



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

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GOVERNOR WELCOMES NEW EXCO MEMBERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH ITS NEW MEMBERSHIP, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL AND IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO SAY TO THEM THAT THE COUNCIL IS A VERY KEY PART OF THE WHOLE DECISION-TAKING PROCESS IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A COUNCIL WHICH DISCUSSES ALL THE MAJOR POLICY ISSUES AND GIVES ITS ADVICE FREELY AND FRANKLY.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE DOINGS OF THE COUNCIL WERE ALWAYS CONFIDENTIAL, ALL THE NEW MEMBERS TOOK A VERY FULL PART IN THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL THIS MORNING.

"AND SO THEY ARE ALREADY UP AND RUNNING," SIR DAVID SAID.

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AUTOMATION HELPING TO DEAL WITH LABOUR SHORTAGE: GOVERNOR

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A LOT OF WORK IS BEING DONE IN THE AUTOMATION OF INDUSTRY WHICH IS HELPING TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE MORE WE CAN AUTOMATE AND GO UP-MARKET, THEN THE BETTER IT IS FOR HONG KONG."

THE GOVERNOR SAID WHAT HE HAD SEEN THIS EVENING WAS VERY ENCOURAGING BECAUSE IT SHOWED THAT HONG KONG WAS AT THE FOREFRONT IN TECHNOLOGY.

"I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT EACH YEAR I COME TO THESE AWARDS, THE QUALITY IS IMPROVING AND THAT EACH YEAR WE HAVE MORE PRODUCTS DESIGNED IN HONG KONG, NOT JUST FOR THE HONG KONG MARKET BUT FOR THE WORLD MARKET.

"AND SOME OF THOSE PRODUCTS I'VE SEEN THIS EVENING ARE NOT ONLY EXTREMELY USEFUL, LIKE HOW TO PROGRAMME A VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER WITHOUT REALLY HAVING TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT ARE GOING TO BE TREMENDOUSLY GOOD FOR SELLING AROUND THE WORLD," HE SAID.

"AND TO SEE HONG KONG PRODUCING THAT SORT OF PRODUCT AND THAT SORT OF DESIGN IS TREMENDOUSLY ENCOURAGING," HE ADDED.

/WHEN ASKED

WHEN ASKED IF RISING PRICES IN THE PROPERTY MARKET WOULD HURT HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN'S COMPETITIVENESS, SIR DAVID SAID: "I THINK IN GENERAL YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO FIND MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF PROPERTY PRICES.

"IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF BUSINESSMEN, IT'S A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS THE WHOLE SOCIETY AND IT IS SOMETHING WE WANT TO TRY TO DEAL WITH. THERE HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF SPECULATION. WE WANT TO TRY TO TAKE THE SPECULATIVE HEAT OUT OF THE MARKET," HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL ISSUE, THE GOVERNOR REITERATED THAT NOW WAS THE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE ISSUES.

"WE DON'T HAVE TO RUSH INTO THE NEW LEGISLATION. WE'RE STILL PREPARING THE LEGISLATION. WE DON'T WANT TO RUSH INTO THAT, LET'S REFLECT ABOUT IT; SEE WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD; WE WANT TO DECIDE, NOT JUST WHAT IS THE IDEAL, BUT WHAT IS THE PRACTICAL WAY OF GOING FORWARD IN THIS.

"WE WANT A COURT SET UP SOON SO WE GET PRACTICE IN IT BEFORE 1997. BUT WE ALSO WANT ONE WHICH IS GOING TO GO STRAIGHT ON THROUGH 1997; THAT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR LONG-TERM CONFIDENCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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CREATIVITY VITAL TO HK INDUSTRY

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THE CREATIVITY OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS HAS FUELLED THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1991 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY, SIR DAVID SAID CREATIVITY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VITAL IF THE INDUSTRY WAS TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE.

"OUR MANUFACTURERS MUST LOOK CONSTANTLY FOR WAYS TO MOVE UP-MARKET," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT THE MANUFACTURERS' EFFORTS, BY PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED INDUSTRIES; HELPING TO TRAIN THE YOUNG TECHNOCRATS NEEDED TO UPGRADE INDUSTRIES; AND PROVIDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WOULD GIVE THE MANUFACTURERS AN ADDED COMPETITIVE EDGE.

HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY, NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, WAS TO RECOGNISE THE VALUE OF INNOVATION, PRODUCT DESIGN AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT, AND ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURERS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE.

NOTING THAT BOTH THE NUMBER AND THE QUALITY OF THIS YEAR'S ENTRIES WERE HIGH, THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THE REALLY IMPORTANT THING WAS NOT WHETHER A COMPANY HAD WON AN AWARD, BUT WHETHER IT DID THINGS BETTER AFTER ENTERING THE COMPETITION THAN IT DID BEFORE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THERE WERE SOME SPLENDIDLY IMAGINATIVE ENTRIES IN THE TWO DESIGN AWARD CATEGORIES.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT HONG KONG IS NOW FORGING ITS OWN, DISTINCTIVE DESIGN STYLE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN THE PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY CATEGORIES, SOME IMPRESSIVE ENTRIES CAME IN FROM THE INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS WOULD CONNECT NORTH LANTAU WITH THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THUS PROVIDING A COMPLETE TRANSPORT LINK BETWEEN TSING YI ISLAND AND LANTAU ISLAND.

"AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WILL CROSS THE SHIPPING CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF LANTAU AND MA WAN WITH A VERTICAL NAVIGATION CLEARANCE OF 45 METRES.

"THE MA WAN VIADUCTS WILL PROVIDE THE LINK ACROSS MA WAN ISLAND BETWEEN THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND THE TSING MA BRIDGE," HE SAID.

MR KWEI SAID THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND THE MA WAN VIADUCTS WOULD BE DESIGNED BY THE CONTRACTOR TO GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

THE STRUCTURES WOULD HAVE TO BE AESTHETICALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE TSING MA BRIDGE, HE SAID.

THERE WOULD BE TWO LEVELS, AN UPPER DECK LEVEL WHICH WOULD CARRY DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAYS, AND A LOWER DECK WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE TWO SHELTERED TRAFFIC LANES AND TWO RAILWAY TRACKS.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE PURPOSE OF REQUIRING THE CONTRACTOR TO DESIGN THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMICAL SOLUTION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CONTRACTOR'S OWN EXPERIENCE, RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE.

TENDER DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FROM TODAY. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS JUNE 4 NEXT YEAR.

THE AWARD OF CONTRACT WILL BE MADE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, AND THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TSING MA BRIDGE IN TIME FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

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NEW EMERGENCY TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS ADOPTED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS PUT INTO EFFECT ITS REVISED TRANSPORT EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS, FOLLOWING THE CONSULTATION WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPAL TRANSPORT OFFICER (PUBLIC TRANSPORT), MR ALAN LUI SUNG-YEE, THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED PARTIES DURING PUBLIC TRANSPORT DISRUPTION AND MAJOR ROAD OBSTRUCTION IN A BID TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE AND BRING RELIEF MEASURES TO THE AFFECTED COMMUTERS AND MOTORISTS.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) TO EXPLAIN THE NEW MEASURES, MR LUI SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SERIES OF SIMULATED EMERGENCY DRILLS AND REVIEW SESSIONS WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS BEFORE ADOPTING THE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS.

COMMUNICATION IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS LOOKED INTO. TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, MULTIFAX HAS BEEN INTRODUCED FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARTIES INVOLVED.

APART FROM THE NEED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT DURING AN EMERGENCY THROUGH THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, IT IS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS EXPERIENCING AN EMERGENCY TO KEEP THEIR COMMUTERS INFORMED OF THE SITUATION.

THE USE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM AND NOTICES AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF STATION STAFF TO HELP IN CROWD CONTROL COULD HELP TO SOLICIT THE CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THROGS OF DISPLACED PASSENGERS.

AS IN THE CASE OF SERVICE DISRUPTION TO MASS CARRIERS SUCH AS THE KCR AND THE MTR, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DEMANDING FOR THE AFFECTED OPERATOR TO CATER FOR THE NEED OF THE HUGE VOLUME OF PASSENGERS TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

"IN AN EMERGENCY NECESSITATING THE PROVISION OF RELIEF TRANSPORT SERVICES, THE OPERATOR EXPERIENCING A PROBLEM ON HIS SERVICES HAS TO REQUEST OTHER OPERATORS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ALTERNATIVE RELIEF AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE," MR LUI SAID.

UPON BEING NOTIFIED, HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THAT THE RELIEF TRANSPORT SERVICES PROVIDED ARE APPROPRIATE AND ARRANGING FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IF REQUIRED.

UNDER THE REVISED PROCEDURES, THE "AMBER ALERT" AND "RED ALERT" ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND WILL COME INTO OPERATION WHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT EMERGENCY SITUATION DETERIORATES.

"AN AMBER ALERT IS AN EARLY WARNING IN CASE OF AN INCIDENT WHICH COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF SERVICE.

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"A RED ALERT IS A SIGNAL TO INDICATE THAT A SERIOUS DISRUPTION HAS CONTINUED OR IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR OVER 20 MINUTES MEANING EMERGENCY TRANSPORT SUPPORT SERVICES FROM OTHER OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED," HE EXPLAINED.

A FIRST CONTACT POINT FOR EMERGENCY HAS BEEN SET UP. IT IS EQUIPPED WITH DEDICATED TELEPHONE AND FAX LINES WHICH WILL BE MANNED ROUND-THE-CLOCK TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY MESSAGES.

THE MULTIFAX SYSTEM WILL ENABLE ALL INVOLVED PARTIES INCLUDING THE RAIL CORPORATIONS, BUS AND FERRY COMPANIES, AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO SEND OUT AND RECEIVE MESSAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

IN THE COURSE OF THE EMERGENCY, MR LUI SAID THE DEPARTMENT WILL MONITOR EVENTS, LIAISE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS, DEVELOP PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WITH OPERATORS AND TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF CONTINGENCY TRANSPORT MEASURES INCLUDING ADVISING THEM TO AVOID TRAVELLING IN THE AFFECTED AREAS.

MR LUI SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD RELY ON OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, UTILITY COMPANIES, AND MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO IMPLEMENT AND CO-ORDINATE ACTION ON THE GROUND.

"THIS ACTION INCLUDES SYSTEM RECOVERY, TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND PROVISION OF RELIEF TRANSPORT SERVICES," MR LUI ADDED.

ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING UP-TO-DATE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR DIFFERENT EMERGENCY SCENARIOS INCLUDING RAILWAY BREAKDOWNS AND MAJOR ROAD OBSTRUCTION.

MR LUI STRESSED THAT IT MUST BE RECOGNISED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TRANSPORT EMERGENCIES ARE COMPLEX, VARIED AND RAPIDLY CHANGING.

"THESE CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE STRATEGIC IN NATURE. DECISIONS ON ACTUAL AND DETAILED CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN AN EMERGENCY WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE HAVING REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH PARTICULAR INCIDENT," HE SAID.

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LAW REFORM COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON CODIFICATION OF OFFENCES

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAS COMPLETED A DRAFT REPORT OUTLINING ITS PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE CODIFICATION OF THE LAW RELATING TO OFFENCES OF INCITEMENT, CONSPIRACY AND ATTEMPT.

THE DRAFT REPORT REPRESENTS THE PRODUCT OF STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S REFERENCE ON THE POSSIBLE CODIFICATION OF THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

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THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, MR STUART STOKER, SAID MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAD EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO THE LAW ON OFFENCES OF CONSPIRACY AND ATTEMPT SIMILAR TO THOSE INTRODUCED IN ENGLAND AND WALES IN THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT OF 1977 AND THE CRIMINAL ATTEMPTS ACT 1981, WITH AMENDMENTS TO FIT INTO HONG KONG'S EXISTING PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK.

THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE LAW OF INCITEMENT BE CODIFIED ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE ENGLISH LAW COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT ON "A CRIMINAL CODE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES", PUBLISHED IN APRIL 1989.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT REPORT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE LAW SOCIETY, THE JUDICIARY AND TO THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

COPIES HAVE ALSO BEEN SENT TO THOSE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

MR STOKER SAID THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE DRAFT REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS DID NOT REPRESENT ANY MAJOR OR RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE EXISTING COMMON LAW.

ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, OR ANY ASSOCIATION CONCERNED ABOUT REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL LAW, MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE DRAFT REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, FIRST FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES. (TEL. NO. 867 2024).

COMMENTS SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION BY DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

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MORE SECONDARY SIX PLACES PLANNED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS, FROM THIS YEAR, IMPLEMENTED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO INCREASE SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SIX PLACES TO TIE IN WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SIX PLACES FROM THIS YEAR'S 19,000 TO 22,000 NEXT YEAR AND FURTHER TO 23,000 IN 1994.

THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN INCLUDED:

- * BUILDING ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS IN STANDARD AND NON-STANDARD AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE MORE SIX FROM CLASSES;
- * OPERATING A 12-CLASS SECONDARY SIX SCHOOL IN A VACANT SCHOOL IN TAI KOK TSUI, KOWLOON THIS SCHOOL YEAR;

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- * ABOLISHING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF TWO GRADE C SUBJECTS IN THE ADVANCED-LEVEL EXAMINATION; AND
- * INTRODUCING A NEW SECONDARY SIX ADMISSION PROCEDURE TO FACILITATE SECONDARY FIVE LEAVERS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW SECONDARY SIX ADMISSION PROCEDURE, MR LI SAID THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD LED TO A SATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS DISCUSSING WITH RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A JOINT ADMISSION PLAN FOR SECONDARY SIX STUDENTS IN A BID TO AVOID THE TRANSFER OF STUDENT AFTER THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM REFORM, MR LI SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION HAD MADE SEVERAL KEY RECOMMENDATIONS SUCH AS DEVELOPING CHINESE-MEDIUM A-LEVEL COURSES, ABOLISHING HIGHER LEVEL COURSES, INTRODUCING A TWO-YEAR ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL COURSES AND PROVIDING AS-LEVEL CORE SUBJECTS.

TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD CARRIED OUT SEVERAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXERCISES TO HELP TEACHERS TACKLE PROBLEMS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION, HE ADDED.

THESE ARE SYLLABUS PREPARATION, IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF REFERENCE MATERIALS.

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MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH FOR CHILD CARE SERVICE NEEDED

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THERE IS A NEED TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN THE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY, THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (FAMILY AND CHILD CARE SERVICES) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MRS KATHERINE SHIN YEUNG KWAN-MAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MRS SHIN WAS SPEAKING ON CHILD CARE PROVISIONS AND WORK-BASED CHILD CARE SERVICES AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA.

SHE SAID IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHANGING NEEDS OF SOCIETY, THE NEWLY-PUBLISHED WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE HAD INCORPORATED A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE PHASED EXPANSION OF DAY CRECHE PLACES TO CATER FOR BOTH LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH SOCIAL NEEDS AND OTHER FAMILIES WHO MIGHT CHOOSE TO USE THE SERVICE AT ITS FULL COST.

MRS SHIN POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF CHILD CARE SERVICE, BEING A TYPE OF FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES, WAS TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY AS A UNIT, SO THAT THEY MIGHT CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A HEALTHY AND STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NURTURING OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

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"WITH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN EMPLOYMENT, THERE IS AN INCREASED NEED FOR DAY CARE FACILITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WHO CANNOT BE CARED FOR BY THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE DAY," SHE SAID.

CHILD CARE CENTRES CARRY OUT THIS SUPPORTIVE ROLE BY LOOKING AFTER THE CARE, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH DAY NURSERY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX AND DAY CRECHE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AGED BELOW TWO.

"IN FACT, AS THE ROLE OF WOMEN HAS CHANGED AND THE FAMILY NEEDS HAVE CHANGED, WE ALSO NEED TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN OUR CHILD CARE PROVISION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CHANGING SOCIETY," MRS SHIN SAID WHEN OUTLINING OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE AND WORK-BASED CHILD CARE SERVICES.

THE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT CARRIED OUT BY THE SWD IN 53 DAY NURSERIES.

"WHEN FAMILIES HAVE SUDDEN CHILD CARE NEEDS, TEMPORARY CARE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE ON HALF-DAY OR DAILY BASIS BY THESE NURSERIES SO THAT YOUNG CHILDREN WOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME," SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT WORK-BASED CHILD CARE SERVICE WAS ANOTHER INNOVATION.

"IN BRIEF, WORK-BASED CHILD CARE SERVICE IS EMPLOYER-SPONSORED CHILD CARE PROGRAMME PROVIDED FOR THE USE OF EMPLOYEES," MRS SHIN EXPLAINED, ADDING THAT THE SERVICE WAS A RELATIVELY NEW DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

SHE NOTED THAT A CENTRE OF THIS TYPE HAD BEEN OPERATED BY A LARGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FOR A YEAR, TO THE EXTREME SATISFACTION OF BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEES.

TURNING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CHILDREN BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME, MRS SHIN SAID ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, THERE WAS NO PRECONCEIVED STANCE ON WHICH MEASURE TO ADOPT.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, BETTER PROTECTION AND A MORE FULFILLING ENVIRONMENT CAN BE PROVIDED FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION," SHE ADDED.

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CLOSURE OF SHEK KWU CHAU VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRE

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THE SHEK KWU CHAU DETENTION CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOLLOWING THE TRANSFER OF THE LAST 800 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TO OTHER CAMPS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE CENTRE, WHICH WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE POLICE, HAS BEEN MANAGED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS.

THE CENTRE WAS BROUGHT INTO USE IN JULY THIS YEAR WHEN ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM REACHED A LEVEL OF OVER 100 A DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE CENTRE HAD BEEN USED FIVE TIMES SINCE 1989 TO ACCOMMODATE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

"WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO SARDA AND THE VOLUNTEERS FOR MANAGING THE CENTRE FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND THUS HELPING HONG KONG OUT AT A DIFFICULT TIME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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263 VM'S RETURNED TODAY

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A GROUP OF 263 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 99 MEN, 63 WOMEN, 53 BOYS AND 48 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 74TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 5,259 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 11,555 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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NO NOMINATION FOR LEGCO BY-ELECTION TODAY

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NO NOMINATION IS RECEIVED TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST CONSTITUENCY.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD FOR THE BY-ELECTION, TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, WILL CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 18.

TWO NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED ON THE FIRST DAY OF NOMINATION YESTERDAY.

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CHANGE OF INTEREST RATE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED A DECREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 5.04% (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 5.52% (TAX FREE).

A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT WAS GAZETTED YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.42 PER MONTH PER \$100.

INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER TOMORROW.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE TOMORROW WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

- 8.28% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JUNE 22, 1989;
- 7.80% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JULY 12, 1989;
- 7.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 12, 1989 AND BEFORE AUGUST 9, 1989;
- 6.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 9, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 7, 1990;
- 7.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 7, 1990 AND BEFORE APRIL 4, 1990;
- 8.04% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 4, 1990 AND BEFORE AUGUST 15, 1990;
- 7.56% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 15, 1990 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 24, 1990;
- 7.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 24, 1990 AND BEFORE JANUARY 30, 1991;
- 6.60% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 30, 1991 AND BEFORE MAY 29, 1991;

/7.56%

- 7.56% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 29, 1991 AND BEFORE JULY 3, 1991;
- 6.60% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 3, 1991 AND BEFORE AUGUST 14, 1991;
- 6.00% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 14, 1991 AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 18, 1991; AND
- 5.52% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 18, 1991 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 6, 1991.

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON NOVEMBER 6, 1991, DECEMBER 6, 1991 AND JANUARY 6, 1992 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON FEBRUARY 5, 1992 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

ON \$1,000, NOVEMBER 6, 1991 TO FEBRUARY 5, 1992	
3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.20 PER MONTH	= \$12.60
ON \$1,000, DECEMBER 6, 1991 TO FEBRUARY 5, 1992	
2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.20 PER MONTH	= \$8.40
ON \$1,000, JANUARY 6, 1992 TO FEBRUARY 5, 1992	
1 COMPLETE MONTH AT \$4.20 PER MONTH	= \$4.20

	\$25.20
	=====

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WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION
* * * *

SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER TO CERTAIN AREAS IN SOUTH KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 7) TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT HO MAN TIN AND KING'S PARK AND INCLUDING HO MAN TIN ESTATE, OI MAN ESTATE, CHUN MAN COURT, VALLEY ROAD ESTATE AND KING GEORGE V SCHOOL.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEG
* * * * *

EXCHANGE FUND BILLS TENDER RESULTS - - - TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q145	Y196
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,195 MN	HKD 918 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE ACCEPTED YIELD	4.12 PCT	5.22 PCT
HIGHEST ACCEPTED YIELD	4.15 PCT	5.25 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 50 PCT	ABOUT 66 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.22 PCT	5.33 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEH

NEXT TENDER OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS - - - - TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q146	H177
ISSUE DATE	13 NOV 91	13 NOV 91
MATURITY DATE	12 FEB 92	13 MAY 92
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT OF OFFER	HKD 500 + 100 MN	HKD 200 + 60 MN

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	4.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	5.11.91	+19
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-19
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.1 *-0.2* 5.11.91

/HONG KONG

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		4.11.91	5.11.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	3.47 PCT	3.32 PCT
	1 MONTH	3.72 PCT	3.62 PCT
	3 MONTHS	4.13 PCT	4.10 PCT
	6 MONTHS	4.26 PCT	4.20 PCT
	12 MONTHS	5.23 PCT	5.21 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER		7,470 MN	6,495 MN

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