



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PUBLIC URGED TO GIVE VIEWS NOW ON BASIC LAW

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THE SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TODAY (MONDAY) URGED HONG KONG PEOPLE TO ACT NOW TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

"THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A TIME WHEN YOUR VIEWS ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT MATTER MORE," HE SAID.

IN A SPEECH ENTITLED "PICKING UP THE PIECES", TO A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, MR WIGGHAM NOTED THE PRESENT INDICATIONS WERE THAT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WOULD PREFER TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL TIMETABLE FOR PROMULGATING THE BASIC LAW IN SPRING NEXT YEAR.

"I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT IF IN THE EVENT IT IS CLEAR THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO PRODUCE THE DEFINITIVE VERSION, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WILL EXTEND WHAT IS AFTER ALL A SELF-IMPOSED TIMETABLE," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BASIC LAW WAS NOT TO TAKE EFFECT FOR ANOTHER EIGHT YEARS AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT IT CAME OUT RIGHT.

"WE MUST HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION," HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF THOSE ARTICLES WHERE THERE WERE STILL DISSENTING VIEWS, MR WIGGHAM SAID THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE DRAFTERS' ATTENTION.

"WHERE VIEWS REMAIN DIVIDED, WE SHOULD TRY AND PUT ASIDE PERSONAL PREFERENCES AND ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMMON GROUND," HE SAID.

"WE MUST ALL DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT WHAT IS EVENTUALLY ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN READILY SUPPORT, AND IN WHICH WE CAN HAVE THE GREATEST CONFIDENCE.

"IN THIS RESPECT, THE FUTURE IS IN OUR OWN HANDS."

MR WIGGHAM SAID HE HOPED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW BY POSING QUESTIONS AND POINTING TOWARDS SOME OF THE AREAS RELATING TO THE BASIC LAW WHICH NEEDED FURTHER EXAMINATION.

"THE FIRST ISSUE ON WHICH I WOULD EXPECT HONG KONG PEOPLE TO FOCUS IS THE NATURE AND SCALE OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY PRESENCE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THIS HAD ALWAYS BEEN A SUBJECT OF GREAT ANXIETY AMONG THE POPULATION, MR WIGGHAM SAID RECENT EVENTS HAD UNDERSTANDABLY INTENSIFIED PUBLIC FEELINGS STILL FURTHER.

/"WE NOW .....

"WE NOW NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE BASIC LAW SHOULD DELINEATE MORE CLEARLY THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE PLA AND OUR POLICE FORCE," HE SAID.

SOME MORE BASIC QUESTIONS NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS WHETHER THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE PLA TO BE STATIONED IN HONG KONG IN TIME OF PEACE AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT THE SAR GOVERNMENT REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE PLA EITHER FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER, OR TO ASSIST IN DISASTER RELIEF, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

ANOTHER QUESTION RELATING TO PUBLIC ORDER WHICH HAD IN RECENT WEEKS GIVEN RISE TO SOME VERY LIVELY PUBLIC DEBATE, MR WIGGHAM SAID, WAS THE POWER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE SAR (AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 IN ARTICLE 18 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW), AND THE ACCOMPANYING POWER OF THE STATE COUNCIL TO APPLY RELEVANT NATIONAL LAWS IN THE SAR.

"THIS WOULD BE A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRESENT SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH THE SAME POWER LIES WITH THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

"AT PRESENT, THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR HONG KONG, AND THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS PLAINLY PROVIDED THAT THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER.

"SO WE NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER THE ARRANGEMENT SET OUT IN THE CURRENT DRAFT HAS FULLY REFLECTED THE CORRESPONDING PROVISIONS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

ON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHANCES OF HONG KONG'S SURVIVAL AS A CAPITALIST ENCLAVE IN A PREDOMINANTLY SOCIALIST COUNTRY AFTER 1997, HE SAID THE ANSWER WOULD LIE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE IMAGINATIVE CONCEPT OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS", WHICH WAS SANCTIONED BY ARTICLE 31 OF THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION.

"THIS, HOWEVER, HAS NOT PUT EVERYONE'S MIND AT EASE," HE SAID.

"CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THE SYSTEMS AND POLICIES SET OUT IN THE BASIC LAW, THOUGH PERMITTED BY ARTICLE 31 OF THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION, ARE AT VARIANCE WITH SOME OF THE OTHER ARTICLES IN THE CONSTITUTION, E.G. ARTICLES 1 AND 5 WHICH FIRMLY ESTABLISH THE SUPREMACY OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM."

MR WIGGHAM SAID FOR THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" TO SUCCEED, HONG KONG'S UNIQUE LIFE-STYLE, FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY, COMMON LAW SYSTEM AND THE VERY EXTENSIVE RANGE OF BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS NORMALLY ACCEPTED BY A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, MUST BE DEFENDED AT ALL COSTS.

HE ASKED IF THE SAFEGUARDS IN THE CURRENT DRAFT WERE ADEQUATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND IF WE FELT THE NEED FOR GREATER REASSURANCE, SHOULD WE LOOK FOR A SOLUTION WITHIN THE BASIC LAW OR OUTSIDE IT, GIVEN THAT IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A QUESTION OF COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION AND ITS "OFF-SPRING" - THE BASIC LAW.

ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW (ARTICLE 157), MR WIGGHAM SAID THIS WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME PEOPLE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE IN THE ENTIRE BASIC LAW.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT DRAFT OF ARTICLE 157 WAS THE RESULT OF HEATED DEBATE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

"THAT THIS SHOULD BE A SUBJECT OF MUCH CONTROVERSY SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING, AS IT REVOLVES AROUND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVEREIGN POWER ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION ON THE OTHER," HE SAID.

"IT ALSO RAISES THE TRICKY QUESTION OF THE INTERFACE BETWEEN TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEGAL SYSTEMS, AND UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE WE HAVE ALWAYS ATTACHED IN HONG KONG TO THE RULE OF LAW.

"THE JOINT DECLARATION PROMISES THAT HONG KONG SHALL MAINTAIN ITS PREVIOUS JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND SHALL ENJOY INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER, INCLUDING THE POWER OF FINAL ADJUDICATION.

"IT IS REASONABLE TO ACCEPT THAT SOME RESIDUAL AUTHORITY MAY NEED TO BE RESERVED TO THE SOVEREIGN POWER - IN THE CASE OF THE BASIC LAW, THIS RELATES TO THE POWER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS TO BE CONSULTED UNDER SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THOSE ARTICLES OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH LIE OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION'S AUTONOMY."

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CRITICISM, HOWEVER, THAT THE BASIC LAW WAS LESS THAN DEFINITIVE ON WHETHER THE STANDING COMMITTEE WOULD RETAIN A POWER TO INTERPRET THOSE BASIC LAW ARTICLES WHICH WERE WITHIN THE SAR'S AUTONOMY.

"CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT SUCH A POWER MIGHT COMPROMISE THE SAR'S HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, AS WELL AS ITS INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER.

"FURTHER WORK, I SUGGEST, IS NEEDED ON THIS ARTICLE," HE ADDED.

CLOSELY RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW, MR WIGGHAM SAID, WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASIC LAW COMMITTEE, UNDER THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, TO ADVISE ON MATTERS ARISING FROM ARTICLES 17, 18, 157 AND 158 OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH ESSENTIALLY CONCERNED THE DIVISION OF POWER BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SAR.

"UNDER THE PRESENT DRAFT, THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE OF AN ADVISORY NATURE," HE SAID AND ASKED WHETHER IT WAS ADEQUATE FOR ITS PURPOSE.

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMALISED AS A QUASI-JUDICIAL BODY WHOSE ADVICE, IF SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS, SHOULD BE BINDING.

/"THERE HAVE .....

"THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLS FOR A CLEARER DEFINITION OF THE WORK PROCEDURES OF THE BASIC LAW COMMITTEE.

"AGAIN, AN AREA WHICH NEEDS MORE THOUGHT," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR WIGGHAM SAID THE JOINT DECLARATION ONLY PROVIDED A BROAD DIRECTION FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAR, AND THERE WAS THUS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR DEBATE ON THE DETAIL.

"FURTHERMORE, AS HONG KONG DEVELOPS, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT OUR INCREASINGLY WELL-EDUCATED AND PROSPEROUS POPULATION SHOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN EXPRESSING A VARIETY OF VIEWS ON HOW THEY WOULD WISH TO BE GOVERNED IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997 AND BEYOND.

"EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO HIS OR HER OWN VIEW; AND, UNDER OUR SYSTEM, EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO EXPRESS THAT VIEW FREELY," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IN THE TIME AVAILABLE, WE COULD NOT GO ON DEBATING AND ARGUING.

"THE TIME WILL COME WHEN REAL DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN; AND IN THAT PROCESS COMPROMISES MAY HAVE TO BE REACHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE MAJORITY VIEW, AND IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AS MUCH COMMON GROUND AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE EXACT POSITION OF THAT COMMON GROUND SEEMED TO HAVE SHIFTED IN RECENT WEEKS; AND WE HAD SEEN A LEAD TAKEN BY OMELCO, IN THE NEW SITUATION, TO TRY AND IDENTIFY A CONSENSUS IN THE COMMUNITY.

"OBVIOUSLY, THE MORE CLEARLY WE AS A COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT A CONSENSUS VIEW, THE GREATER THE IMPACT MUST BE ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW.

"AND, OF COURSE, NOT ONLY ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, BUT ALSO ON THE PACE OF POLITICAL REFORMS BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, SINCE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER 1997 CANNOT BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

"WHAT IS NEEDED IS A FIRMLY EVOLVING SYSTEM WHICH WILL SEE HONG KONG SMOOTHLY ON THE WAY TOWARDS THE FULL DEMOCRACY PROMISED ALREADY IN THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW," HE STRESSED.

AS FAR AS THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS CONCERNED, HE NOTED THAT PUBLIC DISCUSSION SO FAR HAD FOCUSED MAINLY ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

"THESE ARE CLEARLY IMPORTANT ISSUES.

"NO LESS IMPORTANT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE IN PLACE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRAL ISSUE WAS THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDED FOR A FULLY-ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"IF THE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW ARE ADOPTED, WE SHALL BY 1995 HAVE A FULLY-ELECTED COUNCIL.

"IN OTHER WORDS, A COUNCIL WITH NO OFFICIALS, AND NO APPOINTED MEMBERS," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

THE QUESTIONS HE ASKED WERE: HOW SHOULD WE THEN PHASE OUT THE ROLE OF OFFICIALS, WHO AT PRESENT PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PRACTICAL ROLE IN CONDUCTING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; WHAT WAS THE APPROPRIATE RATE OF CHANGE FOR APPOINTED MEMBERS, AND THE QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF LEGCO, HITHERTO HELD BY THE GOVERNOR.

"AS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEVELOPS INTO A FULLY-ELECTED BODY WITH NO OFFICIALS AS MEMBERS, THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CLEARLY CANNOT CONTINUE," HE SAID.

A NEW SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO EVOLVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE TEST OF ANY NEW SYSTEM WOULD LIE IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY RUNNING SMOOTHLY.

ON THE CONSIDERATION OF HOW QUICKLY WE BROUGHT IN CHANGES, MR WIGGHAM SAID ONE ARGUMENT WAS THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AN EARLY START SO THAT PEOPLE COULD GET USED TO THEM, BUT THERE WAS ALSO A PRACTICAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF A MEASURED PACE SO AS TO MINIMISE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS TO THE STABILITY OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.

"A CAREFUL BALANCE WILL HAVE TO BE STRUCK," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE ECONOMY PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR WIGGHAM SAID HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROMINENCE, AFTER 1997, AS A LEADING COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD HINGED LARGELY ON THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR EXISTING FRAMEWORK, WHICH HAD OVER THE YEARS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR OUR SPECTACULAR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

"TO THIS END THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO ENSURE THAT THE HITHERTO WELL-TRIED SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES ARE FOR THE MOST PART TRANSPLANTED TO THE MINI-CONSTITUTION. THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE SOME OF THESE PROVISIONS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE POLICY OBJECTIVES, WE NEEDED TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THEIR SUITABILITY, AS WORDED IN THE PRESENT DRAFT, FOR INCLUSION IN A LEGALLY BINDING DOCUMENT.

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"ARTICLE 106, WHICH DEALS WITH THE DRAWING UP OF THE SAR'S BUDGETS, IN PARTICULAR NEEDS CLOSE SCRUTINY.

"THE CHOICE HAS TO BE MADE BETWEEN PUTTING A STRAITJACKET ON THE SAR WHEN IT HANDLES ITS OWN FINANCE, AND LAYING DOWN THE BROAD PRINCIPLES ONLY, WITH THE PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL POLICIES IN MIND OF COURSE, THUS ALLOWING THE SAR THE FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

ON THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR WIGGHAM SAID ONE OF THE MANY SAD ASPECTS OF EVENTS IN CHINA WAS THAT WE HAD LOST THE MOMENTUM BUILT UP IN THE JLG OVER RECENT YEARS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE JLG'S TASK HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO PREPARE FOR THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF HONG KONG, INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

"THAT WORK IS STILL TO BE DONE; IT IS IN MANY RESPECTS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER; IT IS CERTAINLY MORE DAUNTING," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THE JLG MOMENTUM HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED, THE MANY PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS NOTCHED UP BY THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL IN PLACE.

"HONG KONG'S SEPARATE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS ARE STILL VALID; WORK ON OUR OWN SHIPPING REGISTER PROCEEDS; HONG KONG IS STILL ENJOYING (AND ACTIVELY SO) ITS SEPARATE STATUS IN THE GATT; WORK ON THE LOCALISATION OF LEGISLATION IS IN HAND. AND SO ON.

"IN ANY CASE, EVEN IF THE TWO SIDES HAVE NOT BEEN MEETING, WE HAVE STILL BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH OUR OWN RESEARCH AND PREPARATORY WORK."

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM (AND HONG KONG FOR THAT MATTER) AND CHINA WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OTHER COUNTRIES AND CHINA BECAUSE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"WE HAVE A TREATY OBLIGATION TOWARDS DIALOGUE, AND THAT DIALOGUE MUST AT SOME STAGE BE RESUMED.

"AT THE SAME TIME IT MUST BE IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO GET ON WITH THE WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE 1997," HE SAID.

AS TO THE QUESTION, WOULD HONG KONG EVER GET BACK TO THE POSITION IT HAD REACHED EARLIER THIS YEAR, MR WIGGHAM SAID: "WE MUST CERTAINLY TRY. THE TWO SIDES -- ALL OF US -- MUST TRY AND 'PICK UP THE PIECES'."

MR WIGGHAM SAID IT HAD NOW BEEN PROPOSED TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT THE JLG SHOULD PLAN TO RESUME BUSINESS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

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GOVT TAKES PRAGMATIC APPROACH IN COMPUTERISATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL ADOPT A PRAGMATIC STRATEGY IN IMPLEMENTING ITS COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME, THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING MANAGER, DR COLIN GREENFIELD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE STRATEGY WAS DECIDED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES POLICY GROUP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE AFTER CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A CONSULTANCY REVIEW ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO COMPUTERISATION.

DR GREENFIELD WAS REFERRING TO SOME MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPUTERISATION IN THE GOVERNMENT THIS YEAR, DURING A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION.

OUTLINING THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY, DR GREENFIELD SAID INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLANNING WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS TO REPLACE THE TRADITIONAL PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH.

"THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY (GDPA) WILL HELP DEPARTMENTS TO PRODUCE SUCH PLANS EVERY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRATEGIC PLANNING, DR GREENFIELD SAID AN INFRASTRUCTURAL APPROACH, INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL OPEN TENDER, WOULD BE ADOPTED TO PROCURE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

"ONE CONSEQUENCE OF PROCUREMENT BY OPEN TENDER IS THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ALMOST EVERY MAKE OF COMPUTER UNDER THE SUN. THE INFRASTRUCTURAL APPROACH REQUIRES STANDARDS TO BE SET FOR HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE SO AS TO PROMOTE COMPETITIVE PURCHASES, CONNECTIVITY AND COMPATIBILITY OF SYSTEMS," HE EXPLAINED.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, DR GREENFIELD SAID, WOULD BE ADOPTED WHENEVER AVAILABLE, AND, IF NOT, DE FACTO INDUSTRY STANDARDS SHOULD BE APPLIED.

RESTRICTED TENDERING WOULD THEN BECOME THE NORM RATHER THAN OPEN TENDERING AND THE RESTRICTIONS WOULD CONFORM WITH THE REQUIRED STANDARDS, HE SAID.

ON PROCUREMENT, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE GDPA SHOULD HAVE AN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY AND A UNIT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

AT PRESENT, RESPONSIBILITY IS SHARED AMONG FIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHILE THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

"THE GDPA SHOULD ALSO DEVISE A SYSTEM SO THAT IT CAN CHARGE OTHER DEPARTMENTS FOR THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES," DR GREENFIELD CONTINUED.

"IT SHOULD SEEK TO OPERATE INCREASINGLY LIKE A COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION."

/AS REGARDS .....

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AS REGARDS PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DR GREENFIELD SAID THERE SHOULD BE ONE MANAGEMENT ONLY FOR EACH PROJECT. AT PRESENT THE BUSINESS ANALYSIS, ORGANISATION AND METHODS COMPONENTS AT THE START OF A PROJECT WERE THE DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE FINANCE BRANCH.

TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF SINGLE MANAGEMENT, HE SAID THE GDPA WOULD TAKE OVER STAFF WITH THIS CAPABILITY TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECTS.

"A NEW TECHNICAL GRADE IS TO BE CREATED TO CATER FOR SPECIALISTS SUCH AS SYSTEMS PROGRAMMERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

"AT PRESENT, WE ONLY HAVE THE ANALYST/PROGRAMMER GRADE AND PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES ARE HEAVILY GEARED TO INCREASED MANAGERIAL DUTIES."

AS HIGH LEVEL TECHNICAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE COULD NOT BE ADEQUATELY AWARDED UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE DEPARTMENT FACED GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF WITH SUCH SKILLS.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS INCREASINGLY RELIANT ON COMPUTERS, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE GDPA AND ITS STAFF WOULD BE GIVEN HIGHER GRADINGS TO TIE IN WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

REFERRING TO THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GDPA SHOULD BE CORPORATISED, DR GREENFIELD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER NOT TO.

THE CONSULTANTS ARGUED THAT CORPORATISATION WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPETE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING TECHNICAL STAFF.

"DURING THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, THE GDPA, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, WILL EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY IN PERSONNEL MATTERS TO MAKE THE OPTION OF CORPORATISATION UNNECESSARY," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

"AT THE END OF THAT TIME, THE MATTER WILL BE LOOKED AT AGAIN."

ON THE SUPPLY PROBLEM OF ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE CONSULTANTS RECOMMENDED CENTRALISING OF ALL SUCH POSTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GDPA TO MAXIMISE PRODUCTIVITY.

"THIS WILL ALSO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESS MADE BY THE GDPA OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

ON THE GRADING OF THE GDPA, DR GREENFIELD SAID A HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE, THE ROSS COMMITTEE, HAD RECOMMENDED IN JUNE THAT THE AGENCY BE UPGRADED TO FULL DEPARTMENTAL STATUS.

/IT ALSO .....

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IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE GDPA'S MANAGEMENT BE STRENGTHENED BY INTRODUCING A NEW SECOND LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT SENIOR TO THE PRESENT SECOND LEVEL.

"THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF ANY NECESSARY FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," DR GREENFIELD SAID.

THE FINANCE BRANCH, WHICH IS THE POLICY BRANCH, AGREED THAT THE GDPA SHOULD BE RENAMED THE "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT" WHICH, DR GREENFIELD SAID, WAS A MUCH MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

"THIS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ONCE THE NECESSARY APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

AFTER THAT, FILLING UP THE NEW POSTS WOULD BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY SO THAT THE NEW STRATEGY COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTING ON STAFFING PROBLEMS, DR GREENFIELD SAID: "WE ARE SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF, AS IS THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN HONG KONG.

"TURNOVER RATES RUN AT 10 PER CENT TO 18 PER CENT PER ANNUM, AND ARE CURRENTLY NEARER THE UPPER END OF THE RANGE."

WHILE EXPLORING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO ECONOMISE ON STAFF AND TO MAXIMISE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY, DR GREENFIELD SAID SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW STRATEGY WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE NECESSARY STAFF BEING IN POST.

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#### QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989, AND THEY EXPECT THE IMPROVEMENT TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER, ACCORDING TO THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

SUCH COMPARISONS ARE, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS. THE FIRST QUARTER OF EACH YEAR IS USUALLY A SEASONAL LOW PERIOD, WHILE THE THIRD QUARTER IS USUALLY A MORE ACTIVE SEASON THAN THE SECOND QUARTER AS FAR AS THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IS CONCERNED.

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WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED A LEVEL OF BUSINESS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FIRST QUARTER, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR EXPECTATION FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AS RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER SURVEY.

FIRMS IN ALL OTHER INDUSTRIES REPORTED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, PARTICULARLY FOR FIRMS IN THE TEXTILES, PLASTICS AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES INDUSTRIES.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FIRMS IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY, WHICH EXPECT A STABLE LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, FIRMS IN THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY FIRMS IN THE PLASTICS AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES, ANTICIPATE A FURTHER INCREASE IN BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

ALTHOUGH FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPERIENCED A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR, PARTICULARLY RESTAURANTS, EXPERIENCED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE OF FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND HOTELS BUSINESS TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THEIR PREVIOUS QUARTER EXPECTATION FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, HOTELS ANTICIPATE A FURTHER DECREASE IN BUSINESS, WHILE THE OTHER FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR EXPECT A MORE FAVOURABLE BUSINESS SITUATION.

IN THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, WHILE FIRMS IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES RECORDED A RATHER STABLE LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THE OTHER FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR (WHICH INCLUDE THE BANKS, REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES) EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN GENERAL.

AS REGARDS THE THIRD QUARTER, WHILE THE BANKS EXPECT A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS, THE OTHER FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR ANTICIPATE A MILD INCREASE IN BUSINESS.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY. THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS, AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR REMAINED WIDESPREAD AMONG FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE PROBLEMS HAD DIMINISHED.

/IN THE .....

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR, HIGH WAGE RATES, SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 WERE REPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS SURVEYED. ALTHOUGH THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER, THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY IS EXPECTED TO EASE OFF.

MANY FIRMS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR AND OTHER SERVICES SECTOR WERE AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN ADDITION, THE HOTELS ALSO SUFFERED FROM A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WHICH INCLUDE PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH STAFF COSTS, SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF AS WELL AS INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE THIRD QUARTER, PARTICULARLY THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY SIGNIFICANTLY.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD "IMPROVED", "REMAINED THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATED" IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO "IMPROVE", "REMAIN THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATE" IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED. MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$5 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234779.

## UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR APRIL - JUNE

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BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD APRIL - JUNE 1989, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET REMAINED TIGHT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1989 WAS 1.4 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.3 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1989 AND 1.8 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN APRIL - JUNE 1989 WAS ESTIMATED AT 38,600, COMPARED WITH 35,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1989 AND 49,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1988.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1989 WAS 0.8 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1989. THE RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1988 WAS 0.7 PER CENT.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR APRIL-JUNE 1989 WAS 22,800, COMPARED WITH 21,300 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1989 AND 18,900 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1988.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

/THE PROVISIONAL .....

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY - JULY 1989 WAS 1.2 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.7 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN CNTA ANNOUNCED

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF SENIOR POSTINGS.

MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WITH EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 16).

MR FUNG'S LAST POSTING WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

MR PARRISH NG, FORMERLY WITH THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR THOMAS YIU AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (COMMUNITY INFORMATION) ON SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

MR YIU WILL BECOME DISTRICT OFFICER FOR TAI PO.

MR HERMAN CHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (SPECIAL DUTIES) WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (MONDAY).

MR CHO, WHO REPLACES MR RICHARD YUEN, WAS FROM THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH. BEFORE THAT, HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

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SHA TIN HOLDING VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

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A LARGE-SCALE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IS BEING LAUNCHED IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT AND IT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT YIU PING HOUSE, YIU ON ESTATE, MA ON SHAN, ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 16) EVENING.

"AFTER THE CEREMONY, MORE THAN 50 'VOTER REGISTRATION AMBASSADORS', INCLUDING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISERS WILL GO TO THE HOUSING UNITS TO HELP RESIDENTS REGISTER," A SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MA ON SHAN IS THE MAIN TARGET AREA FOR THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF ITS FAST GROWING POPULATION.

DISTRICT-WIDE, MORE THAN 30 LIAISON OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISERS, BEARING STAFF IDENTITY CARDS AND WEARING T-SHIRTS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE OCCASSION, WILL BE VERY VISIBLE DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

"ON THE PUBLICITY FRONT, AN EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW TOWN PLAZA OPPOSITE THE ENTRY TO THE SHA TIN KCR STATION FROM TODAY TO AUGUST 25; AND AT THE NORTH GALLERY OF NEW TOWN PLAZA LEADING TO SHA TIN CENTRE AND SHA TIN PLAZA FROM AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 20," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT WILL THEN BE MOVED TO THE LOBBY OF SHA TIN KCR STATION, FROM SEPTEMBER 20 TO 30."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG, HAD WRITTEN TO THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, APPELLING TO THEM TO REGISTER.

AT THE SAME TIME, BANNERS AND POSTERS WILL BE PUT UP IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS AND SOUVENIRS WILL BE HANDED OUT TO EMPHASISE THE VOTER REGISTRATION MESSAGE.

THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN SHA TIN IS ABOUT 102,000. THIS IS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 11,500 OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE.

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PILOT SCHEME IN YUEN LONG TO VERIFY ELECTORAL ROLL

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A PILOT SCHEME TO VERIFY THE ELECTORAL ROLL IN YUEN LONG WILL BE CARRIED OUT FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO SEPTEMBER 30.

DURING THIS PERIOD, COMMUNITY ORGANISERS OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL MAKE DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS IN THE DISTRICT TO VERIFY VOTERS' INFORMATION. THEY WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS.

CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SCHEME IS TO TEST THE VIABILITY OF A NEW MEASURE TO INCREASE THE ACCURACY OF ELECTORAL ROLLS.

THE LATEST MOVE IS DESIGNED TO COMBINE VOTER REGISTRATION WITH THE UPDATING OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL DURING DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS, AND HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY A REVIEW GROUP ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1989 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE URGED ALL RESIDENTS IN THE YUEN LONG RURAL CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY TO FULLY CO-OPERATE WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE VOTER VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

HE SAID ALL COMMUNITY ORGANISERS CONDUCTING THE VISITS WOULD CARRY IDENTIFICATION PAPERS ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

ENQUIRIES ON THE PILOT SCHEME SHOULD BE MADE TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION ON 5-270369 OR THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE ON 0-4792261.

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SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS URGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

MAKING THE APPEAL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE IN THE DISTRICT WILL START TOMORROW (TUESDAY) LAST UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

"REGISTERING AS AN ELECTOR IS THE CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.

"ANYONE WHO HAS REACHED OR WILL BE 21 YEARS OF AGE BEFORE DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR, AND WHO IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT OR HAS BEEN LIVING IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS CAN REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR," HE SAID.

/THE NAMES .....

THE NAMES OF REGISTERED ELECTORS ARE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL WHICH IS FOR USE IN DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DURING THE EXERCISE, REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37-39 TONKIN STREET, ITS SUB-OFFICES, AND AT FIVE MTR STATIONS - SHEK KIP MEI, SHAM SHUI PO, CHEUNG SHA WAN, LAI CHI KOK AND MEI FOO - IN THE DISTRICT.

STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS DURING THEIR ROUTINE VISITS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS.

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE EXERCISE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL DISPLAY BANNERS AND POSTERS AT PROMINENT LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT, AND DISTRIBUTE SOUVENIR MEMO PADS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

SOME CINEMAS IN THE DISTRICT WILL SHOW SLIDES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO PUBLICISE THE EXERCISE.

"REGISTRATION INVOLVES SIMPLY FILLING IN THE FORMS AND PUTTING THE PREPAID REPLIES THE POST BOXES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN FILLING IN THE FORMS, RESIDENTS CAN ONLY ENROL ACCORDING TO THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES AND NOT THE ADDRESSES OF THEIR WORK PLACES.

"REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES SHOULD NOTIFY THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY FILLING IN THE SAME FORMS," HE ADDED.

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#### DISTRICT SYP ENDS WITH A HIGH NOTE

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ABOUT 1,000 CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS SPENT AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL TODAY (MONDAY) WHEN THEY ATTENDED A VARIETY SHOW WHICH MARKED THE CONCLUSION OF THIS YEAR'S CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP).

THEY WERE TREATED TO MORE THAN TWO HOURS OF PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS, TELEVISION ARTISTES, AND PERFORMING GROUPS, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE DANCE TROUPE.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHAN HAY, SAID YOUNGSTERS WERE VERY KEEN IN PARTICIPATING IN THE VARIOUS SUMMER ACTIVITIES.

"MORE THAN 50,000 YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE CULTURAL, SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED UNDER THE DISTRICT'S SYP.

/"THESE ACTIVITIES .....

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"THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT ONLY BROUGHT THEM LOTS OF FUN, BUT ALSO HELPED STRENGTHEN THEIR SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ALSO THANKED THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMME.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS MONICA CHAN, AND A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAI KWOK-HUNG.

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#### CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO TRAIN YOUNG LEADERS

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THE MONG KOK CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR 1989-90 AIMS AT TRAINING A GROUP OF YOUNG LEADERS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE.

THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

TWO SEMINARS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 30 AND SEPTEMBER 4.

THE THEME OF THE FIRST SEMINAR IS THE STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM AND THE MEANING AND SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERALISM, AND THE SECOND ONE IS ABOUT THE PACE OF DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG.

A LEADERSHIP CAMP WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10 AND THE PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS.

ON COMPLETION OF THE CAMP, THE PARTICIPANTS, TO BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE GROUPS AND UNDER EXPERT SUPERVISION, ARE EXPECTED TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CIVIC EDUCATION FOR THE DISTRICT BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE ROUNDED OFF IN FEBRUARY WITH AN EXHIBITION AND A REPORT SESSION.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ABOUT TRAINING SCHEME CAN BE MADE ON 3-959326.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS POLLUTION IN SAI KUNG  
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD WILL LOOK INTO VARIOUS LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 16).

MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS PRODUCED BY A PAINT MANUFACTURING COMPANY AND WILL REQUEST THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO AVOID POLLUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

OFFICERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROGRESS OF CLEARING THE DESERTED MARKET STALLS AT SEE CHEUNG STREET.

THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR PROVIDING PLANTING MATERIALS FOR THE SITTING-OUT AREA AT ST PETER'S VILLAGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 16) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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CONSTRUCTION OF ALDRICH BAY PLAYGROUND TO START NEXT MONTH  
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RESIDENTS IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL HAVE A NEW LEISURE VENUE WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALDRICH BAY PLAYGROUND IS COMPLETED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$14.95 MILLION CONTRACT TO CHUNG SHING CONSTRUCTION CO LTD FOR CONSTRUCTING THE 1.44 HECTARE PLAYGROUND WHICH IS BOUND BY NAM ON STREET, NAM ON LANE AND ALDRICH BAY ROAD.

PART OF THE PLAYGROUND WILL BE UNDER THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A MINI-SOCCER PITCH, JOGGING TRAIL, A FOUNTAIN, A CLOCK TOWER, A POOL, PAVILIONS AND GARDEN AREAS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT MONTH.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 59.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 346.556 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 206.892 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 35.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN HUNG HOM

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 16), TWO LOCATIONS IN HUNG HOM WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THE LOCATIONS ARE THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAK MAN STREET BETWEEN MAN TAI STREET AND MAN SIU STREET; AND MAN SIU STREET, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TAK MAN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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