



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CS' VISIT TO GUANGDONG AND GUANGXI

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, WILL VISIT GUANGDONG PROVINCE AND THE GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION FROM DECEMBER 10 TO 14.

IN GUANGDONG, HE WILL BE MEETING SENIOR PROVINCIAL LEADERS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON A RANGE OF SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. HE WILL BE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT EXAMPLES OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BY HONG KONG COMPANIES AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

IN GUANGXI, HE WILL BE MEETING SENIOR REGIONAL LEADERS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN NANNING, AS WELL AS VISITING THE COASTAL CITY OF BEIHAI.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, AND THE DEPUTY POLITICAL ADVISER, MR STEPHEN BRADLEY.

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STABLE EXCHANGE RATE CENTRAL TO MONETARY MANAGEMENT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, IS TAKING FORWARD A PROPOSAL TO REORGANISE THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH THROUGH THE AMALGAMATION OF THE MONETARY POLICY AND EXCHANGE FUND DIVISIONS INTO A NEW OFFICE WITHIN THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

TO BE NAMED THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, THIS NEW UNIT WILL HAVE CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONETARY MANAGEMENT AND RESERVE MANAGEMENT, AND WILL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR REPORTING TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, AND THROUGH HIM TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE (HK) LTD TODAY (FRIDAY), SIR PIERS SAID HE HOPED THE SETTING UP OF THIS NEW OFFICE WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT EXPERTISE.

"WE NEED TO BE ABLE AND BE SEEN TO BE ABLE, TO TAKE FAIR, DECISIVE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WHERE NECESSARY; TO INTRODUCE REFORM WHERE NECESSARY; TO DESIGN CONTINGENCY PLANS TO COPE WITH UNFORESEEN CRISES; AND TO HANDLE EFFECTIVELY ANY CRISES THAT MAY ARISE.

"ALTHOUGH I AM MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EXISTING TEAM UNDER THE EXISTING ORGANISATION, I AM AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF BEING OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON THE SKILLS OF A FEW INDIVIDUALS. THE PROPOSED REORGANISATION WILL IN TIME ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION," HE SAID.

/HE EMPHASISED

HE EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, WHEN ESTABLISHED, TO ASSUME FURTHER, SIGNIFICANT CENTRAL BANKING ROLES.

"THE ROLES WE ARE NOT PERFORMING INCLUDE THE ISSUING OF BANK NOTES, MANAGING THE CLEARING HOUSE AND PROVIDING RETAIL BANKING SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"AND I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY NEED WHATSOEVER FOR US TO ASSUME ANY OF THESE ROLES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

ON THE SUBJECT OF WHETHER INTEREST RATES COULD BE USED TO ASSIST IN THE CURBING OF INFLATION, SIR PIERS SAID HE TOOK THE SIMPLE VIEW THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES WERE HELPFUL IN CURBING INFLATION IN A SITUATION WHEN THERE WAS RAPID CREDIT EXPANSION.

"AND TO THE EXTENT THAT EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY IS NOT AFFECTED, I AM NOT AVERSE TO USING INTEREST RATES CAUTIOUSLY FOR THIS PURPOSE," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR HONG KONG EXPERIENCED A RAPID RATE OF CREDIT EXPANSION.

"IN 1989, THE GROWTH RATE OF LOANS WAS ABOUT 30 PER CENT. AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC SENTIMENT SEEMED TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A PERCEPTION THAT THERE HAD BEEN A HUGE OUTFLOW OF MONEY FROM HONG KONG.

"THE EXCHANGE RATE WAS ON THE WEAKER SIDE OF 7.80, ALTHOUGH NOT SIGNIFICANTLY SO. THIS PROVIDED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO TIGHTEN INTERBANK LIQUIDITY AND PUSH INTERBANK INTEREST RATES HIGHER, TO LEVELS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN U.S. DOLLAR INTEREST RATES," HE SAID.

"THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS CORRESPONDINGLY INCREASED DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES BY ONE FULL PERCENTAGE POINT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, AND THE MAJOR BANKS ALSO INCREASED THEIR BEST LENDING RATES.

"AS A RESULT, AND PARTLY AS A REFLECTION OF THE GENERAL SLOW DOWN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, WE SAW A QUITE SIGNIFICANT DOWNWARD TREND IN THE RATE OF CREDIT EXPANSION. LOANS GREW AT AN ANNUALISED RATE OF ABOUT 14 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT CAME SHARPLY DOWN TO FIVE PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

"AT THESE GROWTH RATES, I DOUBT VERY MUCH IF CREDIT EXPANSION WAS STILL CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO INFLATION," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT WITH HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES HIGHER THAN THOSE OF THE U.S. DOLLAR, FUNDS WERE ATTRACTED INTO THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AND THE EXCHANGE RATE STRENGTHENED TO ABOUT 7.75.

ALTHOUGH AT THAT LEVEL THE EXCHANGE RATE WAS NOT CAUSING US ANY CONCERN, THERE WAS NO NEED TO CREATE A CREDIT CRUNCH EITHER, HE SAID.

WITH CREDIT EXPANSION AT AN HISTORICALLY LOW RATE, THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING INTEREST RATES AT LEVELS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THOSE FOR THE U.S. DOLLAR FELL AWAY; HENCE THE TWO HALF-PER CENT CUTS IN INTEREST RATES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, AND THE RETURN OF THE EXCHANGE RATE BACK TO AROUND 7.80.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE CONTINUING TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS FRONT CAREFULLY AND ARE IN CLOSE DIALOGUE WITH THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS," HE SAID.

EARLIER, SIR PIERS SAID "THE MAINTENANCE OF EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY IS THE TOP PRIORITY OF MONETARY MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG" AND "THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM HAS UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED A VITAL PART IN SECURING THAT STABILITY".

"AS THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR MONETARY MANAGEMENT, I NEED TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION TO CONTINUE TO DELIVER TO THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG, AND THOSE WHO DEAL WITH THEM, A STABLE CURRENCY.

"THIS REQUIRES DILIGENT CARE IN DEALING WITH ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR SYSTEM. IN OTHER WORDS, WE MUST SEEK TO ENSURE THAT OUR SYSTEM CAN WITHSTAND SHOCKS AND THAT THE STABILITY OF OUR CURRENCY IS NOT UNDERMINED," HE SAID.

HIGHLIGHTING VARIOUS MONETARY MANAGEMENT REFORM MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, SIR PIERS SAID THE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH STARTED IN 1988 ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT, MORE PARTICULARLY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, TO INFLUENCE THE LEVEL OF INTERBANK LIQUIDITY AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVELY.

"IT IS NOW THE ULTIMATE PROVIDER OF LIQUIDITY TO THE BANKING SYSTEM. IN THIS RESPECT THE BRANCH PLAYS THE SAME ROLE AS THAT OF A CENTRAL BANK OR MONETARY AUTHORITY IN SOME OTHER TERRITORIES'."

HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISED ITS INFLUENCE ON INTERBANK CONDITIONS THROUGH THE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS ONLY SPARINGLY.

"THE INTERBANK MARKET IS OTHERWISE LEFT VERY MUCH ALONE.

"WHEN WE DO INTERVENE TO REDUCE OR INCREASE THE LEVEL OF INTERBANK LIQUIDITY, THERE IS ON ALL OCCASIONS TOTAL TRANSPARENCY AND CLARITY OF PURPOSE.

"IN MOST CASES WHEN WE INTERVENE OUR PRIME OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT INTERBANK INTEREST RATES ARE AT LEVELS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE AT AROUND 7.80," HE SAID.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MARKET WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR A WIDER RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS FOR MONETARY OPERATIONS, IF ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERLY MANAGING THE ASSOCIATED RISKS AND ENSURING GREATER COST EFFECTIVENESS.

"THE PROGRAM FOR THE ISSUE OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS STARTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF THE MARKET MAKERS AND RECOGNISED DEALERS, WE NOW HAVE AN INTERESTING MARKET WITH ENCOURAGING POTENTIAL.

"ALL ISSUES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY OVER SUBSCRIBED AT TENDER, AND TRADING IN THE SECONDARY MARKET HAS BEEN ACTIVE. ON AVERAGE, THERE IS A TURNOVER OF NEARLY HK\$2 BILLION A DAY. ON THE MOST ACTIVE DAY RECORDED SO FAR, THERE WAS A TURNOVER OF NEARLY HK\$6 BILLION, ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF BILLS OUTSTANDING AT THAT TIME.

"THE EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE BIWEEKLY ISSUES OF 182-DAY BILLS WAS ALSO WELL RECEIVED. IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, WE MAY WISH TO TRY OUT 364-DAY BILLS IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS HAD INDICATED IN HIS SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 31 THIS YEAR THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NEED FOR JUDICIOUS BORROWING BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR FINANCING MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AND SMOOTHING PUBLIC SECTOR CASH FLOW.

"THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAM HAS PUT US IN A POSITION THAT ENABLES US TO DO SO IN HOUSE AND AT SHORT NOTICE. THIS IS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE RUN A PAPERLESS MARKET EVEN FOR TREASURY BONDS.

"BUT FOR THE TIME BEING I WISH TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN. IN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM OF BORROWING, IT IS LIKELY THAT WE WOULD MAKE USE OF THE EXISTING MARKET MAKERS AND RECOGNISED DEALERS.

"I HOPE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTIVE, BECAUSE I CERTAINLY SEE GOOD BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM IN THE YEARS AHEAD," HE SAID.

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HK REMAINS A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITIES

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, HAS ASSURED GERMAN BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS THAT HONG KONG REMAINS A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN FIND OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFIT FROM.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR IN COLOGNE DURING HIS EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION TRIP, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG'S FUTURE WAS NOT WITHOUT UNCERTAINTIES, BUT NEITHER DID IT LACK EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE LARGE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG AND THE CONTINUOUS INFLOW OF TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT SHOW CLEARLY THAT HONG KONG IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND PROFIT FROM COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.

"IN ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF EXPANDING BUSINESS INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE, I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE FOCUSING ON THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, IN PARTICULAR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID BUSINESS TIES BETWEEN GERMANY AND HONG KONG WERE STRONG, AND GERMANY WAS HONG KONG'S FIFTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.

BY THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1989, GERMANY'S TOTAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG WAS ABOUT US\$530 MILLION. THERE WERE ABOUT 400 GERMAN FIRMS HAVING A PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY, SECOND ONLY IN NUMBER TO JAPAN.

"AMONG THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FOREIGN FIRMS ARE THOSE WHICH USE HONG KONG AS A BASE TO PROMOTE THEIR BUSINESS INTERESTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION," MR BARMA SAID.

QUOTING A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT THIS SUMMER, MR BARMA SAID WHILE THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN REMAINED HONG KONG'S BIGGEST OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN 1989 GERMAN INVESTMENT HAD GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY, AND RANKED SEVENTH.

"IN 1984, YOUR TOTAL INVESTMENT WAS VALUED AT US\$14.4 MILLION. BY 1989, THIS HAD INCREASED FOUR-FOLD TO US\$74.8 MILLION. THIS REFLECTS YOUR GROWING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THIS TREND CONTINUE IN FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID GERMAN COMPANIES WERE WELCOME, NOT ONLY TO SET UP TRADING OFFICES IN HONG KONG, BUT ALSO TO USE HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING BASE.

"INDEED, GERMAN PRODUCTS HAVE FOR LONG BEEN PRIZED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION FOR THEIR LEGENDARY QUALITY AND DURABILITY.

"AND ONE GERMAN COMPANY WHICH SET UP A PRODUCTION PLANT IN HONG KONG, MELITTA, MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRIC COFFEE MACHINES, RECENTLY WON OUR HIGHEST AWARD FOR QUALITY, THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAD RECOGNISED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES AND STARTED THEIR NEW FACILITIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE MORE NOTABLE RECENT PROJECTS INCLUDED THE SETTING UP BY HOECHST OF A CHEMICAL PROCESSING PLANT TO PRODUCE TEXTILE ANCILLARIES AND THE ACQUISITION BY VITELIC CORPORATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF A HONG KONG SEMICONDUCTOR FOUNDRY TO UPGRADE ITS FACILITIES TO PRODUCE SUB-MICRON FIVE-INCH WAFERS.

FOR 1990, THE TOTAL INVESTMENT IN THIS VITELIC OPERATION IN HONG KONG WAS ABOUT US\$10 MILLION.

HE SAID CONCORDIA PAPER LTD, A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN A CHINESE STATE ORGANISATION AND A HONG KONG PRIVATE COMPANY, HAD SET UP A PAPER RECYCLING PLANT TO PRODUCE PAPER BOARD. THE VALUE OF THIS INVESTMENT WAS OVER US\$20 MILLION.

OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDED DAIWA STEEL TUBE OF JAPAN'S SETTING UP OF A SUBSIDIARY TO MAKE HOT-DIP GALVANISED STEEL TUBES IN HONG KONG (TOTAL INVESTMENT AMOUNTING TO US\$8 MILLION), AND THE DECISION BY MONTEDISON OF ITALY TO SET UP A PLANT IN HONG KONG TO MANUFACTURE POLYSTYRENE (TOTAL INVESTMENT AMOUNTING TO ABOUT US\$13 MILLION).

AT THE SEMINAR, WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES, MR BARMA ALSO SHOWED AN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION FILM, ENTITLED "HONG KONG WORKS", TO ILLUSTRATE IN BROAD TERMS THE ADVANTAGES OF HONG KONG FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.

JOINT STATEMENT ON '111 VIETNAMESE'

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THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IS JOINTLY ISSUED BY THE UNHCR AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY):

"AFTER CONSULTATION BETWEEN UNHCR AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, IT WAS AGREED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE 111 VIETNAMESE WHO HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO SAIL DIRECTLY TO JAPAN IN MAY 1989 IN BOAT 101 AND WERE GRANTED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE HIGH COURT RECENTLY, ARE TO BE TREATED IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THOSE PERSONS WHO ARRIVED IN PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM IN THE REGION PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF PROCEDURES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF REFUGEE STATUS, IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION. THEY WILL NOW THEREFORE BE ELIGIBLE FOR RESETTLEMENT.

"BOTH PARTIES RECOGNISED THAT THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACTS AS ESTABLISHED BY THE HIGH COURT, CALLED FOR A SPEEDY AND HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION. IT WAS ALSO STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON FUTURE ARRIVALS, AS EVERY VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKER ARRIVING IN THE REGION IS NOW SUBJECT TO SCREENING."

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OPEN GENERAL SUPPLY LICENCE GAZETTED

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AN OPEN GENERAL SUPPLY LICENCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) IN CONNECTION WITH THE IRAQ AND KUWAIT (UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS) ORDER 1990.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE LICENCE ALLOW THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS TO A LIST OF AUTHORISED RECIPIENTS PROVIDED THEY ARE NOT DESTINED FOR IRAQ AND KUWAIT OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS CARRIED ON OR OPERATED FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES.

DETAILS OF THE OPEN GENERAL SUPPLY LICENCE AND THE NAMES OF AUTHORISED RECIPIENTS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 398 5555.

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EXPORT LICENSING CONTROL ON 15 MORE CHEMICALS

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FIFTEEN MORE CHEMICALS CAPABLE OF BEING USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF TOXICOLOGICAL AGENTS FOR MILITARY USE WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER EXPORT LICENSING CONTROL FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 10).

DETAILS OF THE LICENSING CONTROL ARE SET OUT IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (GENERAL) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT OF SECOND SCHEDULE) (NO. 4) ORDER 1990 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, MR F.W. LEUNG, SAID CONTROL OF THESE 15 CHEMICALS WAS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING EXPORT LICENSING CONTROL ON 21 OTHER CHEMICALS INTRODUCED SINCE FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

"THE CHANGE IS PART OF A CONTINUING EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

"THE CONTROL ON THE EXPORT OF A NUMBER OF CHEMICALS IS BASICALLY A PREVENTIVE MEASURE. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE TRADE THROUGH HONG KONG HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOTIFYING THE TRADE OF DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENT BY CIRCULAR LETTER.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE LICENSING (NON-TEXTILES) BRANCH, TRADE DEPARTMENT, TRADE DEPARTMENT TOWER, FIFTH FLOOR, 700 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON (TEL. NOS. 398 5576 AND 398 5577).

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REGULATIONS TO ENHANCE INSURANCE SUPERVISION

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REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE AUTHORISED INSURERS TO SUBMIT TO THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY THE ACCOUNTS AND INFORMATION RELATING TO THEIR HONG KONG GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS IN PRESCRIBED FORMS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF THIRD SCHEDULE) REGULATIONS 1990, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE INSURERS' REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WOULD ENABLE THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO PERFORM HIS PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY.

"THE ANNUAL RETURNS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS INSURANCE PRESENTLY SUBMITTED BY AUTHORISED INSURERS TO THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY ONLY RELATE TO THEIR GLOBAL BUSINESS.

/ "THESE REGULATIONS

"THESE REGULATIONS EXTEND THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO COVER PRESCRIBED ANNUAL RETURNS ON INSURERS' HONG KONG GENERAL BUSINESS.

"WITH SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL INSURER'S GENERAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE IN HONG KONG AND OBTAIN AN ENHANCED INSIGHT INTO AN INSURER'S OPERATING RESULTS, AND BUSINESS PORTFOLIO AND INTO CLAIMS DEVELOPMENTS OF ITS BUSINESS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MOREOVER, THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT WILL ENABLE INDUSTRY-WIDE STATISTICS TO BE COMPILED SO THAT THERE CAN BE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL INSURANCE MARKET," HE POINTED OUT.

THE FIRST SET OF RETURNS REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED IS IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1990; AND IN CASE AN INSURER HAS A FINANCIAL YEAR-END OTHER THAN DECEMBER 31, THE FIRST FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING THEREAFTER.

THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS. THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE GENERAL INSURANCE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF INSURERS HAVE ALL GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS AMENDMENT.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE ON 12TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, OR ON TEL. 867 2565.

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NT SITES OFFERED TO LETTERS A/B HOLDERS
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING REGISTERED OWNERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A/B) TO TENDER FOR FIVE SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TWO OF THE LOTS ARE IN FANLING FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN, PURPOSES BUT RESIDENTIAL ONLY ABOVE LEVEL 3.

ONE OF THEM IS LOCATED IN AREA 47A AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 13,530 SQUARE METRES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 43,269 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1994.

THE OTHER ONE IS IN AREA 43, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 17,960 SQUARE METRES.

/THE BUILDING

THE BUILDING COVENANT PROVIDES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 87,501 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1995.

THE THIRD LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 14B, YUEN SHUN CIRCUIT, SHA TIN, AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,100 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN, RESIDENTIAL AND HOTEL, PURPOSES.

A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,878 SQUARE METRES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

ANOTHER SHA TIN SITE, SITUATED IN AREA 100, MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 17,220 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN AND HOTEL) AND TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE ON THE SITE BEFORE THE FIRST OCCUPATION PERMIT (INCLUDING TEMPORARY OCCUPATION PERMIT) IS ISSUED AND IN ANY EVENT WITHIN 48 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSSESSION OF THE LOT.

HE IS ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 52,380 SQUARE METRES WITHIN THE 48-MONTH PERIOD.

THE FIFTH LOT OFFERED FOR TENDER IS LOCATED IN AREA 18, TSEUNG KWAN O, SAI KUNG.

THE 4,850-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN, PURPOSES AND THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 24,658 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

APPLICANTS FOR THE ABOVE LOTS CAN SUBMIT EITHER A "VINTAGE" TENDER OR A "MONETISED LETTER B" TENDER CALCULATED BY REFERENCE TO A LIST OF CURRENCY VALUES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE PRIOR TO THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS.

A "VINTAGE" TENDER WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS NOON ON JANUARY 4 NEXT YEAR.

FURTHER DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE VARIOUS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

PREQUALIFICATION FOR MANAGEMENT OF ABERDEEN TUNNEL INVITED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TUNNEL'S ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND PLANT.

A NOTICE ON THE PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD BE SHORTLISTED AND INVITED TO TENDER FOR A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT.

A SINGLE CONTRACT WOULD BE AWARDED FOR THREE YEARS WITH AN OPTION FOR THE EXTENSION FOR FURTHER PERIODS SUBJECT TO AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONTRACT HOLDER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE CONTRACT WOULD COMMENCE SOME TIME BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND DECEMBER 1 NEXT YEAR, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE AND PROVIDE PROOF OF NOT LESS THAN TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF A TOLL TUNNEL OR HIGHWAY.

"IN ADDITION, APPLICANTS SHALL HAVE AND PROVIDE PROOF OF EXPERIENCE IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TUNNEL AND TUNNEL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND PLANT.

"ALTERNATIVELY ABILITY TO ENGAGE THE EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES IN THIS ASPECT FROM ACCEPTABLE SOURCES EXPERIENCED IN TUNNEL EQUIPMENT AND PLANT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

"THEY SHALL SUBMIT SUFFICIENT AND RELEVANT MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS STIPULATED IN THE PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT TO ENABLE ASSESSMENTS TO BE MADE ON THEIR SUITABILITY OF BEING QUALIFIED TO TENDER.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ENQUIRIES FROM OVERSEAS COMPANIES EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE CONTRACT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO PLACE ADVERTISEMENTS IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND HAS WRITTEN TO LOCAL CONSULATES AND TRADE COMMISSIONS NOTIFYING THEM OF THE INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION," HE SAID.

PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 40TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER II, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), 20 LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE NOON ON JANUARY 11, NEXT YEAR.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LAW COVERS CATERING TRADE

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ALL WORKERS IN THE CATERING TRADE WILL BE PROTECTED AGAINST WORK HAZARDS UNDER NEWLY-AMENDED INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LEGISLATION.

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH WILL BRING ALL RESTAURANTS AND EATING ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE DEFINITION OF AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

"AS A RESULT OF THE EXTENSION OF THE LAW, IT IS EXPECTED THAT ANOTHER 162,000 EMPLOYEES, OR A FURTHER SIX PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE, WILL COME UNDER ITS PROTECTION," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE LAW IS EXPECTED TO COME INTO EFFECT NEXT DECEMBER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE CATERING TRADE TO MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGISLATION," HE EXPLAINED.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE CHANGE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS WERE ALSO MADE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AGED 13 TO 14 COULD CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED IN CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

"THEY ARE, HOWEVER, GENERALLY PERMITTED TO WORK ONLY IN THE NON-KITCHEN AREAS OF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS, AS WELL AS IN OTHER NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS BEING OBSERVED," HE STRESSED.

THE REGULATIONS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO TAKE EFFECT FROM DECEMBER NEXT YEAR.

MEANWHILE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AMONG CATERING PERSONNEL AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AND TO ASSIST THEM IN COMPLYING WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION.

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SUSPECTED HEROIN SEIZED

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CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT THE MAN KAM TO CONTROL POINT SEIZED ABOUT \$2.2 MILLION WORTH OF SUSPECTED NO. 4 HEROIN ON AN INCOMING LORRY THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

AT 4.20 PM, CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT THE CONTROL POINT INTERCEPTED THE LORRY FOR A ROUTINE INSPECTION.

AT THE BACK OF THE FRONT-SEAT PASSENGER'S SEAT, CUSTOMS OFFICERS FOUND 12 BLOCKS OF SUSPECTED NO. 4 HEROIN WEIGHING A TOTAL OF 4.2 KG.

THE LORRY DRIVER, AGED 33, HAS BEEN DETAINED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING IN A DANGEROUS DRUG LATER.

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RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN TUEN MUN, HEI LING CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 8,750 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT YUNG LONG, TUEN MUN.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JETTY AND MARINE RECEPTION AREA FOR THE ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT A CARGO HANDLING PIER WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 4,250 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT HEI LING CHAU.

THE PIER WILL BE USED FOR HANDLING THE LARGE VOLUME OF CARGO SUCH AS RATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS/FINISHED PRODUCTS AND FUEL FOR THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO DETENTION CENTRES AND TWO PENAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE ISLAND.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WERE DESCRIBED IN NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 6 NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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RS URGES RESIDENTS TO VOTE

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED VOTERS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE THREE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

MR LAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETS AREA COMMITTEES SEMINAR" AT THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL.

HE CALLED ON LOCAL RESIDENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES BY VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS, SO THAT BETTER REPRESENTATIVES CAN BE ELECTED TO HELP BUILD A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE TERRITORY.

HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT MORE THAN 10,000 LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE LATEST CAMPAIGN, AN INCREASE OF 14 PER CENT OVER THAT OF LAST YEAR.

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ON THE DB AND THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES, MR LAN SAID THEY WERE IMPORTANT CONSULTATION BODIES IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

"THROUGH THEIR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTARY BODIES, OPINIONS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ON DISTRICT ISSUES CAN BE EFFECTIVELY REFLECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THEY HAD ALSO HELPED BOOST THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING.

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PAYMENT OF CROWN RENTS

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DEMAND NOTES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR CROWN RENTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 25, 1990 IN RESPECT OF CROWN RENTS EXCEEDING \$100 PER ANNUM.

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY POST ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, P.O. BOX 8000, GPO, HONG KONG, OR, IN PERSON, AT

- * THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, WANCHAI TOWER II, FIRST FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * THE CENTRAL SUB-TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON;
- * THE DISTRICT OFFICES AT SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN OR KWAI TSING.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR DEMAND NOTES MAY BRING A CROWN RENT DEMAND NOTE OF ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD AND MAKE PAYMENT AT THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE OR ANY OF THE SUB-TREASURY OFFICES AT CENTRAL, NORTH POINT, YAU MA TEI AND KOWLOON CITY.

IF THE PAYERS CANNOT PRODUCE A CROWN RENT DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD, THEY SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE CROWN RENT UNIT OF THE TREASURY AT WANCHAI TOWER II, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

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NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CROWN RENTS MUST BE PAID BY DECEMBER 25, 1990.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT IF THE WORDING "PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY AS AUTHORISED" IS SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON DECEMBER 25, 1990.

THEY SHOULD THEN ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

IF THE ABOVE WORDING IS NOT SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD MAKE PAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTES.

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, CROWN RENT PAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- * TO AVOID LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF A PROPERTY THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING OF THAT PROPERTY IS OBLIGED TO PAY CROWN RENT INCLUDING ANY ARREARS AS DEMANDED.
- * THE CROWN RENT PAYABLE UNDER A LEASE OF A PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN RENEWED UNDER THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE (CAP. 40) AND REDEVELOPED, WILL BE THREE PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THAT PROPERTY AS ASSESSED FOLLOWING THE REDEVELOPMENT.

PENDING COMPLETION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND OTHER RELATED PROCEDURES, CROWN RENT DEMANDS WILL BE BASED UPON THE PRE-REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUE.

IN DUE COURSE, CROWN RENT FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RENT BASED UPON PRE- AND POST-REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUES WILL BE DEMANDED AND THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING IS OBLIGED TO PAY THE RENT AS DEMANDED. IF HE DOES NOT, LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE INSTITUTED.

PURCHASERS OF PROPERTY ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO INSTRUCT THEIR SOLICITORS TO ENSURE THAT AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE THE CROWN RENT IS PAID UP TO DATE.

IF A PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE AND HAS BEEN REDEVELOPED BUT THE RENTAL PAID UP TO THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE IS NOT BASED UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY SINCE ITS REDEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE PURCHASER OR HIS SOLICITORS TO PROTECT THE PURCHASERS.

ENQUIRIES ON OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF CROWN RENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES.

THE FEE IS \$45 FOR EACH ENQUIRY PER PROPERTY.

FESTIVE LIGHTING SWITCHED ON IN MONG KOK

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THE FESTIVE ILLUMINATIONS IN MONG KOK REFLECT THE ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BY RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY OF THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING, MR TSAO SAID THE LIGHTING WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIME AND MONEY BY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE DISTRICT.

WHILE PRAISING THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, MR TSAO ALSO HOPED THAT THROUGH THIS EVENT, ITS TIES WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESS CONCERNS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED RESULTING IN A STRONGER SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

"THE DISTRICT BOARD ALSO HOPES THAT THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BRING ABOUT MORE PROSPERITY TO THE DISTRICT.

"ALL THESE OBJECTIVES COINCIDE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME," HE SAID.

THE ILLUMINATIONS COST \$800,000 TO MOUNT, AND WERE A JOINT EFFORT, OF THE 1990-91 MONG KOK CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING PROJECT ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

COLOURFUL LIGHTS AND BUNTING HAVE BEEN MOUNTED ALONG SECTIONS OF NATHAN ROAD, ARGYLE STREET AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND WILL BE SWITCHED ON UNTIL JANUARY 6, AND FROM FEBRUARY 8 TO MARCH 1 FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS.

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SOCIAL CENTRES ESSENTIAL TO NEEDS OF ELDERLY

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SOCIAL CENTRES SERVE A VERY USEFUL FUNCTION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND MUTUAL HELP PROGRAMMES TO MEET THE RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHUNG SING BENEVOLENT SOCIETY MRS AW BOON HAW SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE CHUNG SING BENEVOLENT SOCIETY SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICE AT WO LOK ESTATE, KWUN TONG, MR CARTLAND SAID 55 MORE SOCIAL CENTRES HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 118 SUCH CENTRES IN THE TERRITORY SERVING THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS," HE ADDED.

MR CARTLAND EXTENDED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GENEROSITY OF MRS AW BOON HAW, WHO HAD MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN THE FORM OF A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THE CENTRE OPENED TODAY.

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FUN-FILLED EVENTS FOR SHA TIN RESIDENTS

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SHA TIN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN TWO FUN-FILLED EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 9).

A "KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN" EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL SQUARE BETWEEN 11 AM AND 4 PM.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE ESSAY, CALLIGRAPHY, SLOGAN, DRAWING AND COLOURING COMPETITIONS FOR STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS LEUNG WAI-TUNG, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS AT THE CEREMONY AT 11 AM.

IN THE AFTERNOON, RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE "HOME SECURITY CARNIVAL" AT THE VIEWING TERRACE IN THE CENTRAL PARK, SHA TIN, STARTING 2 PM.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG; THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTEIN WONG; AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR NG CHAN-LAM.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE AN EXHIBITION, CHINESE DANCES, KUNG FU AND PERFORMANCES BY A ROBOTCOP, THE POLICE PIPE BAND, POLICE DOGS AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH EVENTS ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 9).

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FOOTPATH TO BE CLOSED FOR HOUSING ESTATE CONSTRUCTION ON LANTAU

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CLOSE A FOOTPATH IN TAI O, LANTAU ISLAND TO FACILITATE THE PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

A FOOTPATH WITHIN THE SITE OF THE LUNG TIN ESTATE WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURES OF THE PHASE 2 OF THE HOUSING ESTATE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

TEMPORARY ACCESS BY-PASSING THE SITE TO TAI O TOWN AND TAI O ROAD WILL BE PROVIDED.

/A PERMANENT

A PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN WALK-WAY LINKING TAI O TOWN AND TAI O ROAD WITHIN THE PROPOSED ESTATE SITE WILL BE PROVIDED UPON COMPLETION OF THE HOUSING ESTATE.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:-

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HARBOUR BUILDING, 19TH FLOOR, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, HARBOUR BUILDING, 20TH FLOOR, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS 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 FEBRUARY 5, NEXT YEAR.

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MONG KOK MEI ON STREET TO BE RESUMED AND REBUILT
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND RECONSTRUCT MEI ON STREET, A PRIVATE STREET IN MONG KOK, KOWLOON.

MEI ON STREET IS AT PRESENT NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND MANAGED BECAUSE IT IS UNDER MULTIPLE-SUBDIVIDED OWNERSHIP.

AS A RESULT, IT IS GENERALLY IN POOR CONDITION IN TERMS OF MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT GIVING RISE TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND ACCESS PROBLEMS.

THE PROJECT PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT COMPRISES THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CARRIAGEWAYS, FOOTWAYS, AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THE REPAIR WORK IS PROGRAMMED TO COMMENCE BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

A NOTICE OF THE WORK IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

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- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * KOWLOON WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON;
- * MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS 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 FEBRUARY 5, NEXT YEAR.

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FOOTBRIDGE AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN SHA TIN
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CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TAI SHUI HANG VILLAGE AT MA ON SHAN AS PART OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN - STAGE II DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THE PROJECT WILL COMPRISE A FOOTBRIDGE, SITE FORMATION, ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS, SERVICING FACILITIES, MINOR FORMATION AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 4 NEXT YEAR.

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AMENDED TIME FOR FIRING PRACTICE
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THE AMENDED TIME FOR FIRING PRACTICE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON DECEMBER 11 (TUESDAY) WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PRACTICE WILL LAST FROM 8.30 AM TO 11.59 PM.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHOI HA ROAD NORTHERN EXTENSION WORKS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND THE AUTHORISED WORKS OF EXTENDING CHOI HA ROAD NORTHWARDS TO JOIN CHOI WAN ROAD IN NGAU TAU KOK, KOWLOON.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY). THE AUTHORISED WORKS WERE ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON MARCH 17 AND 23 LAST YEAR.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WORKS INVOLVE THE OMISSION OF THE PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED PLANTING STRIPS ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE NEW ROAD, REDUCTION OF THE WIDTH OF THE PROPOSED NORTHERN FOOTPATH AND THE CORRESPONDING REVISION OF THE EXTENT OF THE ADJOINING SLOPES.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN MID 1991 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MAY BE INSPECTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * KOWLOON EAST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET, THIRD FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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 FEBRUARY 5, 1991.