



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1991

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1991

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GOVERNOR ON RETURN OF VIETNAMESE II'S
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE RETURN OF 59 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM WAS "AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME".

HE SAID:

"TODAY'S RETURN WAS PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT WITH AS MUCH SENSITIVITY AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS NEVER GOING TO BE EASY, PARTICULARLY WHEN SOME PEOPLE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE. IT IS A PITY THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD TO BE LED OR CARRIED ONTO THE AIRCRAFT.

"THE 59 PEOPLE RETURNED TODAY WERE PART OF A LARGER GROUP OF 320 WHO HAD ORIGINALLY VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND THEN, SOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES, CAME BACK TO HONG KONG. MOST, WHEN TOLD THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO RETURN AGAIN TO VIETNAM, VOLUNTEERED TO DO SO. THIS LEFT A SMALL GROUP WHO WERE NOT PREPARED TO GO VOLUNTARILY.

"WE CARRIED OUT THIS OPERATION IN THE FULL GLARE OF THE WORLD'S MEDIA. ALL OVER THE WORLD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE COMPELLED TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES, USUALLY WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY. IN MANY CASES THEY TOO ARE RELUCTANT TO GO BACK. WHAT WAS DONE IN HONG KONG TODAY WAS ABSOLUTELY IN LINE WITH WHAT HAPPENS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD WHEN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE DEPORTED.

"WE HOPE THAT MORE PEOPLE WILL OPT FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION. BUT THE SIMPLE REALITY IS THAT NOT ALL WILL DO SO. FROM TIME TO TIME THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER SUCH RETURNS OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT VOLUNTEER. OUR AIM MUST BE TO RETURN NON-REFUGEES WHO COME TO HONG KONG QUICKLY AND SAFELY SO THAT THEY CAN RE-START THEIR LIVES IN THEIR HOMELAND.

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VIETNAMESE II'S RETURNED SENSITIVELY
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS HANDLING THE RETURN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO VIETNAM AS SENSITIVELY AND CAREFULLY AS POSSIBLE, THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE IT IN FRONT OF THE WORLD'S PRESS TO SHOW THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO HIDE, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE FLIGHT TAKING 59 "DOUBLE BACKERS" AND THEIR FAMILIES TOOK OFF FOR VIETNAM THIS MORNING.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO DEPORTATION IS FOR THESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO WASTE THEIR LIVES AND THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES IN CAMPS IN HONG KONG, HE STRESSED.

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"WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DO GO BACK, SAFELY, SMOOTHLY, SOUNDLY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITH DIGNITY," HE SAID.

"WHAT WE WILL NOW BE DOING IS BEGINNING TO PLAN THE SECOND FLIGHT. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO VERY EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON PLANNING THE DETAILS OF AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE ALREADY IN OUR CAMPS HERE."

ASKED IF HE WAS SURPRISED BY THE RESISTANCE PUT UP BY SOME OF THE RETURNEES, MR LEEKS SAID : "I THINK YOU WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT VOLUNTEERS. SOME OF THEM HAVE GONE BACK, AS YOU COULD SEE, QUITE WILLINGLY, OTHERS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE GOING BACK RELUCTANTLY. WHERE THAT HAPPENED, YOU COULD SEE THAT THEY WERE HELPED ONTO THE AIRCRAFT.

"I THINK IT WAS DONE WITH THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF COMPULSION BY THE POLICE. I THINK THEY HANDLED IT WITH TREMENDOUS SENSITIVITY AND OF COURSE THIS IS THE WAY SADLY DEPORTATIONS ARE DONE ALL OVER THE WORLD."

MR LEEKS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SOME OF THE SINGLE MEN IN THE AIRPORT TRANSIT CENTRE HAD BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO PUT UP A SHOW.

"WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD TO COUNSEL THE PEOPLE TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY ALL HAVE TO GO BACK. I THINK WITH MANY OF THEM WE SUCCEEDED, AS YOU COULD SEE. THERE WERE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE CLEARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT GOING BACK," HE SAID.

"WE DEALT WITH THAT AS SENSITIVELY AS WE POSSIBLY COULD. YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED AND YOU MUST JUDGE IT FOR YOURSELF."

MR LEEKS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVED BACK IN HANOI THEY WOULD REALISE THE FACT THAT "THEY ARE BACK HOME RATHER THAN WASTING THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN HONG KONG".

"THE ALTERNATIVE FOR THESE PEOPLE IS TO WASTE THE WHOLE OF THEIR LIVES AND THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES, STUCK IN CAMPS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ASKED IF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MORNING WOULD LEAD TO TRADE SANCTION BY THE UNITED STATES, MR LEEKS SAID : "I THINK THE REFERENCE TO TRADE SANCTION SOUNDS EXTRAORDINARILY EXTREME. THE FACT IS THAT AS YOU HAVE SEEN WE HAVE BEEN AS SENSITIVELY AND CAREFULLY AS WE CAN, RETURNING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO VIETNAM. THE AMERICANS OF COURSE ALSO RETURN MEXICANS TO MEXICO, HAITIANS TO HAITI. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY DO NOT TRY TO DO IT IN FRONT OF THE WORLD'S PRESS.

"WE HAVE TRIED TO DO THAT AND TO SHOW YOU THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE AND THAT WE ARE HANDLING THIS VERY, VERY SENSITIVELY INDEED."

ASKED TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE RETURNEES HAVE BEEN SEDATED, MR LEEKS SAID THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN SEDATED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

"THE SITUATION IS THAT A COUPLE OF THE WOMEN WERE DISTRESSED AT THE TIME THEY WERE GETTING ON THE FERRY. WHAT I HAVE EXPLAINED IS THAT THERE WAS A DOCTOR AT HEI LING CHAU. IF ANYONE WAS GIVEN ANY SEDATION, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY, EMPHATICALLY, CLEARLY FOR MEDICAL REASONS," HE SAID.

"THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO QUESTION OF SEDATING ANYONE FOR SECURITY REASONS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE JUDGEMENT PURELY OF THE DOCTOR ON THE SPOT. AND THAT I THINK IS CLEARLY CORRECT."

AS TO THE SITUATION AT THE AIRPORT TRANSIT CENTRE DURING THE NIGHT, MR LEEKS SAID THAT THE NIGHT PASSED VERY PEACEFULLY.

"SOME PEOPLE SLEPT. SOME PEOPLE CHATTED. THERE WAS NO CHAOS," HE ADDED.

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TRUBLE-FREE FLIGHT TO HANOI

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THE FIRST FLIGHT OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REPATRIATED UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME WAS COMPLETED UNEVENTFULLY TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN THE PLANE LANDED IN HANOI AT 12.50 PM (HONG KONG TIME), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ALL 59 PEOPLE DISEMBARKED WITHOUT TROUBLE," HE SAID.

THEY WERE MET BY VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES AT THE AIRPORT, THE PEOPLE WERE DUE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CO NHUE TRANSIT CENTRE IN THE SAME WAY AS RETURNEES UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

THE SPOKESMAN WELCOMED THE FACT THAT THE GROUP WERE NOW BACK IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND WOULD SOON BE RETURNING TO THEIR OWN HOMES.

"THEY WILL BE DOING THIS WITH ALL THE SAME GUARANTEES OF SAFETY AND MONITORING EXTENDED TO OTHER RETURNEES, AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNHCR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP THEM RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES BACK IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES."

THE GROUP WERE ESCORTED BY 30 MALE AND 10 FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS WHO WERE UNARMED AND DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. ALSO ON BOARD WERE NURSES, IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, INTERPRETERS AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR JOHN SHANNON.

THE PLANE LEFT HANOI AT 2 PM (HONG KONG TIME) FOR THE RETURN FLIGHT TO HONG KONG.

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WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION SET UP
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN.

THE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH; ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND FINANCE BRANCH.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION WORKING GROUP ARE:

- * TO REVIEW THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OR SCHEMES RELATING TO RETIREMENT PROTECTION;
- * TO ASSESS THE PRACTICABILITY OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION;
- * TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, LEGAL AND SOCIAL) OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS; AND
- * TO LIAISE WITH AND CONSULT RELEVANT BODIES.

IN RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION ON THE STAND OF GOVERNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS CONCLUDED THAT, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN NOT SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, THERE IS A GREATER NEED FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, THESE SHOULD INCLUDE VARIOUS FORMS OF COMPULSORY RETIREMENT SCHEMES, WHICH SHOULD NOW BE EXAMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

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TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE REVIEW TO COPE WITH RAPID CHANGES
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THE TASK OF REVAMPING THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE IS NOT AN EASY ONE, BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE SO THAT HONG KONG CAN HAVE PLANNING LEGISLATION THAT CAN COPE WITH THE RAPID POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES THAT ARE TAKING PLACE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WHEN ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTRAMURAL STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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OUTLINING THE MAIN POINTS OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED SO FAR ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, MR BARNES SAID THE VIEWS REFLECTED MANY OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DILEMMAS BUT WITH DIFFERENT WEIGHTING GIVEN BY DIFFERENT PARTIES.

ON THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION, HE SAID MOST PEOPLE SEEMED TO BE IN FAVOUR OF A MORE OPEN AND FAIRER PLANNING SYSTEM.

"AS A FIRST STEP IN THE MOVE TOWARDS A FAIRER STATUTORY SYSTEM, AN INDEPENDENT APPEAL BOARD WILL SOON BE SET UP UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1991," MR BARNES SAID.

THE BOARD, WITH ITS OWN APPEALS REGULATIONS, WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 18 TO CONSIDER APPEALS AGAINST THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD'S DECISIONS ON SECTION 16 APPLICATIONS.

IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, IT WAS PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE APPEAL BOARD TO DEAL WITH APPEALS AGAINST THE PROPOSED PLANNING AUTHORITY'S DECISIONS AND TO CONSIDER OBJECTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS ON STATUTORY PLANS REFERRED TO IT BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

"WHILE THERE IS GENERAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A MORE OPEN AND FAIRER STATUTORY PLANNING SYSTEM, LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DELAY AND UNCERTAINTY THAT MAY BE CAUSED TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

"ONE OF THEIR WORRIES RELATES TO THE PROPOSED INTERIM DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DURING THE PLAN EXHIBITION AND OBJECTION CONSIDERATION PERIOD - A PROPOSAL INTENDED TO MAKE THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FAIRER TO THE OBJECTORS," HE SAID.

TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS, MR BARNES SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO SPEED UP THE OBJECTION PROCESS BY SIMPLIFYING THE OBJECTION HEARING PROCEDURES AND IMPOSING STATUTORY TIME LIMITS ON VARIOUS STAGES OF THE PLAN-MAKING AND PLANNING APPLICATION PROCESSES.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF OBJECTIONS RECEIVED WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A DISINCENTIVE TO VEXATIOUS OBJECTIONS.

AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED PLANNING CERTIFICATE SYSTEM, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN ADDITIONAL HURDLE IN THE APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CERTIFICATE WERE NOT NEW REQUIREMENTS AND HAD HITHERTO BEEN ENFORCED THROUGH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN AN INDIRECT WAY.

"THE NEW PROPOSAL ONLY INVOLVES A REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND THE PLANNING ORDINANCE, RESULTING IN CLEARER LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

"BY GIVING APPROVAL TO A DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AND INDICATING PLANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR A PARTICULAR DEVELOPMENT, THE PROPOSED PLANNING CERTIFICATE CAN ACTUALLY PROVIDE A HIGH DEGREE OF CERTAINTY TO DEVELOPERS PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF DETAILED BUILDING PLANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

"THIS CAN AVOID ABORTIVE WORK WHERE DETAILED BUILDING PLANS PREPARED FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ARE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND TO BE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CONCEPT OF AMORTISATION IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED IN ALL CASES OF NON-CONFORMING USES ON OPEN LAND OR IN PARTS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS.

HE STRESSED THAT ITS APPLICATION WOULD FORM PART OF THE PLAN-MAKING PROCESS AND BE SUBJECT TO FULL PUBLIC REPRESENTATION AND HEARING PROCEDURES.

"THE AMORTISATION PERIOD WILL BE SITE-SPECIFIC AND USE-SPECIFIC AND AS A RULE, WILL BE LONG ENOUGH FOR THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER CONCERNED TO RECOUP HIS INVESTMENT AND PREPARE FOR THE CHANGE.

"FOR THE MAJORITY OF NON-CONFORMING USES WHICH DO NOT CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

"AMORTISATION WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO SUBSTANTIAL NON-CONFORMING BUILDINGS WHICH INVOLVE HEAVY INVESTMENTS, NOT BECAUSE WE DO NOT RECOGNISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL OR SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEY MAY CAUSE, BUT BECAUSE THE LONG AMORTISATION PERIOD REQUIRED WOULD MAKE IT AN IMPRACTICAL SOLUTION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.

"INSTEAD, OTHER MEASURES SUCH AS UPZONING, DESIGNATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND EXCHANGE, TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHT AND POSSIBLY RESUMPTION WILL HAVE TO BE RELIED UPON TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS MORE QUICKLY," MR BARNES SAID.

ADDRESSING THE CONCERN ON STAFF AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS UNDER THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, MR BARNES SAID PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES WHERE POSSIBLE, TO RECOVER COSTS WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS, AND TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS IN PHASES WHERE PRACTICABLE.

"IT IS UNAVOIDABLE THAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE A MORE OPEN, FAIRER AND MORE EFFECTIVE PLANNING SYSTEM.

"THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC FUNDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMMIT IS OBVIOUSLY A POLICY DECISION WHICH REFLECTS PUBLIC CHOICE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS," HE NOTED.

ON THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT, MR BARNES SAID A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP TO HANDLE THE ISSUES AND WAS NOW CONSIDERING THE COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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REFORMS IN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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ONE OF THE MAJOR REFORMS BEING MADE IN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IS TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF VARIOUS SERVICES AND TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THEM MORE PRODUCTIVE, EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE.

THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE SAID, THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

DR LEE SAID THE ESCALATING COST IN HEALTH CARE, TOGETHER WITH THE INCREASING DEMANDS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EXISTING SERVICES IN TERMS OF BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY, MADE IT INDISPENSABLE TO OVERHAUL THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SERVICES.

"WE HAVE TO BE BETTER MANAGERS IN ADMINISTERING AND SUPERVISING THE SERVICES AND IN SEEING HOW BEST WE COULD DEPLOY OUR MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES," HE SAID.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN TODAY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION WHEN WE ARE FACING THE PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY AND ACUTE MANPOWER SHORTAGE."

DR LEE STRESSED THAT TRAINING TO PREPARE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO IMPLEMENT THE REFORMS WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE CHANGES SUCCESSFUL.

HE SAID SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1989, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAD EMBARKED ON MANY PROGRAMMES OF TRAINING FOR THE PROFESSIONALS AND THAT THE SPONSORED COURSES WITH THE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WERE SOME OF THE GOOD EXAMPLES.

DR LEE CONGRATULATED THE GRADUATES AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD PUT THEIR NEWLY-ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO GOOD USE.

GRADUATES AT TODAY'S CEREMONY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED EITHER ONE OF THE THREE TRAINING PROGRAMMES -- CERTIFICATE IN FIRST LINE MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, AND DIPLOMA COURSE IN HOSPITAL AND NURSING ADMINISTRATION.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS FORTNIGHT OPENS

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS FORTNIGHT, WHICH WILL OFFER LOCAL RESIDENTS A HOST OF HIGH-QUALITY EVENTS, IS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (SATURDAY) WITH A VARIETY SHOW AT THE ABERDEEN PROMENADE.

THE FORTNIGHT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION (SDACA) AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE SDACA CHAIRMAN, MRS SO CHAU YIM-PING, SAID THE FESTIVAL, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE DISTRICT, WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING CULTURE AND ARTS AMONG RESIDENTS.

MRS SO SAID THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED A CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION, A CONCERT, AND ORCHESTRAL AND DANCE PERFORMANCES.

ADMISSION TO THESE IS FREE. COPIES OF A PROGRAMME PAMPHLET ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; AND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR JOSEPH CHAN.

STARTING WITH A CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION ON NOVEMBER 3, THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL WILL RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 17 FEATURING THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

DATE	TIME	FUNCTIONS	ADDRESS
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NOV 10 (SUNDAY)	8 PM	LIM KEK HAN ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT	AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE
NOV 10-14 (SUNDAY- THURSDAY)	9 AM- 5 PM DAILY	CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION	LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL, LEI TUNG ESTATE
NOV 16 (SATURDAY)	2.30 PM	CONCERT BY SOUTHERN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR	LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL, LEI TUNG ESTATE
NOV 17 (SUNDAY)	8 PM	DANCE PERFORMANCE BY ORIENTAL DANCE GROUP	WAH KWAI COMMUNITY HALL, WAH KWAI ESTATE

PLEASE CALL 552 0208 FOR ENQUIRIES.

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FIVE NEW GMB ROUTES FOR YUEN LONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FIVE NEW GREEN MINIBUS (GMB) ROUTES 601, 602, 603, 604, AND 606S WILL BE INTRODUCED ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 11) TO CATER FOR THE TRAVELLING NEED IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

GMB ROUTES 601, 602 AND 603 WILL OPERATE BETWEEN YUEN LONG (FUNG CHEUNG ROAD) AND PAK WAI TSUEN, TAI KONG PO, AND FUNG KAT HEUNG RESPECTIVELY. THEIR FARES WILL RANGE FROM \$2.50 TO \$3. PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

GMB ROUTE 604 WILL OPERATE BETWEEN YUEN LONG (FUNG CHEUNG ROAD) AND SHAN HA TSUEN. ITS FARE WILL RANGE FROM \$1.50 TO \$2 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

GMB ROUTE 606S, WHICH IS AN ALL-NIGHT SERVICE, WILL OPERATE BETWEEN YUEN LONG (FUNG CHEUNG ROAD) AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST (MODY ROAD). ITS FARE WILL RANGE FROM \$5 TO \$12 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENT WORKS ALONG A SECTION OF WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH BLUE POOL ROAD, IN HAPPY VALLEY.

THE PROPOSED WORKS SERVE TO IMPROVE THE SIGHT LINES AND SAFETY OF THIS PART OF WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND TO ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BY CHANGING THE LOCATIONS AND LAYOUTS OF THE EXISTING BUS AND TRAM TERMINI.

THESE WORKS INCLUDE:

- * WIDENING AND REALIGNMENT OF A SECTION OF WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH BLUE POOL ROAD;
- * RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD JUNCTIONS BETWEEN WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND BLUE POOL ROAD, AND BETWEEN WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND SING WOO ROAD;
- * RELOCATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING TRAM AND BUS TERMINI AT THIS SECTION OF WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD;
- * RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING CARRIAGEWAYS; AND
- * CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED FOOTWAY, DRAINAGE, TRAFFIC ISLANDS AND UTILITY WORKS.

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DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE PUBLISHED IN A NOTICE IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * HONG KONG WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND
- * WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 20' BRIEN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 7 NEXT YEAR, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS.

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AWARD FOR CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME VOLUNTEERS

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VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAVE, FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, WON AN AWARD IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT FOR THE ELDERLY COMPETITION.

THEIR PROJECT TO SHOW CARE AND CONCERN FOR 60 AGED PEOPLE WHO ARE RECEIVING HOME HELP SERVICE AT TUEN MUN, WON AN EXCELLENT AWARD IN THE COMPETITION WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE TEAM LEADER OF THE PROJECT, A 16-YEAR-OLD YOUTH, SAID HAPPILY THAT THE AWARD WAS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO EVERY TEAM MEMBER.

"SOME OF US STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ELDERLY PEOPLE THERE AND WE CALL THEM UP OR VISIT THEM WHEN WE HAVE HOLIDAYS," HE SAID.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BOYS' HOME, MR KWONG KIT-YING, SAID THE AWARD-WINNING PROJECT WAS ONE OF THE MANY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY RESIDENTS OF THE HOME.

A TEAM OF 12 BOYS WERE TRAINED ON SKILLS TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH LONELY OLD PEOPLE AND ON HUMAN RELATIONS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR TEACHERS. A WORKSHOP AND DAY CAMP WERE ORGANISED LAST JUNE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

/THE BOYS

THE BOYS LIAISED WITH YAN OI COMMUNITY CENTRE TO IDENTIFY A GROUP OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO WERE RECEIVING HOME HELP SERVICE FROM THE CENTRE, AND THEN DESIGNED AND ORGANISED ACTIVITIES IN THEIR SPARE TIME.

MR KWONG SAID: "FROM MID-JULY TO AUGUST, THE VOLUNTEERS VISITED THE ELDERLY AND ORGANISED FUNCTIONS SUCH AS OUTINGS TO A COUNTRY PARK AND TO THE OCEAN PARK.

"A SOUVENIR BOOK, WITH CONTRIBUTION FROM THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SERVICE, WAS PUBLISHED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT.

"COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY. IT ALSO HELPS THEM REGAIN THEIR CONFIDENCE THROUGH SERVING THE NEEDY," MR KWONG SAID.

"THIS TYPE OF SOCIAL WORK IN ADDITION TO EDUCATIONAL AND PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING ARE INTENDED TO HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE ACQUIRE THE ABILITY, SKILL, MOTIVATION AND MATURITY TO LEAD A LAW-ABIDING LIFE WHEN THEY LEAVE THE HOME," HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	8.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.11.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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