



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

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TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT
LIAISON GROUP: PRESS COMMUNIQUE
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THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS TWENTIETH MEETING IN LONDON FROM 24 TO 26 SEPTEMBER 1991.

THE GROUP CONFIRMED THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED BY THEIR EXPERTS ON THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE COURT. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE DRAFTING AND AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION AND OTHER PREPARATORY WORK COULD NOW PROCEED.

THE GROUP CONFIRMED ON THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED AT THEIR LAST MEETING ON A DRAFT MODEL INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND RELEVANT COUNTRIES.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LANDS WHICH ARE NOW IN USE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND MADE PROGRESS IN NARROWING THEIR DIFFERENCES. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT EXPERTS WOULD MEET AGAIN SOON TO CONTINUE THIS WORK.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND AGREED THAT EXPERTS SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS A DRAFT MODEL TEXT AND RELATED QUESTIONS.

THE GROUP REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE LOCALISATION OF THE SHIPOWNERS LIABILITY ACT.

THE GROUP DISCUSSED MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997 OF 10 CUSTOMS TREATIES. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IRO SUBGROUP WOULD DISCUSS MULTILATERAL TREATIES RELEVANT TO HONG KONG RELATING TO CONSERVATION, HEALTH AND TRADE (GENERAL).

THE TWO SIDES REACHED AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF MODIFICATIONS TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE PENSION ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING DEPENDANTS PENSION SCHEMES.

THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FRANCHISES WHICH WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

THE GROUP REACHED AGREEMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL RADIO CALL SIGNS USED BY HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG IN THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER 1991.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST RELEASED

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RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED A MODERATE DECLINE IN AUGUST, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS RECORDED A MARKED GROWTH, PARTLY DUE TO A RISE IN RE-EXPORTS AND PARTLY DUE TO AN INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN AUGUST ROSE BY \$8,901 MILLION OR 23.2% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$47,205 MILLION.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST, AT \$20,364 MILLION, WAS \$764 MILLION OR 3.6% LOWER.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$8,137 MILLION OR 13.7% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$67,569 MILLION IN AUGUST.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$11,051 MILLION OR 19.8% TO \$66,755 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$814 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN AUGUST 1991.

THE SURPLUS RECORDED IN AUGUST 1990 WAS \$3,728 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1991, AT \$328,825 MILLION, ROSE BY \$71,231 MILLION OR 27.7% OVER THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY \$4,392 MILLION OR 3.1% TO \$146,467 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AT \$475,292 MILLION, WAS THUS \$75,623 MILLION OR 18.9% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS GREW BY \$93,041 MILLION OR 23.1% TO \$495,058 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$19,766 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1991.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$2,348 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.6% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1990.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE SUSTAINED ROBUST PERFORMANCE OF RE-EXPORTS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE STRONG GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS INVOLVING CHINA IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

THE MILD DECLINE IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST WAS UNLIKELY TO INDICATE A REVERSAL OF THE TREND OF MODERATE RECOVERY EXPERIENCED IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES SO FAR THIS YEAR, THOUGH THE RECOVERY APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS STEADY THAN EXPECTED.

FURTHER RECOVERY IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AND DOMESTIC DEMAND IS TO SOME EXTENT EVIDENCED BY THE CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH IN RETAINED IMPORTS, BY 17.3% IN VALUE TERMS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

FOLLOWING IS A TABLE PRESENTING THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1991:

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS :	\$20,364 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS :	\$47,205 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS :	\$67,569 MILLION	
	IMPORTS :	\$66,755 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE :	\$814 MILLION	[IN SURPLUS]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	JUN 91 TO	JUN 90 TO	INCREASE	
	AUG 91	AUG 90	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	60,354	60,383	-29	-0.0
RE-EXPORTS	138,027	108,693	29,334	27.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	198,381	169,076	29,305	17.3
IMPORTS	199,429	162,204	37,225	22.9
TRADE BALANCE	-1,048	6,872	-7,920	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	AUGUST	AUGUST	INCREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	20,364	21,128	-764	-3.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.1%)	(35.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	47,205	38,304	8,901	23.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	67,569	59,432	8,137	13.7
IMPORTS	66,755	55,704	11,051	19.8
TRADE BALANCE	814	3,728	-2,914	

LAST MONTH	AUGUST	JULY	INCREASE	
	1991	1991	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		

/DOMESTIC EXPORTS

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS	20,364	21,178	-814	-3.8
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.1%)	(30.4%)		
RE-EXPORTS	47,205	48,507	-1,302	-2.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	67,569	69,685	-2,116	-3.0
IMPORTS	66,755	69,082	-2,327	-3.4
TRADE BALANCE	814	603	211	
	JAN-AUG	JAN-AUG	INCREASE	
CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	1991	1990		
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	146,467	142,075	4,392	3.1
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.8%)	(35.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	328,825	257,594	71,231	27.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	475,292	399,669	75,623	18.9
IMPORTS	495,058	402,017	93,041	23.1
TRADE BALANCE	-19,766	-2,348	-17,418	
	SEP 90 TO	SEP 89 TO	INCREASE	
LAST 12 MONTHS	AUG 91	AUG 90		
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	230,267	221,793	8,474	3.8
RE-EXPORTS	485,230	379,647	105,583	27.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	715,497	601,440	114,057	19.0
IMPORTS	735,572	591,475	144,097	24.4
TRADE BALANCE	-20,075	9,965	-30,040	

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR AUGUST RELEASED

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1984/85-BASED CPI'S (SEE TABLE 1)

ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), THE 1984/85-BASED CPI(A) FOR AUGUST 1991 WAS 12.7% HIGHER THAN IN AUGUST 1990.

THIS RATE OF INCREASE WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF 12.6% RECORDED IN JULY 1991. HOWEVER, BOTH FIGURES WERE STILL LOWER THAN THE PEAK FIGURE OF 13.9% RECORDED IN APRIL 1991.

THE 1984/85-BASED CPI(B) FOR AUGUST 1991 WAS 12.0% HIGHER THAN IN AUGUST 1990. THIS RATE OF INCREASE WAS ALSO SIMILAR TO THAT OF 11.9% RECORDED IN JULY 1991 BUT LOWER THAN THE PEAK FIGURE OF 13.0% RECORDED IN APRIL 1991.

THE FOODSTUFFS, HOUSING AND SERVICES COMPONENTS CONTRIBUTED MOST TO THE RATE OF INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES IN AUGUST 1991.

/THE PRICES

THE PRICES OF FRESH FOODSTUFFS WERE PARTICULARLY VOLATILE IN RECENT MONTHS. THE INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF PORK AND BEEF REFLECTED THE EFFECT OF THE FLOODING IN CHINA.

THE PRICE OF VEGETABLES SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN AUGUST 1991 ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, PARTLY BECAUSE VEGETABLES WERE RELATIVELY CHEAP IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE TYPHOON LED TO HIGHER VEGETABLE PRICES IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

LOCALLY, CHARGES FOR MEALS AT RESTAURANTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

ON THE HOUSING COMPONENT, HIGHER RENT WAS RECORDED FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

ON THE SERVICES COMPONENT, HIGHER CHARGES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN SCHOOL FEES, MEDICAL SERVICES AND PACKAGE TOURS.

MOREOVER, THE RELATIVELY FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN CPI(A) AND CPI(B) IN AUGUST 1991 WERE DUE IN PART TO THE LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN AUGUST 1990 IN WHICH THE LOWEST MONTH-TO-MONTH INCREASE IN 1990 WAS RECORDED.

AS THE COMPILATION OF THE 1989/90-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) SERIES ONLY BEGAN FROM OCTOBER 1990, REFERENCE HAS TO BE MADE TO THE 1984/85-BASED CPI'S FOR YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON OF PRICE MOVEMENTS.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN CPI(A) IN AUGUST 1991 WERE RECORDED FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO FOR HOME CONSUMPTION (42.1%), SERVICES (14.9%), HOUSING (13.4%), FOODSTUFFS (12.8%) AND TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES (12.7%).

THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE FOR THE SAME COMPONENTS IN CPI(B) WERE 39.9%, 13.8%, 12.7%, 12.8% AND 12.0% RESPECTIVELY.

THESE FIVE COMPONENTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 91% OF THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AND 89% OF THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(B).

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO AUGUST 1991, THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) INCREASED BY 12.6% AND 12.0% RESPECTIVELY OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1990.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1991, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE 11.9% AND 11.6% RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1990.

FOR AUGUST 1991, THE 1984/85-BASED HANG SENG CPI WAS 10.9% HIGHER THAN IN AUGUST 1990.

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO AUGUST 1991, THE AVERAGE HANG SENG CPI INCREASED BY 11.6% OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1990.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1991, THE HANG SENG CPI WAS UP BY 11.6% COMPARED WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1990.

1989/90-BASED CPI'S (SEE TABLE 2)

THE 1989/90-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) FOR AUGUST 1991 INCREASED BY 0.6% AND 0.5% RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH JULY 1991.

HAVING THE LARGEST WEIGHTING IN BOTH CPI'S, THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF THE INCREASE IN CPI(A) AND THE SECOND LARGEST IN CPI(B).

WITHIN THIS COMPONENT, THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, PORK, BEEF, EDIBLE OILS, AND CHARGES FOR MEALS AT RESTAURANTS INCREASED. THE INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF PORK AND BEEF PARTLY REFLECTED THE IMPACT OF THE FLOODING IN CHINA. THESE PRICE INCREASES MORE THAN OFFSET THE PRICE DECREASES OF LIVE POULTRY AND FRESH FRUIT.

THE INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR HOUSING WAS DUE TO HIGHER RENT FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS. THIS ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF THE INCREASE IN CPI(B) AND THE SECOND LARGEST IN CPI(A).

AS FOR THE SERVICES COMPONENT, HIGHER CHARGES WERE RECORDED FOR MEDICAL SERVICES, PACKAGE TOURS AND TUITION FEES FOR SOME COMMERCIAL TRAINING COURSES.

HIGHER PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES WERE RECORDED IN THE TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES COMPONENT.

HOWEVER, PRICES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR CONTINUED TO DECREASE IN AUGUST 1991 AS SUMMER SALES WERE STILL HELD IN MOST DEPARTMENT STORES. THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS DECLINED MAINLY AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES OF FURNITURE, VIDEO AND SOUND EQUIPMENT.

THE 1989/90-BASED HANG SENG CPI FOR AUGUST 1991 INCREASED BY 0.6% COMPARED WITH JULY 1991.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO RELEASE THE 1984/85-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) IN PARALLEL WITH THE NEW SERIES OF 1989/90-BASED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) UNTIL MARCH 1992, AFTER WHICH THE FORMER SERIES WILL BE DISCONTINUED.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR AUGUST 1991, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$7 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 805 6403.

DETAILS REGARDING THE HANG SENG CPI ARE CONTAINED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

TABLE 1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (A) AND (B) (OCT 84 - SEPT 85 = 100)
FOR AUGUST 1991 COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1990

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 = 100) CPI(A)		CPI(B)	
	INDEX FOR AUG. 91	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 90	INDEX FOR AUG. 91	% CHANGE OVER AUG. 90
FOODSTUFFS	163.8	+12.8	166.0	+12.8
MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME	182.9	+13.4	183.5	+13.3
FOODSTUFFS, EXCLUDING MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME	147.5	+12.1	148.6	+12.2
HOUSING	151.2	+13.4	144.9	+12.7
FUEL AND LIGHT	111.4	+6.7	110.8	+6.3
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	223.9	+42.1	221.8	+39.9
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	154.4	+6.1	158.6	+6.7
DURABLE GOODS	130.9	+3.9	129.5	+3.9
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	149.3	+8.0	149.2	+7.8
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	176.2	+12.7	174.7	+12.0
SERVICES	182.9	+14.9	181.6	+13.8
ALL ITEMS	161.1	+12.7	159.9	+12.0

THE 1984/85-BASED CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF ABOUT 50% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$2,000-\$6,499 A MONTH IN 1984/85.

THE CPI(B) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE NEXT 30% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$6,500-\$9,999 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

(THE 1984/85-BASED HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF ABOUT 10% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$10,000-\$24,999 IN 1984/85.)

TABLE 2 CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (A) AND (B) (OCT 89 - SEPT 90 = 100)
FOR AUGUST 1991 COMPARED WITH JULY 1991

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 = 100) CPI(A)		CPI(B)	
	INDEX FOR AUG. 91	% CHANGE OVER JULY 91	INDEX FOR AUG. 91	% CHANGE OVER JULY 91
FOODSTUFFS	116.8	+0.9	117.1	+0.8
MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME	118.8	+0.5	118.8	+0.6
FOODSTUFFS, EXCLUDING MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME	114.9	+1.3	114.6	+1.0
HOUSING	118.3	+0.9	117.9	+1.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	108.5	-0.2	108.1	-0.2
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	145.5	+0.1	138.9	+0.2
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	107.2	-2.1	108.1	-2.1
DURABLE GOODS	104.3	-0.4	103.3	-0.5
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	107.9	-0.1	107.3	-0.0*
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	118.6	+0.5	118.0	+0.4
SERVICES	115.6	+0.5	115.1	+0.6
ALL ITEMS	116.0	+0.6	115.3	+0.5

* LESS THAN 0.05%

THE 1989/90-BASED CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS DERIVED FROM THE 1989/90 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF ABOUT 50% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$2,500-\$9,999 A MONTH IN 1989/90.

THE CPI(B) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE NEXT 30% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$10,000-\$17,499 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

(THE 1989/90-BASED HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF ABOUT 10% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WHICH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$17,500-\$37,499 IN 1989/90.)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF RENT REVIEW REPORT ENDORSED

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AT ITS FIRST OPEN MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) ENDORSED THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DOMESTIC RENT POLICY AND ALLOCATION STANDARDS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE AUTHORITY'S CONSIDERATION FOLLOWING A THREE-MONTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT, WHICH ENDED ON 31 JULY.

THE THREE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED BY THE AUTHORITY ARE:

- . THE PRESENT BIENNIAL RENT REVIEW SHOULD BE MAINTAINED;
- . PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO INCLUDE RATES, AND
- . ALLOWING FUTURE TENANTS TO OPT FOR A LARGER OR SMALLER ALLOCATION STANDARD.

A HOUSING SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF REVIEWING RENTS EVERY TWO YEARS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BECAUSE "A CLEAR MAJORITY OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE COMMENTED ON THE ISSUE SUPPORTED CONTINUING WITH THE BIENNIAL REVIEWS."

"DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE, SOME RESPONDENTS SUGGESTED THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN REVIEWS SHOULD BE LENGTHENED TO FOUR YEARS ONCE THE AUTHORITY HAS ACHIEVED A BALANCED BUDGET," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"THE AD HOC COMMITTEE DOES NOT RECOMMEND THIS CHANGE, SINCE IT COULD NECESSITATE HEFTY RENT INCREASES TO COVER THE RISE IN COSTS, ETC."

ON THE POLICY OF CHARGING RENTS INCLUSIVE OF RATES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AUTHORITY NOTED THAT DURING THE CONSULTATION, CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS PRACTICE.

"RATES INCREASES TAKE EFFECT IN APRIL WHILST BIENNIAL RENT REVIEWS TAKE EFFECT IN EITHER APRIL, SEPTEMBER OR DECEMBER. THEREFORE SEPARATE INCREASES BETWEEN RENT REVIEWS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INCREASES IN RATES WOULD BE RESENTED BY TENANTS."

WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL OF ALLOWING TENANTS A CHOICE BETWEEN THE CURRENT MINIMUM ALLOCATION STANDARD OF 5.5 SQUARE METRES INTERNAL FLOOR AREA (IFA) PER PERSON WITH RENT NOT EXCEEDING A MEDIAN RENT INCOME RATIO (MRIR) OF 15 PER CENT AND A NEW MINIMUM ALLOCATION STANDARD OF SEVEN SQUARE METRES WITH MRIR NOT EXCEEDING 18.5 PER CENT, THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT THERE WERE DIVERSE VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL. THERE WAS ALSO FOUND TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PROPOSAL AND SOME PEOPLE FEARED IT WAS A PRETEXT FOR RENT INCREASES.

THERE WAS HOWEVER CLEAR SUPPORT FOR HIGHER ALLOCATION STANDARDS.

"MANY RESPONDENTS HAVE ADVOCATED THAT THE MRIR SHOULD NOT BE RAISED DESPITE AN INCREASE IN ALLOCATION STANDARD," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ACTUAL SPACE ALLOCATION HAD SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDED THE MINIMUM STANDARD OF 5.5 SQUARE METRES.

/"IF THE

"IF THE PROPOSED ALLOCATION RANGE UNDER THE NEW STANDARD OF SEVEN SQUARE METRES IFA PER PERSON IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED, IN FUTURE RENT SETTING THE AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF UNIT RENT SO AS TO OBSERVE THE MRIR LIMIT OF 15 PER CENT.

SINCE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE, IT HAS PROPOSED TO REVISE THE MRIR LIMIT TO 18.5 PER CENT.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS REHOUSED INTO A SAMPLE OF RENTAL ESTATES DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS.

"THIS SURVEY HAS SHOWN THAT OVER A PERIOD OF THREE TO 22 MONTHS THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME HAD RISEN BY 28 PER CENT, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE MRIR HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM 13.1 PER CENT AT THE TIME OF INTAKE TO 10.2 PER CENT," HE SAID.

AS TO CLAIMS THAT THE TWO ALLOCATION STANDARDS WERE SOCIALLY DIVISIVE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IS OF THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO DEPRIVE TENANTS, WHO ARE WILLING TO SPEND HIGHER PORTION OF THEIR HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR MORE SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION, THE CHANCE TO SATISFY THEIR ASPIRATION."

"ON THE OTHERHAND, THOSE TENANTS WHO WISH TO PAY LOWER RENTS FOR SMALLER FLATS SHOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO PAY MORE FOR LARGER FLATS. THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SMALLER FLATS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT TWO MINIMUM ALLOCATION STANDARDS WHICH REPRESENTED AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE RENT SETTING POLICY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

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EAST KOWLOON SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO BE OVERHAULED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND ABOUT \$480 MILLION ON ENGINEERING WORKS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO OVERHAUL THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF EAST KOWLOON, ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY POLLUTED DISTRICTS IN THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG ROTARY CLUB TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, SAID SUCH WORKS, WHICH WERE SCHEDULED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR, WERE THE FIRST STAGE ENGINEERING WORKS OF THE WHOLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME WHICH WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN FOR THE REGION.

MR SIU NOTED THAT THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STUDY FOR EAST KOWLOON COMPLETED IN 1989 HAD INDICATED THAT EXPEDIENT CONNECTION BETWEEN FOUL SEWERS AND STORMWATER DRAINS WAS COMMON IN THE AREA.

/SUCH CONNECTIONS

SUCH CONNECTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE ACCIDENTALLY OR DELIBERATELY BECAUSE OF EASE OF CONNECTIONS OR INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY OF FOUL SEWERS.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,350 TO 2,000 EXPEDIENT CONDITIONS, MOSTLY IN KWUN TONG AND YAU TONG. OWING TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN EAST KOWLOON, THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING SEWERS IS ALSO LIMITED AND OVERFLOW OF SEWAGE INTO STORMWATER DRAINS SOMETIMES OCCURS.

ON THE WHOLE IT WAS FOUND THAT ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE WASTEWATER GENERATED ENTERS THE STORMWATER SYSTEM AND IS DISCHARGED WITHOUT ANY TREATMENT, CAUSING SIGNIFICANT POLLUTION TO VICTORIA HARBOUR.

TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, MR SIU SAID HIS DEPARTMENT HAD MAINTAINED A SEWER GANG FOR THE REGULAR INSPECTION AND DESILTING OF SEWERS AND MANHOLES IN EAST KOWLOON.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS IN 1990 TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT ENGINEERING WORKS TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND CONTROL POLLUTION IN THE AREA.

THE MEASURES ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO STAGES. THE STAGE 1 WORKS TO BE EMBARKED ON NEXT YEAR ARE IMMEDIATE MEASURES WHICH INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SEWERS AND THE REHABILITATION OF OLD ONES TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN EAST KOWLOON.

POLLUTION FLOWS IN STORMWATER DRAINS ARE ALSO INTERCEPTED AND DIVERTED BACK INTO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF WORK ARE:

- * CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SEWERS ALONG HOI BUN ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD, EAST AIRPORT ROAD AND WANG KWONG ROAD (ABOUT FIVE KILOMETRES IN LENGTH);
- * REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING TRUNK SEWER ALONG KWUN TONG ROAD (ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES IN LENGTH);
- * CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SEWAGE PUMPINGS AT YAU TONG AND KWUN TONG AND THE RELATED RISING MAINS TO TRANSFER SEWAGE TO THE EXISTING KWUN TONG SCREENING PLANT; AND
- * CONSTRUCTION OF DRY-WEATHER-FLOW INTERCEPTION CHAMBERS AT SEVEN LOCATIONS TO DIRECT THE POLLUTED FLOW FROM STORMWATER DRAINS INTO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

MR SIU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR TRAFFIC DIVERSION DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE WORKS, WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL 1993.

THE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE WILL ALSO BE PLANNED TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC WITH ROAD OPENINGS FOR SEWER CONSTRUCTION AND SO ON TO BE LIMITED TO ABOUT 50 METRES AT A TIME.

EAST KOWLOON, AS IN OTHER DEVELOPED PARTS OF HONG KONG, IS AT PRESENT PROVIDED WITH SEPARATE NETWORKS OF FOUL SEWER AND STORMWATER DRAINS.

THE FOUL SEWERS COLLECT ALL WASTEWATER GENERATED FROM DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES AND CONVEY IT TO THE KWUN TONG SCREENING PLANT FOR SCREENING PRIOR TO DISPOSAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HARBOUR.

THE REGION COMPRISES RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS WITH KWUN TONG BEING ONE OF THE OLDEST DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN HONG KONG. THE POPULATION IS ABOUT ONE MILLION AND THERE ARE SOME 10,000 INDUSTRIAL PREMISES.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA HAS RESULTED IN POLLUTION PROBLEMS WHICH IN GENERAL ARE DUE TO NEGLECT OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

MR SIU SAID STAGE 2 OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WAS A LONGER TERM MEASURE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER COMPLETION OF STAGE 1 WORKS AND WOULD COMPRISE RECTIFICATION OF EXPEDIENT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FOUL SEWERS AND STORMWATER DRAINS AND REHABILITATION OF THE BRANCH SEWERS.

WHEN THE WHOLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IS IMPLEMENTED WITH THE TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$1 BILLION, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION OF EAST KOWLOON WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.

IN PARTICULAR, THE WATER POLLUTION OF THE HARBOUR AT EAST KOWLOON WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED AND THE PRESENT SEVERE WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY EFFLUENT FROM INDUSTRY WILL BE LARGELY ELIMINATED.

"THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING THESE WORKS IS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY POLLUTED DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG AND TO PROVIDE THE PEOPLE IN EAST KOWLOON WITH A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AND A BEAUTIFUL HARBOUR," MR SIU SAID.

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SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL FOR SEPTEMBER STARTED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED TO CONDUCT THE SEPTEMBER 1991 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN RESPECT OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG.

/THIS ROUND

THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 86,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS.

THESE SECTORS INCLUDE THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS), AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON SEPTEMBER 30 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 9,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THIS SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JULY-SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON TEL. 823 5076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DURING JULY - SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4782.

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REGIONAL COUNCIL COMES OF AGE WITH NEW HOME

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THE COMPLETION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BUILDING, LIKE THE LOGO ON ITS FACADE WHICH SYMBOLISES GROWTH, MARKS THE COUNCIL'S COMING OF AGE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED ONLY FIVE-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO, THE COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD WORKED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND IMAGINATION TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDE NEW AMENITIES, SIR DAVID SAID.

/SPEAKING AT

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE \$200.6 MILLION NEW HOME IN SHA TIN FOR THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT, SIR DAVID SAID THE COUNCIL HAD ALSO BEEN A GOOD FORUM FOR PROVIDING THE PUBLIC A GREATER SAY IN HOW THINGS WERE DONE.

"THE RESULTS OF THOSE EFFORTS ARE FOR ALL TO SEE AND ENJOY.

"ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO MANY PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LOOKED LIKE A HUGE BUILDING SITE. TODAY YOU CAN SEE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SOME OF HONG KONG'S MOST IMPRESSIVE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS LIKE DISTRICT PARKS, INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES, LIBRARIES, SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES AND TOWN HALLS."

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE THESE LARGE PROJECTS WERE THE ONES WHICH WERE MOST NOTICEABLE, EQUALLY IMPORTANT WERE THE ONES WHICH MIGHT NOT BE SO OBVIOUS - THE MANY SMALLER, CUMULATIVE IMPROVEMENTS LIKE SHADED SITTING-OUT AREAS, GAMES COURTS AND PLAYGROUNDS, FOUNTAINS AND GARDENS.

"THE NEW TOWNS ARE STILL GROWING. BOTH STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS ARE RISING.

"THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN BUILDING UP AND IMPROVING FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE NEW BUILDING WOULD HELP THESE EFFORTS.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COUNCIL AND THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN ONE BUILDING."

CALLING THE COMPOSITE STRUCTURE A VERY MODERN BUILDING, HE SAID IT WAS WELL-EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE FACILITIES THAT ARE NEEDED FOR A LARGE ORGANISATION WITH AN IMPORTANT JOB TO DO.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, SAID IN THE FIVE YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE COUNCIL HAD FIRMLY ROOTED ITS SERVICES IN THE NINE DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

WHILE THE NEW BUILDING MARKED THE COUNCIL'S ENTRY INTO A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT, MR CHEUNG SAID STRIKING DEVELOPMENTS HAD ALSO TAKEN PLACE IN THE NINE DISTRICTS AND THE PUBLIC'S ASPIRATIONS FOR A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS LIFE HAD CONTINUED TO BE KEEN.

"IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, AS A RESULT OF WORK ON THE NEW CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS SUCH AS TIN SHUI WAI AND TSEUNG KWAN O, THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE BETTER ESTABLISHED AND THE QUALITY OF LIVING OF RESIDENTS WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID BEFORE THE END OF THE 1990'S, THE POPULATION OF THE AREA UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL WOULD APPROACH THREE MILLION.

"IN ANTICIPATION OF THESE EXCITING CHANGES, THE COUNCIL IS FULLY CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL PROVIDE AN EVEN MORE MULTIFARIOUS MUNICIPAL SERVICE AND BUILD MORE PLEASANT FACILITIES TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

OPERATING FROM THE NEW BUILDING, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT WOULD, LIKE THE COUNCIL'S LOGO, SPREAD THEIR SERVICES TO EVERY CORNER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO GIVE EVEN MORE DIRECT AND ADEQUATE CARE TO RESIDENTS.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING BEGAN IN APRIL 1989 FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE A \$100 MILLION LOAN FROM THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE REPAYMENT PERIOD WAS 20 YEARS FOR THE \$40 MILLION LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND 40 YEARS FOR THE \$60 MILLION LOAN FOR BUILDING THE HEADQUARTERS BLOCK.

SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF PAI TAU STREET AND SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, IT IS EASILY REACHED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY AND WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATION.

THE LOCATION ALSO REFLECTS THE TRUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION THE COUNCIL SERVES - ON ONE SIDE THE BUSTLING NEW TOWN AND ON THE OTHER A TRANQUIL OLD VILLAGE NESTLING AGAINST ROLLING HILLS.

AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON TOURED THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND A NUMBER OF FLOORS IN THE LOW AND HIGH BLOCKS.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) 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.

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD 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

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.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID: "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 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 ACCEPTABLE. 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 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 WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

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

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

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

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.9.91)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 26.9.91)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	2	1
HAIRPIN	2	1
MIDDLE BAY	2	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	1	1
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	2
BUTTERFLY	3	3
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	3	3
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	2	2

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	1	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'	4	4
APPROACH	2	2
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	2
HOI MEI WAN	3	2
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	4	3
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:

DEEP WATER BAY AND HAIRPIN, FROM "2" TO "1"; GEMINI, HOI MEI WAN, AND KADOORIE, FROM "3" TO "2"; TING KAU, FROM "4" TO "3".

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 THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, MR P.R. HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE A SERIES OF EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT MEASURES TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY GIFTED, THOSE WHO HAVE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, AND THOSE WHO ARE UNMOTIVATED OR HAVE SEVERE LEARNING PROBLEMS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE MEASURES ARE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORTH BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 4.

THE COMMISSION BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ACADEMICALLY GIFTED STUDENTS IS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMES FOR THEM IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS, RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

"TO DEVELOP SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMES, A PILOT PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN WHICH THE PROGRAMMES WOULD BE DESIGNED AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN SCHOOLS TESTED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PROJECT WILL TAKE FOUR YEARS INCLUDING ONE YEAR FOR PLANNING. PROGRAMMES WILL BE ORGANISED IN THE SECOND YEAR FOR SIX STUDENTS IN EACH OF 20 PRIMARY SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THE PROJECT AND A FURTHER 120 STUDENTS IN THE THIRD YEAR.

THE PROJECT WILL BE EXTENDED TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE FOURTH YEAR WHEN AROUND 40 OF THE ORIGINAL 120 STUDENTS WILL HAVE COMPLETED PRIMARY 6.

"IN THIS WAY, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SEE WHETHER THE STUDENTS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMES IN THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION AND HOW THESE PROGRAMMES CAN BE DEVELOPED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"TO DEVISE AND RUN THE PILOT PROJECT, A PROFESSIONAL TEAM WILL BE SET UP WITH THE SUPPORT OF A RESOURCE CENTRE," HE ADDED.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT FUNDS BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS WHICH DO NOT HAVE REMEDIAL TEACHING ROOMS TO CREATE SUCH ROOMS BY CONVERSION.

"IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE BUILDING, THE SCHOOL WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER OPERATING FEWER CLASSES IF IT IS LOCATED IN DISTRICTS WITH AN OVER PROVISION OF PLACES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ALTERNATIVELY ADVICE CAN BE SOUGHT FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WITH A VIEW TO REARRANGING THE TIMETABLE TO MAKE OPTIMUM USE OF THE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

ANOTHER MEASURE IS THE INTRODUCTION OF A SCHOOL-BASED REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO REPLACE GRADUALLY THE EXISTING INTENSIVE REMEDIAL SERVICES FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER 1995 AT THE EARLIEST, WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE BOTTOM 10 PER CENT OF JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS.

MEASURES TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE UNMOTIVATED AND HAVE SEVERE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF THREE MORE PRACTICAL SCHOOLS WHICH PLACE LESS EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC SUBJECTS AND MORE ON THE NEEDS AND INTEREST OF THE STUDENTS TO PROVIDE DIVERSIFIED AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

OTHER MEASURES ARE THE SETTING UP OF SEVEN SKILLS OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH SEVERE LEARNING PROBLEMS PROVIDED THAT THE PILOT SCHEME AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA NIM TSI SCHOOL PROVES TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONDUCT A PILOT SCHEME IN THE SUMMER OF 1992 TO TEST WHETHER A BRIDGING COURSE FOR FORM 2 STUDENTS WISHING TO TRANSFER FROM A GRAMMAR TO A PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IS FEASIBLE.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN CONDUCTING THE PILOT PROJECT AND RESEARCH FOR GIFTED STUDENTS IS \$21 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL-BASED REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES WILL GIVE RISE TO ADDITIONAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE OF \$42 MILLION PER YEAR AND ANOTHER \$37 MILLION IN NON-RECURRENT COST OF TRAINING THE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS.

THE CAPITAL COST FOR THE BUILDING OF THE PRACTICAL SCHOOLS AND SKILLS OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS WILL BE \$157 MILLION AND THE RECURRENT COSTS FOR THESE SCHOOLS WILL BE \$55 MILLION PER YEAR.

THE ABOVE REFORMS ARE THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

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CHINESE INT'L SCHOOL UNIQUE IN HK: LADY WILSON

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THE CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS UNIQUE IN HONG KONG DRAWING ON BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN CULTURAL TRADITIONS, AND AMALGAMATING THEM INTO ONE CURRICULUM, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCHOOL'S NEW CAMPUS AT BRAEMAR HILL, LADY WILSON NOTED THAT THE SCHOOL OFFERED AN INTEGRATED, BI-CULTURAL, BILINGUAL PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH AND PUTONGHUA TO CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONALITIES, MAKING IT UNDERSTANDABLY POPULAR WITH HONG KONG PARENTS.

LADY WILSON SAID THE SCHOOL'S FOUNDERS WERE TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THEIR PERSEVERENCE IN BRINGING THIS ADMIRABLE CONCEPT TO THE STAGE IT IS AT TODAY - A SPLENDID CAMPUS FILLED WITH HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND OVER 800 CHILDREN AT BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS.

/"EVER SINCE

"EVER SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1983, THE SCHOOL HAS GROWN FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH. IT IS REMARKABLE THAT THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WHILE THE SCHOOL WAS ACCOMMODATED IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, ALL IN TEMPORARY BORROWED PREMISES," SHE SAID.

NOW AT LAST THE SCHOOL COULD OPERATE AS A SINGLE COHESIVE INSTITUTION WITH ALL THE BENEFITS THAT THAT WOULD BRING, SHE ADDED.

LADY WILSON SAID SHE WAS IMPRESSED ALSO BY THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION AND ITS APPEALS COMMITTEE, MEMBERS OF WHICH HAD WORKED SO HARD TO RAISE FUNDS TO HELP REALISE THE VISION OF THE SCHOOL ON ITS NEW CAMPUS.

SHE NOTED THAT THE BENEFACTORS INCLUDED A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY, INCLUDING MANY BUSINESSES AND PROMINENT PEOPLE, WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AS THE PRINCIPAL DONOR.

"THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WILLING TO SUPPORT THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO ME," LADY WILSON SAID. "ITS UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL GOALS CLEARLY ANSWER A NEED IN THE COMMUNITY.

"FOR ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SUPPORTED THE SCHOOL BY PROVIDING THIS EXCELLENT SITE FREE OF CHARGE AND MAKING AVAILABLE A LARGE INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO TOP UP THE BUILDING FUND."

LADY WILSON PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF THE SCHOOL AND COMMENDED THE SCHOOL'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOOL'S EXCELLENT RECORD.

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YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) ENCOURAGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO CULTIVATE A BROAD MIND AND THE SPIRIT OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

"IF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A BROAD MIND, THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS," HE SAID.

MR LAN MADE THE REMARKS WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF HO LAP COLLEGE'S EXTENSION IN WONG TAI SIN.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE FACING MANY CHALLENGES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, MR LAN SAID YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS WAS CRUCIAL TO THE TERRITORY'S DEVELOPMENT.

"ONLY THROUGH TAKING PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WILL YOUNG PEOPLE BE ABLE TO ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

/MR LAN

MR LAN PRAISED THE HO LAP COLLEGE FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION IN NURTURING STUDENTS TO BECOME USEFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

HE SAID THE COLLEGE EXTENSION SIGNIFIED THE SPIRIT OF ADVANCEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY.

MR LAN NOTED THAT WITH THE EXTENSION, THE COLLEGE HAD INSTALLED MANY FACILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO HAVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT.

"THESE FACILITIES WILL HELP STUDENTS TO PREPARE AND DEVELOP THEMSELVES FOR SOCIETY," HE SAID.

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264 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 264 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 128 MEN, 65 WOMEN, 38 BOYS AND 33 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 68TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,823 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 10,119 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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SPECIAL STAMPS ON HK LANDMARKS

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS ON HONG KONG LANDMARKS WILL BE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 24, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THERE WILL BE FIVE DENOMINATIONS: 80-CENT, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5.

THE STAMPS DEPICT SOME OF THE WELL-KNOWN LANDMARKS IN HONG KONG, NAMELY, THE BRONZE BUDDHA ON LANTAU ISLAND (80-CENT), THE PEAK PAVILION (\$1.70), THE CLOCK TOWER IN TSIM SHA TSUI (\$1.80), THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL (\$2.30) AND THE WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE (\$5).

THEY WERE DESIGNED BY MR YEUNG WAI-FUNG AND PRINTED BY THE HOUSE OF QUESTA OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

/THE STAMPS

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM OCTOBER 9.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES AS FROM OCTOBER 9 AT 70 CENTS EACH.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM OCTOBER 9 TO 17. THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS SERVICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE PHILATELIC BUREAU "JUNK" PICTORIAL DATESTAMP, WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$13.80 EACH AT THE FOLLOWING 29 POST OFFICES:

HONG KONG

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
HENNESSY ROAD POST OFFICE
KING'S ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
QUEEN'S ROAD POST OFFICE
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON

AIRPORT POST OFFICE
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE
KWONG WAH STREET POST OFFICE
LOK FU POST OFFICE
MONG KOK POST OFFICE
NGAU TAU KOK POST OFFICE
OI MAN POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE
TAI PO POST OFFICE

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TUEN MUN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE
TSUEN WAN POST OFFICE
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL COVERS BEARING THE
"FIRST DAY" INDICATION FOR THE OCCASION.

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INT'L BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT MONTH
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A NEW TYPE OF POSTAL SERVICE CALLED THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
REPLY SERVICE WILL BE INTRODUCED AS FROM OCTOBER 1, THE POSTMASTER
GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

INITIALLY, THE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SEVEN COUNTRIES:
THE UNITED KINGDOM, SINGAPORE, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN,
NORWAY AND ISRAEL.

"THE SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE POPULAR PARTICULARLY FOR
COMPANIES WHICH SEND LARGE QUANTITIES OF PROMOTIONAL MAIL TO POTENTIAL
CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE HONG KONG," MR WONG SAID.

THIS SERVICE IS SIMILAR TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE.
UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE, A SENDER IN HONG KONG
MAY ENCLOSE WITH HIS COMMUNICATION A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR CARD
OF A PRESCRIBED DESIGN.

THE RECIPIENT OVERSEAS CAN DESPATCH BY AIR MAIL, BUT WITHOUT
POSTAGE, HIS RESPONSE TO THE HONG KONG SENDER USING THE ENVELOPE OR
CARD PROVIDED.

THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE WILL CHARGE THE HONG KONG SENDER
\$5.80 FOR EACH ITEM RETURNED TO HIM.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ALSO OPERATES IN THE REVERSE
DIRECTION. ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REPLY
SERVICE MAY APPLY TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR A LICENCE. THE ANNUAL
LICENCE FEE IS \$75.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM POSTAL SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVES ON TEL. 868 1868.

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SEMINAR ON SURVEY ON YOUTH ATTITUDES TOWARDS FUTURE

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ABOUT 100 YOUTH WORKERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM YOUTH AND YOUTH-RELATED ORGANISATIONS, ACADEMICS AS WELL AS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH'S SURVEY ON THE "ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE" AT A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 28).

THE SEMINAR IS INTENDED TO SOLICIT MORE OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THE SURVEY'S FINDINGS, RELEASED IN LATE JULY THIS YEAR, WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING THE BASIS OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COMMISSION'S CHAIRMAN, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FORUM'S OPENING AROUND 9.30 AM. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY BRIEFINGS BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (YOUTH), MISS SUSIE HO, AND THE SEMINAR'S CONVENOR, COMMISSION MEMBER MRS TERESA LAM.

BETWEEN 10 AM AND 11 AM, COMMISSION MEMBERS MR HOWARD YOUNG, DR LO CHI-KIN, MR MAK HOI-WAH AND MISS JUNIA HO WILL ACT AS PANELISTS AND GIVE COMMENTARIES ON FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF THE SURVEY RESPECTIVELY.

THE FOUR AREAS ARE: LIFE-STYLE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE CULTURE; ATTITUDES TOWARDS HONG KONG'S FUTURE; PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS; AND EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS. EACH GROUP IS EXPECTED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON AN IDENTIFIED AREA IN SEPARATE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS.

THERE WILL BE A REPORT-BACK SESSION BY GROUP MEMBERS BETWEEN 3.30 PM AND 4.30 PM, DURING WHICH MR LI, THE PANELISTS AND AUDIENCE FROM THE FLOOR ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE THEIR INPUTS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 28) AT THE YWCA HEADQUARTERS AT MACDONNELL ROAD, MID-LEVELS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONCLUDING STAGE OF THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AROUND 3.15 PM.

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NEW CLINIC FOR MA ON SHAN OPENS NEXT MONTH

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THE NEW MA ON SHAN (TEMPORARY) CLINIC, LOCATED AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF HENG SHING HOUSE, IN HENG ON ESTATE, WILL BEGIN OPERATION FROM OCTOBER 7.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE CLINIC WILL PROVIDE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

IT WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM DURING WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

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33 INMATES PASS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

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THIRTY-THREE TRAINING CENTRE INMATES RECEIVED CERTIFICATES THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON FOR PASSING THE PITMAN EXAMINATIONS.

THE INMATES COME FROM THE CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE AND TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

THEY OBTAINED A TOTAL OF ONE DISTINCTION AND 44 PASSES ON THREE SUBJECTS - ARITHMETIC, ENGLISH AND TYPEWRITING.

SPEAKING AT A CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR GARTH HYDES, PRAISED THE DEPARTMENT'S TEACHING STAFF FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE REHABILITATION OF THESE YOUNG OFFENDERS.

"THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS. HOWEVER IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1974 WITH THE OPENING OF PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION THAT MUCH MORE EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

SINCE 1979, OVER 1,500 YOUNG INMATES HAD SAT FOR OVER 2,060 PAPERS IN VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS. TOTALLY, THEY ACHIEVED 402 DISTINCTIONS, 212 CREDITS AND 1,116 PASSES. THE AVERAGE PASS RATE IS 83 PER CENT.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA
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ENTRIES ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 6 (SUNDAY) IN THE KENNEDY TOWN SWIMMING POOL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 59 WHO LIVE, STUDY OR WORK IN THE DISTRICT ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THE VARIOUS EVENTS.

"THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL SWIMMING EVENTS IN ADDITION TO FREE-STYLE RELAYS IN EACH OF THE FOUR SECTIONS FOR BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS," HE SAID.

THE FOUR SECTIONS ARE ADULT, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND OPEN.

THE SWIMMING GALA HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT'S RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, PIER ROAD AND THE DISTRICT'S RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE UC SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 853 2566.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	25.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	26.9.91	+30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.2 **0.2* 26.9.91

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		26.9.91	25.9.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	3.86 PCT	3.99 PCT
	1 MONTH	4.15 PCT	4.14 PCT
	3 MONTHS	4.46 PCT	4.47 PCT
	6 MONTHS	4.99 PCT	4.96 PCT
	12 MONTHS	5.72 PCT	5.73 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER		4,960 MN	5,287 MN

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