



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

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GOVERNOR PLEASSED ON LUO'S RELEASE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) HE WAS PLEASSED THAT MR LUO HAIXING, ONE OF FOUR HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN CHINA, HAD BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASSED THAT MR LUO HAD COME BACK TO HONG KONG TODAY SO THAT HE COULD BE WITH HIS FAMILY AND WHATEVER TREATMENT HE DID NEED COULD BE CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG.

"THAT'S VERY WELCOME NEWS TO ALL OF US," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE QUESTION OF THE FOUR HONG KONG DETAINEES WHO WERE IN CHINA WAS RAISED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN MAJOR, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE THREE HONG KONG PEOPLE STILL IN CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE'VE BEEN KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ALL ALONG ON PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG WHO ARE IN JAIL IN CHINA, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT."

TURNING TO THE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LEGCO) ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GO OUT AND VOTE.

"THE MAIN POINT AT THE MOMENT IS TO CARRY OUT THESE ELECTIONS WHICH ARE COMING UP OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING; TAKE THAT STAGE BY STAGE. WE WANT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO GO OUT AND VOTE IN THOSE ELECTIONS. IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT THE ESTIMATES ARE THAT THE TURNOUT IS GOING TO BE HIGH," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN THE LEGCO, SIR DAVID SAID: "WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS QUITE CLEAR AND WHAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD SAID LAST YEAR WHEN WE MADE THE DECISION TO GO FOR 18 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS THIS YEAR, AND THEN 20 IN 1995, WAS ALSO QUITE CLEAR.

"BUT LET'S TAKE IT ONE STAGE AT A TIME AND THE FIRST THING IS TO GET THESE ELECTIONS, OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, GET THOSE AS A REAL SUCCESS WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TAKING PART," HE SAID.

"WE'RE MAKING A VERY MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE PROCESS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT; IT REALLY IS A MAJOR STEP FOR US TO GO INTO THESE DIRECT ELECTIONS.

"WE WILL NOW HAVE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH A MAJORITY OF ELECTED MEMBERS; THAT'S GOING TO BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AND IT'S GOING TO IMPROVE THAT SYSTEM OF CONSULTATION WHICH WE'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR A LONG TIME," SIR DAVID SAID.

/WHEN ASKED

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WHEN ASKED ABOUT COMMENTS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE FULL DEMOCRACY NOW, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT'S BEEN MUCH ARGUED HERE, THAT, FOR MANY YEARS NOW AND THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON IT. THE CONCLUSIONS THAT WE CAME TO WERE THAT WE WOULD MAKE THIS MAJOR STEP THIS YEAR TO DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS TO A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO ARE ELECTED.

"THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD WANT TO GO FASTER THAN THAT AND THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THAT'S GOING TOO FAST. WE'RE GOING TO PROGRESSIVELY EXPAND THE NUMBER WHO ARE ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND WE INTEND TO TRY TO MAKE A REAL SUCCESS OF IT," SIR DAVID SAID.

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HK'S AIRPORT/PORT PROJECTS OFFER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN JAPAN TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S NEW INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS OFFER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF JAPAN/HONG KONG SOCIETY IN TOKYO DURING HIS SECOND-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG IS SET ON MAXIMISING THE PRIVATE SECTOR INPUT INTO OUR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

APART FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS TREMENDOUS SCOPE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALL THE EXCITING PROJECTS, AND THERE WOULD BE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES IN RELATION TO THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

"LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HONG KONG OPERATES THE PROVERBIAL 'LEVEL PLAYING FIELD'.

"NO COUNTRY, WHETHER IT BE HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE IS GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE CONSIDERATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACTS.

"FREE, OPEN AND FAIR COMPETITION HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, A FUNDAMENTAL POLICY, AND IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR CONTINUING SUCCESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO OUTLINED SOME OF THE KEY AIRPORT AND PORT PROJECTS TO HIS AUDIENCE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PLANS WERE BASED ON A CLEAR AND PRAGMATIC VISION OF WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR HONG KONG TO FLOURISH AS A MANUFACTURER, AS AN ENTREPOT AND AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL AND SERVICES CENTRE IN THE DYNAMIC ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

"ALL THESE PLANS ARE NOT JUST PIPE-DREAMS - THEY ARE REALISTIC AND ACHIEVABLE," HE SAID.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS WHICH WAS RECENTLY SIGNED IN PEKING AS "AN EXCELLENT AGREEMENT."

HE SAID THE AGREEMENT RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE IN HONG KONG, WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT PROJECTS IN THE PERIOD UP TO 1997.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, SIR DAVID SAID, WAS THAT IT PROVIDED A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH COMMITMENTS TO BE ENTERED INTO BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT RELATED TO THE AIRPORT, AND WHICH IMPOSED FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ON THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF HONG KONG, COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN A POSITIVE WAY, AND WITHIN AN AGREED TIME-SCALE.

"WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNISED THAT IF WE WERE TO MAXIMISE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE AIRPORT PROJECT, POTENTIAL INVESTORS WOULD WISH TO BE ASSURED OF CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEME."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SUPPORT WAS CLEARLY STATED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO INDICATE CLEARLY TO INTERESTED POTENTIAL INVESTORS THAT OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO THE AIRPORT PROJECTS ENTERED INTO OR GUARANTEED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE VALID, AND RECOGNISED AND PROTECTED BY THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT FROM THE FIRST JULY 1997," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO ACCEPTED THAT THE BANK OF CHINA WOULD PLAY AN APPROPRIATE PART, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE SYNDICATION OF LOANS FOR THE AIRPORT PROJECTS, AND THAT CHINESE CONSTRUCTION FIRMS MAY COMPETE IN THE NORMAL WAY FOR PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE AIRPORT.

"I HAVE SAID THAT I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A GOOD AGREEMENT. WE ARE CERTAINLY VERY COMFORTABLE WITH IT AND ARE CLEAR THAT IT ENABLES US TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THESE PROJECTS WHICH ARE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG, LIKE JAPAN, HAD BEEN BOLD AND AGGRESSIVE IN MEETING CHALLENGES AND HAD LONG EXPERIENCE OF CHANGING THEM INTO SUCCESSFUL OPPORTUNITIES.

HE ADDED THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE WITH MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG TOTALLING NEARLY US\$ 10 BILLION.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL WISH TO BE PART OF THE 'ACTION' I HAVE DESCRIBED, AND WISH THEM ALL GOOD FORTUNE IN THAT," HE SAID.

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CHIEF SECRETARY IN JAPAN

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) HE IS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST SHOWN BY THE JAPANESE IN HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND THE OTHER CORE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OVERALL PLAN.

SIR DAVID IS IN JAPAN AS HEAD OF A HONG KONG DELEGATION TO BRIEF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FINANCIERS AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LEADERS ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

"EVERYWHERE WE'VE BEEN TODAY, WE'VE SEEN TREMENDOUS INTEREST IN THE PROJECT FROM BANKERS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, FROM CONTRACTORS, FROM COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FRANCHISE. ALL HAVE BEEN VERY POSITIVE AND VERY ENCOURAGING.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PROJECT IS SEEN HERE AS ONE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IN THE REGION, NOT JUST AS AN AIRPORT AND PORT FOR HONG KONG, BUT AS AN AIRPORT AND PORT FOR SOUTHERN CHINA AND AS A GATEWAY INTO CHINA FOR THE WHOLE OF THE REGION. I THINK THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH INTEREST," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEW AIRPORT HAD PROVIDED A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE TO INVESTORS IN JAPAN AND THE UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FROM CHINA, WHICH APPEARED IN THE MEMORANDUM, HAD ALSO BEEN A BIG FACTOR IN THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

SIR DAVID WHO LAST VISITED JAPAN 18 MONTHS AGO SAID THE INTEREST IN HONG KONG HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY.

"IN ALL THE MEETINGS WE HAVE HAD TODAY AND THE PEOPLE WE'VE MET, THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE FROM GENERALLY POLITE QUESTIONS OF 18 MONTHS AGO, TO SEARCHING QUESTIONS ABOUT DETAILS OF THE PROJECT, COST, AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY. THAT IS A RECOGNITION OF THE VERY REAL INTEREST WE ARE NOW ENGENDERING IN THE PROJECT."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SINGLING OUT JAPAN FOR SPECIAL BRIEFING TREATMENT.

"OBVIOUSLY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE SIMILAR VISITS TO EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN FACT, MR ALLEN (MR RICHARD ALLEN, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY) IS GOING TO THE UK NEXT WEEK AND WILL BE SEEING SIMILAR GROUPS OF PEOPLE.

"THIS IS A VERY NECESSARY ELEMENT IN GAINING WIDESPREAD UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT," SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND THE HONG KONG DELEGATION SPENT THE DAY IN MEETINGS WITH TOP JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN INCLUDING BANKERS, CONTRACTORS, STEEL MANUFACTURERS AND SHIPPING OPERATORS.

THERE WAS ALSO A MEETING WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR SHOUZABURO JIMI.

/DURING THEIR

DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS, MR JIMI SAID THERE WAS GREAT INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND HE SOUGHT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE TENDERING SCHEDULE.

MORE THAN 100 BUSINESSMEN ALSO ATTENDED A LUNCHEON LECTURE ORGANISED BY THE JAPAN/HONG KONG SOCIETY AT WHICH THE CHIEF SECRETARY SPOKE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE ABILITY OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY TO COPE WITH THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) THERE WILL BE ANOTHER BUSY ROUND OF MEETINGS, INCLUDING A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO HAVE A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN HONG KONG.

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SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES CONTINUE EXPANDING

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, TODAY (TUESDAY) GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD TRY ITS BEST TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE VARIOUS SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

MRS GOODSTADT WAS SPEAKING ON THE PROVISIONS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF LIONS CLUB OF SOUTH KOWLOON AT A TSIM SHA TSUI HOTEL.

"THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND BY THE GOVERNMENT INDICATES ITS COMMITMENT TO LOCAL SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES," SHE NOTED.

ON THE EXPANSION OF SERVICES, SHE SAID A GIRLS' HOSTEL WOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN TUEN MUN IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL TRAININGS FOR GIRLS IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.

"SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, WE SHALL EXTEND OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER (CSO) SCHEME FROM THREE TO SIX MAGISTRACIES BEFORE THE CLOSURE OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR," SHE SAID.

ON CHILDREN'S WELFARE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD INTRODUCE A CHILD SUPPLEMENT OF \$185 PER MONTH UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO PROVIDE GREATER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, STARTING FROM NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

"THIS WILL BENEFIT ABOUT 20,500 CHILDREN," MRS GOODSTADT NOTED.

"NEXT MONTH, WE ARE GOING TO LAUNCH A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON MEASURES AGAINST LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME," SHE ADDED.

MRS GOODSTADT POINTED OUT THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE COVERAGE OF SOCIAL WELFARE WAS DIVERSIFIED.

"SOCIAL WELFARE COVERS A WIDE ASPECT OF SERVICES, WHICH AIM AT RESOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS," SHE ADDED.

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BASICALLY, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED AS MANY AS 63 VARIOUS SERVICES, TARGETTING AT FAMILIES, YOUNG CHILDREN, YOUNGSTERS, SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED PEOPLE, SHE CONTINUED.

"THE PROVISION OF A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES IS TO COPE WITH THE VARIED NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF THE PUBLIC," SHE EXPLAINED, ADDING THAT DEMANDS TO SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES WERE MORE AND MORE SIGNIFICANT.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARING, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY COULD AUGUR WELL IN MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF PROVISIONS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

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STREET PUBLICITY TO PROMOTE LEGCO ELECTIONS
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BROADCASTING VANS AND PUBLICITY BUSES WILL BE TOURING VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AS WELL AS ON POLLING DAY ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 15), TO PROMOTE THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE LATEST ROUND OF PUBLICITY WAS TO CONVEY THE ELECTION MESSAGE IN THE MOST DIRECT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF TAKING PART IN THESE PARADES WOULD STOP AT DIFFERENT PLACES TO REMIND PEOPLE TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON SUNDAY. THEY WOULD ALSO DISTRIBUTE ELECTION SOUVENIRS TO PASSERS-BY.

A THEME SONG ESPECIALLY COMPOSED FOR THE LEGCO POLLS AND TAPED MESSAGES HIGHLIGHTING MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE BROADCAST DURING THE PUBLICITY FANFARES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SOUTHERN, CENTRAL AND WESTERN EASTERN, WAN CHAI, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY, KWUN TONG, YAU TSIM, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, TAI PO, TUEN MUN, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, YUEN LONG AND NORTH DISTRICTS WOULD ALL BE MOUNTING SUCH PUBLICITY DRIVES IN THE COMING DAYS.

SEVERAL DISTRICTS HAD HELD THEIR PARADES EARLIER, HE ADDED.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES NAMED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MR K.T. KUO, DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, WILL RETIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16 THIS YEAR, AND MR SIU CHUEN WILL SUCCEED HIM AS DIRECTOR.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MR KUO KETSING, TATY

AGED 59, MR KUO JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER IN 1958. HE WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN 1985 AND TO DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES IN APRIL 1991.

ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR KUO WILL HAVE COMPLETED 33 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

MR SIU CHUEN

AGED 57, MR SIU JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER IN 1959. HE WAS PROMOTED TO GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN 1982 AND TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN 1987. MR SIU HAS BEEN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1990.

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SPECULATIVE REPORTS ON KMB INTERIM RESULTS UNFOUNDED
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COMMENTING ON CERTAIN MEDIA REPORTS SPECULATING ON THE INTERIM RESULTS OF KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) DID NOT HAVE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION REFERRED TO IN THESE MEDIA REPORTS.

"WHILST THE TAC CAN ASK FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION THAT IS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR GAUGING THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF A PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANY OR FOR DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE TAC BEING GIVEN COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION WITHOUT THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RELEVANT COMPANY, LET ALONE INFORMATION WHICH IS YET TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MANAGING BOARD OF THE COMPANY AS IN THIS CASE.

"ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE TAC MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SPECULATION ABOUT THE INTERIM RESULTS OF THE KMB IS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FREE ISSUE OF CIGARETTES TO PRISONERS WILL STOP SOON

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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO STOP THE FREE ISSUE OF CIGARETTES TO PRISONERS AS FROM MID OCTOBER.

THIS FOLLOWS A LONG PERIOD OF CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE MAJOR CONSIDERATION BEHIND THE DECISION WAS THE HEALTH OF THE PRISONERS AND THAT IT WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM SMOKING.

HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN A TOTAL BAN OF SMOKING IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS. PRISONERS COULD STILL BUY CIGARETTES FROM THEIR EARNINGS.

REFERRING TO YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT IN WHICH SOME PRISONERS IN STANLEY PRISON REFUSED TO WORK IN PROTEST AGAINST THE NEW MEASURE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS WELL PREPARED FOR ANY INCIDENTS.

HE SAID IT WOULD ALSO STEP UP COUNSELLING TO EDUCATE PRISONERS ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS CAUSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING.

IN THIS REGARD, AN ANTI-SMOKING BOOKLET HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PRISONERS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT PRISONERS WHO REFUSED TO WORK MIGHT FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND LOSS OF EARNINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRISON RULES.

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PRISONERS RETURNED TO WORK

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PRISONERS AT STANLEY PRISON HAVE ABANDONED THEIR PROTEST ACTION AND REQUESTED TO RETURN TO WORK, A CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) SPOKESMAN SAID THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

BY 4 PM, ALL OF THE 900 PRISONERS WHO HAD REFUSED TO WORK EARLIER TODAY RETURNED TO WORKSHOPS AND RESUMED WORK.

THE PRISONERS STARTED THEIR PROTEST ACTION YESTERDAY MORNING AFTER THE PRISON MANAGEMENT INFORMED THEM OF THE DECISION TO STOP THE FREE ISSUE OF CIGARETTES TO ALL PRISONERS AS FROM MID OCTOBER.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE CSD'S DECISION WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY.

THE MAJOR CONSIDERATION BEHIND THE DECISION WAS THE HEALTH OF THE PRISONERS AND IT WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM SMOKING, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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TWO MATERNITY HOMES TO CLOSE
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THE LIONS CLUB MATERNITY HOME IN KOWLOON CITY AND THE KWUN TONG MATERNITY HOME WILL BE CLOSED FROM SEPTEMBER 24.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ALL ANTENATAL CLIENTS PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO THESE MATERNITY HOMES WILL BE DIRECTED TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL STARTING FROM NEXT TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 17).

THE CLOSURES WILL NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL OPERATION OF BOTH THE LIONS CLUB AND THE KWUN TONG MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE VARIOUS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
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EXCHANGE FUND BILLS TENDER RESULTS --- TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q137	Y194
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,665 MN	HKD 758 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE ACCEPTED YIELD	5.16 PCT	6.25 PCT
HIGHEST ACCEPTED YIELD	5.18 PCT	6.28 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 8 PCT	ABOUT 48 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

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NEXT TENDER OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS --- TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q138	H173
ISSUE DATE	18 SEP 1991	18 SEP 1991
MATURITY DATE	18 DEC 1991	18 MAR 1992
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 500 + 100 MN	HKD 200 + 60 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	9.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	10.9.91	-96
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+96
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.4 *-0.2* 10.9.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	9.9.91	10.9.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	5.01 PCT	4.82 PCT
1 MONTH	5.00 PCT	4.81 PCT
3 MONTHS	5.22 PCT	5.12 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.67 PCT	5.49 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.24 PCT	6.24 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	7,590 MN	7,660 MN

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