



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HONG KONG SPIRIT IS KEY TO CONFIDENCE: CHIEF SECRETARY

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ONE OF THE REASONS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS THE HONG KONG SPIRIT FOR WHICH ONE WILL HAVE TO LIVE IN THE TERRITORY TO UNDERSTAND IT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN TOKYO TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"ALL THE OTHER INGREDIENTS ARE OF COURSE IMPORTANT, LIKE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS OF A BODY. BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT WHICH BREATHES LIFE INTO THE WHOLE, AND HONG KONG IS FULL OF IT," SIR DAVID SAID.

ADDRESSING THE JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HONG KONG HAD ALWAYS BEEN VULNERABLE TO OUTSIDE EVENTS WHETHER IT WAS ECONOMIC FLUCTUATION, POLITICAL CHANGE OR THE DEVASTATION OF THE OCCASIONAL TYPHOON.

"BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS SURVIVED THESE BUFFETINGS AND RISEN ABOVE THEM TO SURPRISE THE WORLD. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHICH DEFIES THE ELEMENTS AND ALWAYS WILL," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY URGED THOSE WHO HAD NOT ALREADY SEEN THE CITY TO COME AND EXPERIENCE IT THEMSELVES.

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE SHOULD BE CONFIDENT IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE:

- * BECAUSE CHINA IS COMMITTED, THROUGH A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT LODGED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, TO PRESERVING IT IN ITS CURRENT FORM;
- * BECAUSE HONG KONG IS SO VITALLY IMPORTANT TO CHINA ECONOMICALLY;
- * BECAUSE OUR ROLE AS A GREAT PORT CITY IS ONE DICTATED BY GEOGRAPHY;
- * BECAUSE WE ARE DETERMINED TO IMPROVE ON NATURE'S GIFTS;
- * BECAUSE, DESPITE EMIGRATION, MORE THAN FIVE MILLION OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESOURCEFUL CAPITALISTS WILL STILL BE THERE;
- * BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND THE PEOPLE WHO RUN THEM WILL CONTINUE IN PLACE; AND
- * BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN HONG KONG AND THE VALUE OF THIS TO CHINA'S OWN DEVELOPMENT.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID THE OVERALL AND LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR HONG KONG WAS TO SEEK TO MAKE THE TERRITORY A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO STAY BY MAINTAINING THOSE ASPECTS OF HONG KONG LIFE THAT WERE MOST ATTRACTIVE, NOT ONLY THE LOW TAX RATES AND ABSENCE OF BUREAUCRACY WHICH ATTRACTED BUSINESSMEN AND KEPT OUR ECONOMY DYNAMIC AND EMPLOYMENT FULL, BUT ALSO BY FURTHER IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG IN TERMS, FOR EXAMPLE, A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER HOUSING AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HONG KONG WAS THE NATURAL PORT AND COMMUNICATIONS HUB FOR SOUTHERN CHINA AND THE ADJACENT REGION: "BUT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THAT POSITION WE NEED TO CONTINUE INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE."

TURNING TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, SIR DAVID SAID IT INCLUDED A COMPLETELY NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART AIRPORT AWAY FROM THE CITY ON LANTAU ISLAND, CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION LINKS, INCLUDING WHAT MIGHT WELL BE THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN THE WORLD, AND NEW CONTAINER PORT BERTHS.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD A TRADITION OF INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE. "THUS BOTH OF OUR CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNELS WERE PRIVATELY CONSTRUCTED AND ARE PRIVATELY OPERATED. ALL OF OUR PORT FACILITIES LIKEWISE."

"AND WE WILL FOLLOW THE SAME TRIED AND TESTED PATTERN WITH THESE NEW PROJECTS," SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT UP TO 60 PER CENT OF THE FUNDING FOR THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS WOULD COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"AND, TRUE TO OUR OPEN MARKET PRINCIPLES, FOREIGN FIRMS WILL BE FREE TO TAKE PART," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE HUGE CAPITAL PROJECTS WHICH, TAKEN TOGETHER WERE WORTH ABOUT US\$16 BILLION, OF WHICH THE AIRPORT ALONE WAS WORTH US\$4.5 BILLION. "BUT WE WILL BE DEALING WITHIN THEM AS A NUMBER OF DISCRETE CONTRACTS, AND THE INCREMENTAL NATURE OF, FOR EXAMPLE THE PORT FACILITIES, MEANS THAT EXPENDITURE WILL BE SPREAD OVER ABOUT 15 YEARS."

"THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO THE AIRPORT. EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH TELLS US THAT OUR EXISTING AIRPORT AT KAI TAK, WHICH IS ALREADY CONGESTED, WILL BE SATURATED BY 1994.

"IF WE DID NOTHING AND THE AIRPORT REMAINED SATURATED BETWEEN 1996 AND 2010, THE ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS WOULD AMOUNT TO NEARLY US\$13 BILLION. CLEARLY THE CASE TO BUILD IS A COMPELLING ONE, AND BUILD IT WE SHALL," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT HONG KONG'S OPEN ECONOMY HAD ATTRACTED INTEREST FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD, AND THIS INTEREST HAD GIVEN IT GREATER BREADTH, EXPERTISE AND STRENGTH.

/"OUR LINKS

"OUR LINKS WITH JAPAN ARE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE. JAPAN IS OUR FIFTH LARGEST EXPORT MARKET AND SECOND LARGEST SUPPLIER. AND WE ARE YOUR FIFTH LARGEST EXPORT MARKET TOO, INDEED YOUR MOST LUCRATIVE ON A PER CAPITA BASIS -- EACH PERSON IN HONG KONG BUYS OVER US\$2,000 WORTH OF JAPANESE GOODS EACH YEAR," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN DOUBLED IN DOLLAR TERMS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, FROM US\$8 BILLION IN 1985 TO US\$16.4 BILLION.

"THE TWO-WAY TRADE BALANCE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY IN JAPAN'S FAVOUR. BUT, AS A FIRM BELIEVER IN FREE TRADE, HONG KONG DOES NOT BEGRUDGE JAPAN'S EXPORTS.

"RATHER WE WELCOME THEM. JAPAN IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF SUPPLIES OF CONSUMER GOODS, RAW MATERIALS, SEMI-MANUFACTURERS AND CAPITAL GOODS TO HONG KONG," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT, BUT NOT MUCH PUBLICISED, DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS WAS THE INCREASE IN SINO-JAPAN TRADE THROUGH HONG KONG.

"THIS HAS INCREASED BY NINE TIMES: FROM US\$0.6 BILLION IN 1985 TO A STAGGERING US\$4.9 BILLION IN 1989, ONE QUARTER OF TOTAL SINO-JAPAN TRADE," SIR DAVID NOTED.

"MOST ENCOURAGING OF ALL, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IS THAT JAPAN IS THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, WITH INVESTMENT TALLING OVER US\$900 MILLION.

"AND OUR PREDICTION IS THAT YOU WILL HAVE TAKEN OVER FIRST PLACE FROM THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE END OF THE CENTURY," THE CHIEF SECRETARY ADDED.

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INDUSTRIAL POLICIES HAVE BECOME MORE PRO-ACTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICIES HAVE BECOME MORE PRO-ACTIVE IN THE LIGHT OF A MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, MR LEUNG SAID THESE POLICIES REMAINED LARGELY RESPONSIVE TO ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES AND WERE DESIGNED "TO SUPPORT, TO FACILITATE, TO STIMULATE BUT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MARKET PLACE".

MR LEUNG SAID THE TERM "POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM" WAS OFTEN MISQUOTED, MISUSED AND MISUNDERSTOOD.

"THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICIES ARE NOT SO MUCH FOUNDED UPON DOCTRINE THAN THE SIMPLE RECOGNITION THAT MANUFACTURERS ARE GENERALLY BETTER JUDGES OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS THAN CIVIL SERVANTS.

"AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO AVOID INTERVENING IN THE MARKET PLACE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

"ITS SUPPORT FOR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES HAS BEEN LARGELY PRAGMATIC, ESSENTIALLY CONFINED TO HELPING TO OVERCOME CONSTRAINTS OR OBSTACLES TO GROWTH IN AREAS WHERE GOVERNMENT IS THE BEST OR ONLY AGENT FOR ACTION, OR WHERE A CLEAR NEED FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS JUSTIFIED," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S PRO-ACTIVE INDUSTRIAL POLICIES HAD ALSO MANIFESTED ITSELF IN OTHER WAYS.

HE SAID ONE OF THESE WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT INITIATIVES, TOGETHER WITH EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE, HAD HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLOSE WORKING PARTNERSHIP AMONG INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND GOVERNMENT.

"THIS HAS BEEN EXEMPLIFIED AS MUCH BY THEIR REPRESENTATION ON OUR NETWORK OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, CULMINATING IN THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AS BY THE FORMATION OF SUCH INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS AS THE PLASTIC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE," HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, THE REALISATION THAT A COMPANY STRUCTURE WOULD RESPOND MORE FLEXIBLY TO CHANGE HAD LED TO INCREASING CORPORATISATION OF GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES - THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, THE HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY LIMITED, THE HONG KONG PLASTIC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE LIMITED, THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE, THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY AND THE FORTHCOMING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT WHILE THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICIES CONTINUED TO BE VALID, THEY WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO THE CHANGING DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS.

HE SAID ONE LIKELY DEVELOPMENT WAS THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE, PARTICULARLY TRADE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

"ECONOMIC REALITIES ALSO NECESSITATE THE CONTINUAL EXPANSION OF CHINA'S TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. HONG KONG IS EXPECTED TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY PIVOTAL ROLE BOTH AS A REGIONAL CENTRE AND AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS WOULD CONTINUE TO FACE COMPETITION FROM THE SERVICE SECTOR FOR MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES AND THE PRESENT SLOW DRIFT OF EMPLOYMENT FROM MANUFACTURING INTO SERVICES WAS LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE TERM "MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY" WAS EVOLVING TO ENCOMPASS MORE OF THE MANUFACTURING TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY ASSURANCE, TESTING AND OTHER SKILL-INTENSIVE BACK-UP SERVICES.

"ACTUAL ASSEMBLY-TYPE PRODUCTION IS LIKELY TO DIVERSIFY MORE INTO NEIGHBOURING REGIONS WITH LOWER COSTS, INCLUDING SOUTH CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

"SO HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP INTO A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR, RATHER THAN A CENTRE OF, MANUFACTURING," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID ANOTHER LIKELY DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS LEANER, WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN IT WAS TODAY.

"FACED WITH INCREASING COMPETITION AND HIGHER CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS, IT WILL NEED TO RETAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS BY MOVING DECISIVELY INTO QUALITY AND INNOVATION INVOLVING HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES WHERE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IS EXPECTED TO BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT," HE SAID.

HE SAID MANUFACTURERS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG'S EXCITING INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY (PADS) AND THE METROPLAN.

HE SAID NEW INDUSTRIAL LAND WOULD BE CREATED IN TUEN MUN WEST AND NORTH LANTAU, AND FACTORIES IN THE OLD INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG WOULD BE REDEVELOPED.

"NEW, CLEAN, HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES WILL PROBABLY EMERGE ON RECLAIMED LAND AROUND KAI TAK.

"INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ARE LIKELY TO OPERATE FROM A THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O OR ON LAND SET ASIDE FOR WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES AND OPERATIONS REQUIRING WATER-FRONT ACCESS," HE SAID.

ELECTRONICS WOULD PROBABLY BE AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL SECTOR THAN IT WAS TODAY AND OTHER NEW SECTORS, SUCH AS CHEMICAL PROCESSING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, MIGHT WELL EMERGE, MR LEUNG SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, FAST GROWING DYNAMIC ECONOMIES AND POSSIBLY EASTERN EUROPE WOULD RENDER THE FIELD OF INWARD INVESTMENT PROMOTION EVEN MORE COMPETITIVE.

"BUT WITH INCREASING GLOBALISATION OF BUSINESSES, LARGE MULTI-NATIONALS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN DIVERSIFIED IN THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC 'TRIPOD' - NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AND THE ASIA PACIFIC.

"SO THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL INVESTORS FROM THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY IS LIKELY TO REMAIN DOMINANT IN HONG KONG.

"IN PARTICULAR, AT ITS CURRENT RATE OF INVESTMENT, JAPAN MAY WELL BE OUR LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PARTNER BY THE YEAR 2000," HE SAID.

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COMMITMENT TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

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IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT IN PROPOSING TO ENACT A BILL OF RIGHTS IN 1990 THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTING ITSELF TO THE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE TERRITORY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SESSION OF THE NINTH COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE HELD IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, MR MATHEWS SAID THE MOST DRAMATIC FEATURE OF THE BILL IS THAT IT WILL IN ITS EFFECT REPEAL ALL LEGISLATION THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH IT TO THE EXTENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY.

"WE ARE BRINGING UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS MICROSCOPE OVER 500 ORDINANCES TOGETHER WITH SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION AND GIVING PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO SUE THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY FIND THAT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED BY SUB-STANDARD LEGISLATION OR BY PERSONS ACTING IMPROPERLY UNDER LEGISLATIVE OR OTHER AUTHORITY," HE SAID.

"THIS IS A MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE AND IN ORDER TO ANTICIPATE ANY LEGISLATIVE AND OPERATIONAL VACUUMS BROUGHT ABOUT AS A RESULT OF LEGISLATION BEING DECLARED INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS WE HAVE PROPOSED TO 'FREEZE' ALL LEGISLATION ON THE STATUTE BOOK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE BILL IN ORDER TO GIVE US TIME TO IDENTIFY ANY LAWS WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL AND TAKE THE NECESSARY REMEDIAL STEPS.

"WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH JUDGES WOULD UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS BE ABLE TO RENDER INCONSISTENT LAWS INOPERATIVE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REWRITE BAD LAWS. BUT IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ARE NOT FREEZING THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR TWO YEARS."

MR MATHEWS SAID UPON ITS ENACTMENT THE BILL WOULD AFFECT ALL LAWS ENACTED AFTER IT AND WOULD ALSO BITE ON THE COMMON LAW AND ANY OFFENDING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WHICH DO NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW.

"WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS IS UNUSUAL, BUT BY NO MEANS UNIQUE, IN THAT IT PURPORTS TO BIND ALL PERSONS IN HONG KONG AND NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT.

/"THIS IS

"THIS IS A FEATURE OF THE BILL WHICH WILL NEED TO BE FULLY DEBATED DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS BECAUSE WE REALISE THAT WE ARE CREATING A NEW RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN THE BILL."

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, MR MATHEWS SAID, IS ITS GENERAL JUSTICIABILITY. "BY THAT I MEAN THAT WE HAVE NOT CREATED ANY SPECIAL COURTS TO DEAL WITH ISSUES ARISING UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS NOR HAVE WE CREATED ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES."

"THE REASONING BEHIND THIS IS THAT WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS WAS ACCESSIBLE IN EVERY COURT AND EVERY TRIBUNAL AND THAT JUDGES AND OTHERS CHARGED WITH JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS COULD NOT IGNORE IT," HE EXPLAINED.

"ABOVE ALL WE DID NOT WANT THE BILL TO HAVE A REMOTE, OLYMPIAN STATUS."

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IS NOT A BIG PLACE AND JUDGES AND LAWYERS ARE GENERALLY QUICK TO NOTE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE LAW.

"WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT WITHIN A SHORT TIME THE COURT OF APPEAL AND PERHAPS EVEN THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL WILL HAVE HAD OCCASION TO INTERPRET THE MOST IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL AND INFERIOR COURTS AND TRIBUNALS WILL KNOW WHERE THEY STAND UNDER IT."

MR MATHEWS SAID THE BILL OF RIGHTS IS BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR) BECAUSE SINCE 1976 THE ICCPR HAS APPLIED TO HONG KONG BY VIRTUE OF THE RATIFICATION OF THAT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE EXTENSION OF ITS PROVISIONS TO HONG KONG AS A DEPENDENT TERRITORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ALTHOUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL CEASE TO HAVE SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG IN 1997 THE ICCPR AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE IN FORCE BY REASON OF THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION IS THAT THE ICCPR WILL REMAIN IN FORCE.

ON THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE ENTRENCHMENT OF THE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID THE DRAFTERS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS STUDIED THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW VERY CLOSELY IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A BILL OF RIGHTS WHICH IS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW.

"THIS MEANT IN THE FIRST PLACE PRODUCING A BILL WHICH VIRTUALLY REPEATED THE ICCPR.

"IF THIS WAS NOT DONE THEN THE BILL COULD BE VULNERABLE TO CHALLENGE UNDER THE BASIC LAW AS A LAW WHICH WAS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, INCOMPATIBLE WITH IT.

"IF THERE WAS A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE THEN THE BILL OF RIGHTS COULD BE REPEALED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF CHINA."

/HE SAID

HE SAID IDEAS FOR CONVENTIONAL ENTRENCHING METHODS, SUCH AS SPECIAL MAJORITY VOTING, WERE NOT PURSUED BECAUSE THE BASIC LAW MIGHT BE SAID IMPLIEDLY TO RULE OUT THESE OPTIONS BY REASON OF ITS OWN DETAILED PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PASSAGE OF BILLS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES.

A FORM OF ENTRENCHMENT OF THE ICCPR RIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 1997 WAS ALREADY TO BE FOUND IN ARTICLE 39 OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH REPEATED THE PROVISION IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT THE ICCPR WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE COVENANT WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE LAWS OF HONG KONG.

THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ENTRENCHMENT WAS TO MIRROR ARTICLE 39 OF THE BASIC LAW IN HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT, THE LETTERS PATENT, WHICH WOULD BE AMENDED SO AS TO ENTRENCH THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOT COMPETENT TO ENACT LAWS WHICH ABRIDGE THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PERSONS IN HONG KONG IN A WAY WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE ICCPR.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE COURTS TO REVIEW LAWS WHICH ARE ALLEGED TO INFRINGE THE BILL OF RIGHTS, MR MATHEWS SAID.

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\$428M CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT SCHEME AWARDED
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CONSTRUCTION WILL START SHORTLY ON THE MAJOR CIVIL WORK OF THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OFF THE WEST KOWLOON COASTLINE AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION CONTROL.

A \$428 MILLION CONTRACT, THE SIXTH AND LARGEST OF SEVEN LET UNDER THE SCHEME, WAS AWARDED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON BY THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR C.R. SAUNDERS, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND AN UNDERWATER TWIN TWO-METRE DIAMETER PUMPED SEWER WHICH WILL BE USED TO FACILITATE SEWERAGE FLOWS FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN FOR TREATMENT ON THE ISLAND.

THE PUMPED SEWERS WILL BE ASSEMBLED ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND PROGRESSIVELY WINCHED ACROSS THE PREPARED SEABED TO CHEUNG SHA WAN, A DISTANCE OF OVER ONE KILOMETRE.

THE PIPELINE, WHICH IS THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE TERRITORY SO FAR, IS DESIGNED FOR A MAXIMUM FLOW RATE OF 13.5 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND.

/MR SAUNDERS

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MR SAUNDERS NOTED THAT THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A TOTAL PROJECT ESTIMATE OF \$1.2 BILLION WITH THE TARGET COMMISSIONING DATE IN SEPTEMBER 1992.

"THE SCHEME WILL REPLACE TWO OLD SCREENING PLANTS BY PROVIDING A SECOND FINER SCREENING PROCESS ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND, AND CONVEYING THE EFFLUENT CURRENTLY DISCHARGED CLOSE IN-SHORE, THROUGH A SUBMARINE OUTFALL INTO DEEP WATER FAR FROM THE EXISTING COASTLINE.

"WHEN COMPLETED, IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING FULL SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES TO SERVE ABOUT 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE IN LAI CHI KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, TAI KOK TSUI AND MONG KOK DISTRICTS, COVERING A TOTAL AREA OF 12.2 SQUARE KILOMETRES," HE SAID.

SO FAR, WORKS ON THE MAJORITY OF CONTRACTS IN THE SCHEME INVOLVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERCEPTOR SEWERS, PUMPING STATION AND SCREENING PLANTS HAD ALREADY COMMENCED WHILE THE REMAINING CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL ALONG THE COAST OF STONECUTTERS ISLAND IS EXPECTED TO BE AWARDED THIS SEPTEMBER.

AS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, THE SCHEME HAS ALSO ALLOWED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FLOWS FROM THE CURRENT SCHEME WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONNECTED INTO THE SYSTEMS PROPOSED IN THE RECENTLY COMPLETED SEWAGE STRATEGY STUDY.

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15TH JLG MEETING FROM APRIL 24 TO 27

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ANNOUNCED THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING THAT THE 15TH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN PEKING FROM APRIL 24 TO 27.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ANTHONY GALSWORTHY.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MR MICHAEL SUEN; SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, HONG KONG; MR DOUG MARTIN, COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HONG KONG; MR ALAN PAUL, HEAD, HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, FCO; AND MR WILLIAM EHRMAN, POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990

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LIVE COVERAGE OF NATIONALITY BILL DEBATE

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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S RADIO 3 WILL BROADCAST LIVE FROM LONDON THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL 1990. THE BROADCAST WILL BEGIN AT 11.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND LAST UNTIL AROUND 5 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20).

THE ENGLISH CHANNEL'S MORNING PROGRAMME "HONG KONG TODAY" ON FRIDAY, STARTING AT 7.05 AM, WILL INCLUDE EXTENSIVE COMMENT ON THE DEBATE AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE VOTING RESULT.

THE STATION'S CHINESE CHANNELS -- RADIO 1, 2 AND 5 -- WILL REPORT ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEBATE IN THEIR HOURLY NEWS REPORTS OVERNIGHT.

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REGISTRATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORS

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THE ANNUAL VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL IS BEING CARRIED OUT FROM YESTERDAY (APRIL 17) TO MAY 7 FOR THE COMPILATION OF THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SECOND REGISTRATION PERIOD FROM JUNE 15 TO JULY 2, LEADING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL REGISTER ON AUGUST 3.

"THIS EXERCISE COVERS ONLY THE EXISTING CONSTITUENCIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THOSE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE ELECTIONS IN 1991 WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE NEXT CYCLE, AFTER SUCH CONSTITUENCIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE AT HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ELIGIBLE PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN REGISTERED ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AND, WHERE REQUIRED, OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS ON TEL. 893 2837.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE INVITED BY THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE FROM PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE BECOME ELIGIBLE SINCE THE LAST REGISTRATION EXERCISE IN JUNE 1989.

/REGISTRATION FORMS

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REGISTRATION FORMS WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONS WHO SEEK REGISTRATION IN THE TEACHING, MEDICAL, DENTAL AND NURSING PROFESSIONS.

APPLICANTS WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST BE ALREADY ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS BEFORE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORS.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL, THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR REGISTRATION IN THAT ROLL NOW BEFORE SEEKING ENROLMENT ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ROLL IN 1991.

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GOVERNOR VISITS BRITISH GARRISON

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SPENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING UNITS OF THE BRITISH GARRISON IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG.

ON HIS ARRIVAL AT HMS TAMAR, THE GOVERNOR WAS MET BY THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL PETER DUFFELL, AND TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE NAVAL BASE.

HE WAS SHOWN THE DIVING SECTION, WHICH CONTAINS THE ONLY RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER IN HONG KONG, AND THE BASE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

AFTERWARDS HE FLEW BY RAF WESSEX HELICOPTER TO STARLING INLET WHERE HE MET MEN OF THE 6TH QUEEN ELIZABETH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES, THE DUTY BORDER BATTALION, AND MEN OF THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS' BOAT TROOP.

THERE HE WAS SHOWN METHODS OF TRACKING AND CATCHING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AROUND THE INLET.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A FLIGHT TO THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE AT SEK KONG DURING WHICH THE GOVERNOR WAS GIVEN A QUICK COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AND INVITED TO TRY HIS HAND AT CONTROLLING THE WESSEX HELICOPTER IN THE AIR.

SIR DAVID THEN WATCHED FROM ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT A DEMONSTRATION LIFT BY FOUR RAF WESSEX OF A POLICE TACTICAL UNIT TO A LOCATION IN YUEN LONG.

THE GOVERNOR'S FINAL STOP WAS AT THE DEPOT OF THE HONG KONG MILITARY SERVICE CORPS ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND WHERE HE MET RECRUITS AND WATCHED THEM AT TARGET PRACTICE.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990

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AIDS EXHIBITION IN ABERDEEN

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT AIDS WHEN THEY VISIT AN AIDS EXHIBITION IN ABERDEEN WHICH WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20).

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION, THE NINTH IN A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WILL BE HELD AT THE URBAN COUNCIL ABERDEEN COMPLEX FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM DAILY.

"THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AIDS, AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE FOCUS IS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO ENGAGE IN RISK BEHAVIOUR, YET ARE OFTEN LESS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE RISKS OF INFECTION WITH AIDS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COVERS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS.

APART FROM SHOWING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES HOW AIDS THREATENS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE COUNTERED.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON AIDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN HANDSOME PRIZES BY ANSWERING A QUIZ DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL RUN UNTIL SUNDAY (APRIL 22), AND WILL MOVE TO SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL ON MAY 5.

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USD DIRECTOR MEETS STAFF UNIONS

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THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR JAMES SO, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERATION OF THE USD STAFF UNIONS FOR A FRIENDLY AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PAY CONDITIONS OF VARIOUS GRADES OF STAFF WORKING IN THE DEPARTMENT.

THE MEETING, HELD AT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LASTED FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS.

DURING THE MEETING, MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORKING CONDITIONS, WORKING HOURS AND PAY FOR A NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENTAL GRADES INCLUDING THE CLEANSING WORKMEN AS WELL AS THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE AND REVISED STRUCTURE FOR THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS (GDTS) WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS BRIEFING AFTER THE MEETING, MR SO SAID: "I HAVE ASSURED UNION REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO LOOK INTO THE GDTS HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE A DECISION ON THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT WITHIN A MONTH OR SO, TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A CASE TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE STRUCTURE AND THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE GDTS AND TO STREAMLINE THEIR OPERATIONS WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER IMPROVING THEIR EFFICIENCY."

THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY THE THEN SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI.

MR SO SAID THAT THE MEETING ALSO TOUCHED UPON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORKING CONDITIONS AND WORKING HOURS OF VARIOUS SUPERVISORY GRADES IN THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE ISSUE OF OVERTIME PAY.

"I THINK THAT THE UNION FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT WELL APPRECIATES THE CONCERN OF THE UNION.

"AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, THE UNION AGREED TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ISSUES FURTHER WITH THEIR MEMBERS BEFORE GIVING THE DEPARTMENT A REPLY BEFORE NEXT MONDAY," MR SO ADDED.

SAI KUNG DB MEMBERS TO BE BRIEFED ON DRAFT BILL

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OFFICIALS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH WILL BRIEF SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON THE DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS AT THE BOARD'S MEETING ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20).

THE ACTING SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LISA CHAN, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON A PAPER ON THE CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE 1991 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

SHE WILL OUTLINE THE CRITERIA FOR SETTING THE CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, WHICH HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS, POPULATION SIZE, SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

MEMBERS WILL REVIEW THE BOARD'S MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME, AND DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS BEFORE MEETING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

THEY WILL ALSO STUDY A NUMBER OF PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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NORTH DB TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES IN CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR THE 1991 NORTH DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS, AND HEAR A BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS HO.

/OTHER AGENDA

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE THE NORTH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES, AND THE PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 1990-91.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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DB TO DISCUSS RAIL LINK TO NEW AIRPORT
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE RAIL LINK TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE 1991 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, AND REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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HOUSING PROJECTS ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA
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THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS PROGRESS REPORTS ON PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 1990-91.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

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INVITATION TO SPONSOR 1991 LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY
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ORGANISATIONS ARE BEING INVITED TO SPONSOR THE 1991 LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY OVER THE VICTORIA HARBOUR.

FIREWORKS SHOWS HAVE BEEN HELD ON THE EVENING OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR SINCE 1982.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH (RCB) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADVISED INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO SPONSOR THE FIREWORKS SHOW AT LEAST NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE PROPOSED FOR THE DISPLAY TO THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE RCB HEADQUARTERS AT 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, BEFORE MAY 16 (WEDNESDAY). ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 866 0725.

"THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE OR REJECT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT GIVING REASONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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BROADCAST OF RTHK PROGRAMMES ON ATV AND TVB
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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PROGRAMMES WILL BE SHOWN ON ATV-HOME DURING PRIME TIME ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AND ON TVB-JADE BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM OCTOBER.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE ROTATED BETWEEN THE TWO STATIONS EVERY 12 MONTHS.

AT PRESENT, RTHK PROGRAMMES ARE SHOWN ON BOTH STATIONS FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY DURING PRIME TIME.

WHEN THE ARRANGEMENT WAS REVIEWED BY RTHK EARLY THIS YEAR, BOTH STATIONS ASKED FOR THE 7 PM TO 7.30 PM SLOT. SINCE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES COULD NOT BE FOUND, GUIDANCE FROM THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (BA) WAS SOUGHT.

"HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE STATIONS AND RTHK, THE BA CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR RTHK PROGRAMMES TO BE SCREENED IN PARALLEL BY THE TWO STATIONS ON WEEKDAYS, AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR VIEWERS FOR RTHK PROGRAMMES TO BE SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BA SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE BA THEREFORE DECIDED THAT RTHK PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE SHOWN BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY BY ONE STATION AND FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 7 PM AND 10.30 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS BY THE OTHER STATION."

THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL START IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR AND WILL BE ROTATED BETWEEN THE TWO STATIONS EVERY 12 MONTHS.

TO BE FAIR TO BOTH STATIONS, THE BA ALSO DECIDED THAT THE ALLOCATION OF THE TWO TIME SLOTS SHOULD BE DETERMINED THROUGH THE DRAWING OF LOTS.

THE RESULT OF THE CASTING OF LOTS WAS THAT TVB WOULD SCREEN RTHK PROGRAMMES BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND ATV WOULD SCREEN AN AGGREGATE OF TWO AND A HALF HOURS OF RTHK PROGRAMMES PER WEEK BETWEEN 7 PM AND 10.30 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

LIBRARY BOARD DISPLAY EXHIBITION OPENS ON FRIDAY

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THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR ROBERT LO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LIBRARY BOARD DISPLAY EXHIBITION ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20) AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD DISPLAY COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

THE COMPETITION, ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, IS TO PROMOTE BETTER USE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND LEISURE READING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LIBRARY BOARD DISPLAY EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, AT 3 PM ON APRIL 20 (FRIDAY).

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TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPENING
OF SHING MUN TUNNELS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE SHING MUN TUNNELS, A SERIES OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 0.01 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20):

SHING MUN TUNNELS ROAD, SHING MUN TUNNELS AND CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC. ALL CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS, MOTOR VEHICLES DRIVEN BY LEARNER DRIVERS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ABOVE ROADS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ABOVE ROADS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

MOTORISTS WHO USE THE SHING MUN TUNNELS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A TOLL OF \$3.

MOTORISTS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL FROM TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING TO SHA TIN MAY USE CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD OR WO YI HOP ROAD TO GO TO THE SHING MUN TUNNELS.

/THOSE WHO

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THOSE WHO WISH TO TRAVEL FROM SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING MAY USE TAI PO ROAD (TAI WAI) TO GO TO THE TUNNELS.

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL INTRODUCE FIVE ROUTES, NO. 45X (CHUN SHEK - TSUEN WAN FERRY), NO. 46X (CHUN SHEK - LAI KING SOUTH), NO. 47X (WO CHE - KWAI SHING EAST), NO. 48X (WO CHE - TSUEN WAN FERRY) AND NO. 73X (FU SHIN - TSUEN WAN FERRY).

AT THE SAME TIME, TWO EXISTING KMB BUS ROUTES NOS. 48 (WO CHE - TSUEN WAN FERRY) AND 48A (CHUN SHEK - TSUEN WAN FERRY) OPERATING VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL BE CANCELLED.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SHA TIN CENTRE STREET
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20), FOUR SECTIONS OF SHA TIN CENTRE STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THEY ARE:

- * THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON PO STREET TO A POINT 160 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY FROM A POINT 210 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON PO STREET TO A POINT ADJOINING PAK HOK TING STREET;
- * THE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY FROM A POINT 50 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON PO STREET TO A POINT 100 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY FROM A POINT 235 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAM KON PO STREET TO A POINT 315 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING RESTRICTED ZONES AT SHA TIN CENTRE STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 20), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF NGAN SHING STREET IN SHA TIN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS DURING THE HOURS SPECIFIED:

- * FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY, THE SECTION OF NGAN SHING STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SIU LEK YUEN ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAK YI STREET.
- * FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY, THE SECTION OF NGAN SHING STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAK YI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 215 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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

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LION ROCK TUNNEL TOLL TO BE REVISED FROM APRIL 20

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TOLL WILL BE REVISED TO \$6 FOR ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES FROM 0001 HOURS ON FRIDAY (APRIL 20).

APPROPRIATE SIGNS SHOWING THE NEW TOLL CHARGE WOULD BE IN PLACE IN THE TUNNEL AREA, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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