



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NO CONFLICT BETWEEN AIRPORT PLANS IN HK AND MACAU: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE SEES NO CONFLICT AT ALL BETWEEN THE AIRPORT PLAN IN MACAU AND THE PLAN IN HONG KONG FOR DEVELOPING A NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS WHEN SEEING OFF THE MACAU GOVERNOR, GENERAL ROCHA VIEIRA AT THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, SIR DAVID SAID : "I THINK BOTH TERRITORIES NEED THEIR OWN AIRPORTS."

"WE WILL BE TALKING TO EACH OTHER ABOUT MATTERS LIKE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AS INDEED WE WILL BE TALKING TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE THREE AIRPORTS IN THIS AREA," HE ADDED.

"THAT IS NO REAL PROBLEM, BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT YOU NEED CO-ORDINATION AT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL."

HE SAID HE COULD SEE ADVANTAGES IN AN AIRPORT BEING DEVELOPED IN MACAU AND INDEED ONE AT SHENZHEN.

"OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS OUR AIRPORT HERE AT KAI TAK IS GOING TO BECOME VERY CROWDED AND IF SOME OF THE PRESSURE CAN BE TAKEN OFF BY THE NEW AIRPORTS AT MACAU AND THE NEW ONE WHICH IS ALREADY THERE AT HUANGTIEN, THE SHENZHEN AIRPORT, I THINK THAT IS HELPFUL FOR HONG KONG IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE ADDED.

ON HIS MEETING WITH THE MACAU GOVERNOR THIS MORNING, SIR DAVID SAID THEY HAD TALKED ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT WERE DEALT WITH IN COMMON.

"WE TALKED ABOUT THE PLANS THAT BOTH TERRITORIES HAVE FOR DEVELOPING THEIR OWN AIRPORTS AND I LISTENED WITH GREAT INTEREST TO THE PLANS THAT MACAU HAS FOR THEIR AIRPORT, AND CONFIRMED TO THE GOVERNOR THAT I CAN SEE NO CONFLICT AT ALL BETWEEN THE PLANS THAT MACAU HAS AND THE ONES THAT WE HERE HAVE IN HONG KONG FOR DEVELOPING A NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK," HE ADDED.

"I SAID TO HIM THEN THAT WE WERE LONG-STANDING NEIGHBOURS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PEARL RIVER. WE ARE BOTH AT THE CENTRE OF AN AREA OF VERY EXCITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN CHINA, SO WE HAVE VERY COMMON INTERESTS AND WE DEAL WITH MANY OF THE SAME ISSUES.

"SO IT WAS A FRIENDLY DISCUSSION AND A VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR US BOTH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS FROM OUR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON EACH SIDE OF THE PEARL RIVER."

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM GENERAL ROCHA VIEIRA TO VISIT MACAU.

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CHIEF SECRETARY SEES KAI TAK EXPANSION PROJECTS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAW FOR HIMSELF THE \$2.8 BILLION-WORTH EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS NOW UNDERWAY AT KAI TAK.

THE WORKS ARE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES TO MAXIMISE AIRPORT CAPACITY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR PETER LOK, AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT, SIR DAVID TOURED THE APRONS AREAS, THE PASSENGER TERMINAL AND THE CONTROL CENTRE AND TOWER.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT EXPANSION WORKS WERE NOW UNDERWAY AT BOTH THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF THE AIRPORT TO PROVIDE 15 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS BY THE END OF 1993.

THIS WILL INCREASE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARKING BAYS TO 69.

AT THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, A REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME IS NOW UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE THE LIGHTING, AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS AND BUILDING FINISHES AT BOTH THE DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL LEVELS.

THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEM AT THE CHECK-IN DESKS TO PROVIDE PASSENGERS WITH IMPROVED FLIGHT INFORMATION IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION LATE THIS YEAR.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE AND AIRLINE ACCOMMODATION HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE TERMINAL BUILDING LAST YEAR, AND FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE TERMINAL IS IN PROGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEPARTURE LOUNGE SEATING TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE IN TRANSFER PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCESS ROADS ARE ALSO IN HAND.

WORKS IN PROGRESS INCLUDED THE REALIGNMENT AND STREAMLINING OF ROAD TRAFFIC ALONG SUNG WONG TOI ROAD, MODIFICATION TO THE AIRPORT'S TRANSPORT TERMINUS TO PROVIDE MORE TAXI PICK-UP POINTS AND WIDENING AND REALIGNMENT OF THE AIRPORT INTERNAL ROADS.

AN ADDITIONAL 550 PUBLIC PARKING SPACES IN THE AIRPORT'S MULTI-STOREY CARPARK WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR MAKING A TOTAL OF 1,200.

IN 1990, KAI TAK RANKED AS THE WORLD'S FIFTH BUSIEST AIRPORT IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS AND FOURTH IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL CARGO, WITH DIRECT CONNECTIONS WITH 79 CITIES SERVED BY 1,850 SCHEDULED FLIGHTS PER WEEK.

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NO CUT IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE: FS
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CUTTING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THE NEW AIRPORT; NOR THAT THERE ARE ACTUAL REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING ON SOCIAL WELFARE.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT "CUTTING" THE MANY SOCIAL PROGRAMMES WHICH THE COMMUNITY VALUES SO HIGHLY.

"THERE WILL STILL BE REAL GROWTH IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING THAT ON SOCIAL WELFARE," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME DANGEROUS, OVER-SIMPLISTIC MYTHS ABOUT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

"I WANT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT," HE SAID.

"THE MAIN REASON FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE IS THAT THE LOWER ECONOMIC GROWTH WE ARE EXPERIENCING MEANS WE MUST CORRESPONDINGLY LOWER THE GROWTH IN OUR EXPENDITURE.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, AND ENSURING THAT MONEY IS SPENT WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED."

MR MACLEOD SAID THIS IS ALSO A MODEST CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FIGHTING INFLATION.

HE SAID HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT CAN TO INCREASE ITS COMPETITIVENESS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE GROWTH RATE THIS YEAR IS HIGHER THAN IN THE PAST YEAR.

THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED NOT ONLY BY SEEKING TO REDUCE INFLATION AND LOOSEN THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR AND LAND, BUT ALSO BY MAINTAINING A CLIMATE FAVOURABLE TO INVESTMENT, AND ENABLING MARKET FORCES TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY WHEREVER POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

"THIS INCLUDES HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO THE DRAMATIC RESTRUCTURING OUR ECONOMY IS NOW UNDERGOING, AND TO THE FLEXIBILITY OF OUR ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM, AND THE ADAPTABILITY OF OUR ENTREPRENEURS THAT MAKES THIS PACE OF CHANGE POSSIBLE," HE ADDED.

TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT DOWN TREND IN INFLATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOME OF THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY BE EASED THROUGH A SENSIBLE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR POLICY.

"AND THAT OUR PROPOSALS TO CURB SPECULATION IN DOMESTIC PROPERTY, AND PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL HOME BUYER, THROUGH A LEGISLATIVE CHANGE IN THE STAMP DUTY RULES DO NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS," HE SAID.

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SPECULATION ON DOMESTIC PROPERTY MUST BE STOPPED: FS

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THE GOVERNMENT MUST PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SPECULATION ON DOMESTIC PROPERTY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR MACLEOD SAID HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE MEASURES ON STAMP DUTY GOING THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE NEED TO GET THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) NO. 4 BILL 1991 IN PLACE SO THAT WE CAN AT LEAST STOP THE ARTIFICIAL ESCALATION OF FLAT PRICES, HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT IT TAKES SO LONG. WE SHOULD NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS, HE ADDED.

"WE MUST GET THE RULES IN PLACE. WE MUST GET THE ANTI-AVOIDANCE MEASURES IN PLACE. IF WE WAIT FOR PERFECTION, WE WILL NEVER GET THERE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA OVER THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, MR MACLEOD SAID THE PROBLEM HONG KONG FACES IS THAT WHEN THERE ARE A SERIES OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S. HANGING OVER CHINA, THEY HANG INDIRECTLY OVER HONG KONG.

MR MACLEOD ADDED THAT THIS IS A DISPUTE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S. AND THAT HAS TO BE SOLVED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

"BUT WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO HELP WE WILL DO SO BUT WE ARE NOT OBVIOUSLY PRIMARILY INVOLVED," HE SAID.

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LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME TO CONTINUE

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT WILL CONTINUE THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME IN A CONTROLLED WAY, TARGETTED AT AREAS MOST IN NEED OF WORKERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE STEPS TO AUGMENT THE PROVISION OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING FOR LOCAL WORKERS SO AS TO ASSIST THEM TO MOVE INTO BETTER PAID JOBS IN AREAS OF HIGH DEMAND.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN STRESSED THAT A NEW FEATURE OF THE SCHEME IS THAT INSTEAD OF AN ANNUAL QUOTA, A CEILING WILL BE SET ON THE NUMBER OF WORKERS THAT CAN BE IMPORTED AT ANY POINT OF TIME.

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"IN SETTING THE NEW CEILING THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE LEVELS SET UNDER THE PREVIOUS LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEMES, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT RATES, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES, THE PROJECTED RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT A CEILING OF 25,000 IS APPROPRIATE," MR CHAN SAID.

"THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 13,800 IMPORTED WORKERS CURRENTLY WORKING IN HONG KONG. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROJECTED DEPARTURES, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IMPORTING A MAXIMUM OF 12,000 MORE WORKERS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FURTHER IMPORTATION OF LABOUR WAS NECESSARY TO RELIEVE BOTTLENECKS IN THE LABOUR MARKET, THUS PROVIDING THE ECONOMY WITH GREATER SCOPE FOR GROWTH. LABOUR IMPORTATION CAN ALSO HELP REMOVE SOME OF THE WAGE PRESSURE IN THE LABOUR MARKET, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO RESTRAINING INFLATION.

"SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCED INFLATION WILL BE IN THE INTERESTS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS ALIKE," MR CHAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VACANCY SITUATION IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR HAD NOT EASED SINCE JUNE OF THE SAME YEAR. LATEST STATISTICS SHOWED THAT THE VACANCY RATE WAS HIGHEST IN THE CLOTHING AND MACHINE SHOP INDUSTRIES; IN HOTELS, COMMUNICATIONS, INSURANCE, BUSINESS SERVICES, AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES; AND IN THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES.

MR CHAN SAID: "THE ECONOMY DID BETTER IN 1991 THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1992 IS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE BETTER THAN IN 1991. THE LABOUR MARKET CAN THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO TIGHTEN AGAIN AND RELIEF WILL BE NEEDED BY BRINGING IN, ON A SELECTIVE BASIS, THE APPROPRIATE TYPES OF WORKERS FROM OVERSEAS."

"BUT THE MARKET SITUATION FLUCTUATES. WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO APPLY MORE FLEXIBILITY BY NOT SETTING ANY FIXED QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL SECTORS OR OCCUPATIONAL LEVELS, BUT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PREVAILING MARKET SITUATION AT THE TIME OF GRANTING APPROVAL," HE SAID.

THE SCHEME WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY TO TECHNICIANS, CRAFTSMEN, SUPERVISORS AND EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES. IT DOES NOT COVER THE IMPORTATION OF WORKERS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT OR AIRPORT RELATED PROJECTS WHICH COME UNDER A SEPARATE SCHEME.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL STEP UP ITS EFFORTS TO HELP LOCAL WORKERS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH MORE TRAINING AND RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL WORKERS WILL BE ACQUIRED BY INTRODUCING A LEVY ON EMPLOYERS WHO BENEFIT FROM THE IMPORTATION SCHEME.

THESE EMPLOYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A LUMP SUM IN RESPECT OF EACH IMPORTED WORKER BASED ON THE RATE OF \$400 A MONTH MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERED IN THE CONTRACT, UP TO A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS.

"THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE LEVY WILL BE USED FOR AUGMENTING THE PROVISION OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING FOR LOCAL WORKERS, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THOSE ECONOMIC SECTORS IN WHICH MANPOWER SHORTAGES ARE THE MOST OBVIOUS," MR CHAN SAID.

CITING EXAMPLES, MR CHAN SAID NEW TRAINING COURSES WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED INCLUDE COURSES FOR FORK-LIFT TRUCK DRIVERS AND TOURIST GUIDES.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE EXPANDING EXISTING COURSES FOR SALES SUPERVISORS, SHOP ASSISTANTS, WAITERS AND CAPTAINS IN RESTAURANTS, HOTEL HOUSE-KEEPERS.

LEGISLATION IS BEING DRAFTED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY RETRAINING FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE USE OF THE FUND WILL BE OVERSEEN BY A BOARD COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, TRAINING BODIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO ADVISE ON THE PRIORITY OF RETRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ON ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND.

PENDING THE PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION, A PROVISIONAL RETRAINING FUND BOARD WILL BE SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE THESE FUNCTIONS.

"THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADVISORY, ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELLING SERVICES IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY WORKERS INTERESTED IN RETRAINING AND TO ARRANGE COURSES FOR THEM," MR CHAN SAID.

"A TRAINING ALLOWANCE WILL ALSO BE PAID IN APPROPRIATE CASES TO THOSE LOCAL WORKERS UNDERGOING TRAINING OR RETRAINING," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE CONDITIONS OF IMPORTATION WILL BE TIGHTENED TO MINIMISE ABUSE OF THE SYSTEM IN FUTURE, THEREBY OFFERING BETTER PROTECTION TO IMPORTED WORKERS.

ALLOWABLE WAGES WILL BE SET AT \$400 BELOW MEDIAN WAGES FOR INDIVIDUAL JOB CATEGORIES, AND WAGES PAID TO IMPORTED WORKERS MUST NOT BE LESS THAN THOSE SPECIFIED IN THE ALLOWABLE WAGE LIST TO BE PUBLISHED BY GOVERNMENT.

EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE TO PAY WAGES THROUGH BANKS, AND THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE WRITTEN INTO FUTURE CONTRACTS.

IT WILL ALSO BE STIPULATED IN THE APPROVAL OF QUOTA THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW SUCH QUOTA IN THE EVENT OF BREACH OF CONDITIONS BY AN EMPLOYER.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES BY TENFOLD TO \$100,000 AND \$200,000 RESPECTIVELY BY INTRODUCING A BILL TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE. OFFENDING EMPLOYERS WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

IN ADDITION, EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE BREACHED THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN FUTURE IMPORTATION SCHEMES.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST IMPORTED WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

"WE RECOGNISE HOWEVER THAT THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IN ALL CASES. WHERE A WORKER CANNOT BE PLACED WITHIN TWO MONTHS, HE WILL BE RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS LAST EMPLOYER," MR CHAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTED LABOUR BETWEEN JANUARY 20 AND FEBRUARY 28 THIS YEAR.

INTERESTED EMPLOYERS MUST FIRST REGISTER THEIR VACANCIES WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SO THAT LOCAL WORKERS, IF AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED, CAN APPLY FOR THEM. DETAILS OF APPLICATION PROCEDURES WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME.

FINALLY, MR CHAN EMPHASISED THAT THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME WILL NOT MEAN AN AMNESTY OR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPREHENDED," HE SAID.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN OCTOBER 1991

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 26% IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 16% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 19% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ALL ROSE BY 2%. THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

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PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 5%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19%. TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 10%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 9%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 1% WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+27%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+2%); AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+2%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN FOOTWEAR (-55%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-44%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-41%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-29%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-23%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-21%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-10%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-6%); AND CLOTHING (-5%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990.

THESE INCLUDED TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+5%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+5%); CLOTHING (+3%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+3%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+3%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+1%); AND FOOTWEAR (+1%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-13%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-3%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 4% IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; SUGAR; LIVE POULTRY; AND SWINE.

HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RICE; TEA AND COFFEE; AND MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

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OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 14%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; FOOTWEAR; TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WATCHES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 4% IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990.

IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; MAN-MADE FIBRES; YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS ETC., EXCEPT GLASS; AND CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 41% IN VOLUME IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 24% IN OCTOBER 1991 OVER OCTOBER 1990.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FOODSTUFFS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%).

THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND CAPITAL GOODS DECREASED BY 24% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES: CAPITAL GOODS (+29%); CONSUMER GOODS (+24%); FUELS (+23%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+10%). THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 15%.

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN OCTOBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990: FOODSTUFFS (+6%); CAPITAL GOODS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%). THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND JANUARY 14 AT HK\$4 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 582 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING OCT 1991 WITH OCT 1990			COMPARING JAN-OCT 1991 WITH JAN-OCT 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-2	3	-5	4	4	1
TEXTILE FABRICS	-3	3	-6	4	3	1
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-9	1	-10	3	2	*
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-20	5	-23	-15	2	-17
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-42	-2	-41	-15	3	-17
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	27	*	27	27	-1	28
FOOTWEAR	-54	1	-55	-32	5	-35
METAL MANUFACTURES	5	3	2	11	4	8
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-51	-13	-44	-14	-3	-11
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-32	-3	-29	-11	-1	-10
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	7	5	2	-4	4	-8

/DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL

DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-21	*	-21	-4	2	-6
ALL COMMODITIES	-4	1	-5	2	2	*

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING OCT 1991 WITH OCT 1990			COMPARING JAN-OCT 1991 WITH JAN-OCT 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-1	3	-4	13	3	10
CONSUMER GOODS	17	3	14	23	3	19
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	5	1	4	21	1	19
FUELS	-56	-24	-41	16	5	10
CAPITAL GOODS	23	-1	24	26	2	23
ALL COMMODITIES	10	1	9	22	2	19

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING OCT 1991 WITH OCT 1990			COMPARING JAN-OCT 1991 WITH JAN-OCT 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-10	6	-15	18	4	13
CONSUMER GOODS	28	3	24	31	3	28

/RAW MATERIALS

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RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	11	1	10	23	1	22
FUELS	23	*	23	27	15	10
CAPITAL GOODS	33	3	29	31	2	29
ALL COMMODITIES	22	2	19	29	2	26

* LESS THAN 0.5%

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EXCO APPROVES URBAN AND NT TAXI FARE INCREASE

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN FARES FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES (NT) TAXIS TO MEET RISING OPERATING COSTS.

THE NEW FARES WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, THIS YEAR.

UPON REVISION, THE FLAGFALL FOR THE FIRST TWO KILOMETRES WILL BE \$9 AND \$8 FOR URBAN AND NT TAXIS RESPECTIVELY.

SUBSEQUENT CHARGES WILL BE REVISED CORRESPONDINGLY TO \$0.90 AND \$0.80 FOR EVERY 200 METRES DISTANCE TRAVELLED.

THE APPROVED NEW FARE SCALES REPRESENT AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 15.5 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT FOR URBAN AND NT TAXIS RESPECTIVELY.

APART FROM INCREASES IN METER CHARGES, OTHER SERVICE SURCHARGE WILL ALSO BE REVISED.

THE BAGGAGE SURCHARGE FOR URBAN AND NT TAXIS WILL BE INCREASED TO \$4 WHILE THE RADIO-CALL SERVICE SURCHARGE FOR URBAN TAXIS TO \$4.

THE BAGGAGE AND THE RADIO-CALL SERVICE SURCHARGE FOR LANTAU TAXIS WILL BOTH BE REVISED TO \$3.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IN APPROVING THE NEW FARE SCALES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE INCREASED OPERATING COSTS SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION, THE POLICY OF ESTABLISHING A REASONABLE FARE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN TAXIS AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES, AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF TAXI SERVICE IN THE TERRITORY.

IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING PUBLIC CONCERN WITH INFLATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY IN DETERMINING THE MAGNITUDE OF TAXI FARE INCREASES.

/HE POINTED

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HE POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT FARES FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WERE LAST REVISED IN MAY/JUNE 1990. DURING THIS PERIOD, BOTH THE TAXI OPERATING COSTS AND THE INFLATION RATE HAD INCREASED BY MORE THAN 15 PER CENT.

"THE REVISED FARES ARE STILL LESS THAN THE CUMULATIVE RATE OF INFLATION OF 19 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD," HE SAID.

PENDING THE CONVERSION OF TAXIMETERS, TAXIS MAY CHARGE THE REVISED FARES STARTING FROM JANUARY 31, THIS YEAR BY DISPLAYING A CONVERSION TABLE SHOWING THE REVISED FARE SCALES.

AS OF JANUARY 25, OPERATORS AND DRIVERS CAN OBTAIN THE FARE CONVERSION TABLES FROM THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICES:

- * PUBLIC VEHICLE SECTION AT MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, CENTRAL;
- * LICENSING OFFICES AT DUNDAS STREET IN MONG KOK, KWUN TONG AND SHA TIN;

AND ANY CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S DISTRICT OFFICES.

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REVIEW ON TV INDUSTRY COMMENCES

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH CONFIRMED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT AS A FIRST STEP IN THE REVIEW OF THE TV INDUSTRY AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, THE ADMINISTRATION IS TO MEET WITH HONG KONG'S EXISTING BROADCASTERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN PROVIDING SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION IN HONG KONG RESPECTIVELY.

THE MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON.

TO BE CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES Y.C. SO, THE MEETINGS WILL FOCUS ON THE NATURE, PARAMETERS AND TIMING OF THE OVERALL REVIEW OF THE TV INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION IN HONG KONG.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE POTENTIAL BIDDERS FOR SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION WILL BE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES AND ON THE CONDUCT OF THE REVIEW GENERALLY.

THE ADMINISTRATION AIMS TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND SUBMIT LICENSING FRAMEWORK PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WHICH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INTERFACE BETWEEN WIRELESS TELEVISION, SATELLITE TELEVISION AND SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION AS WELL AS THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING INDUSTRY.

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OPENING OF TSEUNG KWAN O CLINIC

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR LEONG CHE-HUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE OPENING OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC MARKS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SERVICES BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, HE SAID MOST OF THE RESIDENTS IN TSEUNG KWAN O ARE YOUNG FAMILIES WHICH RELY HEAVILY ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED PHC SERVICE IN TERMS OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE AND FIRST CONTACT CURATIVE CARE.

"IT IS THEREFORE TIMELY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OPENS A CLINIC HERE TO PROVIDE THESE TWO ESSENTIAL SERVICES," HE ADDED.

DR LEONG WAS IMPRESSED BY THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NEW CLINIC OF SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

"THESE IMPROVEMENTS," HE SAID, "HAVE HELPED TO CREATE A NEW TRADITION FOR THE GOVERNMENT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT (GOP) CLINIC, A PLACE WHICH NOW OFFERS NOT ONLY CURATIVE, BUT ALSO PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE CARE."

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID THE NEW CLINIC HAS ADOPTED A NEW SYSTEM TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES.

THE NEW SYSTEM FEATURES INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORDS, DRUG LABELLING, APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC DISEASES AND BLOCK APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR OTHER PATIENTS.

"IT'S NOW THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY THAT THESE IMPROVED SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS A STANDARD IN ALL FUTURE NEW GOP CLINICS," DR LEE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 17 CLINICS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORDS, 37 WITH APPOINTMENT SYSTEM, 74 WITH LABELLING OF DISPENSED DRUGS AND 25 WITH HEALTH EDUCATION SESSIONS ON CHRONIC DISEASES.

IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, DR LEE SAID, THE HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAMME WILL BE EXPANDED.

A NUMBER OF NEW MEASURES OR SERVICES WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED ON A PILOT BASIS. THESE INCLUDE THE DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM, A WELL WOMAN CLINIC AND OPPORTUNITY SCREENING FOR ELDERLY PATIENTS IN KWUN TONG.

DR LEE SAID THE \$12.5 MILLION CLINIC, LOCATED AT PO LAM ROAD, IS THE 15TH GOVERNMENT CLINIC BUILT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WHICH HAS DONATED \$6.75 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF OVER 1,300 SQUARE METRES, THE NEW CLINIC HAS A NUMBER OF IMPROVED FEATURES - A BETTER LAYOUT FOR SMOOTH FLOW OF PATIENTS, MORE SPACIOUS WAITING AREA AND DISPENSARY AND CENTRAL AIR-CONDITIONING.

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DEAF CHILDREN HELPED TO INTEGRATE INTO NORMAL SCHOOL LIFE
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) SAW HOW DEAF CHILDREN WERE TRAINED AND HELPED TO ADAPT TO NORMAL SCHOOL LIFE DURING A VISIT TO THE SUEN MEI SPEECH AND HEARING CENTRE FOR THE DEAF AND SUEN MEI KINDERGARTEN IN MEI FOO SUN TSUEN.

THE SEVEN-MEMBER GROUP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR LUCAS CHAN.

THE CENTRE RUNS TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR DEAF CHILDREN IN LIPREADING AND SPEECH WHICH ALSO INVOLVES THE PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS.

THE KINDERGARTEN OPERATES NINE BISESSIONAL AND WHOLE-DAY CLASSES FOR ABOUT 180 CHILDREN, 12 OF THEM WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

BOARD MEMBERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE VISIT WERE MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MS SANSAN CHING, MS ANDREY EU, MRS MINNIE LAI, MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK, MR LUKE YIP AND MR ALBERT LAI.

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ELEVEN NEW ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN THE PIPELINE
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THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE AGED POPULATION ANTICIPATED IN THIS DECADE AND THE NEXT WILL KEEP THE DEMAND FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AT A CONSTANTLY RISING LEVEL, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' JOCKEY CLUB CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME FOR THE ELDERLY IN SANDY BAY, MR CARTLAND POINTED OUT THAT THE AIM OF THE POLICY IS TO PROVIDE NEW HOMES TO MEET THE DEMAND IN FULL BY THE END OF THIS DECADE.

"THE OPENING OF THIS HOME TODAY WILL BRING THE NUMBER OF SELF-FINANCING HOMES TO 32 WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 2,258 PLACES.

"A FURTHER 11 PROJECTS ARE IN THE PIPELINE AND THIS WILL BRING THE CAPACITY TO A TOTAL OF 3,909 PLACES, OF WHICH MORE THAN HALF WILL BE CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES," HE SAID.

LAST YEAR, 13 NEW ELDERLY INSTITUTIONS WERE OPENED, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 1,471 PLACES, INCLUDING 574 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES, MR CARTLAND SAID.

"INDEED THE STOCK OF SUBVENTED CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES HAS INCREASED BY 125 PER CENT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS."

/ON THIS

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ON THIS CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME, HE NOTED THAT IT IS A SELF-FINANCING HOME, MEANING THAT IT WAS FEE-CHARGING BUT NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND NON-SUBVENTED.

IT OFFERS A HIGH STANDARD OF GOOD QUALITY SERVICE TO THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT, HE SAID.

"THIS ACCORDS WITH A CONCEPT MENTIONED IN LAST YEAR'S WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE NEW HOMES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY AND AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

"BUT IT WILL NECESSARILY TAKE TIME TO COMPLETE, INVOLVING AS IT DOES A CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT IN TERMS OF EFFORT AND RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY FOR PURPOSE-BUILT PROJECTS," HE CONTINUED.

VARIOUS MEASURES AND SCHEMES HAD IN FACT BEEN DEvised, MR CARTLAND ADDED.

THE "BOUGHT PLACE" SCHEME IN PRIVATE HOMES OF AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD HAS MADE AVAILABLE 500 PLACES IN A MUCH SHORTER SPACE OF TIME THAN IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TO CONSTRUCT PURPOSE-BUILT HOMES.

"ANOTHER OPTION WHICH IS RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE AND COMPARATIVELY SPEEDY IS TO CONVERT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, 'SELF CARE' PLACES IN HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY, WHICH IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN IN LOW DEMAND, INTO CARE-AND-ATTENTION OR MEAL SERVICE FACILITIES," HE SAID.

SELF-FINANCING HOMES, BY DEPLOYING NON-GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, COULD ENJOY A LEVEL OF FLEXIBILITY IN BOTH PLANNING PROCEDURES AND MODE OF OPERATION WHICH ENABLED THEM TO OFFER ACCOMMODATION OF GOOD QUALITY AS A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE, FOR THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD IT, TO WAITING FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS FOR SPACE IN SUBVENTED HOMES, MR CARTLAND ADDED.

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EASTERN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS AND FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS AND FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 12) IN VICTORIA PARK.

SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE ANNUAL EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, POLICE, DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID A HOST OF ACTIVITIES WITH ANTI-NARCOTICS AND FIGHT CRIME MESSAGES AIMED AT THE YOUNG AND ADULTS WOULD BE STAGED.

/APART FROM

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APART FROM POP SONGS AND DRAMAS, IT WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY THE CAPE COLLINSON MARCHING BAND, THE CIVIL AID SERVICES' BICYCLE TEAM AND POLICE DOGS, HE SAID.

PARTICIPANTS CAN ALSO SHARE THE FUN AT THE GAME STALLS PROVIDED BY THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL, ICAC, AND THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF SECURITY BRANCH.

EIGHT CIVIC-MINDED RESIDENTS, AGED BETWEEN 19 AND 41, WHO ASSISTED THE POLICE LAST YEAR, WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A PRESENTATION TO WINNERS OF THE RECENTLY HELD EASTERN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS SLOGAN AND BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR KEN WOODHOUSE; THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY; THE DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR DONALD GRIFFITHS; AND DB CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 886 6530.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CARNIVAL WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 12) AT FOOTBALL PITCHES NOS. 1 TO 3 OF THE VICTORIA PARK.

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ALTERNATE TOURIST COACH PARKING SPACES FOR DRIVERS

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AN ADDITIONAL 29 PARKING SPACES FOR TOURIST COACHES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY MIDNIGHT TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTER THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS TO IDENTIFY SITES FOR TOURIST COACH PARKING.

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR LEE SHU-CHEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID EARLIER THIS WEEK, A GROUP OF TOURIST COACH DRIVERS HAD REFLECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND PARKING SPACES WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD COACH PARK ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 12).

MR LEE SAID THE ALTERNATE PARKING SPACES ARE LOCATED AT THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE, AUSTIN AVENUE BETWEEN KIMBERLEY ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH; OBSERVATORY ROAD BETWEEN KIMBERLEY ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH; PRAT AVENUE, MODY ROAD BETWEEN BRISTOL AVENUE AND CORNWALL AVENUE; HANKOW ROAD BETWEEN SALISBURY ROAD AND MIDDLE ROAD; AND CANTON ROAD LAYBY OUTSIDE HOUSE NOS. 82 TO 98.

/FOR EVENING

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FOR EVENING AND OVERNIGHT PARKING, A SITE WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 50 TOURIST COACHES IS AVAILABLE AT FAT KWONG STREET OPPOSITE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF BAILEY STREET AND HUNG HOM ROAD WOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF FEBRUARY THIS YEAR FOR COACH AND GOODS VEHICLE PARKING.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING OTHER PROPOSALS MADE BY THE TOURIST COACH DRIVERS' UNION ORGANISING COMMITTEE IN FACILITATING THEIR OPERATION AS WELL AS OTHER MINI COACH OPERATORS' OPERATION IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT PARTIES.

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DIRECTORY FOR TRADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS PUBLISHED
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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE 1992 EDITION OF "HONG KONG TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS" - A DIRECTORY FOR LOCAL TRADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS IN GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AS WELL AS A USEFUL REFERENCE FOR THE PUBLIC.

COMPILED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, THIS BILINGUAL ANNUAL PUBLICATION PROVIDES BASIC INFORMATION SUCH AS THE ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND NAMES OF KEY OFFICIALS OF MORE THAN 240 TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG.

ORGANISATIONS ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER AND THERE IS A CROSS REFERENCE CLASSIFYING ORGANISATIONS BY THE NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE SECTION "APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES", A TOTAL OF 12 RELATED ORGANISATIONS ARE INCLUDED.

FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE LATE 1970'S, THE PUBLICATION HAS PROVED TO BE POPULAR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THOSE WISHING TO OBTAIN A FREE COPY SHOULD WRITE TO MISS AMY CHEUNG, DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MATRICULATION COURSE
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SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEING OFFERED TO LOCAL STUDENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE AT FOUR CO-EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY THIS SEPTEMBER.

THE COLLEGES ARE ATLANTIC COLLEGE IN THE UK, PEARSON COLLEGE IN CANADA, AMERICAN WEST COLLEGE IN THE U.S. AND ADRIATIC COLLEGE IN ITALY.

THE COURSE IS RECOGNISED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

APPLICANTS MUST BE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WITH AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY; AGED OVER 16 AND UNDER 18; AND POSSESS (OR HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING) A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE, INCLUDING ENGLISH (OR GCE EQUIVALENT).

APPLICATIONS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SCHOOL HEADS. SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW BY A SELECTION COMMITTEE.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS, DONATED BY SOME LOCAL LEADING ORGANISATIONS, WOULD NORMALLY COVER THE TUITION AND BOARDING FEES FOR THE TWO YEARS.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY, FIFTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING, 16 ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS AND RELEVANT TESTIMONIALS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE AGENCY THROUGH THE SCHOOL HEADS BEFORE FEBRUARY 17.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 801 5779.

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GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TO HOLD OPEN DAY
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THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY OPEN DAY ON JANUARY 11 (SATURDAY), 13 AND 14 FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN LOCAL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

THE THEME OF THE OPEN DAY IS "FORWARD: MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE CHANGING SOCIETY". THERE WILL BE EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES ON THE VARIOUS TEACHER EDUCATION COURSES.

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THE DAILY OPENING HOURS ARE: JANUARY 11 (10 AM TO 1 PM); MONDAY, JANUARY 13 (9 AM TO 4.30 PM) AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 (9 AM TO 1 PM).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR TIMOTHY HA, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON JANUARY 11.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OPEN DAY AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 11) AT 42 GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAU MA TEI.

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	8.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.1.92	-308
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+308
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 109.5 **0.2* 9.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.22 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.30	5.00
1 MONTH	3.79 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.63 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.65 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.00 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,785 MN

CLOSED 9 JANUARY 1992

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