



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
NEW TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION	1
WORK ON LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS NEED A PUSH	3
MOST SWAS ACT SENSIBLY: DSW	5
REVISED GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSITE INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS	5
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER	6
'WIN-WIN' WAYS PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIES	7
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HK'S LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM	9
JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY THINK-TANK MEETS	11
LAB ENDORSES REVISION OF LICENCE FEE OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES .	12
RED LIGHT CAMERA SCHEME SUPPORTED	13
YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL STARTS IN NOVEMBER	14
GOVERNOR AT FIRE SERVICES 125TH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW	15
LEGCO TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY	16
CYC TO ASSEMBLE WORLD'S LARGEST POSTER	16
FRESH WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO	17
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	17
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND TENDER RESULTS	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	18

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

- 1 -

NEW TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION

* * * * *

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS ARE AIMED AT REMOVING DIFFERENCES IN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SO THAT ALL FUTURE APPOINTEES TO THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A COMMON SET OF TERMS.

THE PROPOSALS PROVIDE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSING THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE WHEN IT INTRODUCED THE INTERIM MEASURE OF ALLOWING QUALIFIED OVERSEAS CONTRACT OFFICERS TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS LAST JULY.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR CHANGE, ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR STUART HARBINSON, SAID OVERSEAS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO ATTRACT OFFICERS FROM ABROAD WHO POSSESSED THE SPECIFIC SKILLS AND EXPERTISE NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY, AND TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF INCONVENIENCE SUFFERED BY THOSE OFFICERS IN BEING DISLOCATED FROM THEIR HOME ENVIRONMENT.

"HOWEVER, WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, OVERSEAS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAVE BECOME LESS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF OF A SUITABLE CALIBRE," HE SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT ONE SET OF NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS BE INTRODUCED FOR GENERAL APPLICATION."

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, FUTURE RECRUITS WILL NORMALLY BE APPOINTED ON NEW PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE (P & P) TERMS.

NEW AGREEMENT TERMS WILL BE OFFERED ONLY IF THERE IS A SERVICE NEED TO ACQUIRE SPECIAL EXPERTISE FOR A FIXED DURATION OR WHERE THE NEW P & P TERMS FAIL TO ATTRACT SUITABLE CANDIDATES. SUCH TERMS WILL BE OFFERED ONLY FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD.

MR HARBINSON SAID: "THE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WILL ONLY BE APPLIED TO OFFICERS RECRUITED AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE, WHICH IS NOT YET FIXED.

"SERVING P & P OFFICERS WILL RETAIN THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO EXISTING BENEFITS UNLESS THEY CHOOSE TO TRANSFER TO THE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

"SERVING OFFICERS ON AGREEMENT TERMS MAY BE OFFERED FURTHER EMPLOYMENT ON NEW P & P TERMS OR NEW AGREEMENT TERMS IF THEY MEET THE SPECIFIED CRITERIA," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PROFICIENCY IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE HAD BEEN PROPOSED AS A CONDITION FOR ALL FUTURE APPOINTMENTS TO P & P TERMS, BUT FOR APPOINTMENTS ON AGREEMENT TERMS, THIS WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT ONLY IF SUCH SKILL WAS NECESSARY FOR THE JOB.

/MR HARBINSON

MR HARBINSON STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF LOCALISATION, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO LOCAL CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SERVICE.

"AN OFFICER WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY AS A LOCAL WILL NOT BE RE-APPOINTED ON NEW AGREEMENT TERMS UNLESS NO OTHER LOCAL PERSON IS AVAILABLE TO REPLACE HIM," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT IN ORDER TO CARRY THE LOCALISATION POLICY INTO THE FUTURE, THERE HAD TO BE A POSITIVE DEFINITION OF WHO QUALIFIES AS A "LOCAL".

EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS CONTAIN NO SUCH DEFINITION.

"WE ARE NOW INVITING INTERESTED PARTIES TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON HOW A 'LOCAL' SHOULD BE DEFINED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO CONVERGE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND COMPLY WITH THE LAWS OF HONG KONG," SAID MR HARBINSON.

THE GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED TWO OPTIONS AS TO WHAT FORM THE NEW CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SHOULD TAKE.

THE MORE EXPEDIENT APPROACH WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD ADOPTION OF THE CURRENT LOCAL TERMS, BUT A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH WOULD BE TO USE THE EXISTING LOCAL TERMS AS A BASIS, INTRODUCING FLEXIBILITY AND MODIFICATIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

THESE OPTIONS WERE PUT FORWARD TO STIMULATE DEBATE AND OTHER VARIATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED.

THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT FOCUSED ON AREAS SUCH AS LEAVE, LEAVE TRAVEL, HOUSING AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE, WHEREAS AT PRESENT, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONDITIONS.

NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE NORMAL COURSE WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST TO JUSTIFY THEM.

MR HARBINSON POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE FIXED VIEWS ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS COVERED IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT.

"THIS IS A GENUINE CONSULTATION EXERCISE," HE SAID. "WE SEE THIS AS A BIG OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUR POLICY INTO GOOD SHAPE FOR THE FUTURE, AND WE MUST TAKE IT."

HE URGED ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS WHICH WOULD BE DULY CONSIDERED.

MR HARBINSON ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE SOUGHT BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS WERE REACHED.

COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT SHOULD BE SENT BEFORE DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR TO: SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 10TH FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

WORK ON LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS
NEED A PUSH
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS WELL THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO BE DONE IN ITS PROGRAMMES ON LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS, AND IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH THE WORK, MR JAMES HANRATTY, ACTING LAW OFFICER (INTERNATIONAL LAW) OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR HANRATTY TOLD A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON THAT HE BELIEVED, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ONE OF THE LEGAL ADVISERS TO THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG), THAT THE WORK WOULD BE COMPLETED IN A TIMELY FASHION.

"AS THE GOVERNOR SAID IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IF PROGRESS IN THE JLG DID NOT SPEED UP SIGNIFICANTLY, THERE WAS A HIGH RISK THAT THE WORK WOULD NOT BE FINISHED BEFORE 1997, AND WE WOULD THEN FACE A LEGAL VACUUM.

"IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE BRITISH SIDE TO LET THAT HAPPEN AND THEY ARE DETERMINED THAT THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP TO THEIR TARGETS," MR HANRATTY SAID.

ON LOCALISATION OF LAWS, MR HANRATTY ADMITTED THAT LEGISLATIVE TIME WAS SHORT. APART FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT SESSION, ONLY TWO FULL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS REMAIN BEFORE 1998.

"THERE ARE AT LEAST 29 LOCALISING BILLS STILL TO BE ENACTED," HE SAID.

OF THE ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED 300 UK ENACTMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO HONG KONG, 30 HAVE BEEN LOCALISED DEALING WITH ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION, MERCHANT SHIPPING AND MARINE POLLUTION.

EIGHTY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS NOT REQUIRING TO BE LOCALISED, THEY WILL THEREFORE LAPSE; 80 ARE COVERED BY 13 CONSULTATION PAPERS HANDED TO THE CHINESE SIDE. FIFTY WILL BE COVERED BY CONSULTATION PAPERS YET TO BE HANDED TO THE CHINESE SIDE; AND 60 REMAIN TO BE STUDIED BUT SOME WILL PROBABLY BE ALLOWED TO LAPSE.

ON ADAPTATION OF LAWS, MR HANRATTY DID NOT DENY THE FACT THAT IF THE PROCESS WERE NOT TO BE COMPLETED, A LEGAL VACUUM WOULD RESULT.

"OBVIOUSLY THIS WOULD BE DAMAGING TO COMMERCIAL AND PERSONAL INTERESTS IN THE HONG KONG SAR (SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION).

"TO CITE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES, THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG WOULD BE UNCERTAIN, POSTAGE STAMPS COULD NOT BE ISSUED, THE BASIS ON WHICH LAND IS LEASED WOULD BE UNCLEAR, VALIDITY OF SOME MARRIAGES OR ADOPTIONS MIGHT BE OPEN TO QUESTION AND GAPS WOULD APPEAR IN THE CRIMINAL LAW," HE SAID.

MR HANRATTY FOREWARNED THAT A SERIES OF BILLS WOULD NEED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STARTING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

"EACH BILL WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF SCHEDULES CONTAINING THE TEXTUAL AMENDMENTS TO THE VARIOUS ORDINANCES.

"THE AIM WILL BE FOR BILLS TO BE ENACTED BEFORE 1997 BUT TO COME INTO FORCE ONLY ON 1 JULY 1997.

"THIS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE JLG.

"MUCH OF THE WORK IS ROUTINE, FOR EXAMPLE, ADAPTING TERMINOLOGY SUCH AS 'THE GOVERNOR'."

BUT THERE ARE MORE COMPLEX MATTERS SUCH AS RELATING TO CROWN LAND, CROWN PROCEEDINGS, NATIONALITY AND RIGHT OF ABODE WHICH WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE THEY ARE ADAPTED, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE WORK OF THE JLG SUB-GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, MR HANRATTY SAID SO FAR THE TWO SIDES HAD REACHED AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF ABOUT HALF THE SOME 200 MULTI-LATERAL TREATIES CONCERNED.

THESE INCLUDED 29 AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN WHICH HONG KONG PARTICIPATES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION.

THERE ARE STILL ABOUT 100 TREATIES LEFT FOR DISCUSSION.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY.

UNDER IT AND REPEATED IN ARTICLE 8 OF THE BASIC LAW STATES:

"THE LAWS PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG THAT IS, THE COMMON LAW, RULES OF EQUITY, ORDINANCES, SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION AND CUSTOMARY LAW SHALL BE MAINTAINED, EXCEPT FOR ANY THAT CONTRAVENE THE BASIC LAW AND SUBJECT TO ANY AMENDMENT BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (HKSAR).

"SO, OF COURSE, IT WILL BE OPEN TO LEGCO TO ALTER THOSE LAWS PROVIDED THAT THEY DO NOT CONTRAVENE THE BASIC LAW.

"THIS IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT LEGCO CONTINUES TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WIDE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG," MR HANRATTY SAID.

UNDER ANNEX III OF THE BASIC LAW, LAWS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), WHICH WILL APPLY TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997, ARE LIMITED TO A FEW DISTINCT CATEGORIES ONLY REFLECTING THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1997, FOR EXAMPLE, RESOLUTIONS ON THE FLAG - LAWS ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND REGULATIONS ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR DIPLOMATS.

MR HANRATTY SAID THAT AFTER 1997 HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS WORKING WELL IN PRACTICE WITH A LOCAL LEGISLATURE RESPONDING TO HONG KONG'S NEEDS AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND LEGAL PROFESSION SAFEGUARDING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

"IN THIS WAY HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT BUSINESS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD SO THAT THIS SPECTACULAR AND BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," HE SAID.

MOST SWAS ACT SENSIBLY: DSW

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANT (SWA) GRADE STAFF HAD ACTED SENSIBLY BY NOT TAKING ANY SIT-IN ACTION AT A TIME WHEN TALKS WITH THE MANAGEMENT OVER THEIR PAY STRUCTURE REVIEW WERE STILL CONTINUING.

AT A MEETING LAST WEDNESDAY, IT WAS AGREED THAT A TASK GROUP WOULD BE SET UP TO EXAMINE THE SWA BRANCH'S REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THEIR SALARY STRUCTURE.

"IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE SWA BRANCH SHOULD TAKE SIT-IN ACTION TODAY," MR STRACHAN SAID.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AND THAT MOST SWAS REALISE THAT AS SOCIAL WORKERS THEY SHOULD PUT THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST FIRST AND NOT TO TAKE ANY DISRUPTIVE ACTION IN PARTICULAR WHILE DISCUSSIONS ARE STILL GOING ON," HE ADDED.

COMMENDING STAFF FOR THEIR PATIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, MR STRACHAN SAID: "IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC WE SERVE THAT THIS ISSUE BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

"TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS THROUGH THE TASK GROUP WILL CERTAINLY PROVE TO BE MORE FRUITFUL THAN TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WILL AFFECT THE QUALITY OF OUR SERVICES."

MR STRACHAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP A TASK GROUP WAS TO HELP THE SWA BRANCH TO IDENTIFY NEW GROUNDS FOR A RE-SUBMISSION OF THEIR REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THEIR SALARY STRUCTURE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE SWA BRANCH HAS ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THIS THURSDAY.

MR STRACHAN URGED THE SWAS WHO HAD TAKEN SIT-IN ACTION TO ACT MORE CALMLY AND RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSITE INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS

* * * * *

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAS ENDORSED THE REVISION TO THE "GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION FOR COMPOSITE INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS IN INDUSTRIAL ZONE UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE", A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

COMPOSITE INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS ARE DUAL PURPOSE BUILDINGS IN WHICH EVERY UNIT CAN BE USED FLEXIBLY FOR BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE PURPOSES.

/THE PRESENT

THE PRESENT REVISION HAS DELETED THE FIXED PERCENTAGE OF 75% ON ALL ANCILLARY OFFICES UNDER THE LEASE CONDITIONS.

THE PERCENTAGE WAS IMPOSED FOR PREMIUM CALCULATION IN CONNECTION WITH LEASE MODIFICATION UPON APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS BY THE BOARD. THE USE OF OVER 75% OF THE SPACE FOR ANCILLARY OFFICES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER MODIFICATION AT A PREMIUM.

"AS THE 75% BENCHMARK MAY CAUSE CONFUSION TO DEVELOPERS AND POTENTIAL OCCUPIERS OF THESE BUILDINGS, THE BOARD DECIDED TO DELETE IT FROM THE GUIDELINES," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL, FROM NOW ON, RELY ON MARKET EVIDENCE IN ASSESSING THE PREMIUM BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OPTIMUM INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE MIX IN ANY GIVEN LOCATION.

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WILL VIRTUALLY BE NO RESTRICTION ON THE AMOUNT OF SPACE USED FOR ANCILLARY OFFICES IN INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE BUILDINGS WITHIN THE SAME INDUSTRIAL AREA.

THE GUIDELINES WERE PROMULGATED IN EARLY 1990 AND WERE LAST REVISED BY THE BOARD IN JULY LAST YEAR.

COPIES OF THE REVISED VERSION ARE AVAILABLE AT PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER

* * * * *

THE GROWTH RATE OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS HAS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY IN SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THE LATEST FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING LENDING BY THE 28 AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS IN THE SURVEY ROSE BY 0.8 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER (2.5 PER CENT IN AUGUST) FROM \$198.4 BILLION TO \$200.1 BILLION. THE GROWTH RATE IS BELOW THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1.3 PER CENT OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

"THE SLOWER GROWTH RATE CONFIRMS OUR EXPECTATION OF LAST MONTH AND DEMONSTRATES THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT TIGHTENING MEASURES ADOPTED BY BANKS," THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE ANNUALISED RATE OF GROWTH IN LENDING OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS FALLEN TO 26.1 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 34 PER CENT IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO AUGUST THIS YEAR.

"IT IS STILL SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE ANNUALISED GROWTH RATE OF 15.5 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR," MR CARSE NOTED.

NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN ALSO SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN TERMS OF BOTH NUMBERS (FROM 3,260 TO 2,186) AND VALUE (FROM \$4.3 BILLION TO \$2.9 BILLION).

"JUDGING FROM THESE FIGURES, I EXPECT TO SEE A FURTHER SLOWDOWN IN LENDING NEXT MONTH," MR CARSE SAID.

MR CARSE NOTED HOWEVER THAT A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS CONTINUED TO RECORD MUCH HIGHER THAN AVERAGE RATES OF GROWTH IN THEIR LENDING. HE URGED SUCH INSTITUTIONS TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THEIR LENDING CRITERIA.

AS REGARDS LENDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA, THE LATEST FIGURES SHOWED THAT SUCH LENDING ROSE BY 1.6 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER, RISING FROM \$3.08 BILLION TO \$3.13 BILLION. ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE INCREASE WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

AFTER A SHARP INCREASE IN AUGUST, NEW LOAN APPROVALS FELL IN SEPTEMBER, FROM \$270 MILLION TO \$184 MILLION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

'WIN-WIN' WAYS PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS HAVE PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATE ACTION PACKAGE AND A LONGER TERM SUPPORT STRATEGY TO HELP INDUSTRY REMAIN COMPETITIVE WHILE COMPLYING WITH NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR GAVIN URE, WHEN SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS TODAY (MONDAY).

MR URE SAID THE IMMEDIATE ACTION PACKAGE FOCUSED ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE, PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT, ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR NEW LAND AND PREMISES AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

THE LONGER TERM SUPPORT STRATEGY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR RESEARCH INTO POLLUTION CONTROL PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGIES BY THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, HE NOTED.

THE \$12 MILLION CONSULTANCY STUDY, COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IN MARCH LAST YEAR, AIMED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION ON HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

IT ALSO CONSIDERED THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRY AND ASSESSED HOW THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO BE ENHANCED OR IMPROVED TO HELP INDUSTRY REMAIN COMPETITIVE WHILE COMPLYING WITH NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS.

/MR URE

MR URE SAID THE STUDY FOUND THAT THERE WAS MUCH POTENTIAL FOR MANUFACTURERS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION THROUGH INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING.

"IT IDENTIFIED WAYS FORWARD WHICH CAN CREATE 'WIN-WIN' SITUATIONS.

"THERE CAN BE BENEFITS FROM CHANGING PROCESSES TO MINIMISING WASTES AND SAVING MATERIALS; THERE CAN BE PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY GAINS; THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROFIT FROM CHANGING CONSUMER PREFERENCES; AND THERE IS A WHOLE MARKET IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY FOR FIRMS TO COMPETE IN," HE SAID.

MR URE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS PRESENTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION WHILE ALSO PROMOTING A LONGER TERM INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

"THE ISSUE IS NOT SIMPLY ONE OF COMPLIANCE, BUT OF SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETITIVE HIGH VALUE-ADDED MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

ON THE SUPPORT MECHANISMS, MR URE SAID THE STUDY FOUND THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ON THE NATURE AND DETAILS OF CONTROLS AND WHAT STEPS FACTORY OPERATORS COULD TAKE TO COMPLY.

"AS A FIRST STEP, WE WILL BE PLANNING TO SET UP AN 'ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE' WHICH PEOPLE CAN USE AS A FIRST POINT OF ACCESS.

"WE HOPE THAT EVENTUALLY THIS CAN BE LINKED UP TO THE DIFFERENT CENTRES OF EXPERTISE THAT EXIST THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY IN OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS."

THE STUDY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE BE TAKEN OUT PRO-ACTIVELY INTO THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY.

"THIS WILL INVOLVE A SERIES OF SEMINARS AND FACTORY VISITS TO ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURERS TO TAKE EARLY STEPS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS," MR URE SAID.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION SUITABLE FOR HONG KONG'S FLATTED FACTORY ENVIRONMENT.

NOTING THAT MUCH VALUABLE WORK HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE TO DEVELOP RECYCLING METHODS IN HONG KONG SUITABLE FOR THE TERRITORY'S FACTORIES, MR URE SAID THIS WORK HAD TO BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED.

MR URE SAID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD THE EXPERTISE TO BEST PROVIDE THE DIFFERENT SERVICES.

"AS THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE WILL BE INVITING BUSINESSES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SUCH BODIES AS THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

"OUR AIM IS TO HELP HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS TO BECOME NOT ONLY MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE BUT ALSO TO FIND CONTINUED PROSPERITY AS THEY BECOME SO," HE SAID.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

- 9 -

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HK'S LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) WERE TODAY (MONDAY) BRIEFED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW ON THE LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS AIM TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE AND TO OFFER FURTHER PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE NEWS MEDIA AFTER THE LAB MEETING, THE BOARD CHAIRMAN WHO IS ALSO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID THE REVIEW WAS LAUNCHED AFTER THE GOVERNOR HAD ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TO CONSIDER WHAT LESSONS MIGHT BE LEARNED FROM THE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LABOUR DISPUTE WHICH OCCURRED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

MRS FOK SAID: "THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD LOOKED INTO A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM IN THE TERRITORY."

"THESE INCLUDE PROCEDURES FOR SETTling DISPUTES, PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR DISMISSAL, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES AGAINST ANTI-UNION DISCRIMINATION."

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW, A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE SO THAT THE GENERALLY HARMONIOUS STATE OF LABOUR RELATIONS MIGHT BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED, AND TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF EMPLOYEES.

ON PROCEDURES FOR SETTling DISPUTES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR NOTED THAT THE EXISTING DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES HAVE ON THE WHOLE BEEN WORKING EFFECTIVELY. BUT THERE IS ROOM TO MAKE THEM MORE FLEXIBLE AND EASIER TO APPLY WHEN NEEDED.

IN THIS REGARD, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MAY, WHEN SHE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY, SUBMIT A REPORT OF A LABOUR DISPUTE TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UPON RECEIPT OF A REPORT BY A CONCILIATION OFFICER WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL CONCILIATION OFFICER AS REQUIRED UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

"THIS PROPOSAL AIMS AT PUTTING GREATER PRESSURE ON THE DISPUTING PARTIES, WHERE IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES TO DO SO, TO COME TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT THROUGH ORDINARY CONCILIATION," MRS FOK EXPLAINED.

MRS FOK SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A MEDIATION PROCEDURE UNDER THE LABOUR RELATIONS ORDINANCE IN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER COULD APPOINT A MEDIATOR FROM A LIST OF NEUTRAL PERSONS TO MEDIATE IN DISPUTES.

"UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE COMMISSIONER IS EMPOWERED TO REFER A LABOUR DISPUTE TO MEDIATION BY A MEDIATOR WITHOUT SEEKING THE PRIOR CONSENT FROM THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

/"THE MERIT

"THE MERIT OF THE MEDIATION PROCEDURE IS THAT THE MEDIATOR, BY VIRTUE OF HIS STATUS, MAY HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE ON THE PARTIES THAN A CONCILIATOR. FURTHERMORE, THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEDIATOR, WHICH CAN BE MADE PUBLIC, WILL EXERT PRESSURE ON BOTH PARTIES TO COMPLY," SHE SAID.

ON THE ISSUE OF PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR DISMISSAL, MRS FOK SAID THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATIONS, WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF UNFAIR DISMISSAL LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG WAS INAPPROPRIATE.

"THE PROVISION OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IS A PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO UNFAIR DISMISSAL LEGISLATION AS IT PROVIDES MONETARY COMPENSATION TO A DISMISSED EMPLOYEE UPON TERMINATION OF HIS EMPLOYMENT."

IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THAT AN EMPLOYEE'S ELIGIBILITY TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SHOULD BE RETAINED IF HE IS SUMMARILY DISMISSED FOR REFUSAL TO WORK DURING A STRIKE PERIOD.

"SUCH PROTECTION WILL BE PROVIDED ONLY WHEN THE STRIKING EMPLOYEES HAVE GIVEN NOT LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS' WRITTEN NOTICE TO THEIR EMPLOYERS INDICATING THEIR INTENTION TO STRIKE.

"THE SEVEN-DAY PERIOD WILL ENABLE BOTH PARTIES TO CALM DOWN AND TO HASTEN DIRECT NEGOTIATION AND WILL ALSO GIVE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TIME TO CONCILIATE IN THE DISPUTE," MRS FOK ADDED.

TURNING TO THE PROTECTION AGAINST ANTI-UNION DISCRIMINATION, SHE SAID A PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AND TO OVERCOME THE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING IN COURT THE EMPLOYER'S INTENTION TO DISCRIMINATE.

"IN THE PROPOSAL, IF ANY EMPLOYEE IS DISMISSED ON GROUNDS OF UNION MEMBERSHIP OR ACTIVITIES, HE MAY MAKE A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, AND THE BURDEN OF PROVING THAT THE DISMISSAL IS NOT DISCRIMINATORY SHOULD REST WITH THE EMPLOYER.

"EMPLOYERS FAILING TO DISCHARGE THE BURDEN OF PROOF WILL BE LIABLE TO PAY A COMPENSATION TO THE EMPLOYEES," MRS FOK SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, MRS FOK SAID AFTER REVIEWING THE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE UNIONS AND THE OVERALL LABOUR RELATIONS SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT MORE ADVISABLE TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

"IN FACT, THIS POLICY HAS BEEN WORKING WELL SO FAR AS CAN BE SEEN FROM OUR RECORD OF HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS."

MRS FOK SAID LAB MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED THAT THE LAB'S COMMITTEE ON LABOUR RELATIONS, WHICH COMPRISED VERY EXPERIENCED REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS, WOULD BE CONSULTED ON ALL PROPOSALS.

"VIEWS TO BE EXPRESSED BY THIS PARTICULAR COMMITTEE WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BEFORE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PUTS FORWARD DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LAB AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO PANEL ON MANPOWER FOR CONSIDERATION," THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER ADDED.

THE LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND LABOUR RELATIONS, AND TO REVIEW EXISTING LEGISLATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY THINK-TANK MEETS

* * * * *

THE WORKING PARTY ON JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION - THE HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, TO STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIARY - MET FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

"WE HAD A USEFUL AND STIMULATING SESSION ON THE WAY FORWARD. WE ALSO HAD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR EARLY IMPROVEMENT," SIR TI LIANG SAID AFTER THE MEETING.

"SPECIFICALLY, THE WORKING PARTY RECOGNISED THE PRESSING NEED TO EXPLORE EVERY WAYS AND MEANS TO REDUCE THE LONG WAITING TIME FOR CASES TO COME ON FOR TRIAL. THIS IS SOMETHING HIGH ON OUR AGENDA," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING WITHIN THE WORKING PARTY THAT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM, A CONCERTED EFFORT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF ALL CONCERNED WOULD BE NEEDED.

"THIS WOULD ENTAIL THE JOINT AND FULL CO-OPERATION OF NOT ONLY THE JUDGE AND THE OFFICER SETTING DOWN CASES FOR TRIAL AND ESTIMATING THE LENGTH OF TRIALS, BUT ALSO THE LAWYER WHO HAS THE CONDUCT OF THE CASE AND THE PARTIES CONCERNED," SIR TI LIANG SAID.

SIR TI LIANG ADDED THAT THE WORKING PARTY SAW AS ITS OTHER PRIORITY AREAS:

- * THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTERISATION TO THE WORK OF THE JUDICIARY.
- * A REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR.

THE WORKING PARTY COMPRISES AS ITS MEMBERS MR JUSTICE PATRICK CHAN OF THE HIGH COURT; MR MOSES CHENG, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; DR VICTOR FUNG, CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; MS AUDREY EU, QC, A PRACTISING BARRISTER RECOMMENDED BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION; MR NICHOLAS BENNETT, A PRACTISING SOLICITOR RECOMMENDED BY THE LAW SOCIETY; AND MR NICHOLAS NG, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

ITS SECRETARY IS MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, AN ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LAB ENDORSES REVISION OF LICENCE FEE OF
EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

* * * * *

THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE LICENCE FEE OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS.

AT THE BOARD MEETING CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE FEE FOR ISSUE OR RENEWAL OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENCE BE REVISED FROM \$800 TO \$1,000 WHILE THE FEE FOR ISSUE OF A DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR OPERATING A BRANCH OFFICE FROM \$160 TO \$200.

IN ANOTHER PROPOSAL, THE MEMBERS AGREED TO REVISE THE CEILING OF BURIAL EXPENSES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (ECO) AND FUNERAL EXPENSES UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE (PCO) FROM \$10,000 TO \$12,000.

THEY SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO ADJUST MEDICAL EXPENSES SPECIFIED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE ECO AND THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE PCO FROM \$90 TO \$120 A DAY.

A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE MINIMUM LEVELS OF COMPENSATION UNDER VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ECO WAS ALSO ENDORSED AT THE MEETING.

THE BOARD THEN NOTED AN INFORMATION PAPER ON A REPORT ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 80TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE HELD IN GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

A PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYEES WAS ALSO NOTED AT THE MEETING.

THEY PROPOSED TO REVISE THE PENALTY LEVELS FOR CONTRAVENING THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROHIBITION AGAINST TERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES DURING THEIR INCAPACITY UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND AGAINST TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF A FEMALE EMPLOYEE WHO HAS GIVEN NOTICE TO HER EMPLOYER REGARDING HER PREGNANCY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON VARIOUS PENALTY PROVISIONS IN BOTH THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

AT THE SAME MEETING, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW ON THE LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE AND TO OFFER FURTHER PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS.

THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THE REVIEW WAS LAUNCHED AFTER THE GOVERNOR HAD ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TO CONSIDER WHAT LESSONS MIGHT BE LEARNED FROM THE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LABOUR DISPUTE WHICH OCCURRED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE CHAIRMAN TOLD MEMBERS THAT LAB'S COMMITTEE ON LABOUR RELATIONS WOULD BE CONSULTED ON ALL PROPOSALS SOON.

RED LIGHT CAMERA SCHEME SUPPORTED

* * * * *

THE RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN JULY SHOWS THAT THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SCHEME IS WELL SUPPORTED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SCHEME WAS COMMISSIONED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AS A PILOT SCHEME.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO TEST THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SYSTEM AS A MEANS OF DETERRING RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS AND REDUCING ACCIDENTS DUE TO RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A TOTAL OF 943 COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES HAD BEEN COLLECTED DURING THE SURVEY.

THE RESULT SHOWS THAT ABOUT 84 PER CENT OF THE RETURNS ARE IN FAVOUR OF THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SCHEME.

AMONG THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE SCHEME, 55 PER CENT SAID THE SCHEME COULD REDUCE ACCIDENTS AND IMPROVE SIGNAL COMPLIANCE.

ALL THE RESPONDENTS FAVOUR THE SYSTEM BE EXPANDED TO COVER MORE JUNCTIONS.

HE SAID VIDEO SURVEYS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AT THE CAMERA SITES TO DETERMINE THE FREQUENCY OF RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE RED LIGHT CAMERAS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEYS SHOW AN AVERAGE REDUCTION OF 67 PER CENT IN THE RATE OF RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS.

"WITH REGARD TO ACCIDENTS, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO CONDUCT ANY ANALYSIS WHICH CAN PRODUCE STATISTICALLY RELIABLE RESULTS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IT IS RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT AN AVERAGE OF FIVE CASES OF RIGHT-ANGLE COLLISION ACCIDENTS WAS RECORDED IN 1992 AT EACH CAMERA SITE WHICH WERE SUSPECTED TO BE DUE TO RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS.

UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR, AN AVERAGE OF ONLY ONE RIGHT-ANGLE COLLISION ACCIDENT HAS BEEN RECORDED AT THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SITES AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE RED LIGHT CAMERAS, HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE POLICE, USING THE RED LIGHT CAMERA, HAVE IDENTIFIED A TOTAL OF 1,029 PROSECUTIONS ON RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS AT THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SITES UP TO SEPTEMBER 30 WITH 771 FIXED PENALTY TICKETS ISSUED. THE REMAINING 255 PROSECUTIONS ARE STILL BEING PROCESSED.

SO FAR, ONLY THREE OFFENDERS HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND GUILTY BY THE COURT.

HE SAID THIS WAS A VERY GOOD PROOF OF THE INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE OF RED LIGHT VIOLATION OFFENCES PROVIDED BY THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE RED LIGHT CAMERAS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE PRELIMINARY RESULTS PROVED THAT THE RED LIGHT CAMERA SYSTEM HAD BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING RED LIGHT VIOLATIONS.

"EVEN THOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER IT HAS BROUGHT ANY REAL IMPROVEMENT IN ROAD SAFETY, THERE ARE ALREADY SOME SIGNS OF REACHING THIS GOAL," HE SAID.

PLAN IS ALSO IN HAND TO EXPAND THE SYSTEM TO COVER MORE JUNCTIONS SUBJECT TO THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS. EXPANSION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL STARTS IN NOVEMBER

* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 900 YOUNG STRING MUSIC PLAYERS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER TO FOSTER THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS AND DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL IN THE 1993 HONG KONG YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO 28.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ENTERTAINED WITH A SERIES OF CONCERTS, LECTURES AND MASTER CLASSES DURING THE NINE-DAY FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH.

TWO RENOWNED MUSICIANS, AMERICAN CELLIST MR TIMOTHY LANDAUER AND RUSSIAN VIOLINIST MR EDWARD GRACH, HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PERFORM AND CONDUCT MASTER CLASSES DURING THE PERIOD.

THE FESTIVAL WILL KICK OFF WITH A VIOLIN SOLO CONTEST AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON NOVEMBER 20. A NUMBER OF STRING ENSEMBLES FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL COMPETE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

STRING MUSIC LOVERS SHOULD NOT MISS THE STRING INTERFLOW CONCERT IN WHICH 600 TEENAGE MUSICIANS FROM 11 SCHOOLS WILL PERFORM A NUMBER OF FAMOUS CLASSICAL PIECES AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON NOVEMBER 21 AT 2 PM.

THE AMERICAN CELLIST, MR TIMOTHY LANDAUER, WILL CONDUCT MASTER CLASSES ON "CELLO" FROM NOVEMBER 22 TO 25 AT THE SHA TIN, MONG KOK, TSUEN WAN AND HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE RESPECTIVELY AT 4.30 PM.

AT THE SAME TIME, MASTER CLASSES ON "VIOLIN" WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR EDWARD GRACH AT THE TSUEN WAN, HONG KONG, SHA TIN AND MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A CHAMBER CONCERT HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE ON NOVEMBER 26 AT 8 PM.

THE CLIMAX OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE MARKED BY THE CONCERTO CONCERT AT THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AT 3 PM ON NOVEMBER 28.

TAKING PART IN THE CONCERT WILL BE THE TWO GUEST MUSICIANS AND THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (HKYSO).

THE HKYSO WAS FORMED IN 1978 TO PROVIDE ORCHESTRAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS IN HONG KONG.

OVER THE YEARS THE ORCHESTRA HAS HELD REGULAR CONCERTS IN HONG KONG AND PERFORMED WITH MANY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED MUSICIANS AND CONDUCTORS.

PIECES TO BE PERFORMED IN THE CONCERTO CONCERT INCLUDE DVORAK'S CONCERTO IN B MINOR FOR VIOLONCELLO AND ORCHESTRA, OP. 104 AND TCHAIKOVSKY'S CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLIN AND ORCHESTRA, OP 35.

TICKETS FOR THE CHAMBER CONCERT AT \$40 EACH AND FOR THE CONCERTO CONCERT AT \$30 AND \$50 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL URBTIX OUTLETS. HALF-PRICE TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 60 OR ABOVE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 734 9009 OR 606 5753.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR AT FIRE SERVICES 125TH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW
* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE REVIEW OF FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL AND APPLIANCES AT THE SHA TIN FIRE STATION COMPLEX ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 27), STARTING AT 3 PM.

THE REVIEW IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF A SERIES OF COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

ON PARADE WILL BE SOME 180 FIRE AND AMBULANCE MEMBERS FROM SIX COMMANDS AND 12 DIFFERENT KINDS OF APPLIANCES, INCLUDING FIRE ENGINES, LIGHT RESCUE VEHICLE, AMBULANCE, AMBULANCE-AID MOTORCYCLE, MOBILE COMMAND UNIT AND MOBILE CASUALTY TREATMENT CENTRE.

ABOUT 500 GUESTS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, CHINESE AND OVERSEAS FIRE BRIGADES, AND FORMER DIRECTORS AND CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE FUNCTION.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE REVIEW OF FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL AND APPLIANCES AT SHA TIN FIRE STATION (28 YUEM WOO ROAD, SHA TIN, WHICH IS ADJACENT TO HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE) AT 3 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

/AS THERE

AS THERE WILL BE NO PARKING SPACES IN THE FIRE STATION, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT COACH MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS. THE COACH WILL LEAVE THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON, AT 1.45 PM.

TO FACILITATE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS, THERE WILL BE TWO FIXED POSITIONS FOR THEM - ONE ON THE GROUND NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE COMPLEX AND THE OTHER ON THE ROOFTOP OF A TWO-STOREY AMBULANCE DEPOT OPPOSITE TO THE DAIS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LEGO TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 27).

THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993, THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (ACQUISITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN CORPORATIONS BILL WILL BE RESUMED. IT IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE HON MRS ELSIE TU WILL MOVE A MOTION THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THANKS THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATION BY CALLING 869 9492.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CYC TO ASSEMBLE WORLD'S LARGEST POSTER

* * * * *

HONG KONG WILL UPSTAGE JAPAN IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS TOMORROW (TUESDAY) WHEN ABOUT 1,500 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS ASSEMBLE THE WORLD'S LARGEST POSTER AT VICTORIA PARK.

JAPAN CURRENTLY HOLDS THE RECORD OF A POSTER MEASURING 20,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE CYC RECORD-BREAKING EVENT AIMS TO CELEBRATE ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY, WILL BE A POSTER MEASURING 21,936 SQUARE METRES.

- 17 -

MOST PARTS OF THE POSTER WILL BE ASSEMBLED BY THE CYC MEMBERS LEAVING THE FINAL SEGMENTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC W S WONG; THE GOVERNOR OF THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR CHENG WAI-CHUEN; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT, STARTING FROM 9 AM TOMORROW.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRESH WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO
* * * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 27) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATERMAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, NAM CHEONG STREET, FUK WING STREET AND KWEILIN STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER STORAGE FIGURE
* * * * *

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 88.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 521.016 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 476.319 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 81.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

- 18 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

* * * * *

TENDER DATE	25 OCT 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF NOTES
ISSUE NUMBER	3610
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,975 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE PRICE ACCEPTED	100.07
LOWEST PRICE ACCEPTED	100.05
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 4%
AVERAGE TENDER PRICE	99.97

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,375
REVERSAL OF LAF	+625
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+920
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,920
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.1 **0.1* 25.10.93

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

- 19 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.05 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.51	3.19
1 MONTH	2.85 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.78	3.37
3 MONTHS	2.79 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.28	3.60
6 MONTHS	2.87 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.69	3.68
12 MONTHS	3.14 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,965MN

CLOSED 25 OCTOBER 1993

- - - - 0 - - - -