



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1989

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1989

ACTING GOVERNOR PRAISES POLICE FOR WORK WITH VBP

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"THE ORGANISATIONAL ABILITY, WILLINGNESS AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IS TREMENDOUS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE IS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS," THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) AFTER PAYING HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE FORWARD RECEPTION CENTRE ON TAI A CHAU.

"IT IS AN EXTREMELY ARDUOUS JOB THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TAKE ON AND THE PROBLEMS ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH," HE ADDED.

"I HOPE THE TASK WILL NOT LAST FOR TOO LONG BUT IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO SAY HOW LONG IT WILL CONTINUE."

SIR DAVID WAS VISITING MARINE SOUTH AND HARBOUR DIVISIONS TO SEE FOR HIMSELF HOW POLICE ARE COPING WITH THE MANNING OF VBP CENTRES UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

FIRST, HE WENT TO THE SOKO ISLANDS, TRAVELLING ON BOARD DIVISIONAL COMMAND LAUNCH NO.4 AND DAMEN LAUNCH 73 BEFORE FINALLY TRANSFERRING TO ONE OF THE FASTER SHARK CAT CATAMARANS TO COMPLETE THE JOURNEY TO TAI A CHAU.

DURING THE 90-MINUTE TRIP HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE BRIDGE BY THE REGIONAL COMMANDER, MARINE, MR JOHN MACDONALD AND THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, MARINE SOUTH DIVISION, MR JOHN SWAINE.

AT TAI A CHAU, PLATOON COMMANDER, MR LOUIS LEUNG PUI-MAN, TOLD SIR DAVID THAT THE ISLAND WAS CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATING 5,582 VBP'S, 39 OF WHOM HAD ARRIVED EARLIER IN THE DAY.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR WAS THEN GIVEN A SHORT TOUR OF THE VARIOUS HOLDING AREAS AND LEARNED THAT A GREAT MANY IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT SINCE TAI A CHAU HAD FIRST BEEN INTRODUCED AS A RECEPTION CENTRE ON MAY 31.

WATER TANKS GIVING A 40-TONNE CAPACITY WERE NOW IN OPERATION, TOILET FACILITIES WERE ALMOST COMPLETED AND FOUR RUMNEY HUTS WERE BEING ERECTED WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY HOUSE 3,000 VBP'S WITHIN A FENCED AREA, HE WAS TOLD. A DAILY RUN OF COOKED RICE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE MILITARY AS FROM AUGUST 18. THERE WERE ALSO BASIC MEDICAL FACILITIES.

THERE WERE ALSO PLANS FOR KITCHEN FACILITIES, A REGULAR RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE, PIER EXTENSION, HELIPAD IMPROVEMENTS AND BAY DREDGING.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR POLICE STAFF ON DUTY.

AFTER MEETING AND TALKING WITH SOME OF THE POLICE PERSONNEL AND WALKING AMONG THE VBP TENTED ACCOMMODATION, SIR DAVID DEPARTED FROM TAI A CHAU FOR STONECUTTERS ISLAND WHERE HE VISITED THE VBP POPULATION OF OVER 2,000 ABOARD FIVE HONG KONG & YAUMATI FERRIES.

HERE HE TOURED THE FACILITIES ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, MARINE HARBOUR DIVISION, MR FRED WONG WAI-HON. AND THE PRINCIPAL TRAINING OFFICER, MR JOSEPH FUNG, OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES.

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1990 LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK LIMITED TO SPONSOR A 20-MINUTE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE ESTIMATED COST IS \$2 MILLION.

"THE DISPLAY WILL BE STAGED IN VICTORIA HARBOUR ON THE EVENING OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH SAID.

"THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE INVITED TO CO-ORGANISE THE EVENT, AND THE SPONSORS WILL BE OFFERED A FALL-BACK DATE OF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, THE EIGHTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, SHOULD THE WEATHER PROVE TO BE UNSUITABLE FOR THE DISPLAY ON THE ORIGINAL DATE."

MAJOR FIREWORKS DISPLAYS ARE NORMALLY PERMITTED IN THE HARBOUR TO CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. THE DISPLAY WILL BE THE NINTH DISPLAY SPONSORED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND STAGED DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

"WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK IS GENEROUSLY CONTINUING THE TRADITION THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE INVITED TO CO-ORDINATE THE DISPLAY THROUGH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPONSORS, TECHNICAL ORGANISERS AND CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS," HE ADDED.

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FS OUTLINES MARKETING OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

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FIVE FACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING WHICH INSTITUTIONS WILL BE APPOINTED AS RECOGNISED DEALERS IN EXCHANGE FUND BILLS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG CAPITAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION, HE SAID THE FIVE FACTORS WERE CAPITAL, ABILITY, STANDING, SUPERVISION AND COMPLIANCE.

THE INTENTION TO DEVELOP A PROGRAMME FOR THE ISSUE OF SHORT TERM EXCHANGE FUND BILLS WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON MARCH 1.

/THE BILLS .....

THE BILLS WILL BE ISSUED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A FLEXIBLE, LOW RISK AND COST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONDUCTING MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR PAPER MARKET.

UNLIKE TREASURY BILLS ELSEWHERE, THE PROCEEDS WILL NOT BE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE GENERAL REVENUE AND COULD NOT BE USED FOR FINANCING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

IN HIS SPEECH TO THE HONG KONG CAPITAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION, SIR PIERS SAID CAPITAL ADEQUACY TESTS WOULD NEED TO BE APPLIED TO ENSURE THAT RECOGNISED DEALERS ARE NOT TAKING RISKS DISPROPORTIONATE TO THEIR RESOURCES.

"THE CAPITAL ADEQUACY TESTS ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE WILL BE APPROPRIATE," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS ABILITY, SIR PIERS SAID RECOGNISED DEALERS WOULD NEED TO BE REASONABLY ACTIVE IN THE DEALING OF OTHER MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS AND IN THE INTERBANK MONEY MARKET.

"RECOGNISED DEALERS SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, INTEGRITY AND GOOD REPUTATION NECESSARY FOR THEIR INTENDED RESPONSIBILITIES; ADEQUATE INTERNAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS; AND A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE HONG KONG FINANCIAL MARKETS."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WENT ON TO SAY THAT RECOGNISED DEALERS SHOULD IDEALLY COMMAND A SUITABLE CREDIT STANDING COMMENSURATE WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THEIR DEALING POSITION TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO CHEAPER FUNDING.

SIR PIERS SAID THERE WAS NO INTENTION, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO CREATE A NEW SUPERVISORY SYSTEM FOR RECOGNISED DEALERS.

"THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION WILL THEREFORE FALL ON EXISTING SUPERVISORS, IN PARTICULAR THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS COMPLIANCE, THE FIFTH AND FINAL FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED, ALTHOUGH A HIGH DEGREE OF SELF-REGULATION WAS AIMED FOR, THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR BASIC REGULATORY CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH ON A CONTINUING BASIS.

IN MAKING THE REGULATIONS, "THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION," SIR PIERS SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST RECOGNISED DEALERS WILL BE BANKS OR LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES. SOME REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES MAY ALSO QUALIFY.

"APPLICATIONS WILL NORMALLY ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM THOSE WHICH ARE BANK-OWNED OR WHICH HAVE A PAID-UP CAPITAL OF NOT LESS THAN HK\$100 MILLION," SIR PIERS SAID.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS MAY ALSO BE ACCEPTED, IF THEY CAN SATISFY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH THAT THEY QUALIFY UNDER THE FIVE CRITERIA LAID DOWN BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

SIR PIERS SAID THERE WOULD BE A TWO-TIER BILLS MARKET. HE SAID: "IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY MARKET TRADING AND TO GUARANTEE LIQUIDITY TO THE INVESTORS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS, A NUMBER OF MARKET MAKERS WILL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG THE RECOGNISED DEALERS."

MARKET MAKERS WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN UNDERTAKING TO MAKE A MARKET IN THE BILLS.

IN RETURN, MARKET MAKERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY CERTAIN PRIVILEGES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH WILL BUY AND SELL BILLS IN THE SECONDARY MARKET ONLY THROUGH MARKET MAKERS.

A FACILITY FOR ADDITIONAL BILLS TO BE ISSUED UP TO A PRE-DETERMINED AMOUNT WILL BE AVAILABLE ALSO TO MARKET MAKERS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT THE BILLS WOULD BE IN MINIMUM AMOUNTS OF \$500,000.

THEY WOULD BE ISSUED BY COMPETITIVE TENDER THROUGH A PAPERLESS BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM AND ONLY RECOGNISED DEALERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SUBMIT TENDERS.

THE SIZE OF EACH WEEKLY ISSUE WAS LIKELY TO BE IN THE REGION OF \$200-300 MILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OUTSTANDING WOULD GRADUALLY BUILD UP OVER THE FIRST 13 WEEKS TO A TOTAL OF AROUND \$3-4 BILLION. IT WAS HOPED TO LAUNCH THE FIRST ISSUE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE TEXT OF SIR PIERS JACOBS' SPEECH WILL BE BOXED.

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SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE VOLUNTARY SAFETY MOVEMENT  
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN PROMOTING VOLUNTARY SAFETY MOVEMENT IN INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN APRIL 1987, THE SAFETY PROGRAMME PROMOTION UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION HAS VISITED AND MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH MORE THAN 350 ORGANISATIONS.

"IT HAS ASSISTED IN THE FORMATION OF 49 IN-PLANT SAFETY COMMITTEES IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, OF WHICH 12 HAVE BEEN FORMED SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"OF THE TOTAL 99 EXISTING COMMITTEES, 24 ARE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, 14 IN THE METAL INDUSTRY, 11 IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, NINE EACH IN THE TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL, CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM, AND CARGO HANDLING INDUSTRIES. THE REST ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG OTHER INDUSTRIAL SECTORS," HE SAID.

THE MAJORITY OF THE ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE SET UP SAFETY COMMITTEES ARE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING FEWER THAN 1,000 WORKERS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE MAIN TASK OF THE UNIT IS TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP A STRONG SENSE OF SELF-REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES AMONGST EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION AT WORK.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS, STAFF MEMBERS OF THE UNIT REGULARLY VISIT FACTORIES AND OFFER ADVICE ON THE FORMATION OF IN-PLANT SAFETY COMMITTEES AND DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE SAFETY MANAGEMENT," HE SAID.

"THE UNIT ALSO UNDERTAKES TO ASSIST INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO DRAFT SAFETY POLICIES, RULES AND HANDBOOKS, AND TO ORGANISE SAFETY TRAINING COURSES AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES."

IN ADDITION, ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT ARE FORWARDED TO INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS JOURNALS FOR PUBLICATION SO AS TO DISSEMINATE THE CONCEPT TO A WIDER SECTOR IN INDUSTRY.

RELEVANT GUIDANCE MATERIALS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE ARE ALSO PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED FREE TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR INFORMATION.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SAFETY PROGRAMME PROMOTION UNIT WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF SINCERE INSURANCE BUILDING, 4 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-296675.

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SIX GOVT SITES TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING TO LET BY TENDER SIX PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST LOT IS AT TO YUEN STREET, KOWLOON, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,196 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR PARKING OF THE TENANTS' VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED AND ANY OTHER ARTICULATED VEHICLES.

THE SECOND LOT, A 2,500-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT HOI KING STREET, KOWLOON, IS TO BE USED AS A FEE-PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES (INCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED).

THE TENANCY FOR THE TWO LOTS IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD LOT IS AT CHUNG HAU STREET, HO MAN TIN. MEASURING ABOUT 5,400 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR FEE-PAYING PARKING AREA FOR GOODS VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED).

THE FOURTH LOT, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,350 SQUARE METRES, IS IN AREA 26C, KWAI CHUNG. IT IS TO BE USED AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE LEASE FOR THE TWO LOTS IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE TENANCY FOR THE OTHER TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

ONE IS IN AREA 47B, SHA TIN, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,350 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR STORAGE OF SAND, CEMENT AND AGGREGATE FOR THE TENANT.

THE OTHER LOT IS A 300-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT ON NING ROAD, YUEN LONG, WHICH IS TO BE USED AS A NURSERY FOR GROWING, STORAGE AND SELLING OF POTTED PLANTS.

TENDERS FOR ALL LOTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 8.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON, AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY PUBLISHED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY 1989.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84/SEP. 85 = 100) FOR JULY 1989 WERE 130.2 AND 129.8 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 10.3 PER CENT AND 10.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER JULY 1988. THESE RATES OF INCREASE WERE LOWER THAN THOSE RECORDED IN JUNE 1989, WHICH WERE 11.0 PER CENT AND 10.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JULY WITH JUNE 1989, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 0.4 PER CENT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES AND CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT, AND HIGHER CHINA MOTOR BUS FARES.

/THE AVERAGE .....

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JULY 1989, AT 124.4 AND 124.1 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.3 PER CENT AND 9.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JULY 1988.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JULY 1989, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.8 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR JULY 1989 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1989 AND JULY 1988, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)					
	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR JUL. 89	%CHANGE OVER JUN. 89	%CHANGE OVER JUL. 88	INDEX FOR JUL. 89	%CHANGE OVER JUN. 89	%CHANGE OVER JUL. 88
FOODSTUFFS	132.3	+0.0*	+12.7	133.4	+0.3	+13.1
HOUSING	121.9	+0.4	+7.6	117.3	+0.3	+5.9
FUEL AND LIGHT	95.9	-0.1	+2.1	96.3	-0.1	+1.8
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	133.4	+0.0*	+7.4	134.5	+0.1	+7.7
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	135.8	-1.2	+8.3	138.6	-1.3	+8.5
DURABLE GOODS	122.0	-0.3	+2.6	121.1	-0.3	+2.6
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	132.7	+0.9	+7.9	132.3	+0.7	+7.4
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	136.5	+1.5	+13.0	135.4	+1.3	+12.8
SERVICES	141.2	+1.4	+11.8	141.7	+1.5	+12.1
ALL ITEMS	130.2	+0.3	+10.3	129.8	+0.4	+10.0

\*LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

/COMPARED WITH .....

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COMPARED WITH JUNE 1989, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED MARGINALLY IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, LIVE POULTRY AND FRESH FRUIT.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF JEWELLERY AND PERIODICALS.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 1.5 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CMB, STAR FERRY, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND AIRPLANE FARES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 1.4 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.5 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT AND PACKAGE TOURS.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR JULY 1989, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.50 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 136.0 IN JULY 1989, UP BY 0.2 PER CENT OVER JUNE 1989 AND UP BY 11.1 PER CENT OVER JULY 1988.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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REGULATIONS ON DRIVING INSTRUCTION STREAMLINED  
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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) REGULATIONS 1989 ALLOWING A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR TO GIVE DRIVING INSTRUCTION TO THE HOLDER OF ANY VALID DRIVING LICENCE OR PERMIT ON THE CLASS OF VEHICLE SPECIFIED IN HIS LICENCE.

AT PRESENT, THE REGULATIONS PROVIDE THAT DRIVING INSTRUCTION CAN BE GIVEN ONLY TO A PERSON HOLDING A VALID LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE.

SOME HOLDERS OF FULL DRIVING LICENCES OR PERMITS MAY, HOWEVER, WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER DRIVING TRAINING.

SUCH LICENSED DRIVERS INCLUDE NEWLY LICENSED DRIVERS WHO WISH TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TUITION AND "DORMANT" LICENSED DRIVERS WHO MAY NOT HAVE DRIVEN FOR SOME TIME BUT WISH TO TAKE UP DRIVING REGULARLY AGAIN.

THEY ALSO INCLUDE HOLDERS OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS, DOMESTIC DRIVING LICENCES OR PERMITS ISSUED OUTSIDE HONG KONG, AND HOLDERS OF FOREIGN DRIVING LICENCES WHO OBTAINED THEIR HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES BY DIRECT ISSUE BUT LACK THE CONFIDENCE TO COPE WITH THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE DRIVERS WHO HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED FROM DRIVING FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME BUT WHOSE PERIOD OF DISQUALIFICATION HAS EXPIRED; HOLDERS OF A TEMPORARY DRIVING LICENCE; AND HOLDERS OF A DRIVING LICENCE TO DRIVE GOVERNMENT VEHICLES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SINCE SUCH TRAINING WAS BENEFICIAL FROM THE ROAD SAFETY POINT OF VIEW, IT SHOULD BE LEGALISED.

THE NEW REGULATION OBTVIATES THE NEED OF THE HOLDER OF A FULL DRIVING LICENCE TO APPLY FOR A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE BEFORE HE CAN RECEIVE DRIVING INSTRUCTION ON THE CLASS OF VEHICLE SPECIFIED IN HIS LICENCE.

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WARD STEWARDS APPOINTED FOR NON-CLINICAL DUTIES  
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THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS THIS MONTH EMBARKED ON A WARD STEWARD SCHEME TO RELIEVE WARD STAFF IN MAJOR HOSPITALS OF ANCILLARY AND NON-CLINICAL DUTIES WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO ACHIEVE BETTER PATIENT SERVICE AND TO MAXIMISE PROFESSIONAL STAFF RESOURCES.

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WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME, IT IS HOPED THAT MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF CAN CONSERVE THEIR EFFORTS ON EXECUTING THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHEME WILL BE MADE IN EARLY DECEMBER TO SEE HOW IT MAY BE FURTHER IMPROVED. BUT DAY TO DAY, ANY CHANGES WHICH SHOULD AND CAN BE MADE BEFORE THEN WILL BE MADE.

"AS A START, WARD STEWARDS ARE PROVIDED ON THE BASIS OF ONE FOR EACH OF 10 WARDS IN EACH OF THE FOUR REGIONAL HOSPITALS: QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

"LATER, THE SCHEME WILL BE EXTENDED TO OTHER WARDS IN THE FOUR REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND TO THE TWO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT BY NOVEMBER, 80 WARD STEWARDS WILL BE IN POST, AND BY MARCH 1990 THERE WILL BE ABOUT 170 - 180 WARD STEWARDS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INITIALLY, THE WARD STEWARDS WILL WORK A FIVE AND A HALF DAY-WEEK DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS.

BEFORE THE WARD STEWARDS GO TO WORK IN THE WARDS, THEY WILL FIRST UNDERGO A SIX-DAY INDUCTION PROGRAMME TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR DUTIES AND FAMILIARISE THEM WITH THE WARD SITUATION.

"BRIEFING SESSIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE USERS, THAT IS MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF IN HOSPITALS, TO GIVE THEM FURTHER DETAILS ON THE SCHEME AND TO OFFER THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTIONS AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT AS THERE ARE BOUND TO BE TEETHING PROBLEMS WITH ANY NEW SCHEME, THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP A STEERING COMMITTEE TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION AND TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SCHEME.

THIS COMMITTEE COMPRISES MEMBERS FROM THE MEDICAL, NURSING AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR GRADES.

ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE WARD STEWARDS, HE SAID ALL PEOPLE UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE WHO HOLD A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION WITH FIVE PASSES AND WHO CAN SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE CAN APPLY FOR THE JOB.

THE FIVE PASSES INCLUDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS A). THOSE WHO HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED FORM 4 AND HAVE RELEVANT WORKING EXPERIENCE WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

THE PAY SCALE STARTS FROM \$4,705 AND WILL INCREASE TO \$6,560 OVER SIX YEARS.

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THREE CARPARKS TO CEASE TO BE GOVT FACILITIES  
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LEGISLATION PRESCRIBING THE FEES FOR THE USE OF THE HO MAN TIN, TAI KOK TSUI AND NORTH POINT GOVERNMENT CARPARKS WILL BE DELETED FROM THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING) REGULATIONS FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

THE THREE CARPARKS WILL CEASE TO BE GOVERNMENT CARPARKS ON OCTOBER 1, BUT UNINTERRUPTED PARKING FACILITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED.

THE HO MAN TIN AND NORTH POINT CARPARKS PROVIDE 78 AND 177 LORRY PARKING SPACES RESPECTIVELY WHILE THE TAI KOK TSUI CARPARK PROVIDES 112 PARKING SPACES FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND PRIVATE CARS.

THE NORTH POINT LORRY PARK SITE WILL BE REDEVELOPED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. BETWEEN OCTOBER AND ITS REDEVELOPMENT, THE SITE WILL BE LEASED FOR PARKING WITH THE CONDITION THAT THE PARKING FEES SHALL BE AT THE PRESENT LEVEL.

MEANWHILE, A SHORT TERM TENANCY SITE IN SAI WAN HO PROVIDING PARKING SPACE FOR ABOUT 70 GOODS VEHICLES HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE AUGUST 1.

AN ADJOINING SITE FOR CAR PARKING PURPOSE WILL ALSO BE OFFERED FOR TENDER BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE OTHER TWO SITES AT HO MAN TIN AND TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE DEVELOPED A FEW YEARS LATER.

IN THE INTERIM, THESE WILL BE LET OUT BY PUBLIC TENDER FOR PARKING PURPOSES.

ALTERNATIVE ON-STREET AND OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN NEARBY AREAS.

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DB MEMBERS TO BE BRIEFED ON HOSPITAL AUTHORITY  
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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN BY THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, MR WILFRED TSUI.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE CURRENT POLICY ON ELDERLY SERVICES AND A SURVEY REPORT ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN KWUN TONG.

/ANOTHER ITEM .....

ANOTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT PREFERENTIAL PRIVATE MEDICAL AND TRANSPORT SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG YAN STREET.

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RENOWNED PIANIST TO GIVE LECTURE  
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AMERICAN PIANIST JEFFREY CAMPBELL WILL GIVE A LECTURE ON "PIANO TECHNIQUE, SOUND AND STYLE, AND LISZT" FOR MUSIC LOVERS ON SEPTEMBER 2 (SATURDAY) AT THE YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE. THE SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

MR CAMPBELL, ACCLAIMED AS ONE OF THE FINEST AMERICAN PIANISTS OF TODAY, HAS BUILT AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION BASED ON CONSUMMATE PIANISM, DEEP COMMUNICATIVE ABILITY, ECLECTIC PROGRAMMING, AND CONSISTENT AUDIENCE RAPPORT.

HE HAS PERFORMED AS RECITALIST AND ORCHESTRAL SOLOIST THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, MEXICO AND FRANCE.

HIS FAME SPREAD BY VIRTUE OF INTERNATIONAL PRIZES WON AT NUMEROUS COMPETITIONS INCLUDING THE LISZT COMPETITION AND THE 1982 INTERNATIONAL PIANO GUILD INTERNATIONAL RECORDING COMPETITION.

THE LECTURE IS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE. ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 5-8235321.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES  
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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED ON AUGUST 26 (SATURDAY), WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, BUT WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON AUGUST 28 (MONDAY), WHICH IS LIBERATION DAY.

THE EIGHT CLINICS ARE THE VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC AND SHAU KBI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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CONSTRUCTION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK

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WORK WILL START SOON TO BUILD A NEW COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK.

THIS FOLLOWED THE AWARD OF A \$18.9 MILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO YIU WING CONSTRUCTION CO LTD TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEVEN-STOREY COLUMBARIUM BUILDING HOUSING 18,000 NICHES AT WO HOP SHEK SAN TSUEN. PAPER BURNERS AND BONE STORAGE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN YAU MA TEI SINCE APRIL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN FORCE FOR FOUR MONTHS FROM SATURDAY (AUGUST 26).

THESE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE THE BANNING OF LEFT TURNS FROM SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET ONTO EASTBOUND DUNDAS STREET, AND THE ROUTEING OF THE SECTION OF HAMILTON STREET BETWEEN SHANGHAI STREET AND PORTLAND STREET TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

MOTORISTS IN HAMILTON STREET WESTBOUND HEADING FOR SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA PORTLAND STREET, WESTBOUND CHANGSHA STREET AND SOUTHBOUND SHANGHAI STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SEVEN METERED PARKING SPACES ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF HAMILTON STREET WILL REMAIN SUSPENDED.

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