



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1993

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1993

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DISCUSSIONS ALL ABOUT RULE OF LAW, GOVERNOR

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ONE WAY IN WHICH HONG KONG WILL BE SPECTACULARLY SUCCESSFUL IS THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT WE STAND UP FOR THE RULE OF LAW, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

"THAT IS WHAT REALLY THE DISCUSSION WE ARE HAVING WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES IS ALL ABOUT," HE SAID.

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER OFFICIATING AT AN AWARD PRESENTATION, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "ALL OF US IN HONG KONG WANT AN AGREEMENT IF WE CAN POSSIBLE ACHIEVE ONE.

"TO BORROW A PHRASE THAT WAS USED A FEW WEEKS AGO, WE CERTAINLY THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A BIG DEAL IF WE DON'T GET AN AGREEMENT."

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE REMARKS MADE BY A SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIAL THIS MORNING THAT THE ECONOMY WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED IN THE EVENT OF A NO-DEAL SCENARIO, MR PATTEN SAID: "I THINK WE SHOULD PUT THAT ON ONE SIDE AND CONCENTRATE WITH THE SINCERITY AND CREATIVITY ON TRYING TO FIND A WAY FORWARD AND TRYING TO FIND A BREAKTHROUGH."

"INCHING FORWARD IS NO LONGER ENOUGH," HE ADDED.

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MRS ANSON CHAN TO VISIT UK AND EUROPE

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS ANSON CHAN, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW (SATURDAY) FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE.

MRS CHAN WILL BEGIN A ROUND OF OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENTS IN LONDON NEXT WEEK WITH A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THESE WILL INCLUDE A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, AND A WORKING LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONG KONG AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD.

AMONG FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OFFICIALS SHE WILL MEET ARE THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR JOHN COLES, AND THE HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, MR PETER RICKETTS.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS ON HER SCHEDULE INCLUDE A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, MR EDDIE GEORGE, AND THE CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR SIMON BROADBENT.

/MRS CHAN

MRS CHAN WILL ALSO VISIT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE IN LONDON. SHE WILL BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION.

THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR JOHN YAXLEY, WILL ALSO HOST A RECEPTION FOR MRS CHAN WHERE SHE WILL MEET MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO TAKE A CLOSE INTEREST IN HONG KONG.

MRS CHAN JOINS THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON FROM NOVEMBER 8 TO 13.

FOLLOWING THAT, MRS CHAN WILL LEAVE FOR EUROPE, WHERE SHE WILL SPEARHEAD A HONG KONG PROMOTION IN GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS FROM NOVEMBER 14 TO 19.

MRS CHAN WILL BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT HONG KONG BUSINESS CONFERENCES IN FRANKFURT, AMSTERDAM AND PARIS. SHE WILL ALSO OFFICIALLY OPEN A HONG KONG ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION IN FRANKFURT AND A HONG KONG FILM FESTIVAL IN PARIS.

MRS CHAN WILL BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT GALA DINNERS IN PARIS, WHICH WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A HONG KONG FASHION SPECTACULAR STAGED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND IN THE HAGUE WHICH WILL FEATURE A SPECIAL CULTURAL PERFORMANCE ARRANGED BY THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. SHE WILL ALSO MEET SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS IN EACH OF THE THREE COUNTRIES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS VISIT WILL ENABLE MRS CHAN TO MEET A WIDE RANGE OF LEADING FIGURES WHO ARE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH HONG KONG POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES.

"IN ADDITION, THE EUROPE PROMOTION WILL GIVE MRS CHAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY THE HONG KONG MESSAGE TO WIDER AND INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCES.

"THIS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE BENEFIT ON EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF HONG KONG IN THREE LEADING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND HONG KONG."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MRS CHAN WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BACK IN HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 21 BEFORE TAKING OVER FROM SIR DAVID FORD, WHO RETIRES AS CHIEF SECRETARY ON NOVEMBER 29.

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EXPERT TALKS ON DEFENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER

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A THIRTEENTH ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN EXPERTS OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEFENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG ON 27 AND 29 OCTOBER. THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE MR ALAN PAUL. THE CHINESE TEAM WILL BE LED BY CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE MR LUO JIAHUAN. THEY WILL BE ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM THE TWO SIDES.

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WORKFORCE URGED TO JOIN RETIREMENT SCHEMES

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ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD REALISE THAT THE SOONER THAT THEY START CONTRIBUTING TO A REGISTERED RETIREMENT SCHEME THE BETTER WILL BE THEIR PROVISION FOR A HAPPY AND SECURE OLD AGE, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING ON HONG KONG'S INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND THE PENSION FUND INDUSTRY AT A LUNCHEON OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HE NOTED THAT A VERY IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION - THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE - TOOK EFFECT ON OCTOBER 15, REQUIRING ALL RETIREMENT SCHEMES OPERATING IN HONG KONG TO GET REGISTERED.

"THEY MUST BE GOVERNED BY A TRUST OR REGULATED BY AN INSURANCE ARRANGEMENT AND MUST CONFORM WITH FOUR ESSENTIAL CRITERIA," HE SAID.

"THESE CRITERIA ARE FIRST, SECURITY OF ASSETS BY REQUIRING THEIR SEPARATION FROM THE ASSETS OF THE EMPLOYER AND THEIR MANAGEMENT BY AN INDEPENDENT PARTY; SECOND, ADEQUATE FUNDING; THIRD, REGULAR INDEPENDENT AUDITS AND ACTUARIAL REVIEWS; AND FOURTH, DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO SCHEME MEMBERS," HE EXPLAINED.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE TRUSTEE TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THE EMPLOYER AND LIMITS SCHEME INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES OF AN EMPLOYER OR HIS ASSOCIATES TO NOT MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF A SCHEME'S ASSETS.

"THE ORDINANCE, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY A REGISTRAR AND A TEAM OF DEDICATED STAFF, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENSURING THAT MEMBERS OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES WILL RECEIVE THEIR ENTITLEMENTS WHEN THEY FALL DUE," HE SAID.

THIS OBJECTIVE HAD BEEN REINFORCED BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE REQUIRING INSURERS TO KEEP ASSETS BACKING LIABILITIES TO RETIREMENT SCHEMES SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM ASSETS BACKING OTHER INSURANCE LIABILITIES, HE NOTED.

HE SAID RETIREMENT SCHEMES ALSO PRESENTED CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHEME ADMINISTRATORS, NAMELY INSURERS, TRUST COMPANIES AND FUND MANAGERS.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, 35 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S WORKFORCE WAS ALREADY COVERED BY SOME FORM OF PENSION OR PROVIDENT FUND ARRANGEMENT AND THE PERCENTAGE CONTINUED TO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD ENABLE SMALLER COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN POOLING AGREEMENTS THROUGH WHICH INSURERS AND TRUSTEES COULD POOL THE FUNDS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES ATTACHING TO INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES THEREBY SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYERS, ENSURING A BETTER SPREAD OF PENSION FUND INVESTMENT AND REDUCING THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF EACH SCHEME.

"THERE IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT POOLING ARRANGEMENTS BUT IT IS THE TASK OF GOVERNMENT AND SCHEME ADMINISTRATORS TO PROMOTE SUCH ARRANGMENTS AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY MANAGED," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND ALSO SAID EMPLOYERS WHO ESTABLISHED RETIREMENT SCHEMES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES WOULD BE BETTER POSITIONED TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN ABLE AND MOTIVATED STAFF.

"THEY WILL ENJOY TAX RELIEF ON THEIR SCHEME CONTRIBUTIONS AND WILL BE ABLE TO OFFSET SCHEME BENEFIT PAYMENTS AGAINST STATUTORY LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN HONG KONG MAKES FOR A HIGHLY MOBILE AND COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET. OFFERING RETIREMENT BENEFITS NOT ONLY IMPROVES AN EMPLOYER'S COMPETITIVE EDGE BUT ALSO SERVES TO DISCOURAGE INDISCRIMINATE JOB-HOPPING," HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT REGARDLESS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE ISSUE OF CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND MIGHT BE, THE OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM EXISTING SCHEMES WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT BE OVERTURNED OR UNDERMINED.

HE ALSO ARGUED THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT WAIT TO SEE WHAT DIRECTION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TAKING BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A SCHEME FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR INTENDED TO ANNOUNCE PROPOSALS ON THE WAY FORWARD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT ANY MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED, HE SAID.

"EVEN IF THEY WERE, IT WOULD BE SOME YEARS AFTER THAT BEFORE ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND ENTITLEMENTS STARTED TO ACCRUE.

IN THE MEANTIME, EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE SAVING FOR THEIR RETIREMENT. THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY DELAY.

"TO MAXIMISE EVENTUAL BENEFITS, EMPLOYEES SHOULD START CONTRIBUTING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

"AND THE ONLY AVENUE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO DO SO IS BY JOINING A REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEME," HE SAID.

ON THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S OPEN ECONOMY HAD PROMPTED 228 INSURERS TO BECOME REGISTERED HERE - THE LARGEST NUMBER PER CAPITA AMONG DEVELOPED INSURANCE MARKETS.

"IN SEEKING TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT POLICY HOLDERS' INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED, WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY RELIED, AND CONTINUE TO RELY, UPON SELF-REGULATION BY INSURERS TEMPERED BY LEGISLATION WHICH ENABLES GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF POLICY HOLDERS, BUT ONLY WHEN NECESSARY," HE SAID.

"TO ENHANCE OUR PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION WE HAVE THIS YEAR ENACTED LEGISLATION REQUIRING AUDITORS AND ACTUARIES TO WARN THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT MAY AFFECT AN INSURER, IN PARTICULAR WHEN ITS OVERSEAS OFFICES ARE SUBJECT TO INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS OR UNDER SUSPICION OF FRAUD.

FURTHER PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THIS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ARE BEING DEVELOPED, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO INTRODUCED A PROPOSAL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE INSURER SHOULD HAVE, AT ALL TIMES, ASSETS SUFFICIENT TO MEET HIS LIABILITIES TO POLICY HOLDERS, HE SAID.

"WE WILL REQUIRE GENERAL INSURERS TO MAINTAIN IN HONG KONG ASSETS OF A VALUE SUFFICIENT TO MEET HONG KONG POLICY HOLDERS' CLAIMS AND INTRODUCE REGULATIONS SPECIFYING HOW AN INSURER'S ASSETS ARE TO BE VALUED," HE EXPLAINED.

APART FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION, HE SAID, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAD REINFORCED ITS SYSTEM OF SELF-REGULATION BY SETTING UP IN 1990 AN INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL INSURANCE CLAIMS COMPLAINTS BUREAU AND, FROM JANUARY THIS YEAR, REQUIRING INSURANCE BROKERS TO BE AUTHORISED AND AGENTS TO BE REGISTERED AND FOR BOTH TO CONFORM WITH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO GIVE STATUTORY BACKING, WITH PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE, TO THE INDUSTRY'S SYSTEM OF CONTROL OVER ITS AGENTS AND BROKERS.

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EIGHT MORE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ON THE LIST

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INCLUDE EIGHT MORE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FURTHER PROTECTION FOR WORKERS.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND SCHEDULE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AND WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THE EIGHT OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ADDED TO THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * TUBERCULOSIS;
- * VIRAL HEPATITIS;
- * INFECTION BY STREPTOCOCCUS SUIS;
- * AVIAN CHALMYDIOSIS;
- * LOCALISED NEW GROWTH OF THE SKIN, PAPILLOMATOUS OR KERATOTIC;
- * OCCUPATIONAL VITILIGO;
- * BYSSINOSIS; AND
- * OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND SCHEDULE ALSO ADD METHYL-N-BUTYL KETONE AS A CHEMICAL AGENT CAUSING PERIPHERAL POLY-NEUROPATHY.

THE AMENDMENTS APPLY TO EMPLOYEES CONTRACTING THE RELEVANT DISEASES IN OCCUPATIONS INVOLVING CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH SOURCES OF SUCH DISEASES.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEWLY-ADDED OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES BRING TO 44 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH DISEASES SPECIFIED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

"SOME OF THESE DISEASES ARE QUITE COMMON BUT IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ARE REFERRING TO OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES, NAMELY, AN EMPLOYEE WILL BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR INCAPACITY OR DEATH IF HE HAS CONTRACTED SUCH DISEASES DUE TO THE NATURE OF TRADE, INDUSTRY OR PROCESS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE DISEASES AND WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SUCH INCAPACITY OR DEATH," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION ON DECEMBER 5

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 TO FILL A SEAT IN THE WONG UK CONSTITUENCY.

A DECLARATION OF VACATION OF OFFICE BY MR GEORGE WONG FUK-WAH HAD BEEN MADE BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AND GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

NOMINATIONS WILL BE CALLED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND 15. NOMINATION FORMS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM TUESDAY (OCTOBER 26) AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

CANDIDATES MUST BE REGISTERED ELECTORS AND HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE 10 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING NOMINATION.

A CANDIDATE CAN BE A RESIDENT ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG, BUT HIS NOMINATION PAPER MAY ONLY BE SUBSCRIBED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE WONG UK CONSTITUENCY.

EACH NOMINATION REQUIRES 10 SUBSCRIBERS AND EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY GIVE SUPPORT TO ONLY ONE CANDIDATE.

THE WONG UK CONSTITUENCY, COMPRISING MAINLY YUEN CHAU KOK AND BELAIR GARDENS, HAS A REGISTERED ELECTORATE OF 6,015.

THE BY-ELECTION WOULD BE HELD UNLESS THE SEAT WAS UNCONTESTED.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE ON TEL 827 1122.

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REHABILITATION MEASURES OF SHEK O QUARRY APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED TWO MEASURES WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAMME TO REHABILITATE THE UNSIGHTLY FACE OF THE SHEK O QUARRY.

THE MEASURES, WHICH WERE NOTIFIED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), ARE TO REALIGN A SECTION OF SHEK O ROAD AND TO REMAP THE SHEK O COUNTRY PARK BOUNDARY TO RELEASE ABOUT NINE HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

THE REPLACEMENT MAP OF THE COUNTRY PARK WITH DETAILED NEW BOUNDARY IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE LAND REGISTRY AND FOR SALE AT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID UNDER THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, THE FACE OF SHEK O QUARRY WOULD BE BLENDED WITH THE SURROUNDING SCENIC ENVIRONMENT, AND THE QUARRY FLOOR WOULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A MARINE COVE FOR PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE.

THE REHABILITATION WORK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE QUARRY OPERATOR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR CUTTING BACK THE STEEP QUARRY FACE TO A MORE GENTLE SLOPE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DIVERT A SECTION OF SHEK O ROAD WHICH IS AT PRESENT VERY CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE QUARRY FACE.

THE REHABILITATION WORKS WOULD AFFECT NINE HECTARES OF LAND WITHIN THE SHEK O COUNTRY PARK.

"THE REALIGNMENT WILL REMOVE A HAIRPIN BEND AT SHEK O ROAD, AND THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF THE ROAD," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

THE REGRADING WORK, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY EXTENSIVE TREE PLANNING FOR SOIL EROSION CONTROL AND LANDSCAPING.

THE REVEGETATION WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LONG-TERM RECREATIONAL USE.

ON COMPLETION OF THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO EXTENDING THE COUNTRY PARK AREA TO COVER THE ENTIRE REHABILITATED QUARRY SLOPE.

THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME ALSO ALLOWS FOR THE CASTING OF PRECAST TUNNEL UNITS FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN A BASIN TO BE EXCAVATED IN THE QUARRY FLOOR OUTSIDE THE SHEK O COUNTRY PARK.

ONCE CASTING OPERATIONS STOP, THE CASTING BASIN WILL BE FORMED INTO A NATURAL-LOOKING MARINE COVE, AND THE AREA WILL BE SUITABLE FOR LOW INTENSITY RECREATIONAL USE, SUCH AS WATER SPORTS CENTRE.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME HAD BEEN STUDIED AND AS A RESULT STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED ON WORKS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMME, WHICH IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP AND GREEN THE TERRITORY, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE ROAD RE-ALIGNMENT, WITHIN THE FIRST THREE YEARS, THE OLD SECTION OF SHEK O ROAD ADJACENT TO THE QUARRY WILL BE CLOSED UP TO THE JUNCTION WITH CAPE D'AGUILAR ROAD.

ACCESS TO CAPE D'AGUILAR WILL NOT HOWEVER BE AFFECTED.

WORK WILL THEN START ON THE LAYING BACK OF THE EXISTING QUARRY FACE AND A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF PLANTING AND OTHER RESTORATION WORK.

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NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MR KENNETH CHAN YAT-SUN HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO SUCCEED MR P J CORSER AS DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

MR CORSER RETIRED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 18, THIS YEAR.

IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MR R D POPE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON THE FORMATION OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 1, THIS YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS:

MR KENNETH CHAN YAT-SUN

MR CHAN, AGED 53, JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS A MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR IN AUGUST 1971.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR IN APRIL 1986 AND TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES IN JULY 1991.

CHAN ACTED AS DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

MR P J CORSER, ISO

MR CORSER, AGED 57, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A BUILDING SURVEYOR IN APRIL 1962.

/HE WAS

HE WAS PROMOTED TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES IN APRIL 1986 AND TO DIRECTOR IN JULY 1991.

ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR CORSER HAD COMPLETED 31 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR R D POPE

MR POPE, AGED 47, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ESTATE SURVEYOR IN FEBRUARY 1970.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT IN SEPTEMBER 1982 AND TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT IN JUNE 1987.

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OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (ACQUISITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL
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THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (ACQUISITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 27, 1993.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO REPEAL PROVISIONS OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (ACQUISITION) ORDINANCE AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION MADE UNDER IT WHICH HAVE BECOME UNNECESSARY OR INAPPROPRIATE FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THESE INCLUDE PROVISIONS WHICH ARE SPENT AND OTHERS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE BANK BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"OVERSEAS TRUST BANK IS NO LONGER A GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANK. WE NEED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO PUT IT BACK ON THE SAME FOOTING AS OTHER BANKS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

OVERSEAS TRUST BANK WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT IN JUNE 1985. IT WAS THE LAST GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANK RETURNED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE SALE MARKED THE END OF GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT IN RESCUING BANKS IN THE 1980'S.

IN THE 1980'S, THE EXCHANGE FUND WAS INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF SEVEN BANKS, EITHER BY DIRECT GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OR BY PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE IN ACQUISITION BY THIRD PARTIES.

"ALTHOUGH IN THE CASE OF OTB WE HAVE AGREED WITH THE PURCHASER AS PART AND PARCEL OF THE TRANSACTION TO DISCLOSE THE TOTAL CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE, WE ARE STILL BOUND BY CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS NOT TO DISCLOSE THE DETAILS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CASES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE ADVISED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LATEST ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NET COSTS OF THE SEVEN RESCUES. THIS AMOUNTED TO \$3.8 BILLION."

TO PUT THIS FIGURE INTO PERSPECTIVE, IT IS ABOUT 3.6 PER CENT OF THE ACCUMULATED EARNING AND 1.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ASSETS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND AS AT THE END OF 1992.

"WE CONSIDER THAT THE COST INCURRED IN THESE RESCUE OPERATIONS WERE MODEST AND REPRESENTED MONEY WELL SPENT TO HELP ENSURE THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG'S BANKING SECTOR AND THE MONETARY SYSTEM DURING A CRITICAL PERIOD," HE ADDED.

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GREENLIGHT ON DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS FOR MID-LEVELS WEST AND TSUEN WAN.

BOTH PLANS WERE AMENDED AND PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN 1990.

THE MID-LEVELS WEST OZP WAS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE A PLOT RATIO RESTRICTION OF FIVE IN THE 'RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)' ZONE.

THE TSUEN WAN OZP WAS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE A PLOT RATIO RESTRICTION OF 9.5 IN THE 'INDUSTRIAL' ZONE AS WELL AS TO REZONE AN AREA IN THE TSUEN WAN TOWN CENTRE TO 'COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA' (CDA).

"THE PURPOSE OF IMPOSING A PLOT RATIO CONTROL IN BOTH AREAS IS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY," SAID A SPOKESMAN OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

THE PLOT RATIO RESTRICTION IMPOSED ON THE MID-LEVELS WEST OZP IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING THE TRAFFIC CONDITION IN THE AREA.

THE RESTRICTION WILL IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND PREVENT OVERLOADING THE SEWERAGE NETWORK IN THE AREA.

THE PLOT RATIO RESTRICTION IN TSUEN WAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS TO RESTRAIN THE LEVEL OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN THAT AREA TO A MORE REASONABLE LEVEL.

IT WILL ALSO HELP PREVENT FURTHER DEGRADATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AS WELL AS AVOID OVERLOADING THE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA.

THE 'CDA' ZONE FOR THE FOUR SEASON ESTATE AREA ON THE TSUEN WAN OZP PROVIDES A BASIS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD IMPROVE THE TSUEN WAN TOWN CENTRE SIGNIFICANTLY.

/BOTH THE

BOTH THE APPROVED OZP'S SERVE TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY LAND USE FRAMEWORK TO CONTROL DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE AREAS.

THE MID-LEVELS WEST OZP IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FOR A WEEK AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * THE HONG KONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD; AND
- * THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE TSUEN WAN OZP IS AVAILABLE FOR A WEEK AT:

- * THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, 27TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE, 38, SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN; AND
- * THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AND KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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"SIX STREETS" COMMERCIAL OPERATORS
ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER CLAIMS

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AFFECTED BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY'S REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MA TAU KOK WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S EARLIER OFFER OF EX-GRATIA REMOVAL ALLOWANCE IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DECISION TO ACCEPT FURTHER CLAIMS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE WOULD RECEIVE THE SAME FAIR TREATMENT.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1993

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318 VM'S RETURNED HOME TODAY

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A GROUP OF 318 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 122 MEN, 79 WOMEN, 61 BOYS AND 56 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 172ND BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 8,012 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 34,324 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION AND LAY-BY AT GLOUCESTER ROAD

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE AT THE JUNCTION OF GLOUCESTER ROAD AND LUARD ROAD.

THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT WILL INCLUDE PROVISION OF A FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION ACROSS GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND SERVICE ROAD AND A LAY-BY IN FRONT OF LUK KWOK HOTEL TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT AT THE LOCATION.

A NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 21, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1993

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES AT A BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES, ERECTED ON THE ROOF OF 200 TEMPLE STREET, ARE USED FOR DWELLING.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 13, 1994 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION IN CENTRAL

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A FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE FIRE SAFETY WILL BE STAGED AT THE EDINBURGH PLACE IN CENTRAL ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 24) AFTERNOON BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG COMMAND.

THE EVENT IS PART OF A COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME TO MARK THE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE SOME HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FIRE SERVICES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC VISITING THE EXHIBITION CAN ALSO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THE FIRE ENGINES, AMBULANCE, AMBULANCE-AID MOTORCYCLE AND FIRE BOAT AS WELL AS SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HONG HONG), MR CHAN HOI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION AT 2 PM.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT WORKS

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR STAGES I AND II IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR THE TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

THE WORKS INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONTROL AND STORAGE HOUSE, AS WELL AS MODIFICATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF SOME OF THE EXISTING TREATMENT INSTALLATIONS, SUCH AS THE INLET WORKS, AERATION TANKS AND PIPEWORKS.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 29 MONTHS.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW WORKS DIVISION, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 44TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 12.

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REVISED FEES FOR FIRE CERTIFICATES AND FIRE REPORTS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED REVISED FEES CHARGED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE ISSUE OF FIRE CERTIFICATES AND FIRE REPORTS.

THE FEE REVISION, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 25, IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 GAZETTED TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE FEES FOR THE ISSUE OF FIRE CERTIFICATES AND REPORTS HAD BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT THE INCREASE IN COSTS SINCE THEIR LAST REVIEWS.

THE FEES FOR FIRE CERTIFICATES WERE LAST REVIEWED IN 1987 WHILE THAT FOR FIRE REPORT LAST YEAR.

DETAILS OF THE REVISION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	EXISTING FEE	NEW FEE
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* CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE	\$135	\$257
* CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER ENACTMENT	\$135	\$257
* REPORT ON FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY ATTENDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT	\$150	\$165

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1993

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ADVICE ON QUEEN'S PIER

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SMALL CRAFT OWNERS AND OPERATORS ARE ADVISED TO USE SETS OF LANDING STEPS OTHER THAN THE NORTH-EASTERN SET AT QUEEN'S PIER IN CENTRAL BETWEEN 1 PM AND 5 PM ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 24).

THE SET OF STEPS HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THE BERTHING OF FIRE BOAT NO.6 TO TIE IN WITH A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH A FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION, A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THOSE TAKING PART IN THE EXHIBITION WILL BOARD AND TOUR THE FIRE BOAT DURING THAT PERIOD, HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,000
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-625
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,375
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.0 *+0.2* 22.10.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.96 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.52	3.19
1 MONTH	2.84 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.80	3.37
3 MONTHS	2.77 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.25	3.62
6 MONTHS	2.88 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.66	3.71
12 MONTHS	3.12 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,110 MN

CLOSED 22 OCTOBER 1993

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