



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1992

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GOOD LINKS BETWEEN HK AND SHENZHEN AIRPORT NEEDED: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOOD COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE NEW AIRPORT AT SHENZHEN WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BOTH PLACES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE LOK MA CHAU BORDER CROSSING ON HIS RETURN FROM A TWO-DAY VISIT TO GUANGDONG, LORD WILSON SAID THE IMPRESSION HE GOT OF THE NEW SHENZHEN AIRPORT AT HUANGTIAN WAS THAT IT COULD BE USEFUL TO HONG KONG.

LORD WILSON SAID KAI TAK AIRPORT WAS BECOMING VERY CROWDED, TO USE SHENZHEN AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY FOR INTERNAL CHINA FLIGHTS COULD RELIEF A LOT OF THE STRAIN ON HONG KONG.

ON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MATTERS, LORD WILSON SAID HONG KONG HAD VERY GOOD LIAISON WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN GUANGDONG AND THAT WOULD CONTINUE.

"WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS HOW THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IS MADE EVEN CLOSER IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE GET OUR NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK," HE SAID.

LORD WILSON SAID HE HAD SPOKEN BOTH TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG AND THE MAYOR OF SHENZHEN ON THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING.

"I HAVE PASSED ON A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE GATHERED ABOUT THE SMUGGLING PROBLEM AND THE GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THAT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS  
TO HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT BOTH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY IN THE COMING YEAR.

MRS WONG SAID: "THE PUBLIC DEMAND FOR MORE AND BETTER SERVICES MUST BE MET IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY POSSIBLE.

"TO FINANCE IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION, WE MUST ALSO MAKE FOR MORE EFFICIENT OPERATIONS AND MANAGE OUR RESOURCES BETTER.

"LAST YEAR, I INTRODUCED REFORMS AND INITIATIVES. THIS YEAR WE WILL IMPLEMENT AND DEVELOP THEM."

MRS WONG WAS SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION OUTLINING THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR HER PROGRAMME AREAS.

/ALSO ATTENDING .....

ALSO ATTENDING THE SESSION WERE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT; THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE; AND THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, DR E.K. YEOH.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SPEND \$17.9 BILLION IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN THE HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN 1992-93.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF \$1,601 MILLION FOR HEALTH AND \$223.6 MILLION FOR WELFARE OVER THEIR RESPECTIVE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1991-92.

"THIS IS INDEED A WELCOME AND ENCOURAGING INCREASE. IT WILL ENABLE ME TO FULFIL MY POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR," SHE SAID.

ON THE WELFARE SIDE, A TOTAL OF \$6.144 BILLION HAS BEEN BUDGETED FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 1992-93, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF \$625 MILLION OVER THE APPROVED ESTIMATES AND \$170 MILLION OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1991-92.

FURTHERMORE, A TOTAL OF \$44.3 MILLION, WITH A FULL-YEAR EXTENSION COST OF \$89 MILLION, HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES.

THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE USED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990S AND BEYOND; TO MEET GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL SECURITY, INCLUDING THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN CASELOAD AND REVISION OF RATES OF PAYMENT IN LINE WITH INFLATION; AND TO CONTINUE THE GROWTH IN PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES, ELDERLY PERSONS AND THE DISABLED.

PROVISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THE NEW HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL PENSION SCHEME UNDER WHICH, 568 WAR VETERANS AND EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ARE NOW RECEIVING PENSIONS.

AS REGARDS REHABILITATION SERVICES, THE SECRETARY SAID THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM HAD BEEN REVIEWED COMPREHENSIVELY IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION WHICH IS DUE FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MARCH 11 THIS YEAR.

"IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL FORMULATE A LONG-TERM STRATEGY IN THE FORM OF A WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES," MRS WONG SAID.

TURNING TO THE HEALTH ASPECT, MRS WONG SAID A SUM OF \$1.4 BILLION HAD BEEN SOUGHT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WHICH WAS \$149 MILLION UP OVER THE APPROVED ESTIMATES AND \$30 MILLION UP OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR LAST YEAR.

THE INCREASE WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND ORAL HEALTH CARE WHICH ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES.

SHE CONSIDERED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND ORAL HEALTH CARE AS ESSENTIALLY PROMOTIVE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES.

"IN OTHER WORDS IT IS PARTICIPATORY CARE, INVOLVING NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO THE PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS," SHE SAID.

TO CITE A FEW EXAMPLES, SHE SAID NETWORKING OF SERVICES IN A DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM AND OTHER REFORMS WILL PROVIDE BETTER CO-ORDINATED PREVENTATIVE AND CURATIVE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

A PILOT SCHEME WILL START IN KWUN TONG NEXT MONTH AND THERE WILL ALSO BE NEW CLINIC SERVICES, EXPANSION OF THE HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND FUNDS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL CLINIC EQUIPMENT.

MRS WONG ALSO SPOKE ON THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) WHICH TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS LAST DECEMBER.

FOR 1992-93, THE HA HAS SOUGHT \$10.265 BILLION IN BLOCK VOTES.

OF WHICH, \$10.035 BILLION IS EARMARKED FOR OPERATING COST; \$160 MILLION FOR PLANT, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT; AND \$70 MILLION FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERISATION.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THEM TO GET OFF TO A GOOD START - TO INTRODUCE MANAGEMENT REFORMS, TO INTEGRATE THE FORMER SUBVENTED AND GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND TO DEVELOP PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR IMPROVED PATIENT CARE," SHE NOTED.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE SAID A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 4.

THE ACADEMY, WHICH WILL RAISE ITS OWN FUNDS, WILL PRODUCE MEDICAL SPECIALISTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"BUT A GOVERNMENT GRANT OF \$10 MILLION IS PROPOSED AS AN INDICATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT.

"THIS IS SUBJECT TO SEPARATE APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND IS NOT YET INCLUDED IN THESE ESTIMATES," MRS WONG SAID.

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NEW SWD PROJECT FUNDINGS FOR 92/93 FISCAL YEAR

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SPEND A TOTAL OF \$6.144 BILLION IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF \$625 MILLION (OR 11 PER CENT) OVER THE APPROVED ESTIMATE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, OR \$170 MILLION (2.8 PER CENT) OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATE.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE MRS ROSE GOODSTADT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR ALSO INCLUDED AN ADDITIONAL \$79.5 MILLION TO FUND RECENTLY INTRODUCED AND NEW SERVICES FOR THOUSANDS OF CLIENTS.

"WE HAVE CHOSEN OUR PRIORITIES FOR NEW PROJECTS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN LAST YEAR'S WHITE PAPER. THE RESULT OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS WILL BE INCREASED SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD."

FOR EXAMPLE, MRS GOODSTADT SAID, THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL 1,400 DAY NURSERY PLACES, AS WELL AS SIX SMALL GROUP HOMES AND 80 FOSTER CARE PLACES FOR CHILDREN.

"WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE PROVISION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES. THERE WILL BE SEVEN MORE SUCH CENTRES NEXT YEAR."

TURNING TO ELDERLY SERVICES, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 527 PLACES IN HOMES AND CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WOULD BE SEVEN SOCIAL CENTRES, THREE DAY CARE CENTRES, AND ONE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE.

MRS GOODSTADT STRESSED THAT REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES WOULD SEE THE LARGEST EXPANSION.

"AN ADDITIONAL 1,627 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR SEVERELY HANDICAPPED ADULTS. THIS INCLUDES 507 RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT BE TAKEN CARE OF AT HOME."

SHE SAID THE EXPANSION IN REHABILITATION SERVICES ALONE COST AN ADDITIONAL \$21.9 MILLION.

SHE SAID: "OF COURSE, A VERY LARGE SHARE OF THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR SOCIAL WELFARE WILL BE SPENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY - \$4.023 BILLION.

"THIS MONEY WILL HELP SOME 550,000 CLIENTS EVERY MONTH. THEY INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED BUT ALSO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE INCOMES.

"AND THE FUNDS DEVOTED TO SOCIAL SECURITY WILL BE INCREASED, IN APRIL, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, TO MAKE SURE THAT SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ARE INCREASED IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

"I ALSO WANT TO EMPHASISE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY - WE WILL PROVIDE THESE BENEFITS TO ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS."

COMMENTING ON THE 92/93 EXPENDITURE, MRS GOODSTADT SAID: "WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO TWO THINGS FOLLOWING THE INCREASE IN THE FUNDS FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"FIRSTLY, WE ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR ALREADY VERY EXTENSIVE PROGRAMMES, SERVING A TOTAL OF 500,000 CLIENTS, EXCLUDING SOCIAL SECURITY CASES.

/"SECONDLY, WE .....

"SECONDLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PUSH AHEAD WITH NEW PROJECTS THAT WILL UPGRADE OR EXPAND ALMOST EVERY AREA OF SERVICE.

"IN SHORT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN THE RESOURCES TO GET ON WITH ITS JOB OF IMPROVING BOTH THE QUALITY AND RANGE OF SERVICES FOR ITS CLIENTS," SHE CONCLUDED.

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#### FESTIVAL HK TO BOOST TIES

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FESTIVAL HONG KONG 1992 TO BE HELD IN CANADA IN SEPTEMBER WOULD BUILD UP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AND WAYS OF LIFE BETWEEN BOTH PLACES, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE PATRONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FESTIVAL, HE SAID THE HEADS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED TO BE HONORARY PATRONS FOR THE FESTIVAL.

THE FESTIVAL - THE BIGGEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS OVERSEAS PROMOTION HONG KONG HAD EVER STAGED - WOULD HAVE LESS IMPACT IF IT WERE JUST A GOVERNMENT EFFORT, SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE NEED THE CO-OPERATION AND PARTICIPATION OF MANY ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

"RESPONSE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND IMPRESSIVE, BOTH IN TERMS OF DONATIONS AND OFFERS OF SERVICES. EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM ALL QUARTERS," HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY BY OFFERING TO ORGANISE A SERIES OF EVENTS UNDER THE FESTIVAL BANNER.

SIR DAVID SAID THE FESTIVAL'S THEME - BRIDGE ACROSS THE PACIFIC - WAS A VERY APT ONE BECAUSE HONG KONG'S LINKS WITH CANADA DATED BACK OVER 100 YEARS WHEN CANADIAN SHIPS ARRIVED HERE TO SHARE IN THE CHINA SEA TRADE.

SINCE THEN, THE LINKS BETWEEN BOTH PLACES HAD GROWN STRONGER AND EXTENDED INTO MANY OTHER AREAS.

RECOGNISING THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED AN ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TORONTO LAST OCTOBER TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG AS WELL AS ORGANISE AND CO-ORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN CANADA.

CANADA IS HONG KONG'S NINTH LARGEST MARKET. TOTAL EXPORTS TO CANADA FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WERE \$12,206 MILLION, UP 12 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

/IMPORTS FROM .....

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IMPORTS FROM CANADA WERE \$3,008 MILLION, UP 24 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT CANADA WAS WELL REPRESENTED IN MANY SECTORS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING BANKING, TRADING, MANUFACTURING AND OTHER SERVICE SECTORS.

NOTING THAT CANADA WAS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR COUNTRIES FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS, HE SAID ABOUT 16,000 HONG KONG STUDENTS WERE STUDYING IN CANADA AND AN ESTIMATED 70,000 STUDENTS HAD SINCE RETURNED AFTER GRADUATION FROM CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

WHILE MANY HONG KONG RESIDENTS HAVE SOUGHT A NEW LIFE ABROAD IN CANADA, HONG KONG IS HOME TO SOME 35,000 CANADIANS, THE BIGGEST CANADIAN COMMUNITY IN ASIA.

SIR DAVID THANKED THE PATRONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE FESTIVAL AND HE HOPED MORE PATRONS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

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FESTIVAL HK '92 GIVEN A BOOST FROM PRIVATE SECTOR  
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THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS PLEDGED A TOTAL OF \$13.08 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT AN OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE FESTIVAL WHICH ALSO MARKED THE INAUGURATION OF A FESTIVAL PATRONS COMMITTEE, MR SO SAID THE ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY HAD DEMONSTRATED FULL SUPPORT OF THE FESTIVAL OBJECTIVE - TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA.

EACH OF THE 12 PATRONS PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY HAS PLEDGED SPONSORSHIP OF AT LEAST \$1 MILLION, EITHER IN CASH OR IN KIND, IN SUPPORT OF FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92.

MR SO, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP ON FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92, RECEIVED A GIANT CHEQUE FROM THE 12 PATRONS DURING THE CEREMONY.

THE PATRONS ARE THE HUTCHISON GROUP, THE ASSOCIATION OF CHAIRMEN OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, THE CANADIAN AIRLINES INTERNATIONAL, THE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LTD, THE CHEVALIER INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LTD, CHOW SANG SANG JEWELLERY COMPANY LTD, HANG SENG BANK, DR STANLEY HO, THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, THE HONG KONG TELECOM, THE PO LEUNG KUK PAST AND PRESENT CHAIRMEN AND DIRECTORS AND THE SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES LTD.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THE FESTIVAL WOULD HAVE LESS IMPACT IF IT WERE A SOLE GOVERNMENT EFFORT.

/"RESPONSE FROM .....

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"RESPONSE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND IMPRESSIVE, IN TERMS OF DONATIONS AND OFFER OF SERVICE. EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM ALL QUARTERS," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY BY OFFERING TO ORGANISE A SERIES OF EVENTS UNDER THE FESTIVAL BANNER, SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, MR JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM, SYMBOLICALLY UNVEILED A FESTIVAL LOGO TO KICK OFF THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER.

MR HIGGINBOTHAM READ OUT AN ENCOURAGING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, MR BRIAN MULRONEY, WISHING THE ORGANISERS OF THE FESTIVAL EVERY SUCCESS.

THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR ALSO PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO THE PATRONS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT TO THE FESTIVAL.

THE CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A PREVIEW OF A 10-MINUTE PERFORMANCE BY THE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY ON AN EXCERPT FROM "JOURNEY TO THE WEST".

FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92, THE BIGGEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS OVERSEAS PROMOTION HONG KONG HAS EVER STAGED, WILL BRING TO CANADA MORE THAN 50 EVENTS AND OVER 400 PERFORMERS AND PARTICIPANTS.

FIVE MAJOR CITIES - VANCOUVER, CALGARY, TORONTO, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA - WILL BE VISITED.

"WE HOPE TO SHOW CANADIANS IN CANADA A REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE OF HONG KONG'S LIFE AND CULTURE THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF EVENTS," MR SO SAID.

"THEY INCLUDE CULTURAL PROGRAMMES BY HONG KONG'S PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUPS; EXHIBITIONS OF HONG KONG INK PAINTINGS, CHINESE THEATRE, OLD CHINESE COINS AND CURRENCY; SPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS; FOOD FESTIVALS AND HONG KONG FILMS FESTIVAL," HE ADDED.

THE CORE PROGRAMME OF THE FESTIVAL IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$40 MILLION, OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY FOR HALF OF THE AMOUNT AND THE OTHER \$20 MILLION WILL BE COVERED BY PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

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WALLED CITY CLEARREES REMINDED OF CLEARANCE DEADLINE

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR PHILIP CHOK, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED THOSE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARREES STILL REMAINING IN PHASE IIA OF THE CLEARANCE TO LEAVE BY MONDAY (MARCH 2) REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION OFFERS.

"THE CLEARANCE DEADLINE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED ON MARCH 3 AS WAS DONE FOR PHASE I," MR CHOK SAID.

AT PRESENT, 176 HOUSEHOLDS REMAIN IN PHASE IIA OF THE WALLED CITY. OF THESE, ONLY 54 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE YET TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION OFFERS.

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT STAFF, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JOHN CORRIGALL, HAVE BEEN MEETING THESE CLEARREES DURING THE WEEK IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT.

MR CHOK ADDED THAT THOSE PHASE IIA CLEARREES WHO WERE STILL DISSATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION OFFERS WOULD HAVE UP TO MAY 2 EITHER TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE A CLAIM FOR HIGHER COMPENSATION OR TO APPEAL TO THE ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD.

HE STRESSED THAT APPEALS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WOULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

THE CLEARANCE IS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN FOUR PHASES. MARCH 2 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SECOND PHASE WHILE THE REMAINING TWO PHASES WILL BE CLEARED ON APRIL 6 AND JUNE 1 THIS YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST OVER \$3.1 BILLION. SO FAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID OUT \$2.54 BILLION.

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CHALLENGING YEAR FOR HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE

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THE YEAR OF 1992 WOULD BE FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ALSO WITH UNCERTAINTIES, FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, MR TSANG SAID HONG KONG WOULD NO DOUBT BE FACING NEW CHALLENGES BECAUSE A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER WAS EVOLVING.

MANUFACTURERS WERE URGED TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY WITH THEIR UNBENDING DETERMINATION AND STRENGTH.

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ON THE OUTLOOK OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE THIS YEAR, MR TSANG HIGHLIGHTED THE URUGUAY ROUND (UR) OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH AIMED AT FURTHERING TRADE LIBERALISATION.

"THIS ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HAS GONE ON FOR FIVE LONG YEARS. THE SLOW PROGRESS HAS CREATED A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTIES.

"WE HAVE HEARD FEARS ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE ROUND AND THE RISE OF REGIONAL TRADING BLOCS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS STILL A GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) WAS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE OPEN MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. AND THIS SYSTEM IS THE CORNERSTONE OF HONG KONG'S TRADING POLICY.

AN ELEMENT IN THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG, WAS THE PROGRAMME TO PHASE OUT THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE EXISTING MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) AND TO RETURN TRADE IN TEXTILES TO GATT RULES OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

OTHER ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THE NEW ANTI-DUMPING CODES AND TRADE IN SERVICES, WOULD ALSO HAVE IMPACTS ON HONG KONG'S OVERALL TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

MR TSANG SAID HE SINCERELY HOPED THAT THE UR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COME TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"WE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WITH THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IN PARTICULAR, SHALL DO OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE BALANCED RESULTS," HE ADDED.

ON SINO-AMERICAN TRADE RELATIONSHIP, MR TSANG HOPED THE U.S. AND CHINA COULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES BASED ON THEIR RECENT EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING THE SPECIAL 301 ISSUE IN RELATION TO THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL RIGHT.

ON THE MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION (MFN) TRADE STATUS, THE U.S. SENATE PASSED A BILL ATTACHING CONDITIONS ON RENEWAL OF CHINA'S STATUS BY 59 TO 39 VOTES TWO DAYS AGO.

MR TSANG WAS CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD VETO IT, ADDING THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S CASE IS HEARD AND ITS INTERESTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

IN EUROPE, THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES HONG KONG FACING CAME FROM THE FORMATION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

"WITH A TOTAL OF SOME 340 MILLION CONSUMERS, THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET OFFERS IMMENSE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE DISMANTLING OF INTERNAL BARRIERS TO ALLOW FOR THE FREE CIRCULATION OF GOODS, CAPITAL AND PEOPLE WOULD LOGICALLY RESULT IN IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS.

"HOWEVER, IT PROVIDES NO GUARANTEE THAT TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WILL BE EASY," MR TSANG SAID.

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE CONCERNS AMONG LOCAL TRADERS THAT THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET COULD BECOME "FORTRESS EUROPE" IN DISGUISE.

"THERE ARE ALSO FEARS THAT INCREASED COMPETITION FROM NON-EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIES WOULD LEAD TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF PROTECTIONISM FROM DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLOSELY MONITOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALERT LOCAL TRADERS OF POTENTIAL HAZARD," HE SAID.

MR TSANG DESCRIBED EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS "A MARKET OF TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL".

"THESE COUNTRIES' MOVE TOWARDS THE MARKET ECONOMY COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATION FOR US," HE SAID.

HE ADMITTED THAT TRADING WITH THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT WITHOUT ITS UNCERTAINTIES.

"PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HARD CURRENCY DEFICIENCIES, BURDEN OF EXTERNAL DEBTS, THE LACK OF APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE FLUID POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THESE COUNTRIES ALL CALL FOR EXTREME CAUTION IN DOING BUSINESS WITH THEM," MR TSANG SAID.

BUT HE WAS SURE THAT LOCAL TRADERS COULD FACE UP TO THIS CHALLENGE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

RETURNING CLOSER TO HOME, MR TSANG SAID THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WAS LIKELY TO BECOME AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER FOR HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG'S TOTAL IMPORTS WITH THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AMOUNT TO SOME 80 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL IMPORTS FROM THE WORLD.

"WITH INCREASED POLITICAL STABILITY, THE ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC WILL GROW EVEN MORE RAPIDLY.

"THE PEACE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN KAMPUCHEA, THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM SHOULD DO A GREAT DEAL IN NURTURING THE PROPER ECONOMIC CLIMATE AS WE ENTER INTO AN ERA OF PEACE AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT," MR TSANG SAID.

LASTLY, HE SAID THE ADMISSION LAST YEAR OF HONG KONG INTO THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WOULD DEFINITELY BRING FORWARD THE COMING OF AGE OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER.

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URUGUAY TEXTILES AGREEMENT TO REPLACE MFA

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THE DRAFT URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING SHOULD PROVIDE MORE CONTINUITY AND CERTAINTY TO HONG KONG'S TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE (MULTILATERAL), MR PATRICK LAU, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILE COUNCIL AND OTHER GARMENT ASSOCIATIONS TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A BRIEFING SESSION BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, MR LAU SAID THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS ON THE WHOLE ACCEPTABLE AS THE BASIS OF A FINAL AGREEMENT UNDER THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE DRAFT AGREEMENT MEETS OUR BROAD OBJECTIVES IN RESPECT OF OUR OVERALL MARKET ACCESS AND HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIERS," MR LAU SAID.

"IT PROVIDES CONTINUITY AND CERTAINTY FOR HONG KONG FOR 10 YEARS ON SLIGHTLY BETTER TERMS THAN THOSE AT PRESENT," MR LAU SAID.

IF THE ROUND IS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED WITHIN THIS YEAR, THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT MIGHT COMMENCE NEXT YEAR TO REPLACE THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) WHICH CURRENTLY GOVERNS WORLD TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AND WILL EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

OVER THE NEXT DECADE-DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES OF THREE, FOUR AND THREE YEARS-A TOTAL OF 51 PER CENT OF TEXTILE AND CLOTHING PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY INTEGRATED INTO THE GATT WHILE OTHER RESTRAINED PRODUCTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO GROWTH RATES SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THOSE NOW IN PLACE.

EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO RETAIN THE RIGHT TO ALLOCATE EXPORT QUOTAS TO THEIR TRADERS FOR THESE RESTRAINED PRODUCTS. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL OBTAIN THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS EVERY FEW YEARS.

TRADE IN TEXTILE PRODUCTS WILL BECOME SUBJECT TO STRENGTHENED GATT RULES AND DISCIPLINES CURRENTLY ALSO BEING NEGOTIATED UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND.

THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ALSO STRENGTHENS IMPORTERS' ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION TO DEAL WITH CIRCUMVENTION OF QUOTA BY ORIGIN FRAUD AND TRANSHIPMENT.

A TEXTILE MONITORING BODY (TMB) WILL BE SET UP TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. IT WILL REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY DISPUTES WHICH MAY ARISE.

"IN THE ABSENCE OF A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES THROUGH THE TMB, PARTIES MAY RESORT TO THE GATT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES," MR LAU SAID.

ON THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND, MR LAU SAID NEGOTIATIONS ON TARIFFS AND COMMITMENTS ON SERVICES WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF MARCH OR EVEN EARLY APRIL.

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HOWEVER, THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE ROUND WOULD DEPEND MUCH ON WHETHER, AND HOW SOON, THE BREAKTHROUGH IN THE AGRICULTURE TALKS WOULD COME.

FAILURE TO REACH A DEAL ON AGRICULTURE HAD LONG BEEN THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE FIVE-YEAR LONG WORLD TRADE TALKS.

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PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT VITAL

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PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN ADDING VALUE TO PRODUCTS AND WERE BECOMING AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS FACED INCREASING COMPETITION FROM OTHER ECONOMIES IN THE REGION AND GROWING PROTECTIONISM IN SOME OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS.

"CONSUMERS DEMAND GREATER QUALITY AND NOVELTY. AND OUR CAPACITY FOR EXPANSION WITHIN HONG KONG IS SEVERELY LIMITED BY LAND AND LABOUR CONSTRAINTS.

"FOR SOME TIME NOW, MANUFACTURERS HAVE RECOGNISED THAT THE ANSWERS TO THESE CHALLENGES LIE IN THE GREATER APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE TO THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS, INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCT DESIGN, AND GREATER ATTENTION TO QUALITY AND STANDARDS: IN SHORT, IN IMPROVING THE VALUE-ADDED CONTENT OF THE FINAL PRODUCT," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS, WAS AIMED AT AROUSING MANUFACTURERS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, AND AT INTRODUCING THE DESIGN SERVICES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

"EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANAGERS TO COMMENT ON THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN INTRODUCING PRODUCT DESIGN AND ON THEIR PLANS TO UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCT DESIGN CAPABILITY," HE SAID.

THE CO-ORGANISERS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE THE CHARTERED SOCIETY OF DESIGNERS - HONG KONG REGION; THE DESIGN COUNCIL OF HONG KONG; THE HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY LIMITED; THE HONG KONG DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION; THE MECHANICAL, MARINE AND CHEMICAL DIVISION OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS; THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL; AND THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE CONFERENCE IS SUPPORTED BY THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

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FLEXIBLE FEE-CHARGING FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES INTRODUCED

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FLEXIBLE FEE-CHARGING WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM SUNDAY (MARCH 1) FOR PARENTS WHO MAKE USE OF THE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES PROVIDED IN DAY NURSERIES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) SAID THE FLEXIBLE MODE WAS INTENDED TO CATER FOR PARENTS WHO MIGHT REQUIRE THE SERVICE FOR SHORT SPAN OF TIME.

HE SAID A LOWER RATE OF FEES WOULD BE CHARGED.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD ATTRACT MORE PARENTS TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE AND RELIEVE THE PROBLEM OF CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME," HE SAID.

OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED ON A TRIAL BASIS IN 53 DAY NURSERIES IN THE TERRITORY WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING THE RISK OF HAVING CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

CHARGES AT PRESENT ARE AT A RATE OF \$25 FOR HALF-DAY CARE AND \$50 FOR FULL-DAY CARE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHILE PRIORITY WOULD STILL BE GIVEN TO FULL-DAY AND HALF-DAY CARE, NURSERIES WOULD AT THE SAME TIME OFFER TEMPORARY CARE AT TWO-HOUR OR QUARTER-DAY BASES WITH FEES IN THE RANGE OF \$10 TO \$15 PER ADMISSION.

"INITIALLY, THE NEW FEE-CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN 45 DAY NURSERIES. THE REMAINING EIGHT WILL JOIN IN FROM APRIL 1," HE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE SWD HOTLINE ON TEL. 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON TEL. 578 1892.

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MERCHANT CONVICTED AND FINED FOR TAX EVASION

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A 45-YEAR-OLD MERCHANT WAS SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS, AND FINED A SUM OF \$10,000 ON EACH CHARGE PLUS A PENAL TAX OF \$3,400,653 IN THE DISTRICT COURT TODAY (THURSDAY) AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY OF EIGHT COUNTS OF OFFENCES RELATING TO SUBMITTING FRAUDULENT PROFITS TAX RETURNS.

THE DEFENDANT, MR WONG YUE HUNG, JOHNSON, OWNER OF A BUYING AGENT, PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO ALL THE CHARGES PROSECUTED AGAINST HIM UNDER SECTION 82(1) (a) AND 82(1) (d) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

THE PENAL TAX OF \$3,400,653 IMPOSED ON THE DEFENDANT REPRESENTED 300 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX EVADED. THE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS ON THE CONDITION THAT PENAL TAX ARE PAID BY TWO INSTALMENTS WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT THE DEFENDANT OWNED THE JOHNSON WONG COMPANY WHICH WAS A BUYING AGENT OF SHOES AND HANDBAGS FOR A U.S. COMPANY CALLED REMAC INC.

THE DEFENDANT IN HIS COMPANY'S TAX RETURNS FOR THE YEARS 1983/84 TO 1986/87 HAD UNDERSTATED THE COMMISSION INCOME RECEIVED FROM TWO SUPPLIERS OF THE U.S. COMPANY AMOUNTING TO \$ 6,774,241.

HE THEREFORE HAD UNDERSTATED THE COMPANY'S FULL PROFITS BY 93 PER CENT AND EVADED TAX AMOUNTING TO \$ 1,133,551 DURING THAT PERIOD.

THE DEFENDANT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATING AND COLLECTING COMMISSION PAYMENT FROM THE TWO SUPPLIERS, LIN'S (KWONG MING) ENTERPRISES LTD AND FANNY SHOES MANUFACTURING LTD.

THE DEFENDANT WAS ALSO A SHAREHOLDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE LATTER COMPANY.

IN PASSING SENTENCE, THE DEPUTY JUDGE ANTHONY TO SAID OFFENCES OF THIS NATURE WERE VERY SERIOUS INDEED AND IMMEDIATE CUSTODIAL SENTENCE WOULD SEEM JUSTIFIED.

HOWEVER, AS THE DEFENDANT'S TWO TEENAGE CHILDREN WHO HAD EMIGRATED AND WERE STUDYING ABROAD WOULD FACE FINANCIAL SUFFERING IF THE DEFENDANT WERE TO BE PUT IN CUSTODY, THE JUDGE GAVE HIM A SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT TAX EVASION IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

ON CONVICTION, THE MAXIMUM CUSTODIAL SENTENCE IS THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON EACH CHARGE PLUS A FURTHER FINE OF THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF TAX EVADED.

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SHOW TO PROMOTE SAFE HANDLING OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

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A ONE-WEEK EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 29) TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDLING INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS WITH THE GREATEST CARE.

THE "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE : INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND YOU" EXHIBITION, TO BE HELD AT THE NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN, IS ORGANISED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION (OHD) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND IS SPONSORED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

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"INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS ARE WIDELY USED IN WORKPLACES NOWADAYS AND IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE PUBLIC, WORKERS IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE HARM THEY MAY HAVE ON HEALTH IF NOT APPROPRIATELY HANDLED," THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONSULTANT IN CHARGE OF THE OHD, DR CHAN SIK-YUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AS WELL AS SLIDE AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS, VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTROL MEASURES BY THE SAFE HANDLING OF THESE CHEMICALS," DR CHAN SAID.

TWO MAJOR GROUPS OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS COMMONLY USED IN INDUSTRY ARE SOLVENTS AND METALS.

A WIDE RANGE OF MONITORING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR VARIOUS WORK PROCESSES WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

"VISITORS CAN TRY A LUNG FUNCTION TEST TO CHECK THE STATE OF HEALTH OF THEIR LUNGS AND CAN TAKE PART IN A RESPIRATOR EFFICIENCY TEST TO IDENTIFY THE SUITABLE TYPE OF RESPIRATOR FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF WORK," DR CHAN ADDED.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A QUIZ GAME FOR VISITORS TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AFTER THEY HAVE TOURED THE EXHIBITION.

STAFF OF THE OHD WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM VISITORS AND DISTRIBUTE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PAMPHLETS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR DARWIN CHEN, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH DR LEE SHIU-HUNG AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL MR K.Y. TONGSON AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 29).

IT WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM DAILY UNTIL 3 PM ON MARCH 6. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE : INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND YOU" EXHIBITION AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 29) AT THE FOOTBRIDGE GALLERY, LEVEL THREE, NEW TOWN PLAZA, SHA TIN.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN WAN CHAI, HONG KONG SO THAT IT CAN BE CLOSED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IS LOCATED AT THE SIDE LANE OF NOB. 2-16A BOWRINGTON ROAD, WAN CHAI.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 19 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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FIGHT CRIME CONCERT IN KWAI CHUNG

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KWAI TSING RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-CORRUPTION CONCERT ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 29) AT THE EXHIBITION PLATFORM, FIRST FLOOR, METROPLAZA, KWAI FONG.

THE CONCERT WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS, THE ECHO, CASS PHANG, CHRIS WONG, STEPHANIE LAI AND THE FACE TO FACE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A LION DANCE BY THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS, A PARADE BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE PIPE BAND AND A PERFORMANCE BY THE KWAI TSING CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND A MAGIC SHOW.

AT THE SAME TIME, WINNERS OF THE DISTRICT'S 91 FIGHT CRIME SINGING CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES.

THE CONCERT WILL START AT 3 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WITH SPONSORSHIPS FROM THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, THE CONCERT AIMS AT SPREADING THE FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MESSAGES AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE ACTING KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROY TANG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEUNG KWONG-CHEONG, AND DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CONCERT.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-CORRUPTION CONCERT.

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FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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A FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD IN THE ABERDEEN PROMENADE ON SUNDAY (MARCH 1) TO PUT ACROSS ANTI-CRIME MESSAGES TO RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

WITH THE THEME "PREVENT, REPORT AND PROVE CRIME", THE CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 5 PM.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ALL RESIDENTS IN THE AREA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

IN ADDITION TO A HOST OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED GAME STALLS, THERE WILL BE A DRAMA, QUIZZES AND AN EXHIBITION OF WINNING ENTRIES OF A COLOURING COMPETITION.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS WILL INCLUDE POP SONGS, DANCES, KUNG FU DEMONSTRATION, ACROBATIC SHOWS AS WELL AS PERFORMANCES BY THE DISTRICT'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR, THE POLICE PIPE BAND AND POLICE DOGS.

THREE RESIDENTS WILL RECEIVE THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME AWARDS" AT A CEREMONY DURING THE CARNIVAL. THEY HAVE BEEN COMMENDED FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY HELP TO THE POLICE IN THE ARREST OF CRIMINALS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT COURT TESTIMONIES WHICH RESULTED IN THE CRIMINALS' CONVICTION.

THE CARNIVAL IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

OFFICIATING AT ITS OPENING WILL BE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE; POLICE WESTERN DISTRICT DIVISION COMMANDER, MR R.C. TOAL; CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER, MR PETER WONG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; AND DFCC CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN YAU-YUE.

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD IS INVITING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN MAY AND OCTOBER.

APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, SIXTH FLOOR, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 30 LUEN WAN STREET, KOWLOON, ON OR BEFORE APRIL 7.

/THESE ACTIVITIES .....

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THESE ACTIVITIES CAN BE RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL OR SPORTING EVENTS WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SOCIAL COHESION; TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DEVELOP GOOD HOBBIES, INTEREST AND CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS, AND TO BE EDUCATIONAL.

THE COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY SENT LETTERS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT INVITING THEM TO APPLY FOR FUNDS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF MONK KOK DISTRICT BOARD. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 399 2122.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	26.2.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	27.2.92	-149
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+149
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.6 *-0.2*	27.2.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.89 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.86	5.79
1 MONTH	3.85 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.47	5.87
3 MONTHS	3.85 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.10 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.72 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,910 MN

CLOSED 27 FEBRUARY 1992

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