TO US.+

MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE POSITION WAS THAT THEY NEEDED TO BE MORE SURE THAN THEY WERE AT PRESENT OF THE TREATMENT THAT REFUGEES WOULD HAVE IF THEY WERE RETURNED.

+THAT IS THEIR PRESENT POSITION, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT IT'S THEIR POSITION FOREVER,+ HE ADDED.

MR FORD ALSO STRESSED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, DID NOT INDICATE IN HIS EARLIER SPEECH THAT A FIRM DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

+HE PRESENTED IT AS A PROPOSAL,+ HE SAID.

/THE PROPOSAL

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THE PROPOSAL FOR SCREENING WAS MADE SOME TIME AGO AND THE PROPOSAL FOR REPATRIATION WAS ONE WHICH +IS STILL ON THE CARDS+, HE SAID.

ASKED HOW LONG THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO WORK OUT THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES, MR FORD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS RELYING ON OTHER COUNTRIES MAKING AN APPROACH TO VIETNAM.

+OBVIOUSLY SOME OF THE COUNTRIES WHO ARE PRESENTLY RECEIVING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARE INTERESTED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

MR FORD SAID THAT THE SITUATION HAD MOVED A VERY LONG WAY SINCE THE UNHCR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN 1979, WHICH SET UP THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR THE COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM AND RESETTLEMENT.

+OBVIOUSLY IN TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE MOUNTED IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS TO BE PUT TOGETHER,+ HE ADDED.

MR FORD DESCRIBED HIS FIRST TRIP TO SHENZHEN AS USEFUL, PLEASANT AND INSTRUCTIVE.

HE SAID HE SAW THE PORT DEVELOPMENT AND SOME MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY THERE, ADDING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT IN SHENZHEN AFTER SIX YEARS OF TURNING ITSELF FROM A VILLAGE INTO A CITY OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE HAD BEEN IMPRESSIVE.

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD LUNCH WITH THE MAYOR AND THEY HAD AN +INTERESTING+ DISCUSSION OF HONG KONG'S RECENT DEVELOPMENT.

+I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO LOOK AT THE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE BORDER AND HONG KONG AND INDEED IN THE DELTA ALTOGETHER, AND WE TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR LIAISON ON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT, ON LINKS IN TERMS OF ROAD LINKS AND RAILINGS AND THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE AND HOW WE MIGHT IMPROVE THOSE IN THE FUTURE,+ MR FORD SAID.

HE SAID THEY HAD ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE TWO SIDES STRENGTHENED THE PLANNING LINKS IN FUTURE REGULAR MEETINGS, ADDING THAT DETAILS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE.

ASKED WHETHER THE SUBJECT OF AIRPORTS HAD BEEN RAISED IN THEIR DISCUSSION, MR FORD SAID HE HAD BRIEFED THE SHENZHEN MAYOR, MR LI HAO, ON HONG KONG'S CURRENT THINKING ON THE AIRPORT AND WAS TOLD ABOUT CHINA'S HOPES FOR AN AIRPORT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER.

+WE OBVIOUSLY AGREED THAT WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR DECISIONS THERE MUST BE TALKS BETWEEN US ON HOW THE BEST DEVELOPMENT COULD HAPPEN,+ HE SAID.

/MR FORD

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MR FORD SAID HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT CHINA WAS STILL LOOKING AT FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND THAT ITS PLANS WERE AT A VERY EARLY STAGE.

+AND I THINK THERE AREN'T FIRM DECISIONS ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE A SMALL AIRPORT OR FOR SERVING LOCAL CHINA NEEDS OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE A LARGER AIRPORT,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD CONFLICT WITH HONG KONG'S NEW SECOND AIRPORT, MR FORD SAID: +I THINK THAT PLANNING IS AT SUCH AN EARLY STAGE THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY QUESTION OF CONFLICT THERE.+

+I CERTAINLY DO NOT THINK THAT WILL CREATE A PROBLEM FOR US,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED WHEN CHINA AND HONG KONG WOULD MEET AND DISCUSS THE PROBLEM, MR FORD SAID THERE WOULD BE QUITE SOME TIME YET.

+OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE AT A VERY EARLY STAGE OF PLANNING. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE OF KAI TAK, AND THAT WE WON'T BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN HONG KONG, I THINK, FOR AT LEAST TWO OR THREE YEARS. SO LONG AS WE STAY IN TOUCH IN THE MEANTIME, I THINK THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO DO,+ HE SAID.

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES GAZETTED
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THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WHICH AIMS CHIEFLY TO IMPROVE OR STREAMLINE CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE AND TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CONTROL OF SPECIFIED PROCESSES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SPECIFIED PROCESSES COVER MAJOR AIR POLLUTANTS AND PLANTS OF HIGH AIR POLLUTION POTENTIAL SUCH AS ELECTRICITY WORKS, CEMENT WORKS AND INCINERATORS.

TWENTY-THREE CATEGORIES OF PROCESSES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS SPECIFIED PROCESSES. APART FROM THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE, OTHERS INCLUDE ACRYLATE WORKS, ALUMINIUM WORKS, CERAMIC WORKS, CHLORINE WORKS, COPPER WORKS, GAS WORKS, IRON AND STEEL WORKS, METAL RECOVERY WORKS, MINERAL WORKS, PETROCHEMICAL WORKS, SULPHURIC ACID WORKS, TAR AND BITUMEN WORKS, FRIT WORKS, LEAD WORKS, AMINES WORKS, ASBESTOS WORKS, CHEMICAL INCINERATION WORKS, HYDROCHLORIC ACID WORKS, HYDROGEN CYANIDE WORKS, AND SULPHIDE WORKS.

/THERE ARE

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THERE ARE 106 EXISTING SUCH WORKS IN HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS.

NEW SPECIFIED PROCESS WORKS WILL BE SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. HOWEVER, EXISTING WORKS ALREADY REGISTERED WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR EXEMPTION FROM LICENSING PROCEDURES.

BUT HE ADDED THAT EXEMPTION WILL LAPSE WITH ANY CHANGE, MODIFICATION OR RENEWAL OF PLANT.

BY INSTALLATION OF NEW PLANT, FOR EXAMPLE, AN EXISTING SPECIFIED PROCESS WORKS WILL BECOME SUBJECT TO LICENSING. THE APPROACH IS TO CONTROL EXISTING PROCESSES AS THEY CHANGE OR INTRODUCE NEW PROCESSES.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER SAID THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, PROTECTS TRADE AND MANUFACTURING SECRETS; ALLOWS TRANSFER OF LICENCE; AND STIPULATES PENALTIES FOR SUPPLY OF INCORRECT INFORMATION AND VIOLATION OF LICENSING AND EXEMPTION CONDITIONS.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) FIRST CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN MAY LAST YEAR AND ADVISED THAT INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

AN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION EXERCISE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRANGED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THIRTY-THREE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS WERE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BILL. MEETINGS WERE ALSO ORGANISED AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT BRIEFED INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROPOSALS.

SIX WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED LAST OCTOBER. TWO ORGANISATIONS INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT WHILE THE OTHER FOUR HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN GENERAL ALTHOUGH THEY HAD MADE SPECIFIC COMMENTS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WAS AMENDED IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AND WAS ENDORSED BY EPCOM IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON MARCH 24 AND APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE FIRST AND THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED ON MAY 6.

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UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES 1987 GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES
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+THE US ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 2, 1987 SOME CHANGES TO ITS GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES,+ A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CHANGES WHICH WILL AFFECT HONG KONG ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (I) NINE NEW ITEMS INCLUDING CERTAIN HOUSEHOLD WARE, AND TIME SWITCHES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE GSP LIST. US IMPORTS OF THESE NINE ITEMS FROM HONG KONG IN 1986 AMOUNTED TO US \$1.1 MILLION. SUCH IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG WILL IN FUTURE BE ELIGIBLE FOR GSP BENEFITS.
- (II) ELEVEN ITEMS INCLUDING CORDLESS HANDSET TELEPHONES, ANTENNAS, AND CERTAIN TOY ITEMS HAVE BEEN RE-DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY-FREE GSP STATUS. IMPORTS OF THESE ITEMS FROM HONG KONG IN 1986 WERE US \$188.8 MILLION.
- (III) DE MINIMUS WAIVERS HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO CERTAIN PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF WHICH FROM HONG KONG IN 1986 AMOUNTED TO US \$29.2 MILLION.
- (IV) HONG KONG WILL LOSE ELIGIBILITY IN 10 ITEMS, TRADE IN WHICH IN 1986 AMOUNTED TO US \$329 MILLION.

THESE CHANGES WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1987.

IN OVERALL TERMS, BASED ON 1986 DATA, HONG KONG WILL LOSE ELIGIBILITY IN ABOUT US \$140 MILLION WORTH OF TRADE. THIS COMPARES WITH A TOTAL US \$1.2 BILLION OF TRADE FROM HONG KONG WHICH ENJOYED GSP DUTY FREE STATUS IN 1985.

COMMENTING ON THE CHANGES, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THEY AROSE FROM THE 1987 REVIEW OF THE GSP PROGRAMME. THE REVIEW DECIDES THE ELIGIBILITY STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS BASED ON 1986 TRADE DATA, MEASURED AGAINST THE COMPETITIVE NEED LEVELS SET FOR EACH PRODUCT UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME. THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW WAS COMPLETED ON JANUARY 2, 1987.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MOST OF THE TRADE WHICH WILL BE REDESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR GSP BENEFITS AS A RESULT OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW IS FOR PRODUCTS WHICH WERE GRANTED A WAIVER FROM PAYING DUTY UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW.

MOST OF THE TRADE WHICH WILL LOSE ELIGIBILITY LIES IN PRODUCTS FOR WHICH THE NEW, LOWER COMPETITIVE NEED LEVELS WERE PUT IN PLACE UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE RESULTS IN MORE DETAIL WHEN FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CHANGES BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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Q.W. LEE HEADS YOUDE FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HANG SENG BANK, MR LEE QUO-WEI, HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS SET UP UNDER THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD COMPRISE LADY YOUDE, WHO WILL ALSO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FUND; THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO; LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, MR PETER POON WING-CHEUNG WHO IS AN ACCOUNTANT AND MR J.J. SWAINE, A QUEEN'S COUNSEL AND A STEWARD OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB. THEY HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE BOARD FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 1987 TO MARCH 31, 1990.

IN HER MESSAGE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND, LADY YOUDE SAID: +I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS AND ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO GENEROUSLY TO THE FUND.

+I AM DELIGHTED TO KNOW THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS HAS SO FAR REACHED \$80 MILLION,+ SHE SAID.

LADY YOUDE ALSO THANKED SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND MEMBERS OF THE FUND COMMITTEE FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN PUBLICISING THE FUND AND IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT.

+I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SERVING AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FUND,+ SHE ADDED.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE BOARD IS EMPOWERED TO INVEST ANY MONEYS OF THE FUNDS, TO EMPLOY ANY PROFESSIONAL PERSON OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO ADVISE IT ON INVESTMENT MATTERS, TO BORROW MONEY AND TO ACCUMULATE ANY INCOME OF THE FUND.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO COVER THE FURTHERANCE OF EDUCATION, LEARNING OR RESEARCH LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND TO ENABLE GRANTS OR LOANS TO BE MADE FOR THAT PURPOSE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BASED IN HONG KONG.

THE APPLICATION OF THE INCOME OF THE FUND WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL AND SERVICED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

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SLOPE SAFETY GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY

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THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO SLOPE SAFETY IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF RESOURCES BEING EXPENDED AND POSITIVE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, DR EDWARD BRAND, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID WORKS WOULD BE IN PROGRESS ON 91 SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$66 MILLION THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

OF THE 62 SLOPES AND WALLS ON WHICH WORK IS TO START DURING THE YEAR, 19 ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX IN KOWLOON AND THE REST IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

WORK ON 29 SLOPES AND WALLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE PERIOD.

IN 1986-87, \$64 MILLION HAD BEEN SPENT ON STABILISING 83 SLOPES AND WALLS OVER THE TERRITORY. THIRTY OF THEM WERE COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

DR BRAND STRESSED THAT ROUTINE CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHECKING OF ALL NEW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GEOTECHNICAL DESIGNS, CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF HIS OFFICE.

+THESE ACTIVITIES ENSURE THAT UNSATISFACTORY SLOPES, RETAINING WALLS AND SITE FORMATION WORKS ARE NOT CONSTRUCTED, AND THAT EXISTING UNSAFE SLOPES AND WALLS ARE INVESTIGATED AND RECTIFIED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

FROM 1976, THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE HAS BEEN PURSUING RIGOROUSLY ITS LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF STABILISATION MEASURES TO UNSATISFACTORY SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS.

SINCE THEN MORE THAN \$650 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON STABILISING MORE THAN 450 SLOPES AND WALLS IN THE TERRITORY.

EXPENDITURE ON THE PROGRAMME CONTINUES AT THE RATE OF MORE THAN \$65 MILLION PER YEAR, WHILE ANNUAL SLOPE MAINTENANCE COST IS AN ADDITIONAL \$40 MILLION.

THESE DO NOT INCLUDE STABILISATION WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AS PART OF CAPITAL PROJECTS.

FROM 1986-87, THE PROGRAMME HAS INCLUDED STABILISATION OF SOME UNSATISFACTORY SLOPES AND WALLS WHICH COULD INDIRECTLY CAUSE LOSS OF LIFE BY MAJOR DISRUPTION TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

/THESE INVOLVE

THESE INVOLVE SLOPES ALONG ROADS WHICH PROVIDE SOLE ACCESS TO HOSPITALS, RESERVOIRS, RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND SO ON. FOUR SUCH SLOPES, COSTING ABOUT \$4 MILLION TO STABILISE, ARE INCLUDED IN THE WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

OCCUPATION OF UNSAFE SLOPES BY SQUATTERS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.

THESE SLOPES CANNOT BE RECTIFIED UNDER THE PROGRAMME BECAUSE LARGE CLEARANCES ARE INVARIABLY NEEDED BEFORE WORK CAN BE CARRIED OUT. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION WILL BE IMPROVED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

SQUATTERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLEARED FROM LAND REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND THIS WILL COVER SOME SITES OCCUPIED BY SQUATTERS ON UNSAFE SLOPES.

THE OFFICE IS CONTINUING TO CARRY OUT STABILISATION WORK WHERE POSSIBLE ON SLOPES WHICH AFFECT SQUATTERS. EIGHT SLOPES ARE BEING STABILISED PRIMARILY TO SAFEGUARD THESE PEOPLE THIS YEAR.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, APART FROM UNDERTAKING ITS SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES IN SELECTED SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS, IS IMPLEMENTING THE NON-DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, UNDER WHICH 50 000 SQUATTERS ARE BEING CLEARED FROM THE MOST UNSTABLE SLOPES BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

OTHER WORKS OF THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE INCLUDE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS LABORATORIES, MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF QUARRIES, AND PROVISION OF SITE INVESTIGATION, TERRAIN EVALUATION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES.

DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, A LARGE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDING IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE FOR THOSE CONCERNED WITH PLANNING, LAND DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND QUARRYING WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC.

MORE IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS ARE THE SERIES OF NEW GEOLOGICAL MAPS WITH SIX ACCOMPANYING MEMOIRS AND THE SERIES OF GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDY PROGRAMME REPORTS.

COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE QUALITY, RANGE OF EDUCATION STRESSED
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TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN A LONG STANDING PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE STUDENT UNION OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE WAS APPARENT BY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON EDUCATION EACH YEAR.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION INCREASED FROM \$5 105 MILLION IN 1982-83 TO \$9 758 MILLION IN 1987-88, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE FROM 14.3 PER CENT TO 18.3 PER CENT IN TERMS OF ITS SHARE OF GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL SPENDING.

+SOME 25 PER CENT OF THE ALLOCATION FOR THIS NEW FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE SPENT ON TERTIARY EDUCATION,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THAT BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, THERE WOULD BE 8 800 FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE PLACES IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

+THE COMPLETION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC IS DOUBTLESSLY ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

+SO FAR TWO DEGREE COURSES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE CITY POLYTECHNIC, BUT IT IS PLANNED THAT DEGREE COURSES WILL, IN TIME, BE OFFERED TO ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO RECOGNISED THE NEED TO INVEST FURTHER IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

+IT IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE THAT HONG KONG NOT ONLY HAS A SUFFICIENT POOL OF TRAINED MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS, BUT ALSO THE EXPERTISE TO ENABLE INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG TO COMPETE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY.

+IN THIS REGARD, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RESEARCH BEING UNDERTAKEN IN OUR INSTITUTIONS AND SOME \$45 MILLION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE CURRENT TRIENNIUM,+ HE SAID.

FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES UPON GRADUATION EITHER IN HONG KONG OR OVERSEAS, MR CHAN SAID THAT FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN THE FORM OF A WIDE RANGE OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

HE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND WOULD BE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE UP RESEARCH WORKS IN FIELDS RELATED TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

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YEN VALUE MAKES HK MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR JAPANESE INVESTORS

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THE RECENT DRAMATIC RISE IN VALUE OF THE YEN AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR HAS MADE HONG KONG, WHICH IS LINKED TO THE U.S. DOLLAR, PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE FOR THE JAPANESE, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A NEW FACTORY COMPLEX OF THE JAPANESE NIPPON HUME CONCRETE (HK) LTD IN THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR YEUNG SAID THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE COMPANIES COMING TO HONG KONG HAD INCREASED ACCORDINGLY.

TO ASSIST INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM OVERSEAS, TO RESOLVE THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS THEY WERE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER IN SETTING UP FACTORIES IN HONG KONG, MR YEUNG SAID A ONE-STOP UNIT HAD BEEN SET UP UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION DIVISION OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT A WIDE RANGE OF FACTORS NEEDED TO BE CONSIDERED BY AN INVESTOR SETTING UP A FACTORY HERE, AS IN ANY OTHER LOCATION. MANAGEMENT MUST ASSESS THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF INDUSTRIAL LAND, LABOUR, FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES, AS WELL AS THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUILDING AND SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION ON THE TYPE OF INDUSTRY IN WHICH THEY WERE INVOLVED.

+ALL THIS COULD INVOLVE A TIRESOME AND TIME-CONSUMING ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS FROM NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AND BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS, AND IT IS TO HELP INVESTORS SORT OUT ALL THEIR PROBLEMS THROUGH ONE FOCAL POINT THAT WE HAVE SET UP THE ONE-STOP UNIT.+

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, SAID THERE HAD BEEN A VERY STRONG INTEREST IN INVESTING IN HONG KONG AND A GENERAL REALISATION OF THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

WHILE ONLY THREE SITES WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 2.4 HECTARES WERE GRANTED IN 1985-86, EIGHT GRANTEEES SIGNED AGREEMENTS IN 1986-87 TO LEASE 6.6 HECTARES AND FOUR FURTHER APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED FOR A TOTAL AREA OF 5.7 HECTARES WHICH WERE STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION.

MR CHEONG SAID BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FACTORS HAD RAPIDLY INCREASED THE ESTATE'S POPULARITY.

+EXTERNALLY, CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BROUGHT YUEN LONG CLOSER TO THE MAIN URBAN AREAS AND THE ESTATE IS NOW LESS THAN 40 MINUTES DRIVING TIME FROM THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS.

/+WITH THE

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+WITH THE COMPLETION NEXT YEAR OF THE ROAD LINK AT LOK MA CHAU, IT WILL BE LESS THAN 15 MINUTES DRIVE FROM A MAJOR CROSSING POINT INTO THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE.

+THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST NEXT YEAR, AND TRAVELLING TIME ON THE SYSTEM TO TUEN MUN WILL BE ONLY 25 MINUTES.+

MOREOVER, MR CHEONG SAID HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS HAD INCREASED THE LOCAL SUPPLY OF LABOUR.

+RESIDENTS ARE ALREADY MOVING INTO THE NEARBY LONG PING HOUSING ESTATE AND THIS WILL BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH A POPULATION OF 35 000 BY AUGUST THIS YEAR.

+INTERNALLY, THE LAND PREMIUM HERE IS CURRENTLY ONLY \$900 PER SQUARE METRE, WHICH IS \$200 PER SQUARE METRE CHEAPER THAN THE PRICE AT THE OTHER INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AT TAI PO.

+THERE IS ALSO A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SIZE AND CONFIGURATION OF SITES AVAILABLE HERE WITH 53 HECTARES OF LAND STILL REMAINING TO BE TAKEN UP, AND LESSEES ARE ALLOWED TO USE HEAVY FUEL OIL WITH 2.5 PER CENT SULPHUR CONTENT, WHICH REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL SAVING IN FUEL COSTS OVER SOME OTHER AREAS OF HONG KONG.+

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LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PAPER REVIEWED

THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HELD A MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON AND CONSIDERED A PAPER REVIEWING THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PROVISIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE PAPER WAS COMPILED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE FIRST YEAR OPERATION OF THE SCHEME AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC.

AT THE MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, BOARD MEMBERS NOTED THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS AND OPTIONS CONTAINED IN THE PAPER WHICH IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

USEFUL VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED AND IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUE, IT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAILS AT A LATER DATE.

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GENERAL HOLIDAYS IN 1988 ANNOUNCED
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THE LIST OF 1988 GENERAL HOLIDAYS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS CHING MING AND EASTER MONDAY BOTH FALL ON THE SAME DAY (APRIL 4, 1988) THERE IS TO BE AN ADDITIONAL GENERAL HOLIDAY ON APRIL 5, 1988. THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WILL BE ON JUNE 11, 1988.

ALL OTHER HOLIDAYS IN 1988 WILL BE TAKEN ON THE DAYS ON WHICH THEY FALL DUE.

GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR ANY YEAR IN HONG KONG ARE NORMALLY PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL OF THE PRECEDING YEAR.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR 1988:

EVERY SUNDAY

THE FIRST WEEK-DAY IN JANUARY	FRIDAY	1 JANUARY
LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY	WEDNESDAY	17 FEBRUARY
THE SECOND DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR	THURSDAY	18 FEBRUARY
THE THIRD DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR	FRIDAY	19 FEBRUARY
GOOD FRIDAY	FRIDAY	1 APRIL
THE DAY FOLLOWING GOOD FRIDAY	SATURDAY	2 APRIL
EASTER MONDAY/CHING MING FESTIVAL	MONDAY	4 APRIL
ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY	TUESDAY	5 APRIL
THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN	SATURDAY	11 JUNE
THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY	MONDAY	13 JUNE
TUEN NG FESTIVAL	SATURDAY	18 JUNE
THE SATURDAY PRECEDING THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST	SATURDAY	27 AUGUST
LIBERATION DAY, BEING THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST	MONDAY	29 AUGUST

THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL	MONDAY	26 SEPTEMBER
CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL	WEDNESDAY	19 OCTOBER
CHRISTMAS DAY	SUNDAY	25 DECEMBER
THE FIRST WEEK-DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY	MONDAY	26 DECEMBER
THE SECOND WEEK-DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY	TUESDAY	27 DECEMBER

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REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF UNISTOCK FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986.

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LIST OF ANTIBIOTICS EXPANDED
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THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AN EXPANDED LIST OF ANTIBIOTICS WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THE ANTIBIOTICS ORDINANCE WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 1, 1987.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH SAID THAT THE EXPANDED LIST INCLUDE EIGHT ANTIBIOTICS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED SINCE THE LIST WAS LAST AMENDED 10 YEARS AGO.

THE NEW SUBSTANCES INCLUDE AMPHOMYCIN, CLAVULANIC ACID, FOSFOMYCIN, MONENSIN, NATAMYCIN, PLEUROMUTILIN, ACLARUBICIN AND MUPIROCIN.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION ALL ANTIBIOTICS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED AS THEY ARE POTENT SUBSTANCES WHICH MAY PRODUCE HARMFUL EFFECT AND RESISTANT BACTERIAL STRAINS IF NOT USED PROPERLY.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONS ARE ALLOWED TO SELL, SUPPLY OR ADMINISTER BY WAY OF TREATMENT ANTIBIOTICS LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ANTIBIOTICS REGULATIONS. ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS SUCH AN OFFENCE IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$10 000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

THE ANTIBIOTICS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1987 WHICH PROPOSED THE INCLUSION OF THESE EIGHT NEW ANTIBIOTICS IN THE LIST WERE MADE ON MARCH 24 BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1987

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LO TIK WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE BOUNDARIES EXTENDED
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE EXTENSION OF THE LO TIK WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE ON LAMMA ISLAND UNDER THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE.

THE EXTENSION, WHICH TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT FOLLOWING A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, INVOLVES THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE EXISTING ZONE BOUNDARIES, RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN ITS DESIGNATED AREA FROM 4.1 HECTARES TO 11 HECTARES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES), DR CHRISTOPHER LEE, SAID THE EXTENSION WAS MADE TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR FISH CULTURE SPACE FROM MARICULTURISTS.

LO TIK WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE IS AMONG THE MOST POPULAR OF THE 28 FISH CULTURE ZONES DESIGNATED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

+APART FROM THE 56 LICENSEES ALREADY PRACTISING IN THE AREA, MANY APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS FOR SITES IN LO TIK WAN. THE PRESENT EXTENSION SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATER FOR UP TO 70 APPLICANTS ALREADY WAITING FOR SITES IN THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ZONE WAS TAKEN AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND DUE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MARICULTURISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE EXTENSION IS PART OF AN OVERALL REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR ON LOCAL MARICULTURE PRACTICES. THE REVIEW RESULTED IN THE REVISION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF SEVEN FISH CULTURE ZONES AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE YIM TIN TSAI (EAST) FISH CULTURE ZONE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

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REMINDER TO PAY SECOND QUARTER RATES
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RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987 MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON APRIL 30.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT LATE PAYMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE AND A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT ON ACCOUNTS STILL OUTSTANDING SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

HE SAID RATEPAYERS SHOULD HAVE BY NOW RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES.

/THOSE WHO

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES SHOULD APPLY FOR A COPY AT THE RATES SECTION OF THE TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG; THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON; OR THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON.

+NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT RATES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE DUE DATE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PREMISES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE RATING ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO REFUND IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES, UNLESS IT IS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT RATEPAYERS WHO HAD SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING +PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY AUTOPAY+ WAS SHOWN IN THE NOTE.

IN THIS CASE THEIR PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON APRIL 30, 1987.

IN THIS CONNECTION, RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

TO AVOID QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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BANNER PRESENTED TO FARMERS ON AUSTRALIAN STUDY TOUR
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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRESENTED A BANNER TO A DELEGATION OF 15 VEGETABLE FARMERS WHO WILL BE LEAVING ON MONDAY (APRIL 6) ON A 10-DAY STUDY TOUR OF AUSTRALIA.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, THE TOUR -- THE TENTH SINCE 1977 -- IS THE FIRST TO AUSTRALIA.

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SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, DR LEE SAID THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY TOURS WERE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL VEGETABLE FARMERS TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, TO LEARN ADVANCED VEGETABLE CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES AND TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH MARKETING PRACTICES ADOPTED BY ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE VISITS ENABLED THEM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS.

HE NOTED THAT NINE SIMILAR TOURS HAD BEEN ORGANISED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, HOLLAND, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

+THESE TOURS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPATING FARMERS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AS THEY HAVE BROUGHT BACK USEFUL TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND HAVE SHARED IT WITH THEIR FELLOW FARMERS,+ DR LEE SAID.

WHILE IN AUSTRALIA, THE DELEGATION, ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURAL OFFICER MR C.C. CHAN, WILL VISIT RESEARCH CENTRES, WHOLESALE MARKETS AND VEGETABLE FARMS TO SEE THE LATEST TECHNIQUES IN GROWING BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWERS, CELERY AND ROOT CROPS.

THEY WILL ALSO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND THE QUEENSLAND CHAMBER OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

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BANGLADESH JOINS SPEEDPOST NETWORK

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO BANGLADESH FROM TUESDAY (APRIL 7), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS WILL BRING TO 50 THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE SPEEDPOST NETWORK SERVED FROM HONG KONG.

SPEEDPOST ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE METROPOLITAN CITY AREA OF DHAKA, AND THE MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION OF CHITTAGONG, KHULNA AND RAJSHAHI IN BANGLADESH.

ITEMS POSTED ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY FOR THE METROPOLITAN CITY AREA OF DHAKA WILL BE DELIVERED THE NEXT WORKING DAY WHILE THOSE POSTED ON TUESDAY WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE SECOND WORKING DAY. FOR OTHER AREAS IN BANGLADESH DELIVERY WILL NORMALLY TAKE ONE WORKING DAY LONGER.

BOTH +CONTRACT+ AND +ON DEMAND+ SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

/THE MAXIMUM

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THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT PER ITEM IS 20 KG AND THE POSTAGE RATES ARE:

ITEMS WEIGHING UNDER 250G	\$ 70
ITEMS WEIGHING BETWEEN 250G AND 500G	\$ 80
EACH SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL 500G	\$ 25

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE TO BANGLADESH AND THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE GENERALLY SHOULD CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8471108.

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LOOKING AT OPERATION OF CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, VISITED THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND KAI TAK AIRPORT THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR TREVOR THORPE, MR GREWAL CALLED ON THE AIR SERVICES, THE AVIATION SAFETY, THE TECHNICAL AND PLANNING AND THE FINANCE DIVISIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON ITS ORGANISATION, DIVISIONAL FUNCTIONS AND STAFFING.

MR GREWAL MET STAFF OF DIFFERENT LEVELS AND DISCUSSED VARIOUS CIVIL SERVICE MATTERS WHICH INCLUDED STAFF BENEFITS, TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS, QUARTERING AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL GRADES.

AT KAI TAK, HE MET STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND SAW STAFF AT WORK IN THE FLIGHT INFORMATION ROOM, THE VIP RECEPTION SECTION, AIRPORT MANAGEMENT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION, THE AERODROME CONTROL TOWER AND THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE.

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CHING MING TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR HONG KONG ISLAND
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THE PUBLIC IS REMINDED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHING MING FESTIVAL, SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON HONG KONG ISLAND BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY), APRIL 5, 6, 11 AND 12.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD EAST OF LIN SHING ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, EXCEPT FOR LOCAL ACCESS.
- * THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND CREMATORIUM FROM CAPE COLLINSON ROAD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO HEARSES AND VEHICLES CARRYING PASSENGERS TO SERVICES AT THE CREMATORIUM.
- * THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO CHAI WAN CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD MAY BE CLOSED WITHOUT NOTICE, DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.
- * CAPE COLLINSON ROAD BETWEEN LIN SHING ROAD AND SHEK O ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.
- * LIN SHING ROAD BETWEEN WAN TSUI ROAD AND CAPE COLLINSON ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- * WAN TSUI ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE.
- * NO PARKING WILL BE PERMITTED ALONG CAPE COLLINSON ROAD, LIN SHING ROAD AND THE SECTION OF SHEK O ROAD BETWEEN CAPE COLLINSON TRAINING CENTRE AND TAI TAM ROAD FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM TOMORROW, SUNDAY, APRIL 6 AND 12.
- * CONSORT RISE IN POK FU LAM WILL BECOME ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM VICTORIA ROAD TO BISNEY ROAD.
- * PEEL RISE NEAR ABERDEEN CHINESE CEMETERY AND THE SLIP ROAD FROM SHEK PAI WAN ROAD TO ABERDEEN CHINESE CEMETERY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

CMB ROUTE 57 FROM CENTRAL (EXCHANGE SQUARE) TO VICTORIA ROAD WILL RUN FROM 7 AM TO 5.52 PM ON SUNDAY ONLY AT A FREQUENCY OF SEVEN TO EIGHT MINUTES, WHILE ROUTE 89 BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN BUS TERMINUS TO CHAI WAN CEMETERY VIA CHAI WAN MTR STATION (CIRCULAR) WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 6 PM ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY AT A FREQUENCY OF FIVE MINUTES.

IN ADDITION, CMB ROUTES 80, 81, 81M, 82, 83, 84, 780 AND CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 106, AND GREEN MINIBUSES ON ROUTES 16M AND 18M WILL BE DIVERTED AS A RESULT OF THE ROAD CLOSURE AND RE-ROUTING MEASURES IN CHAI WAN.

CONGESTION IS EXPECTED ON APPROACH ROADS TO CEMETERIES AND MOTORISTS SHOULD AVOID THESE AREAS IF POSSIBLE.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITING CHOIR MEMBERS
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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR ITS CHINESE FOLK SINGING CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE AND THOSE AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 12 INTERESTED IN CHINESE FOLK SONGS ARE INVITED TO APPLY.

THE ENSEMBLE, FORMED IN 1981 TO PROMOTE SINGING, HAS PERFORMED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS INTRODUCING A GREAT VARIETY OF CHINESE FOLK SONGS.

IT REHEARSES ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS AT THE MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 25. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN AUDITION.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7149255.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CENTRAL
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TO FACILITATE UTILITY DIVERSION WORK, THE SLIP ROAD SOUTH OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STORY CARPARK WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TO NOON ON SUNDAY (APRIL 5).

ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE BANNED FROM THE SAME SLIP ROAD FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 7) FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. THE BAN THIS TIME IS TO FACILITATE THE DIVERSION OF CABLES.

AFFECTED VEHICLES SHOULD PROCEED VIA QUEENSWAY, RODNEY STREET, DRAKE STREET, TAMAR STREET, HARCOURT ROAD TO REJOIN COTTON TREE DRIVE.

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FIRST AID COURSE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD TWO IDENTICAL FIRST AID COURSES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEXT MONTH.

EACH COMPRISING EIGHT HALF-DAY SESSIONS, THE COURSES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE AREA HEADQUARTERS AT EITHER MACDONNELL ROAD, HONG KONG, OR 104 WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON.

CERTIFICATES FROM ST JOHN AMBULANCE WILL BE AWARDED TO CANDIDATES WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE COURSE.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE COURSE SHOULD REACH THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, BY APRIL 8.

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