



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS)  
(NO. 2) BILL 1993  
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THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL DEALS WITH THE MORE IMMEDIATE ISSUES RELATING TO THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS THAT REQUIRE EARLY LEGISLATION.

THE BILL'S MAIN PROVISIONS ARE:

- \* A "SINGLE SEAT, SINGLE VOTE" SYSTEM OF VOTING FOR THE THREE TIERS OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS;
- \* LOWERING OF THE MINIMUM VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18 YEARS;
- \* ABOLITION OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (MC'S) AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS (DB'S);
- \* INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ELECTED SEATS IN THE MC'S; AND
- \* TO RELAX THE EXISTING RESTRICTION ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES FROM RUNNING ELECTIONS AND HOLDING OFFICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MC'S AND DB'S.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE "SINGLE SEAT, SINGLE VOTE" SYSTEM OF VOTING IS USED IN ALL MC AND TWO-THIRDS OF THE DB CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS.

"THERE IS WIDE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THIS VOTING METHOD TO BE USED IN ALL THREE TIERS OF ELECTIONS," HE SAID.

THE LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18 YEARS IS IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICE IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE WILL BROADEN THE POTENTIAL ELECTORATE FROM 3.7 MILLION TO 3.9 MILLION.

THE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 15 TO 32 FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL (UC) AND FROM 12 TO 27 FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (RC).

AS A RESULT, IN 1995 THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR UC WILL BE 41 AND 39 FOR THE RC.

THIS ENSURES THE MC'S WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A VIABLE SIZE AFTER THE ABOLITION OF APPOINTED SEATS.

/THE LIFTING .....

THE LIFTING OF THE EXISTING RESTRICTION ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS WILL MEAN THAT THESE PERSONS CAN, IF THEY WANT TO, STAND FOR ELECTIONS TO THE THREE TIERS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT STARTING FROM THE 1994 DB ELECTIONS PROVIDED THEY MEET ALL OTHER QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATURE AND ARE NOT DISQUALIFIED IN ANY OTHER WAY.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 15) FOR FIRST READING, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HK PEOPLE WILL BE IN THE KNOW: GOVERNOR  
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE ENTITLED TO HAVE A FULL REPORT ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE 1994/95 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS.

"BUT OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE TALKS CONTINUE WHILE WE PUT IN PLACE THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE NECESSARY IN OUR PARTIAL LEGISLATION.

"SO OUR POSITION IS THAT WHEN THE TALKS ARE BROUGHT TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, OR WHEN THEY ARE NOT, WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE ENTITLED TO HAVE A FULL REPORT ON EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO A PRESS QUESTION ABOUT THE CHALLENGE BY THE DIRECTOR OF CHINA'S HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR LU PING, OF RELEASING DETAILS OF THE TALKS, AFTER VISITING WING LUNG BANK GOLDEN JUBILEE SHELTERED WORKSHOP.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE IN THE FULL PICTURE, WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT.

"AND WE DO SO HONESTLY, WE DO SO WITHOUT PARTIAL LEAKING OF BITS OF THE DISCUSSIONS, WE SET OUT THE WHOLE RECORD," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN ALSO SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"THERE HAVE BEEN 28 SERIES OF JLG MEETINGS SO FAR, AND WE IN HONG KONG ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT NOT MORE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE."

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING WING LUNG BANK GOLDEN JUBILEE SHELTERED WORKSHOP TODAY (FRIDAY):

GOVERNOR: I'VE ENJOYED THIS MORNING VISITING A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AND THIS SHELTERED WORKSHOP. AS YOU WILL DOUBTLESSLY RECALL IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, I SAID THAT WE NEED TO DEVELOP A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENCE STRATEGY FOR HELPING THE ELDERLY.

WE HAVE SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO PULL ALL THE THREADS OF POLICY TOGETHER, PROVISION OF ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE AND PROVISION OF PROPER WELFARE FACILITIES, PROVISION OF PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND INFIRMARIES AND SO ON. THAT WORKING PARTY HAD ITS FIRST MEETING IN NOVEMBER AND IT WILL BE REPORTING TO ME BY NEXT AUGUST.

SECONDLY, I MADE IT CLEAR ONCE AGAIN, IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH, THAT PROVISION OF SERVICES, OF ADEQUATE SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED IS ANOTHER OF OUR PRIORITIES. WE WANT IN HONG KONG TO GIVE THOSE WITH DISABILITIES EVERY CHANCE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY. THEY BENEFIT FROM THAT, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THAT. IT'S PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO GIVE THOSE WHO CAN MANAGE IT, WHO ARE DISABLED, THE CHANCE OF OPEN EMPLOYMENT. SHELTERED WORKSHOPS LIKE THIS, EXCELLENT ONE, ARE A GOOD STEP ON THE ROAD TO OPEN EMPLOYMENT.

I'LL BE CHAIRING A SUMMIT OF GROUPS REPRESENTING THE DISABLED AND GROUPS REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS IN FEBRUARY TO CONSIDER WHAT MORE WE CAN DO TO MAKE FURTHER PLACES AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET PLACE FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITY. I THINK IT'S AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AREA FOR US TO DEVELOP OUR POLICIES AND OUR APPROACH, AND I HOPE WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THAT AREA AS WE WERE WHEN WE HAD THE SUMMIT A FEW MONTHS AGO ON THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, ARE YOU GOING TO FACE LU PING'S CHALLENGE BY RELEASING DETAILS OF THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ?

GOVERNOR: I WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT THE DISTINGUISHED DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE HAD TO SAY. AND PERHAPS I CAN PUT IT IN CONTEXT.

HERE IN HONG KONG WE HAVE AN OPEN SOCIETY AND WE HAVE A FREE PRESS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T SEEK TO LEAN ON. IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, I'M TOLD ELSEWHERE. SO WE'RE USED TO AN OPEN DIALOGUE ABOUT ISSUES LIKE THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT'S THE CHIEF SECRETARY ANSON CHAN SAID THE OTHER DAY. WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE OVER THE HEADS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WE THINK THEY SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN JUDGMENTS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

/THE SECOND .....

THE SECOND PIECE OF BACKGROUND WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER IS THAT BEFORE THESE TALKS GOT GOING, THE CHINESE INITIALLY INSISTED ON TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, UNDERSTANDABLY, THAT THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN CONFIDENCE. SECOND, WHICH WE WEREN'T PREPARED TO ACCEPT AND IT WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE CHINESE EVENTUALLY DROPPED, THEY WANTED, IF YOU RECALLED, THE FACT OF THE TALKS TO BE SECRET, NOT JUST WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE TALKS. WE SAID THAT WE COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT PROPOSAL, WE COULDN'T CONCEAL FROM THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE. AND EVENTUALLY I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT CHINESE DROPPED THAT INSISTENCE.

NOW WE'RE AT A SITUATION IN WHICH WE ON OUR SIDE ARE PRESSING FOR MORE TALKS AND THE CHINESE ARE, PERHAPS, BEING A LITTLE AMBIVALENT ABOUT THAT AT THE MOMENT. WE WANT MORE TALKS BECAUSE WE WANT AN AGREEMENT. AND IF WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT, WE'LL EXPLAIN THAT AGREEMENT AND WHAT IS LED UP TO IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND WE DON'T GET AN AGREEMENT ALAS, AND WE WANT AN AGREEMENT, OR IF ALAS, THE CHINESE WALK AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THEN AGAIN WE WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG EXACTLY WHAT HAD HAPPENED. IF WE DO SO HONESTLY, WE DO SO WITHOUT PARTIAL LEAKING OF BITS OF THE DISCUSSIONS, WE SET OUT THE WHOLE RECORD. BUT OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE TALKS CONTINUE WHILE WE PUT IN PLACE THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE NECESSARY IN OUR PARTIAL LEGISLATION. SO OUR POSITION IS THAT WHEN THE TALKS ARE BROUGHT TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, OR WHEN THEY ARE NOT, WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE ENTITLED TO HAVE A FULL REPORT ON EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

QUESTION: CHINA'S SPOKESMAN WU JIANMIN SAID THAT THE TALKS COULDN'T GO ON IF YOU PREFER TO TABLING YOUR PARTIAL BILL. HOW DEFINITE ARE YOU THAT YOU WILL TABLE THE BILL ON WEDNESDAY?

GOVERNOR: I'VE MADE THE POSITION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS MADE THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. THE CHINESE SIDE KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT THERE ARE SOME ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE NEED TO GET IN PLACE AT AN EARLY STAGE, AND WE NEED THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE OURSELVES MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSING THE OTHER MATTERS. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO TALK. WE SUGGESTED THESE TALKS IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT WAS OUR PROPOSAL, OUR INITIATIVE. WE'VE BEEN SENDING OUR OFFICIALS WEEK AFTER WEEK UP TO PEKING TO TAKE PART IN THE TALKS. WE MADE CONDITIONAL CONCESSIONS IN THE TALKS AS AN ACT OF GOOD FAITH, TO TRY TO KEEP THE TALKS GOING AND TO TRY TO BRING THEM TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. SO AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE WANT THE TALKS TO GO ON AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THAT WILL BE THE POSITION OF THE CHINESE SIDE, AND THEY WON'T SIMPLY WALK AWAY FROM THE TABLE.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, RITA FAN HAS URGED LEGISLATORS TO AMEND ALL PARTS OF THE PARTIAL BILL THAT CHINA HASN'T AGREED TO. DO YOU THINK THIS IS ..... MEDDLING AHEAD OF 1997 BY THE PWC AND ALSO IF LEGISLATORS SHOULD AMEND THE PARTIAL BILL IN THAT FASHION, WILL THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT?

/GOVERNOR: .....

GOVERNOR: EVERYBODY HAS A RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ABOUT WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD DO. I'M DELIGHTED THAT HERE IS A MEMBER OF THE PWC WHO RECOGNISES, UNLIKE SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS, THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS A CRUCIAL CENTRAL ROLE IN DEALING WITH LEGISLATION ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BECAUSE SOMETIMES AS YOU KNOW, THAT IS NOT APPEARED TO BE THE POSITION OF THE CHINESE SIDE. BUT IF THIS IS CONFIRMATION OF THE CENTRAL ROLE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND I'M DELIGHTED. WE WILL PRESS FOR ARRANGEMENTS, AS THE EXECUTIVE FOR 1994/1995, WHICH ARE FAIR, WHICH GIVE US CLEAN AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS AND WHICH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ACCEPT.

QUESTION: THE JLG MEETING IN LONDON HASN'T ACHIEVED ANYTHING. SO OBVIOUSLY, THE ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE LINKED WITH POLITICAL ISSUES, SO WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT MOVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ?

GOVERNOR: IT'S NOT FAIR TO SAY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ACHIEVED NOTHING, BUT IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP MEETING WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING. I HAVE TO SAY THAT THOSE ARE WORDS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED ABOUT RATHER A LOT OF JLG MEETINGS. THERE HAVE BEEN 28 SERIES OF JLG MEETINGS SO FAR, AND WE IN HONG KONG ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT NOT MORE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. JUST AS WE'RE DISAPPOINTED THAT AFTER 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, THE ONLY THING THAT WE WERE ABLE TO AGREE ON WAS THE VOTING AGE IN HONG KONG.

THE JLG HASN'T MADE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS WE WOULD LIKE. I THINK THAT SOONER OR LATER, AND I HOPE IT'S SOONER, THAT CHINESE SIDE WOULD RECOGNISE THAT WE'VE GOT TO GET IT MOVE ON AND GET SOME PROGRESS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WELL-BEING AND LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE HONG KONG SIDE IS VERY KEEN TO SUPPORT EVERY INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHO LEADS THE TALKS TO INTENSIFY THEIR PACE AND TO MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS WE POSSIBLY CAN. CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THEY DON'T THINK THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN POLITICAL ISSUES AND LIVELIHOOD OR ECONOMIC ISSUES. WELL, IT'S NOT JUST ENOUGH TO SAY THOSE THING; ONE HAS TO DEMONSTRATE THEM AS WELL. AND I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT THEY WILL BE WANTING TO DO OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

I'VE SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION IF THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS THAT WE CAN'T AGREE ABOUT, THAT SHOULDN'T STOP US COOPERATING ABOUT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THINGS. AND IT'S PARTICULARLY THE CASE, I THINK, WITH JLG ISSUES BECAUSE THE JLG IS LARGELY DEALING WITH TECHNICAL MATTERS; NOT ENTIRELY, BUT ISSUES LIKE THE LOCALISATION OF LAWS ON WHICH, FRANKLY, THERE SHOULDN'T BE AN ARGUMENT; THERE SHOULDN'T BE A DISPUTE. IF YOU HAVE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THINGS WHICH AREN'T CONTROVERSIAL, IT MAKES IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL SENSIBLY IN AN ADULT FASHION WITH ISSUES WHICH ARE GENUINELY CONTROVERSIAL. LAST QUESTION.

QUESTIONS: YOU HAVEN'T ANSWER MY ANSWER.

GOVERNOR: I DO.

/QUESTION: .....

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QUESTION: YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT .... HOW DEFINITE ARE YOU THAT YOU TABLE THE TALKS, ARE YOU WAITING PERHAPS FOR CHINA TO AGREE .....

GOVERNOR: I SAID THAT I HAD MADE THE POSITION ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AS FAR AS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED. AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AS FAR AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED. WE NEED THAT LEGISLATION BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. AND ONE REASON WHY WE'VE BROUGHT FORWARD THE PARTIAL LEGISLATION IS IN ORDER TO GIVE US MORE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. I AM NOT SURE HOW MUCH CLEARER I CAN MAKE IT. THE BILL IS BEING GAZETTED TODAY AND THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED ON WEDNESDAY.

QUESTION: YOU ARE ACCUSED BY GUO FENGMIN THAT YOU'VE DESTROYED THE CO-OPERATION BASIS UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO IT ?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT ANY FAIR-MINDED PERSON WOULD BELIEVE THAT FOR ONE MOMENT. YOU RECALL THAT RECENTLY A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT LEGAL EXPERTS GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE AND SAID THAT WHAT WE HAD DONE HAD BEEN ENTIRELY IN ACCORD WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND RELEVANT UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA THOUGH THERE WERE ONE OR TWO DOUBTS IN THE LEGAL EXPERTS' MINDS ABOUT WHETHER THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF WHAT CHINA HAD DONE. I JUST ADD THIS, THAT WE DON'T WANT TO PLAY POLITICS WITH THESE ISSUES. AND I SOMETIMES THINK THAT WHEN PEOPLE ABUSE OTHERS ALL IT MEANS IS THEY HAVEN'T GOT ANY BETTER ARGUMENTS TO PUT FORWARD. WE ARE GOING TO GO ON BEING CONSTRUCTIVE AND WORKING FOR SATISFACTORY OUTCOME TO THESE VERY DIFFICULT ISSUES. THANKS VERY MUCH INDEED.

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## FS COMMENTS ON MOODY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

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IN REPLY TO PRESS QUESTIONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AND SURPRISED BY MOODY'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO DOWNGRADE THE LONG-TERM LOCAL CURRENCY RATING OF DEBTS ISSUED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC).

HE SAID IT WAS NOT A SERIOUS MATTER IN TERMS OF PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS BECAUSE MTRC WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO BORROW PERFECTLY SUCCESSFULLY.

HE FOUND THE ANNOUNCEMENT SURPRISING BECAUSE MOODY'S ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FUNDAMENTALS FOR HONG KONG WERE VERY GOOD, THE ECONOMY WAS GOOD AND THE FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS WELL-RUN.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE STOCK MARKET NOW WAS A SIGN OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG WOULD CARRY ON THE DIALOGUE WITH MOODY'S TO EDUCATE THEM ON THE STRENGTHS OF HONG KONG AND OF CHINA.

/OTHER CORPORATIONS, .....

OTHER CORPORATIONS, SUCH AS THE MTRC, AS WELL AS THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, ALSO HAD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH THE TWO CREDIT RATING AGENCIES, HE SAID.

"I AM NOT UNHOPEFUL THAT IN DUE COURSE WE CAN GET THE RATING BACK TO A BETTER LEVEL. IT'S NOT BAD BUT IT COULD BE BETTER," HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT MOODY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE NO BIG IMPACT ON OVERSEAS' VIEW OF HONG KONG.

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#### MOODY'S ANNOUNCEMENT DISAPPOINTING AND SURPRISING

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE TO DOWNGRADE THE LONG-TERM LOCAL CURRENCY RATING OF DEBTS ISSUED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) WHICH WOULD AT THE SAME TIME APPLY TO THE IMPLIED SOVEREIGN RATING ON LONG-TERM LOCAL CURRENCY DEBTS OF HONG KONG.

"WE FIND IT SURPRISING THAT WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG, MOODY'S HAD CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO DOWNGRADE THE LOCAL CURRENCY RATINGS OF HONG KONG AND MTRC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO CONSIDER THAT THE CREDIT RISK ATTACHED TO THE MTRC LOCAL CURRENCY DEBT ISSUES SHOULD INCREASE GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF THE CORPORATION, AND THE DECISION WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE OR SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON MTRC.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS LITTLE GROUND TO SUGGEST THAT THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE TO POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES BOTH IN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

HONG KONG HAS SINCE 1983 ADOPTED A LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IS FULLY BACKED BY THE U.S. DOLLAR.

"THE LINK TO THE U.S. DOLLAR HAS ENSURED STABILITY OF THE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED AS THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR MONETARY POLICY.

"WE HAVE ALSO EXTREMELY STRONG BACKING FOR THE HONG KONG CURRENCY, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE FUND WHICH STOOD AT HK\$287 BILLION AT THE END OF 1992, AMONG THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE LINK HAS REMAINED REMARKABLY STABLE SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN OCTOBER 1983, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT HAS PROVED TO BE CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING MAJOR EXTERNAL SHOCKS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE 1987 GLOBAL STOCK MARKET CRISIS, THE JUNE 1989 EVENT IN CHINA AND THE 1991 GULF WAR, HE SAID.

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT STATEMENTS BY CHINESE OFFICIALS ON MAINTAINING THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG DESPITE RECENT CONTROVERSIES ON THE POLITICAL FRONT WERE REASSURING.

"WE CONSIDER THAT THE INCREASED LINKS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG AND CHINA SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A POSITIVE FACTOR TO HONG KONG.

"IN ANY EVENT, MOODY'S WILL CONTINUOUSLY REVIEW THEIR RATINGS ON HONG KONG AND ISSUERS HERE. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE WITH THEM, THEY COULD COME TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION HERE," HE SAID.

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#### STI WELCOMES RENEWAL OF MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR CHAU TAK-HAY, WELCOMED THE NEWS TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) HAD AGREED A RENEWAL OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) BY ONE YEAR TO DECEMBER 31 NEXT YEAR.

"THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR OUR TEXTILES AND GARMENT TRADE. HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WITH OUR MAIN MARKETS ARE COVERED BY THE MFA. ITS EXTENSION GIVES ADDED CERTAINTY TO THE TRADE," HE SAID.

THE MFA IS A MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENT GOVERNING TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AMONG SOME 44 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

IT FIRST ENTERED INTO EFFECT IN 1974 AND HAS BEEN RENEWED SEVERAL TIMES, MOST RECENTLY UPON ITS EXPIRY ON DECEMBER 31 LAST YEAR.

UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE TALKS NOW UNDER WAY, THERE IS A DRAFT PROVISION TO RETURN TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TO GATT RULES AND DISCIPLINES OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD, DURING WHICH PERIOD QUOTAS WOULD BE GRADUALLY PHASED OUT.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND RESULTS IS, HOWEVER, NOT EXPECTED TO BEGIN BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1995.

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CHARGES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL AT LANDFILLS

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO LEVY CHARGES ON PRIVATE WASTE COLLECTORS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT LANDFILLS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSAL IS IN LINE WITH THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE. IT AIMS TO DISCOURAGE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF LIMITED LANDFILL RESOURCES AND TO PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR WASTE MINIMISATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE DAILY 20,000 TONNES OF WASTE DISPOSED OF AT LANDFILLS PER DAY LAST YEAR WAS CONSTRUCTION WASTE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN USED AS FILL MATERIAL FOR LAND RECLAMATION AT PUBLIC DUMPS HAD UNSUITABLE MATERIAL SUCH AS WOOD AND PLASTICS BEEN SORTED OUT.

"THE PROPOSED CHARGING SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR CONTRACTORS TO DISPOSE OF WASTE AT PUBLIC DUMPS RATHER THAN LANDFILLS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CHARGING LEVEL HAS BEEN WORKED OUT ON THE BASIS TO RECOVER THE LANDFILL DISPOSAL COST FOR PRIVATELY-COLLECTED WASTE.

TO ENSURE THAT THE CHARGES ARE AFFORDABLE TO INDUSTRY AND TO ENABLE THE COST TO BE PASSED ONTO WASTE PRODUCERS GRADUALLY, THE INITIAL CHARGES WILL BE SET AT 50 PER CENT OF THE FULL RECOVERY COST, THAT IS AT \$175 FOR SMALL VEHICLES WITH WASTE PAYLOAD OF FIVE TONNES OR LESS AND AT \$350 FOR LARGE VEHICLES WITH WASTE PAYLOAD OF MORE THAN FIVE TONNES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CHARGES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN MID-1994 UPON THE ENACTMENT OF THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO OPERATE THE SCHEME.

IN PARALLEL WITH THE CHARGING SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE RECYCLING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE.

THESE INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WASTE SORTING SITE AT A LANDFILL FOR CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE INSUFFICIENT SPACE ON SITE TO SORT WASTE; OPENING MORE PUBLIC DUMPS AND RELAXING THE CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING WASTE AT PUBLIC DUMPS WHILE CONTRACTS ARE BEING DRAWN UP REQUIRING SORTING FROM FIRMS EMPLOYED ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO AMEND LEGISLATION TO INTRODUCE STIFFER PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF WASTE AS A FURTHER MEASURE TO DISCOURAGE ILLEGAL DUMPING KNOWN AS FLY-TIPPING.

IN DRAWING UP THIS PACKAGE OF MEASURES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSULTED INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES. GENERALLY, THEY HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO APPLY THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1993

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ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION WITH GUANGDONG TO CONTINUE

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THE JOINT HONG KONG - GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP, AT ITS FOURTH MEETING IN GUANGZHOU ON DECEMBER 8, 1993, HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR CO-OPERATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

THE LIAISON GROUP DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED THE PROGRESS REPORT BY ITS TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP (TSG) ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF DEEP BAY AND ITS CATCHMENTS.

THE TSG WILL CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE MONITORING DATA AND EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND WILL PROCEED WITH THE JOINT MONITORING PROGRAMME IN DEEP BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA.

THE LIAISON GROUP AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED AND OTHER INFORMAL LIAISON CHANNELS.

THE MEETING IN GUANGZHOU WAS FOLLOWED BY A TWO-DAY VISIT IN SHENZHEN TO SEE THE ACTUAL MONITORING WORK IN THE AREA AND TO SEE HOW POLLUTION CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THE LIAISON GROUP WAS LED ON THE HONG KONG SIDE BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON AND ON THE GUANGDONG SIDE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE, MR QIANG BINGHUAN.

MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MR K S PUN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

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TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION RULES

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND MANAGEMENT BOARD, DR JAMES KUNG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE MANAGEMENT BOARD, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO HOLD, MANAGE AND APPLY THE FUND, HAD MADE RULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 32G OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS ORDINANCE.

THE RULES ARE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND (PROCEDURE FOR EX GRATIA PAYMENTS) RULES AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND (AMOUNT OF EX GRATIA PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL PENALTY) RULES.

/THE PURPOSES .....

THE PURPOSES ARE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS AND THE PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR EX GRATIA PAYMENT UPON DEFAULT OF TRAVEL AGENTS; TO SPECIFY THE RATE OF EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR IMPOSITION OF PENALTY ON LICENSED TRAVEL AGENTS FOR FAILURE TO MAKE DUE PAYMENTS OF LEVIES.

UNDER THE RULES, IF ANY TRAVEL AGENT SHOULD DEFAULT, OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS MAY APPLY FOR AN EX GRATIA PAYMENT PROVIDED THEIR TOUR RECEIPTS DULY SHOW PAYMENT OF A FUND LEVY ON THE BASIS OF OUTBOUND PACKAGE FARES.

THE FUND LEVY IS TO BE PAID BY LICENSED TRAVEL AGENTS AND WILL GO TO THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND.

IN ORDER TO GRANT EARLY RELIEF TO APPLICANTS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT WHERE THE MANAGEMENT BOARD DECIDES TO MAKE AN EX GRATIA PAYMENT, IT SHALL, SO FAR AS IT IS PRACTICABLE, MAKE THE PAYMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE RELEVANT APPLICATION BEING MADE, DR KUNG SAID.

IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE EX GRATIA PAYMENT, APPLICANTS WILL FIRST BE PAID COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND AND THEN TO BE ALLOWED TO EXECUTE AN INDEMNITY IN FAVOUR OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD, TO COVER THE SCENARIO THAT THEIR PROOF OF DEBT IS REJECTED OR ONLY PARTIALLY ADMITTED.

"IN SO DOING, EX GRATIA PAYMENT CAN PROCEED BEFORE ANY DIVIDEND IS DECLARED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER, WHICH MAY TAKE MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS TO COMPLETE.

"IF THERE IS ANY EXCESS OF DIVIDEND OVER EX GRATIA PAYMENTS, THE DIFFERENCE WILL BE PAID TO THE APPLICANTS BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD," HE SAID.

"HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, CONSUMER COUNCIL, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS, AND HAVING CONSULTED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE MANAGEMENT BOARD PROPOSES THAT THE RATE OF EX GRATIA PAYMENTS BE SPECIFIED AS 80 PER CENT OF THE OUTBOUND FARE PAID," HE ADDED.

THE FUND HAS ACCUMULATED \$138 MILLION ASSETS AS AT DECEMBER 1.

THE RULES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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HIGHER COMPENSATION RATES FOR INJURED WORKERS GAZETTED

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THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION AND A NUMBER OF COMPENSATION-RELATED ITEMS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (ECO) AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE (PCO) HAVE BEEN REVISED, EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

DETAILS OF THE NEW RATES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR OFFICER (COMPENSATION), MRS MARY CHENG, SAID UNDER THE ECO, THE MINIMUM COMPENSATION FOR DEATH WOULD BE \$219,000, AND FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY \$248,000.

FOR EMPLOYEES REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENTION, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION WILL BE INCREASED TO \$297,000.

AS REGARDS THE ALLOWANCES TO HELP VICTIMS OF WORK ACCIDENTS TO ACQUIRE PROSTHESES OR SURGICAL APPLIANCES, MRS CHENG SAID THE MAXIMUM COSTS OF SUPPLYING AND FITTING SUCH ITEMS WILL BE RAISED TO \$24,000, AND THOSE OF REPAIR AND RENEWAL TO \$74,000.

SHE NOTED THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING COMPENSATION, THE LEVEL OF THE DEEMED MINIMUM EARNINGS PER MONTH WILL BE RAISED TO \$2,250.

"IN RESPECT OF LATE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION ASSESSED OR APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE MINIMUM SURCHARGE WILL BE INCREASED TO \$350 UPON EXPIRY OF THE PAYMENT PERIOD, AND TO \$700 WHERE COMPENSATION REMAINS UNPAID THREE MONTHS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE PAYMENT PERIOD," MRS CHENG SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE BURIAL EXPENSES FOR EMPLOYEES DIED AT WORK AND THE MAXIMUM DAILY REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES UNDER THE ECO WILL BE ADJUSTED TO \$12,000 AND \$120 RESPECTIVELY.

"THE SAME RATES WILL ALSO APPLY TO FUNERAL EXPENSES AND MEDICAL EXPENSES PAYABLE UNDER THE PCO," SHE ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION CAN BE MADE ON TEL 733 2338.

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#### NEW FEES FOR FILM CENSORSHIP

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A NUMBER OF NEW FEES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 14 TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROPOSALS UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ENACTED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE ORDINANCE AIMED TO REGULATE THE PUBLICATION, IN THE FORM OF VIDEO TAPES OR LASER DISCS, OF FILMS EXAMINED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

"UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A FEE IS PAYABLE FOR THE EXAMINATION OF FILMS EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION BY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE FULL COSTS ARE RECOVERED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF EXEMPTED FILMS IF THEY ARE SHOWN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES," HE EXPLAINED.

UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATION 1993 GAZETTED TODAY, THE AUTHORITY MAY CHARGE \$25 FOR A STILL FILM EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION AND \$20 PER MINUTE OF RUNNING TIME FOR OTHER FILMS EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION.

A FEE OF \$335 IS SET FOR THE EXAMINATION OF PACKAGING OF VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS CONTAINING AN APPROVED CATEGORY III FILM.

IN ADDITION, A FEE OF \$510 WILL BE CHARGED FOR VIEWING ANY VIDEO TAPE OR LASER DISC KEPT BY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY IN A REPOSITORY TO BE SET UP.

"ALL THESE FEES ARE SET ON A COST-RECOVERY BASIS," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

HE ADDED THAT FEES PAYABLE MAY BE REMITTED IN PART OR IN FULL IF AN EXEMPTED FILM IS SHOWN FOR EITHER NON-PROFIT-MAKING, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL OR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES, OR WHEN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME FILM IS RE-SUBMITTED FOR CLASSIFICATION.

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#### JUDICIARY UPHOLDS BEST TRADITIONS: CHIEF JUSTICE

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HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN ITS LEGAL SYSTEM SO THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WHICH HAVE BECOME A VERY SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE TERRITORY, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID TONIGHT (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY SPEECH DAY OF YING WA COLLEGE, SIR TI LIANG SAID THE LEGAL SYSTEM "ENJOYS A SUPREMACY AND DIGNITY WHICH HAVE BEEN JEALOUSLY GUARDED FOR A VERY LONG TIME BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG".

"THE TASK OF THE JUDICIARY IS TO ENSURE THAT WE PRESERVE THE BEST TRADITIONS WE HAVE INHERITED FROM THE PAST BY SAFEGUARDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY FROM INTERFERENCE, BY MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF JUDGES, AND BY THE JUDGES FAITHFULLY DISCHARGING THEIR DUTIES STRICTLY ACCORDING TO LAW," HE STRESSED.

"IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE PERCEIVE CLEARLY THE DIRECTION IN WHICH OUR LEGAL SYSTEM IS HEADING OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES. FOR IT IS THE VERY FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR SOCIETY RESTS.

"IF THAT FOUNDATION WEAKENS, THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY WEAKENS; IF THAT FOUNDATION COLLAPSES, OUR SOCIETY CRUMBLES WITH IT," HE ADDED.

SIR TI LIANG SAID PEOPLE SPOKE OF 1997 AS IF IT WAS A WALL, OVER WHICH THEY MUST CLIMB, FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER.

"WE SPEAK OF THAT YEAR AS IF IT MARKS A CLEAN BREAK IN OUR HISTORY, AS IF THE CONTINUITY HITHERTO WILL SOMEHOW BE DISCONTINUED.

/"WE CONCENTRATE .....

"WE CONCENTRATE ON THAT WHICH HAS TO CHANGE, AND OVERLOOK THAT WHICH WILL REMAIN.

"BUT IS IT NOT ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW THAT MANY ASPECTS OF OUR LIFE WILL GO ON?" HE SAID.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID EXCEPT FOR THREE MAJOR DIFFERENCES, THE BASIC LAW PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE 50 YEARS FROM 1997 TO 2047.

FIRSTLY, BY ARTICLE 90, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL AND THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT SHALL BE CHINESE CITIZENS, WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WITH NO RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

SECONDLY, UNDER ARTICLE 82, HONG KONG'S FINAL APPEALS WILL NO LONGER GO TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN LONDON. HONG KONG WILL HAVE ITS OWN COURT OF FINAL APPEAL WITH ITS OWN JUDGES IN HONG KONG.

"THE MAIN PROCEDURE WHICH APPLIES TO APPEALS TO LONDON WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE FOLLOWED," SIR TI LIANG SAID.

THIRDLY, BY ARTICLE 158, THE POWER OF INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW SHALL BE VESTED IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

"THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL DEPARTURE FROM THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM. UNDER OUR PRESENT LAW, THE FINAL OR MOST AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (AS THE BASIC LAW SHALL BE FOR HONG KONG FROM 1997) RESTS WITH THE COURTS.

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERN THIS PROVISION MAY CAUSE HERE IN HONG KONG, THE BASIC LAW ADOPTS A PRAGMATIC APPROACH AND PROVIDED THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SHALL AUTHORISE THE COURTS OF HONG KONG TO INTERPRET ON THEIR OWN, IN JUDGING CASES, THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH DEAL WITH HONG KONG'S OWN LOCAL AFFAIRS.

"PUTTING THE PROBLEM SIMPLY, THE BULK OF THOSE ARTICLES IN THE BASIC LAW THAT MOST CONCERN OUR DAILY LIVES ARE INTERPRETED BY OUR OWN COURTS, PRESIDED OVER BY OUR OWN JUDGES," SIR TI LIANG SAID.

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#### GOVERNOR VISITS WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY IN KOWLOON CITY AND A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SHELTERED WORKSHOP IN SAI KUNG.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MISS J A WILLIS, THE GOVERNOR FIRST CALLED ON THE ASIA WOMEN'S LEAGUE LTD CHAN KWUN TUNG CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AT KOWLOON TONG.

THE LEAGUE'S COMMISSIONER, MS LIN HON-YING, SHOWED MR PATTEN A MODEL ON AN EXTENSION OF THE HOME WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO HOUSE 170 OLD PEOPLE BY 1995.

THE GOVERNOR THEN TOURED THE HOME'S DORMITORIES, PHYSIOTHERAPY AND FUNCTION ROOMS WHERE HE CHATTED TO SOME ELDERLY RESIDENTS.

BEFORE HE LEFT, MR PATTEN WAS PRESENTED WITH A PILLOW CASE SEWN BY THE RESIDENTS.

THE GOVERNOR THEN PROCEEDED TO THE WING LUNG BANK GOLDEN JUBILEE SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL IN SAI KUNG RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

WITH 140 SHELTERED WORKSHOP PLACES AND 100 HOSTEL PLACES FOR DISABLED ADULTS, THE INSTITUTION HELPS THEM DEVELOP THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL CAPABILITIES IN ORDER TO INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY.

MR PATTEN SAW SOME MODERATE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS AT WORK IN THE WORKSHOP.

HE WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING THE RESIDENTS BEING TRAINED IN LOCOMOTIVE SKILLS.

MR STRACHAN BRIEFED THE GOVERNOR ON THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING 5,000 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES AND 2,360 PLACES IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS BY 1997.

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NT SITES OFFERED FOR SALE TO LETTERS A/B HOLDERS

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING REGISTERED OWNERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTER A/B) TO TENDER FOR TWO SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITES ARE LOCATED IN AREA 19A AND AREA 37B IN TSEUNG KWAN O, SAI KUNG.

THE FIRST SITE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 12,620 SQUARE METRES, IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) USE.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDINGS CONVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 64,135 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1998.

THE SECOND SITE, WHICH HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 14,600 SQUARE METRES, IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) USE.

THE BUILDING CONVENANT PROVIDES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 74,200 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1998.

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THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS NOON ON JANUARY 7, NEXT YEAR.

FURTHER DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

- \* THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD;
- \* THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- \* THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF ISLANDS, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

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X'MAS DEADLINE REMINDED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR POSTING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOCAL DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS DECEMBER 19.

HE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO POST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID A LAST-MINUTE RUSH.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT SHA TIN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT SHA TIN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

SOME AREAS IN KAK TIN VILLAGE, SHA TIN WAI VILLAGE, LEI UK VILLAGE, SHA TIN TAU VILLAGE, TSING TAI UK VILLAGE AND WONG NAI TAU VILLAGE ARE FOUND SUITABLE FOR VILLAGE EXTENSION.

TOGETHER WITH SOME EXISTING VILLAGES, THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN ZONED "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT".

IN ADDITION, A RESITE AREA AT SHA TIN ROAD HAS BEEN REZONED FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)" TO "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT", A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GARDEN, THE FORMER WONG UK VILLAGE IN YUEN CHAU KOK HAS BEEN REZONED FROM "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" TO "OPEN SPACE".

/APART FROM .....

APART FROM IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDING LOCAL PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, THE GARDEN WILL ALSO PROTECT THE WONG UK OLD HOUSE.

"OPPORTUNITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO REZONE AN AREA TO THE SOUTH OF TAI SHEK KWU FROM 'GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY' TO 'RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)' FOR A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENT AND TO REZONE AN AREA TO THE EAST OF TAI LAM LIU FROM 'RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B)' TO 'GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY' FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL USE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

OTHER AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:

- \* THE REZONING OF AN AREA TO THE NORTHEAST OF KWONG YUEN ESTATE FROM "UNDETERMINED" TO "GREEN BELT" TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL HILLSLOPES;
- \* THE REZONING OF TWO AREAS TO THE WEST OF TAI PO ROAD WITHIN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FROM "GREEN BELT" TO "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY";
- \* THE REZONING OF AN AREA TO THE EAST OF THE KCR UNIVERSITY STATION FROM "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO "ROAD" TO REFLECT THE EXISTING BUS TERMINUS USE; AND
- \* THE REZONING OF SHA TIN WATER TREATMENT WORKS FROM "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (WATER TREATMENT WORKS)" TO REFLECT THE EXISTING USE.

IN ADDITION, SHA TIN HEIGHTS AT TAI PO ROAD AND A SITE NEAR THE KCR UNIVERSITY STATION HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR PETROL FILLING STATION USE.

SEVERAL EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD OBTAINED TOWN PLANNING BOARD'S PLANNING APPROVALS HAVE ALSO BEEN REZONED TO REFLECT THEIR EXISTING USES.

THESE INCLUDE REGAL RIVERSIDE HOTEL, SHA TIN GALLERIA IN FO TAN, A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WO LIU HANG, MAN LAI COURT IN TAI WAI AND TWO SCHOOLS AT SUI WO ROAD.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN NO. S/ST/6 IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL DECEMBER 31 AT:

- \* PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING,  
GARDEN ROAD,  
HONG KONG;
- \* SHA TIN & NORTH EAST DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,  
SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
GROUND FLOOR, 6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,  
SHA TIN; AND
- \* SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE,  
6TH FLOOR, KCRC HOUSE,  
SHA TIN STATION,  
SHA TIN.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE DECEMBER 31.

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

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SUPPORT URGED FOR PARENTS OF HANDICAPPED

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MRS PATTEN TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PARENTS WITH A HANDICAPPED CHILD.

"BEING THE PARENT OF A HANDICAPPED CHILD IS A DIFFICULT TASK. IT CALLS FOR VERY SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING, CARE AND PATIENCE," SHE SAID, WHEN OPENING THE TUEN MUN YUK CHI RESOURCE CENTRE.

MRS PATTEN SAID PARENTS RESOURCE CENTRES PROVIDED A PLEASANT, FRIENDLY PLACE TO WHICH PARENTS COULD TURN FROM THE START WHEN THEY FIRST LEARNT OF THEIR CHILDREN'S HANDICAP AND THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AS THEY BROUGHT UP THEIR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

THESE CENTRES NOT ONLY PROVIDE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES, BUT ALSO PROMOTE A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL HELP AND SUPPORT.

YUK CHI RESOURCE CENTRE SERVES ABOUT 400 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

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LAYING OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGE AND PIPEWORKS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PERMITTED BULOKLE LIMITED TO USE ABOUT 1,670 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TSING LUNG TAU, TSUEN WAN AS WORKS AREA FOR LAYING EFFLUENT DISCHARGE AND SEA WATER INTAKE PIPEWORKS.

DREDGING WORK AND LAYING OF THE PIPES WILL START THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN EIGHT MONTHS.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION WITHIN ONE YEAR.

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HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT PARTICULARS TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

THE NOTICE AND ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, WHERE COPIES OF THE PLAN ARE ALSO ON SALE, AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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COVERS FOR SUBWAYS ACROSS NATHAN ROAD

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT COVERS AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE TWO EXISTING SUBWAYS ACROSS NATHAN ROAD AT SOY STREET AND BUTE STREET IN MONG KOK, WITH A VIEW TO UPGRADING EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES.

THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS PROGRAMMED TO START IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

A NOTICE FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

PLANS AND SCHEME CAN BE SEEN AT:

- \* CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- \* MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, GROUND FLOOR, 30 LUEN WAN STREET, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 8, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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RESUME LAND FOR PUMPING STATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND ON LANTAU ISLAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL RAW WATER PUMPING STATION IN PUI O.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF 1996.

THE RESUMPTION WILL INVOLVE 10 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 1,760.4 SQUARE METRES.

THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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TENDERS INVITED FOR POLYCLINIC AND RADAR STATION

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POLYCLINIC IN HA KWAI CHUNG AND A RADAR STATION ON KAU YI CHAU.

LOCATED AT LAI CHO ROAD, THE SIX-STOREY POLYCLINIC WILL INCLUDE A STANDARD URBAN CLINIC, A CIVIL SERVANTS' DENTAL CLINIC, A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC, A CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE, A SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, A RENAL DIALYSIS CENTRE AND A COMMUNITY NURSING CENTRE WITH A TRAINING UNIT.

THE SECOND PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STEEL TOWER AND A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WITH PERMANENT AND EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY FACILITIES, FIRE-FIGHTING INSTALLATIONS AND AN EQUIPMENT ROOM.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE EXTERNAL LANDSCAPING WORKS INCLUDING THE BUILDING OF A HELIPAD.

WORKS FOR BOTH PROJECTS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT TWO YEARS AND A YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER FOR THE FIRST PROJECT WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JANUARY 7 NEXT YEAR WHILE THAT FOR THE SECOND ON DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1993

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MONG KOK LIT UP WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

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MONG KOK DISTRICT GETS INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT TONIGHT (FRIDAY) WITH THE TURNING ON OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTS.

SPEAKING AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, SAID SUCH ACTIVITY NOT ONLY ENHANCED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE JOYFUL SEASON, BUT PROMOTED LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.

SHE SAID THE PROJECT HAD BEEN AN ANNUAL ACTIVITY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD SINCE 1987.

NOTING THAT THE DISTRICT HAD WON CREATIVITY AWARDS IN THE TERRITORY-WIDE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTS COMPETITIONS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, SHE HOPED IT WOULD DO THE SAME THIS YEAR.

THE MAJOR ILLUMINATIONS ARE PUT UP AT A SECTION OF ARYLE STREET BETWEEN YIM PO FONG STREET AND NATHAN ROAD, A SECTION OF NATHAN ROAD BETWEEN BOUNDARY STREET AND DUNDAS STREET AND A SECTION OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

THE COST OF ABOUT \$1 MILLION IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

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TENDERS FOR CHEUNG CHAU DEVELOPMENT WORKS INVITED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CHEUNG CHAU DEVELOPMENT WORKS.

THE WORKS INVOLVE SITE FORMATION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO ROADS AND DRAINS IN SAI WAN.

THESE INCLUDE RECLAMATION ALONG THE SOUTH-WESTERN COASTLINE OF CHEUNG CHAU FROM SAI WAN TO ROUND TABLE FIRST VILLAGE, CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS AND SEASIDE PROMENADE, WIDENING EXISTING ROADS IN SAI WAN, BUILDING OF ASSOCIATED FOUL AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND LANDSCAPE WORKS.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN APRIL NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 24 MONTHS.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM WILBUR SMITH ASSOCIATES AT SUITE 803, TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE, WEST WING, 66 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 14.

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FIGHT-CRIME VARIETY SHOW IN NORTH DISTRICT

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THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WILL ORGANISE A VARIETY SHOW TO DISSEMINATE FIGHT-CRIME AND ANTI-DRUGS MESSAGE IN THE DISTRICT TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING.

THE VARIETY SHOW, SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, WILL BE HELD AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND.

ADMISSION IS FREE. LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN OBTAIN TICKETS FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND COMMUNITY CENTRES.

PERFORMANCE WILL BE PRESENTED BY PROMINENT ARTISTES INCLUDING JACKIE CHAN, LEON LAI AND GRASSHOPPER.

THE SHOW WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK'S RADIO 1 FROM 8 PM TO 10 PM.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TIMOTHY TONG; THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE; THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR PANG HANG-YIN AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT-CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS VARIETY SHOW AT 7 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND ADJACENT TO FANLING KCR STATION.

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314 VMS RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 314 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 129 MEN, 79 WOMEN, 55 BOYS AND 51 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 186TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 11,202 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 37,514 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,080
REVERSAL OF LAF	+920
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-2,700
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,300
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.7 *+0.1* 10.12.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.44 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.35	3.60
1 MONTH	3.11 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.87	3.88
3 MONTHS	3.00 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.95	4.07
6 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.87	4.26
12 MONTHS	3.49 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.73	4.73

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,721 MN

CLOSED 10 DECEMBER 1993

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