



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991

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GOVERNOR VISITS HEALTH AND CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, VISITED TWO CENTRES RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (THURSDAY). HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LADY WILSON, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE.

SIR DAVID BEGAN BY VISITING THE ARRAN STREET CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE IN MONG KOK, SET UP IN 1977 TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND CARE ON PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY YOUNG CHILDREN.

HE WAS SHOWN THE CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORK UNDERTAKEN AT THE CENTRE AND WAS BRIEFED ON PLANS TO SET UP FOUR MORE SUCH CENTRES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, ONE EACH IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON AND TWO IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED THE LI PO CHUN HEALTH CENTRE, ALSO IN MONG KOK. HE TOURED THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT AND THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON IMPROVEMENTS INTRODUCED IN GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS SINCE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WAS ESTABLISHED TWO YEARS AGO, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL RECORDS SYSTEM AND NEW APPOINTMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRONIC CASES.

HE WAS ALSO SHOWN HOW VIDEOS ON HEALTH EDUCATION ARE DISPLAYED IN THE WAITING AREA.

"OUR HEALTH CARE HAS TO REACH OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY," SAID SIR DAVID AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT.

"THE TWO CENTRES I HAVE JUST VISITED ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE HARD WORK BEING PUT IN AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES," HE SAID.

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GOVT PLANS TO ISSUE BONDS IN PAPERLESS FORM

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE LOANS ORDINANCE SO THAT GOVERNMENT BONDS CAN BE ISSUED UNDER THAT ORDINANCE IN A PAPERLESS FORM.

THE INTENTION TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE GOVERNMENT DEBT MARKET WITH A MODEST PROGRAMME OF TWO AND THREE-YEAR GOVERNMENT BONDS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON MARCH 6.

DETAILS OF THIS PROPOSED BOND PROGRAMME ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

/"THE LEGISLATIVE

"THE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WOULD ENABLE THE BOND PROGRAMME TO BE RUN IN A PAPERLESS FORM, IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAMME," THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, MR JOSEPH YAM, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"A PAPERLESS SYSTEM IS A VERY COST EFFECTIVE WAY OF RUNNING A GOVERNMENT DEBT MARKET. IT ALSO ENCOURAGES ACTIVITY IN THE SECONDARY MARKET," MR YAM SAID.

"PRINTING, SAFE CUSTODY AND PHYSICAL HANDLING COSTS WILL BE HIGH IF BONDS ARE ISSUED IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY IN BEARER FORM, THIS WILL RESULT IN FAIRLY HIGH TRANSACTION COSTS AND ALSO DETER THEIR TRADING IN THE SECONDARY MARKETS," HE SAID.

THE LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 ALSO SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO EXCLUDE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE BONDS FROM THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT THAT A COPY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND A LENDER SHALL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALSO RELATED TO THE PROPOSED BOND PROGRAMME, THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO AMEND THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE AND THE STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXEMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS ORDINANCE FROM PROFITS TAX AND STAMP DUTY, IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS.

THE LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991 AND THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE THREE BILLS ARE DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 15.

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DECONTROL OF RENTS IN THREE TO FOUR YEARS PLANNED: SHA

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING CHANGES TO THE PRESENT RENT INCREASE MECHANISMS TO ALLOW THE DECONTROL OF RENTS TO BE EFFECTED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, TOLD A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED "WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES".

"THIS WILL INVOLVE ADJUSTING THE CONTROL FORMULAE TO ALLOW THE CONTROL CEILINGS TO BE RAISED PROGRESSIVELY WITHIN THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO A STAGE WHERE THEY REPRESENT 85 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET LEVELS FOR RENTS," HE SAID.

IF THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID, THE RENT CONTROLS CONTAINED IN PARTS I AND II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WERE LIKELY TO BE CAPABLE OF BEING DISPENSED WITH WITHOUT HARDSHIP TO AFFECTED TENANTS.

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MR TSAO ADDED THAT HE HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THIS END TO THE GOVERNMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID HE FELT OBLIGED TO ENTER A CAVEAT ON THE DECLARED INTENTION TO DECONTROL RENTS.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS QUITE APPARENT THAT RISING INFLATION WAS A CAUSE OF CONCERN AND ITS EFFECT ON THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET COULD BE VERY SIGNIFICANT, PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE TO LOWER INCOME BRACKETS.

"RECENTLY WE HAVE SEEN INORDINATELY HIGH JUMPS IN PROPERTY PRICES FOR NEW MIDDLE- TO SMALL-SIZE FLATS COMING ON THE MARKET.

"WORRYING - YES. BUT STATISTICS INDICATE THAT IN 1990 THE PRODUCTION OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC UNITS WAS 29,400, PROJECTED TO RISE IN 1991 AND 1992 TO 32,500 AND 36,700 RESPECTIVELY.

"GIVEN THAT PRODUCTION CYCLES GENERALLY HAVE A TWO-YEAR SPAN, THE PRESENT PRICE SURGE MIGHT WELL BE A SPECULATION WHICH WILL GO WRONG.

"I THEREFORE DOUBT WHETHER WE SHALL SEE AN UNACCEPTABLE INCREASE IN RENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND I DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT OUR STRATEGY TO DECONTROL THE RENTS OF A RELATIVELY LIMITED AND DIMINISHING NUMBER OF CONTROLLED PREMISES IS LIKELY TO BE THWARTED," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID HE WAS REASSURED BY THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND WOULD PROFFER GOOD ADVICE ON THE WAY AHEAD.

"HE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY THAT IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY WELL OUTWEIGH ECONOMIC FORCES.

"I AM ALSO REASSURED BY THE FACT THAT THE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN PLACE AFTER OUR PRESENT REVIEW WILL PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF TENANTS WHO ARE WILLING TO PAY PREVAILING MARKET RENTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME POSSIBLY INCREASING THE CONFIDENCE OF LANDLORDS AND ENCOURAGING INVESTORS IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET," HE SAID.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR TSAO NOTED THAT IT MIGHT COME AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO VISITORS THAT SOME 33 PER CENT OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC RENTAL UNITS IN HONG KONG WERE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED RENT CONTROLS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS DERIVED FROM ITS BASICALLY FREE-ENTERPRISE, MARKET-DISCIPLINED SYSTEM WITH MINIMAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE SOME 940 PRE-WAR DOMESTIC UNITS CONTROLLED UNDER PART I OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE AND SOME 43,000 POST-WAR DOMESTIC TENANCIES SUBJECT TO PART II CONTROL.

/MR TSAO

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MR TSAO NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF CONTROLLED TENANCIES WAS DIMINISHING STEADILY DUE TO REPOSSESSION BY THE OWNERS, FRESH LETTINGS AT MARKET RENTS, DEMOLITION FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND SO ON.

HE RECALLED THAT IN 1981 THE COMMITTEE OF REVIEW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE RECOMMENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT RENTS SHOULD BE DECONTROLLED BUT OBSERVED THAT THE PHASING OUT OF CONTROLS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISO THAT SOCIAL DISRUPTION AND HARDSHIP BE AVOIDED AND THIS REMAINED THE INTENTION AND THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER THIS DECLARED OBJECTIVE OF CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN CONTROLLED AND MARKET RENTS CONTINUED TO BE FRUSTRATED LARGELY DUE TO THE ONGOING AND RELATIVELY RAPID RISE IN MARKET RENTS IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

AS AT JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR THE AVERAGE CONTROLLED RENT IN THE CONTEXT OF PART II PREMISES WAS ABOUT 62 PER CENT OF THE MARKET LEVEL. THIS COMPARES WITH PART I PREMISES WHERE THE CURRENT AVERAGE PERMITTED RENT IS SOME 65 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

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TAX AUDIT ENCOURAGES GREATER COMPLIANCE
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THE MAIN GOAL OF INTRODUCING TAX AUDIT IS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COMPLIANCE, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR ANTHONY AU-YEUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR AU-YEUNG WAS ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED IN DETAILS ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH TAX AUDIT.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH TAX AUDIT WAS A NEW INITIATIVE FOR THE TAX ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG, IT HAD BEEN WIDELY USED ELSEWHERE WITH GOOD RESULTS.

MR AU-YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT UP UNTIL NOW THE TRADITIONAL ASSESSING APPROACH OF CHECKING THE ACCURACY OF TAX RETURNS HAD BEEN THE STANDARD METHOD OF DETERMINING THE REVENUE COLLECTED.

"THIS APPROACH WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A QUALITY CONTROL EXAMINATION OF THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TAXPAYERS, HAS PROVED NOT TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW," HE SAID, ADDING THAT OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE, AND STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT (IRD), CONFIRMED THAT THERE WERE DISCLOSURE PROBLEMS.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE IRD WAS CONCERNED NOT SO MUCH WITH WHAT WAS REPORTED IN THE RETURNS, IT WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN OMITTED, OVERCLAIMED OR INCORRECTLY CLASSIFIED.

/THE GOVERNMENT

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT A SYSTEM OF SELECTIVE TAX AUDIT WOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID.

MR AU-YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM AIM WAS NOT SO MUCH TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON PARTICULAR TAXPAYERS, BUT RATHER TO TARGET ITS EFFORTS AT INDUSTRIES AND GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE COMPLIANCE PROBLEMS WERE PREVALENT.

"THE THRUST OF OUR ACTION WILL BE TO ATTACK THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM," HE SAID.

MR AU-YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT HE COULD NOT BE TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT THE CRITERIA FOR AUDIT SELECTION AND THAT THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM AUDITS WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS.

"FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW WE WILL OBVIOUSLY SEEK TO TARGET OUR EFFORTS AGAINST THOSE AREAS WHERE WE BELIEVE EVASION IS GREATEST," HE SAID.

ON THE CONDUCT OF THE TAX AUDIT, THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT AUDIT WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED SIMPLY WITH THE VERIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS LODGED BY TAXPAYERS, RATHER, IT WOULD BE CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SATISFYING THE AUDITOR THAT THE TAXPAYER HAD COMPLIED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

AS THE IRD WOULD BE SEEKING TO MAXIMISE THE RETURN FROM ITS EFFORTS, IT GAVE RISE TO TWO CONSIDERATIONS IN TAX AUDIT, HE SAID.

"FIRSTLY, CASES WILL NOT BE CHOSEN FOR AUDIT UNLESS THEY EXHIBIT CHARACTERISTICS INDICATING POSSIBLE NON-COMPLIANCE.

"SECONDLY, OUR AUDITORS WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE PRODUCTIVE USE OF THEIR TIME. THEY WILL NEITHER BE ENCOURAGED TO INITIATE UNWARRANTED ENQUIRIES I.E. TO GO ON 'FISHING EXPEDITIONS' NOR TO CHASE THE 'LAST DOLLAR'," THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AUDITORS WOULD BE A QUALITY AUDIT WHICH MEANT THAT THE AUDITOR HAD EXAMINED A TAXPAYER'S AFFAIRS IN SUFFICIENT DEPTH ACCORDING TO INTERNAL GUIDELINES AND WAS SATISFIED THAT MATERIAL ERRORS AND OMISSIONS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND CORRECTED.

RISK MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES WOULD BE ADOPTED IN DECIDING THE APPROPRIATE POINT TO CLOSE THE AUDIT, MR AU-YEUNG SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT IN ALL AUDIT CASES, THE AUDITOR WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THE AUDIT IN A COURTEOUS MANNER CAUSING A MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION TO THE TAXPAYER.

"WE IN THE DEPARTMENT ARE CLEARLY OF THE VIEW THAT NOBODY WINS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF CONFRONTATIONAL ATTITUDES, WHETHER BY THE AUDITOR, THE TAXPAYER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE.

"ACCORDINGLY, WHILST THE TASK WITH WHICH OUR AUDITORS ARE CHARGED MAY NOT BE APPRECIATED BY TAXPAYERS, IT IS NONE THE LESS ESSENTIAL AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A FAIR, IMPARTIAL AND REASONABLE MANNER, WITH DUE RESPECT BEING ACCORDED AT ALL TIMES," HE SAID.

DETAILING THE AUDIT PROCEDURE, MR AU-YEUNG SAID ANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WOULD BE DISCUSSED TO AVOID POSSIBLE DISPUTES ADDING THAT PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS ON ADJUSTMENTS WOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BE AVOIDED AS THEY WOULD NOT BE IN ANYONE'S BEST INTERESTS.

"AUDITORS WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SETTLEMENTS OF ISSUES IN DISPUTE WHENEVER POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF ACCESS TO AUDIT AND TAX WORKING PAPERS, THE COMMISSIONER SAID SITUATIONS WOULD OCCASIONALLY ARISE WHEN AUDITORS WOULD NEED ACCESS TO WORKING PAPERS TO RECONCILE ACCOUNTS WITH RETURNS AND TO GENERALLY UNDERSTAND THE TAXPAYER'S BUSINESS.

"IT IS MY HOPE THAT AUDITS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION. IF IT PREVAILS, THEN I DO NOT FORESEE TAXPAYERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO HOLD BACK WORKING PAPERS.

"CLEARLY, THESE PAPERS WILL ASSIST IN THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS, OR OTHERWISE EXPLAIN THE COMPUTATION OF A TAX LIABILITY. THIS WILL SAVE TIME AND EFFORT FOR ALL CONCERNED," HE SAID.

TURNING TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE, MR AU-YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLE, IT PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS PASSING BETWEEN A LEGAL ADVISOR AND HIS CLIENT.

"MORE SPECIFICALLY, COMMUNICATIONS ARE ONLY PRIVILEGED WHEN THEIR DOMINANT PURPOSE IS FOR THE CLIENT TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE OR THEY REFER TO A CURRENT OR CONTEMPLATED LEGAL ACTION INVOLVING THE CLIENT.

"THE ESSENCE OF LEGAL PRIVILEGE IS THEREFORE FOUNDED SUBSTANTIVELY ON THE PROTECTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL ADVICE," HE EXPLAINED.

NOTING THAT THE LAW PERMITTED, WITHIN BOUNDS, IRD OFFICERS TO HAVE ACCESS TO TAXPAYERS' DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS TO ASCERTAIN COMPLIANCE, MR AU-YEUNG SAID HE ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE FOR TAXPAYERS TO SEEK ADVICE FROM THEIR ACCOUNTANTS IN RESPECT OF TAX MATTERS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

"UNDERSTANDABLY ACCOUNTANTS AND TAXPAYERS MAY WISH THAT DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS REMAIN WITHIN THEIR CONFIDENCE.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A NEED TO BALANCE SUCH DESIRES WITH THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW. IN CONSIDERING THIS ISSUE I HAVE HAD REGARD TO OUR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND TO PRACTICES IN A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS JURISDICTIONS THAT OPERATE SOME FORM OF DISPENSATION FROM DISCLOSURE," HE SAID.

MR AU-YEUNG APPEALED TO TAXPAYERS FOR CO-OPERATION POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS PLANNED THAT TAX AUDITS SHOULD NOT BE PROTRACTED DRAWN OUT AFFAIRS.

/"WE WILL

"WE WILL WANT TO MOVE IN AND OUT QUICKLY. OUR INITIAL TARGET FOR SMALLER CASES WILL BE 14 WORKING DAYS. TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE AUDITOR, PREFERABLY AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL INTERVIEW.

"UNNECESSARY WRITTEN ENQUIRIES WILL ONLY PROLONG THE DURATION OF THE AUDIT. I HOPE THAT TAX REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO IMPRESS THIS POINT ON THEIR CLIENTS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHERE THERE WAS ANY SUSPICION OF FRAUD OR MATERIAL EVASION, ALL DOCUMENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRODUCTION, UPON REQUEST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 51(4) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

ON THE QUESTION OF PENALTIES AND PROSECUTIONS, THE COMMISSIONER SAID IT WOULD ONLY ARISE WHERE INCORRECT RETURNS HAD BEEN LODGED, OR FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS MADE WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE OR THERE WAS WILFUL INTENT TO EVADE TAX.

HE ASSURED THAT IN ANY CASE WHERE REASONABLE EXCUSE EXISTED, THERE COULD NOT BE ANY QUESTION OF PENALTY OR PROSECUTION.

"IT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN OUR POLICY TO PROSECUTE TAXPAYERS IN THE COURTS WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A WILFUL EVASION. THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY WITH EQUAL FORCE TO AUDIT CASES.

"FOR NON-WILFUL INTENT CASES, UNDERSTATEMENTS OF INCOME WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH ADMINISTRATIVELY BY WAY OF MONETARY PENALTIES UNDER SECTION 82A," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE IRD DID TREAT LENIENTLY CASES WHERE TAXPAYERS CAME FORWARD VOLUNTARILY TO REGULARISE THEIR AFFAIRS AND THE PENALTY IMPOSED ON A FULL VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE BASIS WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT DRAMATIC RESULTS OVERNIGHT AND IT WAS HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE ACHIEVED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS BY MAINTAINING AN ON-GOING AND EFFECTIVE AUDIT PROGRAMME. "I TRUST THAT THE RESULTS WILL, IN TIME, JUSTIFY OUR EFFORTS," HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	1.5.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	2.5.91	-49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NFUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.2 **0.2* 2.5.91		

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Q115	10.7.91	340	+140
Q116	17.7.91	360	+120
Q117	24.7.91	338.5	+141.5
Q118	31.7.91	540	-60
Q106	8.5.91	627.5	-147.5
Q107	15.5.91	481	-1
Q108	22.5.91	430	+50
Q109	29.5.91	510	-30
Q110	5.6.91	280	+200
Q111	12.6.91	360	+120
Q112	19.6.91	610	-130
Q113	26.6.91	450	+30
Q114	3.7.91	450	+30

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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H002	15.5.91	227.5	+32.5
H003	29.5.91	210	+50
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	143	+117
H156	24.7.91	150	+110
H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	200	+60
H159	4.9.91	150	+110
H160	18.9.91	270	-10
H161	2.10.91	30	+230
H162	17.10.91	84	+176
H163	30.10.91	180	+80

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Y187	26.2.92	230	+30
Y188	25.3.92	180	+80
Y189	22.4.92	180	+80

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 26.4.91 WAS 5,438 MN

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FOURTH QUARTER CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS RELEASED

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 AMOUNTED TO \$16,901 MILLION, WHICH WAS 6.8% HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 AND 25.6% HIGHER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MAIN CONTRACTORS MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS. WHEREAS GENERAL CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN SPECIALISED JOB AREAS SUCH AS CONCRETING, SCAFFOLDING, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING AND GAS WORK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASE OF 25.6% IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989 WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

NEVERTHELESS, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE COST INCREASES, THE REAL GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED SHOULD STILL BE SIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX OF GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WAS 256.5, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1982 BEING TAKEN AS 100.

THE CORRESPONDING INDEXES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WERE 240.2 AND 204.2 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, \$15,432 MILLION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS. THIS WAS 6.4% AND 26.3% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS WAS \$1,468 MILLION, WHICH WAS 11.1% AND 18.7% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, \$8,267 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PRIVATE SECTOR CONSTRUCTION SITES, BEING 9.2% AND 34.7% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

SOME \$3,892 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PUBLIC SECTOR (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION) CONSTRUCTION SITES, REPRESENTING DECREASES OF 0.4% AND 0.3% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

THE REMAINING \$3,273 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT MINOR WORK LOCATIONS, AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

THIS WAS 8.1% AND 50.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

WHEN ANALYSED BY END-USE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WAS \$5,304 MILLION.

THIS REPRESENTED INCREASES OF 8.1% AND 17.4% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WAS \$2,175 MILLION, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 2.7% AND 75.4% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WAS \$1,554 MILLION, WHICH WAS 1.0% AND 6.2% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) REFERS TO THE OUTPUT OF THOSE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY TAKE THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY PLAY THE ROLE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS.

HOWEVER, SUB-CONTRACTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR WHOM THEY WORKED.

MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 4TH QUARTER 1990".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2.50 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER I, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3265.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991

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BALLOON EXTRAVAGANZAS FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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TO PROMOTE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY (MAY 5), TWO BALLOON EXTRAVAGANZAS WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND HONG KONG CITY HALL THAT MORNING, BEGINNING AT 9 AM AND 10.30 AM RESPECTIVELY.

OFFICIATING AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL CEREMONY WILL BE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, AND AT THE CITY HALL CEREMONY, THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE. THEY WILL DOT THE EYES OF THE LIONS IN HONG KONG'S FIRST BALLOON LION DANCES.

FEATURED AT THE EVENTS WILL ALSO BE A "GIANT BALLOON CONTEST" IN WHICH PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INVITED TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF BALLOONS USED IN THE BALLOON SPECTACULAR.

AFTER THE CEREMONIES, BALLOON-DECORATED OPEN-DECK BUSES WILL TOUR THE TERRITORY AND VISIT A NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS IN THE TWO MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS TO PROMOTE THE "VOTE '91" MESSAGE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONIES AND THE BUS TOURS ON SUNDAY (MAY 5).

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. FOR THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL CEREMONY, TWO VANS WILL LEAVE EDINBURGH PLACE IN CENTRAL, NEAR HMS TAMAR, AT 8.10 AM AND A COACH (CAR NO. EN645) WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON TONG KCR STATION, AT 8.20 AM.

PRESS MEMBERS WILL BE TAKEN BY COACH TO CITY HALL AFTER THE SHA TIN CEREMONY. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

DETAILS OF THE TWO CEREMONIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REGIONAL COUNCIL CEREMONY

VENUE: OUTSIDE SHA TIN TOWN HALL FACING NEW TOWN PLAZA

PROGRAMME: 8.40 AM MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE

9 AM BRIEF SPEECH BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, FOLLOWED BY RIBBON CUTTING TO RELEASE FOUR GIANT BALLOON BOUQUETS WITH VOTE '91 STREAMERS WHICH WILL RISE ABOVE SHA TIN TOWN HALL

9.15 AM MR CHEUNG TO DOT THE EYES OF A BALLOON SCULPTURED LION

/9.17 AM

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- 9.17 AM LION DANCE PERFORMANCE
- 9.30 AM MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE
- 9.45 AM VOTE '91 BUS LEAVES, WITH CELEBRITIES AND LION DANCE ABOARD, TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING POLLING STATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES:
TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AT 10.30 AM,
CHEUNG HONG ESTATE ON TSING YI AT NOON,
YAU OI ESTATE IN TUEN MUN AT 2.15 PM,
LONG PING ESTATE IN YUEN LONG AT 3.30 PM, AND
TAI WO ESTATE IN TAI PO AT 5.15 PM.

URBAN COUNCIL CEREMONY

- VENUE: EDINBURGH PLACE FACING QUEEN'S PIER
- PROGRAMME: 10.10 AM MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE
- 10.30 AM BRIEF SPEECH BY THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, FOLLOWED BY RIBBON CUTTING TO RELEASE FIVE GIANT BALLOON BOUQUETS WITH VOTE '91 STREAMERS WHICH WILL RISE ABOVE THE LOW BLOCK OF CITY HALL
- 10.45 AM MR FORSGATE TO DOT THE EYES OF A BALLOON SCULPTURED LION
- 10.47 AM LION DANCE PERFORMANCE
- 11 AM MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE
- 11.15 AM VOTE '91 BUS LEAVES, WITH CELEBRITIES AND LION DANCE ABOARD, TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING POLLING STATIONS IN THE URBAN AREA:
HAN KUNG MANSION PODIUM IN TAIKOO SHING AT NOON,
YUE WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE IN CHAI WAN AT 1.30 PM,
LOK WAH ESTATE IN KWUN TONG AT 3 PM, AND
TSUI LAM ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O AT 4.15 PM.

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CHILD CARE SERVICES TO EXPAND

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AIDED NURSERY PLACES WILL BE INCREASED TO ABOUT 26,800 BY 1995-96 AND FURTHER TO MORE THAN 31,600 BY 1999-2000 TO MEET THE GROWING NEED, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WAN TSUI DAY NURSERY IN WAN TSUI ESTATE, CHAI WAN, MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT AT PRESENT, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES IN CHILD CARE CENTRES PROVIDING CARE FOR CHILDREN, AGED UNDER SIX, WERE 33,800 - OF WHICH SOME 22,600 WERE AIDED OR NON-PROFIT MAKING PLACES WHILE THE REMAINING WERE IN PRIVATE NURSERIES.

NEW APPROACHES IN OPERATING CHILD CARE CENTRES, SUCH AS FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS, OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES AND MORE WORK-BASED CENTRES, WERE BEING TESTED AND IMPLEMENTED TO COPE WITH CHANGING NEEDS, HE ADDED.

"AS REGARDS CRECHES FOR INFANTS UNDER TWO, THE POLICY IS TO CONVERT THE CURRENT 1,000 SUBVENTED PLACES TO AIDED PLACES AND TO TREBLE THE NUMBER BEFORE THE END OF THIS DECADE," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND POINTED OUT THAT CHILD CARE, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, WAS A MAJOR PRIORITY AREA IN THE WELFARE FIELD, ADDING THAT THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR THE SERVICES WAS REFLECTED IN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES, MORE WORKING MOTHERS AND A GROWING NUMBER OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES.

"THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND CLEARLY STATES THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROVISION AND EXPANSION OF CHILD CARE.

"WHILE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROPER CARE OF CHILDREN MUST REST WITH PARENTS, IT IS NEVERTHELESS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE NURSERY FACILITIES FOR THOSE PARENTS WHO CANNOT TAKE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN DURING THE DAY," HE CONTINUED.

NOTING THAT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES DEPENDED TO A LARGE EXTENT ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT, MR CARTLAND SAID WITH ITS EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATION, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WOULD RUN THE DAY NURSERY IN A WAY THAT WOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PARENTS.

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PROPOSALS TO REGISTER PLANNERS AND SURVEYORS

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PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF QUALIFIED PLANNERS AND SURVEYORS OF VARIOUS DISCIPLINES AND SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER PUBLIC HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

TWO BILLS, THE PLANNERS REGISTRATION BILL 1991 AND THE SURVEYORS REGISTRATION BILL 1991, WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THEY WILL FORM THE FRAMEWORK FOR SETTING UP REGISTRATION BOARDS FOR PRACTISING PLANNERS AND SURVEYORS IN HONG KONG.

THESE BILLS ARE BASED ON THE SAME PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE FOLLOWED IN THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE 1990 AND THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE ENACTED IN MAY LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER, A PRIVATE BILL WILL NEED TO BE INTRODUCED FIRST TO ESTABLISH THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (HKIP) AS AN INCORPORATED BODY.

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS (HKIS) IS ALREADY AN INCORPORATED BODY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS ORDINANCE 1990.

UNDER THE BILLS, THE REGISTRATION BOARDS INDEPENDENT OF THE TWO PROFESSIONAL BODIES INVOLVED WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

"THE CONCEPT OF REGISTRATION IS TO CONFER ON SUITABLE APPLICANTS A TITLE WHICH DEMONSTRATES TO FELLOW PROFESSIONALS AND TO THE PUBLIC A HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, CURRENT COMPETENCE TO PRACTISE AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND FOR WORKING IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REGISTER WILL LIST ONLY COMPETENT PRACTISING PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN HONG KONG AND REGISTRATION HAS TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY.

APART FROM SETTING OUT QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION, THE BILLS WILL ALSO OUTLINE DETAILS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHEME TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

"CLOSE CONSULTATION HAS BEEN HELD WITH HKIP AND HKIS AND BOTH BODIES HAVE SIGNIFIED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE TWO BILLS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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LOCALLY-GROWN EXOTIC VEGETABLES ON SALE

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A VARIETY OF LOCALLY-GROWN EXOTIC VEGETABLE SPECIES, INCLUDING THE POPULAR "GOLD AND SILVER" SUPER SWEET CORN, ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE DAILY IN SUPERMARKETS.

OTHER THAN SUPER SWEET CORN, LOCAL FARMERS HAVE ATTEMPTED AT OTHER UP-MARKET VEGETABLES, INCLUDING BUTTERHEAD, RED LETTUCE, CHERRY TOMATO, RADISH, FRENCH BEANS, AND MINI CUCUMBERS UNDER THE SPRING PRODUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE EXOTIC VEGETABLES PROJECT INITIATED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THESE EXOTIC VEGETABLES ARE MARKETED THROUGH THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO).

AS PART OF THE ORGANISATION'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE LOCALLY-PRODUCED EXOTIC VEGETABLES, PERMANENT VMO COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP FROM THIS MONTH IN SUPERMARKETS OF SEVERAL LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A TOUR WILL BE ORGANISED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO SEE HOW EXOTIC VEGETABLES GROW IN FARMERS' FIELDS IN TSIU KENG, SHEUNG SHUI.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR A VISIT TO A VMO COUNTER IN ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT STORES.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO JOIN THE TOUR. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND WILL LEAVE AFD HEADQUARTERS, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 9 AM.

THE SENIOR MANAGER OF THE VMO, MR EDWARD LAI, TOGETHER WITH AFD'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, MR HO KOON-YU, AND INFORMATION UNIT STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991

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729 VRS RESETTLED OVERSEAS LAST MONTH

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A TOTAL OF 729 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LEFT HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS LAST MONTH (APRIL).

OF THOSE WHO LEFT FOR OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT, 60 DEPARTED FOR AUSTRALIA, 140 FOR CANADA, 22 FOR FRANCE, 25 FOR JAPAN, 111 FOR SWEDEN, 8 FOR SWITZERLAND, 55 FOR UNITED KINGDOM AND 116 FOR USA.

MEANWHILE, A TOTAL OF 192 REFUGEES LEFT FOR THE PHILIPPINES TO AWAIT RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

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HEUNG YEE KUK SPECIAL COUNCILLORS ELECTED

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SEVEN SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF THE 28TH TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK WERE ELECTED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THEY ARE:

MR HO PING-CHIU
MR CHEUNG FU
MR LAW KAM-FAI
MR LAM SAI-CHEUNG
MR YUEN WAI
MR FU YUEN-HUNG
MR LO CHUEN-SANG

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SWD EXPLAINS SALARY SCALES OF STAFF

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROTEST ACTION ON PAY SCALES BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATION'S SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT BRANCH, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE SALARY SCALES OF THE SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT GRADE AND THE WELFARE WORKER GRADE WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT IS A RECRUITMENT RANK AND SENIOR WELFARE WORKER IS A PROMOTION RANK.

IN THE CASE OF SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS, THEY WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE OF MOVING UP TO HIGHER RANKS IN THE GRADE IN THE LONG RUN WHILE THE POST OF SENIOR WELFARE WORKER IS THE ONLY PROMOTION RANK WITHIN THE GRADE, HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA GALA EVENING

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WINNERS OF THE 1990-91 SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT A GALA EVENING AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT SHOUSON THEATRE, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE THREE DRAMAS ARE CINDERELLA, PRESENTED BY BUDDHIST KOK KWONG SECONDARY SCHOOL; THE STOLEN PRINCE, BY ST JOAN OF ARC SECONDARY SCHOOL; AND THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE, BY KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL.

TWENTY-SIX SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

AWARDS TO THE WINNERS WILL BE GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, MR CHEUNG NIM-PING, AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, MR YU CHIEN-MING AND MR YEUNG CHOR-HANG.

THE SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT, WHICH MADE ITS DEBUT LAST YEAR, AIMED AT PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH AN EXCITING AND INTERESTING FOCUS FOR LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GALA EVENING AND PRIZE PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT AT SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TOMORROW (FRIDAY). THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM.

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