DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1991

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HK WELCOMES FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS

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HONG KONG WELCOMES FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON SAID IN HAMBURG TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING HOSTED BY THE EAST ASIA SOCIETY AND THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE TO THE EEC, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF COMPETITION FOR A SHARE IN HONG KONG'S PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS.

HE SAID THAT MUCH OF THE WORK WOULD BE DONE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING GERMAN FIRMS DEMONSTRATING THEIR EXPERTISE IN THE ENORMOUS PROGRAMMES OF BUILDING FOR TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID HE SAW GERMANY'S PRESENCE IN HONG KONG AS A MARK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT GERMANY WAS HONG KONG'S BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER IN EUROPE (INCLUDING UK), WITH TOTAL BILATERAL TRADE OF DM11 BILLION.

GERMANY WAS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, WITH ACCUMULATED INVESTMENT OF DM 110 MILLION IN MANUFACTURING, AND THE COUNTRY WAS INCREASINGLY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN HONG KONG'S SERVICE SECTOR, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"ALTOGETHER 460 GERMAN COMPANIES ARE PRESENT IN HONG KONG, MOST OF THEM WITH A REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

"ALL OF THIS SUGGESTS STRONGLY THAT GERMAN FIRMS ARE ALIVE TO THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY HONG KONG AND TO ITS ADVANTAGES: LOW AND STABLE TAXES, SKILLED AND ADAPTABLE WORKFORCE, EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS, AND AN ABSENCE OF BUREAUCRATIC RED-TAPE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IN COMMON WITH OTHER REGIONAL COMPETITORS WAS LESS RELIANT ON MARKETS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA THAN IT USED TO BE.

"ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS BROUGHT WITH IT CONSUMER MARKETS IN ASIA WHERE WE COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY FOR A SHARE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD BECOME A BASE FROM WHICH MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE WERE MANAGED.

"REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS ALSO PRODUCED NEW INVESTMENT FLOWS. HONG KONG IS PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THIS.

"IT OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF FINANCIAL EXPERTISE, INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND FIRST CLASS COMMUNICATIONS, IN ADDITION TO AN ABSENCE OF RESTRICTIONS AND RED-TAPE," SIR DAVID SAID.

/AS A .....

AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT MORE AND MORE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES WERE SETTING UP THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG.

"WE WELCOME THEM ALL, WITH NO SPECIAL INCENTIVES AND NO TAX HOLIDAYS - JUST TAXES WHICH ARE LOW FOR ALL, FREEDOM OF ACCESS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY," HE SAID.

DESPITE MEDIA REPORTS OF AN EXODUS, SIR DAVID SAID THE BEST ESTIMATES ACTUALLY SHOWED A NET INFLUX OF INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS INTO HONG KONG OF AROUND 100 A YEAR.

ON THE QUESTION OF BRAIN DRAIN, THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED HOW THIS PRACTICAL PROBLEM WAS BEING DEALT WITH IN A PRAGMATIC WAY, INCLUDING INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, RELAXING IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES, NATIONALITY MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE BRITISH AND OTHERS GOVERNMENTS.

"SO WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL HAVE THE BRAINS WE NEED TO REMAIN ASIA'S MOST ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS CENTRE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PREDICTING THE POLITICAL FUTURE WAS A NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT BUSINESS, THE GOVERNOR SAID FORECASTS MADE JUST TWO YEARS AGO OF THE SHAPE OF EUROPE OR THE WORLD TODAY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAD BEEN VERY WRONG.

"BUT IT IS REASONABLE TO SAY THAT THE ECONOMIC DYNAMISM OF ASIA HAS ACHIEVED AN ENORMOUS MOMENTUM WHICH LOOKS SET TO CONTINUE. HONG KONG PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN SERVICING IT.

"HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY POINT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THAT ROLE.

"THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE IN THE REGION WHICH CAN TAKE IT ON SO EFFECTIVELY. MOST OF ALL THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HONG KONG PEOPLE WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO ADAPT AND TO PREVAIL OVER CHANGES IN FORTUNE AND TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE OTHERS NOTICE THEM," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS VITAL FOR SERVICE-BASED ECONOMY

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THE SHIFT IN HONG KONG TOWARDS A MORE SERVICE-BASED ECONOMY HAS HEIGHTENED THE NEED FOR EFFICIENT, RELIABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HANOVER FAIR CEBIT '91, MRS CHAN FOCUSSED ON THIS KEY AREA OF INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH SHE SAID "IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT A FLOURISHING TRADE AND BUSINESS CENTRE LIKE HONG KONG."

/"WE ARE .....

"WE ARE WATCHING WITH INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY AND THE REGULATORY REGIMES OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

"WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT SOME OF OUR REGIONAL NEIGHBOURS HAVE, IN RECENT YEARS, GREATLY IMPROVED THEIR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BOTH IN TERMS OF RATES AND SERVICE PROVISION," SHE POINTED OUT.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT IN SOME CASES, THIS IS A RESULT OF POSITIVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING OVERSEAS COMPANIES TO LOCATE THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

"OUR TYPICALLY HONG KONG RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE IS TO STIMULATE FURTHER OUR OWN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BY CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE COMPETITION IN THIS FIELD," SHE SAID.

ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, HONG KONG ALREADY HAS A FULLY COMPETITIVE MARKET IN RADIO-BASED AND VALUE-ADDED SERVICES AND THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY REVIEWING THE FUTURE OF THE EXCLUSIVE LOCAL TELEPHONE FRANCHISE WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE IN 1995, SHE SAID.

"WE HAVE ENGAGED CONSULTANTS TO CONSIDER ALL REGULATORY OPTIONS AND TO RECOMMEND A STRATEGY WHICH WOULD BEST MEET OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS AS A CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE," SHE SAID.

"ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, OUR ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE IS MORE LIMITED BECAUSE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS GRANTED TO OUR CARRIER DO NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 2006.

"NEVERTHELESS, WHERE THERE IS SCOPE FOR INTRODUCING COMPETITION OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF THOSE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS, WE ARE DOING SO," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HONG KONG HAS RECENTLY ENTERED INTO WITH THE UNITED STATES TO FACILITATE THE COMPETITIVE PROVISION OF INTERNATIONAL VALUE-ADDED DATA AND FACSIMILE SERVICES OVER PRIVATE LEASED LINES.

"WE ARE EXPECTING TO CONCLUDE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES SOON.

"INDEED, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS WITH ANY COUNTRY WHICH IS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH HONG KONG," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE SCOPE OF SERVICES ALLOWED UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO OPEN UP OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FURTHER TO COMPETITION WILL GO A LONG WAY TO MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HONG KONG AS A PLACE FROM WHICH TO DO BUSINESS, BOTH IN THE REGION AND WORLDWIDE," SHE SAID.

/OUTLINING HONG .....

OUTLINING HONG KONG'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE TERRITORY IS ONE OF THE MOST DEVELOPED WIRELESS MARKETS IN THE WORLD.

"IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE AND CABLE LINKS, HONG KONG IS NOW CONNECTED TO THE WORLD BY FIBRE OPTIC SUBMARINE CABLES," SHE SAID.

"THERE IS ALSO AN OVERLAND FIBRE OPTIC LINK TO GUANGZHOU IN CHINA, WITH A SECOND DUE TO BE COMMISSIONED LATER THIS YEAR.

"ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, OUR TELEPHONE NETWORK WILL BE FULLY DIGITALISED BY THE END OF 1993."

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAS TELEPHONE PENETRATION COMPARABLE TO THAT IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AT OVER SIX TELEPHONES FOR EVERY 10 PEOPLE.

PAGING AND CELLULAR RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES ARE PARTICULARLY POPULAR AND HONG KONG HAS THE WORLD'S HIGHEST PER CAPITA LEVEL OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR PAGING SERVICES, WITH ONE SUBSCRIBER FOR EVERY EIGHT PERSONS, SHE ADDED.

EARLIER, MRS CHAN TALKED ABOUT HONG KONG'S PLANS FOR PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.

SHE SAID THE PLANS ARE FOR ENSURING THAT THE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE IS PROVIDED IN A TIMELY AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER TO ENABLE OUR ECONOMY TO CONTINUE TO GROW.

"WE ARE NOT ALONE IN FORESEEING THE NEED TO EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY THE CAPACITY OF OUR AIRPORT.

"OTHERS IN EAST ASIA ARE ALSO, NO DOUBT, AWARE OF FORECASTS FROM SOURCES SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION WHICH PREDICT THAT AIR TRAFFIC GROWTH IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION WILL EXCEED THAT OF ALL OTHER REGIONS IN THE COMING DECADE," SHE SAID.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THEN TO SEE THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA EXPANDING EXISTING AIRPORTS OR TO SEE JAPAN BUILDING A MAJOR NEW AIRPORT AT OSAKA AND SOUTH KOREA PLANNING A MASSIVE NEW AIRPORT FOR SEOUL ON A SCALE SIMILAR TO THAT OF CHEK LAP KOK, SHE ADDED.

"OVER 80 PER CENT OF OUR AIR TRAFFIC IS GENERATED WITHIN THAT SAME REGION; TO RETAIN HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVE EDGE IN WHAT IS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE MARKET WE MUST DEVELOP OUR KEY INFRASTRUCTURE APACE WITH AND PREFERABLY SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF OUR MAIN RIVALS," MRS CHAN SAID.

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PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SITE PREPARATION OF NEW AIRPORT

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THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) IS INVITING APPLICATION FROM CONTRACTORS TO PREQUALIFY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TENDER FOR THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE NOTICE OF INVITATION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AND ADVERTISEMENTS WERE PLACED IN MAJOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS JOURNALS AND NEWSPAPERS.

A PAA SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE WAS TO SEEK SUITABLY QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS CAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING THE WORK TO FORM A SITE OF ABOUT 1,200 HECTARES FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE WORK WILL COMPRISE DREDGING AND DISPOSAL OFF SITE OF UP TO ABOUT 70 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF MARINE MUD, EXCAVATION OF ABOUT 85 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF ROCK AND SOIL FROM CHEK LAP KOK AND LAM CHAU ISLAND, OBTAINING ABOUT 60 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF SAND FROM MARINE BORROW AREAS, AND PLACING OF THE FILLING MATERIAL FROM BOTH THE LAND AND MARINE SOURCES TO THE RECLAMATION AREAS.

CONTRACTORS WITH SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN DREDGING AND EXCAVATION ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS TO:

GREINER-MAUNSELL
NEW AIRPORT PROJECT OFFICE
UNIT 608, SHUI ON CENTRE, 6/F,
6-8 HARBOUR ROAD
HONG KONG

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS IS AT NOON ON MAY 3, 1991.

FOLLOWING THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE, THE PAA PROPOSES TO INVITE TENDERS IN JUNE, 1991 FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT.

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THE HONG KONG (CONTROL OF GOLD, SECURITIES, PAYMENTS AND CREDITS: KUWAIT AND REPUBLIC OF IRAQ) ORDER 1990

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOR THE TIME BEING LIFTED ALL RESTRICTIONS ON KUWAITI ASSETS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

SECTION 2(1) OF THE HONG KONG (CONTROL OF GOLD, SECURITIES, PAYMENTS AND CREDITS: KUWAIT AND REPUBLIC OF IRAQ) ORDER 1990 ("THE ORDER") IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON THE CARRYING OUT OF CERTAIN DIRECTIONS BY OR ON BEHALF OF SPECIFIC KUWAITI OR IRAQI ENTITIES.

/"WITH EFFECT .....

"WITH EFFECT FROM 15:00 TODAY (MARCH 15) AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS GRANTED, UNDER SECTION 2(1) OF THE ORDER, ALL PERMISSIONS NECESSARY TO ENABLE PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE ORDER TO CARRY OUT DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY KUWAITI ENTITIES," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT PERMISSIONS RELATE ONLY TO KUWAITI ASSETS AND THE RESTRICTIONS ON IRAQI ASSETS ARE STILL IN PLACE. "WHERE APPLICABLE, APPLICATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR PERMISSIONS IN RELATION TO IRAQI ASSETS.".

THE ORDER ITSELF REMAINS IN FORCE BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT AN ORDER PARTIALLY REVOKING THAT ORDER WILL BE PASSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON APRIL 16. AT THAT TIME IT IS EXPECTED THAT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON IRAQI ASSETS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE, HE ADDED.

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HK CAN BE REGIONAL BASE FOR PRINTING INDUSTRY

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HONG KONG CAN ACT AS A REGIONAL BASE FROM WHICH OVERSEAS PRINTERS AND SUPPLIERS CAN EXPLORE HUGE POTENTIAL MARKETS IN THE REGION, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "PRINTING IN ASIA", MR WONG SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S FAVOURABLE LOCATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND ITS LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICIES OF FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE.

MR WONG SAID THE PRINTING INDUSTRY HAD GROWN RAPIDLY IN THE LAST THREE DECADES.

THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF PRINTED MATTER IN 1960 WAS ABOUT $32 MILLION. IN 1990, THE EQUIVALENT FIGURE WAS $3,554 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF 17 PER CENT.

IN THE 10 YEARS UP TO 1988, THE LATEST YEAR FOR WHICH PRODUCTION STATISTICS WERE AVAILABLE, THE INDUSTRY'S GROSS OUTPUT INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 21 PER CENT.

MR WONG SAID THE PRINTING INDUSTRY NOW EMPLOYED NEARLY 37,500 WORKERS AND HAD BECOME HONG KONG'S SIXTH LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

"IT IS ONE OF THE FEW INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHERE EMPLOYMENT IS RISING.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PERCENTAGE OF VALUE ADDED PER UNIT OF OUTPUT, AT JUST OVER 40 PER CENT, IS HIGHER IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY THAN IN THE OTHER MAJOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG, AND IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE MANUFACTURING AVERAGE OF ABOUT 26 PER CENT.

/"PRINTING IS .....

"PRINTING IS ONE OF OUR MOST PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HIGH QUALITY PRINTING WAS NOW THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN HONG KONG, WHOSE PRINTING INDUSTRY WAS RENOWNED FOR ITS GOOD PRINTING QUALITY, QUICK AND RELIABLE DELIVERY, AND COMPETITIVE PRICES.

HONG KONG WAS THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF QUALITY PRINTING WORK IN ASIA AFTER JAPAN.

MR WONG SAID HONG KONG'S PRINTING INDUSTRY HAD ACHIEVED A HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AND MANY PUBLISHERS CONSIDERED THAT IT COULD MATCH JAPAN, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES, THE PIONEERS OF MODERN PRINTING TECHNOLOGY, IN THE QUALITY OF ITS PRINTING WORK.

"OTHER ATTRACTIONS ARE OUR PROXIMITY TO OTHER ASIAN MARKETS AND OUR ATTITUDES TOWARDS PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHT AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS," HE SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG ALSO BENEFITTED FROM ITS EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

"SATELLITE COMMUNICATION ENABLES HIGH QUALITY IMAGES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO HONG KONG BY OVERSEAS PUBLISHERS.

"HONG KONG IS THEREFORE IDEALLY PLACED AS A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MAGAZINES," HE SAID.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR NOV-JAN RELEASED

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED STABLE AT A LOW LEVEL WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991 WAS 1.4%, COMPARED WITH 1.5% FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1990 AND 1.3% FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER. THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991 WAS ESTIMATED AT 38,400, COMPARED WITH 42,300 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1990 AND 36,800 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991 WAS 0.7%, COMPARED WITH 1.0% FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1990 AND 0.9% FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

/THE DECREASES .....

THE DECREASES OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991 WAS 18,500, COMPARED WITH 26,900 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1990 AND 24,800 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WAS 1.4% AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.1%.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1990 - JANUARY 1991 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,200 HOUSEHOLDS OR 40,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1990 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MARCH 20 AT $11.50 PER COPY.

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GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO GIVE NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES STATUTORY BACKING

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THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE STATUTORY BACKING TO THE RULES MADE BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS (HKAB) CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF DEPOSIT CHARGES, GENERALLY KNOWN AS NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES, IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE RULES ON NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES MADE BY HKAB HAVE PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING SPECULATION ON A REVALUATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN EARLY 1988", A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID AT THE TIME WHEN THE RULES WERE MADE, DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED AS TO WHETHER HKAB HAD THE NECESSARY STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

"TO PUT MATTERS BEYOND DOUBT, IT IS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE TO CLARIFY THE POSITION THROUGH APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

"IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE A NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE RULES. BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE STATUTORY BACKING OF THE RULES IS PUT BEYOND DOUBT IF THEY ARE TO SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST DESTABILIZING SPECULATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE RULES IN QUESTION ARE THE "SPECIFIED RATE RULE" AND THE "RULES ON INTEREST RATES AND DEPOSIT CHARGES" MADE BY HKAB RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER 1987 AND JANUARY 1988.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE HKAB ORDINANCE DOES NOT ENTAIL ANY CHANGE IN EXISTING POLICY.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 24.

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FOUR NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TODAY FOR UC/RC ELECTIONS

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A TOTAL OF FOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY WERE RECEIVED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TWO WERE FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND TWO FOR THE REGIONALCOUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THIS BRINGS TO 22 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS.

/SO FAR .....

SO FAR, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED WERE IN THE SHAU KEI WAN CONSTITUENCY AND KOWLOON CITY WEST CONSTITUENCY WITH EACH HAS TWO CANDIDATES.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES WILL LAST UNTIL MARCH 25.

CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTESTING 27 SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCIES - 15 IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND 12 THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED TODAY:

URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER
SHAU KEI WAN	LAI CHI-KEUNG JOSEPH	M	43	TEACHER	346 9621 896 0899 112 8051 CALL 9031
MONG KOK	CHAN KWOK-MING	M	43	SCHOOL HEADMASTER	395 2521
KWAI CHUNG WEST & TSING YI	TING YIN-WAH	M	36	DRIVER	495 5180 433 8144
TUEN MUN WEST	NG MING-YUM	M	34	TEACHER	463 0399

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1. CENTRAL AND WESTERN	NIL
2. WAN CHAI	1
3. NORTH POINT	1
4. SHAU KEI WAN	2
5. SOUTHERN	1
6. KOWLOON CITY WEST	2
7. KOWLOON CITY EAST	1
8. KWUN TONG WEST	1
9. KWUN TONG EAST	1
10. MONG KOK	1
11. SHAM SHUI PO EAST	NIL
12. SHAM SHUI PO WEST	1
13. WONG TAI SIN SOUTH	1
14. WONG TAI SIN NORTH	NIL
15. YAU TSIM	1
SUB-TOTAL:	14

/REGIONAL COUNCIL .....

REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1. ISLANDS	1
2. NORTH	1
3. SAI KUNG	1
4. SHA TIN EAST	1
5. SHA TIN WEST	1
6. TAI PO	NIL
7. TSUEN WAN	NIL
8. TUEN MUN EAST	NIL
9. TUEN MUN WEST	1
10. YUEN LONG	NIL
11. KWAI CHUNG EAST	1
12. KWAI CHUNG WEST AND TSING YI	1
SUB-TOTAL:	8

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TWO-WEEK EXTENSION FOR MARINE INQUIRY

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, HAS AGREED TO AN EXTENSION OF TWO WEEKS FOR THE LOCAL MARINE INQUIRY INTO A COLLISION INVOLVING THE MOTOR FERRY "MAN LOY" AND PLEASURE VESSEL "LONG BOAT" IN VICTORIA HARBOUR AFTER CONSIDERING THE CONTENT OF AN INTERIM REPORT SUBMITTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE PUBLIC APPEAL FOR WITNESSES HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND TO DATE SOME 45 WITNESSES HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED WITH STATEMENTS BEING TAKEN.

"ADDITIONALLY PRACTICAL TESTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT USING "MAN LOY" TO TRY AND RECONSTRUCT THE ACTUAL VOYAGE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADDITIONAL TWO WEEKS WOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE INTERVIEWS AND CARRY OUT FURTHER TESTS ON "MAN LOY" BUT THESE TESTS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT USING THE RIGHT TIDAL CONDITIONS.

THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR AND GIVEN TO THE MARINE POLICE FOR POSSIBLE SUBMISSION TO THE CORONER. THE FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC WHILST THE ACCIDENT COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF PROSECUTION ACTION OR A CORONER'S INQUEST.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO OUR CALL FOR WITNESSES HAS BEEN MOST GRATIFYING AND WE WISH TO RECORD OUR APPRECIATION TO THEM.

"WE WOULD APPEAL FURTHER FOR THOSE WHO SAW THE ACCIDENT TO COME FORWARD AND THEY SHOULD TELEPHONE THE INQUIRING OFFICER CAPTAIN JOHN MCPARTLAND ON 852 4363."

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CENSUS REVEALS VITAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

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THE 1991 CENSUS WILL PROVIDE A WEALTH OF DATA POINTING THE WAY AHEAD, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR BENJAMIN MOK, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH EAST, MR MOK SAID THE 1991 CENSUS, WHICH WAS THE BIGGEST EVER CONDUCTED, WAS UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE BENCHMARK DATA FOR STUDYING THE DIRECTION AND TREND OF POPULATION CHANGES.

"INDEED, THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S POPULATION OVER THE PAST DECADE - LESS IN ITS SIZE THAN IN ITS PROFILE," HE SAID.

MR MOK POINTED OUT THAT IN BETWEEN TWO CENSUSES, THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A BY-CENSUS AND A SERIES OF GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY'S TO KEEP TRACK OF POPULATION CHANGES.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND POPULATION MOVEMENTS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 5.86 MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF 1990, COMPARED TO A FIGURE OF 5.15 MILLION PEOPLE 10 YEARS AGO.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OVER THE DECADE WAS 1.3 PER CENT.

"THE 1991 CENSUS WILL ENABLE US TO CHECK THE ACCURACY OF THIS ESTIMATE AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW BENCHMARK FOR FUTURE POPULATION ESTIMATES," MR MOK SAID.

REGARDING THE AGE-SEX PROFILE, THE AGING PHENOMENON OF THE POPULATION, AS REVEALED IN PAST CENSUSES, IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.

THE PROPORTION OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION, THAT IS THOSE AGE 65 AND OVER, INCREASED FROM 4.5 PER CENT IN 1971 TO 6.6 PER CENT IN 1981 AND THE FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO ABOUT 9 PER CENT IN 1991.

THE AGING OF THE POPULATION IS ALSO REFLECTED BY THE AGED DEPENDENCY RATIO WHICH INCREASED STEADILY FROM 76 PER 1,000 PERSONS IN 1971 TO 95 IN 1981, AND WOULD LIKELY TO FURTHER RISE TOWARDS 130 IN 1991.

THE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE FOR MALES IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN RELATIVELY STABLE BUT THAT FOR FEMALES AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 54 WOULD LIKELY CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

THE AGE PROFILE OF THE LABOUR FORCE, HOWEVER, WILL SHIFT TOWARDS OLDER AGES AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE IN THE AGE-SEX STRUCTURE AND A DECLINE IN THE LEVEL OF LABOUR PARTICIPATION ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND LONGER YEARS OF SCHOOLING.

/THE 1991 .....

THE 1991 CENSUS IS ALSO EXPECTED TO REFLECT A GEOGRAPHICAL RE-DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION FROM URBAN DISTRICTS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE NEW TOWNS ARE RAPIDLY EXPANDING.

BEING ESSENTIAL INPUTS FOR REVISING THE BOUNDARIES OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PLANNING COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, THE INTERNAL MOVEMENT BETWEEN DISTRICTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOVERS WILL ALSO BE REVEALED BY THE 1991 CENSUS.

THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS RECEIVING TERTIARY EDUCATION IS INCREASING AND THE HOUSING CONDITION IS ALSO EXPECTED TO IMPROVE.

"THE 1991 CENSUS WILL TELL THE STORY," MR MOK REMARKED.

FIELD WORK FOR THE 1991 CENSUS IS NOW IN FULL SWING. ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG WILL BE VISITED BY ENUMERATORS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DURING THE 10-DAY OPERATION PERIOD.

SIX OUT OF SEVEN HOUSEHOLDS HAVE TO COMPLETE A SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE WHILE THE OTHER ONE-SEVENTH RANDOM SAMPLE OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE TO ANSWER DETAILED QUESTIONS TO BE POSED BY THE ENUMERATORS DURING THE INTERVIEWS.

THOSE ENGAGED IN SIMPLE ENUMERATION ARE REMINDED NOT TO MAIL BACK THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE DEPARTMENT AND SHOULD WAIT FOR ENUMERATORS TO HAVE THEM COLLECTED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE CALLED UPON TO RENDER THEIR CO-OPERATION BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION. IN DOING SO, THEY HELP "PLAN A BETTER FUTURE FOR HONG KONG".

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TENDERS INVITED FOR AIRPORT EXTENSION WORKS

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EASTERN APRON EXTENSION WORKS.

THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RIGID AIRCRAFT PAVEMENT OF ABOUT 75,000 SQUARE METRES, A 900-METRE LONG BY 13.5-METRE WIDE FLEXIBLE CARRIAGEWAY FOR THE REALIGNED EASTERN ROAD AND A NEW ROUNDABOUT TO CONNECT THE CONCORDE ROAD FLYOVER, CONCORDE ROAD AND REALIGNED EASTERN ROAD.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND WILL TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 19.

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APPOINTMENTS TO CFPA ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS RE-APPOINTED DR WANG GUNWU AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) FOR TWO YEARS UP TO MARCH 31, 1993, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

DR WANG, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CFPA SINCE 1989. HE IS THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO RE-APPOINTED SIX MEMBERS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1991. THEY ARE -

MR PETER WOO, BUSINESSMAN (VICE-CHAIRMAN),

PROFESSOR DAVID GWILT,
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

MR LO KING-MAN, MBE, JP, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MEMBER OF URBAN COUNCIL

MR MARVIN CHEUNG, ACCOUNTANT,
MEMBER OF URBAN COUNCIL

MR RAYMOND LIU, BUSINESSMAN

DR LAM TAI-HING, READER OF UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

MRS MIRIAM K.Y. LAU, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HAS BEEN RE-APPOINTED AS A MEMBER FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1991 TO DECEMBER 31, 1991.

FIVE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS HAVE ALSO BEEN RE-APPOINTED FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1991.

THEY ARE THE SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND A REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED FOUR NEW MEMBERS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1991. THEY ARE -

PROFESSOR ARLIS HIEBERT, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE

MR KEVIN C.P. LO, BUSINESSMAN

MR JOHN K.C. LEE, BUSINESSMAN

MR VINCENT W.S. CHOW, BUSINESSMAN

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TENDERS INVITED FOR RECLAMATION AND SEAWALL WORKS

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL AND THE RECLAMATION AT RAMBLER CHANNEL NORTH OF THE KWAI CHUNG INCINERATION PLANT.

THE LAND TO BE RECLAIMED WILL BE USED FOR THE REPROVISION OF CHEUNG SHA WAN LIVESTOCK LANDING PIER AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT AND A POSSIBLE SITE FOR A SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE 21 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON MARCH 29.

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EXEMPTIONS FROM AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

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AN ORDER WHICH EXEMPTS FOUR POWER LINE TOWERS FROM THE AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1991 WAS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLIER THIS MONTH.

THE ORDER EXEMPTS FROM EXISTING AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOUR TOWERS WHICH WILL SUPPORT POWER LINES ON CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED'S 400 KILOVOLT LINE FROM YUEN LONG TO LAI CHI KOK.

THE POWER LINE WILL BE PART OF THE NETWORK BRINGING ELECTRICITY FROM THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION ADVISED THAT, AS THE FOUR TOWERS AND THEIR POWER LINES WOULD BE SHIELDED FROM AIRCRAFT TRACK GUIDANCE SIGNALS BY EAGLE'S NEST AND PIPER'S HILL, HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL FROM AN AVIATION SAFETY POINT OF VIEW.

THE POWER LINES COULD NOT BE LOWERED BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE NEAR OR TOUCHING THE GROUND AND COULD NOT BE RELOCATED WITHOUT THREATENING THE SAFETY OF HILL SLOPES AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION IN GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.3 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN YAU MA TEI.

A SEAWALL OF ABOUT 130 METRES AS WELL AS TWO FINGER PIERS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE AREA.

THE RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 0.7 HECTARE OF LAND FOR PHASE THREE OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD MODERNISATION.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 1993.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE MAY 14.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

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REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING CO REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF LBI FINANCE (HONG KONG) LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON MARCH 15, 1991 AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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ONE NOMINATION RECEIVED FOR DB BY-ELECTION

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ONE NOMINATION FOR THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SHUN LEE CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION ON APRIL 21 WAS RECEIVED TODAY (FRIDAY) -- THE FIRST DAY OF NOMINATION FOR CANDIDATES.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL END ON APRIL 2.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE:

NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TELEPHONE NO.
LAW LAI-KUEN	F	39	SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER	754 6644.

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CALL FOR CONCERN OF PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

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YOUNGSTERS WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TO LEAD A HEALTHY LIFE STYLE, TO SHOW CONCERN FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

THE APPEAL WAS JOINTLY MADE BY AN URBAN COUNCILLOR, DR ELSIE TU AND A REGIONAL COUNCILLOR, MR POON CHIN-HUNG, WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE 1991 INTER-SECONDARY HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT EXHIBITION COMPETITION AND THE INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PAINTING COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY HELD AT THE CITY HALL TODAY.

"FOR MANY YEARS, THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT TO ENHANCE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES, TO IMPROVE OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT, AND TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH," SAID DR TU.

"HOWEVER, WE CAN ONLY ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, IF WE HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC."

MR POON CALLED UPON YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP A HEALTHY IMAGE BY ATTACHING IMPORTANCE TO PERSONAL, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICES AS WELL AS A HEALTHY LIFE STYLE.

BOTH COUNCILLORS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE TALENTS, PERFORMANCE AND TEAM SPIRIT OF THE CONTESTANTS.

THE PRIZE-WINNING PROJECTS AND PAINTINGS ARE NOW PUT ON PUBLIC DISPLAY AT THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CITY HALL IN CENTRAL BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5.30 PM DAILY TILL NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 18).

ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION IS FREE.

/THE COMPETITIONS .....

THE COMPETITIONS, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WERE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES.

A TOTAL OF 147 SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE CONTESTS AND MORE THAN 2,200 ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED.

IN ADDITION, A BEST ARTWORK DESIGN PRIZE WAS PRESENTED TO THE WINNING PROJECT.

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ENQUIRY HOTLINES FOR DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENCE FEES

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THREE TELEPHONE LINES CONNECTED TO AN AUTOMATIC ANSWERING MACHINE HAD BEEN INSTALLED TO PROVIDE 24-HOUR INFORMATION ON DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENCE FEES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE INFORMATION IS RECORDED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE HOTLINES ARE: 801 5951 (ENGLISH)
801 5953 (CHINESE)
801 5954 (CHINESE)

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENCE FEES TOPPED THE LIST OF ENQUIRY ITEMS TELEPHONE CALLERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OFTEN ASK.

HE CALLED ON ENQUIRERS TO MAKE USE OF THE AUTOMATIC ANSWERING SYSTEM WHILE ENQUIRIES CONCERNING OTHER LICENSING ASPECTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE FOUR LICENSING OFFICES.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SITTING OUT AREA

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SITTING OUT AREA AT KWUN TONG HIGH LEVEL SERVICE RESERVOIR.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JOGGING TRACK, FITNESS STATIONS, ARBOURS WITH SITTING BENCH AND TREE PITS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 12.

FORMS OF TENDER AND PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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TWO LABOUR DEPT BRANCH OFFICES ON MOVE
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TWO LABOUR DEPARTMENT BRANCH OFFICES WILL MOVE INTO THE MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE MONG KOK SOUTH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR INSPECTION DIVISION WILL MOVE FROM PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE TO ROOM 1004, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 30 LUEN WAN STREET.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 399 2256.

THE DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING THE HOURS OF WORK AND REST PERIODS FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRY AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AGED UNDER 15.

IT ALSO ENFORCES PROVISIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYEES' STATUTORY BENEFITS AND KEEPING OF EMPLOYMENT RECORDS, WHILE ENSURING EMPLOYERS TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES TO COVER THEIR LIABILITY TO COMPENSATE EMPLOYEE INJURED AT WORK.

MEANWHILE, THE SHAM SHUI PO OFFICE OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE GROUND FLOOR OF MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE NEW LES (MONG KOK) OFFICE PROVIDES FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS IN TSIM SHA TSUI, YAU MA TEI, HO MAN TIN, MONG KOK, TAI KOK TSUI, SHAM SHUI PO, CHEUNG SHA WAN AND LAI CHI KOK.

JOB-SEEKERS ARE REQUIRED ONLY TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE WHILE EMPLOYERS MAY PLACE THEIR VACANCY ORDERS BY PHONE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 399 2232-6.

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