



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1994

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DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR MRS ANSON CHAN SPEAKS TO PRESS
AFTER HER VISIT TO TRANSPORT LICENSING OFFICE

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MRS CHAN: GOOD AFTERNOON. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I'VE JUST BEEN VISITING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND SEEING FOR MYSELF SOME ASPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK. THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN EXPLAINING TO ME HOW THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THE STEADY INCREASE IN VEHICLE NUMBERS AND YET STILL THROUGH IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY, MAKING USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, AND STREAMLINING THEIR PROCEDURES, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY MOVE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ON OUR STREETS EVERYDAY. I THINK THE CREDIT GOES TO THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF. I AM ALSO VERY PLEASED TO KNOW THAT AND I HAVE COMMENDED THE STAFF FOR THEIR EAGERNESS AND THEIR READINESS TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND THEIR SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE WAITING TIME FOR APPLICATION FOR LICENCES. AND I'M SURE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT AREAS TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICES. I AM ALSO VERY GLAD TO KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP. THIS WILL ALSO OF COURSE DO A GREAT DEAL TO ENABLE STAFF OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEIR CUSTOMERS AND TO SEE IN WHAT AREAS THEY CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE SERVICES. RIGHT, QUESTIONS?

REPORTER: DO YOU SHARE THE CONCERNS THAT WERE RAISED BY THE GOVERNOR THE OTHER DAY ABOUT SELF-CENSORSHIP IN THE MEDIA?

MRS CHAN: WELL, I WAS JUST SAYING THAT SELF-CENSORSHIP IS OF COURSE A RISK THAT IS ALWAYS THERE. THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION GUARANTEES PRESS FREEDOM AFTER 1997 AND I'M SURE THAT THIS IS AN AREA THAT THE MEDIA THEMSELVES WILL BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT AND WILL BE PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO BOTH NOW AND AFTER 1997.

REPORTER: WE ARE GETTING MFN NOW, VIRTUALLY WE ALL OF HK'S TOP TRADE OFFICIALS ARE NOW IN HK, WILL YOU BE MEETING WITH THEM TO DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES, SPECIFICALLY MFN AND MAKING DECISIONS ON WHETHER THE GOVERNOR WOULD OR WOULD NOT GO TO WASHINGTON?

MRS CHAN: I HAVE INDEED ALREADY MET THE HEADS OF OVERSEAS OFFICES, NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF MFN AND OTHER TRADE ISSUES BUT ALSO TO DISCUSS A WHOLE RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO OUR OVERSEAS ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES. THE MFN ISSUE, YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT IS OBVIOUSLY OF GREAT CONCERN TO US BECAUSE THERE IS AN IMPACT ON HONG KONG TRADE AND THEREFORE ON OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE GOVERNOR HAS ALREADY SAID THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT LOBBYING EFFORTS WE SHOULD BE LAUNCHING THIS YEAR. WE HOPE VERY SHORTLY TO ARRIVE AT A POSITION AS TO THE STRATEGY IN TERMS OF LOBBYING FOR EXTENSION OF MFN FOR CHINA.

REPORTER: WOULD YOU PERSONALLY ADVOCATE THAT HE GOES TO WASHINGTON?

MRS CHAN: I THINK THE GOVERNOR IS CONSIDERING, HAVING GONE LAST YEAR, WHETHER HE SHOULD GO AGAIN THIS YEAR AND IF HE DOESN'T GO, WHO SHOULD GO, IF ANYBODY.

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CONCERTED EFFORT TO KEEP HONG KONG MOVING

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAW THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AT WORK WHEN SHE VISITED THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

MRS CHAN WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT THE IMMIGRATION TOWER BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, AND OTHER DIRECTORATE OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

SHE WAS TOLD THAT HONG KONG'S SUCCESS HAD LED TO INCREASED CAR OWNERSHIP AND USE, AND ALSO INCREASED FREIGHT TRAFFIC AND GOODS VEHICLE FLEET BOTH LOCALLY AND ACROSS THE BORDER.

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND, A NUMBER OF MAJOR TRANSPORT NETWORKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

HOWEVER, THE SUSTAINED STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CAR OWNERSHIP LEVEL DURING THE SAME PERIOD HAD RESULTED IN CONGESTIONS AT SOME MAJOR CORRIDORS.

THERE ARE PLANS TO EXPAND THE RAIL AND ROAD SYSTEMS UP TO THE YEAR 2001.

BUT THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY HAD SHOWN THAT DESPITE THE COMPLETION OF THE PROPOSED TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, THE ROADS WILL STILL BE CONGESTED.

A TRANSPORT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ROAD TRAFFIC DEMANDS MUST BE DAMPENED AND THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT MUST BE ENCOURAGED.

MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC PREFER DIRECT AND CONVENIENT SERVICE, A CHOICE OF MODE AND WELCOME COMPETITION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ROUTE RATIONALISATION AND TRUNK-FEEDER SYSTEMS ARE THEREFORE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, CARE MUST BE TAKEN IN INTRODUCING COMPETITION AS UNHEALTHY COMPETITION AFFECTS FINANCIAL VIABILITY, HE ADDED.

MRS CHAN WAS TOLD THAT BUSES WERE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MODE WHICH CARRIED OVER 34 PER CENT, OR ROUGHLY THREE MILLION, PASSENGER TRIPS A DAY.

ON THE TAXI SERVICE, MRS CHAN WAS TOLD THAT IMPROVEMENT MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN RECENT YEARS TO TACKLE MALPRACTICES.

IN LATE 1991, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE TAXI POLICY, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE QUALITY OF SERVICE, FARES AND THE LICENSING SYSTEM. IT WILL PUT FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT LATER.

MAINTAINING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES DURING TRANSPORT EMERGENCIES IS A GREAT CHALLENGE TO TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

MRS CHAN WAS TOLD THAT TRANSPORT EMERGENCIES AROSE MAINLY DUE TO DISRUPTION TO TRANSPORT SERVICES OR CLOSURE OF ROADS DUE TO VARIOUS INCIDENTS.

/WHEN THE

WHEN THE SITUATION WARRANTS, THE EMERGENCY TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION CENTRE WILL BE ACTIVATED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO MAINTAIN OR TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY RELIEF SERVICES TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

ON ROAD SAFETY, THE PILOT SCHEME ON RED LIGHT CAMERA HAS PROVED VERY EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING RED LIGHT JUMPING AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

THE SCHEME WILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER MORE ROAD JUNCTIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR. LEGISLATION REGARDING DRINK DRIVING WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED.

ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME, MRS CHAN WAS TOLD THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS OPERATING WELL WITHIN THE PLEDGED TIMES FOR LICENSING SERVICES AND CUSTOMERS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE LICENSING OFFICES.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO TAKES HEED OF SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP MEETINGS AND HAS REVIEWED AND REVISED MORE THAN 110 APPLICATION FORMS TO MAKE THEM MORE USER-FRIENDLY.

SECURITY GUARDS WERE EMPLOYED IN THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE TO DETER TOUTING ACTIVITIES IN THE WAITING HALL.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR HUI, MRS CHAN ALSO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE.

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PROCEDURES FOR PROMOTION FOLLOWED

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) STRESSED THAT NORMAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA HAD BEEN FOLLOWED LEADING UP TO THE POSTING OF MRS HELEN YU AS DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS.

HE SAID THE PROCEDURES AND GENERAL CRITERIA FOR PROMOTION WERE LAID DOWN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS AND MUST BE FOLLOWED.

"IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT SO-CALLED POLITICAL FACTORS SUCH AS PRESSURE FROM STAFF ASSOCIATIONS CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FURTHERMORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED AS AN INDEPENDENT WATCHDOG TO PREVENT THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENING.

"IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, IT WAS DECIDED AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROMOTION CRITERIA, THAT THERE WAS NO ONE FULLY SUITABLE AT THIS STAGE TO BE APPOINTED SUBSTANTIVELY AS DIRECTOR.

/"THEREFORE, FOLLOWING

"THEREFORE, FOLLOWING PRECEDENTS IN PREVIOUS CASES WE DECIDED TO POST IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO LEAD THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TIME-BEING.

"THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BOWED TO POLITICAL PRESSURE IN DOING SO IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE.

"SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT, MRS YU'S APPOINTMENT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THIS DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CONTRACT AWARD FOR CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL - TUNNEL SERVICES
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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS TODAY (THURSDAY) ACCEPTED A \$122 MILLION TENDER SUBMITTED BY GEC (HONG KONG) LTD FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL TUNNEL SERVICES FOR CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL ON THE TSING YI ISLAND SECTION OF ROUTE 3.

THIS CONTRACT IS A MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME'S HIGHWAYS NETWORK LINKING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN TO KOWLOON AND CENTRAL HONG KONG.

ROUTE 3 IS PLANNED AS A MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY LINKING THE BORDER AND NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH WEST KOWLOON VIA TSING YI.

THE FIRST PART OF ROUTE 3 TO BE CONSTRUCTED FALLS WITHIN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AND CONNECTS THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WITH THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

THE CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL ON TSING YI ISLAND FORMS PART OF THIS SECTION.

THE WORKS TO BE EXECUTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT INCLUDE THE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FACILITIES:

- * POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM
- * TUNNEL LIGHTING SYSTEM
- * FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM
- * BUILDING SERVICES

TENDERS WERE RECEIVED FROM FOUR PREQUALIFIED TENDERERS AND GEC (HONG KONG) LTD SUBMITTED THE LOWEST BID. THE WORKS WILL START BY THE END OF THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION BY JANUARY 1997.

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO 35, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$31.4 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE FOUR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS VALUED AT \$9.7 BILLION AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE ACP, ALL WITHIN BUDGET, IS MORE THAN \$46.8 BILLION.

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TESTING OF NEW X-RAY MACHINE AT BORDER

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A NEW TYPE OF X-RAY MACHINE TO SCAN THE CONTENTS OF CONTAINERS AND LORRIES AT CONTROL POINTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE NEW X-RAY MACHINE DEVELOPED BY AN OVERSEAS SUPPLIER HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HONG KONG, FOR IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON THE TRAFFIC FLOW OF CROSS-BORDER VEHICLES.

"THE EVALUATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PHASES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON MONDAY (JANUARY 24) A NUMBER OF DRIVERS OF THE NORMAL TRAFFIC MAY BE DIRECTED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLES THROUGH AN INSPECTION LANE AT LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT, WHERE TWO BRICK WALLS HAVE BEEN ERECTED, TO ASSESS THE ACTUAL IMPACT OF THE INSPECTION PROCEDURES ON THE TRAFFIC FLOWS.

"DURING THE THREE-DAY SURVEY, THE X-RAY EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE SET UP AT THE TEST SITE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRANSPORT SURVEY, THE PROTOTYPE X-RAY EQUIPMENT WILL THEN BE SET UP FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF TESTS UNDER A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT BY SPECIALISTS TO IDENTIFY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHETHER IT IS HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH OF THE PERSONNEL WORKING NEAR THE SYSTEM.

"IN THE SUBSEQUENT EVALUATION TESTS, DRIVERS OF THE NORMAL TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE PART," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 3RD QUARTER OF 1993

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, AMOUNTED TO \$19.2 BILLION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993, WHICH WAS 13.2% HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO MORE ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PUBLIC SECTOR SITES AS WELL AS A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF OFF SITE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE THIRD QUARTER INCREASED BY 5.9%.

/THE GROSS

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT PRIVATE SECTOR SITES TOTALLED \$7.2 BILLION, BEING 8.7% LOWER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 BUT 3.9% HIGHER THAN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT PUBLIC SECTOR SITES WAS \$6.4 BILLION, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 49.0% AND 5.6% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

THE INCREASES WERE MAINLY DUE TO A FURTHER PICK-UP OF ACTIVITIES IN A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS \$3.9 BILLION, WHICH WAS 14.1% AND 16.7% HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

THIS INCLUDED MINOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND RENOVATION WORKS AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION SITES, COMPRISING MAINLY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FITTING WORK, TOTALLED \$1.7 BILLION, REPRESENTING 25.1% HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 BUT 5.7% LOWER THAN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

ANALYSED BY END-USE, RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL / NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) CONTINUED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE GREATEST PORTION OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES. THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED IN THESE PROJECTS WAS \$4.7 BILLION, WHICH DROPPED BY 8.3% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.5% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

TRANSPORT PROJECTS CONTINUED TO FORM THE SECOND LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION-SITE WORK. THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED FOR SUCH PROJECTS WAS \$3.6 BILLION.

THIS WAS 128.6% AND 4.6% HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 RESPECTIVELY. THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS CONSTITUTED THE THIRD LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION-SITE WORK.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED FOR SUCH PROJECTS TOTALLED \$1.7 BILLION, WHICH WAS 5.3% HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 BUT 1.8% LOWER THAN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT AT THE SAME TIME.

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, COVERS ONLY THOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT TAKES THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, BUT NOT PROJECTS IN WHICH IT TAKES ONLY THE ROLE OF A SUB-CONTRACTOR.

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, 3RD QUARTER 1993".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, WANCHAI TOWER, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES 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.

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TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO REVIEW OUTLINE ZONING PLAN
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS REFERRED THE DRAFT TSUEN WAN WEST OUTLINE ZONING PLAN TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND AMENDMENTS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN LAND USE PROPOSALS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE PLAN WAS LAST EXHIBITED BY THE BOARD IN 1989 AND HAD BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

"THE BOARD WILL REVISE THE PLANS, WHICH, AFTER INCORPORATING THE LATEST AMENDMENTS, WILL BE EXHIBITED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN DUE COURSE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TSUEN WAN - FIRST NEW TOWN WITH ATC SYSTEM

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AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SYSTEM HELPS REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, SAVE JOURNEY TIME AND IMPROVE TRAFFIC SITUATION, MEMBERS OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WERE TOLD TODAY (THURSDAY).

DURING A VISIT TO THE TSUEN WAN AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE, MEMBERS WERE SHOWN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN ATC TECHNOLOGY AS APPLIED IN HONG KONG.

TSUEN WAN HAS BECOME THE FIRST NEW TOWN WITH AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SYSTEM, AFTER THE SYSTEM WAS COMMISSIONED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR LEE SHU-CHEE, TOLD MEMBERS THAT THE SYSTEM INSTALLED WAS AN INTERIM SYSTEM PROVIDING BASIC ATC FACILITIES COVERING 85 SIGNALISED JUNCTIONS IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI.

IT WILL BE ENHANCED TO THE BASIC SYSTEM WITH ADDITIONAL FACILITIES LATER THIS YEAR.

THE SYSTEM, DESIGNED WITH THE LATEST COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL TECHNIQUES, IS CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING A MAXIMUM OF 190 SIGNAL JUNCTIONS.

IT CAN ACTIVATE DIFFERENT SIGNAL PLANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A TIMETABLE STORED IN THE COMPUTER, SO AS TO ADJUST TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, MR LEE SAID.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CONTROL CENTRE AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTER SYSTEM IN TSUEN WAN WAS COMPLETED IN MID-1993.

THE CENTRE WILL ALSO BE USED TO CONTROL ATC SYSTEMS IN OTHER NEW TOWNS WHEN THEY ARE INSTALLED IN FUTURE.

THE TSUEN WAN ATC SYSTEM USES THE SERVICES OF HONG KONG TELECOM LTD FOR DATA TRANSMISSION BETWEEN THE CONTROL CENTRE AND THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROLLERS, THUS ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR ROAD OPENINGS FOR CABLE LAYING AND MAINTENANCE OF ATC DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK.

"IN 1995, THE TSUEN WAN ATC SYSTEM WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A TRAFFIC MONITORING CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH MORE THAN 20 ROADSIDE CAMERAS," MR LEE ADDED.

AFTER THE VISIT, MR CHAN SIU-MAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, WAS SATISFIED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S IMPROVEMENT WORK TO SOLVE THE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT BY MAKING USE OF ADVANCED FACILITIES.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE OPERATION OF THIS CONTROL CENTRE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN AMELIORATING THE BUSY TRAFFIC AROUND THE CONTAINER TERMINALS AND THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY TO MAKE NECESSARY ADVANCED ARRANGEMENTS TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT KWAI TSING DISTRICT LIED AT THE PIVOT OF THE TRAFFIC NETWORK OF TUEN MUN AND SOUTH NEW TERRITORIES, AND THE CONTROL CENTRE COULD CERTAINLY PLAY A KEY ROLE.

HE HOPES THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT COULD INSTALL CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER FACILITIES, IN THE DISTRICT TO FURTHER ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC PROBLEM THERE.

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CHANGE OF FRAMA LABEL DESIGN

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE LABEL PAPER AND MACHINE DIE PLATE IMPRESSION OF THE ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL (FRAMA LABEL) VENDING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE WILL BE CHANGED FROM THE COCK DESIGN TO THE DOG DESIGN ON MARCH 1.

NO OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CHANGE.

HOWEVER, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, AN ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE FOR PRE-PACKAGED SETS OF FRAMA LABELS BEARING MACHINE CODES '01' AND '02' WILL BE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

- * FROM 10 CENTS TO \$2.30;
- * FROM \$2.40 TO \$5; AND
- * THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE RATES OF 10 CENTS, \$1, \$1.20, \$1.90, \$2, \$2.40 AND \$5.

ADVANCE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ANY POST OFFICE (EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE) FROM JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 2.

CUSTOMERS MAY COLLECT THE LABELS ON MARCH 1 FROM THE POST OFFICE WHERE THEY PLACED THEIR ORDER.

A LIMITED QUANTITY OF PRE-PACKAGED FRAMA LABELS, BEARING THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE (10 CENTS, \$1, \$1.20, \$1.90, \$2, \$2.40 AND \$5), WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON MARCH 1 AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES:

- BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
- GENERAL POST OFFICE
- GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
- PEAK POST OFFICE
- SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
- TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT ALL POST OFFICES (EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE) ON THAT DAY FOR PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,765
REVERSAL OF LAF	+2,235
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-2,760
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,240
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.4 *+0.3* 20.1.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.34	13 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.39	3.45
1 MONTH	2.60	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.15	3.66
3 MONTHS	2.89	19 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.23	3.85
6 MONTHS	3.06	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.26	4.04
12 MONTHS	3.37	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.24	4.54
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 19,637 MN						
CLOSED 20 JANUARY 1994						

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