



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK PEOPLE SHOULD ADOPT POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE FUTURE : CS	1
LARGE-SCALE IMPORT OF UNSKILLED LABOUR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED : CS	4
FS SUPPORTS STEPS TO RECONSTITUTE THE HK FUTURES EXCHANGE ..	5
PROVISIONAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED	6
PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW APPEAL BOARDS APPROVED	7
APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS	9
GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL BAG CARRYING	10
PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT QUEEN'S ROAD WEST DECLARED DANGEROUS ..	11
ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED	11
TENDERS INVITED FOR NOISE ABATEMENT WORK	12
PENG CHAU ISLAND LOT FOR SALE BY TENDER	12
LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR MAJOR NT DEVELOPMENT	13

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 1 -

HK PEOPLE SHOULD ADOPT POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE FUTURE : CS
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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE THE ABILITY AND THE WILL TO MAKE THIS GREAT CITY WORK EVEN BETTER FOR ITSELF AND FOR CHINA, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THAT ABILITY AND WILL MUST BE LINKED TO A POSITIVE APPROACH," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE, OF COURSE, WORRIES AND FEARS FOR THE FUTURE WHICH WERE TOTALLY UNDERSTANDABLE.

"BUT WE MUST NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF TALKING OURSELVES INTO A DEPRESSION ABOUT THE FUTURE.

"WE DO HAVE A TENDENCY AS A COMMUNITY TO DISCOUNT ALL THAT IS GOOD ABOUT HONG KONG AND FOCUS ON THE BAD NEWS," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE NEED TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO REMIND OURSELVES OF ALL WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND ALL WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE SKEPTICISM AND FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG SOME QUARTERS IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

"THESE ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, AND IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME FOR STRONG PERCEPTIONS AND PRECONCEIVED IDEAS TO CHANGE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD LOOK AT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF CHINESE COMMITMENT WITH A BROADER AND LONGER TERM PERSPECTIVE.

"THE CHINESE COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG IS BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS THAT GO BEYOND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND ARE INDEED COMPELLING," HE SAID.

OUTLINING SOME OF THE KEY REASONS WHY HONG KONG'S CONTINUING SUCCESS AFTER 1997 WAS CRUCIAL TO CHINA, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THESE WERE NOT NEW, BUT NONETHELESS WERE GENUINE AND IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT REPEATING SO THAT WE WERE NOT SWAYED BY THE OCCASIONAL SENSATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIGH PROFILE MEDIA EVENTS AS TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE BROADER CONTEXT.

"WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ALTHOUGH CHINA HAS FIRM VIEWS ON THE TREATIES SIGNED IN THE LAST CENTURY CONCERNING HONG KONG, THEY HAVE ADOPTED A STATESMANLIKE STAND WITH CONSCIOUS RESTRAINT AND HAVE NEVER MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO FORCE ANY UNILATERAL DECISION ON HONG KONG.

"THIS WAS THE CASE EVEN IN THE TROUBLED TIMES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION," SIR DAVID SAID.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 2 -

"NOW THAT THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY IS SETTLED, THERE IS EVEN STRONGER REASON WHY CHINA SHOULD WANT TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE.

"HAVING REJOINED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A KEY AND RESPONSIBLE PLAYER, CHINA CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT HER INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AT STAKE BY DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD DESTROY THE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE," SIR DAVID NOTED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS ALSO THE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND RECOGNISED CHINESE ASPIRATION FOR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION THROUGH THE "ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS" POLICY COVERING TERRITORIES OTHER THAN HONG KONG.

"THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING, INCLUDING TAIWAN, HOW HONG KONG IS GOING TO WORK UNDER THIS INNOVATIVE SOLUTION.

"CHINA CERTAINLY HAS EVERY WISH TO MAKE THIS POLICY A VISIBLE SUCCESS," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE CHINESE ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO HONG KONG, WE COULD VERY CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT BOTH SIDES HAD WORKED, AND PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS, WITH HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AT HEART.

"OF COURSE, THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN DIFFERENCES IN OPINION HAD TO BE RECONCILED AND DELIBERATIONS SOMETIMES TOOK LONGER TO PRODUCE RESULTS.

"BUT THESE ARE INEVITABLE IN ANY TALKS ON SUCH IMPORTANT SUBJECTS AS TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

"OUR EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT CHINA HAS EVERY WILL TO HONOUR ITS COMMITMENT AND IS INCREASINGLY GETTING TO GRIPS WITH HONG KONG'S REALITIES," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO OUR FUTURE.

"TO RETAIN AND REAFFIRM THAT CONFIDENCE, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS ATTRACTIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

A STABLE, FAMILIAR AND RELIABLE LEGAL SYSTEM WHICH WAS A PREREQUISITE TO BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG MUST BE MAINTAINED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

HE SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF RETAINING THE PRESENT LEGAL SYSTEM WAS ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND REPEATED IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

"THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE FULL AUTONOMY ON ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY POLICIES. THIS IS A KEY PART OF THE JOINT DECLARATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 3 -

"HONG KONG HAS ENJOYED THIS AUTONOMY FOR DECADES, I KNOW CHINA UNDERSTANDS THAT. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE THAT THIS PRINCIPLE BE LAID DOWN CLEARLY IN THE BASIC LAW," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT CONTINUING INVESTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES WITH A VISION FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC FUTURE, AND THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM MUST BE GEARED TOWARDS BI-LINGUAL TRAINING.

"OUR EMERGING ROLE AS A TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICE CENTRE FOR CHINA IS GOING TO DEMAND AN INCREASING NUMBER OF WELL-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A FLEXIBLE AND REASONABLE IMMIGRATION POLICY TO ENABLE OVERSEAS BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT AND TO WORK HERE WITHOUT UNDUE RESTRICTIONS.

"EXPATRIATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE WELCOMED TO STAY AND WORK IN HONG KONG. THEY HAVE MADE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT OVER THE YEARS BY BRINGING WITH THEM THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE," HE ADDED.

ON GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION TO RELAX THE CRITERIA FOR THE IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR, SIR DAVID EMPHASISED THAT THE RELAXATION IN THE APPLICATION OF LABOUR IMPORTATION POLICY IN NO WAY AFFECTED GOVERNMENT'S SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO PREVENT PEOPLE ENTERING HONG KONG ILLEGALLY.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING A LESS SERIOUS VIEW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION," SIR DAVID STRESSED.

HE REITERATED THAT THE DECISION MUST NOT BE TAKEN AS A DEPARTURE FROM OUR PRESENT POLICY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT FREE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE LABOUR MARKET WAS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

"ANY BROAD-BRUSHED POLICIES AIMED AT LARGE-SCALE OF IMPORTATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR WOULD AMOUNT TO ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE IN OUR LABOUR MARKET.

"IT COULD INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE ECONOMY SUFFERING FROM THE ILL-EFFECTS OF SUCH MASS IMMIGRATION WITHOUT NECESSARILY RAISING THE GROWTH RATE IN GDP PER HEAD, WHICH IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS RATHER THAN THE GROWTH OF GDP ALONE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 4 -

LARGE-SCALE IMPORT OF UNSKILLED LABOUR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED: CS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (FRIDAY) STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONSIDERING ANY CHANGE IN THE POLICY NOT TO ALLOW LARGE-SCALE IMPORTATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR.

"WE HAVE GREAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT A MASSIVE IMPORTATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT WOULD IN THE LONG TERM AFFECT ADVERSELY THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY. IT WOULD ALSO, OR COULD ALSO, HAVE AN IMPACT UPON OUR WORKFORCE, ON OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, AND SO ON.

"WE HAVE TO THEREFORE BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL BEFORE WE CONSIDER SUCH MAJOR MOVE AND WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT CONSIDERING IT AT THIS MOMENT."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN CENTRAL.

NOTING THAT THE JOINT ASSOCIATIONS WORKING GROUP HAD PRESENTED IN ITS REPORT A COGENT CASE FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR FROM EMPLOYERS POINT OF VIEW, SIR DAVID SAID AS A GOVERNMENT WE HAD TO TAKE A SOMEWHAT BROADER VIEW THAN WAS PRESENTED THERE.

HE SAID: "TO TAKE JUST ONE EXAMPLE, THE INCREASE IN LABOUR WAGE WHICH IS A PROBLEM FOR THE EMPLOYERS ON THE ONE HAND ALSO INVOLVES AN INCREASE IN REAL WAGES FOR THE WORKERS ON THE OTHER.

"THEREFORE IF YOU ARE GOING TO TAMPER WITH THE ECONOMY, THEN CLEARLY ONE HAS TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE AS A WHOLE.

"IF WE WERE TO IMPORT LABOUR ON A MAJOR SCALE, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, THAT WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT UPON THE WAGE RATES IN HONG KONG. IT WOULD SLOW DOWN THE INCREASE IN WAGE RATE. THAT IN TURN, HAS AN EFFECT UPON THE GROWTH IN REAL WAGES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE. THAT IS SOMETHING WE AS A GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE DUE ATTENTION TO."

SIR DAVID SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING SUCH MATTERS WITH THIS GROUP ON THEIR PROPOSALS AND ALSO WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LABOUR UNIONS TOO.

"WE HAVE TO KEEP A VERY CLEAR BALANCE," HE NOTED.

HE SAID A WORKING GROUP HAD JUST STARTED WORK ON DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW MORE SKILLED PEOPLE TO BE BROUGHT IN UNDER EXISTING POLICY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO ENSURE THAT ANYBODY WHO CAME HERE UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD FIT IN WITH THE EXISTING POLICY.

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THAT IS, THEY WILL HAVE A MINIMUM WAGE RATE WHICH WILL BE NO LESS THAN THE CURRENT MARKET RATE IN HONG KONG. THEY WILL HAVE PROPER ACCOMODATION PROVIDED FOR THEM. THEY WILL TRAVEL UNDER OFFICIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE TIME-BARRED TO ENSURE THAT THEY RETURN AT THE END OF THEIR CONTRACT.

"THESE ARE THE SORT OF AREAS WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS IN OUR CURRENT POLICY AND WHICH WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD INTO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS TOO."

DETAILS OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED LATER, HE ADDED.

ASKED WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD THIS LABOUR COME FROM, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO EMPLOY LABOUR TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR PROPOSALS AS UNDER THE EXISTING POLICY THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE THEY SOUGHT THAT LABOUR FROM.

"THE IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR, AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE TOO, TO MEET THE GAPS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING CAUSED BY THE BRAIN DRAIN IS A SHORT TERM OPTION. THE LONG TERM OPTION IS TO BUILD UP THE SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," THE CHIEF SECRETARY STRESSED.

"WE MUST MAKE SURE OUR TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT ALL LEVELS ARE UP TO THE MARK AND WE ARE REPLENISHING THE PEOPLE WHO GO.

"THAT CERTAINLY IS WHAT WE ARE AIMING TO DO," SIR DAVID SAID.

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FS SUPPORTS STEPS TO RECONSTITUTE THE HK FUTURES EXCHANGE

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (FRIDAY) GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FUTURES EXCHANGE TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN RELATION TO THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE EXCHANGE.

THIS SUPPORT FOLLOWED A DECISION BY THE BOARD OF THE FUTURES EXCHANGE TO CALL FOR A THIRD EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING ON MAY 9 TO RECONSTITUTE ITSELF ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE.

"GIVEN THE VERY ENCOURAGING RESULTS OF THE LAST EGM AND THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ALREADY MADE BY THE EXCHANGE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CLEARING SYSTEM TO REFORM ITS RISK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT OUR FUTURES MARKETS SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN," SAID MR JACOBS.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EXCHANGE WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT ITS PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE AN INTEREST RATE FUTURES CONTRACT TO THE GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST IN THIS INSTRUMENT, WE SHALL PROCESS THIS PROPOSAL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 6 -

PROVISIONAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO OFFER 51 SITES IN THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION AND TENDER IN THE 1989-90 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PROVISIONAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME WAS OUTLINED BY THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR BOB POPE.

FOLLOWING THE RECENT AGREEMENT OF THE LAND COMMISSION TO THE DISPOSAL OF 78.26 HECTARES OF LAND FOR 1989-90, A TOTAL OF 28.6 HECTARES OF LAND HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SALES PROGRAMME WITH THE REMAINDER FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, VILLAGE HOUSING, PUBLIC UTILITIES, EDUCATIONAL, WELFARE, RELIGIOUS AND RECREATIONAL USES.

FOCUSING ON THE DETAILS OF THE YEAR'S PROGRAMME, MR POPE SAID A TOTAL OF 28 SITES WOULD BE AUCTIONED, 14 SITES WOULD BE SOLD BY CASH TENDER AND THE REMAINING NINE SITES WOULD BE SOLD BY LETTER A/B TENDER.

MR POPE STATED THAT THE SITE THAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE THE MOST INTEREST WAS THE TENDER OF IL 8888 IN GARDEN ROAD.

THIS IS THE LAST PRESTIGIOUS SITE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL AREA AND THE PURCHASER WILL BE LIABLE TO INCORPORATE 500 PUBLIC CAR PARKING SPACES INTO THE DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER WITH A PEDESTRIAN AND FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE TENDERS WILL ENCOMPASS PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS.

ANOTHER SITE LIKELY TO CREATE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WILL BE RBL 1082 AT THE PEAK.

THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A MASTER LAYOUT PLAN INDICATING, INTER-ALIA, THE REPROVISIONING OF THE EXISTING CAR PARKING, OPEN SPACE AND BUS TERMINUS AND THE GRANT WILL ALLOW A VARIETY OF USES INCLUDING AN HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENTS AND SHOPS.

A FURTHER FIVE SITES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION/TENDER DURING THE YEAR, WITH ONE OF THE SITES AT KOWLOON BAY AND THE SITE AT AUSTIN ROAD/CANTON ROAD REQUIRING THE PURCHASER TO CONSTRUCT A BUS TERMINUS.

THE REMAINING COMMERCIAL SITES WILL BE AT CARPENTER ROAD, KWUN TONG AND THE JUNCTION OF CHUN FAI ROAD/MOORSOM ROAD, THE LATTER SITE TO BE RESTRICTED TO SUPERMARKET PURPOSES.

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A TOTAL OF 14 SITES WILL BE AUCTIONED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN USE, FIVE OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE SHEUNG SHUI/FANLING AREA, AND THREE IN AREA 11, SHA TIN. ALSO INCLUDED IN AN AUCTION IN MAY WILL BE AN INDUSTRIAL LOT AT KA YIP STREET, CHAI WAN.

A FURTHER NINE SITES WILL BE SOLD FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN FANLING, TAI PO, TUEN MUN AND SAI KUNG TOGETHER WITH A SUBSTANTIAL HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL SITE AT TAT CHEE AVENUE.

FIVE SITES WILL BE TENDERED UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME, TWO OF WHICH WILL BE AT MA ON SHAN. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE PROVIDED WILL AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY 5,000.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE ONGOING LETTER A/B COMMITMENT, A TOTAL OF NINE SITES WILL BE TENDERED, THREE BEING IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR. FOUR OF THE SITES WILL BE IN TUEN MUN AND THE USES COMPRISE SEVEN HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL SITES WITH THE REMAINING TWO BEING FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL USE.

MR POPE SAID THE PURCHASERS OF THESE SITES WOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF SUBMITTING EITHER A "VINTAGE" OR A "MONETISED LETTER B" TENDER, WITH PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO THE FORMER.

HE ADDED THAT THE SITES COMPRISED A TOTAL OF 4.64 HECTARES WHICH WOULD EQUATE TO A LETTER B REDEMPTION OF 1,249,000 SQUARE FEET AGAINST A CURRENT COMMITMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 12,000,000 SQUARE FEET.

HE REITERATED THAT THE SALES PROGRAMME WAS ONLY PROVISIONAL AND COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FURTHER DETAILS AND DATES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE AND MAJOR NEWSPAPERS IN THE USUAL WAY.

COPIES OF THE TENTATIVE LAND SALES PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR FROM ANY DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES.

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PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW APPEAL BOARDS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW APPEAL BOARDS TO CONSIDER APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING DECISIONS BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ORDINANCE AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (LIQUOR) REGULATIONS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT APPEALS UNDER THESE THREE ORDINANCES LAY AT PRESENT TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 8 -

"THE GROWING NUMBER OF APPEALS IN RECENT YEARS HOWEVER HAS PLACED A GREAT BURDEN ON THE COUNCIL'S TIME AND THE NEW APPEAL BOARDS ARE A NECESSARY - INDEED LONG OVERDUE - MEASURE TO RELIEVE THE COUNCIL OF THIS HEAVY WORKLOAD," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TWO APPEAL BOARDS WOULD BE CREATED TO DETERMINE APPEALS AGAINST THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL RESPECTIVELY.

THE BOARDS WOULD COMPRISE FIVE MEMBERS: THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRESENCE OF A MINORITY OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS ON THE BOARDS WAS TO ENSURE THAT ATTENTION WAS PAID TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL POLICIES WHEN APPEALS WERE BEING DETERMINED.

"HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THE BOARDS' INDEPENDENCE, NO COUNCILLORS INVOLVED IN AN ORIGINAL LICENSING DECISION WILL BE ALLOWED TO SIT ON THE BOARDS WHEN AN APPEAL AGAINST THAT DECISION IS CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT APPEAL HEARINGS WOULD BE HELD IN PUBLIC, AND BOTH PARTIES TO THE APPEAL ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING AND BE LEGALLY REPRESENTED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE APPEAL BOARDS' DECISIONS WOULD BE FINAL, ALTHOUGH THE RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE BOARDS' PROCEEDINGS, OR TO PETITION THE GOVERNOR UNDER COLONIAL REGULATIONS WOULD REMAIN UNIMPAIRED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO STUDIED THE MERITS OF CREATING A GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL TO DETERMINE ALL APPEALS LYING TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

THIS WAS FOUND TO BE UNNECESSARY HOWEVER, SINCE IN PRACTICE NEARLY ALL APPEALS WERE AGAINST LICENSING DECISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS UNDER THE THREE ORDINANCES MENTIONED EARLIER.

"CREATION OF THE APPEAL BOARDS WILL THUS RELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF MOST OF ITS APPEALS WORK," HE SAID.

LEGISLATION TO CREATE THE BOARDS IS NOW BEING DRAFTED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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/9

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 9 -

APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED DR WANG GUNWU, THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA), IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO NAMED A VICE-CHAIRMAN TO THE COUNCIL WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF MR PETER K.C. WOO.

MR WOO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE FROM NOVEMBER 1983 TO MARCH THIS YEAR, AND IS WELL KNOWN IN THE ARTS FIELD.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO RE-APPOINTED FOUR MEMBERS AND APPOINTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL.

A REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS HAVE BEEN RE-APPOINTED.

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN ANOTHER TWO-YEAR MANDATE TO SERVE THE COUNCIL.

THE TERM OF THE NEW BOARD IS FOR TWO YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1989.

COMMENTING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, MR ALEX S.C. WU, AND OTHER RETIRING MEMBERS.

"DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE, THEIR EXPERIENCE AND VALUABLE SERVICE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED," MR CHUI SAID.

THE FOUR RE-APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE : PROFESSOR DAVID GWILT, MR LO KING-MAN, MR WONG PO-YAN AND MR MAXIMILIAN MA.

THE FIVE NEW APPOINTEES ARE : MRS MIRIAM K.Y. LAU, MR MARVIN K.T. CHEUNG, MR ALEX BLUM, MR RAYMOND K.P. LIU AND DR LAM TAI-HING.

"EACH OF THESE MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND THE ARTS FIELD, AND BRING WITH THEM GREAT EXPERIENCE AND A BROAD VISION.

"THEIR VIEWS AND ADVICE WILL BE HIGHLY VALUED," MR CHUI ADDED.

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/10

GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL BAG CARRYING

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS OUTLINED, IN A SET OF GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS, SOME PRACTICAL MEASURES TO HELP PUPILS DEVELOP GOOD HABIT IN PACKING SCHOOL BAGS SO AS TO PREVENT ANY HARMFUL EFFECTS WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED BY CARRYING AN OVERWEIGHT SCHOOL BAG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE GUIDELINES SOUGHT TO DRAW SCHOOLS' ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE ALTHOUGH THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY CONCLUSIVE PROOF SO FAR OF ANY CAUSE-EFFECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS AND THE PHYSICAL GROWTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

IN THE GUIDELINES, SCHOOLS ARE ADVISED TO REMIND PUPILS AND THEIR PARENTS OF THE POSSIBLE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CARRYING AN OVERWEIGHT SCHOOL BAG.

PUPILS SHOULD BE TOLD TO PACK THEIR SCHOOL BAGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DAILY TIMETABLE SO THAT THEY ONLY CARRY TO SCHOOL THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEXTBOOKS, EXERCISE BOOKS AND STATIONERY ITEMS REQUIRED FOR A PARTICULAR SCHOOL DAY.

"TOYS AND OTHER ITEMS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE SCHOOL DAY, PERSONAL FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND JUMPING PROES FOR GAMES DURING RECESS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE SCHOOL BAGS AND PENCIL CASES MADE OF STURDY YET LIGHT MATERIALS.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO ADVISE SCHOOL HEADS TO EXPLAIN CAREFULLY TO ALL PARENTS THE MEASURES DRAWN UP AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY TO PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

SCHOOLS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO DEMONSTRATE TO PUPILS THE CORRECT MANNER AND POSTURE IN CARRYING SCHOOL BAGS AND TO INCLUDE A CLASS TIME-TABLE IN THE PUPILS' HANDBOOK TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PACK THEIR SCHOOL BAGS DAILY.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO URGE SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF STATIONERY ITEMS WHICH PUPILS HAVE TO BRING TO SCHOOL.

THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A HEAVY-DUTY PENCIL SHARPENER AND A CENTRALISED STOCK OF RELEVANT STATIONERY ITEMS SUCH AS ERASERS, RULERS, COLOUR PENCILS AND SCISSORS WHICH ARE COMMONLY USED BY PUPILS.

"IF A DICTIONARY IS REQUIRED AS AN AID TO CLASSROOM TEACHING AT THE UPPER PRIMARY LEVEL, SCHOOLS MIGHT CONSIDER PROVIDING A NUMBER OF DICTIONARIES IN CLASS FOR PUPILS' USE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO ASK SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER, WHENEVER FEASIBLE, REVIEWING THE USE OF EXISTING PROVISION SUCH AS BOOKCASES, SHELVES IN THE CLASSROOM AND TO MAKE RELEVANT ADJUSTMENTS TO STORE PUPIL'S EXERCISE BOOKS AND STATIONERY ITEMS FREQUENTLY USED IN SCHOOL.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 11 -

PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT QUEEN'S ROAD WEST DECLARED DANGEROUS
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED NOS. 253 TO 261 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (FRIDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THESE THREE-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED OF TIMBER UPPER FLOORS AND ROOFS ON LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS.

GENERALLY, THE BRICKWORK IN THE WALLS WERE FOUND TO BE SOFT WITH WEAK MORTAR JOINTS. MOST OF THE TIMBER FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS WERE DEFECTIVE. NUMEROUS VERTICAL FRACTURES COULD BE SEEN ON ALL THE MAIN WALLS OF THE BUILDINGS, HE SAID.

THE SIDE WALL OF NO. 253 WERE FOUND TO BE MOVING TOWARDS MUI FONG STREET WHILST ITS REAR MAIN WALL HAD ALSO MOVED ABOUT 50 MILLIMETRES TOWARDS THE REAR.

NEW VERTICAL FRACTURES FOUND AT THE MIDDLE OF PARTY WALL BETWEEN NOS. 255 AND 257 SUGGESTED RECENT MOVEMENT OF THE BUILDINGS.

THE BRICK VERANDAH PIER AT THE FIRST FLOOR OF NO. 261 HAD ALREADY CRASHED AND WAS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSE WHICH COULD IN TURN CAUSE A MAJOR COLLAPSE OF THE MAIN BUILDING.

DUE TO THE AGE AND THE ADVANCED STAGE OF DILAPIDATION, THESE BUILDINGS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO CLOSE THEM FOR DEMOLITION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON JULY 7 THIS YEAR WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT FLAT A, FIRST FLOOR, BRAEMAR COURT, 314-318 MA TAU WAI ROAD.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON SEPTEMBER 15 LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 7, 1989 WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 12 -

TENDERS INVITED FOR NOISE ABATEMENT WORK
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR NOISE ABATEMENT WORKS IN FOUR GROUPS OF SCHOOLS UNDER THE NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAMME IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE CONTRACTS WILL COVER 11 AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH DEALS WITH SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY AIRCRAFT NOISE AND ANOTHER THREE AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE FIRST PHASE OF SECOND STAGE OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH DEALS WITH SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY TRAFFIC NOISE.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF DOUBLE-GLAZING WINDOWS AND AIR-CONDITIONING FOR THE AFFECTED CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL ROOMS OF RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.

TO SOME SCHOOLS, THE CONTRACTORS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE WORKS TO UPGRADE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY OR TO BUILD TRANSFORMER ROOMS.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED EITHER THIS AUGUST OR IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE TENDER NOTIFICATIONS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON IN APRIL 28.

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PENG CHAU ISLAND LOT FOR SALE BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING FOR SALE BY TENDER A LOT OF ABOUT 3,300 SQUARE METRES ON PENG CHAU ISLAND.

THE LOT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN (INCLUDING BOAT BUILDING AND REPAIRING) PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT OF THIS LOT REQUIRES A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 1,337 SQUARE METRES, TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1991.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON MAY 5.

TENDER FORMS, THE TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TUEN MUN, SAI KUNG AND ISLAND.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

- 13 -

LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR MAJOR NT DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND AT NIM WAN IN TUEN MUN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL PROJECT.

THE LAND TO BE RESUMED COVERS 112 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF OVER 83,000 SQUARE METRES AND SOME 111.5 SQUARE METRES OF NEW GRANT NON-INDUSTRIAL (SMALL HOUSE LOTS) AND OLD SCHEDULE HOUSE LOTS MOSTLY HELD BY NIM WAN VILLAGERS.

THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL PROJECT WILL SERVE TO MAINTAIN A SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY FOR THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES AS THE EXISTING PILLAR POINT VALLEY LANDFILL WILL REACH ITS FULL CAPACITY BY 1992.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, ANOTHER 101 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 66,451 SQUARE METRES IN YUEN LONG WILL ALSO BE RESUMED.

THIS RESUMED LAND WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE COMPLETION OF SEWAGE FACILITIES FOR TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN BEFORE THE FIRST POPULATION INTAKE IN 1991 AND FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWERAGE SERVICE FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN YUEN LONG-TUEN MUN CORRIDOR.

NOTICES ON THE ABOVE RESUMPTION WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LOTS WILL REVERT TO GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE POSTING OF THE NOTICE ON THE LOTS OF THE RESPECTIVE RESUMPTION.

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