



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1990

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CANADA HAS REAL KINSHIP CONNECTION WITH HK: GOVERNOR

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CANADA AND HONG KONG HAVE A REAL KINSHIP CONNECTION AND THE 70,000 HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED FROM CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES AND RETURNED HOME HAVE BUILT UP A NETWORK OF BUSINESS CONTACTS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN TORONTO ON THURSDAY (MAY 24).

"EACH MIGRANT IS ALSO A POTENTIAL BUSINESS LINK. THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY BUSINESS BETWEEN US IS BOOMING," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE UNIVERSAL SPEAKERS' FORUM LUNCHEON, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS HARDLY SURPRISING THEN THAT SIX CANADIAN PROVINCES -- ONTARIO, ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND QUEBEC -- HAD SET UP COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

"SOME 70 CANADIAN COMPANIES HAVE BRANCHES OR SUBSIDIARIES IN HONG KONG. ANOTHER 400 ARE REPRESENTED IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"PARTLY AS A RESULT, TRADE IS BOOMING. IMPORTS OF CANADIAN GOODS HAVE RISEN NEARLY 40 PER CENT OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS A MAJOR MARKET FOR CANADIAN WOOD PRODUCTS, PAPER BOARD, NEWSPRINT AND PULP, AND THE COUNTRY ALSO SOLD US PLASTICS AND PRECIOUS METALS, AS WELL AS SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

"THE MAPLE LEAF IS A BEST SELLER -- YOU ARE IN FACT OUR LARGEST SUPPLIER OF GOLD COINS -- TO THE TUNE OF WELL OVER C\$600 MILLION LAST YEAR. YOU ARE ALSO A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF GOODS TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT, TRADITIONALLY, THE BALANCE OF TRADE, PARTICULARLY IF GOLD COINS WERE LEFT OUT, HAD BEEN IN HONG KONG'S FAVOUR. BUT THE BALANCE OF DIRECT INVESTMENT FLOWED STRONGLY THE OTHER WAY.

SIR DAVID SAID CANADIAN INVESTORS WERE, OF COURSE, WELCOME, ADDING: "THERE ARE 17 FACTORIES IN HONG KONG WHOLLY OR PARTLY OWNED BY CANADIAN INTERESTS. THEY PRODUCE WELL OVER C\$100 MILLION IN GOODS A YEAR, MAINLY FOR EXPORT."

CANADIAN INVESTMENT WAS ESPECIALLY WELCOME BECAUSE OF WHAT IT BROUGHT IN THE WAY OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND UPGRADING OF SKILLS, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND TORONTO WERE NUMEROUS, STRONG AND WERE GROWING. "THEY GO BACK A LONG WAY. THEY HAVE GROWN WITH EVERY HONG KONG STUDENT WHO HAS GRADUATED FROM YOUR UNIVERSITIES -- WITH EVERY HONG KONG FAMILY WHICH HAS SETTLED HERE."

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"IN RECENT YEARS, THEY HAVE BECOME EVEN STRONGER AS A RESULT OF YOUR OWN GROWING COMMERCIAL PRESENCE. THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG IS THE BIGGEST CHAMBER OUTSIDE CANADA.

"SOME 11,500 OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN, AT LEAST, NOW LIVE AND WORK IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF "BRAIN DRAIN" FROM HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID EVIDENCE OF IT WAS NOWHERE MORE APPARENT THAN IN TORONTO. BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO STAND BACK FROM THE PROBLEMS; SET THEM IN CONTEXT, AND LOOK AT WHAT HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE FUTURE AND WHAT WE WERE WORKING FOR.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT MIGRATION FROM HONG KONG WAS NOT NEW, AND SAID IN THE LAST CENTURY THE TERRITORY WAS ALREADY A STAGING POST FOR CHINESE WORKERS HEADING ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

IN THE EARLY 1980'S, EMIGRATION FROM HONG KONG RAN AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 20,000 A YEAR BUT, MORE RECENTLY, THE NUMBER LEAVING HAD BEEN HIGHER, SIR DAVID SAID.

"PEOPLE WITH A NATURAL ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE ARE LEAVING IN SEARCH OF AN 'INSURANCE POLICY'. LAST YEAR SOME 42,000 LEFT. MANY OF THEM CAME TO CANADA. THIS YEAR THE NUMBERS WILL BE HIGHER," HE ADDED.

"WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE SORRY TO SEE THEM GO. BUT WE WILL DO NOTHING TO STOP THEM. THE FREEDOM TO TRAVEL IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT. WE INTEND TO PROTECT IT," THE GOVERNOR STRESSED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO DISGUISE THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE PROBLEM BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE, AND THE DEMAND FOR TRAINED PERSONNEL WAS HIGH.

"THE MEDIA ATTENTION MIGRATION ATTRACTS CAN EASILY PAINT HONG KONG IN AN UNFAVOURABLE LIGHT. NONETHELESS, IT IS ESSENTIALLY A PRACTICAL PROBLEM AND WE ARE TAKING PRACTICAL STEPS TO DEAL WITH IT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE FOUNDATION FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE WAS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY. "OUR ECONOMY IS MORE DIVERSIFIED THAN EVER BEFORE AND THEREFORE STRONGER."

"WE HAVE A LEAN AND INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. OUR ECONOMIC ENGINE IS RACING; IF ANYTHING RUNNING A LITTLE TOO HOT, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT SHRUNK TO THE VERY LOW RATE OF 1.7 PER CENT.

"REAL WAGES CONTINUE TO RISE AND PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAS REACHED NEARLY C\$13,000, AMONGST THE HIGHEST IN ASIA," HE SAID.

"WE MUST ALSO GET ON WITH THE OTHER VITAL PART OF BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: THE PHYSICAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT 1997 WAS NOT A SPECIAL DATE IN THE MINDS OF OUR PLANNERS.

"THEY PLAN FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT BE LEAVING -- THE AT LEAST SIX MILLION PEOPLE WHO, COME WHAT MAY, WILL STILL HAVE THEIR HOMES IN HONG KONG IN THE 21ST CENTURY. AND THEY PLAN FOR POST-INDUSTRIAL HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WAS ALL ABOUT TRADE AND FINANCE, AND GOVERNMENT LETTING BUSINESSMEN DO WHAT THEY DID BEST.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PLAN THE IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO EDUCATION WHICH IT KNEW TO BE NECESSARY. IT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A SENSIBLE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR A MAJOR DEVELOPED CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE, HE SAID.

"WE WILL LOOK TO OUR MAIN TRADING PARTNERS, LIKE CANADA, TO CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS WITH US, TO THE GAIN OF BOTH OF US. WE WILL RELY ON ECONOMICS AND THE IRREPRESSIBLE BUSINESS INSTINCTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO DO THE REST," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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GOVERNOR WELCOMES U.S. DECISION ON MFN

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) IN TORONTO WELCOMED THE DECISION BY PRESIDENT BUSH TO MAINTAIN CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A LUNCHEON OF THE UNIVERSAL SPEAKER'S FORUM, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG HAD BEEN EXPLAINING TO U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT ENDING MFN STATUS WOULD HAVE A VERY DRASTIC EFFECT ON HONG KONG.

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GOOD NEWS FOR HK: STI

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, WELCOMED THE DECISION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT BUSH TO RENEW CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

"THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS FROM HONG KONG'S POINT OF VIEW," HE SAID.

"OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG HAVE WORKED HARD TO CONVEY TO US OFFICIALS, SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN THE MESSAGE THAT WITHDRAWAL OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HONG KONG. I BELIEVE THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN HEARD AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," MR CHAN SAID.

HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT CONTINUED VIGILANCE WAS NEEDED.

"IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN MAY SEEK TO PASS LEGISLATION TO OVERTURN THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS VERY CLOSELY AND WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO ARGUE AGAINST ANY SUCH LEGISLATION," MR CHAN SAID.

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GOVERNOR CONCLUDES TWO-DAY VISIT TO OTTAWA

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, CONCLUDED A TWO-DAY ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS IN OTTAWA ON WEDNESDAY, IN THE FIRST PART OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA.

OF HIS MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS THERE, SIR DAVID SAID: "I DID GET THE IMPRESSION OF A GENUINELY WARM WELCOME AND A GENUINE WISH TO TRY TO BUILD UP A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG, A PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES, AND ON THE CANADIAN SIDE TO DO ANYTHING THAT THEY COULD WHICH WAS HELPFUL FOR HONG KONG AND HELPFUL FOR MAKING SURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE ACTUALLY WORK OUT IN PRACTICE."

SIR DAVID'S SECOND DAY IN THE CANADIAN CAPITAL BEGAN WITH A MEETING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION, MRS BARBARA MCDUGALL.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A MEETING IN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WITH THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR JOHN CROSBIE.

THE GOVERNOR THEN WENT ON TO A WORKING LUNCH WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND 20 BUSINESS LEADERS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH, OR INTERESTS IN, HONG KONG.

IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, THE GOVERNOR FLEW TO TORONTO WHERE ON THURSDAY HE WILL START THE SECOND PART OF HIS VISIT WITH FURTHER MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS. HE WILL ALSO ADDRESS A LUNCH GATHERING OF THE UNIVERSAL SPEAKERS' FORUM AT THE TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE.

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WORKING GROUP LOOKING INTO WAYS TO CURB SMUGGLING

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A WORKING GROUP IS LOOKING INTO WAYS TO LIMIT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMUGGLING INTO CHINESE WATERS, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"OF COURSE THE EXPORT OF GOODS FROM HONG KONG IN ITSELF IS NOT AN OFFENCE BUT THE SMUGGLING INTO CHINA IS AND WE'LL OBVIOUSLY WISH TO CO-OPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMUGGLING," HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE'S WAI HANG SPORTS CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF SMUGGLING WHICH WAS GOING ON.

"WE ARE LOOKING AT THAT NOW AND I HOPE THAT WITHIN A DAY OR SO WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY MORE ABOUT WHAT WE INTEND TO DO TO CURB THIS ACTIVITY," HE ADDED.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON BANNING THE USE OF HIGH POWER SPEED BOATS WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR SMUGGLING, HE SAID THIS WAS ONE OF THE MEASURES WHICH WAS BEING LOOKED AT.

/"CLEARLY WHEN

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"CLEARLY WHEN THERE ARE HIGH SPEED BOATS USED IT MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE MILITARY VESSELS ON BOTH SIDES TO APPREHEND THEM BECAUSE SIMPLY THEY CAN OUTSTRIP THEM IN TERMS OF SPEED.

"AND ONE OF THE MEASURES THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE BOATS CANNOT BE USED FOR ILLEGAL PURPOSES," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALSO THE INTEREST OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE HIGH SPEED BOATS FOR THEIR OWN PLEASURE. I BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A COMPROMISE WHICH WILL HELP THE SITUATION," HE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE MARINE INCIDENT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO GET THE INCIDENT RESOLVED AND TO FIX A DATE FOR A MEETING OF THE BORDER LIAISON COMMITTEE.

"SO FAR WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO FIX A DATE BUT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING THERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR SO," SIR DAVID SAID.

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QUALITIES OF GOOD SPORTSMAN IMPORTANT IN FACING FUTURE CHALLENGES
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A GOOD SPORTSMAN MUST HAVE DRIVE, STAMINA, REALISM, DETERMINATION AND RESILIENCE, AND THESE ARE THE QUALITIES WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG THE PLACE IT IS TODAY AND WHICH WILL ALSO BE SO IMPORTANT IN FACING THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WAI HANG SPORTS CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE.

SIR DAVID SAID FACILITIES LIKE TEACHING BUILDINGS, LABORATORIES AND LIBRARIES WERE ESSENTIAL IN STRIVING FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF STUDENTS.

"SPORTS FACILITIES, ON THE OTHER HAND, ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE THE QUALITIES WHICH THEY WILL NEED IN THEIR SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE NOT ONLY IN THEIR STUDIES BUT ALSO IN THEIR LIVES AND CAREERS LATER ON," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE WAI HANG SPORTS CENTRE PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED SPORTS FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, WHOSE NUMBER AT PRESENT STOOD AT 3,000.

"THIS NUMBER IS LIKELY TO BE INCREASED TO 4,000 BY 1994-95. THIS IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AS THE COLLEGE BECAME A UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTION ONLY SEVEN YEARS AGO WITH 2,000 STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

/HE CONGRATULATED

HE CONGRATULATED THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE COUNCIL, THE PRESIDENT AND ALL COLLEGE STAFF ON A JOB WELL DONE AND PAID TRIBUTE TO DR HO SIN-HANG AND MR WILLIAM MONG, WHO HAD BOTH GIVEN GENEROUS DONATIONS AND SUPPORT TO THE COLLEGE IN THE PAST.

"THE NAMING OF THIS SPORTS CENTRE AFTER THEM IS A FITTING RECOGNITION OF THEIR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.

"THE NAMING OF THE SWIMMING POOL IN THIS CENTRE AFTER THE LATE MRS FLORENCE HO IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE GENEROUS DONATION TO THE COLLEGE BY MR DAVID HO TZU-CHO, THE HUSBAND OF MRS HO," SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVT TO MAKE GREATER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TO IMPLEMENT NEW POLICIES ADOPTED LAST YEAR AFTER A MAJOR CONSULTANCY ON THE SUBJECT, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, DR COLIN GREENFIELD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE IBM/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY AND SKILL ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME.

"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENTERED INTO SUCH A LARGE-SCALE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

"A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN THIS PARTNERSHIP IS TO TRAIN MORE STAFF IN USING AND SUPPORTING OUR STANDARD MAINFRAME COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS FOR COMPUTERISATION," HE ADDED.

DR GREENFIELD SAID UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME, IBM WOULD PROVIDE COMPUTER FACILITIES AND EXPERIENCED STAFF FOR TRAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF AND ENHANCING THEIR SKILLS IN USING AND SUPPORTING SYSTEM/370 ARCHITECTURE SYSTEMS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY ADOPTED AS THE STANDARD PLATFORM FOR ITS MAINFRAME COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

ADDITIONALLY, IBM WOULD PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN SPECIFIC AREAS.

DR GREENFIELD SAID SEEKING WAYS TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS WAS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL.

IT HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PURCHASE COMPUTER SYSTEMS THROUGH COMPETITIVE TENDERING, AND STAFF HAD BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT IN PREPARING AND EVALUATING TENDERS AND PROPOSALS.

"IT IS NORMAL FOR A COMPUTER PURCHASE TO TAKE SIX TO NINE MONTHS FROM TENDER PREPARATION, AFTER THE REQUIREMENTS ARE KNOWN, TO CONTRACT SIGNING.

/"IN ENTERING

"IN ENTERING INTO THIS PARTICULAR AGREEMENT WITH IBM, WE EXPECT THE PROCESS TO BE SHORTENED CONSIDERABLY FOR MOST OF OUR MAINFRAME PURCHASES TOGETHER WITH A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL INPUT FOR TENDER EVALUATION," HE SAID.

DR GREENFIELD SAID IBM WOULD PROVIDE A TEAM OF FULL-TIME STAFF WITH EXPERTISE IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE S/370 ARCHITECTURE SYSTEMS IN THE NEXT 30 MONTHS TO TRAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS, AND TO ENHANCE SKILLS.

DR GREENFIELD EMPHASISED THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS VERY FLEXIBLE AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD USE THIRD PARTY PRODUCTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM BEING PROVIDED BY IBM.

"THIS WILL ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO STUDY AND EVALUATE I.T. PRODUCTS FROM OTHER VENDORS AS WELL AS IBM," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT PRECLUDE PROCUREMENT FROM OTHER COMPUTER VENDORS. THE GOVERNMENT IS FREE TO PURCHASE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM ANY VENDOR, INCLUDING OTHER S/370 SUPPLIERS," HE ADDED.

DR GREENFIELD ADDED THAT THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME ONLY DEALT WITH MAINFRAME SYSTEMS. PURCHASES FOR OTHER SYSTEM TYPES, NAMELY MID-RANGE SYSTEMS AND PERSONAL SYSTEMS, WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

REFERRING TO THE US\$25 MILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO BUY FROM IBM OVER THE NEXT 30 MONTHS, DR GREENFIELD SAID THIS AMOUNT WAS REACHED THROUGH CAREFUL, DETAILED ESTIMATION BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS' NEEDS WOULD BE IN THE 30-MONTH PERIOD FOR S/370 FACILITIES, WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASING PLUG COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS FROM OTHER 370 EQUIPMENT VENDORS.

THERE WAS STILL SIGNIFICANT ROOM FOR PURCHASING S/370 EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER VENDORS WITHIN THIS PERIOD THROUGH COMPETITIVE TENDERING.

TURNING TO STAFF SHORTAGE IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IMMUNE, IN THIS RESPECT, ADDING THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS CURRENTLY SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF SUCH PROFESSIONALS.

"THE STAFF TURNOVER IN 1989-90 IS ABOUT 14 PER CENT WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION AT THE SENIOR ANALYST AND ANALYST PROGRAMMER LEVELS," HE SAID.

"THIS, TOGETHER WITH A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS MEANS THAT WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AND CONTINUING TRAINING REQUIREMENT," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR ROY KILVERT, SAID DURING 1988 AND 1989, IBM WERE FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL IN COMPETING FOR A SHARE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DATA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS AND SECURED 45.17 PER CENT AND 38.43 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL PURCHASES.

"THEY ARE ALSO VERY MUCH THE FRONT RUNNERS FOR SIX ADDITIONAL NEW, REPLACEMENT OR ENHANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW," HE SAID.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID HIS STAFF, IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, WOULD CONTINUE TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT SPECIFICATIONS, CONTRACTUAL TERMS, CONDITIONS AND PRICES PAID REPRESENTED FINANCIALLY VIABLE PACKAGES AND ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TAXPAYER RECEIVED "VALUE FOR MONEY".

"IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT DURING THE 1989-90 FINANCIAL YEAR, MY COLLEAGUES AND I ACHIEVED IDENTIFIABLE SAVINGS OF SOME \$97 MILLION AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL LIAISON WITH OUR CLIENT DEPARTMENTS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUPPLIERS.

"THIS COMPARES VERY FAVOURABLY WITH THE ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF MY DEPARTMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY SOME \$68 MILLION," MR KILVERT SAID.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR APRIL PUBLISHED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR APRIL 1990.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84 - SEP. 85 = 100) FOR APRIL 1990, AT 139.3 AND 138.8 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.4 PER CENT AND 9.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1989.

THESE RATES OF INCREASE WERE LOWER THAN THOSE RECORDED FOR MARCH 1990 (10.0 PER CENT AND 9.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO APRIL 1990, THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) INCREASED BY 9.4 PER CENT AND 9.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) IN APRIL 1990 WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION), SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES, AND FOODSTUFFS AT 18.1 PER CENT, 13.4 PER CENT, 13.3 PER CENT AND 10.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES FOR THE SAME COMPONENTS IN THE CPI(B) WERE 17.8 PER CENT, 13.0 PER CENT, 13.0 PER CENT AND 10.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) WAS MAINLY DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF CIGARETTES. THE INCREASE IN THE SERVICES COMPONENT WAS PARTLY DUE TO HIGHER SCHOOL FEES FOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND HIGHER MEDICAL CHARGES OF PRIVATE DOCTORS.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES, THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO HIGHER FARES OF BUS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS. THE INCREASE IN THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT WAS LARGELY DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN CANTONESE RESTAURANTS.

THESE FOUR COMPONENTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AND THREE QUARTERS OF THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(B).

COMPARING APRIL 1990 WITH MARCH 1990, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 1.0 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 1.2 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1990, AT 133.3 AND 132.8 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.9 PER CENT AND 9.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1989.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED APRIL 1990, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.7 PER CENT PER MONTH AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(B), AT 0.8 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR APRIL 1990 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990 AND APRIL 1989, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR APR. 90	% CHANGE OVER MAR. 90	% CHANGE OVER APR. 89	INDEX FOR APR. 90	% CHANGE OVER MAR. 90	% CHANGE OVER APR. 89
FOODSTUFFS	141.3	+0.2	+10.1	142.9	+0.3	+10.5
HOUSING	128.6	+1.3	+ 6.7	123.2	+0.9	+ 6.4
FUEL AND LIGHT	104.1	+1.6	+ 8.3	104.3	+1.7	+ 7.7

/ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

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ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	156.9	+2.2	+18.1	157.6	+2.2	+17.8
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	145.3	+5.8	+ 7.7	148.6	+7.0	+ 7.6
DURABLE GOODS	124.0	+0.6	+ 2.3	123.2	+0.6	+ 2.2
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	136.9	-0.5	+ 4.1	137.3	-0.3	+ 4.8
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	149.2	+3.1	+13.3	147.8	+2.8	+13.0
SERVICES	155.1	+0.8	+13.4	155.1	+0.9	+13.0
ALL ITEMS	139.3	+1.0	+ 9.4	138.8	+1.2	+ 9.3

COMPARING APRIL 1990 WITH MARCH 1990, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO AN INCREASE IN THE CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT AND FRESH VEGETABLES.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS (INCLUDING RATES) FOR SOME PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND FOR SOME HOUSING AUTHORITY AND HOUSING SOCIETY ESTATES.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.7 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO THE UPWARD FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT FOR ELECTRICITY AND TOWNGAS.

THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) INCREASED BY 2.2 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B), REFLECTING THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT INCREASE IN DUTIES ON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 5.8 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 7.0 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING AS THE CLEARANCE SALES OF SOME DEPARTMENT STORES AND FASHION SHOPS HAD ENDED IN EARLY APRIL.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 3.1 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 2.8 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT INCREASES IN BUS FARES AND IN DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCE FEES.

/FIGURES HEREIN

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FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR APRIL 1990, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$5 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 823 5089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 147.4 IN APRIL 1990, UP BY 1.5 PER CENT OVER MARCH 1990 AND BY 10.6 PER CENT OVER APRIL 1989.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL RELEASED

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IN APRIL 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECLINED COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1989, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS GREW SIGNIFICANTLY. IMPORTS CONTINUED TO SHOW A MODERATE INCREASE.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL 1990 WAS \$16,407 MILLION, \$1,073 MILLION OR 6.1 PER CENT LESS THAN IN APRIL 1989, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$2,785 MILLION OR 9.9 PER CENT TO \$30,860 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$47,267 MILLION IN APRIL 1990, WAS THUS \$1,712 MILLION OR 3.8 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1989.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 5.7 PER CENT OR \$2,721 MILLION FROM A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$50,640 MILLION IN APRIL 1990.

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AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$3,373 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN APRIL 1990.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$2,364 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.9 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN APRIL 1989.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1990 WAS \$176,876 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$62,867 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$114,009 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$8,272 MILLION OR 4.9 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS FALLING BY \$2,540 MILLION OR 3.9 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS RISING BY \$10,812 MILLION OR 10.5 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS ROSE BY \$5,371 MILLION OR BY 3.0 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, TO \$183,321 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$6,445 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.5 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1990.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$9,346 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1989.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED WEAK IN APRIL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SUPPORTED MAINLY BY SUSTAINED GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SHOW A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE. THIS HAD LED TO A CONTINUED PROPORTIONATE SHIFT FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS IN HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORT TRADE.

MOREOVER, A SIZEABLE PART OF THE RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN WERE KNOWN TO BE PRODUCTS OF OUTWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS COMMISSIONED BY HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS.

AS REGARDS RETAINED IMPORTS, AFTER ALLOWING FOR A RE-EXPORT MARGIN IN THE DERIVATION OF THEIR VALUE, THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL INCREASE IN APRIL COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL 1990.

/MERCHANDISE: DOMESTIC

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MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$16,407	MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$30,860	MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$47,267	MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	\$50,640	MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 3,373	MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	FEB 90	FEB 89	INCREASE	
	TO APR 90 HK\$ MN.	TO APR 89 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	46,229	48,145	-1,916	-4.0
RE-EXPORTS	86,049	76,943	9,106	11.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	132,278	125,088	7,190	5.7
IMPORTS	142,229	134,816	7,413	5.5
TRADE BALANCE	-9,951	-9,728	-223	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	APRIL	APRIL	INCREASE	
	1990 HK\$ MN.	1989 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	16,407	17,480	-1,073	-6.1
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(34.7%)	(38.4%)		
RE-EXPORTS	30,860	28,075	2,785	9.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	47,267	45,555	1,712	3.8
IMPORTS	50,640	47,919	2,721	5.7
TRADE BALANCE	-3,373	-2,364	-1,009	

LAST MONTH	APRIL	MARCH	INCREASE	
	1990 HK\$ MN.	1990 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	16,407	16,512	-105	-0.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(34.7%)	(34.9%)		
RE-EXPORTS	30,860	30,743	117	0.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	47,267	47,255	12	0.0
IMPORTS	50,640	51,117	-477	-0.9
TRADE BALANCE	-3,373	-3,862	489	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-APR	JAN-APR	INCREASE	
	1990 HK\$ MN.	1989 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	62,867	65,407	-2,540	-3.9
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.5%)	(38.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	114,009	103,197	10,812	10.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	176,876	168,604	8,272	4.9
IMPORTS	183,321	177,950	5,371	3.0
TRADE BALANCE	-6,445	-9,346	2,901	

/MAY 89

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LAST 12 MONTHS	MAY 89	MAY 88	INCREASE	
	TO	TO	HK\$ MN.	%
	APR 90	APR 89		
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	221,564	222,846	-1,282	-0.6
RE-EXPORTS	357,218	305,098	52,120	17.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	578,782	527,944	50,838	9.6
IMPORTS	568,152	537,801	30,351	5.6
TRADE BALANCE	10,630	-9,857	20,487	

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WRITTEN PART OF DRIVING TEST COMPUTERISED
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS GAUGING PUBLIC RESPONSE TO A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM DESIGNED TO TEST POTENTIAL DRIVERS' KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROAD USERS' CODE.

AT PRESENT, ANYONE APPLYING FOR A DRIVING LICENCE HAS TO PASS THE WRITTEN PART OF A DRIVING TEST.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY TRANSCRIBED THE WRITTEN TEST ONTO A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM AND IS PUTTING IT ON TRIAL FOR SIX MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID FOUR TEST UNITS HAD BEEN INSTALLED AT THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE AT 2 MURRAY ROAD AND THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE AT PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR, FOR THE PUBLIC TO TRY OUT AND GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM HAS TWO MODELS OF TEST EQUIPMENT, ONE OPERATED BY TOUCHING THE SCREEN AND THE OTHER BY PRESSING KEYPADS.

EACH MODEL IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT WITH A VISUAL DISPLAY, LASER DISK PLAYER WITH QUESTIONS ON DISK, COMPUTER HARDWARE AND DISPLAY CABINET. FULL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS ARE DISPLAYED ON THE SCREEN.

A PERSON WILL BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF TAKING THE TEST IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE. HE WILL ANSWER A RANDOM SELECTION OF 10 QUESTIONS BY TOUCHING THE APPROPRIATE AREAS ON THE SCREEN OR PRESSING THE APPROPRIATE KEYPAD.

AT THE END OF THE TEST, THE PERCENTAGE OF CORRECT ANSWERS WILL BE CALCULATED BY THE COMPUTER AND A PASS OR FAIL RESULT WILL BE DISPLAYED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CONDUCTING THE WRITTEN TEST THROUGH THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF REDUCING THE WAITING TIME TO SIT FOR SUCH A TEST.

/MOREOVER, THE

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MOREOVER, THE TESTS WOULD BE CONDUCTED MORE EFFICIENTLY AS THE RESULTS WOULD BE DISPLAYED ON THE SCREEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TESTS AND CANDIDATES NEED NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR AN HOUR OR SO FOR THEIR RESULTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE BALLOT SYSTEM IN SELECTING QUESTIONS COULD BE DISPENSED WITH AS THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM COULD RANDOMLY SELECT 20 QUESTIONS FROM A GENERAL POOL OF QUESTIONS OF DIFFERENT TEST TERMINALS.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED ANYONE TAKING THE WRITTEN TEST TO TRY OUT THE SYSTEM AND TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS BY ANSWERING A QUESTIONNAIRE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE TRIAL WAS PURELY VOLUNTARY AND FOR THE PRESENT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY CANDIDATES WOULD ONLY BE DETERMINED BY THE WRITTEN TEST.

"IF PUBLIC RESPONSE IS FAVOURABLE, THE CURRENT MANUAL SYSTEM WILL BE CHANGED TO THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD TAKE ABOUT 20 MONTHS, INCLUDING THE SIX-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD," HE ADDED.

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DRAGON BOAT RACES

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RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY DRAGON BOAT RACES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR FROM SATURDAY (MAY 26) TO MONDAY (MAY 28).

THE FIRST MATINEE RACES WILL BE HELD AT THE WATERFRONT OFF THE CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING BASIN ON SATURDAY. THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, WILL ATTEND THE EVENT AT 3 PM.

ON SUNDAY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL ATTEND THE RACES AT THE WATERFRONT OFF RIVIERA GARDENS, TSUEN WAN, AT 12.30 PM, WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, WILL ATTEND THE RACES AT THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER IN SHAU KEI WAN, AT 3.30 PM.

ON MONDAY, AT 12.30 PM, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE TAI PO RACES WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE WATERFRONT OFF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, WILL ATTEND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT RACES AT THE ABERDEEN PROMENADE AT 4 PM.

ON THE SAME DAY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE RACES AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER AT 3 PM, WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE RACES AT SHING MUN RIVER, SHA TIN, AT 12.30 PM.

/THE SECRETARY

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL ATTEND THE RACES AT THE WATERFRONT OFF RECLAMATION AREA 16, TUEN MUN, AT 12.30 PM. THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S. H. LEE, WILL ATTEND THE RACES AT THE WATERFRONT OFF SAI KUNG TOWN AT 12.30 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

SPECIAL FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO COVER THE FOLLOWING RACES:

- * TSUEN WAN RACES ON SUNDAY (MAY 27): A GOVERNMENT VAN WILL LEAVE THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE TSUEN WAN MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING AT 10.45 AM TO TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE RACE VENUE.
- * TAI PO RACES ON MONDAY (MAY 28): PRESS BADGES AND PARKING LABELS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES BETWEEN THE VENUE AND TAI PO MARKET STATION WILL BE PROVIDED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM ON MONDAY.
- * SAI KUNG RACES ON MONDAY (MAY 28): A SPECIAL LAUNCH WILL TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OFF SHORE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AT A VANTAGE POINT. THE LAUNCH WILL LEAVE THE WATERFRONT OF SAI KUNG TOWN AT 11.30 AM ON MONDAY.

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NEW DRAGON BOATS LAUNCHED IN TAI PO

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TWO NEW DRAGON BOATS FOR THIS YEAR'S TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE WERE LAUNCHED AT A CEREMONY AT THE TAI WONG YEH SHRINE IN YUEN CHAU TSAI, TAI PO, THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THE CEREMONY STARTED WITH AN OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO THE PATRON SAINT OF THE FISHERMEN, TAI WONG YEH, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE, MR HO YUNG-SANG, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMEN, MR CHUNG YICK-MING, MR WONG CHUN-WAI AND MISS MARY CHOW.

/THE TAI

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU, AND THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, THEN DOTTED THE EYES OF THE DRAGON BOATS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EXHIBITION RACE BY TWO WINNING TEAMS IN LAST YEAR'S RACES.

COSTING ABOUT \$40,000 EACH, THE TWO NEW BOATS WILL COMPETE WITH 19 OTHERS IN THE TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE EVENTS NEXT WEEK.

THE RACE HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE 1990 AND IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

THE RACES WILL TAKE PLACE ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 28).

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AIR QUALITY REPORT

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE LATEST REPORT ON AIR QUALITY IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE DOCUMENT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY REPORTS BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

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BID TO INCREASE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SOON CLOSE DOWN TWO OF ITS LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OFFICES IN A MOVE TO PROVIDE A MORE COST-EFFECTIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

THE TWO LES OFFICES, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY MADE USE OF, ARE THE MONG KOK OFFICE TO BE CLOSED FROM SATURDAY (MAY 26) AND THE YAU MA TEI OFFICE TO BE CLOSED FROM JUNE 2.

HOWEVER, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS IN THE TWO DISTRICTS RESPECTIVELY BY THE LES SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE AT 234 TAI PO ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, AND THE HUNG HOM OFFICE AT 125 DOCK STREET, GROUND FLOOR, WHAMPOA ESTATE PHASE I.

ENQUIRIES ON EMPLOYMENT CAN ALSO BE MADE TO THE SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE ON 777 0189 OR 777 0296 AND TO THE HUNG HOM OFFICE ON 365 6261, 365 6262 OR 365 6263.

STARTING ON TUESDAY (MAY 29), THE LES SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE WILL SERVE JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN MONG KOK, TAI KOK TSUI, SHAM SHUI PO, CHEUNG SHA WAN AND LAI CHI KOK.

AS FOR THE HUNG HOM OFFICE, IT WILL CATER FOR RESIDENTS IN YAU MA TEI, TSIM SHA TSUI, HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN AND HO MAN TIN AFTER JUNE 4.

MEANWHILE, THE EMPLOYMENT HOTLINE FOR ENQUIRIES BY EX-IVORY WORKERS WILL ALSO BE CHANGED FROM 735 5527 TO 393 6178 AS FROM JUNE 4 FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE YAU MA TEI OFFICE.

THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDES FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES THROUGH A NETWORK OF 15 BRANCH OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

JOB-SEEKERS ARE REQUIRED ONLY TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS DURING OFFICE HOURS TO REGISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE LES OFFICES, WHILE EMPLOYERS CAN SIMPLY PLACE THEIR VACANCY ORDERS BY TELEPHONE.

VACANCY INFORMATION SO OBTAINED WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY AND TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO ALL OTHER LES OFFICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF JOB-SEEKERS IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

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REMINDER ON SALARIES TAX RETURNS
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED SALARIED TAXPAYERS TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED SALARIES TAX RETURNS TO THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE NEXT THURSDAY (MAY 31).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT MORE THAN 1,040,000 RETURNS FOR FINAL ASSESSMENT 1989-90 AND PROVISIONAL PAYMENT 1990-91 HAD BEEN ISSUED ON MAY 1.

"FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED RETURNS BEFORE MAY 31 IS AN OFFENCE AND MAY RESULT IN IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES," HE WARNED.

"MAKING AN INCORRECT OR FALSE RETURN WITH A FRAUDULENT INTENT TO EVADE TAX, OR TO ASSIST ANY OTHER PERSON TO DO SO, IS ALSO AN OFFENCE. ON CONVICTION, AN OFFENDER SHALL BE LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTY, THE MAXIMUM BEING IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE YEARS AND A FURTHER FINE OF TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

"THE COURT OF APPEAL OF HIGH COURT HAS RECENTLY WARNED THAT, ON CONVICTION, THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE LIABLE TO IMMEDIATE CUSTODIAL SENTENCE," HE SAID.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO MAKE ENQUIRY ON SALARIES TAX RETURNS IS ADVISED TO TELEPHONE 894 2050 OR 894 2150 DURING OFFICE HOURS (8.15 AM - 12.15 PM AND 1.15 PM - 4.45 PM ON WEEKDAYS; 9 AM - 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS), OR WRITE TO GPO BOX 132, HONG KONG.

CURRENT SALARIED TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE RETURN FORMS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE RELEVANT ASSESSING SECTIONS, THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF WHICH ARE SHOWN IN THE TAX DEMANDS OR ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE THAT THEY RECEIVED FROM THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY.

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TUEN NG HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE
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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON MONDAY, MAY 28, WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

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

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

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REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO BE BUILT IN WAN CHAI
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT SHIU FAI TERRACE, WAN CHAI.

OCCUPYING A SITE OF ABOUT 185 SQUARE METRES, THE SINGLE-STOREY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH CARBON FILTERS TO PREVENT THE EMISSION OF FOUL SMELL.

IT WILL HAVE AN OFFICE, A STOREROOM, A STAFF TOILET AND A PUMP ROOM.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 8.

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TSING YI LOT TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A LAND LOT ON TSING YI ISLAND.

LOCATED IN AREA 8, THE SITE MEASURES ABOUT 6,500 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS, EXCLUDING STORAGE OF CONTAINERS AND PARKING OF CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 8.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT FOR ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE NOISE REDUCING HIGHWAY SURFACING WORKS, THE SLIP-ROAD LEADING FROM ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR EASTBOUND TO JAVA ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 26) TO 5 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 28).

MOTORISTS MAY USE THE SLIP-ROAD LEADING FROM ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR EASTBOUND TO TONG SHUI ROAD OR THE SLIP-ROAD LEADING FROM ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR EASTBOUND TO TAIKOO WAN ROAD.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN HUNG HOM

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 26), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAI WAN ROAD, IN HUNG HOM, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH MA TAU WAI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 108 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

ALSO, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HOK YUEN STREET, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH MA TAU WAI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 38 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARD FOR ABOUT 12 METRES.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS IN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TOLO HIGHWAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF TOLO HIGHWAY IN TAI PO WILL BE PARTIALLY CLOSED DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * ON SATURDAY (MAY 26), A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND NEAR PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE.
- * ON MAY 29 AND 30, A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.8 KILOMETRES OF THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE.
- * ON MAY 31, A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.8 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND NEAR ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1990

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN KOWLOON CITY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 26), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD BETWEEN CHEUNG NING STREET AND TO KWA WAN ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TO KWA WAN ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY. CONCURRENTLY THE URBAN CLEARWAY WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARD FOR ABOUT 12 METRES.

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

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