



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN'S  
ADDRESS TO LEGCO MEMBERS  
ON TUESDAY, 12TH JANUARY 1993

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HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

IT IS JUST OVER THREE MONTHS SINCE MY ADDRESS TO THIS COUNCIL SETTING OUT A POLICY AGENDA FOR HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. I'M GLAD TO SAY THAT THIS HAS GENERATED A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE SINCE OCTOBER 7TH, ALTHOUGH IF YOU RELIED SOLELY ON THE MEDIA FOR WHAT HAS BEEN SAID YOU COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR THINKING THAT THE ADDRESS CONCENTRATED ENTIRELY ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES AND VERY LITTLE ELSE.

THIS IS NOT, PERHAPS, SURPRISING. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1995 LEGCO ELECTIONS, THE LAST BEFORE HONG KONG'S CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY, ARE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH THERE ARE STRONG VIEWS AND GENUINE DIFFERENCES BOTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF AND BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWERS.

THE PROPOSALS THAT I PUT FORWARD ON THE 7TH OCTOBER SOUGHT TO FIND A POINT OF BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE DIFFERING POSITIONS. IT'S NATURAL, INDEED IT IS FURTHER PROOF OF THE MATURE AND SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY THAT HONG KONG IS, THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUCH AN ACTIVE DEBATE ON WHETHER THE BALANCE THAT I SOUGHT WAS THE RIGHT ONE OR WHETHER MORE WEIGHTS WERE NEEDED AT ONE END OF THE SCALE OR THE OTHER.

THE NEXT STAGE OF THAT DEBATE WILL BE STARTING IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME IN THIS CHAMBER WHEN DRAFT LEGISLATION ON THESE CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS, THE TERMS OF WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEING DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHEN THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED. THE DEBATE WILL BRING WITH IT HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES. MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REASONABLE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR A GREATER SAY IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS ON THE ONE HAND, AND THEIR DESIRE FOR STABILITY AND CONTINUITY ON THE OTHER.

THESE MATTERS ARE WEIGHTY AND IMPORTANT, IT'S NATURAL THAT THEY SHOULD OCCUPY A GREAT DEAL OF OUR ATTENTION. THAT WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE FOR SOME MONTHS TO COME, BUT LIFE GOES ON AND IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE IF WE ALLOWED POLITICAL ISSUES TO DOMINATE ALL OUR THINKING WHILE NEGLECTING ENTIRELY THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES. THAT IS WHY MUCH OF MY SPEECH IN OCTOBER CONCENTRATED ON A RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING THE LIVELIHOOD AND THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG CITIZENS.

/I GAVE .....

I GAVE MANY UNDERTAKINGS IN MY SPEECH, ON THESE ISSUES. I WAS KEEN THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE SIMPLY PAPER PROMISES; I WANTED TO BE IN A POSITION TO COME BACK TO YOU AFTER A YEAR AND TELL YOU WHERE WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS AND, IF THERE WERE AREAS WHERE PROGRESS WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, TO TELL YOU WHAT WE WERE DOING ABOUT IT. SO I'VE SET UP A DETAILED SYSTEM OF PROGRESS-CHASING UNDER WHICH THE RELEVANT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE CIVIL SERVICE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPORT TO ME AT REGULAR INTERVALS HOW THEY ARE DOING IN MEETING THE SPECIFIC TARGETS AND UNDERTAKINGS IN THE POLICY ADDRESS FOR WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE. I'VE RECENTLY RECEIVED THE FIRST ROUND OF FEEDBACK. OF COURSE WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF WORK TO DO. REMEMBER THAT THE AGENDA SET OUT IN THE ADDRESS WAS A FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME SO THIS IS NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY. BUT I AM PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS SO FAR AND LET ME GIVE YOU JUST A FEW EXAMPLES.

IN THE HEALTH SECTOR, WE REMAIN ON TARGET FOR PROVIDING 4,200 ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS, OPENING 13 NEW CLINICS AND EXPANDING 11 EXISTING CLINICS BY 1997. WE SET OURSELVES SOME INTERNAL TARGETS TO BE MET BY DECEMBER 1992. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE MET THEM. THEY INCLUDED INTRODUCING AN ADVANCE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR CHRONIC PATIENTS IN 49 GENERAL CLINICS, AND INSTALLING INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORD SYSTEMS IN 26 OUT-PATIENT CLINICS. WE ALSO COMPLETED TWO NEW CLINICS DURING THIS PERIOD.

ON THE SOCIAL WELFARE SIDE, AGAIN WE ARE ON TARGET FOR MEETING ALL THE MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS IN THE ADDRESS BY 1997. 3,930 EXTRA RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, 3,760 ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP AND DAY-CENTRE PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED, 44 ADDITIONAL HOME-HELP TEAMS, AND SO ON. SINCE OCTOBER, PREMISES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRES AND VERY PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH SERVICE DELIVERY AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES WE HAVE PROMISED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

I KNOW THAT A NUMBER OF YOU WISH TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS TODAY. ON HOUSING, WE ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING OUR TARGETS FOR NEW PUBLIC SECTOR FLATS. SOME 2,800 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. WE ARE ON TARGET TO MEET OUR UNDERTAKING TO BUILD AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED FLATS A DAY BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. WE ARE ALSO ON TARGET FOR RE-HOUSING. BY 1997, THREE-QUARTERS OF THOSE IN EXISTING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS; 3,500 HAVE BEEN RE-HOUSED ALREADY SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR. ON SANDWICH-CLASS HOUSING, SITES FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE INTERIM SCHEME HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES, CONTROLS ON MAJOR CHEMICAL WASTE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO FORCE SINCE NOVEMBER. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ARE NOW BEING PROVIDED FOR ALL RELEVANT PAPERS PUT BEFORE EXCO. THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF STAGES ONE TO FOUR OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

I COULD REPORT EQUALLY ENCOURAGING PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS EDUCATION, LAW AND ORDER, AND PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, BUT RATHER THAN USE UP MORE OF YOUR QUESTION TIME, I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO ASK ME ABOUT THESE, IF YOU WISH.

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO END WITH SOME WORDS ABOUT THE ECONOMY. SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OR READ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S YEAR-END REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY ON THE 30TH DECEMBER. IT WAS A RECORD OF WHICH HONG KONG CAN JUSTIFIABLY BE PROUD. REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH OF FIVE PER CENT, FULL EMPLOYMENT, A REAL INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT IN OUR TOTAL EXPORTS OVER A YEAR EARLIER, HONG KONG DISPLACING SINGAPORE AS THE WORLD'S BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT, THE HANG SENG INDEX UP 28 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR DESPITE RECENT FLUCTUATIONS, CONTINUING LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAXES. THE LIST GOES ON, ALTHOUGH I WILL NOT. BUT WHEN MUCH OF THE WORLD IS IN THE ECONOMIC DOLDRUMS IT IS SALUTARY TO REMIND OURSELVES FROM TIME TO TIME, JUST WHAT A THRIVING AND SUCCESSFUL PLACE HONG KONG TRULY IS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED - WHICH SAVES ME THE BURDEN - AN ORDER OF QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVEN'T BEEN PREVIOUSLY FORTUNATE IN CATCHING THE PRESIDENT'S EYE. SO PERHAPS I CAN TAKE THAT ORDER AS REPRESENTING ONCE AGAIN A HISTORIC CONSENSUS IN THIS COUNCIL, A CONSENSUS WHICH I'M SURE WILL OBTAIN TOMORROW AND IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS THAT LIE AHEAD. CAN I BEGIN WITH MR STEPHEN POON.

MR STEPHEN POON: MR GOVERNOR, IN OCTOBER 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY CLAIMED THAT THE DECLINE IN VIOLENT SHOOTING INCIDENTS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS OF LAST YEAR WAS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE POLICE HAD CORKED THE PROBLEM. THE EVENTS IN THE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, HAVE PROVED VIOLENT SHOOTINGS TO BE A RECURRENT PROBLEM. WOULD THE GOVERNOR INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THIS ALARMING PROBLEM AND IN PARTICULAR, WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS FROM THE THREAT OF JEWELLERY SHOP ROBBERIES, AND WHETHER THE PARTICIPATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA IN VIOLENT CRIMES IS ON THE RISE, AND IF SO, WHAT IS BEING DONE TO COUNTERACT THIS DISTURBING TREND?

THE GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT TO ARGUE THAT EVENTS SHOW THAT ONE CAN NEVER BE COMPLACENT WHEN TALKING ABOUT LAW AND ORDER AND THE THREAT TO CIVILISED LIVING. HOWEVER, I AM SURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD WISH TO RECOGNISE THAT WHATEVER THE APPALLING OCCASIONAL INCIDENCE OF VIOLENT CRIME, THIS IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD WHERE CRIME AS A WHOLE, AND VIOLENT CRIME IN PARTICULAR, ARE ACTUALLY FALLING. I SAW FIGURES PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THIS MORNING COMPARING CRIME LAST YEAR WITH CRIME THE YEAR BEFORE, AND I DOUBT WHETHER THERE ARE MANY CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS IN A SIMILAR POSITION TO POINT TO A FALL IN VIOLENT CRIME AND A FALL IN THE SORT OF CRIMES WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE COMMUNITY SO MUCH GENUINE CONCERN. WHY HAS THAT HAPPENED AND WHAT FURTHER SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?

I THINK WE SHOULD COMMEND THE POLICE ON IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE AND ON THEIR IMPROVED STRENGTH ON THE STREET BECAUSE I THINK THE BEST WAY OF DETERRING THE SORT OF CRIMES WHICH CONCERN US ALL, IS BY AN ACTIVE PHYSICAL POLICE PRESENCE WHEREVER POSSIBLE. I THINK THAT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT INDIVIDUAL SHOP OWNERS, SOME OF THE SHOPS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY HIT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, CAN DO A GOOD DEAL TO HELP THEMSELVES AND I COMMEND WHAT THE FIGHT-CRIME COMMITTEE HAVE DONE AND SAID TO ENCOURAGE BETTER SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, JEWELLERS SHOPS.

BUT ALL THAT SAID, NOTHING CAN EXCUSE THE CRIMES THAT WE HAVE SEEN AND IT IS WHOLLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE AS CONCERNED AS IT IS ABOUT THEM, WHEN INNOCENT CITIZENS ARE GUNNED-DOWN ACCIDENTALLY IN THE STREETS IN WHICH THEY ARE SHOPPING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. THE POLICE WILL, I KNOW, CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS MATTER THE GREATEST PRIORITY. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE IMPROVED CO-OPERATION WHICH WE ARE STARTING, IN MY VIEW, TO SEE, WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE PRC - AND I COMMEND THE AUTHORITIES IN THE PRC FOR THE HELP WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN US. I HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH II'S, AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN TALKING VERY HELPFULLY TO US ABOUT WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DEAL WITH THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

I'M SURE, FINALLY, THAT THE POLICE WILL ALWAYS BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE STREET, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN AN ARMS-RACE WITH CRIMINALS. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD EXPECT THE POLICE TO DEAL IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY WITH VIOLENCE WHEN IT OCCURS, AND ALAS, FROM TIME TO TIME THAT DOES INVOLVE THE USE OF FIREARMS.

MR JAMES TO: MR GOVERNOR, IF WE DO NOT HAVE DEMOCRACY WE WILL NOT HAVE A GOOD LIVELIHOOD FOR OUR PEOPLE, SO I WOULD STILL GO BACK TO DEMOCRATIC REFORMS. NOW, YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING RECENTLY TO A LOT OF POLITICAL GROUPS AND FROM THE MASS MEDIA WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND CERTAIN THINGS; THEY HAVE QUOTED WHAT YOU HAVE SAID. IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR DETERMINATION IN CARRYING FORWARD YOUR POLITICAL PACKAGE SEEMS TO BE WEAKENING. ARE YOU INTENDING TO BACK-PADDLE IN THIS AREA?

THE GOVERNOR: WHAT I AM INTENDING TO DO OVER THE COMING WEEKS, IS TO TAKE THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHO WILL, I'M SURE, HAVE NOTED THEN THE VIEWS EXPRESSED OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. I AM INTENDING TO TAKE THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IN DUE COURSE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROPOSALS WHICH AGAIN, IN MY JUDGMENT, REPRESENT THE BEST POINT OF BALANCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ON ALL THESE MATTERS. I THINK THAT WHAT ALL OF US WANT TO SEE ARE CLEAN AND FAIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTIONS IN 1994/95. I THINK WHAT ALL OF US SHOULD ALSO WANT TO SEE IS AS CREDIBLE A LEGISLATURE AFTER 1995 AS POSSIBLE TO WHICH THE EXECUTIVE CAN BE PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE. THOSE REMAIN MY OBJECTIVES.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED TODAY ON THE PUBLICATION OF A COMPENDIUM OF ALL THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING A NUMBER PUT BY INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATORS, SO THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY CAN BE AWARE OF THE RANGE OF VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO AGREED, TODAY, ON THE GAZETTING OF A BILL ON AN ELECTORAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION, WHICH IS OF COURSE ESSENTIAL TO FAIR AND STRAIGHTFORWARD ELECTIONS, AND IN DUE COURSE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT.

/LATER ON .....

LATER ON, AFTER THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, WE WILL BE PUTTING FURTHER PROPOSALS ON OTHER MATTERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND IT WILL BE MY HOPE, FIRST OF ALL THAT WE CAN HAVE AS BROAD A BASE AS POSSIBLE IN THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE PROPOSALS FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND I ALSO HOPE THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL AGREE TO PROPOSALS WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWERS. THOSE MUST BE OUR OBJECTIVES AND I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD BE BEYOND CONTROVERSY. BUT SOONER OR LATER, THIS COUNCIL AND THIS COMMUNITY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS, HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM CONSTRUCTIVELY, AND I AM SURE WILL DEAL WITH THEM IN THE MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE WAY WHICH THE COMMUNITY HAS SHOWN ITSELF CAPABLE OF IN SO MANY OTHER AREAS.

DR. CONRAD LAM: MR GOVERNOR, THIS MORNING, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HELD A MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MADE SOME COMMENTS ON THE WAY EXCO MEMBERS ARE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL RESPOND TO THIS. RECENTLY, OVER ONE HUNDRED HOUSEHOLDS FROM TO KWA WAN, SIXTH STREET, HAVE COME TO COMPLAIN ABOUT A CERTAIN CASE; THEY ARE SAYING THAT THE SHOPS SHOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN RESIDENTIAL UNITS, AND YET THEY HAVE TO PAY MORE RATES, BUT AS FAR AS COMPENSATION IS CONCERNED THE SHOPS ARE GETTING LESS THAN RESIDENTIAL UNITS. YET FROM THE OFFICIALS, THEY WERE TOLD THAT IT'S NOT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT FAIR TO THEM BUT RATHER THE EXCO MEMBERS ARE MUCH TOO GENEROUS WITH THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS. NOW, IF WHAT WE HAVE HEARD IS CORRECT, I HOPE THAT YOU, MR GOVERNOR, WILL ANSWER THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS.

FIRSTLY, WHY IS IT THAT THE EXCO MEMBERS ARE NOT TREATING EVERYBODY IN AN EQUAL MANNER? IN OTHER WORDS, MORE GENEROUS TO THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS BUT LESS GENEROUS TO THE SHOPS ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

SECONDLY, IS THERE A LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EXCO MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?

AND THIRDLY, EVER SINCE YOUR TAKING OFFICE, MR GOVERNOR, ARE THERE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS TO YOU SAYING THAT CERTAIN POLICIES THAT ARE OUT OF DATE SHOULD BE AMENDED?

THE GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, ON THE WHOLE I THINK MOST MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND PERHAPS MOST MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WOULD BE PLEASED IF THE MOST SERIOUS CHARGE MADE AGAINST THEM FROM TIME TO TIME WAS AN EXCESS OF GENEROSITY. BUT PUTTING THAT ON ONE SIDE, I THINK THAT WHAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ASKING ME ABOUT IS THE DIFFERENT PROCEDURES FOR TREATING RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PROPERTIES IN THE CASE OF RESUMPTIONS. AS I RECALL, THE POSITION IS THAT BUSINESS PROPERTY IS COMPENSATED FOR THE LOSS OF VALUE OF THE BUSINESS AND THE LOSS OF VALUE OF THE PROPERTY; THAT RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ARE GIVEN ENOUGH COMPENSATION TO PURCHASE A SIMILAR RESIDENCE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. I THINK THAT IS, BROADLY SPEAKING, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITION OF RESIDENTIAL OWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THOSE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME AND THERE IS THOUGHT TO BE A REASON FOR THAT DIFFERENT TREATMENT.

I AM NOT AWARE, MYSELF, OF OFFICIALS HAVING PUT TO ME PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES BUT I WILL CERTAINLY LOOK INTO THAT TO SEE IF IT IS THE CASE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROCEDURES ARE LIKELY TO BE REVIEWED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR AND I AM SURE THAT THE DISTINCTION WHICH IS MADE BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND BUSINESS PROPERTIES CAN BE CONSIDERED AT THAT TIME.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI: IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, MR GOVERNOR, YOU HAVE PUT IN \$300 MILLION FOR THE RE-TRAINING FUND AND THIS SHOWS THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS. AND YET AT THIS POINT REGARDING THE EMPLOYERS' NEEDS, REGARDING SEX, ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND AGE, THERE SEEM TO BE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO IMPORTING LABOUR AND THEREFORE THE MIDDLE-AGED WORKERS WHO ARE BEING RE-TRAINED ARE AFFECTED. THEY HAVE A VERY LOW EDUCATION STANDARD TOO, AND THEREFORE THEY CAN'T REALLY BENEFIT FROM THE EXISTING RE-TRAINING SCHEME.

SO MY QUESTION IS: WHAT PLANS DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE IN ORDER TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE MIDDLE-AGED AND WHO HAVE VERY LOW EDUCATION STANDARDS, BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A VERY DIRE POSITION? AND AT THE SAME TIME, WOULD YOU CONSIDER AN AD HOC GROUP TO CO-ORDINATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF MANPOWER? WILL THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME, AND WILL THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM LABOUR POLICY?

SO MY QUESTION IS: WHAT PLANS DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE IN ORDER TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE MIDDLE-AGED AND WHO HAVE VERY LOW EDUCATION STANDARDS, BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A VERY DIRE POSITION? AND AT THE SAME TIME, WOULD YOU CONSIDER AN AD HOC GROUP TO CO-ORDINATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF MANPOWER? WILL THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME, AND WILL THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A COMPREHENSIVE LONG TERM LABOUR POLICY?

THE GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT IN ANSWERING A QUESTION LIKE THAT, WHICH IS OF VERY CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR ISSUES LIKE THE ABATEMENT OF INFLATION. TO REMEMBER SOME OF THE ECONOMIC FACTS, I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE LABOUR MARKET CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ARE AT PRESENT WITHOUT WORK. I THINK I AM ALSO RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKERS BROUGHT IN UNDER THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME IS ALMOST CERTAINLY LOWER THAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER UNEMPLOYED AND THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES. THE NUMBER WHO ARE BROUGHT IN UNDER THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME REPRESENTS, I THINK, ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE IN HONG KONG. SO IN MY OWN VIEW, WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND THOSE FACTS WHEN WE ADDRESS THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS ABOUT LABOUR MARKET ISSUES.

I HAVE GOT NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT IN ORDER TO STAY AS COMPETITIVE AS WE NEED TO BE, AND IN ORDER TO COPE WITH INFLATION AS SUCCESSFULLY AS WE WANT TO COPE WITH IT, AND IN ORDER TO PREVENT TOO MANY JOBS BEING EXPORTED ELSEWHERE, WE HAVE TO USE OUR LABOUR SUPPLY AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE. AND OF COURSE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT TO SAY THAT THAT INCLUDES THOSE WHO ARE OLDER AND MORE MATURE AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE YOUNGER. MANY OF US, EVEN IN ADVANCE MIDDLE-AGE LIKE MYSELF, DON'T THINK WE ARE ENTIRELY PAST IT AND WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP PERHAPS NEW SKILLS IN THE FUTURE.

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I DO THINK THAT THE RE-TRAINING SCHEME IS A VITAL PART OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY. I AM PLEASED THAT THE COUNCIL SUPPORTED THE COMMITMENT OF AN EXTRA \$300 MILLION TO RE-TRAINING. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RE-TRAIN ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE A YEAR. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT OUR OVERALL NEEDS, THE COUNCIL MAY WELL REGARD THAT AS NOT BEING SUFFICIENT AND THE COUNCIL MAY ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL THINGS THAT WE SHOULD BE DOING. THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT THE RE-TRAINING FUND BOARD AND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THEIR TRAINING, WILL KEEP THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CLOSELY INFORMED ABOUT THEIR VIEWS AS TO HOW WE CAN MAKE INCREASINGLY GOOD USE OF OUR LABOUR MARKET, OF OUR WORKFORCE - MALE, FEMALE, OLDER, MIDDLE-AGED, YOUNGER - WE NEED TO MAKE USE OF ALL OUR TALENTS IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO GROW AS WE HAVE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO GENERATE THE WEALTH WHICH THE COMMUNITY NEEDS IN ORDER TO MEET ITS SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS.

MR DAVID LI: SIR, WILL THE ADMINISTRATION INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO CONTROL THE USE OF TOBACCO IN PUBLIC PLACES IN VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY'S RECENT CONCLUSION THAT SECONDHAND SMOKE REPRESENTS A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK TO NON-SMOKERS, PARTICULARLY TO CHILDREN?

THE GOVERNOR: I COME TO THIS ISSUE, LIKE A NUMBER OF OTHER HONOURABLE MEMBERS, WITH THE VIRTUOUS TREAD OF AN EX-SMOKER. I APOLOGISE TO ALL THOSE WHO IN THE PAST MAY HAVE HAD TO ENDURE MY SECONDARY SMOKING AND I SAY TO ALL THOSE WHOSE SMOKE I HAVE TO ENDURE TODAY, THAT I HOPE THEY WILL BE MINDFUL OF THE AMERICAN REPORT. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A MORE DETAILED REPLY TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AFTER CONSULTING THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE BUT PERHAPS I CAN MAKE ONE GENERAL POINT. I THINK THIS IS AN AREA WHERE IT IS IMPORTANT TO BALANCE REGULATION AND PERSUASION. I THINK, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE WORKPLACE, IT IS INVARIABLY SENSIBLE TO WORK WITH THE GRAIN WHEN DEALING WITH MATTERS LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN AGAINST. IN AREAS OF WORK FOR WHICH I HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST, LIKE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, I HAVE THEREFORE, RATHER THAN LAID DOWN INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT SMOKING IN OFFICES, GIVEN THE WORKFORCE THE ABILITY TO VOTE FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE ABOUT WHETHER THEY ALLOW SMOKING AND WHERE THEY ALLOW IT. I THINK THAT IS SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH THESE MATTERS. BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE A NUMBER OF UTILITY PROVIDERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO ARE INVOLVED. WE NEED TO CONSULT PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS, WE NEED TO CONSULT THOSE WHO RUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WE NEED TO CONSULT OTHERS, SO THAT WE CAN LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF SECONDHAND SMOKING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE SMOKING MAY BE SECONDHAND BUT THE DEATH IS FIRSTHAND.

MR K.K. FUNG: MR GOVERNOR, MY QUESTION ITSELF IS VERY SIMPLE BUT BEFORE I ASK YOU A QUESTION I WILL CITE SOME DATE FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND HOPE THAT THIS CAN HELP YOU TO CONSIDER MY QUESTION. MY QUESTION IS THIS: NOW, IS THE GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT SO THAT FOR THE LONG TERM HOUSING POLICY PROPOSED IN 1988, IT CAN BE COMPLETED IN 2001? NOW, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING DATA FOR YOU.

IN 1988 .....

IN 1988 THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSED A LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY, HOPING THAT BY 2001, WITH ADEQUATE PUBLIC HOUSING, TO RESOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEMS FOR HONG KONG, AND \$26 BILLION HAVE BEEN LOANED TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THIS SCHEME. HOWEVER, THE HA EVERY YEAR HAS TO PAY FIVE PER CENT OF THE INTEREST AND FOR THE NON-DOMESTIC SURPLUS OF THE HA THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS TO SHARE THE SURPLUS WITH THE HA. I AM AN HA MEMBER. ACCORDING TO THE ESTIMATES OF THE HA, BY 2001 THE HA WILL HAVE PAID \$31.1 BILLION TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THAT IS APART FROM THE GOVERNMENT LOAN, THE GOVERNMENT CAN ACTUALLY GET THE EXTRA INTEREST BACK, AND UP TO NOW, FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, OR YOU CAN SAY THAT BY 2001 WE'LL STILL LACK 54 HECTARES OF LAND.

FOR THIS FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT NOW, FOR THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, FOR THE AIRPORT'S RAILWAY, FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL, THEY HAVE DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS - NOT LIKE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. NOW, CAN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GIVE A GUARANTEE TO THE PUBLIC SO THAT FOR THIS 54 HECTARES OF LAND IT CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE HA ON TIME? SECONDLY, FOR THESE 54 HECTARES, WILL THEY BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED AT THE URBAN AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AREAS? AND THEN THIRDLY, CAN THE GOVERNMENT ALLOW THE MONEY GENERATED FROM PUBLIC HOUSING TO BE PLOUGHED BACK TOTALLY INTO PUBLIC HOUSING SO THAT NO PROFITEERING OR PROFIT-MAKING IS INVOLVED? THANK YOU.

THE GOVERNOR: AS I RECALL - I WAS TRYING TO LOOK UP THE FIGURES WHEN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WAS SPEAKING - BUT AS I RECALL, THE COST OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY OVER THE PERIOD TO 2001, TO MEET THE AIMS THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS SET FOR ITSELF, RUNS AT ABOUT HK\$107 BILLION. THAT IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SAW A RESTRUCTURING OF ITS FINANCIAL BASE A FEW YEARS AGO, AND I AM NOT SURE THAT I WOULD WANT TO UNDO THE DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE AT THAT TIME. SOME OF THE COMPARISONS THAT ARE MADE AND SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS THAT ARE PUT ABOUT THE FINANCIAL FLOWS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AREN'T, I THINK, ENTIRELY FAIR, BECAUSE THEY DON'T, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PROVISION OF LAND TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, NOR THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO MAKE NEW HOUSING POSSIBLE. SO I DON'T WHOLLY ACCEPT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S PROPOSITION ABOUT THE FINANCIAL FLOWS.

I THINK, MYSELF, THAT WE FACE LARGER PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO LAND SUPPLY THAN IN RELATION TO CASH SUPPLY, AND ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND IN PARTICULAR SOME OF THE NEW ROADS WHICH THE COMMUNITY IS INTERESTED IN, IS IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT WE OPEN UP THE LAND THAT WE REQUIRE IN ORDER TO CARRY THROUGH THE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY. THAT IS A POINT THAT I WAS DISCUSSING LAST WEEK WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WHEN REVIEWING THE HOUSING STRATEGY WITH HIM. IT'S A POINT WHICH I KNOW HE FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT AND THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT, AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN DEVELOP A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ABOUT HOW WE CAN MAKE CERTAIN THAT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPS AT A PACE WHICH ALLOWS US TO DEVELOP THE LAND WHICH IS REQUIRED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MEET OUR COMMITMENTS TO PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING, AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN FROM TIME TO TIME REVIEW INDIVIDUAL TARGETS. I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE PROGRESS WE MAKE IN DEALING WITH TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. I KNOW THAT IN A NUMBER OF THOSE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS THE FACILITIES FOR FAMILIES, THE ACCOMMODATION, IS A GREAT DEAL LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN ANY OF US WOULD LIKE TO SEE. THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES OF COURSE, BUT THE MORE RAPIDLY WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THEM THE BETTER. WE HAVE SET OURSELVES A TARGET OF ELIMINATING ABOUT 70 PERCENT - JUST OVER 70 PERCENT - BY 1997, AND I WILL WANT TO LOOK FROM TIME TO TIME AT WHETHER WE CAN MAKE MORE RAPID PROGRESS THAN THAT.

MR ZACHERY WONG: MR PRESIDENT, IN YOUR OPENING REMARKS YOU TALK ABOUT A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN RELATION TO PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD AND YET YOU SEEM TO HAVE IGNORED THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM - AS I BROUGHT IT UP WITH YOU WHEN I MET YOU IN PERSON, AND YOU ALSO TOLD ME THAT YOU WILL BE SPEAKING ON THE ISSUE LATER. WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT PIECE OF GOOD NEWS TO COME OUR WAY FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND YET BEFORE THAT CAME, WE'VE HEARD A PIECE OF BAD NEWS, THAT IS THE BUILDING OF CT9 AND ITS EFFECT AND MID-STREAM HANDLING OF CARGO HAS BEEN EFFECTED AND WE ANTICIPATE AN INCREASE OF 2,000 LORRY TRIPS PER DAY AND THAT WILL DEFINITELY ADVERSELY AFFECT TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN TUEN MUN. NOT TOO LONG AGO LEGCO CARRIED A MOTION ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC SITUATION IN NT-WEST AND IT SEEMS AS IF WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR PLANS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND IF MID-STREAM HANDLING OF CARGO IS TO BE MOVED TO TUEN MUN THAT AGAIN WILL AFFECT THE SITUATION. SO I HOPE THAT YOU, MR PRESIDENT, WILL TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION AND VETO THE PROPOSAL TO USE AREA 16 FOR THAT PURPOSE.

AND THEN WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL PAY GREAT ATTENTION TO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN NT-WEST AND COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PLANS. WE HOPE THAT THE WAIT WILL NOT GO ON ANYMORE, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO HEAR SOMETHING CONCRETE FROM YOU TODAY, AND I AM SURE THAT WILL BE A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS TO THE 600,000 NOW IN NT-WEST AND TOGETHER WITH TIN SHUI WAI THAT WILL HIT THE ONE MILLION MARK - THAT WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 - AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL GET THIS NEW YEAR GIFT FROM YOU.

THE GOVERNOR: I AM ALWAYS, OF COURSE, ANXIOUS TO RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO PEOPLE WHO WANT ME TO MAKE MORE SPEECHES. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT I HAVE SAID TO HIM AND OTHERS IN THE PAST, THAT I HOPED SHORTLY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE SPEECH ABOUT TRANSPORT STRATEGY. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO DO THAT AFTER THE BUDGET AND AFTER STRATEGIC DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND RELATED MATTERS FOR THE COMING YEAR, BECAUSE I RECOGNISE THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE GAPS IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH IN OCTOBER, AND A GAP WHICH MANY PEOPLE WOULD LIKE ME TO FILL. I WAS STRUCK BY THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT I HAD ON TRANSPORT AT MY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PERHAPS NOT SURPRISED THAT SO MANY OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I RECEIVED WERE ABOUT IMPROVING TRANSPORT IN THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES, IMPROVING THE LINKS BETWEEN THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THEIR WORKPLACES, VERY OFTEN IN THE DOWNTOWN INNER CITY AREAS.

WE HAVE BEEN DOING A CERTAIN AMOUNT, IMPROVING, FOR EXAMPLE, BUS AND FERRY SERVICES, BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE, AND THE TWO CRUCIAL ISSUES THAT WE SHALL NEED TO RESOLVE ARE, FIRST OF ALL THE QUESTION OF ROUTE THREE, AND SECONDLY THE ISSUE OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL SERVICES BETWEEN THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE CITY. SO I HOPE THAT I CAN SATISFY THE HONOURABLE MEMBER, IN DUE COURSE, WITH A SPEECH, AND I HOPE THE SPEECH SAYS AT LEAST SOME OF WHAT HE WOULD LIKE IT TO SAY.

ON CONTAINER TERMINAL NINE, ALL I FEEL IT NECESSARY TO SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR CT9 HAVE BEEN THE SAME AS THE PROCEDURES FOR CT8, WE HAVEN'T IN ANY WAY CHANGED THE PROCEDURES IN THE LAND COMMISSION, AND I HOPE THAT IN DUE COURSE THAT IMPORTANT PROJECT WILL GO FORWARD SMOOTHLY. AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW, HONG KONG'S PORT INCREASES ITS CAPACITY YEAR ON YEAR BY ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS, SAY, OAKLAND OR SEATTLE. IT'S AN INDICATION OF WHAT A HUGE PORT WE HAVE AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

REV. FUNG CHI-WOOD: MR GOVERNOR, NOW YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT YOU WILL ABIDE BY THE VOTE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE ISSUE OF THE 1995 ELECTIONS. IF YOU GO BY THE SAME PRINCIPLE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED THE MOTION TO ABOLISH THE DOUBLE-RENT POLICY, WILL YOU, THEREFORE, ACT ACCORDINGLY? IF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THIS POLICY, WILL YOU USE YOUR POWER AS GOVERNOR TO VETO THEIR DECISION? AND IF THE POLICY IS TO CONTINUE, WOULD YOU, THEREFORE, THINK THAT THERE WILL BE AN ADVERSE EFFECT IN THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THIS COUNCIL?

THE GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE SURPRISED IF I WERE TO SAY THAT AS GOVERNOR I WOULD REJECT WHATEVER PROPOSALS THE COUNCIL EVENTUALLY AGREED ON THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS. I THINK THE COUNCIL WOULD REGARD THAT AS UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOUR ON MY PART. I THINK THE COUNCIL WOULD BE EQUALLY SURPRISED IF I SAID THAT BECAUSE I TOOK THAT VIEW, I ALSO TOOK THE VIEW THAT WHATEVER THE COUNCIL DECIDED AT ANY MOMENT, WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE. I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD NECESSARILY BE THE BASIS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT, OMNISCIENT AS THE COUNCIL DOUBTLESS IS FOR MUCH OF THE TIME.

IN RELATION TO DOUBLE-RENT POLICY, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW THAT THE MAIN JUSTIFICATION FOR THAT POLICY ISN'T AN INCREASE IN FUNDS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BUT IS SENSIBLE ALLOCATION OF HOUSING AND FAIRNESS. I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO ARE PAYING A DOUBLE RENT ARE PAYING ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF THE INCOME GOING INTO THE HOUSEHOLD, WHICH DOESN'T SEEM, I THINK, EXCESSIVE TO MANY PEOPLE. NEVERTHELESS, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL BE REVIEWING THE POLICY LATER IN THE YEAR AND I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. I AM ALSO SURE THAT THEY WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT IF SOME PEOPLE, WHEN THEY REACHED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF INCOME WEREN'T ENCOURAGED TO BECOME HOME OWNERS OR FLAT OWNERS, THAT THERE WOULD THEN BE FEWER HOUSES OR FEWER FLATS IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ALLOCATE TO OTHERS WHO ARE ON THE WAITING LIST.

DR. PHILIP WONG: MR PRESIDENT, WITH DUE RESPECT, DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHINA DID NOT MEAN WHAT SHE SAID IN REGARD TO YOUR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE?

THE GOVERNOR: I IMAGINE THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THAT PARTICULAR SUBJECT TOMORROW, WHEN I AM SURE THAT THE WHOLE COUNCIL WILL LISTEN TO HIM WITH THE ATTENTION WHICH HE DESERVES. AS FOR WHAT CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER, I THINK I COULD HONESTLY REPLY BY SAYING, IT DEPENDS WHAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS REFERRING TO, AND I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON WHICH OFFICIALS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS REFERRING TO. THOSE OFFICIALS AND THOSE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO PROMOTING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, ARE STATEMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH WHICH I CAN READILY IDENTIFY. NONE OF THE STATEMENTS THAT I HAVE MADE ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE BAR COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AS BEING VIOLATIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THOSE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN CO-OPERATION WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR OUR WAY FORWARD IN HONG KONG. I SAY, TODAY, WHAT I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST AND WHAT I WILL CONTINUE TO SAY, THAT I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY AT ANYTIME TO TALK ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. I HAVE NO PRE-CONDITIONS WHATSOEVER FOR ANY TALKS, I WANT A DIALOGUE AND A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE, AND I AM SURE THAT THERE IS A GENERAL CONCERN THAT WE SHOULD ALL WORK TOWARDS A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE FOR HONG KONG WHICH MAKES CERTAIN THAT HONG KONG IS A WORLD-CLASS CITY.

MR ALBERT CHAN: MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, YOU TALKED ABOUT POLITICAL REFORMS AND ALSO PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, AND IT GIVES US HOPE. BUT WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE AIRPORT PROJECTS, IT SEEMS AS IF IT'S A LITTLE BIT PESSIMISTIC. RECENTLY, DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA ALSO SHOWED US THAT YOUR FEELINGS WERE QUITE CORRECT AT THAT TIME. REGARDING THE FUNDING OF THE PROJECTS, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT AND THEREFORE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT AND THE RAILWAY MIGHT BE DELAYED, AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE COUNTER PROPOSALS. COULD THE COUNCIL BE INFORMED OF THE FOLLOWING.

HAS THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED MEASURES OR PLANS TO BREAK THE IMPASSE? AND ARE YOU CONSIDERING AMENDING THE FUNDING PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO CONTINGENT LIABILITIES, SO THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN RATIONALLY CONSIDER THE ISSUE AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND COME TO A NEW AGREEMENT?

THE GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND CHINESE OFFICIALS ABOUT A NUMBER OF ASPECTS CONCERNING THE AIRPORT, AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERLINE THOSE AGREEMENTS AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE POSITIVE REMARKS WHICH CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE MADE, WHICH I GREATLY WELCOME, IN RECENT DAYS AND WEEKS ABOUT THE AIRPORT.

FIRST OF ALL, WE ALL AGREE THAT HONG KONG NEEDS A NEW AIRPORT AND WILL GET A NEW AIRPORT. SECONDLY, WE ALL, I IMAGINE, AGREE THAT THAT AIRPORT NEEDS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY POSSIBLE. THIRDLY, I HOPE WE ALL AGREE THAT THE SOONER WE CAN COMPLETE THAT AIRPORT, THE BETTER FOR HONG KONG AND THE REGION, NOT LEAST THE BETTER FOR THE SAR GOVERNMENT. I THINK THOSE ARE ALL POINTS THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ABOUT.

WE HAVE PUT IN THE PAST, AND MUCH OF THIS DEBATE PRE-DATED MY ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG, A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO CHINESE OFFICIALS ABOUT FINANCING THE AIRPORT. THE MOST RECENT PROPOSALS INVOLVED, FOR EXAMPLE, SCRAPPING ANY IDEA OF CALLABLE EQUITY FALLING DUE AFTER 1997. THAT WAS, I HOPE, A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTEMPT TO MEET WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD TO BE CHINESE CONCERNS. I WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO BUILD ON THAT PROPOSAL OR PREVIOUS PROPOSALS THAT WE PUT, IN ORDER TO TRY TO FIND A WAY IN WHICH WE CAN AGREE A COMPREHENSIVE FINANCING PACKAGE FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT WHICH ALL OF US ARE COMMITTED TO AND WHICH ALL OF US WANT TO SEE COMPLETED.

CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE WHOLLY RIGHT WHEN THEY SAY THAT WE MUST DO THIS IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY POSSIBLE. I THINK, IN RESPONSE, WE CAN LEGITIMATELY SAY IN HONG KONG, THAT VERY FEW COMMUNITIES HAVE A BETTER RECORD OF CARRYING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY THAN THIS ONE. IT'S NO CREDIT TO THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, IT'S EVERY CREDIT TO MY PREDECESSORS AND TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED ON THESE PROJECTS. IT IS ALSO, I THINK, WHOLLY REASONABLE FOR CHINESE OFFICIALS TO SAY THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IN THE FUTURE, SADDLED WITH EXCESSIVE DEBTS. I DON'T WANT TO SEE PEOPLE IN FUTURE SADDLED WITH EXCESSIVE DEBTS, NOR DO I WANT TO SEE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE MISSING OUT ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF COMPLETING AN AIRPORT AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN POSSIBLY COMPLETE IT.

SO I DO HOPE THAT IN THAT SPIRIT, BEFORE TOO LONG WE CAN AGREE ON AN OVERALL FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR THE AIRPORT. AN AIRPORT, I REPEAT, WHICH IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO SEE COMPLETE. AN AIRPORT WHICH WOULD BE GOOD FOR HONG KONG AND GOOD, IN MY JUDGMENT, FOR SOUTHERN CHINA.

MISS ANNA WU, WHOM I CONGRATULATE.

MISS ANNA WU: THANK YOU, SIR. GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, YOU REFER TO YOUR COMMITMENT TO DEFEND FREE MARKETS AND TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE COMPETITION POLICY FOR HONG KONG. MAY I ASK WHAT STEPS YOU HAVE TAKEN SINCE YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, TO SAFEGUARD CONSUMER INTERESTS AND TO BREAK UP CARTELS, IF ANY - POLITICAL CARTELS BEING EXCLUDED, SIR?

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH ENJOYED, THE OTHER DAY, OPENING THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, CHAIRED, OF COURSE, BY A FORMER DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL. IT IS AN ORGANISATION WHICH HAS AN ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE IT EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF ITS WORK AND BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. THE COUNCIL MAY KNOW THAT WE ARE HELPING TO FUND PROJECTS WHICH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ARE UNDERTAKING, TO THE TUNE OF, I THINK, ABOUT \$800,000, TO SEE HOW COMPETITION CAN BE DEVELOPED IN A NUMBER OF PARTICULAR SECTORS, AND I HOPE THAT THE WORK OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WILL PUSH BACK THE FRONTIERS IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT PROVES NECESSARY. WE HAVE ALSO HAD THE FIRST OF, I'M SURE, A NUMBER OF USEFUL DISCUSSIONS IN THE BUSINESS COUNCIL, WHICH I ANNOUNCED IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS, AND WHICH HAS NOW MET ON TWO OCCASIONS. WE HAVE HAD USEFUL DISCUSSION THERE ON COMPETITION POLICY AND I AM SURE THAT WE WILL HAVE FURTHER USEFUL DISCUSSIONS IN THE FUTURE. I THINK IT'S AN AREA WHERE WE NEED TO ASSERT GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND THEN TRY TO TAKE PRACTICAL MEASURES IN INDIVIDUAL SECTORS, AND THAT IS WHERE WE NEED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

MR ROGER LUK: MR GOVERNOR, FOLLOWING YOUR POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER, MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE ALREADY LAID DOWN THEIR SERVICE PLEDGES. WHAT TANGIBLE MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO, FIRST, PREVENT THESE PLEDGES FROM BECOMING NO MORE THAN PROMISES? AND SECOND, INCREASE THE AWARENESS TO SERVE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE? THANK YOU.

THE GOVERNOR: THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS OF COURSE RIGHT TO SAY THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ESTABLISH A SYSTEM IN WHICH WE CAN, FIRST OF ALL, CHECK THAT PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE MET, SECONDLY, ENSURE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THEM IS UNDERSTOOD WIDELY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THAT THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED VIGOROUSLY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER COULD HAVE ADDED A POINT, WHICH I THINK HAS BEEN MADE IN ONE OR TWO NEWSPAPERS, THAT WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES THAT WE SET OURSELVES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AREN'T MERELY STATEMENTS OF WHAT WE ALREADY DO OR CAN EASILY ACHIEVE, BUT ARE STATEMENTS OF REASONABLE OBJECTIVES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICE.

I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS TO GET THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES EXERCISE OFF THE GROUND. I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY WHAT I'VE SEEN OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO PATIENTS, TO PUT PATIENTS FIRST. IT'S GOING TO BE A JOB FOR THE EFFICIENCY UNIT OF GOVERNMENT TO CHECK THE PROGRESS WE MAKE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN EXTEND PERFORMANCE PLEDGES INTO DEPARTMENTS WHERE THEY DON'T YET OPERATE. I HOPE IT'S AN AREA WHICH THIS COUNCIL WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN AND I HOPE THAT I'LL GET FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE PLEDGES IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD. IT'S NOT, I THINK, AN AREA WHERE NEWSPAPERS OR LEGISLATORS OR GOVERNORS SHOULD THINK THEY CAN HARRY CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE ALREADY CARRYING, IN MANY CASES, VERY HEAVY BURDENS. IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH CIVIL SERVANTS TO DO WHAT THE BEST CIVIL SERVANTS, WHAT I'M SURE MOST CIVIL SERVANTS, ALREADY WISH TO DO, WHICH IS TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND TO THEIR CLIENTS.

I THINK I'VE GOT TIME FOR THE LAST QUESTIONER AT THE TOP OF MY SHEET, MR MICHAEL HO.

MR MICHAEL HO: MR GOVERNOR, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD. LAST MONTH I WROTE A LETTER TO YOU ASKING YOU TO HELP ON THE PROBLEM OF THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES. FROM THE REPLY I COULD SEE THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD GRASP OF OUR PROBLEMS. ACTUALLY, IN MANY DIFFERENT DISTRICTS BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES MANY HOSPITALS CANNOT BE COMMISSIONED FULLY, LIKE THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, THAT'S A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE. THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN THIS COUNCIL, ADMITTED THE EXISTENCE OF THESE SORT OF PROBLEMS. IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, THAT INVOLVES POLICIES, TRAINING, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND FUNDING, THAT'S WHY I HOPE THAT YOU CAN CONSIDER SETTING UP AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP. SO ARE YOU PREPARED TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM OF THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES? AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, WHAT WILL YOU DO TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM?

THE GOVERNOR: I WILL CERTAINLY LOOK AT THE ISSUE AGAIN IF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WAS DISSATISFIED WITH MY REPLY, BECAUSE OF COURSE HE IS RIGHT TO SAY THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH MERELY TO PUT INVESTMENT IN NEW HOSPITALS OR CLINICS UNLESS ONE HAS ADEQUATE MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO RUN THOSE UNITS SATISFACTORILY. WE ARE COMMITTED, FOR EXAMPLE, NEXT YEAR, IN PURSUIT OF OUR PLEDGES ON HOSPITAL BUILDING, TO PROVIDE, I THINK, ANOTHER 950 HOSPITAL BEDS. THAT WILL REQUIRE MORE NURSING SUPPORT, AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO POINT OUT, SO IF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER DOESN'T THINK THAT WE ARE TAKING THE ISSUE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUSLY, THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH MUST CONCERN ME AND I HOPE I CAN RESPOND MORE POSITIVELY TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAN HE THINKS I HAVE RESPONDED SO FAR.

I AM MUCH OBLIGED TO THE COUNCIL. I THINK THE COUNCIL PROBABLY KNOWS THAT THE PRIVY COUNCIL HAVE NOW APPROVED THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LETTERS PATENT AND ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ENABLE, OR WILL ENABLE IN DUE COURSE, THE COUNCIL TO DISPOSE OF MY SERVICES AS PRESIDENT AND ELECT ITS OWN PRESIDENT. THE ADMINISTRATION IS, I KNOW, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COUNCIL ON THE NECESSARY DRAFT STANDING ORDERS. I HOPE THOSE CAN BE AGREED BEFORE TOO LONG AND THAT IN DUE COURSE THESE SESSIONS WILL BE UNDER THE BENIGN AND INTELLIGENT CHAIRMANSHIP OF WHOEVER IT IS THAT YOU ELECT TO PRESIDE OVER YOUR MEETINGS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS I NOW ADJOURN THE COUNCIL UNTIL 2:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1993.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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BANK OF CHINA TO ISSUE BANK NOTES

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THE BANK OF CHINA (BOC) IS EXPECTED TO BECOME THE THIRD NOTE-ISSUING BANK IN HONG KONG IN 1994, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT APPROVAL SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR THE BOC TO START ISSUING BANK NOTES FROM MAY 1994, SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "AFTER THE BOC EXPRESSED AN INTEREST TO BECOME A NOTE-ISSUER, THE OFFICE OF EXCHANGE FUND HELD A SERIES OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOC TO ASSESS WHETHER THE LATTER WAS CAPABLE OF MEETING ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY A NOTE-ISSUING BANK.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THE BOC IS PREPARED AND ABLE TO MEET THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A NOTE-ISSUING BANK, AND THAT HONG KONG CAN ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL BANK NOTE-ISSUER WITHOUT CAUSING CONFUSION IN THE CURRENCY."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TO ENABLE THE BOC TO BECOME A NOTE-ISSUER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AMEND THE BANK NOTES ISSUE ORDINANCE AND THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE BOC HAD ESTIMATED THAT, AFTER ALLOWING FOR TIME TO SECURE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS, IT COULD COMPLETE THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF THE NOTES FOR NOTE-ISSUE TO BEGIN IN MAY 1994.

IT IS THE PLAN OF THE BOC TO ISSUE IN 1994 SOME \$6 BILLION BANK NOTES (ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL BANK NOTES IN CIRCULATION), AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT GRADUALLY TO ABOUT \$10 BILLION BY 1996.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER NOTED THAT THE BOC WOULD SUBMIT THE DESIGN FOR ITS BANK NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL. HOWEVER, THE SIZE AND COLOUR OF ITS BANK NOTES WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE ISSUED BY THE EXISTING NOTE-ISSUING BANKS.

THE BOC GROUP CURRENTLY OPERATES OVER 300 BRANCHES AND 250 AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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EXCO DISCUSSES CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT AT ITS MEETING THIS MORNING, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEGAN ITS DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS TO BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/5 ELECTIONS.

IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MEETINGS TO COMPLETE THIS WORK, ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A DRAFT BILL TO ESTABLISH A BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION AND AGREED ON THE PUBLICATION OF A COMPENDIUM OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS.

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PROPOSAL ON BANK DEPOSIT PROTECTION

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WHEREBY SMALL DEPOSITORS WILL BE AFFORDED PRIORITY CLAIMS IN THE EVENT OF THE LIQUIDATION OF A BANK, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FOLLOWING CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE PROS AND CONS FOR A DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME (DPS) AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS COLLECTED DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE MATTER, A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN NOT TO INTRODUCE A DPS.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE DECISION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONSULTATION PAPER ON A DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1992 TO GAUGE THE STRENGTH OF SUPPORT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A SCHEME.

DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, PUBLIC VIEWS WERE COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING DIRECT SUBMISSIONS, A DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND DISCUSSIONS IN DISTRICT BOARDS. COMMENTS IN THE MASS MEDIA WERE ALSO MONITORED.

"IN ALL, A TOTAL OF 53 DIRECT SUBMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, LEGCO MEMBERS, ACADEMICS, AND COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES," HE SAID.

"WHILE THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IN THE MEDIA, THERE WAS ONLY A MODEST RESPONSE FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS EVIDENCED BY THE SMALL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED."

HE NOTED THAT CONTRARY TO A WIDESPREAD ASSUMPTION THAT SMALL DEPOSITORS WOULD BE IN FAVOUR OF A DPS, A MAJORITY OF THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WERE IN FACT AGAINST SUCH SCHEMES.

"THIS IS PERHAPS BECAUSE DEPOSITORS OF THE LARGEST BANKING GROUPS SAW LITTLE ADVANTAGE IN A PROPOSAL WHICH, AS THE CONSULTATION PAPER MADE CLEAR, WOULD BE OF LITTLE DIRECT BENEFIT TO THEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE VALID ARGUMENTS FOR PROVIDING A FURTHER MEASURE OF PROTECTION TO SMALL DEPOSITORS, IF THIS CAN BE DONE IN A WAY WHICH IS WIDELY ACCEPTABLE AND WHICH DOES NOT JEOPARDISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE BANKING SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE EXPLORED A PROPOSAL FOR GIVING PRIORITY TO SMALL DEPOSITORS IN THE EVENT OF THE WINDING UP OF A BANK," HE SAID.

THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM AND IT HAS GIVEN ITS SUPPORT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSAL HAD CERTAIN ADVANTAGES COMPARED WITH A DPS ON THE LINES SET OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION PAPER, INCLUDING THE AVOIDANCE OF THE ARBITRARINESS AND INEQUITY INEVITABLE IN A PREMIUM LEVYING SYSTEM, AND LESS LIKELIHOOD OF DISTORTIONS TO THE PRESENT WAY IN WHICH BANKS CONDUCTED THEIR BUSINESS.

FURTHERMORE, THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO GO HAND IN HAND WITH A CONTINUING EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY SYSTEM.

"OUR SUPERVISORY SYSTEM BEARS FAVOURABLE COMPARISON WITH THAT IN OTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES AND WAS EFFECTIVE IN MAINTAINING A RELATIVELY HIGH ASSET QUALITY AND LIQUIDITY IN THE CASE OF BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG.

"THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCEPTABILITY TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE LARGE CREDITORS IN THAT LIQUIDATION OF THE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT GIVING PRIORITY TO SMALLER DEPOSITORS.

"THE SUPERVISORY SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE TO BE KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW AND REFINEMENTS MADE AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES," HE SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT BEFORE PUTTING FORWARD LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO THE PRIORITY SCHEME, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ANALYSIS AND STUDY ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES SUCH AS THE DEFINITION OF SMALL DEPOSITORS AND THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ON THE LIQUIDATION PROCESS.

"IT WAS HOPED, HOWEVER, TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION DURING THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION," HE SAID.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPOINTED MR JUSTICE MICHAEL KEMPSTER TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DECISION BY THE PROSECUTION TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE IN A RECENT MURDER TRIAL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE COMMISSION, APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2 OF THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDINANCE, WILL ALSO INQUIRE INTO THE WITNESS PROTECTION OFFERED TO THE KEY WITNESS IN THAT PARTICULAR CASE AND THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROSECUTION WITNESS GENERALLY.

THE COMMISSION WILL INQUIRE WHY THE PROSECUTION, INSTEAD OF DECIDING TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE, DID NOT ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI.

"UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A NOLLE PROSEQUI MAY BE ENTERED BY THE PROSECUTION TO TERMINATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, BUT IT DOES NOT OPERATE AS AN ACQUITTAL AND PROCEEDINGS MAY BE RECOMMENCED AFRESH FOR THE SAME OFFENCE. TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE IN A TRIAL WILL RESULT IN ACQUITTAL OF AN ACCUSED, AND PROCEEDINGS CANNOT BE RECOMMENCED," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

- (A) TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DECISION TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE IN THE CASE OF R V NGUYEN VAN-BAU (HIGH COURT CRIMINAL CASE NO. 291 OF 1991) AND, IN PARTICULAR -
- (I) TO INQUIRE WHY, INSTEAD OF DECIDING TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE, THE PROSECUTION DID NOT ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI OR DID NOT MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO ADJOURN THE CASE;
- (II) TO INQUIRE INTO THE ADEQUACY OR OTHERWISE OF THE WITNESS PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS MADE OR OFFERED TO THE WITNESS BUI VAN-XUAN AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO DESCRIBE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS THAT MIGHT REASONABLY HAVE BEEN MADE OR OFFERED TO HIM; AND
- (B) TO INQUIRE INTO THE ADEQUACY OR OTHERWISE OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROSECUTION WITNESSES AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW SUCH ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE IMPROVED.

THE COMMISSION IS REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE MATTERS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH (A) ABOVE WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS OF THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT, AND ON THE MATTERS SET IN PARAGRAPH (B) ABOVE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF THE DATE OF APPOINTMENT.

MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER, WHO DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1992 CONDUCTED AN ENQUIRY INTO AN INCIDENT AT THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, WILL BEGIN HIS INQUIRY ON FEBRUARY 1, 1993.

## VIOLENT CRIMES DOWN IN 1992

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UNRELENTING AND RESOLUTE POLICE ACTION HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN VIOLENT CRIMES LAST YEAR, REVERSING A RISING TREND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

REVIEWING THE CRIME SITUATION OF 1992, THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE WAS HEARTENED TO NOTE THAT THE WELCOME 5.1 PER CENT DIP IN VIOLENT CRIMES WAS LARGELY DUE TO REDUCTION IN HIGH-PROFILE CRIMES SUCH AS ROBBERIES, WOUNDING AND SERIOUS ASSAULT CASES.

IN 1992, THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES WAS DOWN 744 TO 8,394 CASES OR 8.1 PER CENT, WHILE WOUNDING AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS DECLINED BY 617 CASES TO 5,764 OR 9.7 PER CENT LESS THAN LAST YEAR.

WITH 18,567 VIOLENT CRIME CASES REPORTED LAST YEAR, THE VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100,000 OF POPULATION WAS REDUCED TO 319.5, A DECREASE OF SIX PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 339.9 IN 1991.

VIOLENT CRIMES REFER TO MURDER, WOUNDING, SERIOUS ASSAULT, RAPE, INDECENT ASSAULT, CRUELTY TO CHILDREN, KIDNAP, BLACKMAIL, INTIMIDATION, ROBBERY AND ARSON, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 22.1 PER CENT OF OVERALL CRIMES.

GOING INTO SPECIFICS, MR LI SAID OF THE ROBBERY CASES RECORDED LAST YEAR, 46 INVOLVED THE USE OF GENUINE FIREARMS, THE SAME AS IN 1991.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES INVOLVING THE USE OF PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS PLUNGED A SIGNIFICANT 25.8 PER CENT FROM 501 CASES IN 1991 TO 307 CASES LAST YEAR AND COULD PARTLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO STRENGTHENED POLICE PRESENCE IN THE STREETS, THE COMMISSIONER NOTED.

RAIDS ON GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS DIVED TO 39 CASES IN 1992 FROM 135 CASES THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BANK ROBBERIES WERE REDUCED TO 94 FROM 147 AND WATCH SHOP HOLDUPS TO THREE FROM 18 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

PROPERTY LOST TO ROBBERY GANGS WAS REDUCED TO \$421 MILLION FROM \$612 MILLION IN 1991.

COUPLED WITH DECREASES IN OTHER CATEGORIES OF CRIMES, MR LI SAID THE NUMBER OF OVERALL CRIMES REPORTED TO THE POLICE HAD DECREASED TO 84,056 CASES LAST YEAR FROM 88,659 IN 1991, A DECLINE OF 5.2 PER CENT.

THIS BROUGHT THE GENERAL CRIME RATE PER 100,000 OF POPULATION TO 1,446.4 IN 1992 FROM 1,540.6 THE PREVIOUS YEAR, A DROP OF 5.2 PER CENT AND BY NO MEANS A SMALL FEAT WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER COSMOPOLITAN CITIES IN THE WORLD, MR LI POINTED OUT.

/THE DETECTION .....

THE DETECTION RATE WAS MAINTAINED AT A HIGH 45.2 PER CENT LAST YEAR, THE SAME AS IN 1991, THANKS TO DETERMINED POLICE ACTION BEEFED UP BY EVER BROADENED CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE WORK, THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

MR LI SAID, HOWEVER, MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME REMAINED A CAUSE FOR CONCERN WITH 6,918 VEHICLES REPORTD MISSING IN THE WHOLE OF 1992, 8.9 PER CENT MORE THAN THE 1991 FIGURE OF 6,352 VEHICLES.

A TOTAL OF 1,052 MERCEDES BENZ CARS, 649 BMWS AND 330 TOYOTA CROWNS WERE REPORTED MISSING LAST YEAR, WHILE THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR STOOD AT 244, 135 AND 288 RESPECTIVELY.

THE COMMISSIONER ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE FORCE WOULD CONTINUE TO COUNTER THE PROBLEM HEAD-ON WITH OPTIMAL POLICE RESOURCES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON CROSS-BORDER CAR STEALING SYNDICATES.

"I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE FORCE WILL EVENTUALLY GAIN THE UPPER HAND IN THIS BATTLE WITH FULL CO-OPERATION FROM THE MOTORING PUBLIC IN ADOPTING APPROPRIATE ANTI-THEFT MEASURES," MR LI SAID.

STATISTICS ON OTHER MAJOR CRIMES ARE:

#### HOMICIDE

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THERE WERE 108 HOMICIDES RECORDED IN 1992, COMPARED WITH 92 IN 1991. TWENTY-FOUR OF THE 1992 HOMICIDES RESULTED FROM THE SHEK KONG CAMP INCIDENT IN FEBRUARY 1992.

#### WOUNDING AND SERIOUS ASSAULT

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THERE WAS A DECREASE OF 9.7 PER CENT IN WOUNDINGS AND SERIOUS ASSAULTS, FROM 6,381 IN 1991 TO 5,764 IN 1992.

#### INDECENT ASSAULT ON FEMALE AND RAPE

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THERE WERE 116 RAPES REPORTED IN 1992, COMPARED WITH 114 IN 1991. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDECENT ASSUALTS ON FEMALES WAS 1,099, A MARGINAL DROP OF 0.2 PER CENT FROM 1991.

#### BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION

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THERE WAS AN WELCOME INCREASE OF 22.8 PER CENT IN BLACKMAIL TO 883 CASES, FROM 719 IN 1991. CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION CASES TOTALLED 519, A RISE OF 26.6 PER CENT OVER 1991.

/BURGLARY .....

BURGLARY  
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A TOTAL OF 13,596 BURGLARIES WERE REPORTED IN 1992, A DECREASE OF 2.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 13,898 RECORDED IN 1991. OF THESE FIGURES, 53.8 PER CENT AND 56.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WERE BURGLARIES AGAINST DOMESTICE PREMISES.

THE VICTIMS OF BURGLARIES SUFFERED PROPERTY LOSSES AMOUNTING TO HK\$400 MILLION, COMPARED WITH HK\$353 MILLION IN 1991.

TRIAD RELATED CRIME  
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THERE WERE 4,015 CRIMES REPORTED IN 1992 WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO BE TRIAD-RELATED, COMPARED WITH 3,340 IN 1991. MOST OF THESE CASES RELATED TO UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES, WOUNDINGS, SERIOUS ASSAULTS, BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION.

SHOPTHEFT  
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THERE WERE 6,362 SHOPTHEFTS REPORTED, A RISE OF 5.9 PER CENT OVER 1991.

SNATCHING  
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A TOTAL OF 1,685 SNATCHINGS WERE RECORDED IN 1992, A FALL OF 15.5 PER CENT FROM 1991.

PICKPOCKETING  
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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PICKPOCKETING CASES WAS 675, A DECREASE OF 13.4 PER CENT FROM 1991.

JUVENILES AND YOUNG OFFENDERS  
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THERE WERE 6,533 JUVENILES (UNDER 16 YEARS OLD) AND 7,656 YOUNG PERSONS (16 AND UNDER 21 YEARS OLD) ARRESTED FOR CRIMES IN 1992. THESE FIGURES COMPARE WITH 7,044 AND 8,165 RESPECTIVELY IN 1991.

## MORE PRIORITY ACCORDED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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THE GOVERNMENT'S INCREASED PRIORITY ACCORDED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN RECENT YEARS BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THE TERRITORY IN TERMS OF HEALTH AND AN AGREEABLE PLACE TO LIVE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A BASIS FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES LAST YEAR.

DR REED SAID MUCH STILL REMAINED TO BE DONE, ADDING THAT SUCCESSES ACHIEVED SINCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1986 PROVED THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE TO ARREST ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION, AND TO TURN THE TIDE".

"THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION IN HONG KONG AT THE BEGINNING OF 1993 IS A FAR CRY FROM WHAT IT WAS ONLY TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO," HE SAID.

"THE RESULTS OF SEVEN YEARS' PLANNING, INVESTIGATING AND MONITORING IS NOW BEING TURNED INTO CONCRETE ACTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE SEWAGE AND THE WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION TO CONTROL AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, NOISE AND CHEMICAL WASTE," DR REED SAID.

"APART FROM THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE VARIOUS SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS, THE MAJOR CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI ISLAND WAS MECHANICALLY COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1992 AND IS NOW BEING COMMISSIONED," HE SAID.

THE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE SEWAGE AND SOLID WASTE PROGRAMMES IS REFLECTED IN THE EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH HAS RISEN FROM UNDER \$500 MILLION AT THE TIME EPD BECAME RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE PROGRAMMES, TO OVER \$2,000 MILLION IN 1992, A FOURFOLD INCREASE.

"THIS SURELY IS CLEAR ENOUGH EVIDENCE OF THE SHIFT THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES," DR REED SAID.

ON POLLUTION CONTROL, DR REED SAID: "LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF THE PAPER AND TURNED INTO ACTION IN 1992."

"THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY ENFORCED IN SEVEN OUT OF 10 WATER CONTROL ZONES (WCZs), PICKING UP AND CORRECTING THOUSANDS OF POLLUTING DISCHARGES WHICH AMOUNT, IN TOTAL, TO DIVERTING THE RAW SEWAGE PRODUCED BY NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE."

THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL PROGRAMME HAS BEEN EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL. IN 1992 ALONE, DR REED SAID, THE PROGRAMME REMOVED THE EQUIVALENT OF THE RAW SEWAGE FROM NEARLY 300,000 PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS STREAMS AND WATER COURSES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"WE HOPE TO EXTEND THESE EFFORTS TO REDUCE WATER POLLUTION IN 1993 BY DECLARING TWO MORE WCZs IN JUNE, WHICH WILL COVER THE FRINGES OF VICTORIA HARBOUR.

"WE WILL START PREPARING IN LATE 1993 FOR DECLARING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE VICTORIA HARBOUR WCZ," DR REED SAID.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1992 ALL NEW LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES AND PASSENGER CARS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO MEET STRINGENT EXHAUST EMISSION STANDARDS WHICH ARE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

"TOGETHER WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL IN APRIL 1991, THIS PUTS IN PLACE ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF OUR STRATEGY TO REDUCE MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS," DR REED SAID.

"WE MUST NOW MOVE ON TO TACKLE VIGOROUSLY THE KNOTTY PROBLEM OF DIESEL ENGINE EMISSIONS," HE ADDED.

NEW NOISE LIMITS FOR ALL COMPRESSORS AND PNEUMATIC DRILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN 1992.

"NO ONE CAN DISPUTE THAT HONG KONG IS STILL A NOISY PLACE, BUT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT EITHER THAT IT IS A GREAT DEAL LESS NOISY THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHOUT THE CONTROLS WE ARE NOW ENFORCING ON PILING NOISE, CONSTRUCTION NOISE IN GENERAL AND COMPRESSORS AND DRILLS IN PARTICULAR, AS WELL AS CONTROLS ON VENTILATION SYSTEM NOISE," DR REED SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT DESPITE THE EMPHASIS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT, WORK MUST CONTINUE UNABATED ON DEVELOPING PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK.

"IN 1992, WE HAVE SEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF REGULATIONS TO CONTROL CHEMICAL WASTE, AMENDMENT BILLS FOR THE WATER POLLUTION AND THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, A REVAMPING OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A DUMPING AT SEA BILL, FORMULATION OF REGULATIONS TO FURTHER CONTROL SUBSTANCES THAT CHANGE THE OZONE LAYER AND DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BILL," HE ADDED.

"ANOTHER WELCOME DEVELOPMENT IS THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS HAS FINALLY BECOME GENERALLY ACCEPTED DURING 1992 AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS," DR REED SAID.

THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER, INTRODUCED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ALSO INTO THE POLICY MAKING PROCESS, WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PAPERS MUST CONTAIN A "GREEN PARAGRAPH" ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION.

"THIS WAS COMPLEMENTED IN NOVEMBER WITH A REQUIREMENT THAT ALL PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE PAPERS SHOULD CONTAIN A GREEN PARAGRAPH," DR REED ADDED.

/"THE GREATER .....

"THE GREATER ACCEPTABILITY AND APPLICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A GREAT STEP FORWARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE NOW ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE THAT ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT," HE POINTED OUT.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE TREND TOWARDS MORE OPENNESS AND MORE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT," DR REED CONCLUDED.

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON TUESDAY  
(JANUARY 12) UP TO 4.30 PM  
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1. HEARING AT COURT NO. 10 IN THE SUPREME COURT BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY.  
  
(NOTE: SIX WITNESSES WERE EXAMINED. FOUR OF THEM WERE EXAMINED IN "OPEN" SESSION. TWO OF THEM WERE, IN CONFORMITY WITH THEIR WISHES, EXAMINED IN "CLOSED" SESSION. A SEVENTH WITNESS WILL BE EXAMINED IN "OPEN" SESSION STARTING AT 5.10 PM.)
2. FURTHER FACT-FINDING WORK FOR THE INTERIM REPORT.

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FOUR SITES SOLD FOR \$1,510 MILLION  
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FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,510 MILLION IN A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT IS AT THE JUNCTION OF SHUNG LING STREET AND YI LUN STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON. IT WAS BOUGHT BY BRIGHT SUCCESS INVESTMENT LTD AT \$705 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$550 MILLION.

THE LOT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,093 SQUARE METRES, IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL AND PETROL-FILLING STATION) PURPOSES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 30,000 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1996.

THE SECOND LOT, IN COX'S ROAD, KOWLOON, WAS SOLD TO AMAZING WAVE INVESTMENT AT \$360 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$210 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,395 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES. THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 5,270 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE THIRD LOT, IN TOWN PARK ROAD SOUTH, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS BOUGHT BY GOODFAITH LTD AT \$345 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$320 MILLION.

THE LOT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 10,500 SQUARE METRES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES. A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 18,900 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE REMAINING LOT, IN AREA 29A, TAI LIN PAI ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS SOLD TO CHINABEST PACIFIC LTD AT \$100 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$45 MILLION.

HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 916 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES. THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 5,220 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE THEATRE OF THE CITY HALL AND CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JAMES HUGHES.

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#### HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, AT \$168,739 MILLION, INCREASED BY 18% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1991, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1% TO \$20,327 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 21% TO \$63,305 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 15% TO \$83,632 MILLION.

MEANWHILE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20% TO \$85,107 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992, AT \$1,704 BILLION, INCREASED BY 22% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2% TO \$212 BILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 30% TO \$627 BILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21% TO \$839 BILLION WHILE THAT OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 23% TO \$865 BILLION.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1992 WITH NOVEMBER 1991, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE (+45%), CHINA (+12%), TAIWAN (+5%) AND THE NETHERLANDS (+2%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN (-17%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-12%), FRANCE (-11%), CANADA (-9%), THE UNITED STATES (-8%) AND GERMANY (-4%).

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, CHINA, TAIWAN, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA INCREASED BY 17%, 15%, 7%, 5% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE NETHERLANDS AND JAPAN DECREASED, BY 20%, 16%, 9%, 9% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,034 MILLION OR 3%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$1,897 MILLION OR 11%); AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$838 MILLION OR 5%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,126 MILLION OR 15%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$1,117 MILLION OR 5%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1992 WITH NOVEMBER 1991, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS: MALAYSIA (+49%), SINGAPORE (+35%), JAPAN (+33%), THE UNITED STATES (+30%), GERMANY (+26%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+25%), ITALY (+19%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+18%), TAIWAN (+16%) AND CHINA (+12%).

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS WERE: GERMANY (+32%), JAPAN (+30%), MALAYSIA (+30%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+27%), ITALY (+26%), SINGAPORE (+23%), CHINA (+22%), THE UNITED STATES (+19%), TAIWAN (+18%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+16%).

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$16,189 MILLION OR 23%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$15,157 MILLION OR 30%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$14,232 MILLION OR 97%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$13,989 MILLION OR 26%); CLOTHING (BY \$13,903 MILLION OR 23%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$8,206 MILLION OR 10%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1992 WITH NOVEMBER 1991, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 39%, 35% AND 21% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT TO GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND CANADA ALSO INCREASED, BY 10%, 10%, 9%, 8% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TAIWAN DECREASED, BY 9% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, CHINA, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, JAPAN, FRANCE AND SINGAPORE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 41%, 38%, 36%, 32%, 29%, 22% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT TO TAIWAN AND GERMANY ALSO INCREASED, BY 7% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED BY 8%.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$23,660 MILLION OR 36%); CLOTHING (BY \$14,704 MILLION OR 26%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$11,593 MILLION OR 31%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$9,846 MILLION OR 24%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$9,518 MILLION OR 42%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$9,087 MILLION OR 17%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1992 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE NOVEMBER 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$52 A COPY AROUND JANUARY 18.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED AT: THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
UNITED STATES	5,673	- 8	59,251	+ 5
CHINA	5,523	+ 12	56,079	+ 15
GERMANY	1,384	- 4	13,976	- 20
UNITED KINGDOM	978	- 12	11,210	- 9
JAPAN	853	- 17	10,146	- 5
SINGAPORE	981	+ 45	9,360	+ 17
TAIWAN	628	+ 5	5,897	+ 7
CANADA	378	- 9	4,582	+ 2
NETHERLANDS	385	+ 2	4,328	- 9
FRANCE	258	- 11	2,826	- 16

/TABLE 2 .....

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,425	- 6	69,317	+ 3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,811	- 18	20,424	- 5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,158	+ 38	18,580	+ 11
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,895	+ 14	18,322	+ 5
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,659	- 4	17,228	- 6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,515	- 11	15,721	- 2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,105	- 8	11,859	- 15
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	365	- 18	4,390	- 2
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	253	- 11	3,093	- 3
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	352	+ 68	2,918	+ 29

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
CHINA	31,042	+ 12	322,578	+ 22
JAPAN	15,128	+ 33	149,416	+ 30
TAIWAN	7,911	+ 16	78,917	+ 18
UNITED STATES	6,326	+ 30	62,996	+ 19
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,754	+ 25	40,292	+ 27
SINGAPORE	3,518	+ 35	35,187	+ 23
GERMANY	1,915	+ 26	19,823	+ 32
UNITED KINGDOM	1,736	+ 18	17,416	+ 16
ITALY	1,339	+ 19	13,308	+ 26
MALAYSIA	1,175	+ 49	11,634	+ 30

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,554	*	92,783	+ 10
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,235	+ 35	86,504	+ 23
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,026	+ 15	73,104	+ 23
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7,399	+ 37	68,444	+ 26
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,415	+ 20	65,884	+ 30

/PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS .....

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,822	+ 11	41,315	+ 18
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,370	+ 35	30,691	+ 44
ROAD VEHICLES	4,058	+158	28,900	+ 97
FOOTWEAR	2,763	+ 21	28,563	+ 42
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	2,508	+ 6	26,857	+ 23

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

MAJOR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
CHINA	20,642	+ 39	189,669	+ 38
UNITED STATES	12,743	+ 10	136,688	+ 36
JAPAN	3,469	+ 9	34,343	+ 29
GERMANY	3,035	+ 10	29,661	+ 2
TAIWAN	2,355	- 5	23,978	+ 7
UNITED KINGDOM	1,943	+ 35	18,731	+ 41
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,125	- 9	12,433	- 8
SINGAPORE	1,268	+ 8	12,406	+ 13
CANADA	827	+ 3	10,201	+ 32
FRANCE	948	+ 21	9,985	+ 22

/TABLE 6 .....

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 OVER NOV 91 ( % )	JAN-NOV 1992 (HKD MN)	JAN-NOV 92 OVER JAN-NOV 91 ( % )
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,219	+ 12	89,545	+ 36
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,685	+ 15	71,392	+ 26
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,057	+ 5	61,620	+ 17
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,790	+ 26	50,702	+ 24
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	5,466	+ 37	48,725	+ 31
FOOTWEAR	2,978	+ 22	32,003	+ 42
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,758	+ 30	26,778	+ 39
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,785	- 5	21,689	+ 21
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,468	+ 34	19,660	+ 41
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	1,419	+ 62	15,243	+ 68

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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NUMBER OF FLAT SALE DROPS LAST YEAR

\* \* \* \* \*

REPORTING ON HIS DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES (INCLUDING THE NEW TERRITORIES) FOR 1992, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE DECREASED BY 23.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1991.

IN ALL, 135,261 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE AGREEMENTS INCREASED BY 13.1 PER CENT FROM \$285.24 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$322.50 BILLION IN 1992.

DURING 1992, 157,920 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, THE MAJORITY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, COMPARED WITH 182,997 DURING 1991, SHOWING A DECREASE OF 13.7 PER CENT.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS INCREASED BY 30.4 PER CENT FROM \$227.01 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$296.06 BILLION.

THERE WERE 10,249 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS 52.9 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1991.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS INCREASED BY 41.8 PER CENT FROM \$41.07 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$58.23 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 117 BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 168,478 OTHER MORTGAGES WERE REGISTERED DURING 1992, COMPARED WITH 156 AND 213,081 RESPECTIVELY IN 1991.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED DURING 1992 DECREASED BY 35.3 PER CENT FROM \$8.96 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$5.79 BILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DECREASED BY 3.9 PER CENT FROM \$92.11 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$88.54 BILLION.

MR GLEESON CAUTIONED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON THESE MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 11.6 PER CENT FROM \$40.47 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$45.16 BILLION.

SEARCHES BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING 1992 TOTALLED 3,207,280, UP 1.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1991.

/FROM JANUARY .....

## FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1992:

- \* A TOTAL OF 2,584 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY HIS DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME;
- \* THERE WERE 1,136 SURRENDERS AND RESUMPTIONS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$1.17 BILLION PAID ON BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES;
- \* A TOTAL OF 1,367 GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPLETED, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES:
  - (A) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JANUARY 15, 1992 OF A 5,535-SQUARE METRE SITE (KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 10999) IN TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON TO TERRIFIC INVESTMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,250,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (INCLUDING A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUT EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, RESIDENTIAL AND PETROL-FILLING STATION) PURPOSES;
  - (B) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 25, 1992 OF A 21,060-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 124) IN AREA 15, TAI PO TO STYLE GIANT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$800,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
  - (C) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 25, 1992 OF A 8,811-SQUARE METRE SITE (KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 11002) IN WYLIE ROAD, KOWLOON TO EASTLIGHT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,190,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
  - (D) SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER ON MARCH 13, 1992 OF A 37,550-SQUARE METRE SITE (TUEN MUN TOWN LOT NO. 360) IN AREA 44, TUEN MUN TO BRICHWOOD COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$700,300,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING HOTEL, CINEMA AND GODOWN) PURPOSES UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP (PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION) SCHEME;
  - (E) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MARCH 13, 1992 OF A 19,830-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 123) IN AREA 15, SHUI WAI, TAI PO TO PROMAX LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$900,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
  - (F) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON APRIL 28, 1992 OF A 24,630-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 115) IN AREA 30, TAI PO TO SAMOVER COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$930,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
  - (G) SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MAY 18, 1992 OF A 14,540-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 116) IN AREA 30, TAI PO TO TIME BANK LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$533,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, RETAIL SHOPS, SUPERMARKET AND PUBLIC CAR PARK PURPOSES; AND

/(H) GRANT ON .....

(H) GRANT ON OCTOBER 1, 1992 OF A 37,520-SQUARE METRE SITE (FANLING SHEUNG SHUI TOWN LOT NO. 36) IN TIN PING, SHEUNG SHUI TO MARVEL FUNDS COMPANY LIMITED BY WAY OF INSITU EXCHANGE AT A PREMIUM OF \$633,420,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS ROSE BY FOUR PER CENT FROM 1,447,391 IN DECEMBER 1991 TO 1,505,003 IN DECEMBER 1992, AN INTERESTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATOR.

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ILLEGALLY IMPORTED CORAL SEIZED

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), IN A JOINT OPERATION WITH THE MARINE POLICE YESTERDAY (MONDAY), SEIZED A LARGE AMOUNT OF STONY CORALS AND GIANT CLAMS SUSPECTED TO BE ILLEGALLY IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER OF AFD, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, SAID STONY CORAL AND GIANT CLAM WERE ENDANGERED SPECIES, THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF WHICH WERE CONTROLLED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE.

"ANYONE WHO WISHES TO IMPORT AND EXPORT THESE ITEMS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR AS PERSONAL EFFECT MUST APPLY FOR A LICENCE IN ADVANCE FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT."

THE OPERATION YESTERDAY TOOK PLACE AROUND 5 PM.

IN A SEARCH CONDUCTED ON BOARD A CARGO JUNK OFF SAI KUNG, AFD OFFICERS FOUND 70 CARTONS OF STONY CORALS AND TWO CARTONS OF GIANT CLAMS WITH NO IMPORT LICENCE.

"THIS IS THE GREATEST SEIZURE OF SUCH ITEMS MADE BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SINCE THE CONTROL CAME INTO EFFECT IN 1989," MR CHEUNG SAID.

THE STONY CORALS SEIZED WERE ABOUT 300 PIECES, WEIGHING 1,500 KILOGRAMS, AFTER TREATMENT, THE SEIZED GOODS WOULD HAVE A MARKET PRICE OF ABOUT \$60,000.

THREE PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE MIGHT BE CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LATER.

MR CHEUNG REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC VISITING OVERSEAS COUNTRIES DURING THE COMING LUNAR NEW YEAR NOT TO BRING BACK ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG.

"ANYONE WHO TRIES TO ILLEGALLY BRING IN ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES, INCLUDING LIVE AND STUFFED SPECIMENS AS WELL AS PARTS AND DERIVATIVES, WILL BE PROSECUTED."

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 297 SEIZURES IN CONNECTION WITH ILLEGAL IMPORT AND POSSESSION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LAST YEAR, OF WHICH 38 WERE RELATED TO ILLEGAL IMPORT OF STONY CORALS.

OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES INVOLVED WERE MAINLY PARROTS, BIRD-WINGED BUTTERFLIES, STUFFED SEA TURTLES, CROCODILES (STUFFED SPECIMENS AND THEIR MEAT), PANGOLINS, OWLS, BIRDS OF PREY, SLOW LORIS, GIANT SALAMANDER, WILD ORCHIDS AND IVORY.

ON CONVICTION, OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 ON FIRST OFFENCE AND \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTH'S IMPRISONMENT FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE.

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NEW ACAN SETUP ANNOUNCED

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THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MS ANISSA WONG, TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED AND RE-APPOINTED 10 MEMBERS TO THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), THE ADVISORY BODY ON ANTI-DRUG POLICY AND PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG.

THE APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

THE NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN; MR JUSTEIN WONG; AND MR EDWARD PONG CHONG.

THE RE-APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE MRS PEGGY LAM PEI YU-DJA; DR EDWARD LEONG CHE-HUNG; MR ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP; PROFESSOR CHEN CHAR-NEI; MR LUKE YIP JING-PING; MISS JOYCE CHANG SAU-HAN; AND MRS EVA KO LI BIK-CHI.

ACAN WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED THIS YEAR TO COMPRISE LARGELY NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS, AND ALL OF THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS, EXCEPT THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS AND DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM ACAN AS FROM JANUARY THIS YEAR.

OTHER OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND THE ACAN WHEN REQUIRED.

UNDER THE NEW STRUCTURE, ACAN WILL HAVE THREE SUB-COMMITTEES, NAMELY, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION; PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY; AND RESEARCH -- A NEW SUB-COMMITTEE TO CO-ORDINATE RESEARCH INTO DRUG-RELATED MATTERS.

IN ADDITION, A COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, CALLED DRUG CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, IS TO BE FORMED.

IT WILL PROVIDE A FORUM FOR REGULAR MEETINGS WITH ALL OF THOSE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO ARE INVOLVED IN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, RESEARCH AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND TO REFLECT THEIR VIEWS TO ACAN OR ONE OF ITS SUB-COMMITTEES.

/PROFESSOR CHEN .....

PROFESSOR CHEN CHAR-NEI IS APPOINTED TO REPLACE DR GERALD CHOA AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ACAN WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR. DR CHOA WHO HAVE SERVED FOR 10 YEARS IS TO RETIRE FROM THE COMMITTEE.

AS REGARDS CHAIRMEN FOR THE THREE SUB-COMMITTEES, MR ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IS APPOINTED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SUB-COMMITTEE; MRS EVA KO LI BIK-CHI IS APPOINTED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE; AND MR LUKE YIP JING-PING IS APPOINTED TO REPLACE MR PAO PING-WING AS CHAIRMAN OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

MR PAO WILL STEP DOWN AFTER SERVING THE COMMITTEE FOR SIX YEARS.

ACAN WAS FIRST FORMED IN 1965 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING.

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SECRETARY FOR WORKS VISITS EUROPE

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THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, LEFT HONG KONG LAST (MONDAY) NIGHT FOR A VISIT TO EUROPE WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO ENGLAND, COLOGNE AND BRUSSELS.

IN ENGLAND, MR BLAKE WILL SEE PROGRESS ON WORK FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE, NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALIST MANUFACTURERS.

HE WILL BE IN NORTH ENGLAND TO SEE STEELWORK FABRICATION AND MANUFACTURING OF STEEL WIRE FOR THE BRIDGE CABLES.

WHEN COMPLETED, TSING MA WILL BE THE WORLD'S LARGEST ROAD AND RAIL SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

HIS PROGRAMME IN ENGLAND INCLUDES A BRIEFING ON MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF THE EUROTUNNEL PROJECT.

HE WILL ALSO DELIVER AN ADDRESS AT THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, DESCRIBING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG INCLUDING THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

MR BLAKE WILL TRAVEL TO COLOGNE IN GERMANY ON JANUARY 26 TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE COLOGNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND WILL SPEAK AT A DINNER OF THE GERMAN-CHINESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

HE WILL THEN TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS TO ADDRESS THE BELGIUM-HONG KONG SOCIETY.

AT EACH OF THESE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, MR BLAKE WILL BE DESCRIBING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, WHICH UNDERPINS HONG KONG'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

KEEN INTEREST IS BEING SHOWN IN WHAT WILL BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURAL PROGRAMMES ATTEMPTED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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SEMINAR TO PROMOTE WORK-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRES

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SEMINAR NEXT MONTH TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF WORK-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHEN ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF PO LEUNG KUK KWAI FONG NURSERY.

A WORK-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRE IS AN EMPLOYER-SPONSORED CHILD CARE CENTRE, SET UP FOR THE USE OF EMPLOYEES.

OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES INDICATED THAT THESE CENTRES HAD IMPROVED STAFF MORALE, REDUCED STAFF TURNOVER AND ATTRACTED MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE ORGANISATIONS, WHICH IN TURN ENHANCED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY, MR STRACHAN SAID.

"THIS CONCEPT OF WORK-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRE IS NOT NEW IN HONG KONG.

"THE HONG KONG BANK IS THE LOCAL PIONEER. ITS CHILD CARE CENTRE HAS ENABLED IT TO RETAIN STAFF, INCREASE STAFF RECRUITMENT, ENHANCE MORALE AND BOOST THE IMAGE OF THE ORGANISATION," HE SAID.

ATTENDING THE SEMINAR WILL BE AN EXPERT FROM SINGAPORE WHO WILL DELIVER A SPEECH AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG BANK AND THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE WHO WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN PROVIDING AND RUNNING THE SERVICE.

"THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES IN THE TERRITORY DEPENDED ON OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT," MR STRACHAN STRESSED, ADDING THAT PO LEUNG KUK HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

THE ORGANISATION WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PARENTS AND GAIN SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE IN CHILD CARE SERVICES AND DEDICATION IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY, MR STRACHAN SAID.

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NEW CLINIC FOR YUEN CHAU KOK

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THE NEW YUEN CHAU KOK CLINIC AT 29 CHAP WAI KON STREET IN SHA TIN WILL BEGIN OPERATION FROM JANUARY 28.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE CLINIC WOULD PROVIDE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

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 SATURDAYS.

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FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGE FOR FLOATING POPULATION

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS LAUNCHED A FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN IN TYPHOON SHELTERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY AND BOAT DWELLERS WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

FIRE OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DIVISION HAVE BEEN, SINCE YESTERDAY (MONDAY), VISITING TYPHOON SHELTERS IN ABERDEEN, SHAU KEI WAN, CHAI WAN, CAUSEWAY BAY, YAU MA TEI, CHEUNG CHAU AND TUEN MUN ON FIREBOATS TO CONVEY THE FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGE THROUGH BROADCAST AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKLETS.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL LAST UNTIL JANUARY 29.

"WE CHOOSE THIS TIME BECAUSE MOST FISHERMEN ARE RETURNING TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AND THAT THE NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FIVE TIMES THAN THE NORMAL DAYS IN THE TYPHOON SHELTERS," SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER (MARINE), MR SUNG SAU-MAN, SAID.

THE ANNUAL EXERCISE IS TO ADVISE THEM HOW TO PREVENT FIRE OUTBREAK AND THE PROCEDURE TO BE TAKEN DURING AN EMERGENCY.

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PHOTO CONTEST TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE IS INVITING ENTRIES TO A PHOTO CONTEST THAT PROMOTES HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS.

ENTITLED "HEALTHY LIFESTYLE", THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO STUDY, WORK OR LIVE IN KWUN TONG.

THERE WILL BE NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES SUBMITTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT.

THE CONTEST COMPRISES TWO SECTIONS: PUBLIC AND STUDENT. THE STUDENT SECTION WILL BE SUB-DIVIDED INTO JUNIOR (SECONDARY 1 TO 3) AND SENIOR (SECONDARY 4 TO 7) SECTIONS.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE OF 3R-SIZE AND UNMOUNTED. NEGATIVES ARE ALSO REQUIRED.

EACH ENTRY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED WITH A TITLE OF NO MORE THAN 20 WORDS. THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED BEFORE MARCH 7 THIS YEAR.

THE THREE WINNERS OF EACH GROUP WILL EACH RECEIVE A CAMERA AND CASH TOTTALLING \$300 TO \$1,000. THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO MERITORIOUS PRIZES.

WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY AT A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN MARCH.

/ALL ENTRIES .....

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993

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ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SENT IN PERSON OR BY MAIL TO THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM HEADQUARTERS, LG1, NGAU TAU KOK JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC, 60 TING ON STREET, NGAU TAU KOK NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 7.

THE PHOTO CONTEST IS SUPPORTED BY SHUN LEE YIN NGAI SOCIETY, KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT, LIONS CLUB OF KWUN TONG, KWUN TONG SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

IT IS SPONSORED BY MINOLTA HONG KONG LIMITED AND HONG KONG BANK FOUNDATION, DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROGRAMME.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 753 8094.

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131 VM'S RETURNED HOME TODAY

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A GROUP OF 131 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 53 MEN, 31 WOMEN, 27 BOYS AND 20 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 142ND BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BRINGS TO 376 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 26,688 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	12 JANUARY 1993
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q302
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 3,444MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 800MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.77 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.77 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 61 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.80 PCT

/HONG KONG .....

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 18 JANUARY 1993-

TENDER DATE	19 JANUARY 1993	19 JANUARY 1993
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q303	H356
ISSUE DATE	20 JANUARY 1993	20 JANUARY 1993
MATURITY DATE	21 APRIL 1993	21 JULY 1993
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160MN	HKD 300+60MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,350
REVERSAL OF LAF	+150
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.4 \*-0.2\* 12.1.93

/HONG KONG .....

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.03 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.97	4.63
1 MONTH	3.33 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.90	4.85
3 MONTHS	3.74 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.94	5.14
6 MONTHS	3.99 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.87	5.34
12 MONTHS	4.56 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,986 MN

CLOSED 12 JANUARY 1993

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