



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR'S GREEN MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY .....	1
GOVT TO EXPAND PARTNERSHIP WITH VOLUNTARY SECTOR .....	1
CONFIDENCE IN HK'S PROSPERITY REMAINS HIGH .....	2
CHIEF SECRETARY SPEAKS TO PRESS AFTER VISITING PAMELA YOUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL .....	3
CS VISITS HOSPITAL .....	4
WSD TO SPEND \$2 BILLION ON WATERWORKS IN 1994 .....	5
WASTE REDUCTION STUDY COMMISSIONED .....	6
GENEVA MEETING TO DISCUSS REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE .....	7
GOVT DETERMINED TO BOOST INDUSTRIAL SAFETY .....	8
RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1993 RELEASED .....	9
LUCKY CAR NUMBERS FOR SALE BEFORE LUNAR NEW YEAR .....	12
USA DOG YEAR STAMP ON SALE IN HK .....	12
SPRING SCROLLS SPREAD CHILD CARE MESSAGE .....	13
AMBULANCEMEN PRAISED FOR SAVING LIFE .....	14
PUBLIC FORUM ON PERFORMING ARTS .....	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	15

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GOVERNOR'S GREEN MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGES EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY TO BE AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN KEEPING HONG KONG A HEALTHIER AND MORE PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE.

MR PATTEN SAID: "EVERYONE IN HONG KONG - BE THEY THE GOVERNOR OR A HAWKER, A JOURNALIST, A PHOTOGRAPHER OR A HOUSEWIFE, AN OIL EXECUTIVE OR A STUDENT - BY USING RESOURCES MAKES DEMANDS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

"WHETHER THOSE DEMANDS CAN BE SUSTAINED, OR WHETHER THEY WILL CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT DEPENDS ON WHETHER WE BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY OR CARELESSLY."

SPEAKING AT THE SCMP/CALTEX GREEN PROJECTS AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AWARDS IN BOOSTING THE AWARENESS OF CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE AWARDS ALSO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS, HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN SAID THE LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST AWARDS WAS A PROMISING START AND IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO SUSTAIN IT.

TO HELP SPREAD THE GREEN MESSAGE, HE REITERATED THE INTENTION ANNOUNCED IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER TO SET UP AN ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND.

"LEGISLATION TO SET UP THE FUND IS BEING PREPARED AND IT WILL BE PUT FORWARD SOON," HE ADDED.

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GOVT TO EXPAND PARTNERSHIP WITH VOLUNTARY SECTOR

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPAND ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE SEARCH FOR MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

ADDRESSING THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS GREATLY VALUED THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND HAD THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE IN THEIR PROFESSIONALISM.

OF THE \$9 BILLION SOCIAL WELFARE BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR, ALMOST 30 PER CENT IS BEING DEVOTED TO SUBVENTIONS TO SUPPORT THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

"THIS TRUST IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IS THE BASIS OF A VIGOROUS WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN URGED THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO OVERCOMING PREJUDICE AGAINST THE DISABLED, CHILDREN AT RISK AND ALL THE VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

SHE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO VALUE AND PROTECT THE EFFORTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE FAMILY TO SHAPE THEIR OWN LIVES.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

IT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE INDIVIDUAL, THE FAMILY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS THROUGH RESPONDING TO THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES, SHE ADDED.

CITING A POLL CONDUCTED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION EARLIER THIS MONTH, SHE NOTED THAT A MAJORITY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS FOUND HONG KONG A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK, WITH A GOVERNMENT PROVIDING GOOD STANDARDS OF SERVICE.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT ITS RECORD, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES WERE SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITY'S OPINIONS.

"AS CHIEF SECRETARY, IT WILL BE MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT LISTENS CAREFULLY TO CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND CONSTANTLY REVIEWS ITS OPERATIONS AND GOALS IN THE LIGHT OF THIS FEEDBACK, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICE," SHE SAID.

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CONFIDENCE IN HK'S PROSPERITY REMAINS HIGH

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A RECENT OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH FOUND THAT 61 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE.

THE FIGURE IS SIMILAR TO THE 60 PER CENT RECORDED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO SAID THEY HAD PLANS OR HAD TAKEN ACTION WITH RESPECT TO EMIGRATION DROPPED TO NINE PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS FIGURE OF 12 PER CENT.

RELEASING THE FINDINGS OF THE JANUARY 1994 TELEPHONE OPINION SURVEY TODAY (THURSDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF CIVIL SERVANTS' WORKING ATTITUDES ALSO SHOWED A MARKED IMPROVEMENT.

FIFTY-SEVEN PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS FELT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS' WORKING ATTITUDE WAS GOOD, COMPARED WITH 25 PER CENT WHO THOUGHT OTHERWISE.

THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WERE 52 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT.

THE THREE MOST-MENTIONED PROBLEMS WERE "HONG KONG FUTURE" (42 PER CENT), "HOUSING-RELATED PROBLEMS" (30 PER CENT) AND "ECONOMY-RELATED PROBLEMS" (26 PER CENT).

THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO MENTIONED THE "HONG KONG FUTURE" IS LOWER THAN THE FIGURE OF 47 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

AS TO THE PUBLIC'S SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION, THE FIGURE WAS MORE OR LESS THE SAME AS THE ONE RECORDED LAST TIME. 74 PER CENT WERE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE JANUARY POLL, COMPARED WITH 76 PER CENT LAST NOVEMBER.

SIXTY-THREE PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS EXPECTED THE SITUATION TO EITHER IMPROVE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS OR STAY ABOUT THE SAME, SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE 67 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE LAST SURVEY.

THE SURVEY WAS THE 50TH IN A SERIES OF BIMONTHLY POLLS DESIGNED TO GAUGE THE TREND OF PUBLIC OPINION IN RESPECT OF PERCEIVED PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE AND THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATION OF THE GENERAL SITUATION.

FOR THIS SURVEY, A TOTAL OF 1,514 RESPONDENTS WERE SUCCESSFULLY CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE FROM JANUARY 10 TO 14.

WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A SELECTED TELEPHONE NUMBER, A RESPONDENT AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 64 WAS RANDOMLY CHOSEN FOR INTERVIEW.

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CHIEF SECRETARY SPEAKS TO PRESS AFTER VISITING  
PAMELA YOUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL

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QUESTION: MRS CHAN, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT'D VERY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS TO GO UP TO BEIJING TO SIGN AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS TRAINING ACCORD, TO WITNESS RATHER. WHY IS IT THAT MR GORDON SIU HAD TO GO UP IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY AND OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET. WHAT IS THE MYSTERY? WHAT IS THE REAL MOTIVE OF THE TRIP?

CS: THERE IS, IN FACT, NO MYSTERY. AS YOU QUITE RIGHTLY POINT OUT, THE TRAINING AND CROSS POSTING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IS A MATTER THAT BOTH SIDES ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT. IT IS AN AREA IN WHICH WE HAVE EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION AND REGULAR CONTACTS WITH CAAC AND OBVIOUSLY BOTH SIDES WOULD WISH TO SEE THOSE CONTACTS CONTINUING. MR SIU WENT UP OBVIOUSLY IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES. BUT I UNDERSTOOD THAT AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE, THERE WAS A REQUEST FROM THE CAAC THAT HE SHOULD GO IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY. SO RATHER THAN MAKE A FUSS, HE SIMPLY ACCEDED TO THAT REQUEST. BUT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, HE WENT UP IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF MR SIU PAYING FOR THE EXPENSES OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: MR SIU HAD SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT HE WOULD NOT GO. WHY DID HE CHANGE HIS MIND? (TRANSLATION)

CS: NO, MR SIU NEVER SAID HE WOULD NOT GO. HE SIMPLY, AT THE TIME WHEN THERE WAS A STATEMENT FROM THE OTHER SIDE, MR SIU SIMPLY SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED AN INVITATION NOR, INDEED, HAD A DATE BEEN FIXED FOR THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE CAAC. IN THE EVENT, A DATE WAS FIXED AND MR SIU RECEIVED AN INVITATION AND ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AND AS I STRESS AGAIN, WE DO WISH TO CONTINUE THE VERY GOOD CO-OPERATION THAT WE HAVE WITH CAAC IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA.

QUESTION: MRS CHIEF SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS AN EFFORT THAT ACTUALLY SORT OF DOWNGRADES HIS VISIT BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL TO GIVE A BRIEFING TO PWC MEMBERS?

CS: I THINK I WOULD STRESS AGAIN THAT WE HAVE EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION FROM THE CAAC. BOTH SIDES WISH TO SEE THIS CO-OPERATION CONTINUE AND I SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT CONTINUE.

QUESTION: REGARDING THE PROPOSALS FOR THE AIRPORT FUNDING ABOUT WHICH YOU'VE SAID YOU MIGHT SAY A FEW WORDS, COULD YOU, FIRST OF ALL, SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT THIS OFFER IS IN AS MUCH AS IT'S HONG KONG PEOPLE'S MONEY, THEY MAY LIKE TO KNOW?

CS: I WOULD SAY THIS. WE HAVE PUT A FURTHER FUNDING PROPOSAL TO THE CHINESE. THIS IS THE FOURTH FUNDING PROPOSAL THAT WE HAVE PUT TO THE CHINESE. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE PROPOSALS FULLY MEET THE CONCERNS THAT THE CHINESE HAVE EXPRESSED TO US SO FAR. I DO NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD ASSIST US IN GETTING EARLY AGREEMENT FROM THE CHINESE ON FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS IF I CHOSE TO DISCLOSE THE DETAILS NOW. BUT, UNDOUBTEDLY, AT SOME LATER STAGE, WE WILL COME CLEAN WITH THE DETAILED PROPOSALS. YOU HAVE RIGHTLY SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT TO KNOW BUT AT THIS STAGE, WE WOULD VERY MUCH WISH THE CHINESE TO RESPOND WITH AN EARLY MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE AT WHICH WE CAN SENSIBLY DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS AND HOPEFULLY REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT.

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#### CS VISITS HOSPITAL

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID SHE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE PLEASANT AND SPACIOUS ENVIRONMENT OF THE PAMELA YOUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL (PYNEH) AND THE TEAM SPIRIT OF THE STAFF FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

MRS CHAN WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SIR S Y CHUNG; THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DR E K YEOH; THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, DR KATHLEEN SO; THE HOSPITAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF PYNEH, DR PAMELA LEUNG; AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL.

BEFORE THE TOUR, DR PAMELA LEUNG BRIEFED MRS CHAN ON THE SERVICE PROVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITAL, AND ILLUSTRATED HOW THE MISSION OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD BEEN EMBODIED IN THE HOSPITAL'S DAILY OPERATION IN TERMS OF QUALITY ASSURANCE, CUSTOMER SERVICE, COST-EFFICIENCY, AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY.

AFTER THE BRIEFING, MRS CHAN VISITED THE HOSPITAL KITCHEN, THE PAEDIATRIC WARD, THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, THE PHARMACY, THE PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT, AND THE DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO SEE FOR HERSELF THE OPERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS.

PYNEH STARTED OPERATION ON OCTOBER 15 LAST YEAR. ITS SERVICES WILL BE DEVELOPED AND EXPANDED IN PHASES.

INITIALLY, 450 BEDS WILL BE OPENED TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE SPECIALTIES OF MEDICINE, SURGERY, ORTHOPAEDICS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, AND PAEDIATRICS.

THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPERATION TO INITIALLY PROVIDE A 16-HOUR SERVICE EVERY DAY.

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WSD TO SPEND \$2 BILLION ON WATERWORKS IN 1994

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL SPEND ABOUT \$1.93 BILLION ON WATERWORKS PROJECTS THIS YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, SAID AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR HU SAID THE LARGEST PROJECT TO START THIS YEAR WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF MA ON SHAN TREATMENT WORKS AND THE ASSOCIATED WATER TRANSFER FACILITIES.

"WITH AN ULTIMATE OUTPUT CAPACITY OF 227,000 CUBIC METRES A DAY, THE PLANT WILL SERVE THE WHOLE OF MA ON SHAN NEW TOWN AND SURROUNDING AREAS, PART OF SHA TIN AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AT PAK SHEK KOK IN TAI PO."

HE SAID THE POPULATION IN SAI KUNG NORTH WOULD ALSO BENEFIT INDIRECTLY BECAUSE THE MA ON SHAN PROJECT WOULD RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS WHICH SUPPLIED WATER TO THE AREA.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL COST OF THIS PROJECT WAS AROUND \$1.1 BILLION AND WORKS WERE SCHEDULED TO START IN APRIL FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF 1996.

OTHER IMPORTANT PROJECTS STARTING THIS YEAR ARE RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT AND NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH LANTAU.

ON CHINA WATER SUPPLY, MR HU NOTED THAT ALL CONTRACTS UNDER STAGE I OF THE WORKS TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF CHINA WATER RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES HAD BEEN AWARDED.

THE STAGE I WORKS, WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO COST A TOTAL OF \$2.1 BILLION, ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

"BY THEN, COUPLED WITH OUR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH GUANGDONG, HONG KONG WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO FACE THE THREAT OF WATER RESTRICTION FOR MANY YEARS TO COME," MR HU NOTED.

ON PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT WATER QUALITY, THE DIRECTOR REITERATED THAT ALL RAW WATER FROM CHINA WAS TREATED AND PURIFIED IN THE VARIOUS TREATMENT WORKS IN HONG KONG.

THE QUALITY OF TREATED WATER SUPPLY IN THE TERRITORY CONFORMED TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DRINKING WATER QUALITY RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

HE ADDED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CLOSELY MONITORING THE QUALITY OF TREATED WATER IN ITS SUPPLY SYSTEM TO ENSURE THE WHOLESOMENESS OF WATER SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROBLEM OF DISCOLOURED TAP WATER WAS BASICALLY DUE TO CORROSION OF THE INTERNAL SURFACE OF THE GALVANISED IRON PIPES COMMONLY USED AS THE "INSIDE SERVICE" WITHIN CONSUMERS' PREMISES.

"REGULAR MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES WILL ENSURE THAT STORAGE TANKS AND WATER SYSTEMS ARE KEPT CLEAN. IF EXISTING PIPES NEED TO BE REPLACED, NON-FERROUS PIPES SHOULD BE USED."

MR HU ADDED THAT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN REVIEWING THE WATERWORKS REGULATIONS WITH A VIEW TO DISCOURAGING OR EVENTUALLY PROHIBITING THE USE OF GALVANISED IRON PIPES AS THE "INSIDE SERVICE".

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WASTE REDUCTION STUDY COMMISSIONED  
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO EXAMINE POTENTIAL MEASURES FOR PROMOTING THE REDUCTION OF SOLID WASTE IN THE TERRITORY.

THE STUDY WILL EXPLORE POSSIBLE WAYS FOR PREVENTION, MINIMISATION AND REUSE OF WASTE, AS WELL AS SOURCE SEPARATION, RECOVERY AND RECYCLING OPTIONS.

APPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE THE BULK OF MUNICIPAL WASTE REQUIRING DISPOSAL WILL ALSO BE EXAMINED.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT HONG KONG, MR CHANDRAN NAIR.

MR STOKOE SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING DEVELOPED THE THREE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS AND A NETWORK OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS, IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-TERM STRATEGY ON WASTE REDUCTION."

THE AMOUNT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, COMPRISING DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE, IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF 7,900 TONNES A DAY TO OVER 12,000 TONNES A DAY IN 2006.

HE SAID THEREFORE THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO CHECK THIS EVER-INCREASING WASTE GROWTH AND CREATE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.

THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE WASTE REDUCTION STUDY WILL INVOLVE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEYS TO COLLECT DATA ON CURRENT WASTE DISPOSAL, RECOVERY AND RECYCLING ACTIVITIES.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH WILL IDENTIFY SUITABLE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS, LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND WASTE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES FOR TERRITORY-WIDE APPLICATION.

THE STUDY, AT A COST OF \$8.6 MILLION, WILL BE COMPLETED IN 14 MONTHS AND INITIAL FINDINGS ARE EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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GENEVA MEETING TO DISCUSS REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE

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COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE PLANS TO REVIVE THE NON-OBJECTOR REPATRIATION SCHEME FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN THIS CONCEPT.

"IT WAS EXAMINED IN THE PAST AND THERE WAS A NON-OBJECTOR FLIGHT IN 1990," HE SAID.

MR BRESNIHAN SAID REPATRIATION WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA.

"IN THAT CONTEXT, DIFFERENT MODES OF REPATRIATION ARE LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED," HE ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER HONG KONG WOULD INTRODUCE A NON-OBJECTOR REPATRIATION SCHEME, MR BRESNIHAN SAID THIS QUESTION WAS PREMATURE AND THE ANSWER WOULD CLEARLY DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA.

"IN GENEVA, WE SHALL BE EXPLORING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HOW BEST TO REPATRIATE THE REMAINING SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

"IN THE MEANTIME, REPORTS THAT THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN OUR CAMPS WOULD BE SENT HOME AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SOME POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVE ARE COMPLETELY SPECULATIVE," HE SAID.

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GOVT DETERMINED TO BOOST INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BOOST INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BOTH IN CONSTRUCTION SITES ON LAND AND ON MARINE VESSELS ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK, TO PROTECT WORKERS.

IN A NEW MOVE TOWARDS THIS END, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAVE SET UP A JOINT TASK FORCE TO STEP UP INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS ON MARINE CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE LIGHT OF THE INCREASE IN SUCH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COVERAGE BY THE JOINT TASK FORCE WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES ALONG THE SHORELINE OR IN THE HARBOUR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MARINE VESSELS, SUCH AS EXCAVATIONS, DREDGING, RECLAMATION PILING, BUILDING OF SEA-WALLS, CONSTRUCTION OF SUB-STRUCTURES OR SUPER-STRUCTURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING INSPECTIONS AND OPERATIONS, OFFICERS OF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS WOULD ENFORCE THE RELEVANT SAFETY LAWS UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE WORKMEN ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK AND THE CREW OF THE VESSELS ENGAGED IN THESE PROJECTS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS BEING ENFORCED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE CONTRACTORS WERE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK, INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL HAZARDS, INSTRUCTION AND SUPERVISION TO WORKERS.

"THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT, TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM INJURIES," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENFORCE THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, SAFETY OF ALL VESSELS, THEIR CREW AND PASSENGERS (IF ANY) AND MATTERS RELATING TO SHIP REPAIRING AND CARGO HANDLING ON BOARD VESSELS AFLOAT THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WATERS.

AS REGARDS ACCIDENTS INVOLVING A MARINE BACKGROUND, OFFICERS FROM THE TWO DEPARTMENTS WOULD CONDUCT JOINT INVESTIGATIONS IF THE CASES SO WARRANTED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID JOINT INSPECTIONS TO MARINE VESSELS ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK HAVE ALREADY BEEN STARTED.

"WE HAVE FOUND IT TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR INSPECTING OFFICERS OF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS TO GIVE SAFETY ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE ON BOARD THE VESSEL," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS MIGHT BE FURTHER ENHANCED DUE TO BETTER UTILISATION OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED CONTRACTORS AND PERSON-IN-CHARGE OF VESSELS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN MARINE CONSTRUCTION WORK TO OBSERVE THE RELEVANT SAFETY LEGISLATION TO ENSURE WORKERS' AND CREW MEMBERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH.

WORKERS AND CREW MEMBERS ARE ALSO URGED TO ASSUME A CO-OPERATIVE ROLE IN TAKING NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM INJURIES.

ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY AND HEALTH OR REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS ON BOARD VESSELS ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK CAN BE MADE EITHER TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION (FID) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 417 6207, 417 6210 OR FID HOTLINE 815 0678 OR TO THE MARINE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SECTION OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 852 4472-3 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE ON TEL 858 2107 AFTER OFFICE HOURS, OR BY FAX THROUGH 541 7194.

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RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1993 RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES LAST NOVEMBER, ESTIMATED AT \$15 BILLION, INCREASED BY 13% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1992, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 6% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A STRONG GROWTH IN SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES.

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN NOVEMBER 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, 31% IN VALUE AND 21% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES WENT UP CONSIDERABLY BY 22% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 16% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME; AND SALES IN SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 13% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR SALES OF JEWELLERY AND WATCHES, 10% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME; SALES OF FUELS, 8% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME; AND SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES, 8% IN VALUE AND 1% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS DROPPED BY 2% IN VOLUME, DESPITE AN INCREASE OF 4% IN VALUE.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1993 DECREASED BY 2% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1993 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR OCTOBER 1993 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1993 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE NOVEMBER 1993 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1993 AND WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1992, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

/TABLE 1 : .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for November 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,009.7 million  
 for October 1993 (Revised Figure) = HK\$15,322.7 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR OCTOBER 1993 AND NOVEMBER 1993

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of outlet	Index of Retail Sales	October 1993	November 1993	November 1993 compared with October 1993		November 1993 compared with November 1992		Jan-Nov. 1993 compared with Jan-Nov. 1992	
				Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) <u>FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</u>	Value	163.2	159.8	-3.3	-2.0	+18.1	+12.8	+17.6	+12.6
	Volume	133.9	129.0	-4.9	-3.6	+7.2	+5.9	+8.6	+7.0
(B) <u>BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET</u>									
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)						
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	132.1	130.3	-1.8	-1.3	+5.0	+4.0	+7.5	+6.4
	Volume	100.5	104.7	+4.2	+4.1	-2.6	-2.4	+1.2	+1.3
Supermarkets $\phi$	Value	139.4	132.9	-6.5	-4.7	+15.4	+13.1	+12.6	+9.9
	Volume	104.3	99.6	-4.7	-4.5	+5.8	+6.1	+2.8	+2.7
Fuels	Value	168.0	150.5	-17.6	-10.4	+11.2	+8.1	+11.9	+8.7
	Volume	122.8	110.1	-12.7	-10.3	+5.0	+4.8	+3.9	+3.7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	201.9	221.0	+19.1	+9.5	+52.2	+30.9	+47.5	+31.4
	Volume	153.4	158.2	+4.8	+3.1	+27.0	+20.6	+27.1	+21.4
Consumer durable goods	Value	175.2	185.4	+10.2	+5.8	+29.6	+19.0	+14.2	+8.8
	Volume	147.8	155.2	+7.4	+5.0	+17.2	+12.5	+6.8	+4.7
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	206.9	225.3	+18.4	+8.9	+31.1	+16.0	+2.2	+1.1
	Volume	157.6	171.8	+14.3	+9.1	+10.8	+6.7	-10.6	-6.5
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	152.3	156.6	+4.4	+2.9	+28.5	+22.2	+23.0	+16.4
	Volume	140.7	143.2	+2.4	+1.7	+21.8	+18.0	+19.3	+14.5
Department stores	Value	131.2	144.6	+13.4	+10.2	+10.7	+8.0	+11.6	+9.0
	Volume	102.0	107.5	+5.5	+5.4	+0.8	+0.7	+2.1	+1.9
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	159.7	142.7	-17.0	-10.7	+13.1	+10.1	+14.4	+10.6
	Volume	160.3	141.1	-19.2	-12.0	+4.9	+3.6	+11.5	+8.3
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	200.2	162.2	-37.9	-18.9	+4.8	+3.1	+23.5	+16.1
	Volume	162.6	131.5	-31.1	-19.1	-2.0	-1.5	+13.0	+10.3

NOTES :  $\phi$  Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994

- 12 -

LUCKY CAR NUMBERS FOR SALE BEFORE LUNAR NEW YEAR  
\* \* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ARE PUT UP FOR SALE AT A LUNAR NEW YEAR "LUCKY" CAR NUMBER AUCTION ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 5).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE THEATRE, SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, FIFTH FLOOR, URBAN COUNCIL SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX AT 345 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG AT 9.30 AM.

CAR OWNERS WHO WANT TO GRACE THEIR CARS WITH SPECIAL LUCKY NUMBERS TO GREET THE YEAR OF THE DOG SHOULD NOT MISS THIS LUNAR NEW YEAR AUCTION TO BE ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE NUMBERS AVAILABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1368	FS3333	92	AS3
XX10	71	HK7	336
230	HK17	79	HK500
HK22	148	FV1	420
187	933	109	XX11
FL1	XX99	AA10	74
110	812	116	FF2
DD8888	CP2	HK15	938
700	181	127	BB2222
1380	HK222	AW88	FA8

THE NUMBERS AVAILABLE ARE NOT TRANSFERRABLE.

PREVIOUS LUNAR NEW YEAR AUCTIONS SAW THE AUSPICIOUS NUMBER "8" FETCHED A RECORD HIGH OF \$5 MILLION IN 1988 AND "7" WAS SOLD FOR \$4.8 MILLION THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

SINCE MAY 1973, A TOTAL OF 212 AUCTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, RAISING ABOUT \$237 MILLION FOR THE LOTTERIES FUND.

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USA DOG YEAR STAMP ON SALE IN HK  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE YEAR OF THE DOG STAMP ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT SIX POST OFFICES FROM MONDAY (FEBRUARY 7).

THE SIX POST OFFICES ARE AT TSIM SHA TSUI, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, GRANVILLE ROAD, SHA TIN CENTRAL, THE PEAK AND THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID THIS WAS THE SECOND RELEASE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR STAMP BY THE USPS.

/IN LINE .....

IN LINE WITH THE DESIGN OF THE LAST ISSUE, THE YEAR OF THE DOG STAMP FEATURES A CHINESE PAPER CUT OF A PEKINESE DOG.

THE FACE VALUE OF THE STAMP IS U.S. 29 CENTS. IT IS AVAILABLE IN SHEETS OF 20 STAMPS AT \$45.50 A SHEET.

ON FEBRUARY 7, EACH CUSTOMER CAN BUY ONLY FIVE SHEETS.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THE FIRST USPS RELEASE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR STAMP FOR THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER WAS HIGHLY POPULAR BOTH IN HONG KONG AND WORLDWIDE.

"THIS ISSUE OF THE YEAR OF THE DOG STAMP NO DOUBT ENRICHES THE MUCH FAVOURED THEMATIC COLLECTION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR STAMPS," HE SAID.

A SMALL QUANTITY OF THE USPS "YEAR OF THE ROOSTER" PRODUCTS IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SIX POST OFFICES.

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SPRING SCROLLS SPREAD CHILD CARE MESSAGE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED 250,000 COPIES OF FIVE SETS OF SPRING SCROLLS OR "FAI CHUNS" TO PUT ACROSS THE MESSAGE OF HOME SAFETY.

COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT APPEALED TO PARENTS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE, INSTEAD OF LEAVING YOUNG CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME.

"FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN, THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE AT HOME, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE IN 75 CHILD CARE CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE NURSERIES OFFER SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY CARE AT TWO-HOUR QUARTER-DAY BASIS, CHARGING FEES IN THE RANGE OF \$10 TO \$15 PER ADMISSION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON 836 3114.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994

- 14 -

AMBULANCEMEN PRAISED FOR SAVING LIFE

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THREE AMBULANCEMEN WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) COMMENDED BY THEIR CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR MAK KWAI-PUI, FOR SAVING THE LIFE OF AN ELDERLY MAN LAST AUGUST.

IN A CEREMONY HELD IN CHEUNG SHA WAN AMBULANCE DEPOT, MR MAK PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATION TO SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN HUNG HOK-LIN AND FAVOURABLE ENTRIES TO AMBULANCEMEN LAW TAK-CHEUNG AND CHEUNG KWOK-FAI.

THE TRIO RESPONDED TO A CALL ON AUGUST 9 AT CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET WHERE A 62-YEAR-OLD WAS SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASE.

HAVING FOUND THAT THE PATIENT WAS UNCONSCIOUS, SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN HUNG IMMEDIATELY APPLIED DEFIBRILLATION ON HIM WITH THE HELP OF HIS COLLEAGUES LAW AND CHEUNG UNTIL THE MAN RESTORED HEARTBEAT AND BREATH.

THE MAN WAS LATER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AND WAS DISCHARGED ON NOVEMBER 8.

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PUBLIC FORUM ON PERFORMING ARTS

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THE FOURTH OF A SERIES OF FIVE PUBLIC FORUMS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WORKING GROUP WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 5) FROM 9 AM UNTIL NOON AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBER, 3 EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THIS FORUM WILL COVER THE PERFORMING ARTS. THE MODERATOR OF THIS FORUM IS MR LEE KIN-CHUN. THE PROGRAMME OF THE FORUM AND LIST OF SPEAKERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SPEECHES BY SPEAKERS

9 AM - 11 AM

MR LO KING MAN

PROF DAVID GWILT

MR LAI KIN

MR TSENG SUN-MAN

MR MATHIAS WOO

MR MAN SAI-CHEONG

MR WONG PO-MING

/11 AM - NOON .....

- 15 -

11 AM - NOON      RESPONSES FROM FLOOR  
-----MEMBERS OF THE PANEL WILL ANSWER  
QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE THEME OF THIS FORUM.THE WORKING GROUP INVITES AND ENCOURAGES MEMBERS OF THE  
PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNITY AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORUM.THE WORKING GROUP IS ORGANISING THE FORUM TO OBTAIN FORWARD  
LOOKING IDEAS AND ON THE SORT OF NEW INITIATIVES THAT THE HONG KONG  
ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE TO FURTHER THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS IN HONG KONG IN THE 90S AND  
BEYOND.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,766
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,234
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-190
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,810
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER      TWI 126.5    **0.0*	3.2.94

## HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.60	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.05	3.74
1 MONTH	2.86	19 MONTHS	2508	4.265	101.11	3.91
3 MONTHS	3.00	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.15	4.10
6 MONTHS	3.14	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.20	4.56
12 MONTHS	3.47	36 MONTHS	3701	4.60	100.04	4.64

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,516 MN

CLOSED 3 FEBRUARY 1994

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