



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1993

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GOVT WILL DEFEND PRESS FREEDOM: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND HE HIMSELF WOULD DEFEND THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS "UP HILL AND DOWN DALE".

"WE ARE TAKING WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS WE CAN TO HELP SHORE IT UP," MR PATTEN SAID.

BUT ULTIMATELY, HE ADDED, THE DAY-TO-DAY CUSTODIANS OF PRESS FREEDOM ARE THE PRACTITIONERS THEMSELVES - THE REPORTERS, THE NEWS EDITORS, THE EDITORS, THE PROPRIETORS WHO WORK FOR AND OWN THE HONG KONG PRESS.

"WE IN GOVERNMENT CAN AND WILL DO OUR BIT. BUT WE RELY ON YOU TO DO YOURS."

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM CONFERENCE.

HE SAID ALL THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG NEEDED A FREE PRESS NOW MORE THAN EVER AS THE TERRITORY WAS PASSING THROUGH A UNIQUE PERIOD IN ITS HISTORY, A UNIQUE PERIOD IN WORLD HISTORY.

"THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DIFFICULTIES IN THE RUN-UP TO THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

"THEY WILL MEAN - INDEED THEY ARE MEANING ALREADY - SPECIAL CHALLENGES AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE HONG KONG PRESS."

MR PATTEN SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD A RIGHT TO EXPECT THE PRESS TO:

- * GIVE THEM THE NEWS, TRUE AND STRAIGHT, WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR;
- * INVESTIGATE, ANALYSE AND EXPLAIN;
- * KEEP NEWS TO THE NEWS PAGES, EDITORIALS TO THE EDITORIAL PAGES; AND
- * ASK THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AND INSIST ON THE ANSWERS, FROM BOTH PARTIES TO AN ARGUMENT.

"IT WON'T ALWAYS BE EASY. IT WON'T ALWAYS BE COMFORTABLE," HE SAID.

BUT MR PATTEN WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD LIVE UP TO THESE CHALLENGES IN THE YEARS AHEAD BY DISPLAYING THE RELENTLESS SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY, THE DEDICATION, THE COURAGE, THE COMMITMENT TO THEIR PROFESSION AND THEIR PUBLIC FOR WHICH THEY WERE KNOWN.

"'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'. FOR OUR SYSTEM IN HONG KONG TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER, PROPRIETORS, EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY, TOO, BELIEVE PASSIONATELY IN THE VALUES OF AN OPEN SOCIETY.

"I AM SURE THEY WILL NOT BETRAY THAT TRUST," HE SAID.

GOVERNOR TO PRESENT POLICY ADDRESS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL PRESENT HIS SECOND POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 6) WHEN HE OPENS THE 1993/94 SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

MR PATTEN WILL BEGIN HIS ADDRESS AT 2.30 PM. THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON ALL FOUR TELEVISION CHANNELS, AS WELL AS RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG CHANNELS 1 AND 5.

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM 4.30 PM THAT DAY AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

A SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE AS WELL.

THE SUMMARY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT SEVEN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS BETWEEN 4.30 PM AND 7 PM ON THAT DAY. THE STATIONS ARE CENTRAL, CAUSEWAY BAY, TAI KOO, TSIM SHA TSUI, MONG KOK, TSUEN WAN AND WONG TAI SIN.

IN THE EVENING, MR PATTEN WILL GIVE A BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION ON THE MAIN AREAS OF HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A SPECIAL CLOSED-DOOR WORKING SESSION WILL BE ARRANGED ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 6) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE TO ENABLE MEDIA MEMBERS TO WORK ON ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS. THE SESSION WILL START AT NOON UNTIL THE GOVERNOR FINISHES HIS SPEECH.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WORKING ON THE ADVANCE COPIES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM UNTIL THE GOVERNOR FINISHES HIS SPEECH.

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT CONTENTS OF THE POLICY ADDRESS ARE ALSO EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING THE WORKING SESSION. SOUND FEED IS AVAILABLE INSIDE THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, THE GOVERNOR WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 4.30 PM AT THE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, THE NEW ANNEXE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE. MEDIA MEMBERS SHOULD ARRIVE BY 4 PM. REPRESENTATIVES OF TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS SHOULD ARRIVE EVEN EARLIER TO SET UP EQUIPMENT.

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RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR JULY RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JULY, ESTIMATED AT \$15.8 BILLION, INCREASED 16% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 9% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO GROWTH IN SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, FUELS AND MOTOR VEHICLES, AS WELL AS SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES.

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN JULY 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, 36% IN VALUE AND 26% IN VOLUME.

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED FOR SALES OF FUELS, 19% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME; SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, 17% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME; AND SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES, 17% IN VALUE AND 10% IN VOLUME.

SALES IN BOTH SUPERMARKETS AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS OUTLETS WENT UP MODERATELY BY 12% IN VALUE. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE INCREASES WERE 5% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY.

SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFTS ROSE BY 8% IN VALUE, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY BY 1% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JULY 1993 INCREASED 8% BOTH IN VALUE AND IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE JULY 1993 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

/ENQUIRIES ABOUT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1993

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ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JUNE 1993 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR JULY 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN JUNE AND JULY 1993 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE JULY 1993 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1993 AND WITH THOSE FOR JULY 1992, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JULY OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for July 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,767.0 million
 for June 1993 (Revised Figure) = HK\$14,665.9 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR JUNE 1993 AND JULY 1993

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	June 1993	July 1993	July 1993 compared with June 1993		July 1993 compared with July 1992		Jan-Jul. 1993 compared with Jan-Jul. 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	156.2	167.9	+11.7	+7.5	+23.2	+16.1	+17.8	+13.2
	Volume	128.9	138.6	+9.8	+7.6	+11.1	+8.7	+9.8	+8.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	122.0	128.1	+6.1	+5.0	+13.3	+11.6	+6.5	+5.6
	Volume	94.1	102.0	+7.9	+8.4	+5.9	+6.1	+1.1	+1.2
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	146.9	145.1	-1.9	-1.3	+15.9	+12.3	+11.8	+9.3
	Volume	112.3	110.2	-2.2	-1.9	+5.0	+4.7	+2.3	+2.2
Fuels	Value	150.9	167.4	+16.5	+10.9	+26.2	+18.5	+11.3	+8.8
	Volume	110.1	122.1	+12.0	+10.9	+14.0	+13.0	+3.4	+3.4
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	184.6	211.1	+26.5	+14.3	+55.7	+35.9	+45.8	+31.7
	Volume	138.3	162.4	+24.1	+17.4	+33.2	+25.7	+26.4	+21.5
Consumer durable goods *	Value	183.2	183.3	+0.1	+0.1	+18.4	+11.2	+15.3	+9.8
	Volume	158.9	157.1	-1.8	-1.1	+8.2	+5.5	+9.0	+6.4
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	190.9	219.3	+28.4	+14.9	+31.5	+16.8	-1.0	-0.5
	Volume	148.8	170.4	+21.6	+14.5	+11.2	+7.1	-11.7	-7.4
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	177.6	157.2	-20.4	-11.5	+9.0	+6.1	+27.1	+19.9
	Volume	166.2	147.4	-18.8	-11.3	+6.1	+4.3	+24.0	+18.6
Department stores	Value	129.7	156.1	+26.4	+20.4	+23.0	+17.3	+14.9	+11.9
	Volume	100.5	124.2	+23.7	+23.6	+11.0	+9.7	+4.8	+4.5
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	151.5	156.2	+4.8	+3.2	+11.7	+8.1	+17.1	+12.9
	Volume	149.1	150.2	+1.2	+0.8	-0.8	-0.5	+17.5	+12.8
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	170.9	192.5	+21.6	+12.6	+30.4	+18.8	+20.2	+14.6
	Volume	140.4	159.1	+18.7	+13.3	+18.8	+13.4	+10.3	+8.5

NOTES : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

WORKING GROUP ON MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE
GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT

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THE JUDICIARY TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT.

CHAired BY MR JUSTICE MICHAEL WONG KIN-CHOW, A HIGH COURT JUDGE, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ARE:

"TO EXAMINE THE WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT MAY BE ASSISTED IN ORDER TO MINIMISE ANY TRAUMA THEY MAY SUFFER THEREBY."

THE WORKING GROUP COMPRISES SEVEN MEMBERS.

THEY ARE MR JOHN WOOD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS; MR ALLAN CHOW, COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION; MR ANTHONY CHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (YOUTH & REHABILITATION); DR SYLVIA CHEN, A PSYCHIATRIST IN PRIVATE PRACTICE; MR FRED LI WAH-MING, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; AS WELL AS A BARRISTER AND A SOLICITOR, EACH TO BE RECOMMENDED RESPECTIVELY BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAW SOCIETY.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG SAID:

"THE WORKING GROUP IS MEANT TO BE A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS AND PROFESSIONALS. ITS TASK IS TO IDENTIFY AND DEVISE SOME IMMEDIATE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE ANY POSSIBLE TRAUMA THAT THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED MAY UNDERGO WHEN GIVING EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL TRIALS."

"I EXPECT THE WORKING GROUP TO COME UP WITH ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME SO THAT ANY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES THAT PROVE PRACTICABLE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE COURTS COULD BE PUT IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN THIS EXERCISE."

SIR TI LIANG INDICATED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD CONSULT THE VARIOUS CONCERNED GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS AND WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THEIR VIEWS.

"WE WILL ALSO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE MATTER," HE ADDED.

THE WORKING GROUP IS EXPECTED TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING SHORTLY.

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PROBE INTO SEA COLLISION INCIDENT

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE COLLISION OF A HONG KONG FISHING VESSEL AND A CHINESE PASSENGER FERRY OFF YAM O, LANTAU ISLAND, THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

SHORTLY BEFORE 5 AM, THE VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A REPORT THAT A FISHING VESSEL WITH SIX PERSONS ON BOARD SANK OFF YAM O AFTER COLLIDING WITH A PASSENGER FERRY, XING HU.

A SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION INVOLVING THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, POLICE, FIRE SERVICES AND THE ARMED FORCES WAS IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED.

ABOUT 6.35 AM RESCUERS FOUND A MAN IN THE SEA. HE WAS SPED TO LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC WHERE HE WAS CERTIFIED DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

SEARCHING FOR THE REMAINING FIVE MISSING PERSONS IS CONTINUING.

A POLLUTION CONTROL LAUNCH FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS AT THE SCENE TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS.

MEANWHILE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS APPEALING TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE WITNESSED THE INCIDENT TO COME FORWARD.

ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE INVESTIGATING SURVEYOR OF SHIPS, MR TSE SHIU-HUNG, ON TEL 852 4898.

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OPERATOR FINED FOR UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IN NT

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THE OPERATOR OF A CONTAINER TRAILER AND TRACTOR PARK IN SHA LING, NORTHERN DISTRICT WAS FINED \$70,000 BY THE COURT LAST MONTH FOR NOT DISCONTINUING AN UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT.

THE CONTAINER TRAILER AND TRACTOR PARK WAS FORMED FROM A PIECE OF FALLOW AGRICULTURAL LAND WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION.

THE USE OF THIS SITE WAS NOT PERMITTED UNDER THE FU TEI AU AND SHA LING INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLAN WHICH COVERS THE AREA.

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING HAD, UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, ISSUED AN ENFORCEMENT NOTICE REQUIRING THE OPERATOR TO DISCONTINUE THE UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT OR TO OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

AS THE NOTICE HAD NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE OPERATOR WAS CONVICTED AND FINED A TOTAL OF \$70,000.

IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, FINES RANGING FROM \$10,000 TO \$30,000 WERE ALSO IMPOSED ON SIX DEFENDENTS IN FOUR OTHER SIMILAR CASES.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT LAND OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS WHO UNDERTAKE UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WAS STEPPING UP ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS IN AN EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNAUTHORISED LAND USE.

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STUDENTS TO SEE THE WORLD OF WORK
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MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE REAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS UNDER THE "VISITS TO WORK PLACES" PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS).

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, THE FIRST GROUP OF 38 STUDENTS VISITED THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL (PTS) IN ABERDEEN TODAY (MONDAY) TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE POLICE.

DURING THE VISIT, STUDENTS WERE TAKEN ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE FACILITIES IN PTS AND WERE BRIEFED BY POLICE TRAINING OFFICERS ON VARIOUS FIELDS OF POLICE DUTIES, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND CAREER PROSPECTS.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MRS CLARE SIU, SAID THE PROGRAMME AIMED AT HELPING FORM 3 TO FORM 7 STUDENTS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD OF WORK SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE BETTER PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE.

"WE HOPE THAT THROUGH THE VISITS TO VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS, STUDENTS CAN OBTAIN FIRST-HAND AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON DIFFERENT CAREERS," SHE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 33 VISITS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR STUDENTS IN HUNG HOM, MONG KOK, KOWLOON CITY, KWUN TONG, YAU MA TEI, TSIM SHA TSUI, CENTRAL, WESTERN AND NORTHERN DISTRICTS FROM NOW TO DECEMBER.

HOTELS, BANKS, MASS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, DEPARTMENT STORES, PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES, FACTORIES, TRAINING INSTITUTES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE VISITED.

NOTING THAT THESE VISITS WERE WELCOME BY BOTH STUDENTS AND CAREERS TEACHERS, MRS SIU SAID SOME 1,590 STUDENTS FROM 55 SCHOOLS HAD PARTICIPATED IN LAST YEAR'S PROGRAMME.

MORE VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR STUDENTS IN OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR IF SITUATION WARRANTS, SHE SAID.

APART FROM THIS RECURRENT CAREERS EDUCATION ACTIVITY, MRS SIU SAID THE CAS ORGANISED A VARIETY OF CAREERS FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS, QUIZZES AND SEMINARS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES INFORMATION THROUGH ITS CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES (CICS) TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE A CAREER BEST SUITED TO THEIR TALENTS, INTEREST AND ABILITIES.

EACH CIC HAS A REFERENCE LIBRARY, AN AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT WITH SLIDE PRESENTATION, CASSETTE RECORDINGS AND VIDEO TAPES ON CAREERS, AS WELL AS A FREE ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING INFORMATION ON CAREERS AND TRAINING.

YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING CAREERS INFORMATION ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CICS WHICH ARE LOCATED IN WAN CHAI AND MONG KOK.

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LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH "TEEN TIME"

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A NEW ENGLISH RADIO PROGRAMME "TEEN TIME" JOINTLY PRODUCED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL BE AIRED MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 9 PM TO 9.30 PM.

"TEEN TIME" - AIMED AT PROMOTING LEARNING AND USING ENGLISH AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - WILL MAKE ITS DEBUT AT 9 PM TONIGHT AFTER A LAUNCHING CEREMONY, TO BE OFFICIATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG.

THE 30-MINUTE PROGRAMME WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR AND HANDLED BY YOUNG PEOPLE.

MR WONG SAID THE SIX-MONTH PROGRAMME WOULD PLACE EMPHASIS ON STUDENTS' ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT. APART FROM BEING LISTENERS, THEY COULD TAKE PART AS REPORTERS AND SPEAKERS IN DISCUSSIONS AND INTERVIEWS AND AS CALLERS DURING PHONE-IN SESSIONS.

A NUMBER OF STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECRUITED AND TRAINED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

HE SAID STUDENTS WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF RADIO PROGRAMMES BUT THEY WOULD ALSO LEARN USEFUL TECHNIQUES OF BROADCASTING AND BE EXPOSED TO THE USE OF ENGLISH.

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GURKHAS TAKE UP EVEREST CHALLENGE
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SIX MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS WILL SET OUT FOR NEPAL ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 7) TO PREPARE FOR THE FOURTH EVEREST MARATHON SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 26.

GURKHAS FROM HONG KONG HAVE DONE WELL IN THE PREVIOUS THREE EVEREST MARATHONS WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD EVERY OTHER YEAR SINCE 1987.

IN 1989 THEY TOOK FIVE OF THE FIRST 10 PLACES, INCLUDING SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH AND IN 1991 AGAIN CLAIMED THE MAJOR PLACINGS, ALTHOUGH OUTRIGHT VICTORY STILL ELUDES THEM.

THIS YEAR'S TEAM COMPRISES TWO BRITISH SOLDIERS ON ATTACHMENT TO THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS AND FOUR GURKHAS.

THE RACE COURSE IS A STANDARD MARATHON DISTANCE BUT THE SCENERY EN ROUTE IS RATHER MORE THAN MOST MARATHONS CAN OFFER.

FROM THE START AT GORAK SHEP (17,000 FEET) AT THE FOOT OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, COMPETITORS FOLLOW MOUNTAIN TRAILS TO NAMCHE -BAZAAR NEARLY 6,000 FEET LOWER.

A HIGH LEVEL OF FITNESS AND STAMINA IS ESSENTIAL FOR AN EVENT WHICH INVOLVES SUCH HAZARDS AS ALTITUDE SICKNESS, STOMACH CRAMPS AND KNEE STRAIN.

AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE TEAM ARE LEAVING HONG KONG SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE RACE, SO THAT THEY CAN TRAIN PROPERLY AT ALTITUDE AND PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR PROBABLY THE MOST GRUELLING MARATHON IN THE WORLD.

THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 1993 EVENT HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE, THANKS TO GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP FROM A NUMBER OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS, MOST NOTABLY REEBOK WHO HAVE KITTED THEM OUT WITH ALL THEIR TRAINING AND RUNNING GEAR, AND NIKKO (HK) LTD WHO HAVE PROVIDED RUCKSACKS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE 1993 GURKHA EVEREST MARATHON TEAM AT HQ BRITISH FORCES, PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS, CENTRAL AT 3 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) BEFORE THEY LEAVE FOR NEPAL.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE MAIN GATE, PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS, BY 2.45 PM.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR SPONSORS WILL ALSO ATTEND.

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PENSIONERS' WELFARE UNIT ON MOVE
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THE PENSIONERS' WELFARE UNIT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH WILL BE MOVED FROM ROOM 704 TO ROOM 1009A ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, ICE HOUSE STREET, ON OCTOBER 7 (THURSDAY).

SET UP IN DECEMBER 1987, THE UNIT PROVIDES ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS AND DISSEMINATES INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO PENSIONERS.

THE UNIT ALSO PROVIDES PRE-RETIREMENT COUNSELLING AND ORGANISES SEMINARS ON PREPARATIONS FOR RETIREMENT AND THE BENEFITS PAYABLE ON RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE.

POST-RETIREMENT COUNSELLING REGARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PENSIONS PAYMENT, CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEPENDENT PENSIONS SCHEMES, TAX LIABILITY, MEDICAL AND DENTAL TREATMENT, AND ASSISTANCE IN HARDSHIP CASES, IS ALSO PROVIDED.

THE UNIT ALSO OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO PENSIONERS WHO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING MANAGING A PENSIONERS' WELFARE FUND.

PENSIONERS, THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN MAY APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO MEET MEDICAL OR FUNERAL EXPENSES OR EXPENSES ARISING FROM DISTRESS.

ASSISTANCE IS IN THE FORM OF ONE-OFF GRANT NOT MORE THAN \$5,000.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 90.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 530.821 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 494.317 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 84.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,457
REVERSAL OF LAF	+543
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+200
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,200
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.5 **0.1* 4.10.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.90 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.29	3.46
1 MONTH	2.88 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.48	3.66
3 MONTHS	2.89 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.77	3.93
6 MONTHS	3.05 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.13	4.03
12 MONTHS	3.37 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,075 MN

CLOSED 4 OCTOBER 1993

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