



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

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CS SPEAKS TO MEDIA

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER HER VISIT TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON:-

MRS CHAN: FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE ABLE THIS AFTERNOON TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOR MYSELF HOW THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE STAFF GO ABOUT THEIR VERY IMPORTANT WORK. AS YOU KNOW, THEY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PREVENTING DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING. WE HAVE A REPUTATION FOR PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL RIGHT PROPERTY WHICH IS SECOND TO NONE. THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF OUR REVENUE. LAST YEAR, IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING OVER \$7 BILLION WHICH IS ABOUT 6 PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL REVENUE. SO, YOU CAN SEE FROM THAT THAT THEY DO HAVE A VERY VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. THEY'VE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED A COMPUTERISATION SYSTEM WHICH WILL NOT ONLY EXPEDITE IMPORT LICENSING AND OTHER LICENSING PROCEDURES BUT WILL ALSO, OF COURSE, ASSIST IN THE DAILY EXECUTION OF THEIR WORK. AND, I CONGRATULATE THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF FOR THE FIRST-CLASS JOB THAT THEY ARE DOING. NOW, I'LL ANSWER QUESTIONS. I GATHER YOU HAVE ONE OR TWO AREAS THAT ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO YOU.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE NEWS THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL RENEW CHINA'S MFN IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WITH THE CONDITION THAT WEAPONS SALE FROM CHINA BE BANNED?

MRS CHAN: THERE'S BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT MAY OR MAY NOT DECIDE TO DO ON THE MFN FRONT. I AM EXPECTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE VERY VERY NEAR FUTURE AND, OF COURSE, UNTIL THE ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, WE CAN ONLY SURMISE WHAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT DO. AS YOU KNOW, I MYSELF WAS IN WASHINGTON LOBBYING FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL EXTENSION OF MFN FOR CHINA. WE BELIEVE VERY VERY STRONGLY THAT THAT IS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD. IT IS IN THE INTEREST NOT ONLY OF HONG KONG BUT CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA. AND SO, WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL FEEL ABLE TO EXTEND MFN UNCONDITIONALLY.

QUESTION: ARE YOU ENCOURAGED BY MR LU PING'S WORDS TODAY THAT CHINA IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THE MAKE-UP OF THE JUDGES IN THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL?

MRS CHAN: YES. I STRESS ONCE AGAIN THAT THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS THAT WE HAVE DRAFTED ARE BASED ON THE AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE REACHED PREVIOUSLY WITH THE CHINESE. WE HAVE HANDED TO THE CHINESE A COPY OF THE DRAFT BILL AND WE HOPE THAT WE WILL REACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL ALSO, OF COURSE, BE CONSULTING THE LEGAL PROFESSION. OF COURSE, THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S VIEWS ARE KNOWN TO US BUT WE HOPE VERY MUCH IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THE CONSULTATION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE LEGAL PROFESSION THAT ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, THEN, NEVERTHELESS, THEY CAN BE PERSUADED THAT THIS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF HONG KONG. WHAT IS OF INTEREST TO US IS TO GET THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL ESTABLISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT HAS SOME EXPERIENCE OF ACTUALLY RUNNING AND ACCUMULATING EXPERIENCE.

MRS CHAN: I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE HAN DONGFANG CASE AND DISSIDENTS. I THINK IN HONG KONG, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN AND SAFEGUARD THE BASIC FREEDOMS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. THESE BASIC FREEDOMS INCLUDE THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS ONE'S VIEWS FREELY IN A PEACEFUL AND LAWFUL MANNER. AND, OF COURSE, IT'S ENTIRELY NATURAL THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE A VIEW AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON EVENTS IN CHINA. THESE BASIC FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED BY THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND, OF COURSE, THEY WILL CONTINUE AFTER 1997. THE QUESTION OF OFFERING HOSPITALITY FOR VISITORS TO HONG KONG WHO MIGHT WISH TO USE HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSION IS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER. NEITHER THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT NOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISH TO SEE HONG KONG BEING USED AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSION AND WE INTEND FULLY TO ABIDE BY THE CONCEPT OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" AND, OF COURSE, THIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET.

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HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE USED AS BASE FOR SUBVERSION

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NEITHER THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT NOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISH TO SEE HONG KONG BEING USED AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSION AND HONG KONG INTEND FULLY TO ABIDE BY THE CONCEPT OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS", THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ABOUT THE HAN DONGFANG CASE AFTER HER VISIT TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, MRS CHAN SAID IN HONG KONG, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN AND SAFEGUARD THE BASIC FREEDOMS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"THESE BASIC FREEDOMS INCLUDE THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS ONE'S VIEWS FREELY IN A PEACEFUL AND LAWFUL MANNER," MRS CHAN SAID.

"OF COURSE, IT'S ENTIRELY NATURAL THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE A VIEW AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON EVENTS IN CHINA.

"THESE BASIC FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED BY THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND, OF COURSE, THEY WILL CONTINUE AFTER 1997."

HOWEVER, SHE EMPHASISED THAT THE QUESTION OF OFFERING HOSPITALITY FOR VISITORS TO HONG KONG WHO MIGHT WISH TO USE HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSION WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER.

ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT DIRECTOR LU PING'S WORDS ABOUT FLEXIBILITY ON THE MAKE-UP OF THE JUDGES IN THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, MRS CHAN STRESSED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DRAFTED WERE BASED ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED PREVIOUSLY WITH THE CHINESE.

"WE HAVE HANDED TO THE CHINESE A COPY OF THE DRAFT BILL AND WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL REACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," MRS CHAN SAID.

"WE WILL ALSO BE CONSULTING THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

/"OF COURSE, .....

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"OF COURSE, THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S VIEWS ARE KNOWN TO US BUT WE HOPE VERY MUCH IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THE CONSULTATION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE LEGAL PROFESSION THAT ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, NEVERTHELESS, THEY CAN BE PERSUADED THAT THIS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF HONG KONG."

WHAT IS OF INTEREST TO HONG KONG IS TO GET THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL ESTABLISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT HAS SOME EXPERIENCE OF ACTUALLY RUNNING, SHE ADDED.

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#### DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR VISITS CUSTOMS

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, VISITED THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON AS PART OF HER REGULAR VISITS TO UPDATE HERSELF ON THE DEPARTMENTS' SERVICES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR DON WATSON, AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MR LAWRENCE LI, MRS CHAN FIRST MET WITH THE DIRECTORATE OFFICERS AT CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS AT HARBOUR BUILDING AND WAS BRIEFED ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

SHE THEN VISITED THE OFFICE OF DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ADMINISTRATION WHICH COLLECTS DUTY ON LIQUOR, TOBACCO, HYDROCARBON OIL AND METHYL ALCOHOL.

IN 1993/94, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT COLLECTED \$7.1 BILLION WHICH CONSTITUTED SIX PER CENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECURRENT REVENUE.

THE OFFICE ALSO ADMINISTERS A SYSTEM OF LICENCES AND PERMITS WHICH AIMS TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE REVENUE CONTROL ON THE IMPORT, EXPORT, MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE OF DUTIABLE COMMODITIES.

FROM HARBOUR BUILDING, MRS CHAN WENT TO THE TENTH FLOOR OF THE RUMSEY STREET CARPARK BUILDING WHERE THE INVESTIGATION BRANCH MUSEUM IS LOCATED.

SHE SAW MORE THAN 200 EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM. THESE WERE GOODS SEIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING SMOKING AND MANUFACTURING PARAPHERNALIA WHICH WERE SEIZED IN A HEROIN CASE IN 1974.

MRS CHAN ALSO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS CONTROL ROOM WHICH HOUSES AN EFFECTIVE AND SECURE RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM PROVIDES A CLOSE COMMUNICATION LINK BETWEEN SURVEILLANCE OFFICERS AND THEIR OPERATION COMMANDERS.

MRS CHAN LATER SAW VARIOUS ITEMS OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS SEIZED BY OFFICERS OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INVESTIGATION BUREAU.

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GOVT TO PHASE IN LICENSING FOR LIVESTOCK KEEPING

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PHASE IN A LICENSING SCHEME WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1994 FOR THE REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AND RESTRICTION AREAS.

THIS FOLLOWS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S PASSAGE OF THE ENABLING LEGISLATION AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL FOR MAKING THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE REVISED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME WHICH HAS INCORPORATED SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL SCHEME TO ADDRESS FARMERS' CONCERN.

THESE INCLUDE MUCH MORE CASH ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO INSTALL WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS AND A GENEROUS THREE-YEAR LEAD TIME TO ATTAIN THE FINAL REQUIRED DISCHARGE STANDARD.

PHASE I OF THE LICENSING SCHEME WILL COVER SOME OF THE CONTROL AND RESTRICTION AREAS DESIGNATED IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN, TAI LAM CHUNG, AND ALONG NG CHUNG RIVER AND SHENZHEN RIVER.

OPERATORS OF LIVESTOCK FARMS LOCATED WITHIN THESE AREAS CAN APPLY TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR A LICENCE BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1994.

COMPLIANCE OF THE ULTIMATE DISCHARGE STANDARD FOR PHASE I AREAS WILL BE PHASED IN OVER THREE YEARS, INITIALLY AT 250:250 (BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND: SUSPENDED SOLIDS DISCHARGE) ON JULY 1, 1995, THEN A YEAR LATER TO 100:100 BEFORE REACHING THE 50:50 STANDARD BY JULY 1, 1997.

PHASE II LICENSING APPLICATION WILL BEGIN FROM JULY 1, 1995 FOR FARMERS OPERATING IN SOME OF THE CONTROL AND RESTRICTION AREAS IN YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN AND KAM TIN.

THE FINAL PHASE WHICH COVERS THE REMAINING CONTROL AREAS WILL BEGIN ON JULY 1, 1996.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS MR WILLIAM HUI SAID THE REVISED SCHEME WAS WORKED OUT AFTER PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS WITH MAJOR LIVESTOCK FARMING BODIES.

"WE HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED THE CAPITAL GRANT AND HAVE ADDRESSED FARMERS' CONCERN ABOUT THE DISCHARGE STANDARD BY ADOPTING A GRADUAL APPROACH TOWARDS COMPLIANCE AND BY ALLOWING THEM TO CHOOSE WHATEVER TREATMENT METHOD THEY PREFER SO LONG AS THEY CAN COMPLY WITH THE DISCHARGE STANDARD.

"OVER 1,000 TONNES OF UNTREATED LIVESTOCK WASTE IS BEING DUMPED INTO OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS EVERYDAY. THE POLLUTION EFFECT IS EQUIVALENT TO DISCHARGE FROM ONE MILLION PEOPLE OR 1/6 OF THE POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

"WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS SITUATION, WHICH IS SERIOUSLY POLLUTING OUR BEACHES AND STREAMS, TO CONTINUE," HE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THE CHANGES MADE IN THE REVISED SCHEME HAD ADDRESSED FARMERS' CONCERN, POINTING OUT THAT NO OTHER INDUSTRY OR TRADE RECEIVED SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD.

UNDER THE REVISED SCHEME, A LICENCE WILL BE ISSUED FOR THREE YEARS BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES UPON COMPLIANCE BY THE APPLICANT WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET OUT IN THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF AN APPROVED WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM.

THE PENALTY FOR OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENCE IS \$50,000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND \$100,000 FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$1,000 FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE OFFENCE.

A PAMPHLET TO EXPLAIN THE CONTROL SCHEME AND THE LICENSING PROCEDURE WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND LOCAL OFFICES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

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#### POST OFFICE GOES AUTOMATION

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THE POST OFFICE IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH MORE MECHANISATION AND AUTOMATION TO FURTHER BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY.

ANNOUNCING MAJOR PROJECTS COMING ON STREAM AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID THE SPEEDPOST ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES WOULD BE COMPUTERISED IN JULY.

THIS WILL SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURES AT COUNTERS AND REDUCE CUSTOMERS' WAITING TIME.

IT WILL ALSO KEEP TRACK OF THE HANDLING OF THE ITEM AND STREAMLINE THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES, HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL IS HELPING THE POST OFFICE DEVELOP A SELF-SERVICE AUTO MAILING SYSTEM FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF BOTH ORDINARY AND REGISTERED LETTERS.

THE SYSTEM CAN ASSESS POSTAGE, ACCEPT COINS, GIVE CHANGE, PRODUCE A FRANKED POSTAGE IMPRESSION ON THE ITEM AND ISSUE A RECEIPT IF THE ITEM IS TO BE REGISTERED.

IT WILL REDUCE WAITING TIME AT THE COUNTER AND PROVIDE SERVICE OUTSIDE NORMAL OFFICE HOURS.

"A PROTOTYPE MACHINE IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR TRIAL IN TWO MONTHS," HE SAID.

ALSO, THE POST OFFICE IS CONTINUING TO REPLACE MECHANICAL STAMP VENDING MACHINES AND LETTER SCALES WITH NEW ELECTRONIC ONES.

/REFERRING TO .....

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REFERRING TO PERFORMANCE PLEDGES MADE IN APRIL LAST YEAR, MR PAGLIARI SAID ON ALMOST ALL THE PLEDGES, THEY COULD ACHIEVE BETTER THAN THE TARGET STANDARDS.

ACCORDING TO A CUSTOMER OPINION SURVEY CONDUCTED LAST SUMMER, THE PERCENTAGES OF INTERVIEWEES WHO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DELIVERY AND COUNTER SERVICES WERE 93.4 PER CENT AND 98.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

"THE SCOPE OF OUR PLEDGES THIS YEAR HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE AND THE USE OF PRIVATE FRANKING MACHINES.

"THE PLEDGE OF PROVIDING COUNTER SERVICE WITHIN 10 MINUTES HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED EVEN TO OUR BUSIEST OFFICES," HE SAID.

A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTER SERVICES HAVE BEEN MADE THIS YEAR. AN INTERACTIVE VOICE PROCESSING SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED LAST MONTH, MAKING IT EASIER FOR TELEPHONE ENQUIRERS TO GET THROUGH THE TELEPHONE ENQUIRY BUREAU.

TO SHOW RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY, A SPECIAL COUNTER WILL BE SET UP AT ALL POST OFFICES TO SERVE HOLDERS OF SENIOR CITIZEN CARDS.

REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF THE POST OFFICE, MR PAGLIARI SAID: "FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, HONG KONG HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION TO BE A MEMBER OF ONE OF ITS WORKING GROUPS."

HONG KONG WILL ALSO PLAY HOST TO THE CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN AUGUST.

OFFICIALS FROM MORE THAN 30 COMMONWEALTH POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BEFORE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS IN SEOUL.

"THIS HONOUR IS INDEED A RECOGNITION OF THE ACTIVE ROLE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE IN THE POSTAL WORLD," HE SAID.

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#### POST OFFICE MOVES INTO TRADING FUND OPERATIONS

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WITH THE POST OFFICE MOVING INTO TRADING FUND OPERATIONS BY APRIL NEXT YEAR, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WOULD BE EXPANDED AND THE EXTRA REVENUE GENERATED WOULD OFFSET GREATLY THE PRESSURE FOR HEFTY POSTAGE INCREASES FOR LOCAL AND SURFACE LETTERS.

EXPLAINING THE TRADING FUND OPERATION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID IT WAS A FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK TO ENABLE A DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON A QUASI-COMMERCIAL AND SELF-FINANCING BASIS.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ADOPT THE ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COMMON IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PLOUGHING BACK PROFITS FOR DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS WHILE REMAINING AS A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

/IT WILL .....

IT WILL BE GIVEN THE FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY TO RETAIN ITS REVENUE TO FINANCE ITS ACTIVITIES AND TO INVEST IN EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, SUBJECT TO THE MEETING OF CERTAIN PRESCRIBED OPERATING AND FINANCIAL TARGETS.

MR. PAGLIARI SAID IN RECENT YEARS THE POST OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES NECESSARY TO DEVELOP ITS SERVICES AND MAINTAIN ITS HIGH SERVICE STANDARDS.

THE LIMITED RESOURCES OBTAINED HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR BASIC SERVICES LIKE LETTERS AND PARCELS, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROFITABLE PREMIUM SERVICES, HE ADDED.

AS A RESULT, THE POST OFFICE HAS BEEN FORCED TO DAMPEN DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES LIKE SPEEDPOST.

THIS AFFECTS THE OVERALL PROFITABILITY OF THE POST OFFICE AND PRODUCES PRESSURE FOR COMPENSATORY INCREASES IN BASIC POSTAGE RATES.

ALSO, A LACK OF RESOURCES IMPLIES DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE, HE SAID.

SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 62 COUNTRIES. DURING 1993/94, 4.3 MILLION SPEEDPOST ITEMS WERE HANDLED, REPRESENTING 5.1 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE YEAR BEFORE.

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#### RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR APRIL

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THE GROWTH IN RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING CONTINUED TO ACCELERATE IN APRIL, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST MONTHLY SURVEY OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THERE ARE HOWEVER SIGNS THAT THE FLOW OF NEW MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS SLOWED IN MAY.

GROSS NEW LENDING BY THE 33 INSTITUTIONS IN THE SURVEY FELL SLIGHTLY DURING APRIL, FROM \$9.6 BILLION TO \$9.4 BILLION. HOWEVER, REPAYMENTS FELL MORE SHARPLY WITH THE RESULT THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE LENDING GREW BY 1.7% IN APRIL (1.3% IN MARCH) FROM \$227.0 BILLION TO \$231.0 BILLION.

THE ANNUALISED RATE OF GROWTH IN LENDING OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS RISEN TO 17.7% FROM 15.1% IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO MARCH. THE 12-MONTH AVERAGE OF OUTSTANDING LENDING STANDS AT AN ANNUALISED GROWTH RATE OF 17.7%, THE SAME AS IN MARCH.

"THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT THE REPORTED SLOWDOWN IN ACTIVITY IN THE RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE MARKET WHICH OCCURRED AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO DAMPEN PROPERTY PRICES HAS NOT YET BEEN REFLECTED IN THE BANK LENDING FIGURES," THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, SAID.

/"THIS IS .....

"THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT A DECLINE IN LOAN APPLICATIONS, WHICH BANKS SEEM TO BE EXPERIENCING AT PRESENT, TAKES SOME TIME TO SHOW THROUGH IN REDUCED LENDING GROWTH."

MR CARSE ADDED THAT WHILE SOME IMPACT ON LENDING GROWTH MAY BE FELT IN MAY, A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF UNDRAWN COMMITMENTS REMAINED IN THE PIPELINE.

NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN FELL IN APRIL FROM \$6.7 BILLION TO \$6.3 BILLION, BUT REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL.

AS REGARDS LENDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA, THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT SUCH LENDING ROSE BY 1.6% IN APRIL, FROM \$3.8 BILLION TO \$3.9 BILLION.

ALMOST ALL OF THE INCREASE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF RESIDENTIAL LENDING IS NOW \$3.1 BILLION.

GROSS LOANS MADE IN APRIL ROSE IN NUMBERS (TO 277 FROM 256) BUT FELL IN AMOUNT (TO \$110 MILLION FROM \$134 MILLION). NEW LOANS APPROVED GREW BOTH IN NUMBERS (TO 705 FROM 336) AND AMOUNT (TO \$219 MILLION FROM \$164 MILLION).

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/Residential Mortgage .....

**Residential Mortgage Loans in Hong Kong**  
**Results of Survey for April 1994**

(Amount in HK\$ mn)	<u>April</u> 1994	<u>March</u> 1994
<b><u>33 authorised institutions</u></b>		
<b>1. <u>Outstanding lending</u></b>		
a. Amount	230,926	226,968
b. Monthly change	1.7%	1.3%
c. Twelve-month change	17.9%	18.0%
d. Average change (annualized)		
Latest three months	17.7%	15.1%
Latest twelve months	17.7%	17.7%
<b>2. <u>Gross loans made during month</u></b>		
a. Amount	9,361	9,599
b. Number	6801	6941
<b>3. <u>New loans approved during month drawn and undrawn</u></b>		
a. Amount	10,042	10,990
b. Number	7278	7580
<b>4. <u>New loans approved during month but not yet drawn</u></b>		
a. Amount	6,272	6,716
b. Number	4581	4783

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TWO LOTS SOLD FOR \$2,550 MILLION  
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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,550 MILLION AT THE PUBLIC LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT IN AREA 19, LUEN WO HUI, FANLING, WAS BOUGHT BY DIRECT PROFIT DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT \$2,040 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$1,800 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 20,780 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING GODOWN.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 64,112 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1998.

THE SECOND LOT, SITUATED AT FUNG KAM STREET, YUEN LONG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,889 SQUARE METRES, WAS BOUGHT BY MORICROWN LIMITED FOR \$510 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$480 MILLION. IT IS ALSO INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING GODOWN.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 19,000 SQUARE METRES BEFORE JUNE 30, 1998.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN THE THEATRE OF THE CITY HALL, WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR FRANCIS HAY.

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\$79.2 MILLION PAID TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS  
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) PAID OUT SOME \$79.2 MILLION FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS IN 1992/93.

ACCORDING TO THE 1992/93 TAVA FUND ANNUAL REPORT, 5,517 APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE WERE RECEIVED DURING THE PERIOD, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 1.6 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 5,604 APPLICATIONS IN 1991/92.

THE TAVA SCHEME, OPERATING SINCE MAY 1979, IS ONE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES ADMINISTERED BY THE SWD.

"IT AIMS TO PROVIDE QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS, REGARDLESS OF THE MEANS OF THE FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT." A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SWD SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DURING 1992/93, THE SWD HANDLED 49 CASES OF SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN WHICH HEAVY CASUALTIES WERE INVOLVED.

THE ACCIDENT RESULTING IN THE LARGEST NUMBER OF CASUALTIES OCCURRED ON JANUARY 30 LAST YEAR AT TUEN MUN ROAD WHEN A BUS OF KOWLOON MOTOR BUS OVERTURNED.

AS A RESULT, 54 PEOPLE WERE INJURED OF WHOM 36 WERE FOUND ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE. A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$83,026 WERE PAID TO THESE VICTIMS.

"TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE, AN APPLICATION MUST BE MADE WITHIN THE SIX MONTHS OF THE ACCIDENT WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID STAFF FROM THE TAVA SECTION WOULD, IN MAJOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS DIRECTLY TO HELP THEM APPLY AT AN EARLY DATE.

"IN THE CASE OF INJURY NOT CAUSING DEATH, AN APPLICANT MUST OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE FROM A REGISTERED DOCTOR REQUIRING AT LEAST THREE DAYS OF SICK LEAVE.

"BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME STILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE SAME TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME.

"BUT IN ANY CASE THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION AWARDED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

APPLICATIONS UNDER THE TAVA SCHEME CAN BE MADE EITHER IN PERSON OR BY POST.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNITS OF REGIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND SWD'S TAVA SECTION AT ROOM 942, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

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BEACH WATER GRADES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF 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 WATER IS 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 THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A 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 WATER 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 SHORTER IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADINGS BEACH WATER QUALITY IS:

- \* 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 - 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 IS ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

/THE GRADES .....

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

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.5.94)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 26.5.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	1	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	2	1
REPULSE BAY	1	2
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	2
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	3
BUTTERFLY	2	2
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

/ISLANDS DISTRICT .....

## ISLANDS DISTRICT

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

## TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	4	4
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	2
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.  
\* NON-GAZETTED BEACH.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

MIDDLE BAY AND DISCOVERY BAY FROM "2" TO "1"; GEMINI FROM "3" TO "2"; DEEP WATER BAY, REPULSE BAY AND ST. STEPHEN'S FROM "1" TO "2"; AND TING KAU FROM "3" TO "4".

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

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR MALCOLM BROOM,  
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, ON TEL 835 1234.

EMPLOYMENT AND WORK SAFETY  
FOR SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS

\* \* \* \* \*

STUDENTS PLANNING TO TAKE UP TEMPORARY JOBS DURING THE COMING SUMMER VACATION SHOULD PAY EXTRA CARE TO SIX TYPES OF POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT TRAPS WHICH HAVE CAUGHT PUBLIC ATTENTION IN RECENT YEARS.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MR RAYMOND CHAN SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) INFORMATION ON THESE COMMON EMPLOYMENT TRAPS WAS CONTAINED IN A NEWLY-PUBLISHED BOOKLET SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS LOOKING FOR SUMMER JOBS.

"COMPLEMENTED BY CARTOON DRAWINGS IN THE BOOKLET, WE PUT ACROSS USEFUL ADVICE TO SUMMER JOB SEEKERS, HOPING THAT THEY CAN AVOID BEING VICTIMISED BY UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE," MR CHAN SAID.

MR CHAN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ADVICE ON AVOIDING EMPLOYMENT TRAPS:

- \* BE CAREFUL OF DUBIOUS RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH REQUIRE NO SKILL OR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS, BUT PROMISE A HIGH PAY;
- \* WHILE ATTENDING A JOB INTERVIEW, BE ALERT OF WHETHER THE OFFER IS GENUINE;
- \* AVOID ACCEPTING JOBS WITH POSSIBLE IMMORAL IMPLICATIONS;
- \* BE CAREFUL IN SIGNING ANY CONTRACT;
- \* CONSIDER SERIOUSLY BEFORE ACCEPTING ANY DEMAND FROM THE EMPLOYER IN RESPECT OF MONETARY GUARANTEE, OR PAYMENT OF CASH EITHER FOR TRAINING PURPOSES OR FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS; AND
- \* WHEN IN DOUBT OR HAVING PROBLEMS, CONSULT PARENTS, CAREERS TEACHERS OR APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE NINE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, AND THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES AT MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SOUTHERN CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

MEANWHILE, SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT MR HO HONG-WAI SAID HIS UNIT HAD PRODUCED A NEW BOOKLET ON EMPLOYMENT LAW FOR SUMMER JOB SEEKERS.

"IT PROVIDES SOME BASIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LABOUR LAW AND OTHER ADVICE TO YOUNG STUDENTS INTENDING TO TAKE UP TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN THE SUMMER VACATION," MR HO SAID.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, THERE WERE RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT AGE, THE WORKING HOURS AND THE TYPES OF JOBS WHICH CHILDREN COULD OR COULD NOT DO.

"UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ALSO ON THE EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 15 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE WORKING IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

"WE PROVIDE SOME SALIENT POINTS IN THE BOOKLET ON EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP AND CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT COVERING ASPECTS ON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT, HOLIDAYS, REST DAYS, SICK LEAVE AND PAYMENT OF WAGES," MR HO ADDED.

STUDENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOMED TO COLLECT COPIES OF THE BOOKLET FROM THE 11 OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

SPEAKING ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, SUPERINTENDENT OF FACTORY INSPECTORS (TRAINING) MR MA SHI-HANG SAID THE NUMBER OF SUMMER WORKERS INJURED IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WAS ON THE RISE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT REACHED AN ALARMING LEVEL.

NOTING THAT MOST OF THESE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF MACHINERIES AND HANDLING OF HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES, MR MA ASKED STUDENTS TO STAY AWAY FROM THESE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS JOBS.

"JOBS REQUIRING THE OPERATION OF WOOD-WORKING MACHINES, THE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS, TOXIC SUBSTANCES OR FIRE-RELATED PROCESSES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS AS THEY HAVE NO PROPER TRAINING.

"UNTRAINED YOUNG PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN CONSTRUCTION SITES STARTING FROM JUNE 22," HE SAID.

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LAWS, NO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE SHALL OPERATE ANY LIFTING APPLIANCE DRIVEN BY MECHANICAL POWER OR TO GIVE SIGNALS TO THE DRIVER OF THE APPLIANCE.

THE LAW ALSO PROHIBITS YOUNG PERSONS TO CLEAN ANY DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY IN NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACES.

MR MA CALLED ON STUDENTS INTENDING TO WORK IN CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXERCISE EXTRA CARE AS THEY MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO USE SHARP KNIVES AND COOKING EQUIPMENT ON A POTENTIALLY SLIPPERY FLOOR.

COMPREHENSIVE WORK SAFETY INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHEN FACTORY INSPECTORS LAUNCH A SERIES OF SAFETY TALKS TO AT LEAST 54 SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM JUNE 1.

MORE THAN 16,400 STUDENTS ATTENDED WORK SAFETY LECTURES PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN LAST YEAR'S PUBLICITY EXERCISE.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

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VOTER REGISTRATION CARNIVAL IN NORTH DISTRICT

\* \* \* \* \*

A LARGE-SCALE CARNIVAL AIMED AT ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS IN NORTH DISTRICT TO REGISTER AS VOTERS WILL BE HELD IN SHEUNG SHUI ON MAY 28 (SATURDAY).

THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, WITH HELP FROM THE NORTH RURAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THERE WILL BE GAME STALLS, MAGIC SHOWS, SINGING PERFORMANCES AND HANDICRAFT DEMONSTRATION BY THE FRINGE CLUB.

THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE WILL MOBILISE MORE THAN 20 STAFF MEMBERS TO HELP RESIDENTS FILL IN VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS.

ADMISSION TO THE CARNIVAL IS FREE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TIMOTHY TONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM AT SHEK WU HUI PLAYGROUND AT SAN LOK STREET, SHEUNG SHUI.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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FIREMEN PRAISED FOR FIGHTING RESTAURANT FIRE

\* \* \* \* \*

FIREMEN HAVE BEEN THANKED FOR PUTTING OUT A NO. 3 ALARM FIRE AT A RESTAURANT IN ABERDEEN TWO MONTHS AGO.

REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION, LED BY ITS CHAIRMAN MR SHEK KWOK-KEUNG, PRESENTED A PENNANT TO THE FIRE-FIGHTERS AT POKFULAM FIRE STATION TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE BLAZE BROKE OUT AT THE RESTAURANT AT 12 SAI ON STREET IN THE EVENING ON MARCH 3.

USING THREE JETS AND THREE BREATHING APPARATUS TEAMS, FIREMEN CONTAINED THE BLAZE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR.

FIFTEEN PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT TO SAFETY.

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WERE TWO NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC LIAISON GROUP.

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,520	0930	+175
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,497	1000	+225
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+305
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+307	1200	+307
LAF TODAY	-330	1500	+307
		1600	+307

LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 124.9 \*-0.2\* 26.5.94

/HONG KONG .....

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.75	18 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.92	5.70
1 MONTH	3.77	24 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.57	6.13
3 MONTHS	4.10	29 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.19	6.47
6 MONTHS	4.62	32 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.38	6.62
12 MONTHS	5.21	35 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.76	6.73

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 21,112 MN

CLOSED 26 MAY 1994

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