



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CHOLERA OUTBREAKS GIVEN PROPER ATTENTION	1
TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION	2
NEW HOLIDAY CAMP OPENS IN YUEN LONG	3
GOVT ENDEAVOURS TO MEET RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS	4
CHIEF SECRETARY MEETS REPORTERS	5
FUNDS APPROVED FOR REPROVISIONING OF DEFENCE FACILITIES	6
HK NOT DECLARED A CHOLERA-INFECTED TERRITORY	7
STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON CHOLERA	7
OWNERS TO REMOVE ILLEGAL FLOATING STRUCTURES	8
COMMISSIONER WIGGHAM INVITED TO SHUTTLE LAUNCH	8
520,000 NEW ELECTORS REGISTERED	9
VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL 1994	10
BA DISCUSSES WITH TV STATIONS OVER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	15
QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY COMES UNDER BRIBERY PREVENTION LAW	16
EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION LAW GAZETTED	17

/BANK LICENCE

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

BANK LICENCE REVOKED	17
LUNG CHEUNG AND CHING CHEUNG ROADS TO BE IMPROVED	18
LAND REGISTRY WILL STANDARDISE FEES	19
LAND TO BE RECLAIMED FOR REFUSE STATION	19
LAND BEING RESUMED FOR WATER SCHEME	20
KWUN TONG NORTH OUTLINE ZONING PLAN APPROVED	20
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY	20
MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ON FOSTER CARE SERVICE	24
PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY AT WHAMPOA GARDEN	24
CLOSURE OF YAU MA TEI ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT	25
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	26

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 1 -

CHOLERA OUTBREAKS GIVEN PROPER ATTENTION

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING SAID EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO GIVE THE RECENT CHOLERA OUTBREAKS PROPER ATTENTION.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE PO LEUNG KUK JOCKEY CLUB TAI TONG HOLIDAY CAMP, MR PATTEN SAID THERE WERE NOW 18 CONFIRMED CASES WHICH WAS MORE THAN THE YEARLY AVERAGE OF ABOUT 11 CASES IN HONG KONG.

"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY REASON FOR ALARM AT THIS TIME. CHOLERA IS BOTH PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE NOW GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"IN GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT PROPER FOOD HYGIENE STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED AND THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IS CO-ORDINATING THE WORK BEING DONE ON THAT.

"WE ARE, IN PARTICULAR, LOOKING AT THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IN THE FISH TANKS IN SOME OF OUR RESTAURANTS AND THAT'S BEING PURSUED AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE."

MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO LOOK AT THE NEED TO MAKE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN TANKS IN RESTAURANTS ONE OF THE LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR RESTAURANTS.

"FOR THE TIME BEING, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE SURE THAT RESTAURANTS AREN'T TAKING WATER OUT OF THE HARBOUR OR OUT OF THE TYPHOON SHELTERS," HE SAID.

"I THINK THAT WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE TYPHOON SHELTERS AS BEING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN TERMS OF WATER QUALITY AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE TYPHOON SHELTERS IS PROPERLY REGULATED AND CONTROLLED."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE RIGHT LONG-TERM SOLUTION WAS TO GET ON WITH THE PROGRAMME OF PROPER TREATMENT OF SEWAGE SO THAT THE WATERS AROUND HONG KONG WERE OF THE DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

"I WANT TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTING ON THIS AS VIGOROUSLY AS WE CAN," HE ADDED.

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 2 -

TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER OPENING THE PO LEUNG KUK JOCKEY CLUB TAI TONG HOLIDAY CAMP TODAY (FRIDAY):

GOVERNOR: I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY A COUPLE OF WORDS ABOUT A SUBJECT WHICH IS OF CONCERN TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. THERE'VE NOW BEEN 18 CONFIRMED CASES OF CHOLERA AND THERE IS ONE SUSPECTED CASE. OBVIOUSLY, PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AND I THINK IT'S A MATTER WHICH WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT BUT I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY REASON FOR ALARM AT THIS TIME. CHOLERA IS BOTH PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE NOW GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON. IN PARTICULAR, IN GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT PROPER FOOD HYGIENE STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED AND THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IS CO-ORDINATING THE WORK BEING DONE ON THAT. WE ARE, IN PARTICULAR AS YOU KNOW, LOOKING AT THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IN THE FISH TANKS IN SOME OF OUR RESTAURANTS AND THAT'S BEING PURSUED AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE. IT MAY BE THE CASE THAT WE'LL NEED TO MAKE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN TANKS IN RESTAURANTS ONE OF THE LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR RESTAURANTS BUT THAT'S SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK AT. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE SURE THAT RESTAURANTS AREN'T TAKING WATER OUT OF THE HARBOUR OR OUT OF THE TYPHOON SHELTERS. I THINK THAT WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE TYPHOON SHELTERS AS BEING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN TERMS OF WATER QUALITY AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE TYPHOON SHELTERS IS PROPERLY REGULATED AND CONTROLLED. I BELIEVE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY RECOGNISES THAT THE RIGHT LONG-TERM SOLUTION IS TO GET ON WITH OUR PROGRAMME OF PROPER TREATMENT OF SEWAGE SO THAT THE WATERS AROUND HONG KONG ARE OF THE DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BUT I WANT TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTING ON THIS AS VIGOROUSLY AS WE CAN. IT'S OUR MAIN PRIORITY THIS WEEK. WE'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH, I REPEAT, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ALARM, 18 CASES IS MORE THAN THE AVERAGE WE HAVE IN A WHOLE YEAR WHICH RUNS AT ABOUT 11 AND WE'VE THEREFORE GOT TO GIVE THIS MATTER PROPER ATTENTION. IT'S OF CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY AND WE INTEND TO ACT ON IT.

QUESTION: THE GOVERNMENT IS ADVISING THE WATER SUPPLIERS NOT TO TAKE WATER FROM TYPHOON SHELTER AREAS AS WELL AS VICTORIA HARBOUR BUT SOME ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAID THAT WATER OUTSIDE THESE TWO AREAS AREN'T SAFE ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC. SO, DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY LOOPHOLE IN THE ADVICE GIVEN BY....?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T BELIEVE SO BUT WE'RE IN CONTACT WITH RESTAURANTS AND WE'RE WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND IF WE HAVE TO GIVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON HYGIENE AND PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, THEN WE WILL DO SO. THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH WILL BE MAKING A FURTHER STATEMENT LATER ON TODAY.

QUESTION: SO, YOU THINK WATERS OUTSIDE THESE AREAS ARE CLEAN ENOUGH?

GOVERNOR: NOT ALL WATERS ARE CLEAN ENOUGH BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ONLY WATERS USED IN TANKS ARE CLEAN WATERS.

/QUESTION

QUESTION: CONCERNING THE OLD-AGE RETIREMENT SCHEME, WILL THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO TAKE PART OR CONTRIBUTE OR TO MONITOR...?

GOVERNOR: I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE MAKING SOME PROPOSALS ON PENSIONS AND THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY SHORTLY. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER, FOR EXAMPLE, NEXT WEEK AND AFTER THAT, WE WILL BE MAKING THE POSITION, AND OUR POSITION, ABSOLUTELY PLAIN TO THE PUBLIC. I THINK PEOPLE WILL BE PLEASED AND INTERESTED IN THE PROPOSALS WE'RE BRINGING FORWARD. WE RECOGNISE THAT WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO GIVE PROPER CARE TO THE ELDERLY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WE INTEND TO DISCHARGE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND WE'LL, OBVIOUSLY, BE DISCUSSING OUR PROPOSALS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AND I THINK THEY'LL BE WIDELY DEBATED IN THE COMMUNITY. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: YESTERDAY, IN THE QUESTION TIME, YOU SAID THAT THE DECISION ON THIS ISSUE IS GOING TO BE IRREVOCABLE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? IS IT THAT THE CHINESE SIDE....?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T REMEMBER USING THAT PHRASE BUT, OBVIOUSLY, WHEN WE HAVE AN AGREED PROPOSAL ON PENSIONS, IT'S GOING TO BE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CARE FOR THE ELDERLY FOR MANY YEARS AHEAD. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY SECRET DEAL BETWEEN YOU AND?

GOVERNOR: NONE AT ALL.

QUESTION: WHAT THINGS SHOULD BE DONE IN ORDER TO MAKE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO AGREE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SEWAGE TREATMENT PROPOSAL IN JLG MEETINGS?

QUESTION: THE SEWAGE PROPOSAL...THE CHINESE STATEMENT SAYS IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE AND THEY ARE QUITE RESERVED.....?

GOVERNOR: THERE'RE TWO DISTINCT ISSUES. FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS A HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR CLEANING UP THE WATER AROUND OUR SHORES AND FOR DEALING WITH HONG KONG'S SEWAGE PROBLEM. THAT FIRST PHASE IS FREE-STANDING AND IT'S ALL COMPLETED BEFORE 1997. THERE IS A SECOND PHASE WHICH INVOLVES, BOLTING ON TO THAT FIRST PHASE, ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR DISCHARGE AND TREATMENT AND WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THAT FULLY WITH THE CHINESE SIDE. BUT THE FIRST PHASE HAPPENS BEFORE 1997 AND IS FREE-STANDING.

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NEW HOLIDAY CAMP OPENS IN YUEN LONG

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LOCAL RESIDENTS NOW HAVE ANOTHER PLACE TO REST AND RELAX AWAY FROM THE CROWDS AND HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS WITH THE OPENING OF THE TAI TONG HOLIDAY CAMP IN YUEN LONG TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CAMP WAS BUILT BY THE PO LEUNG KUK WITH SUPPORT FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB.

OFFICIATING AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER ACTION TO IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 4 -

THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT HAVE LOST THEIR NATURAL QUALITIES AND ALL THAT THEY OFFER TO HUMAN HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, HE SAID.

"I'M GLAD TO SAY THAT ACTION IS UNDER WAY TO START PUTTING RIGHT THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY NEGLECT AND INDIFFERENCE, BUT THERE IS LOTS MORE FOR ALL OF US TO DO.

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GOVT ENDEAVOURS TO MEET RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS DOING ITS BEST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND INCREASING DEMANDS FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AT HER HALF-YEARLY BRIEFING FOR LEGCO DURING WHICH SHE DISCUSSED WITH MEMBERS THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEGCO AND THE ADMINISTRATION AND AREAS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE PAST DECADE, THERE HAD BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN WORKLOAD FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN TERMS OF LEGCO BUSINESS.

CITING STATISTICS TO SUPPORT HER OBSERVATION, SHE SAID THE TOTAL TIME SPENT ON LEGCO SITTINGS IN 1993/94 WAS OVER 225 HOURS AS COMPARED WITH ONLY 64 HOURS AND 44 MINUTES IN 1983/84.

A TOTAL OF 594 QUESTIONS AND 815 SUPPLEMENTARIES WAS ASKED THIS YEAR AS AGAINST 180 QUESTIONS AND 295 SUPPLEMENTARIES 10 YEARS AGO.

THERE WERE 46 MOTION DEBATES IN 93/94 AS COMPARED WITH ONLY THREE IN 83/84.

"WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE NEW CHALLENGE, AND ADAPT OUR STYLE OF WORK ACCORDINGLY," MRS CHAN SAID.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WISH TO MAINTAIN A CO-OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL. WE THEREFORE WELCOME ANY MEASURES THAT WILL HELP," SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SUGGESTED THAT THE LEGCO PANEL SYSTEM COULD BE RATIONALISED TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF WORK AND MAXIMISE THE USE OF RESOURCES.

SHE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT MEMBERS WOULD SHORTLY BE CONSIDERING WAYS OF STREAMLINING THE SYSTEM.

MRS CHAN WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE CONTINUED EFFORT BY MEMBERS TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF SCRUTINISING BILLS.

WELCOMING A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THIS AREA THIS YEAR, SHE HOPED THAT THE BILLS COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK DURING THE SUMMER RECESS.

SHE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DELAY IN PROCESSING THE ORGANISED AND SERIOUS CRIMES BILL AFTER TWO YEARS OF DELIBERATION.

/SHE HOPED

SHE HOPED THAT MEMBERS COULD COMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL DURING THE SUMMER SO THAT THE LEGISLATION COULD BE ENACTED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE THIRD AREA OF CONCERN RELATED TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS AT THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE SHORT TIME BRANCHES WERE GIVEN TO ANSWER THEM.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR MEMBERS RAISED A TOTAL OF 1,570 INITIAL QUESTIONS AND 253 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ITEMS.

SHE TOLD MEMBERS THAT THE FINANCE BRANCH WAS CARRYING OUT A REVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S EXECISE AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LATER IN THE YEAR PROPOSE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE SYSTEM.

ANOTHER SUBJECT OF CONCERN WAS THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

WHILST RECOGNISING MEMBERS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO MOVE PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS, MRS CHAN WAS WORRIED THAT A PROLIFERATION OF SUCH BILLS COULD UPSET CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT PRIORITIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME AND AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO ENACT THE LEGISLATION IT NEEDED TO CARRY OUT ITS POLICIES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

SHE URGED MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THEIR PROPOSALS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION SO THAT THESE CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO PUBLIC BILLS WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

SHE ALSO HOPED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD BE GIVEN AMPLE NOTICE IN THE EVENT THAT MEMBERS DECIDE TO INTRODUCE PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

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CHIEF SECRETARY MEETS REPORTERS

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN'S REPLIES TO REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE LEGCO CHAMBER AFTER BRIEFING LEGCO MEMBERS THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON:

MRS CHAN: THIS IS THE SECOND BRIEFING THAT I'VE DONE FOR LEGCO MEMBERS. IN RESPONSE TO MEMBERS' REQUEST, I HAVE AGREED THAT WE WILL STEP UP THE FREQUENCY OF THIS BRIEFING AND EXCHANGE TO EVERY OTHER MONTH. BUT WE'VE JUST HAD A VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION, REVIEWING THE WORK OF THE PAST YEAR. IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT LEGCO HAS HAD A VERY BUSY YEAR AND I THINK ITS RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. DURING THE SESSION, LEGCO PASSED A HUNDRED AND FOUR BILLS, COMPARED WITH 84 BILLS LAST YEAR. WE LOOKED AT AREAS IN WHICH WE COULD STREAMLINE CURRENT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS SO AS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RATIONALISATION OF THE PANELS THAT LOOK AT VARIOUS ISSUES AND PROCESS BILLS; THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE CAN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE HIGH NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT ARE ASKED EVERY YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAFT ESTIMATES, BECAUSE FOR THE LAST DRAFT ESTIMATES, WE HAD WELL OVER FIFTEENTH HUNDRED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS, ALL OF WHICH HAD BEEN ANSWERED WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE TO TWO DAYS. SO DURING THOSE TWO DAYS, THE GOVERNMENT VIRTUALLY CAME TO A HALT. SO I SUGGESTED TO MEMBERS THAT PERHAPS THE QUESTIONS COULD BE SPREAD DURING THE YEAR AND SOME OF THE QUESTIONS MIGHT NOT BE SO URGENT, SO THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS A BIT MORE TIME TO ANSWER THEM. BUT IN GENERAL, I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT WE FELT THAT WE HAD A VERY GOOD YEAR WITH LEGCO. IT HAS BEEN A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE OF THE SAME IN THE COMING YEAR.

QUESTION: CHIEF SECRETARY, THERE HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF, AS YOU KNOW, A VERY CLOSE VOTE IN THE LAU CHIN-SHEK INCIDENT. THIS INCIDENT ONCE AGAIN BRINGS UP THE QUESTION OF WE'VE GOT A MAJORITY IN LEGCO AND WHAT ARE THE OBVIOUS SOLUTIONS FOR THAT?

MRS CHAN: WELL, WE'VE SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE PASSAGE OF BILLS, THERE IS A PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH THOSE HAVE TO PASS, IT HAS TO PASS ALL THREE READINGS. AND WE OBVIOUSLY ACCEPT THE MAJORITY VOTE IN LEGCO. AS THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT, EVERY MEMBER'S VOTE IS JUST AS GOOD AS ANY OTHER MEMBERS' VOTE. AND I THINK ALL MEMBERS MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE OUTCOME OF THAT VOTING SYSTEM.

QUESTION: THE QUESTION THAT REALLY EXISTS AND MY QUESTION, IF I MAY JUST CLARIFY, IS THAT YOU DON'T OBVIOUSLY KNOW WHO IS GOING TO GET THE MAJORITY IN LEGCO AND HAVING LEGCO MEMBERS ON EXCO WILL BE ONE WAY OF HELPING STRAIGHTENING THAT. OUT?

MRS CHAN: THE GOVERNOR HAS SAID THAT IN 1992 HE TOOK THE DECISION TO SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF EXCO FROM MEMBERSHIP OF LEGCO, BUT HE HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THAT SITUATION WILL NOT REMAIN UNCHANGED FOREVER MORE. AND OBVIOUSLY, AFTER THE 1995 ELECTIONS, WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN EXCO AND LEGCO.

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR REPROVISIONING OF DEFENCE FACILITIES
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) WELCOMED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S DECISION TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE REPROVISIONING OF DEFENCE FACILITIES.

COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS AFTERNOON'S FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, POINTED OUT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S UNANIMOUS SUPPORT WOULD ENABLE THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AGREEMENT ON DEFENCE LANDS, WHICH WAS STRUCK ON JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

"THIS IS A GOOD DEAL FOR HONG KONG; THE AGREEMENT WILL FREE UP MANY VALUABLE MILITARY SITES TO PROVIDE LAND FOR MUCH-NEEDED HOUSING, OPEN SPACE AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. IT ALSO PROVIDES CERTAINTY ABOUT AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ADDED: "FOLLOWING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S DECISION THIS AFTERNOON, WE SHALL NOW PRESS AHEAD WITH THE REPROVISIONING PROJECTS TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN FULFIL THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT."

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HK NOT DECLARED A CHOLERA-INFECTED TERRITORY

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS SHELLEY LAU, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS SHELLEY LAU, ENDORSED A DECISION BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH NOT TO DECLARE HONG KONG A CHOLERA-INFECTED TERRITORY.

MRS LAU SAID HONG KONG HAD A VERY GOOD SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AS WELL AS EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. PROMPT PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA FROM THE 18 REPORTED CASES SO FAR.

HOWEVER, SHE DOES APPRECIATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE SAFETY OF SEAFOOD.

SHE REITERATED THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH'S ADVICE THAT ALL FOOD CAN BE SAFELY CONSUMED IF IT IS THOROUGHLY CLEANED AND PROPERLY COOKED TO KILL BACTERIA.

SHE ADDED THAT CHOLERA IS A PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE DISEASE, AND WITH GOOD PERSONAL AND FOOD HYGIENE, THERE IS LITTLE DANGER OF CATCHING THE DISEASE.

AT THE SAME TIME, SHE RECOGNISED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IS AN AREA THAT NEEDS ATTENTION. SHE NOTED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IS TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION IN THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER AS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO COMBAT CHOLERA.

IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM MEASURES AGAINST CHOLERA ARE BEING CO-ORDINATED BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE STEPPED UP INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES, AND MONITORING OF FOOD HYGIENE AND WATER QUALITY.

APART FROM THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, THE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS ALSO STEPPED UP MEASURES TO ADVISE RESTAURANT OPERATORS TO FILL THEIR FISH-TANKS WITH WATER OBTAINED FROM CLEAN SOURCES OF SUPPLY - NOT FROM THE HARBOUR OR TYPHOON SHELTERS.

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STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON CHOLERA

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THERE IS NO NEED TO DECLARE HONG KONG A CHOLERA INFECTED AREA.

IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL TERRITORY OR COUNTRY DECIDES ON WHETHER THE PLACE SHOULD BE DECLARED A CHOLERA INFECTED AREA OR NOT.

THE DECISION IS MADE ON THE BASIS OF WHETHER THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS COULD PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA FROM THE REPORTED CASES.

/SUCH CHARACTERISTICS

SUCH CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE SAFE WATER SUPPLY, HIGH STANDARD OF SANITATION, EFFECTIVE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AS WELL AS EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. ALL THESE ARE PRESENT IN HONG KONG.

HENCE, PROMPT PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES CAN BE INSTITUTED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA FROM THE REPORTED CASES.

IT MUST BE EMPHASISED THAT THE NUMBER OF CHOLERA CASES IS NOT THE CRITERION TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN AREA SHOULD BE DECLARED AN INFECTED AREA.

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OWNERS TO REMOVE ILLEGAL FLOATING STRUCTURES

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED OWNERS WHO SET UP ILLEGAL FLOATING STRUCTURES IN THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER TO REMOVE THEIR STRUCTURES BY TOMORROW (SATURDAY), A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ILLEGAL FLOATING STRUCTURES ARE USED IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER TO SUSPEND NETS FOR KEEPING FISH, SHRIMP, CRAB AND SHELLFISH.

THE ACTION WAS INITIATED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO COMBAT CHOLERA.

"THE OWNERS WERE INFORMED VERBALLY YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) AND REMOVAL NOTICES IN WRITING HAVE BEEN SERVED TO THEM TODAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ACTION TOMORROW TO REMOVE THESE STRUCTURES SHOULD THE OWENERS FAIL TO REMOVE THEM." HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING ACTION TO PROHIBIT FISHING IN TYPHOON SHELTERS. THE BAN WILL TAKE EFFECT ONCE APPROPRIATE NOTICE BOARDS ARE ERECTED.

"THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER WILL BE THE FIRST ONE ON THE LIST," HE SAID.

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COMMISSIONER WIGGHAM INVITED TO SHUTTLE LAUNCH

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THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER TO THE USA, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, IS IN FLORIDA TO WITNESS THE LAUNCH OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA AT THE INVITATION OF DR LEROY CHIAO -- NASA'S FIRST ASTRONAUT OF 100 PER CENT CHINESE ANCESTRY.

SPEAKING UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN FLORIDA, MR WIGGHAM EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO DR CHIAO FOR THE GRACIOUS INVITATION AND OFFERED HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON DR CHIAO'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE HONOUR BESTOWED UPON HIM.

"THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHARE DR CHIAO'S EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM IN SPACE AND THE SCIENCES. INDEED, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT A PIECE OF HONG KONG IS TRAVELLING WITH DR CHIAO UP TO THE HEAVENS," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

A QUARTZ STONE ENGRAVED WITH THE BAUHINIA AND EXCAVATED FROM CHEK LAP KOK IS BEING CARRIED ONBOARD THE SPACE SHUTTLE.

UPON ITS DRAMATIC RETURN FROM SPACE, THE QUARTZ ALONG WITH A CERTIFICATE OF FLIGHT PRESENTED BY NASA WILL BE MOUNTED AND DISPLAYED IN THE NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL.

"THE QUARTZ STONE SIGNIFIES GROWING HONG KONG-U.S. TIES AND A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE ARE BEING BROUGHT EVER CLOSER. MAY THIS STONE, WHEN PLACED IN OUR NEW AIRPORT ON CHEK LAP KOK, REMIND ALL WHO PASS THROUGH HONG KONG'S GATEWAY OF THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THE NEARNESS OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

THE 14-DAY MISSION WILL BE THE 17TH FLIGHT OF COLUMBIA AND THE 63RD SHUTTLE MISSION.

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520,000 NEW ELECTORS REGISTERED

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A TOTAL OF 520,000 NEW ELECTORS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED DURING THE THREE-MONTH VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN WHICH ENDED LAST FRIDAY (JULY 1).

THIS IS A RECORD FIGURE OF NEW VOTERS RECRUITED IN ONE SINGLE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN. A TOTAL OF 846,000 VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED. THESE INCLUDE OVER 300,000 FROM CURRENT ELECTORS REPORTING CHANGES OF PARTICULARS.

OF THE NEW ELECTORS, 108,000 ARE BETWEEN THE AGE OF 18 AND 21 YEARS WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE BECOME ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS. THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 54 PER CENT OF THE 200,000 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS IN THE AGE GROUP.

IN THE LAST MAJOR VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IN 1990, A TOTAL OF 528,904 FORMS WERE RECEIVED, FROM WHICH 299,312 NEW ELECTORS WERE RECRUITED.

COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THIS YEAR'S REGISTRATION DRIVE WAS A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT.

THERE IS A 60 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FORMS RETURNED AS COMPARED TO THE LAST MAJOR CAMPAIGN AND SOME 70 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW ELECTORS REGISTERED.

THE SIZE OF THE TOTAL REGISTERED ELECTORATE WILL INCREASE FROM 1.94 MILLION LAST YEAR TO 2.46 MILLION THIS YEAR.

THE REGISTRATION RATE WILL ALSO JUMP FROM 52 PER CENT IN 1993 TO ALMOST 63 PER CENT THIS YEAR.

MR JUSTICE WOO SAID THE CAMPAIGN HAD LAID FIRM GROUNDS FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS.

THE CHAIRMAN, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

HE COMMENDED IN PARTICULAR THE HARD WORK OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THEIR COMMUNITY ORGANISERS. ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF ALL THE REGISTRATION FORMS WERE RETURNED THROUGH THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE EXUBERANT SUPPORT OF THE MEDIA, SCHOOLS, YOUTH GROUPS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS, ABOVE ALL, THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD SENT IN THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS.

HOWEVER, MR JUSTICE WOO SAID HE HAD HOPED A HIGHER REGISTRATION RATE COULD BE ACHIEVED AMONG THE 18-21 AGE GROUP.

"IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD CLASHED WITH THE EXAMINATION SEASON. THIS MIGHT HAVE DAMPENED THE RESPONSE FROM OUR YOUNGSTERS."

MR JUSTICE WOO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS AMONG THE YOUNGSTERS WOULD REQUIRE LONG-TERM CIVIC EDUCATION EFFORTS.

HE PLEDGED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO THIS TARGET GROUP IN ITS FUTURE REGISTRATION DRIVES.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL 1994

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IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1994, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 12% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 8.9%, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 7.6%. MEANWHILE, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 8.2% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 0.9% AND 0.6% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1.5%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDICES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, DECREASED BY 0.9% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1994 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMPARING APRIL 1994 WITH APRIL 1993, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11%, WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 7.7%. TAKING TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 7.0%. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 8.1%.

/OVER THE

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 0.8%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1.5%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING APRIL 1994 WITH APRIL 1993, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES : RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+22%), FUELS (+21%), FOODSTUFFS (+17%), CONSUMER GOODS (+7.1%) AND CAPITAL GOODS (+2.6%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS, FOODSTUFFS AND CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 2.8%, 2.1% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS, AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 16% AND 1.0% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

COMPARING APRIL 1994 WITH APRIL 1993, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED INCREASES IN VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+15%) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+4.0%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-61%) AND DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-21%).

COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+4.9%), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3.9%) AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+3.3%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE FABRICS (-3.9%) AND METAL ORES AND SCRAPS (-3.2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 13% IN APRIL 1994 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1993.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATION. HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SWINE AND FRUIT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 5.1%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES. ON THE OTHER HAND, A MARKED DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS NOTED OF PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 13% IN APRIL 1994 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1993.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; COTTON YARN AND THREAD; AND SILK FABRICS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF INEDIBLE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; AND WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED MARKEDLY BY 34% IN VOLUME IN APRIL 1994 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1993.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 1.2% IN APRIL 1994 OVER APRIL 1993.

A NOTABLE INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF OFFICE MACHINERY. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND TEXTILE MACHINERY DECLINED.

COMPARING APRIL 1994 WITH APRIL 1993, THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED : RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2.8%), CAPITAL GOODS (+1.8%), CONSUMER GOODS (+1.2%) AND FOODSTUFFS (+0.4%). THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS, HOWEVER, DECREASED BY 18%.

STARTING FROM APRIL, THE SERIES OF QUANTUM INDEX HAVE BEEN REVISED BY ADOPTING A NEW METHOD FOR COMPILING THE QUANTUM INDICES. DETAILS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 1994 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SALE FROM NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 12) AT \$9 PER COPY AT EITHER (I) THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR (II) THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG ON TEL 842 8802 AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4918.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1994			COMPARING JAN-APR 1994		
	WITH APR 1993			WITH JAN-APR 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	19.5	2.1	16.7	16.9	1.5	15.5
CONSUMER GOODS	7.5	1.1	7.1	12.2	1.1	10.5
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	21.1	-1.0	22.4	18.0	-1.3	19.3
FUELS	4.1	-15.9	20.9	17.1	-16.3	34.9
CAPITAL GOODS	3.8	2.8	2.6	5.0	2.2	4.3
ALL COMMODITIES	10.7	0.8	10.9	12.6	0.6	12.1

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING APR 1994 WITH APR 1993			COMPARING JAN-APR 1994 WITH JAN-APR 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME
CLOTHING	-3.5	0.9	-4.3	-4.9	1.3	-5.5
TEXTILE FABRICS	-13.9	-3.9	-10.4	-15.1	-5.9	-10.0
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-8.9	-0.1	-8.0	-13.2	-1.3	-10.9
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	15.9	0.1	15.4	-3.1	-0.3	-4.1
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-59.8	3.3	-60.6	-58.3	1.9	-59.3
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	0.8	4.9	-3.0	-9.1	3.2	-11.9
FOOTWEAR	-12.9	-2.3	-16.5	-18.0	-0.9	-21.8
METAL MANUFACTURES	2.1	1.9	4.0	-4.1	2.2	-3.9
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-14.5	-3.2	-12.6	-15.0	-1.2	-15.1
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-14.0	0.5	-13.5	-12.6	1.1	-12.7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-11.6	3.9	-14.3	-7.2	5.3	-11.9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-16.9	1.1	-20.7	-21.9	1.7	-25.4
ALL COMMODITIES	-6.7	0.8	-7.7	-7.8	0.9	-8.9

/TABLE 3

TABLE 3 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1994 WITH APR 1993			COMPARING JAN-APR 1994 WITH JAN-APR 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	13.0	0.4	13.1	11.9	-0.5	13.1
CONSUMER GOODS	4.9	1.2	5.1	9.5	2.1	8.3
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	16.5	2.8	13.1	13.9	1.8	11.5
FUELS	9.0	-18.4	34.4	-18.5	-17.3	-1.4
CAPITAL GOODS	2.9	1.8	1.2	4.0	2.3	1.6
ALL COMMODITIES	8.8	1.5	8.1	9.6	1.5	8.2

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BA DISCUSSES WITH TV STATIONS OVER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (BA) MET YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ATV AND TVB SEPARATELY TO DISCUSS THE LICENSEES' CONCERNS OVER THE EXISTING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR COMMERCIAL TELEVISION.

THE MEETING WAS PART OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW THAT THE BA IS CONDUCTING INTO THE COMMERCIAL TELEVISION LICENCES, AND WHICH HAS ALREADY INVOLVED THE CONDUCT OF A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY AND THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BA SAID THE MEETINGS WITH THE LICENSEES PROVIDED THE BA WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF HEARING FIRST HAND FROM THE LICENSEES OF THEIR EXPERIENCE IN COPING WITH LICENSING CONDITIONS SINCE 1988 AND IN THE FACE OF THE RAPIDLY CHANGING AND MORE COMPETITIVE BROADCASTING ENVIRONMENT.

"MEMBERS CAN UNDERSTAND THE LICENSEES' DESIRE TO BE GIVEN SOME ASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY TO PURSUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, MEMBERS WOULD WISH TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE LICENSEES' PERFORMANCE CAN LIVE UP TO PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND THAT VIEWERS' INTERESTS ARE OBSERVED", THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE BA WILL THEREFORE NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER ATV'S AND TVB'S SUBMISSIONS TOGETHER WITH ALL THE VIEWS GATHERED FROM THE PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE IT MAKES ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

AT THE SAME MEETING, THE BA DEALT WITH SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT RECENT TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTS.

THESE INCLUDED 35 COMPLAINTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO THOUGHT THE CANTONESE EXPRESSION ABOUT PARENTS FEATURED IN AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE NEWSPAPER THE EXPRESS BROADCAST ON ATV HOME, WAS NOT SUITABLE FOR BROADCAST ON TELEVISION.

THE BA CONSIDERED THAT WHILE THE EXPRESSION WAS NOT DOWNRIGHT OFFENSIVE IT MIGHT NOT BE SO WIDELY ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

ATV WAS REMINDED OF THE SENSITIVITY OF PHRASES OF THIS NATURE.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT RELATED TO METRO BROADCAST BREACHING ITS LICENCE CONDITIONS BY BROADCASTING INSUFFICIENT ADVISORY PROGRAMME MATERIAL DURING THE WEEK MAY 1-7.

THE BA NOTED THAT METRO'S LICENCE INCLUDED A REQUIREMENT THAT IT BROADCAST ON EACH CHANNEL AT LEAST 30 MINUTES PER WEEK OF ADVISORY PROGRAMMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUNG OR THE ELDERLY, BUT THAT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY METRO HAD BROADCAST ONLY 15 MINUTES OF SUCH PROGRAMMES ON ITS HIT RADIO CHANNEL.

THE BA ISSUED A SERIOUS WARNING TO METRO IN RESPECT OF THIS BREACH.

THE BA ALSO CONSIDERED A REPORT ON THE BROADCAST OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PROPERTY IN CHINA.

MEMBERS WERE AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE BA IS MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL TAKE ACTION IF ANY OF THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS ARE BREACHED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TV LICENSEES TO ENSURE THAT ALL CLAIMS MADE IN THESE ADVERTISEMENTS WERE TRUE, AND THERE WERE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS LAID DOWN IN THE CODES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE BA WOULD BE WRITING TO THE TV STATIONS TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATIONS' OWN VETTING PROCEDURES AND ON THE NUMBERS OF SUCH PROPERTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED ON TV IN RECENT MONTHS.

SEPARATELY THE BA WOULD INVESTIGATE SOME SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS THAT IT HAD FOUND PROBLEMATIC.

FINALLY, THE BA WOULD REVIEW ITS CODES OF PRACTICE TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY CHANGES WERE NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE RAPID GROWTH IN THIS TYPE OF ADVERTISING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY COMES UNDER BRIBERY PREVENTION LAW

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY SHOULD BE MADE A PUBLIC BODY UNDER SECTION 2 (1) OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, THE GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE ORDINANCE CONTAINS SPECIFIC PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY IN PUBLIC BODIES WHICH INCLUDE ANY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES OR OTHER BODIES SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

/THE AGENCY

THE AGENCY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1990 FOR CERTIFYING THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE "ISO 9000" SERIES OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS PROOF OF QUALITY CAPABILITIES AND IS BECOMING A PREREQUISITE FOR HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS IN THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND QUALITY-CONSCIOUS LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ADDING THE AGENCY TO THE LIST OF PUBLIC BODIES SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE WOULD INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE IN THE AGENCY AS A CORRUPTION-FREE PUBLIC ORGANISATION.

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EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION LAW GAZETTED

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THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, WHICH WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 6), BECAME EFFECTIVE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT WHILE TRAVELLING BETWEEN HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND HIS PLACE OF WORK WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR ABOVE, OR RED OR BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL, IS ISSUED, WILL BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION DIVISION, MR CHOW CHEUNG-FAT, SAID AN EMPLOYEE SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURY BY ACCIDENT IN SUCH ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS MUST, AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, BE TRAVELLING FROM HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO HIS PLACE OF WORK BY A DIRECT ROUTE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE TIME OF COMMENCEMENT OF HIS WORKING HOURS FOR THAT DAY, OR FROM HIS PLACE OF WORK TO HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE WITHIN A PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS AFTER THE TIME OF CESSATION OF HIS WORKING HOURS FOR THAT DAY.

"WHERE A DISPUTE ARISES AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE ACCIDENT, THE COMPENSATION CASE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE COURT," HE ADDED.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES ON THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE CAN BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT 717 1771.

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BANK LICENCE REVOKED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE BANKING LICENCE OF THE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND (BNZ) HAD BEEN REVOKED AT THE REQUEST OF THE BANK.

BNZ, A BANK INCORPORATED IN NEW ZEALAND, HAS BEEN OPERATING IN HONG KONG AS A BRANCH LICENSED BANK SINCE 1987.

IN NOVEMBER 1992, BNZ BECAME A SUBSIDIARY OF NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK (NAB), A BANK INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH ALSO MAINTAINS A BRANCH IN HONG KONG.

AFTER THE ACQUISITION, NAB DECIDED TO ABSORB BNZ'S HONG KONG OPERATIONS INTO THE NAB NETWORK.

"THE ABSORPTION OF BNZ'S OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG PURELY REFLECTS NAB'S RATIONALISATION OF THE GROUP'S OPERATIONS," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

"HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BE REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT PLACE TO HAVE A BANKING PRESENCE. SEVEN BANKING LICENCES HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO OVERSEAS BANKS SINCE JANUARY 1994," HE SAID.

AFTER THE REVOCATION, THERE ARE 178 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 146 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

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LUNG CHEUNG AND CHING CHEUNG ROADS TO BE IMPROVED

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LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD ARE TO BE IMPROVED TO PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED ADDITIONAL TRUNK ROAD CAPACITY BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE OPENING OF THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT IN 1997.

A \$576 MILLION CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR YEUNG KIM-CHOY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR, TO ENABLE WORK TO START IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID THE PROJECT WAS TO WIDEN MUCH OF THE EXISTING DUAL, TWO-LANE ROADS TO DUAL, THREE-LANE ROADS, AND TO BUILD A BYPASS ON ELEVATED STRUCTURES, CALLED "OFF LINE LINK", BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND BEACON HEIGHTS.

UNDER THIS CONTRACT, WHICH FORMS PHASE I OF THE WHOLE PROJECT, IMPROVEMENT WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SECTION FROM BUTTERFLY VALLEY TO NAM CHEONG STREET INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE "OFF LINE LINK".

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WORK WOULD INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CORNWALL STREET/NAM CHEONG STREET ROUNDABOUT, THE REALIGNMENT OF PARTS OF TAI PO ROAD AND THE RELOCATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TAI WOH PING ROAD AND ITS CONNECTION TO TAI PO ROAD, AND THE INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

TO ENHANCE SAFETY, TWO EXISTING FOOTBRIDGES WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND REPLACED BY TWO NEW ONES. NOISE BARRIERS ALONG SECTIONS OF THE "OFF LINE LINK" AND SECTIONS OF THE WIDENED CHING CHEUNG ROAD WILL ALSO BE INSTALLED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PHASE I WORKS INVOLVED HEAVY FOUNDATION WORKS, NUMEROUS PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGE STRUCTURES TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MAJOR CUT SLOPES WHICH HAVE TO BE REMAINED UNDISTURBED AT ALL TIMES.

"AS LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD ARE THE MAIN CORRIDOR CONNECTING EASTERN KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN/KWAI CHUNG AREAS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE EXISTING DUAL, TWO-LANE TRAFFIC MUST BE MAINTAINED TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION," HE SAID.

/"THIS TRAFFIC

"THIS TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN LAID DOWN CLEARLY IN THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONTRACTOR TO COMPLY WITH," HE ADDED.

PHASE II WORKS, FOR THE SECTION BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR UNDER A SEPARATE CONTRACT. BOTH PHASES OF WORKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN JUNE 1997.

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LAND REGISTRY WILL STANDARDISE FEES

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THE LAND REGISTRY WILL STANDARDISE FEES FOR LAND REGISTRATION AND OTHER SERVICES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 15, THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTIFIED TODAY (FRIDAY).

AS FROM THAT DATE, FEES PAYABLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES WILL BE BROUGHT IN LINE WITH THOSE CHARGED AT THE URBAN LAND REGISTRY ON A COST RECOVERY BASIS. MEANWHILE, FEES PAYABLE AT THE URBAN LAND REGISTRY REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL ENABLE THE LAND REGISTRY TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND TO INTRODUCE NEW SERVICES, INCLUDING COMPUTERISATION AND MICROFILMING-CUM-IMAGING OF LAND RECORDS IN THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT TOWN LOT RECORDS IN TSUEN WAN WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR SEARCH IN COMPUTERISED MODE LATER THIS YEAR.

DETAILS OF THE STANDARDISATION OF FEES WERE GAZETTED ON JUNE 3.

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LAND TO BE RECLAIMED FOR REFUSE STATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSTRUCT ABOUT 100 METRES OF SEAWALL, DREDGE AND RECLAIM ABOUT 2,000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF HEI LING CHAU TO PROVIDE LAND FOR A REFUSE TRANSFER STATION.

THE WORK WILL AFFECT ABOUT 10,000 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF HEI LING CHAU. IT WILL COMMENCE IN JUNE NEXT YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1996.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY). THE NOTICE, AND ITS RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON WHO BELIEVES THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 8.

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LAND BEING RESUMED FOR WATER SCHEME

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PORTIONS OF 13 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 520 SQUARE METRES ARE BEING RESUMED TO ALLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF A SCHEME TO PROVIDE METERED WATER SUPPLY TO WONG MO YING, TAM WAT, TIT KIM HANG, PING TUN AND SHEK HANG IN SAI KUNG.

THE SCHEME, WHICH WILL INVOLVE LAYING OF WATER PIPES AND VARIOUS ASSOCIATED WORKS, WILL START AT THE END OF OCTOBER AND FINISH IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

DETAILS OF RESUMPTION WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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KWUN TONG NORTH OUTLINE ZONING PLAN APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE DRAFT KWUN TONG (NORTH) OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

"THE PLAN COVERS MAINLY THE ANDERSON ROAD QUARRIES AT THE NORTHEASTERN EDGE OF EASTERN KOWLOON. IT PROVIDES A BROAD PLANNING FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE MAJOR TYPE OF LAND USE ON THE PLAN (NO. S/K14N/2) IS "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "MINING AND QUARRYING" WHICH CONSTITUTES ABOUT 87 PER CENT (150 HECTARES) OF THE TOTAL AREA.

THE ZONING WILL FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REHABILITATION SCHEME AS PART OF THE CONTINUING QUARRY OPERATION.

"THE PROPOSED SCHEME WILL BRING LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT TO THE AREA. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT POTENTIAL ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARISING FROM THE REHABILITATION WILL BE MINIMISED TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THERE ARE ALSO AREAS RESERVED ON THE PLAN FOR "GREEN BELT" AND "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" USES.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS WERE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES - NAMELY ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA, AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF RECENT BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 23.6.94)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 7.7.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	1
MIDDLE BAY	2	1
REPULSE BAY	2	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	2	1
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	2	2
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	2	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	3
BUTTERFLY	3	4
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	2
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	2	2
SILVERMINE BAY	2	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	3	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

HAIRPIN, MIDDLE BAY, REPULSE BAY AND ST. STEPHEN'S FROM "2" TO "1"; KADOORIE FROM "2" TO "3"; AND TING KAU AND BUTTERFLY FROM "3" TO "4".

MOST OF THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

THE GENERAL DETERIORATION OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE BEACH HINTERLAND TO BE FLUSHED INTO THE SEA WATER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR K F TANG ON TEL 835 1234.

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 24 -

MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ON FOSTER CARE SERVICE

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A SERIES OF EIGHT MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ON FOSTER CARE SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMERCIAL ARCADES OF VARIOUS DISTRICTS DURING THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS.

THE FIRST ONE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA FROM 10.30 AM TO 7 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10).

THE EXHIBITIONS, ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IS AIMED AT FURTHER PROMOTING FOSTER CARE SERVICE AND RECRUITING MORE FOSTER PARENTS.

FOSTER CARE, A FORM OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICE, PROVIDES A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY LOOKED AFTER BY THEIR FAMILIES OWING TO NEGLECT, ILLNESS OF THE PARENTS OR OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

"THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF FOSTER CARE IS FAMILY REUNION FOR THE CHILDREN," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THROUGH FOSTERING, CHILDREN CAN GROW UNDER A NORMAL FAMILY SETTING AND ENJOY A NORMAL CHILDHOOD.

"FOSTER PARENTS CAN, ON THE ONE HAND, DO THE COMMUNITY A SERVICE AND ON THE OTHER, PUSH UP THEIR ABILITY AS PARENTS," HE SAID.

MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE INTERESTED TO BECOME FOSTER PARENTS CAN APPROACH THE CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SERVICE CAN BE MADE ON 852 4596 OR 852 4599.

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PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY AT WHAMPOA GARDEN

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THE ROVING EXHIBITION ON HONG KONG'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME THAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY HELD IN WONG TAI SIN, QUARRY BAY, CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI WILL MOVE TO WHAMPOA GARDEN HONG KONG STREET PLACE, HUNG HOM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10.30 AM TO 8 PM TOMORROW, AND FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WORKS BRANCH AND THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW HONG KONG HAS TRANSFORMED FROM A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE 150 YEARS AGO INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

PANELS WITH CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE PUT UP, SHOWING THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, AND SEVEN WORKS DEPARTMENTS - ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, CIVIL ENGINEERING, DRAINAGE SERVICES, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, HIGHWAYS, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT AND WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENTS.

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 25 -

SHORT FILMS WILL BE SHOWN ON A FULL-SIZE VIDEO WALL TO ILLUSTRATE HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ON BUILDING NEW TOWNS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IS A SET OF FIVE PANORAMIC-VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE CHANGES TO THE SKYLINE OF KOWLOON PENINSULA AND HONG KONG ISLAND OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT WHAMPOA GARDEN HONG KONG STREET PLACE, HUNG HOM AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR KENNETH CHAN; THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; AND THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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CLOSURE OF YAU MA TEI ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT * * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE SIX UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN YAU MA TEI SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES USED FOR DWELLING PURPOSES ARE LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR FLAT ROOF OF A BUILDING IN 1A-1J WATERLOO ROAD.

NOTICES APPLYING FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON OCTOBER 18 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1994

- 26 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,656	0930	-214
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,644	1000	-214
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-64
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-67	1200	-66
LAF TODAY	+55	1500	-66
		1600	-67
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 122.8 *-0.1*	8.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.84	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.88	5.86
1 MONTH	3.97	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.19	6.33
3 MONTHS	4.28	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.89	6.73
6 MONTHS	4.65	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.92	6.92
12 MONTHS	5.36	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.99	7.07

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 26,456 MN

CLOSED 8 JULY 1994

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