DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1991

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HK CAPITAL MARKETS: GOVERNOR 1

GOVERNOR PRESENTS 1991/92 POLICY ADDRESS 2

TODAY'S LAWYER - A PERSON OF MANY SKILLS: AG 3

CLOSE HK/CHINA CO-OPERATION AGAINST MAJOR CRIMES IMPORTANT 4

SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY 5

TODD MEETS DB CHAIRMEN 6

STATEMENT ON ALGAE IN RESERVOIR 7

MORE IMPORTED WORKERS FOUND UNDERPAID 8

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS 9

CLEAN WASHROOM COMPETITION FOR WAN CHAI FOOD SHOPS 10

WATER STORAGE FIGURE 11

FRESH WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG 11

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS 12

IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HK CAPITAL MARKETS: GOVERNOR

* * * * *

WITH THE OPENING UP OF CHINA AND THE INCREASING PROSPERITY OF ITS SOUTHERN PROVINCES, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG'S CAPITAL MARKETS ARE TRULY IMMENSE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES VALEURS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DINNER, SIR DAVID SAID AS THE CHINESE ECONOMY CONTINUED TO GROW, MAINLAND INDUSTRIES WOULD HAVE AN INCREASING APPETITE FOR DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL.

"INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN CHINA WILL ALSO NEED FINANCING. HONG KONG, WITH ITS LIQUID CAPITAL MARKET, ITS CONTACTS AND SOPHISTICATED KNOWLEDGE OF THE MAINLAND, IS THE NATURAL CENTRE FOR ORGANISING THE NECESSARY FUNDING," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S STOCK MARKET WAS NOW AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF CAPITAL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMPANIES AND IT WAS ATTRACTING GROWING INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR INTEREST.

"MOST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES HOUSES NOW HAVE A PRESENCE HERE. HONG KONG IS ALSO THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS.

"THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL FUND MANAGERS HAVE THEIR PRINCIPAL BASE FOR ASIA IN HONG KONG SPEAKS FOR ITSELF," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES LISTED ON THE LOCAL EXCHANGE HAD JUMPED FROM 250 TO WELL OVER 300 AND THE TOTAL TURNOVER LAST YEAR WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE FIGURE IN 1986, SIR DAVID NOTED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG COULD NOT AFFORD TO REST ON ITS LAURELS AS SECURITIES MARKETS WERE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE.

"AND AS INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN SEEK TO DIVERSIFY, HONG KONG MUST OFFER ATTRACTIVE SERVICES.

"WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR PRUDENTIAL FRAMEWORK IS BROADLY COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES ELSEWHERE, AND OUR SYSTEMS AT LEAST AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY IMPORTANT CHANGES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO KEEP HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVE EDGE.

UNIFICATION OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN 1986 BROUGHT WITH IT UNIFORM LISTING AND TRADING REQUIREMENTS AND THIS HELPED THE GROWTH OF THE MARKET.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CAPITALISED ON THE TRAUMATIC INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF 1987 BY HASTENING OTHER REFORMS WHICH INCLUDED:

- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AS AN AUTONOMOUS STATUTORY BODY;

/- LEGISLATION, SOME .....

- LEGISLATION, SOME NEW, SOME REVISED, TO BRING THE MARKET REGULATION UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS;

- THE INITIATION OF A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF THE SECURITIES LEGISLATION.

"ON THE SYSTEMS SIDE, A NEW AUTOMATED CENTRAL SECURITIES CLEARING SYSTEM WILL SOON BE INSTALLED. LATER IT WILL BE MATCHED BY AN AUTOMATED TRANSACTION SYSTEM BEING DEVELOPED BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

"ALL OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT THE HONG KONG MARKET IS PROPERLY EQUIPPED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD," SAID SIR DAVID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR Q W LEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG, WHO WOULD BE RETIRING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"WITH HIS PATIENCE SKILL AND INTEGRITY HE HAS DONE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT TO HELP BUILD THE SORT OF STOCK EXCHANGE WE WILL NEED FOR THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR PRESENTS 1991/92 POLICY ADDRESS

* * * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL PRESENT HIS POLICY ADDRESS AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 9) WHEN HE OPENS THE 1991-92 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON TVB (PEARL AND JADE); ATV (WORLD AND HOME); AND RTHK'S RADIO 1 AND 5 (CHINESE), AND RADIO 3 (ENGLISH). COMMERCIAL RADIO'S AM 864 WILL ALSO BROADCAST THE SPEECH LIVE IN CHINESE.

- - - - - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A SPECIAL CLOSED WORKING SESSION WILL BE ARRANGED ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 9) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE TO ENABLE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK ON ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS. THE SESSION WILL START AT 12 NOON.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WORKING ON ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THEIR COPIES BEFORE 2.30 PM.

EDITORS ARE REMINDED THAT CONTENTS OF THE POLICY ADDRESS ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL THE GOVERNOR HAS DELIVERED HIS SPEECH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

TODAY'S LAWYER - A PERSON OF MANY SKILLS: AG

* * * * *

TODAY'S LAWYER MUST BE MORE THAN A MERE REPOSITORY FOR LEGAL KNOWLEDGE BUT BE PART SOCIAL WORKER, A GOOD COMMUNICATOR, BUSINESS-MINDED, A GOOD BOSS, SOCIALLY AWARE, AND A LEADER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY MARKING THE LAUNCH OF THE TERRITORY'S SECOND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS PROGRAMME (PCLL) IN THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, MR MATHEWS SAID TODAY'S LAWYER MUST BE A PERSON OF MANY PARTS, OF MANY SKILLS.

"THE PCLL COURSE OFFERS A VITAL INTRODUCTION TO MANY OF THESE SKILLS AND QUALITIES.

"MANY OF THE ELEMENTS TO BE TAUGHT IN THE CITY POLYTECHNIC'S PCLL COURSE, AS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S SIMILAR COURSE, ARE DESIGNED TO EQUIP OUR YOUNG LAWYERS WITH THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO PRACTISE LAW IN A HIGHLY COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY AND ALSO TO PLAY THEIR PART TO THE FULL IN THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ON THE QUALITIES THAT MADE TODAY'S LAWYER, MR MATHEWS SAID: "THE LAWYER MUST, NATURALLY, HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW - NOT JUST THE LAW OF THE TEXTBOOK AND THE LECTURE HALL, BUT THE LAW AS IT IS IN SOCIETY - IN ACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY.

"THE LAWYER MUST BE ASTUTE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF CLIENTS AND TO SEEK FOR A SOLUTION TO CLIENTS' PROBLEMS IN THE LAW.

"THE LAWYER MUST BE SOMETHING OF A SOCIAL WORKER - HAVING THE ABILITY AND THE SYMPATHY TO DEAL WITH THE WORRIES AND ANXIETIES OF CLIENTS."

MR MATHEWS SAID THE LAWYER SHOULD BE A GOOD COMMUNICATOR WHO WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO CLIENTS HOW THE LAW WORKED, ITS LIMITATIONS, AND HOW THE LAW COULD HELP THEM.

"THE LAWYER SHOULD HAVE GOOD BUSINESS SKILLS, KNOWING HOW TO RUN WHOSE BUSINESSES EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS WELL AS WHAT MADE BUSINESS TICK IN HONG KONG, AND ELSEWHERE.

"THE LAWYER SHOULD BE SKILLED IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WITH AN ABILITY TO ATTRACT, MOTIVATE AND ENCOURAGE STAFF AND MAKE THEM GIVE THEIR BEST," HE SAID.

TO THIS LONG LIST OF QUALITIES, MR MATHEWS ADDED THAT TODAY'S MODERN LAWYER SHOULD HAVE AN AWARENESS OF, AND INTEREST IN, LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

"THOSE OF US WHO PRACTISE LAW IN HONG KONG CANNOT IGNORE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

"TODAY'S LAWYER CAN ALSO PLAY A VITAL PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAW IN HONG KONG AND IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

CLOSE HK/CHINA CO-OPERATION AGAINST MAJOR CRIMES IMPORTANT
* * * * * *

BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE TERRITORIES, HONG KONG SHOULD CLOSELY CO-OPERATE WITH CHINA IN ITS EFFORTS AGAINST MAJOR CRIMES, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) AT A DINNER RECEPTION HOSTED BY A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS.

MR LI SAID THAT APART FROM THE REGULAR TWICE-A-YEAR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, FREQUENT CONTACTS WERE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE INTERPOL AND THE BORDER LIAISON GROUP OVER MAJOR ISSUES THAT CONCERNED THE TWO TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS IN CHINA WHICH WERE ATTENDED BY SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS, AND THAT HE WAS ASSURED THAT THROUGH THE NUMEROUS CONTACTS, THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AND THE CLOSEST CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, MANY CRIMES WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY CONTAINED.

REVIEWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICE FORCE OVER THE YEARS, MR LI SAID HONG KONG HAD GRADUALLY EVOLVED FROM A BASIC MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE-ORIENTED CENTRE TO A WORLD TRADE AND FINANCE CENTRE IN THE PAST 30 YEARS.

"THIS CHANGE IN ROLE, COUPLED WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND OF THE GROWING POPULATION, HAS NECESSITATED THE FORCE TO ADAPT TO CIRCUMSTANCES AND IMPROVE IN RESPECT OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, MANPOWER STRUCTURE, RESOURCES PLANNING, AND POLICING TECHNIQUES," HE SAID.

AN EXAMPLE IS THE INCREASE IN THE RATIO OF POLICE OFFICERS TO THE POPULATION, WHICH IN 1957 WAS 2.3 TO 1,000 AND NOWADAYS 4.5 TO 1,000.

MR LI SAID THE FORCE HAD ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS IN ITS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE COMPUTERS HAD GREATLY ENHANCED EFFICIENCY IN THE FORCE.

"THE ACQUISITION OF NEW SYSTEMS HAS GREATLY FACILITATED POLICE IN THEIR OPERATIONS AND BROUGHT ABOUT A MORE SYSTEMETIC APPROACH TOWARD MANPOWER PLANNING AND PERSONNEL TRAINING.

"THE INTERFACE OF A NEW COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN ALL CONTROL CENTRES WILL BRING THE FORCE INTO A NEW ERA, AND THERE ARE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION OF FINGERPRINTS, VICTIMS, ECT AS WELL AS FOR THE FAST AND EASY RETRIEVAL OF CRIMINAL DATA," MR LI ADDED.

HOWEVER, MR LI SAID DEVELOPMENT IN TECHNOLOGY HAD TO GO HAND IN HAND WITH EFFECTIVE RESOURCES PLANNING AND UP-TO-DATE POLICING TECHNIQUES.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME HONG KONG CRIMINALS WERE INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL CRIME AND THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT LOCAL POLICE STEP UP CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER POLICE FORCES WORLDWIDE.

"THE INTERPOL BUREAU HEREWITH WITHIN OUR CRIME WING IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST AND MOST ACTIVE IN THE ASIAN REGION, DEALING WITH 6,500 ENQUIRIES A YEAR.

"WE CURRENTLY HAVE TWO OFFICERS SECONDED TO THE INTERPOL GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND ANOTHER STATIONED IN BANGKOK.

"THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU AND THE NARCOTICS BUREAU ARE ALSO VERY ACTIVE AS BOTH BUREAUX REGULARLY HAVE OFFICERS JETTING OFF TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD TO LIAISE ON MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS," MR LI SAID.

MR LI SAID THE FORCE WOULD FACE MORE CHALLENGES IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

HE SAID: "THE NEARER IT IS TO 1997, THE BIGGER THE COMMUNITY'S REQUIREMENT OF A COMPETENT POLICE FORCE AND WE SHALL TAKE WITH US THIS CHALLENGE BY CONTINUING IN THE BEST OF OUR TRADITION AS A PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT POLICE FORCE OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE."

MR LI SAID PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN RESPECT OF THE FORCE'S STRUCTURE, OFFICE QUARTERS, EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER WOULD REMAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH AND IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE DEMANDS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE KOWLOON REGION WOULD BE SPLIT INTO KOWLOON EAST AND KOWLOON WEST AS FROM JANUARY AND THAT THERE WAS ALSO A PLAN TO DIVIDE THE NEW TERRITORIES INTO TWO REGIONS.

MR LI CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO RENDER THE BIGGEST OF THEIR SUPPORT TO THE POLICE TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO REMAIN ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY

* * * * * *

THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION'S 24TH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 1991.

THE MEETING WILL REVIEW THE 1991/92 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

TODD MEETS DB CHAIRMEN

* * * * *

AS PART OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS ON PLANNING REFORMS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT, MR JOHN TODD, TODAY (MONDAY) HELD A DISCUSSION SESSION WITH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN.

THE MEETING, CONVENED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AT ITS HEADQUARTERS, WAS ATTENDED BY THE CHAIRMEN OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES OF 10 DISTRICT BOARDS.

MR TODD MADE CLEAR SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST PLANNING COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND A PLANNING BETTERMENT LEVY, AND LISTENED TO VIEWS ON RELATED ISSUES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE TWO ISSUES COULD BE QUITE INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER.

"IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN A GENERAL SENSE, THE COMMITTEE OBVIOUSLY HAD TO LOOK AT THE AFFORDABILITY TO THE TAXPAYERS AS WELL AS THE PROPERTY OWNER AND DEVELOPER, AND PROPOSE A FAIR SYSTEM.

MR TODD ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE ARGUMENTS BOTH ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT WERE FINELY BALANCED.

WHILE THE LEGAL POSITION SEEMED GENERALLY CLEAR, THAT FOR EXAMPLE COMPENSATION ONLY HAD TO BE GIVEN WHEN PROPERTY RIGHTS WERE TOTALLY REMOVED, AND THAT EXISTING AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION OVERRODE PROVISIONS IN LEASES EVEN IF THEY WERE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AS LANDLORD, NEVERTHELESS THE MORAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS WERE NOT SO CLEAR.

THIS WAS WHY IT WAS VERY USEFUL TO HEAR FROM GROUPS SUCH AS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN.

SIMILARLY, ON THE BETTERMENT SIDE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY TAKING IN VARIOUS FORMS OF QUASI-BETTERMENT, SUCH AS LEASE MODIFICATION FEES, THERE WAS STILL A GAP BETWEEN TAXPAYERS' EXPENDITURE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BETTER-PLANNED AND MORE LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE UNTAXED WINDFALL ELEMENT OF PROFIT GAINED BY SOME FROM SUCH EXPENDITURE.

"THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO TRY TO EVEN OUT THE BURDEN AS WELL AS RATIONALISE THE SYSTEM," MR TODD SAID, "ALTHOUGH OF COURSE NO ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO TAX CAN EVER BE COMPLETELY FAIR AS WELL AS PRACTICABLE, LET ALONE POPULAR."

HE SAID THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE HAPPY IF THEY COULD COME UP WITH A SYSTEM WHICH WAS CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE AS WELL AS FAIR AND AFFORDABLE BY ALL SIDES.

/PARTICIPANTS FROM .....

PARTICIPANTS FROM DISTRICT BOARDS WERE INTERESTED IN THE ISSUES, AND MADE A NUMBER OF VERY USEFUL COMMENTS WHICH MR TODD WOULD TAKE UP WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE OF ITS WORK, MR TODD EXPLAINED, WITH PRELIMINARY RESEARCH ON THE LATEST AND HISTORICAL SITUATION OVERSEAS AND IN HONG KONG.

AS WELL AS ARRANGING FOR FORMAL SUBMISSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS, IN THE SECOND STAGE, IT EXPECTS VARIOUS OTHER PROFESSIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS TO PUT IN SUBMISSIONS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AND FOLLOWED UP.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT IS DUE TO BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN THE FIRST PART OF NEXT YEAR ALONG WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S FINALISED PROPOSALS ON THE REST OF THE NEW PLANNING ORDINANCE.

THEREAFTER, IT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

MR TODD SAID HE WAS EXPECTING MOST OF THE MAJOR SUBMISSIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE SECRETARY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, DR SIMON VICKERS, WILL ALSO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THOSE INTERESTED DISTRICT BOARDS TO SAMPLE VIEWS AND EXPLAIN ISSUES FURTHER.

"DISTRICT BOARDS' VIEWS SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL ON PLANNING MATTERS AS PLANNING IS ESSENTIALLY A LOCAL AFFAIR," MR TODD EXPLAINED.

HE ALSO URGED THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE VIEWS ON PLANNING COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT INCLUDING WIDER RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS RATES, LAND TAXES, THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN STORAGE PROBLEMS, PLANNING BLIGHT ETC. TO WRITE TO OR VISIT THE SECRETARY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SEVENTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING, ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATEMENT ON ALGAE IN RESERVOIR

* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"ALGAE CAN SURVIVE IN ALL TYPES OF WATER, THEY ARE FOUND MAINLY ON THE WATER SURFACE. GENERALLY SPEAKING, ALGAE CAN GROW ALL YEAR ROUND, ALTHOUGH THEY USUALLY PROLIFERATE IN SPRING AND AUTUMN.

"THE OCCURRENCE OF ALGAL GROWTH IN PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR IS NOT UNCOMMON. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT AFFECT THE DRINKING WATER QUALITY AS THEY CAN BE REMOVED COMPLETELY BY WATER TREATMENT PROCESSES.

/"THIS YEAR .....

"THIS YEAR, MORE ALGAE IS FOUND NEAR THE MAIN DAM OF THE RESERVOIR. THE MAIN CAUSE WAS DUE TO THE TEMPERATURE CHANGE IN LATE SEPTEMBER, LEADING TO OVERTURN OF THE RESERVOIR AND BRINGING MINERALS RELEASED FROM THE BOTTOM MUD, THEREBY ACCELERATING ALGAL GROWTH.

"THE EFFECT HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED BY THE RELATIVELY LOWER WATER LEVEL IN THE RESERVOIR DUE TO DRY RAINY SEASON WITH LOW DILUTION FACTOR THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THE ALGAL ACTIVITIES IS EXPECTED TO DROP DRASTICALLY IN COOLER CLIMATES.

"AT PLOVER COVE, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS SEVERAL DRAW-OFF LEVELS AT VARIOUS DEPTHS OF THE RESERVOIR FOR DRAWING WATER TO WATER TREATMENT WORKS. CLOSE MONITORING IS MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ABSTRACT WATER FROM THE MOST SUITABLE LEVEL FOR TREATMENT.

"AT WATER TREATMENT WORKS, THE TREATMENT PROCESSES SUCH AS FLOCCULATION, SEDIMENTATION AND FILTRATION ARE CAPABLE OF REMOVING ALGAE COMPLETELY. THE QUALITY OF SUPPLY TO CONSUMERS CONFORMS TO THE INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DRINKING WATER AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE TO DRINK.

"ANOTHER MEASURE TAKEN BY WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS THE STOCKING OF FISH SUCH AS SILVER CARP INTO PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR TO CONTROL ALGAL GROWTH, WHICH HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE THE MOST EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR MAINTAINING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE IN THE RESERVOIR.

"SIMILAR FINDINGS OF USING SILVER CARP TO CONTROL ALGAL GROWTH SUCCESSFULLY HAS ALSO BEEN OBSERVED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, FOR EXAMPLE NETOFA RESERVOIRS IN ISRAEL."

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE IMPORTED WORKERS FOUND UNDERPAID

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS DISCOVERED MORE CASES OF WAGE UNDERPAYMENT TO IMPORTED WORKERS DURING A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE THAT IMPORTED WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR WAGES IN FULL.

"DURING THEIR VISITS TO 670 ESTABLISHMENTS LAST MONTH, LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND 87 EMPLOYERS PAYING IMPORTED WORKERS WAGES LESS THAN THE AMOUNT STATED IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION), MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN, SAID.

"THESE CASES WILL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND, WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE, PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE EMPLOYERS CONCERNED," HE STRESSED.

"WE HAVE ALSO FOUND 131 EMPLOYERS PAYING WAGES THROUGH BANKS INTO THE IMPORTED WORKERS' ACCOUNTS," HE ADDED, NOTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY ADVISED ALL EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS TO CHANGE TO BANK AUTO-PAY TO AVOID POSSIBLE ILLEGAL WAGE DEDUCTION.

/"OUR INSPECTORS .....

"OUR INSPECTORS WILL CALL ON THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO DO NOT TAKE OUR ADVICE AND WILL WITNESS PAYMENT OF WAGES TO ENSURE THAT THE IMPORTED WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR WAGES IN FULL," HE ADDED.

UNDER A CURRENT CAMPAIGN, LABOUR INSPECTORS FROM THE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAMS WILL VISIT ALL ESTABLISHMENTS IMPORTING FOREIGN LABOUR TO CHECK THE WAGE RECORDS KEPT BY THE EMPLOYERS.

"LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL ALSO INTERVIEW INDIVIDUAL IMPORTED WORKERS ON THEIR WAGES, OTHER BENEFITS AND GENERAL WORKING CONDITIONS," MR CHAN SAID.

"WORKERS WILL BE GIVEN LEAFLETS IN SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS SETTING OUT THEIR STATUTORY AND CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THEM TO LODGE COMPLAINTS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN REMINDED THAT ILLEGAL DEDUCTION FROM WAGES OR UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES TO AN IMPORTED WORKER CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF $20,000.

HE CALLED ON IMPORTED WORKERS TO REPORT ANY MALPRACTICES OF UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS AND ASSURED THEM OF ASSISTANCE IN RE-EMPLOYMENT SHOULD THEY BE DISMISSED BY EMPLOYERS THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN.

"WE WILL ALSO ASSIST WORKERS IN THEIR APPLICATION TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR AN EXTENSION OF STAY IN THE TERRITORY FOR THE BALANCE OF THEIR CONTRACT PERIOD," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

* * * * * *

THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED THOSE WHO INTEND TO APPLY FOR THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1992-93 TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS ON OR BEFORE SATURDAY (OCTOBER 12).

THE FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING THE BEST STUDENTS TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION IN REPUTABLE INSTITUTIONS OVERSEAS.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR THE AWARDS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE COMMUNITY UPON RETURN FROM THEIR OVERSEAS STUDIES.

THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS UPON GRADUATION.

THE FELLOWSHIPS ARE FOR STUDIES LEADING TO POSTGRADUATE DEGREES EITHER BY RESEARCH OR BY COURSEWORK; THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES LEADING TO FIRST DEGREES.

/THE APPLICANTS .....

THE APPLICANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING ALL APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS OF THEIR CHOICE, AND BE OFFERED A PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY.

THE VALUE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP IS ABOUT $160,000 PER YEAR FOR UP TO TWO YEARS; THE VALUE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IS ABOUT $145,000 PER YEAR UP TO THREE YEARS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION NOTES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

* STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY,
QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
LOW BLOCK, GROUND FLOOR,
66 QUEENSWAY.

* STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY,
FIFTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING,
16 ICE HOUSE STREET,
CENTRAL.

* EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
CAREER AND GUIDANCE SERVICE SECTION,
ROOM 206,
MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
30 LUEN WAN STREET,
MONG KOK.

* YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING,
15 MIDDLE ROAD,
TSIM SHA TSUI.

* THE BRITISH COUNCIL,
EASEY COMMERCIAL BUILDING,
255 HENNESSY ROAD,
WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 867 2735.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLEAN WASHROOM COMPETITION FOR WAN CHAI FOOD SHOPS

* * * * * * * * *

WAN CHAI FOOD SHOP OPERATORS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE DISTRICT'S CLEAN WASHROOM COMPETITION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED SHOP OPERATORS THAT THEY STILL HAD ONE MORE WEEK TO JOIN BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON OCTOBER 15.

HE SAID THE CONTEST, HELD IN THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING, WAS AIMED AT INCREASING FOOD SHOP OPERATORS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR BUSINESS PREMISES CLEAN.

/"BY PARTICIPATING .....

"BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPETITION, OPERATORS CAN TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAN UP THEIR PREMISES AND AT THE SAME TIME WIN COMMENDATION MEDALS," HE SAID.

AFTER ALL, THEY ARE REQUIRED UNDER EXISTING REGULATIONS TO KEEP EVERY PLACE OF BUSINESS OPERATION, INCLUDING WASHROOMS, IN TIDY AND HYGIENIC CONDITION, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS FOR CHINESE/SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS, WESTERN STYLE/FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS, AND SMALL-SCALE FOOD SHOPS.

THE TOP THREE WINNERS IN EACH SECTION WILL BE AWARDED MEDALS AND PRIZES AT A CEREMONY IN DECEMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE THE COMPETITION'S ADJUDICATORS WHO WILL MAKE ASSESSMENT DURING THEIR VISITS TO THE PARTICIPATING SHOPS NEXT MONTH.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 835 1994.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER STORAGE FIGURE

* * * * *

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 45.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 267.608 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 337.520 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 57.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRESH WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG

* * * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG, KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 9) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT KWUN TONG ROAD, HONG NING ROAD, KUNG LOK ROAD, LUEN ON STREET AND INCLUDING 301-375 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD AND LOTUS TOWER BLOCKS 1-4.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	$ MILLION
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	5.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	7.10.91	+266
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-266
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.7 **+0.0* 7.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		4.10.91	7.10.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	4.04 PCT	4.04 PCT
	1 MONTH	3.86 PCT	3.83 PCT
	3 MONTHS	4.00 PCT	3.92 PCT
	6 MONTHS	4.45 PCT	4.26 PCT
	12 MONTHS	5.14 PCT	4.94 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER		9,200 MN	6,920 MN

- - - - 0 - - - -