DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor appeals to Lau Chin-shek to withdraw resignation threat

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The following is part of the transcript of the press conference given by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo today (Thursday):

Brent Sommerville, Reuters: Yesterday the Democratic Party's Lau resigned from the Legislative Council in Hong Kong. He was protesting at the Hong Kong Government's withdrawal of the Employment Bill. I wonder do you have any reaction to his resignation and as a former party president, how would you describe the tactic of withdrawing a bill if the parliamentary majority decides that an amendment should change it? Do you think it's good tactic in terms of politics?

Governor: Let me first of all say that I very much hope that Lau Chin-shek withdraws his threat to leave the Legislative Council. I say that for this simple reason, that he is widely respected and an effective Legislative Councillor. He is respected even by those who don't agree with him. You see that in some of the tributes that have been paid to him in the newspapers today. He has worked over the years for a number of important social and industrial causes, some directly related to the rights of trade unionists in Hong Kong, some related to issues like safety and welfare of workers, about which I feel as strongly as he does, some in a broader humanitarian political context. He is one of best known labour leaders and representatives in Hong Kong. He is one of the best known legislators and I would appeal to him not to leave the Legislative Council, but to stay and continue to contribute as much as he can to Hong Kong. Hong Kong needs people with his integrity and his drive and his enthusiasm for so many good causes.

I want to come to the second question which is also extremely important. What is the issue at stake on this occasion? Is it a fundamental issue about the rights of the Legislative Council? I don't believe it is. the Legislative Council over the year amends in scores, hundreds of ways legislation put before it. There is no question about the Legislative Council's ability to say no or to change things.

But here we had something which raises another fundamental point. Our existing mechanisms for dealing with labour relations issues. We have a Labour Advisory Board which had proposed generous, more generous terms for severance and long term pay. A Board which brings together elected representatives of labour and of employers. I don't think that it would have been right simply to throw over their advice.

You say as the former chairman of a party, can I imagine that sort of thing happening elsewhere? To which the simple answer is: Yes I can.

If, in the United Kingdom, in a labour dispute, the advisory committee, ACAS, proposed a way of settling it agreeable to both sides which involved legislative provisions and during the committee stage of the bill those provisions were changed in the house of commons, I think it would be perfectly natural for the government to refuse to go ahead with the bill and to go back to the employers and employees and try to resolve the issue. That's what we are trying to do. We don't want to destroy labour relations machinery which has worked for Hong Kong extremely well down the years. We want to try to find some acceptable accommodation. In taking the measure we did in withdrawing the bill, we didn't invent some new procedure. We followed the agreed procedures of the Legislative Council.

But, finally, would there have been a better way of resolving the issue? Yes, there would have been. I wish we had won the vote. I wish we had been able to carry the Legislative Council with us. But we'll have to try to persuade them again, after having discussed the matter with the Labour Advisory Board on the basis of the debate and the discussion in the Legislative Council.

My official have dealt with this matter wholly reasonably. They have my full support. But like them, I hope that we can resolve it without further argument and like them, I'm sure, I very much hope Mr Lau Chin-shek will return to the Legislative Council because it will be the poorer without him.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

LAB to be consulted again on Employment Bill

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The Government will consult the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) within this month on the Employment (Amendment) Bill following the withdrawal of the bill yesterday at the Legislative Council.

Speaking to reporters after presiding at the Open Learning Institute's congregation today (Thursday), the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, said following that she hoped the Government would be in a position to put further proposals reflecting a consensus of the LAB before the Legislative Council.

"The LAB as you all know is the agreed and well-established mechanism for reaching a consensus on issues affecting employers and employees," Mrs Chan said.

"We do not believe that we should lightly set aside a consensus reached at the LAB."

On Mr Lau Chin-shek's intention to resign, Mrs Chan said he was a caring and well-respected member of the Legislative Council and had played a very critical role in putting forward the views of the labour sector.

"I have personally spoken with Mr Lau and urged him to reconsider his decision in the light of the wider public interest and I very much hope that he will rescind his decision to resign," she said.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Transcript of press session by Deputy to the Governor

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The following is a transcript of a press session by the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, after presiding at the Open Learning Institute's congregation today (Thursday).

Mrs Chan: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to say a few words about yesterday's debate in the Legislative Council on the Employment (Amendment) Bill. We very much regret the decision to withdraw this Bill. But we have done so temporarily for further consultation both within the Legislative Council and outside to take it really at the Labour Advisory Board.

This is the second time that we have actually put the amendment Bill before the Legislative Council following the last debate in July, at which members expressed certain views of further improvements. We took this issue back to the LAB and the package that we put yesterday to the Legislative Council was indeed a significant improvement on the further package.

The LAB as you all know is the agreed and well established mechanism for reaching a consensus on issues affecting employers and employees. And over the years, the LAB has played a critical role in maintaining harmonious relationship between the employers and the employees. And we do not believe that we should lightly set aside a consensus reached at the LAB. And that's why in the circumstances prevailing yesterday, we thought it necessary to withdraw the Bill and we would now consult the LAB within this month. Following that I very much hope that we would be in a position to put further proposals reflecting a consensus of the LAB before the Legislative Council.

I think that none of us wish to see this package of improvements to severance payments and long service payments delayed any longer than is necessary.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about Mr Lau Chin-shek's intention to resign. Mr Lau is a caring and well respected member of the Legislative Council. He has played a very critical role in putting forward the views of the labour sector. It is quite clear that his constituency wish him to continue to represent them in the Legislative Council. I have personally spoken with Mr Lau and urged him to reconsider his decision in the light of the wider public interest and I very much hope that he will rescind his decision to resign. Thank.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Governor opens Japan/HK Business Committee meeting

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday) officiated at the opening of the 17th joint plenary meeting of Hong Kong/Japan Business Co-operation Committee and Japan/Hong Kong Business Co-operation Committee.

Mr Patten stressed the strong economic and trade relationship between Japan and Hong Kong when addressing the leading Japan and Hong Kong businessmen who took part in the meeting.

He then called on Mr Masayoshi Takemura, the Minister of Finance and Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Minister for International Trade and Industry.

He also met Mr Shoichiro Toyoda, Chairman of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organisations) and other senior members of the organisation and was at a lunch co-hosted by Mr Toyoda and Mr Tomiichi Akiyama, Chairman of the Japan-Hong Kong Business Co-operation Committee in honour of him.

After lunch, he held a press conference at the Japan National Press Club. During the 90-minute session he touched on a wide range of issues on Hong Kong's future and Japan's involvement in Hong Kong.

Later in the afternoon, he met Mr Keizo Obuchi, Vice-President of Liberal Democratic Party and Mr Yosuhiro Nakasone, former prime minister before he arrived at a dinner hosted in his honour by Mr Kunihiko Saito, Administrative Vice- Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The second day of his visit to Tokyo ended when he appeared in a top-rating television news programme in the evening.

Tomorrow, Mr and Mrs Patten will have an audience with the Emperor and Empress in the Imperial Palace. This is the first time a Hong Kong Governor will be so honoured.

Before returning to Hong Kong tomorrow evening, the Governor will have a busy day meeting the Japan/Hong Kong Parliamentarian League, former prime minister, Mr Tsutomu Hata and President of New Frontier Party (Shinshinto), Mr Toshiki Kaifa.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Exco approves changes to TV broadcasters' operating framework

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The Governor-in-Council has approved certain changes to Hong Kong's broadcasting operating environment after having considered the recommendations of the Administration on completion of the 1994 review of the commercial and satellite television broadcasting services, the Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr James So, said today (Thursday).

Mr So added that the changes that had been approved following the current review include:

(a) The Cantonese language restrictions on Hutchvision's remaining free-to-air channels should be lifted and no Cantonese language restrictions should be imposed on similar regional free-to-air satellite television broadcasts that are uplinked from Hong Kong;

(b) No further changes should be made to the royalty payments charged to ATV and TVB in the light of the prevailing competitive conditions;

(c) That upon application to the Governor-in- Council and subject to approval of the application in the public interest by the Governor-in-Council, a local television broadcasting licensee may acquire any level of interest in a satellite television uplink and downlink licensee; and

(d) The introduction of a legislative provision on free competition and the introduction of full-cost recovery licence fees for broadcasting licensees should be approved in principle.

Speaking at a press conference to give details of the review, Mr So said the Executive Council had also directed that as part of the review in 1996 on deregulating the broadcasting environment upon the expiry of Wharf Cable's exclusivity period, the Administration should address more thoroughly the question on the future of English language channels on commercial television, that is TVB and ATV.

Following on the changes to the broadcasting operating environment, the Governor-in-Council has given approval in principle to grant a 12-year licence to the Galaxy Uplink Limited, a subsidiary of TVB, to establish and operate ground facilities in Hong Kong to transmit and receive television signals comprising the Galaxy regional satellite broadcasting service.

In giving this approval, the Governor-in-Council has fully considered the benefits that the proposed service will bring to Hong Kong and the region, and has concluded that it would be in the public interest to grant this approval.

Mr So said the Galaxy service would enhance Hong Kong's status as a regional broadcasting centre, widen the choice of programmes to the region, bring in overseas broadcasting expertise to Hong Kong as well as create new jobs locally.

Mr So added that the project would expand the export of Hong Kong produced programmes and emphasised that it was a positive development that Hong Kong's major domestic broadcaster was participating in the new and important field of international satellite broadcasting.

Galaxy initially plans to uplink three channels which comprise general entertainment, sports and drama programmes in English and Putonghua. The signals will be transmitted to the Asia-Pacific region using Apstar 1.

Mr So said the Administration would start the licence negotiation with TVB shortly.

He said the Administration would consult China in the normal manner in granting this licence to Galaxy.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

TV licence mid-term review results announced

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The following is issued on behalf of the Broadcasting Authority:

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) today (Thursday) announced the results of a mid-term review of the licences of ATV and TVB.

The Chairman of BA, Sir Roger Lobo, said at a press conference: "We have completed a survey into people's viewing habits; conducted three public hearings at which the public was invited along to tell us what they thought about the performance of ATV and TVB.

"We have met with the licensees themselves, as well as other interested parties such as Legislative Council and our own public advisers, and gathered a lot of statistical information on the performance of the licensees," he said.

In the course of the review, the BA has received a tremendous amount of feedback, information and co-operation and has been able to conclude its review and make its recommendations on time.

Sir Roger said: "Our recommendations have been endorsed by the Governor-in-Council and we will now move to implement the changes to the licences and codes of practice as expeditiously as possible.

"We have tried to strike a balance between satisfying the public's demands for an improved local commercial television service and the licensees' right to creative freedom and independence from unwarranted Government intervention."

In response to public demand, the BA will impose greater obligations on the licensees in some programming areas, such as in cultural, children's and advisory programmes.

The BA will also review and update its codes of practice to see if, for example, some of the new types of programmes, such as the very controversial and yet quite popular magazine- type programmes, can be better regulated.

Although many people have expressed the hope that the BA will do something about competitive scheduling, the BA has, after careful consideration, decided that to attempt to do so would be interfering too much with the scheduling arrangements of the licensees and would also probably be a breach of the licensees' freedom of expression under the Bill of Rights.

Sir Roger said: "We sincerely believe that through the recommendations we can amend the regulatory system governing commercial television to help ensure that a better product, and one that is more responsive to public aspirations, is delivered into people's homes."

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Mid-term review of ATV and TVB licences

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A spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch today (Thursday) explained the role of the Broadcasting Authority (BA) in conducting the mid-term review of the ATV and TVB licences earlier this year.

"The responsibility of conducting the review falls squarely on the BA," he said.

"The BA must conduct the review, and must report its findings direct to the Governor-in- Council."

He emphasised that despite this requirement the review had been held in as open a manner as possible.

Three public hearings had been held by the BA and surveys of viewing habits had been carried out in order to canvass public views.

The BA had listened to the views of 69 speakers at these hearings. Seven written submissions had been received from both interest groups and individuals. More than 400 members of the public attended.

The BA had made the recommendations to the Executive Council following the review as was required of it and there was absolutely no way that these recommendations could be divulged before they were submitted to the Executive Council, the spokesman said.

The Legislative Council was given several opportunities to comment on the issues in broad terms - through the hearings and in LegCo Recreation and Culture Panel meetings on the subject.

The Chairman of the BA had briefed Members at the last meeting on December 8.

In future, all mid-term reviews of broadcasting licences would be conducted by BA in the same way, that is, in an open and transparent manner through public hearings and public opinion surveys.

The Legislative Council would continue to be consulted in broad terms through its relevant panels but decisions arising from the reviews would only be made public after they had been considered by the Executive Council as was stipulated by law, he said.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Cedel establishes link with Hong Kong

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and Cedel, the international clearing and settlement company, jointly announced today that a link had been established between Cedel and the Central Moneymarkets Unit (CMU), the centralised clearing system for debt instruments operated by the HKMA.

The link will become operational tomorrow (Friday). Cedel has appointed Bankers Trust Company, Hong Kong, Cedel's current Euro-depositary in Hong Kong, as its agent to process transactions in connection with those instruments cleared by the CMU.

The Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam, said: "I am pleased that the linkage between the CMU and Cedel can be in operation well ahead of schedule. To develop linkages with large international clearing systems is part of HKMA's on-going efforts to develop the market infrastructure to promote the growth of the Hong Kong debt market."

Philippe Metoudi, Cedel's Head of the South East Asia region said: "The service will be Cedel's first link with a domestic clearing system in South East Asia, and is the beginning of further expansion of Cedel services to the key domestic markets of South East Asia.

"Cedel is committed to providing its global customer base with access to the key domestic markets of the world. The link with the CMU establishes a bridge to one of the most dynamic markets in the world and one which is set to enjoy continued growth over the next few years.

"We are also delighted to further our good working relationship with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority."

CMU, the centralised book-entry safekeeping, clearing and settlement system for Hong Kong dollar debt securities, has experienced rapid development in recent months.

Currently there are 134 Recognised Dealers for trading of Exchange Fund paper and 172 CMU Members for the trading of private sector debt securities.

Since September 1994, the amount of private sector debt securities held by the CMU has increased from HK$19.3 billion (US$2.5 billion) to HK$28.4 billion (US$3.6 billion).

Cedel is an International Central Securities Depositary which provides custody and settlement services for internationally traded debt and equity securities to nearly 3,000 customers worldwide.

Trades can be cleared and settled in over 64,000 securities in 25 currencies. At the end of October this year, Cedel posted a record level of deposits, and turnover for the year will be some US$7,000 billion. Cedel has been rapidly expanding its network of links across the world and currently provides access to 20 domestic markets.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Unemployment and underemployment figures for August - October

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The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August - October 1994 was 2.2%, and the underemployment rate was 1.3%, according to the latest labour force statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The provisional seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the period of September - November 1994 was 2.1%, while the provisional underemployment rate was 1.4%.

The latest figures suggest that the labour market remained generally tight in recent months.

During the period of August - October 1994, the number of unemployed persons, adjusted for variations in the number of first-time job-seekers, was estimated at 66,700, while the number of underemployed persons was estimated at 37,600.

The unemployment and underemployment statistics were obtained from a continuous General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The survey for August - October 1994 covered a quarterly sample of some 12,400 households or 42,900 persons, selected scientifically to represent the land-based civilian non-institutional population in Hong Kong.

Relevant data were obtained from the survey by interviewing each individual member aged 15 and above in the households sampled.

In the survey, the definitions used in measuring unemployment and underemployment follow closely those recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

Detailed analysis of labour force characteristics is given in the report on the General Household Survey which is published four times a year.

The next report covering the quarter ending September this year will be available at the Government Publications Centre by the end of this month at $24 a copy.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Concern over Garden Road sit-in

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In response to press enquiries, a Social Welfare Department spokesman today (Thursday) said the department was very concerned about the sit-in of some Tsuen Wan roof-top dwellers on Garden Road yesterday morning which was organised by a group of social workers.

"Social workers should observe the boundaries of the law in organising such activities. We strongly advise against the use of violence in any protest action in trying to achieve their goals," the spokesman said.

He said the department was looking into details of the incident. Of the 22 people arrested by police in yesterday's protest, some were reported to be social workers.

"As responsible social workers, the safety of the group being led in such activities should come first. At the same time inconvenience caused to the general public should be kept to the minimum," the spokesman added.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Schools encouraged to use one language for teaching

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The Government is encouraging schools to make a firm choice of either English or Chinese as the medium of instruction to help students to develop language proficiency, the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, said this today (Thursday).

Speaking at the Annual Speech Day of St Paul's Convent School, Mrs Chan said one of the main tasks of Hong Kong schools was to develop the communication skills of students.

"Language is the means by which we express ourselves, understand those around us and avoid chaos.

"And we must not forget that Hong Kong's success depends on our ability to communicate well with the outside world--mainly through English; and with China--mainly through Putonghua," she said.

Regarding the recent trend to use mixed language in Hong Kong, Mrs Chan pointed out that such language mixing did not help students to develop a high level of proficiency in either language.

She also said this should not be used at the expense of the ability to communicate effectively in English or Chinese when the need arose.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants

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A territory-wide operation against illegal immigration jointly mounted by the Police, the Labour and the Immigration Departments has resulted in the arrests of 96 people.

The operation is part of the Government's continuous effort to flush out illegal immigrants.

The 94 suspected illegal immigrants arrested by the Police have been referred to the Immigration Department. Those found to be illegal immigrants will be repatriated.

The other two persons were arrested by Immigration investigators.

A Government spokesman reiterated today (Thursday) that there was no question of any amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Our latest operation should drive home the point that there will be no change to this policy. Anyone foolish enough to believe otherwise is only cheating oneself," he said.

The spokesman stressed that apart from continuous checks throughout the territory, there was no let-up in anti-illegal immigration efforts at the border.

"A high state of vigilance will continue to be maintained by the Police and the security forces both at the land and sea borders," he said.

During the joint operation, which began at 5 am yesterday (Wednesday) and ended at 5 am today, the Police stepped up their identification spot checks in public places and carried out checks at suspicious locations throughout the territory.

On the labour front, Labour inspectors visited 2,340 establishments to weed out any illegal immigrants who may be working there and to check that employers fulfil their legal obligation of keeping proper records of their employees.

A total of 7,669 employees had their proof of identity checked.

Sixteen establishments were found not able to provide a record of employees for inspection.

The spokesman reminded employers that they could be fined up to $250,000 and jailed for up to three years if they were found to be employing illegal immigrants.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Board of Education visits Hong Kong Sea School

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The following is issued on behalf of the Board of Education:

Six members of the Board of Education, led by its chairman, Dr Tam Man-kwan, and accompanied by the Assistant Director of Education (Services), Mr Tse Kum-shing, today (Thursday) visited the Hong Kong Sea School in Stanley.

The other members were Mr Michael Hong Man-hoi, Mr Kenneth Ting Woo-shou, Sister Marie Remedios, Mrs Grace Hui Wong king-man, Mrs Minnie Lai Wei Kit-lin and Mr Sheung Kwok-chu.

The group was welcomed and briefed by the Chairman of the School Management Committee, Mr Cowen Chiu, and Principal, Mr Kwong Hung-piu.

The Hong Kong Sea School started operation as an aided residential and day practical school for unmotivated boys in September last year. The school curriculum places more emphasis on practical skills than academic knowledge in motivating potential dropouts.

The school offers traditional seamanship, steward training and practical studies including accommodation and catering, technical studies and commercial studies.

The school also provides training for students to sit for examinations leading to the award of Proficiency in Survival Craft Certificate and Efficient Deck Hand Certificate.

After observing students practising boat rowing at the Bradbury Pier, the group moved to the gymnasium where a class of Secondary Three students were having traditional naval physical training which aims at training students' co- operation, aptness and confidence.

The group also visited Computer Education Room, Music Room, Art and Design Room and Accommodation and Catering Workshop.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Last military babies leave hospital

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The following is issued on behalf of Joint Service Public Relations Staff:

The maternity unit at the British Military Hospital will close tomorrow (Friday) and the last three military babies, all girls, born there will leave with their mothers.

To mark the occasion, the last baby, the as- yet-unnamed daughter of Lance Corporal Tang Luen-fu of Hong Kong Military Service Corps and Mrs Tang Tam Fung-yee, will be presented with a silver spoon by the hospital.

The closure of the maternity unit was announced in October when it was also announced that the hospital would close completely in June next year.

Negotiations are underway with local hospitals for maternity care arrangements following the closure of the BMH unit but in the meantime, expectant mothers will be referred to either The Matilda Hospital or the Shatin Union to each of which an Army midwife has been appointed as Liaison Officer.

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Attention News Editors:

You are invited to send representatives to meet the last three mothers and babies at the Maternity Unit of the hospital tomorrow (Friday). Media representatives should arrive at the hospital's Reception no later than 11.15 am.

Details of the three babies are as follows:

Honsalic Thapa, born on December 7 to Mrs Bishnumaya Thapa, wife of Sergeant Hombahadur Thapa, Queen's Gurkha Signals. Weight 3.35 kg at birth.

Kayleigh Mackin, born on December 12 to Mrs Sandra Mackin, wife of Warrant Officer II John Mackin, Logistic Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps. Weight 3 kg at birth.

Unnamed daughter, born yesterday (Wednesday) to Mrs Tang Tam Fung-yee, wife of Lance Corporal Tang Luen-fu, Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Workshop on pricing mechanisms for spectrum management

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The Telecommunications Authority has recently appointed Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu HK Canada Management Consulting (in conjunction with the National Economic Research Associates) to conduct a consultancy study.

The objectives of the study are to review the current spectrum management framework and to advise the Authority on the feasibility of introduction of economic techniques to spectrum management in Hong Kong.

Following the public forum held on November 21 this year for the consultants to present their preliminary findings and proposals, an industry workshop will be held by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority for the consultants to present their draft final report on the study and to solicit feedback from the telecommunications industry.

The workshop will be held from 9 am to 1 pm on December 21 in Meeting Rooms 606 and 607, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

The maximum number of participants is 180 and reservation is first-come, first-served. Interested parties are requested to call 961 6645 or 961 6647 to reserve a place.

Copies of the draft final report will be distributed at the workshop. Additional copies will also be available at the Office of the Telecommunications Authority, 29th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong after December 22.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Tin Sum Fire Station to hold open day

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Tin Sum Fire Station in Sha Tin will be open to the public on Sunday (December 18) from 10 am to 6 pm.

The open day is part of the programme to publicise this year's fire prevention campaign.

There will be a display of fire-fighting equipment, fire appliances and an exhibition of historical photographs of the Fire Services.

Fire Protection Bureau officers will be on hand to give advice on fire protection and safety, and to distribute leaflets.

Visitors can also see fire drills and demonstrations on the use of equipment and fire extinguishers at 11 am and 3 pm.

The fire station is located at 2 Fu Kin Street, near the Hong Kong School of Motoring.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Closure of Kwun Tong illegal structure sought

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The Building Authority is seeking to close an unauthorised structure in Kwun Tong so that it can be demolished without endangering the occupants and the public.

The unauthorised structure used for storage is located on the roof of an industrial centre in 474-484 Kwun Tong Road.

A notice of application for a Closure Order from the District Court under the Buildings Ordinance on January 11 next year has been posted on the premises.

Demolition work is expected to start as soon as the Closure Order is issued.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994.

Air quality report for November

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Thursday) released air quality information for last month.

A spokesman for the department said the purpose of the announcement was to keep the public informed of the air quality levels in the territory and to explain the measurements.

The announcement contains monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory:

* locations close to road traffic in built-up urban areas,
* combined commercial and residential districts, and
* districts close to industrial areas.

The department currently monitors air quality continuously at eight stations, including the three mentioned. Short-term measurement exercises are also undertaken as and where the need arises.

The reported air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprise all sizes of dust particles and the respirable fraction of the dust (RSP) . All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

High concentrations of dust were recorded at all stations on November 7. At Mong Kok, the TSP level exceeded the 24-hour Air Quality Objective limit of 260 ug/m3.

As the airflow on November 5, 6 and 7 was generally from the north and northeast, the high dust levels might be caused by dust from these directions combined with local emissions.

On November 14 and 15, pollutants were flushed from the territory by strong winds, resulting in lower concentrations of gaseous pollutants.

The gases and particles described originated from various sources. SO2 is mostly produced when fuels that contain sulphur are burned. NO2 is formed during combustion by the combination of nitrogen and oxygen.

However the majority of it is formed in the atmosphere by the oxidation of nitric oxide (NO), also a product of combustion.

Vehicle exhaust is an important source of NO and NO2 in terms of impact on local air quality. It is also a major source of airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

Diesel-engined vehicles such as taxis, public light buses, passenger coaches, franchised buses and light and heavy goods vehicles are the greatest contributor of particulate matter. Other sources include industry, furnaces and boilers, construction activities, the sea and the soil.

It is worth noting that while the weather and climate always affect the concentrations of pollutants in the air, the only sure way of reducing the levels is to reduce emissions from man-made sources.

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For further information on this air quality report, please contact Mr Raymond Leung on telephone 594 6401.

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change ($million)
Opening balance in the account	1,389	0930	- 36
Closing balance in the account	2,484	1000	-36
Change attributable to :		1100	-36
Money market activity	+1,185	1200	-36
LAF today	-90	1500	+498
		1600	+1,185

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.8 *+0.0* 15.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.76	17 months	2605	6.35	98.82	7.36
1 month	5.18	23 months	2611	6.90	98.84	7.70
3 months	5.66	28 months	3704	6.15	96.63	7.88
6 months	6.18	34 months	3710	7.25	98.52	7.98
12 months	6.85	57 months	5909	7.45	97.10	8.36

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 15,901 million

Closed December 15, 1994

End/Thursday, December 15, 1994