



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK TRYING TO BUILD BENEFICIAL LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA: GOVERNOR	1
STRATEGY FOR ASSESSING EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES MAPPED OUT	4
WAGE INDEXES FOR JUNE PUBLISHED	7
PLAN TO COMPENSATE WORKERS FOR HEARING LOSS	11
OMELCO GROUP TO DEPART FOR KUALA LUMPUR	13
SAI KUNG LEADERS INSPECT VBP CAMP FACILITIES	13
YOUTH URGED TO TAKE UP CHALLENGE	14
WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS	15
DEADLINE FOR ANTI-DRUG DRAMA COMPETITION EXTENDED	16
TWO ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG TO BE IMPROVED	17
IMPROVEMENTS TO TSUEN WAN VILLAGE ACCESS ROAD PROPOSED	18
ROAD LINKS BETWEEN TIN SHUI WAI AND YUEN LONG	19
METRICATION COMMITTEE'S SECRETARIAT OFFICE ON MOVE	19
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	20
WATER CUTS IN FOUR DISTRICTS	20
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN SHEUNG SHUI	21

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 1 -

HK TRYING TO BUILD BENEFICIAL LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
WITH CHINA: GOVERNOR
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HONG KONG IS TRYING TO BUILD A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA GENUINELY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AND THE ASIA SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON, SIR DAVID SAID THE TERRITORY AT THE SAME TIME WAS BUILDING WITH DETERMINATION AND SPEED FOR THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES WHICH LAY IN ITS FUTURE.

SIR DAVID INVITED OVERSEAS BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS TO COMPETE FOR A SHARE IN THE AMBITIOUS PROJECTS TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD TAKEN SOME HARD KNOCKS THIS YEAR, BUT THE TERRITORY HAD OVERCOME WORSE AND EMERGED THE STRONGER FOR IT.

"WE ARE BUSY NOW IN STRENGTHENING OUR SOCIAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF JUNE 4 HAD SHAKEN CONFIDENCE BADLY BUT THERE WAS NO PANIC.

"INDEED ALL PARTS OF THE SYSTEM HELD FIRM. THAT IS ONE OF THE KEY MESSAGES ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE JUNE TRAGEDY ON HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"SINCE JUNE HONG KONG HAS GONE BACK TO DOING WHAT WE DO BEST -- BUSINESS. PRIVATE INVESTMENT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLACKENING OFF," HE ADDED.

CITING EXAMPLES OF RECENT SUBSTANTIAL PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EQUALLY DETERMINED THAT IT SHOULD START NOW TO BUILD THE HONG KONG OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

HE REFERRED TO FIVE CONSORTIA BIDDING FOR THE LARGEST SITE EVER SOLD IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ONE OF THE BIGGEST PRIVATE FINANCINGS OF AN INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITY FOR CONSTRUCTING TWO NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS, AND FOUR CONSORTIA BIDDING FOR THE FRANCHISE TO BUILD AND OPERATE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CABLE TV NETWORK.

OUTLINING THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PLANS HE ANNOUNCED IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS LAST WEDNESDAY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT TRUE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY, THE DOOR WAS WIDE OPEN FOR ANYONE TO BID FOR THESE PROJECTS.

"ALL THE WORLD'S DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS AND CONSTRUCTORS WILL BE WELCOME TO COMPETE FOR A SHARE. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE ON A HUGE SCALE WHICH WILL KEEP US BUSY, AND THOSE WHO COME TO HELP US, TO THE END OF THE CENTURY," SIR DAVID SAID.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 2 -

REFERRING TO THE "BRAIN DRAIN" PROBLEM, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WAS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS PLAYING ITS PART.

"MANY MULTINATIONAL BANKS AND BUSINESSES ARE MAKING IT EASIER FOR THEIR KEY STAFF TO OBTAIN FOREIGN PASSPORTS BY ASSIGNING THEM OVERSEAS," HE SAID.

"THIS GIVES THEM THE SECURITY THEY FEEL THEY NEED TO COME BACK AND WORK IN HONG KONG.

"MANY FIRMS ARE ALSO EXPANDING THEIR ABILITY TO RECRUIT IN THE LARGE AND WELL-ESTABLISHED CHINESE COMMUNITIES WHICH HAVE SPREAD OVERSEAS.

"BUT THESE ARE ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTIONS. WE WOULD MUCH PREFER SOLUTIONS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE PEOPLE TO LEAVE."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT NONETHELESS HE SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER STOP THOSE WHO WISHED TO LEAVE.

HE HOPED THAT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WOULD REALISE WHAT AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE HONG KONG WAS, SO THAT THEY RETURNED AND CONTRIBUTED TO ITS SUCCESS.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT WHERE THERE WERE GAPS IN THE SKILLS AND TALENTS NEEDED, HONG KONG MUST PLAN TO REPLACE THEM, AND HE REFERRED TO THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME FOR EXPANDING TERTIARY EDUCATION OUTLINED IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

TURNING TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, SIR DAVID SAID A VITAL POINT IN MAKING THE AGREEMENT WORK WOULD BE MAINTAINING THE CONTINUITY OF AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS SEPARATE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN PEKING.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, AND ITS CIVIL SERVICE, WILL BE MADE UP FROM MEN AND WOMEN FROM HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A GROUP OF BRITISH OFFICIALS HANDING THE ADMINISTRATION OVER TO ANOTHER GROUP FROM PEKING AT MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 30, 1997. HONG KONG IS TO BE RUN BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO ENSURE THAT THE PACE AND DIRECTION OF THE REFORMS REFLECTED THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"RECENTLY THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY HAS MOVED IN FAVOUR OF SPEEDING UP SOMEWHAT THE SPEED OF CHANGE. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INCREASING SIGNS OF A WILL - WHICH WAS LACKING BEFORE - TO REACH A COMMUNITY CONSENSUS STRETCHING ACROSS THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS SO THAT THERE IS A COMMON HONG KONG VIEW TO PUT TO THOSE NOW DRAFTING CHINA'S BASIC LAW FOR HONG KONG WHICH WILL LAY DOWN THE DETAILS OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE AFTER 1997.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 3 -

"I WELCOME THIS ATTEMPT TO SEEK A COMMON VIEW. IT WILL HELP THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS. IT WILL ALSO HELP US IN DECIDING ON THE RIGHT SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID DESCRIBED THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION HAD TO FACE.

"WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND, IN PARTICULAR, WE AND THE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA WHO ARE BEING OVERWHELMED BY THE PROBLEM, TRY TO FIND THE WAY FORWARD, I ASK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DILEMMA.

"I ASK YOU ALSO TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM STRAIGHT, WITH MINDS AND EMOTIONS UNCLOUDED BY MEMORIES OF THE UNITED STATES' OWN DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG, WHICH ALL THESE YEARS HAD FACED MOUNTING PROBLEMS OF HOW TO HOUSE AND FEED THESE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, HAD DONE WHAT IT COULD EVEN THOUGH, TO OUR OWN POPULATION, IT SEEMED DESPERATELY UNFAIR THAT WE SHOULD BE ALLOWING IN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITH NO CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG AND NO WISH TO STAY THERE WHEN EVERY DAY WE NORMALLY TURNED BACK TO CHINA 40-50 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO OFTEN HAD CLOSE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY.

"THERE IS A GROWING FEELING THESE YEARS OF GENEROSITY IN DEALING WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED FROM VIETNAM HAVE NOT ONLY BROUGHT US A CONTINUING PROBLEM, BUT ALSO CRITICISM AND MISUNDERSTANDING FROM MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD; WHEREAS THOSE WHOSE POLICIES HAVE BEEN HARSHER HAVE BOTH LESS OF A PROBLEM AND LESS CRITICISM," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD LOOKED AT THE PROBLEM, AS IT DID AT GENEVA EARLIER THIS YEAR, ALL WERE AGREED THAT ULTIMATELY THOSE WHO WERE NOT REFUGEES MUST RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

"IF PEOPLE VOLUNTEER TO DO SO THAT IS EXCELLENT; BUT WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER WHO VOLUNTEER WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL MINORITY.

"FOR THE MAJORITY, IF THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF RESETTLEMENT AS REFUGEES ELSEWHERE, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A PROGRAMME FOR ORDERLY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING THE WAY THEY ARE TREATED AFTER THEIR RETURN.

"THIS IS A VIEW NOW INCREASINGLY SHARED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM, OXFAM, SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND AND THE BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL.

"IT CANNOT BE RIGHT TO KEEP PEOPLE, A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM CHILDREN, INSIDE CAMPS FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR, WHERE WHATEVER THE FACILITIES AND WHATEVER THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN, FRUSTRATION WILL PERIODICALLY TURN TO VIOLENCE," HE SAID.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 4 -

ON THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SIR DAVID SAID THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE POST-WAR FREE TRADE SYSTEM, AND HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THAT SYSTEM.

"THE GROWTH IN AMERICAN INTEREST IN HONG KONG DATES FROM THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA. YOUR BUSINESSMEN WERE QUICK TO SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES THIS PRESENTED.

"EVEN SO, FEW COULD HAVE FORESEEN A DECADE AGO JUST HOW FAST GUANGDONG WOULD DEVELOP. HONG KONG HAS BEEN THE CATALYST.

"ACCORDING TO CHINESE ESTIMATES, ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF ALL INVESTMENT IN THE PROVINCE COMES FROM HONG KONG, AND BETWEEN 1.5 AND TWO MILLION OF THE WORKFORCE ARE EMPLOYED IN HONG KONG OWNED ENTERPRISES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CHINA HAD TAKEN OFF. THANKFULLY, ALL THE SIGNS SINCE JUNE 4 WERE THAT IT WAS CONTINUING UNABATED.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT ALLOW THE EVENTS OF THAT DATE TO DISTRACT US FROM SEEING THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC REFORMS AND THE BENEFITS THEY BRING TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA," HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES HAD THE SAME VALUES.

BOTH BELIEVED IN FREE ENTERPRISE; IN FREE SPEECH; IN THE FREEDOM OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT; AND IN HARD WORK GETTING ITS JUST REWARD.

"WE SPEAK WITH THE SAME VOICE ON MANY ISSUES. WHERE THERE HAS BEEN FRICTION IN OUR RELATIONSHIP IT HAS TENDED TO BE THE HEALTHY FRICTION OF BUSINESS COMPETITION," HE SAID.

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STRATEGY FOR ASSESSING EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES MAPPED OUT
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MAPPED OUT A STRATEGY FOR THE 1990'S TO HELP ASSESS HONG KONG'S EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THIS STRATEGY WILL ALLOW FUTURE MEASURES TO BE FITTED IN INTO A LOGICAL AND COHERENT FRAMEWORK," HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE WHILE ELABORATING ON EDUCATIONAL PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR LAST WEEK.

/ALSO PRESENT

ALSO PRESENT TO GIVE DETAILS WERE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC), MR ANDREW LI; AND THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, MR ANDREW WELLS.

MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXAMINED THE PRESENT POSITION AND CONCLUDED THAT IT HAD ACHIEVED THE ESSENTIAL PROVISION AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS, BUT THERE REMAINED SCOPE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION PROVIDED.

"WE HAVE ALSO ACHIEVED HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, BUT WITH INSUFFICIENT PLACES," HE SAID.

"OUR STRATEGY IN GENERAL TERMS WILL THEREFORE BE TO MEET DEMAND FOR INCREASING THE LEVEL OF SUBSIDY TO DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL SECTORS MORE SELECTIVELY AND CRITICALLY THAN IN THE PAST, AND TO CONCENTRATE ON RAISING STANDARDS AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR INTRINSIC AND RELATIVE EDUCATIONAL IMPORTANCE, THE TIME AND RESOURCES NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PROCEEDING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WILL REVIEW OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CRITERIA IN A PREFACE TO ITS NEXT REPORT DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR."

IN THE MEANTIME, MR YEUNG SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED AND GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY TO MAJOR PROPOSALS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION EXPANSION, A NEW SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, THE PHASING-IN OF WHOLE-DAY PRIMARY EDUCATION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO KINDERGARTENS.

"ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, WE INTEND TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP TAKING FIRST DEGREES FROM ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT NOW TO OVER 18 PER CENT BY 1994-95," HE SAID.

"A STEERING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, WITH HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION FROM THE UPGC, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO MONITOR PROGRESS.

"THE UPGC AND THE STEERING GROUP WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR ECONOMIES BY THE INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS INCREASING STUDENT-STAFF RATIOS AND THE USE OF SUMMER TIME TEACHING.

"THE UPGC WILL REVIEW PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION IN 1993-94, WITH A VIEW TO CONSIDERING WHETHER FURTHER EXPANSION DURING THE PERIOD 1995-2000 WOULD BE DESIRABLE OR PRACTICABLE.

"THIS REVIEW WILL USEFULLY COINCIDE WITH THE REVIEW WHICH THE UPGC HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED TO CONDUCT, BEFORE THE 1994-97 TRIENNIUM, OF THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING A COMMON POINT OF ENTRY TO TERTIARY EDUCATION AFTER SECONDARY 7."

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 6 -

TURNING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS, MR YEUNG SAID SCHOOLS IN THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME (BPS), WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABOLISHED, WOULD BE HELPED TO ACHIEVE AIDED SCHOOL STANDARDS AND BE ALLOWED TO JOIN A NEW DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME.

"THE NEW SUBSIDY SCHEME WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO SCHOOLS FORMERLY IN THE BPS BUT WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL, INDEPENDENT AND A RESTRICTED NUMBER OF AIDED SCHOOLS WHICH CAN MEET THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3," HE SAID.

"A PRIVATE SCHOOLS REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME AND THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME."

REFERRING TO THE FULL CONVERSION OF ALL PRIMARY CLASSES TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION, MR YEUNG SAID THIS WOULD REMAIN A LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE AND WOULD BE PHASED IN AS RESOURCES PERMITTED.

"IN THE SHORTER TERM, WE WILL INTRODUCE A 'MIXED-MODE' SYSTEM UNDER WHICH PRIMARY 5 AND 6 PUPILS WILL ATTEND SCHOOL FOR THE WHOLE DAY," HE SAID.

"THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF THIS WILL INCLUDE INCREASED TEACHER CONTACT AT A STAGE WHEN PUPILS' PERFORMANCE BEGINS TO BE ASSESSED FOR PLACEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

"STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO RESERVE SUFFICIENT SITES FOR THE 35 ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE MIXED-MODE POLICY. THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SCHOOLS WILL BE PHASED IN AS RESOURCES PERMIT.

"MAJOR DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING A REALISTIC TIMETABLE, WILL BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 4,"

FOR KINDERGARTENS, MR YEUNG SAID IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE AN IMPROVED TRAINING COURSE FOR QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, A NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME AND THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.

"KINDERGARTENS OPERATORS WILL ALSO BE ENCOURAGED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO FOLLOW SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR IMPROVING STANDARDS FOR STAFFING AND TO PAY TEACHERS ACCORDING TO A RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALE," HE SAID.

"THE NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES WILL BE MADE AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS POSSIBLE.

"WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE NUMBER OF NEEDY PARENTS BENEFITTING FROM THE SCHEME WILL BE TWICE AS MANY AS PRESENT."

/ON TOP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 7 -

ON TOP OF ALL THESE REFORMS, MR YEUNG SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND THE ADMINISTRATION WERE ALSO CONSIDERING FURTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE SCHOOLS.

"A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LANGUAGE TEACHING AND THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP AT THE END OF THIS MONTH," HE SAID.

"THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CURRICULUM AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN THE PERIOD OF NINE YEARS' FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN ITS NEXT REPORT, TO BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

"OTHER MEASURES WILL FOLLOW, INCLUDING A COMMISSION STUDY OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN RELATION TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

"THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL THESE MEASURES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE COHERENT AND LOGICAL FRAMEWORK PROVIDED BY OUR NEW EDUCATION STRATEGY."

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WAGE INDEXES FOR JUNE PUBLISHED
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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR JUNE 1989, AT 182.7, INCREASED BY 13.5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1988 AND BY 3.4 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1989, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE JUNE 1989 AND JUNE 1988 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 12.2 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 14.7 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 13.2 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 17.6 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 26.0 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE JUNE 1989 AND MARCH 1989 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 3.7 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.5 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.5 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.9 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.8 PER CENT.

THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1989 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX, AT 112.3 IN JUNE 1989, WAS 2.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN JUNE 1988 AND 0.2 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT IN MARCH 1989.

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THE REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1989 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THESE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED EACH QUARTER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING WORKERS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR, THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR.

SUCH INDEXES MEASURE CHANGES IN WAGE RATES BY HOLDING THE STRUCTURAL PATTERN OF THE LABOUR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, SEX AND MODE OF PAYMENT THE SAME AS THAT OF MARCH 1982, WHICH IS THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURES CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE WAGES RECEIVED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE ALSO PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE.

IN ADDITION, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES THAT ARE PAID LESS FREQUENTLY THAN MONTHLY, ARE CONVERTED TO AN EQUIVALENT MONTHLY RATE WHEN COMPILING THE WAGE RATE INDEXES.

TOTAL PAYROLL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS. APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASH RECEIPTS, IT ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGE RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOL. I, JUNE 1989 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE VOL. II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE EARLY NEXT MONTH.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES MAY BE MADE TO THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234744 OR 5-8234747.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)					% CHANGE JUN. 89/ JUN. 88
	JUN. 1988	SEPT. 1988	DEC. 1988	MAR. 1989	JUN. 1989	
MANUFACTURING	158.3	161.1	161.9	171.3	177.6	+12.2
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	154.8	159.6	164.4	174.8	177.5	+14.7
TRANSPORT SERVICES	184.6	188.2	190.4	199.9	208.9	+13.2
BUSINESS SERVICES	178.2	182.3	185.4	201.7	209.6	+17.6
PERSONAL SERVICES	160.5	171.3	178.7	194.8	202.2	+26.0
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	161.0	164.7	166.6	176.7	182.7	+13.5

TABLE 2: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

SELECTED MAJOR INDUSTRIES	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)					% CHANGE JUN. 89/ JUN. 88
	JUN. 1988	SEPT. 1988	DEC. 1988	MAR. 1989	JUN. 1989	
GARMENTS	138.0	139.7	140.0	144.2	149.9	+ 8.6
GLOVES	164.2	169.3	170.1	189.1	192.8	+17.4

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 10 -

HANDBAGS	146.9	151.4	151.1	162.2	174.3	+18.7
COTTON SPINNING /WEAVING	173.6	174.7	175.0	190.3	191.7	+10.4
KNITTING	152.4	152.9	153.8	161.6	167.8	+10.1
BLEACHING AND DYEING	180.1	181.9	182.4	189.6	197.1	+ 9.4
PRINTING	182.5	186.7	190.9	203.5	218.0	+19.5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	156.5	159.9	160.4	165.2	170.4	+ 8.9
METAL PRODUCTS	166.3	170.4	174.8	182.7	192.1	+15.5
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	182.5	186.7	189.4	208.0	220.9	+21.0
ELECTRONICS	180.4	183.9	183.9	202.8	205.8	+14.1
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	187.3	191.0	190.9	215.3	219.4	+17.1

MANUFACTURING	158.3	161.1	161.9	171.3	177.6	+12.2

TABLE 3: REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)					% CHANGE JUN. 89/ JUN. 88
	JUN. 1988	SEPT. 1988	DEC. 1988	MAR. 1989	JUN. 1989	
MANUFACTURING	108.0	106.8	106.2	109.1	109.2	+ 1.1
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	105.6	105.8	107.9	111.3	109.1	+ 3.3
TRANSPORT SERVICES	125.9	124.7	124.9	127.2	128.4	+ 2.0
BUSINESS SERVICES	121.6	120.8	121.7	128.4	128.8	+ 5.9
PERSONAL SERVICES	109.5	113.5	117.3	124.0	124.3	+13.5

ALL SECTORS ABOVE	109.8	109.2	109.3	112.5	112.3	+ 2.3

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PLAN TO COMPENSATE WORKERS FOR HEARING LOSS

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) AGREED TO A REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR WORKERS SUFFERING FROM OCCUPATIONAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS.

THE PROPOSED SCHEME HAD BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE BOARD AT ITS PREVIOUS MEETING BUT MEMBERS HELD DIFFERENT VIEWS ON CERTAIN PROVISIONS AND THE CHAIRMAN THEN UNDERTOOK TO RE-EXAMINE IT.

UNDER THE REVISED PROPOSAL, THE QUALIFYING SERVICE OF AN APPLICANT FOR COMPENSATION WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF 20 YEARS' TO 10 YEARS' EMPLOYMENT IN A NOISY INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO HAVE A PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG IN A NOISY OCCUPATION WITHIN THE 24 MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME, OR WITHIN THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THE CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

THE AGE LIMIT RELATING TO APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION HAD BEEN REMOVED UNDER THE REVISED PROPOSAL.

THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COMPENSATION WILL BE NOT MORE THAN 48 MONTHS' EARNINGS FOR TOTAL DISABILITY SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$394,000.

THE BOARD THEN CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS ON PROTECTION OF WORKERS' HEARING.

THE NOISE CONTROL CONCEPTS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS ARE BASED ON THREE "ACTION LEVELS", EACH REQUIRING SPECIFIED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE.

AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, MEMBERS AGREED TO THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

ALSO DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING WAS A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE "CROSS-HARBOUR" PROVISION IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE RELATING TO AN EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT TO SEVERANCE PAY UPON A CHANGE IN THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE BECAUSE CROSS-HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAD IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE 1974, ESPECIALLY WITH THE RECENT OPENING OF THE EASTERN CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL. WHETHER OR NOT THE CHANGE OF WORKPLACE INVOLVES MOVING ACROSS THE HARBOUR IS NO LONGER MEANINGFUL.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, A CHANGE OF WORKPLACE WITHOUT DISMISSAL DOES NOT ENTITLE AN EMPLOYEE TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT UNLESS SUCH A CHANGE CAUSES UNDUE HARDSHIP TO HIM SUFFICIENTLY SEVERE TO ESTABLISH A CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL REFERRED TO IN SECTION 31D(1)(C) OF THE ORDINANCE.

/SOME MEMBERS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 12 -

SOME MEMBERS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHEN AN EMPLOYEE SO AFFECTED WOULD SUFFER FROM UNDUE HARDSHIP.

THE BOARD AGREED TO REFER THE PAPER, TOGETHER WITH A COUNTER PROPOSAL MADE AT THE MEETING, BACK TO THE LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ALSO AGREED TO EXTEND THE CURRENT PROTECTION AGAINST VICTIMISATION CONFERRED UPON EMPLOYEES WHO GIVE INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE IN ANY PROCEEDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO BE EXTENDED TO COVER ALL TYPES OF WORK ACCIDENTS, WHETHER INDUSTRIAL OR NON-INDUSTRIAL.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL AGREED BY THE BOARD WAS TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE TO ANY NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEE WHOSE WAGES DO NOT EXCEED \$15,000 PER MONTH.

THE BOARD THEN DISCUSSED SEVERAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND RELATED REGULATIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTROL OVER CONTAINER HANDLING WORK AND ENSURING WORK SAFETY.

MEMBERS GENERALLY ENDORSED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, ON WHICH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL NOW SEEK THE VIEWS OF RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS.

MEMBERS FURTHER AGREED TO SET UP A PRESSURE EQUIPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS AUTHORITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

THE LAST ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS A PAPER INFORMING MEMBERS OF A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE. THIS PROPOSAL TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS VIEWS WHICH HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS WHEN THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE BOARD IN JULY.

UNDER THE REVISED PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE WILL BE INCREASED BY ONE DAY A YEAR UNTIL THE FINAL MAXIMUM OF 14 DAYS IS REACHED IN FIVE YEARS.

HOWEVER, THE ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENT WILL ALSO BE LINKED TO THE EMPLOYEE'S LENGTH OF SERVICE SO THAT HE WILL NOT BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR 14 DAYS' PAID ANNUAL LEAVE UNTIL HE HAS COMPLETED NINE YEARS' SERVICE WITH HIS EMPLOYER.

THE REVISED PROPOSAL ALSO PERMITS PAYMENT IN LIEU IN RESPECT OF ANY DAYS OF ANNUAL LEAVE IN EXCESS OF 10, SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE ON EACH OCCASION.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 13 -

OMELCO GROUP TO DEPART FOR KUALA LUMPUR

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A GROUP OF OMELCO MEMBERS WILL VISIT KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA LATER THIS WEEK WHILE THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IS BEING HELD THERE.

THE GROUP, HEADED BY THE CONVENER OF THE OMELCO SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON NATIONALITY, MRS ROSANNA TAM, AND COMPRISING MR RONALD ARCULLI AND MRS MIRIAM LAU, WILL DEPART FOR KUALA LUMPUR TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP ARE TO PROMOTE AMONG PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG AND TO EXPLAIN THE OMELCO POSITION ON NATIONALITY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MRS ROSANNA TAM AND MRS MIRIAM LAU WILL BE DEPARTING FOR KUALA LUMPUR BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAY FLIGHT NO. CX721 AT 3.45 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY). THEY WILL BE JOINED BY MR RONALD ARCULLI, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, ON WEDNESDAY.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THEIR DEPARTURE ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE GROUND FLOOR LIFT LOBBY OF THE AIRPORT VIP ROOM NO LATER THAN 3.15 PM. OFFICERS FROM THE OMELCO PRESS SECTION WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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SAI KUNG LEADERS INSPECT VBP CAMP FACILITIES

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRES MONITORING GROUP WERE TOLD AT A MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SECURITY OFFICERS TO POLICE THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE (VBP) DETENTION CENTRE NEAR THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR WHEN IT TOOK IN ITS FIRST OCCUPANTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

THEY WERE ALSO ASSURED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT THAT ALL WASTE WATER WOULD BE PROPERLY TREATED, FIRST BY A SETTLEMENT TANK AND THEN BY SAND FILTERS, BEFORE IT WAS DISCHARGED INTO THE SEA.

/THE MONITORING

THE MONITORING GROUP, FORMED TO MONITOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VBP CAMPS IN SAI KUNG WITH AN AIM OF MINIMISING ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING THIS (MONDAY) MORNING. A VISIT WAS ALSO MADE TO THE HIGH ISLAND VBP DETENTION CENTRE.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE DESIGN AND FACILITIES OF THE NEW CAMP AFTER THE VISIT. THEY WERE BRIEFED ON SITE BY OFFICERS OF THE SECURITY BRANCH, THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND DURING THE SITE VISIT WERE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRES MONITORING GROUP WAS FORMED FOLLOWING A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE THEN SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, AND THROUGH THE INITIATIVE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE GROUP WILL SERVE AS A USEFUL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO VBP DETENTION CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP IS: MR LAU WAN-HEI (CHAIRMAN), CHAIRMAN OF SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE; MR SING HON-KEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE; MR HO KOON-SHUN, ELECTED SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER; MR WAN YUET-KAU, ELECTED SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER; MR GEORGE NG, APPOINTED SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER; MR EDWARD PONG, APPOINTED SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER; MR LEE YICK-MING, CHAIRMAN OF SAI KUNG KAIFONG COMMITTEE; MR CHENG MING-HOI, CHAIRMAN OF SAI KUNG FISHERMEN'S MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION; AND MR LEE KAM-SHING, FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE.

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YOUTH URGED TO TAKE UP CHALLENGE

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (MONDAY) URGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET WELL PREPARED FOR TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES AHEAD.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT SPEECH DAY OF SCHOOLS RUN BY THE LUNG KONG WORLD FEDERATION.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING SCHOOLS WAS TO GRASP EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-BETTERMENT IN THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, FOR THE CULTIVATION OF CHARACTER AND VIRTUES, AS WELL AS IN THE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, SO AS TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.

/THE GOVERNOR

"THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT IN HIS RECENT POLICY SPEECH THAT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS LOCAL UNIVERSITY PLACES WOULD BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN DOUBLE.

"IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HONG KONG IS ACTIVELY PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE OF SCHOOL AGE WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY, ASSISTING THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL, AND PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGE OF TOMORROW," HE SAID.

"I BELIEVE LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

FINALLY, MR LAN URGED THE GRADUATING STUDENTS TO ADHERE TO THEIR SCHOOLS' MOTTO OF LOYALTY, FRATERNITY, KINDNESS AND BRAVERY WHILE DISCHARGING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETY.

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WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS
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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE 1989-90 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXAMINE A PROPOSAL BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO REDEVELOP LI CHIT STREET. UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE STREET WILL BE PEDESTRIANISED AND THE NEIGHBOURING AREA USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

A MEMBER WILL PRESENT WRITTEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE WASTAGE OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS BY THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES, THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT'S AREA COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS A FINANCIAL STATEMENT ON PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 16 -

DEADLINE FOR ANTI-DRUG DRAMA COMPETITION EXTENDED

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THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTERING THE ANTI-DRUG DRAMA COMPETITION HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 28, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE DECISION WAS TAKEN IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES ON DETAILS OF THE COMPETITION. MANY INTERESTED PARTIES HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE THEIR PRESENTATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOLO HARBOUR, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SEALS PLAYERS.

ENTITLED "THE PERPLEXED GROUP", THE COMPETITION AIMS AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' CONCERN ABOUT THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AMONG YOUNGSTERS AND ENLISTING THEIR SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO DIVISIONS: STUDENTS (SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SCHOOL STUDENTS) AND OPEN (GROUPS OTHER THAN PROFESSIONAL THEATRICAL COMPANIES).

ENTRIES TO THE CONTEST MUST HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED OR STAGED. THE DRAMA, TO BE STAGED IN CANTONESE BY A CAST OF AT MOST 10 PEOPLE, SHOULD NOT LAST MORE THAN 15 MINUTES.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOLO HARBOUR AT ROOM 304, DOMINION CENTRE, 43 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

THERE WILL BE TWO PRIZES FOR EACH DIVISION. WINNERS OF THE GRAND PRIZE AND OF THE OUTSTANDING PRIZE WILL EACH BE AWARDED A TROPHY AND A CASH CHEQUE OF \$2,500 AND \$1,000 RESPECTIVELY.

THE FINALS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 26 AT THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

ENTRY FORMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOLO HARBOUR AND AT THE NARCOTICS DIVISION AT 23RD FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CENTRAL.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8672765.

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/17

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 17 -

TWO ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG TO BE IMPROVED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE AND WIDEN WING SHUN STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET IN KWAI CHUNG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY): "THE CARRIAGEWAYS OF WING SHUN STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET ARE BOTH 7.3 METRES WIDE AND ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY HEAVY GOODS AND CONTAINER VEHICLES SERVING THE GODOWNS, THE RAMBLER CARGO HANDLING AREAS, THE KWAI CHUNG INCINERATOR AND THE TSUEN WAN ABATTOIR.

"THE TSUEN WAN TRANSPORT STUDY PHASE 3 RECOMMENDED WIDENING BOTH WING SHUN STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET TO 10.3 METRES, DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR STANDARD.

"LINKING MA TAU PA ROAD IN THE NORTH, AND KWAI TAI ROAD AND KWAI TSING ROAD IN THE SOUTH, THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING A DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR ROAD OF CONSISTENT STANDARD BETWEEN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT AND PILLAR ISLAND.

"ON COMPLETION, THE PROJECT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A MAJOR VEHICULAR ROUTE BETWEEN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT AND KWAI CHUNG PARK AND CATER FOR THE RIVIERA GARDEN DEVELOPMENT EXPECTED TO HOUSE AROUND 25,000 RESIDENTS," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT INCLUDES:

- * WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTING WING SHUN STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET;
- * WIDENING THE FOOTPATH IN WING SHUN STREET ADJACENT TO THE CEMETERY AND THAT IN KWAI YUE STREET ADJACENT TO THE FUTURE KWAI CHUNG PARK TO 2.75 METRES AND RECONSTRUCTING THE FOOTPATH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BOTH STREETS;
- * RECONSTRUCTING THE CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTPATHS OF A SECTION OF KWAI TAI ROAD ABOUT 300 METRES LONG ADJACENT TO THE KWAI CHUNG INCINERATOR PLANT AND THE FUTURE KWAI CHUNG PARK; AND
- * BUILDING A 80-METRE LONG NEW ROAD WITH A 7.3 METRES WIDE CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF WING SHUN STREET NEAR THE TSUEN WAN ABATTOIR.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE ROAD WIDENING WORK IN WING SHUN STREET AND KWAI YUE STREET WOULD REQUIRE CUTTING INTO THE HILLSIDE ADJACENT TO TSUEN WAN CEMETERY AND THE EMBANKMENT OF THE FUTURE KWAI CHUNG PARK.

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE EXISTING DRAINAGE SYSTEM UP TO CURRENT STANDARD AND INCREASE THE DURABILITY OF THE CARRIAGEWAYS BY EMPLOYING CONCRETE SLAB CONSTRUCTION.

/THE PROJECT

THE PROJECT WAS ALSO AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT BY GRASSING THE SLOPES AND PLANTING ROADSIDE TREES.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT MAY BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG;
- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BY DECEMBER 12 THIS YEAR.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO TSUEN WAN VILLAGE ACCESS ROAD PROPOSED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE VILLAGE ACCESS ROAD AT SHAM TSENG SAN TSUEN, TSUEN WAN.

THE WORKS COMPRISE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING TO 3.5 METRES OF A SECTION OF THE ROAD AND PROVISION OF A FOOTPATH AND LAY-BYS.

ABOUT 112 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WILL HAVE TO BE RESUMED.

A SECTION OF THE VILLAGE ACCESS ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

THE WORKS ARE PROGRAMMED TO START LATER THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MID 1990.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY. A NOTICE WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE SITE.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME OF THE PROPOSED WORKS MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 19 -

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * TSUEN WAN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 12 THIS YEAR.

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ROAD LINKS BETWEEN TIN SHUI WAI AND YUEN LONG

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WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH TO CONSTRUCT ROADS LINKING TIN SHUI WAI AND YUEN LONG TOWN.

THE TIN SHUI WAI EAST ACCESS AND LONG PING ESTATE LINK WILL BE BUILT AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIN SHUI WAI.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$92.8 MILLION CONTRACT TO THE CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD CONNECTIONS.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS, FOOTPATHS, A CYCLE TRACK, A BRIDGE, A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AND LANDSCAPING WORKS BETWEEN TIN SHUI WAI AND YUEN LONG TOWN.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 25 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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METRICATION COMMITTEE'S SECRETARIAT OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE EAST WING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, A TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S METRICATION POLICY CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 5-8102869 OR 5-8102998.

/THE METRICATION

THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, IS THE FOCAL POINT OF LIAISON ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING METRICATION.

THE COMMITTEE ADVISES AND ENCOURAGES THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN THE FRAMING OF METRICATION PROGRAMMES. MOST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE NOW USING METRIC UNITS EXCLUSIVELY.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 66.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 391.929 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 256.675 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 43.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUTS IN FOUR DISTRICTS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG AND KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 18) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

IN KWAI CHUNG, SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY WING FONG ROAD, SHING FONG STREET, KO FONG STREET, SHUN FONG STREET, YAN FONG STREET, MEI FONG STREET, CHE FONG STREET, LAI FONG STREET, HING FONG ROAD AND KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

IN KWUN TONG, SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 10 PM.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, HIU KWONG STREET, SHUN LEE, SHUN ON, SHUN TIN AND SHUN CHI COURTS, CHOI WAN, KUNG LOK ROAD, HONG LEE ROAD, HONG NING ROAD, JUNK BAY ROAD, SAU NGA ROAD, INCLUDING UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, CHUN WAH ROAD, KOK WAH ESTATE AND KAI TIN ROAD.

ALSO ON WEDNESDAY, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

/THE AREA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

- 21 -

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LAI CHI KOK ROAD, KWEILIN STREET, TUNG CHAU STREET AND PEI HO STREET.

ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 19), FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET, TSEUK LUK STREET, KING FUK STREET AND KING HONG STREET.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN SHEUNG SHUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE MIDDLE AND OUTERMOST LANES OF A SECTION OF ABOUT 400 METRES OF TAI PO ROAD FANLING SOUTHBOUND NEAR SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED FROM WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 18) TO DECEMBER 6.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

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