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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1993

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AIRPORT MEETING SET FOR JUNE 4

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THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG ON JUNE 4 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT PROJECT.

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CS WELCOMES AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID HE HOPED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED ON THE AIRPORT SO THAT A WAY FORWARD COULD BE FOUND.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES LOBBY TODAY (THURSDAY), HE WELCOMED THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WOULD BE HELD NEXT WEEK.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO HAVE CERTAINTY IN THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT AND THE RAILWAY WHICH WILL GIVE EVERYBODY RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN THE PROJECT TO ENABLE US TO PRESS AHEAD WITH IT."

DESCRIBING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING AS VERY WELCOMED NEWS, HE SAID EVERYONE IN HONG KONG WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO HEAR IT.

ASKED ABOUT A THIRD PROPOSAL ON THE AIRPORT FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS FINANCING PROPOSALS INFORMALLY WITH THE CHINESE SIDE FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS."

"I AM PLEASED NOW THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A FORMAL MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE IN WHICH THESE PROPOSALS CAN BE TAKEN FORWARD."

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BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL, INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 10 THIS YEAR, IS A PURELY TECHNICAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION TO PUT THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION IN PLACE SO THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS IN TIME FOR THE 1994 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

PASSAGE OF THE BILL WILL IN NO WAY PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT SINO-BRITISH TALKS IN BEIJING.

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HEAVY INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION STRESSED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING HEAVILY IN EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL.

"WE BELIEVE THAT BY INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE, WE ARE INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE."

"AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THAT," HE SAID.

ADDRESSING THE FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR A NEW CAMPUS OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, MR PATTEN SAID THERE WERE LESS THAN 7,000 FIRST-YEAR DEGREE PLACES IN 1989 WHEN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION EXPANSION PLAN WAS ANNOUNCED.

BY 1994/95, THE NUMBER WILL BE DOUBLED, HE SAID.

DESCRIBING THE PLAN AS AMBITIOUS BUT ACHIEVABLE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUT \$7,000 MILLION TO FUND THE CAPITAL WORKS NEEDED.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BAPTIST COLLEGE FOR DOING ITS PART WITH VISION AND WITH ENTHUSIASM, HE SAID THE NEW SHAW CAMPUS WOULD DOUBLE THE COLLEGE'S CAPACITY WHEN IT WAS COMPLETED IN 16 MONTHS' TIME.

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MFN RENEWAL DECISION KEENLY AWAITED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HONG KONG WAS OBVIOUSLY WAITING ON ANY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM WASHINGTON ON MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) RENEWAL FOR CHINA WITH KEEN ANTICIPATION.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE SHAW CAMPUS FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WHATEVER IS DECIDED IN WASHINGTON WON'T BE AN OBSTACLE TO THE INCREASE IN TRADE THAT'S BEEN IN CHINA, THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG AND THE REST OF THE WORLD."

"I'VE BEEN ARGUING THAT THE BEST WAY OF SECURING SOCIAL HUMAN PROGRESS IS THROUGH GREATER TRADE, THROUGH GREATER COMMUNICATION RATHER THAN LESS. I HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE THAT."

ASKED ABOUT THE MOTION PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY URGING FOR INCREASED TRANSPARENCY OF THE TALKS, MR PATTEN SAID: "I THINK SOME OF THOSE WHO VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE MOTION YESTERDAY WOULD BE SURPRISED, INDEED HORRIFIED, WERE WE TO SUDDENLY START OPENING UP ALL THESE TALKS IN A WAY WHICH ALLEGEDLY THEY WANT BECAUSE I THINK THEY WOULD RECOGNISE THAT TO DO THAT WOULD THREATEN THE SUCCESS OF THE TALKS."

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT YEARS WERE SPENT NEGOTIATING IN CONFIDENCE AND THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DEBATE AT THE END.

"WE'LL BE FOLLOWING THE SAME COURSE IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

"BUT I REPEAT THAT I THINK THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE MORE KEEN ON SEEING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THESE TALKS THAN THEY ARE IN KNOWING WHAT'S SAID EACH TIME THE NEGOTIATORS MEET. WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THE NEGOTIATORS THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO."

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHAT HAPPENS IF LEGCO'S DECISION DIFFERS FROM THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD NOT WISH TO RECOMMEND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG PROPOSALS WHICH HE DID NOT THINK THAT THEY AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE.

"BUT WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE LEGAL POSITION IS, WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE POSITION IS AND WE ALL KNOW THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE END OF THE DAY WOULD HAVE TO AGREE THE LEGISLATION TO PUT IN PLACE WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WE COME TO FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS," HE ADDED.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT LAYS SUMMONS AGAINST CLP

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS LAID A SUMMONS AGAINST THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED IN RELATION TO THE EXPLOSION THAT OCCURRED AT THE COMPANY'S CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE SUMMONS HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT UNDER SECTION 6A(2)(A) OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE.

THIS SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE RELATES TO AN EMPLOYER'S GENERAL DUTIES TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK OF ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED BY HIM.

THE CASE WILL BE HEARD AT TUEN MUN MAGISTRACY ON JUNE 21 THIS YEAR.

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CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION INCIDENT

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON THE CORONER'S INQUEST INTO CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY'S (CLP) CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION EXPLOSION LAST AUGUST.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ALTHOUGH THE INQUEST HAD BEEN COMPLETED, IT WOULD BE SUB JUDICE AT THIS STAGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ITS INVESTIGATION REPORT OR TO COMMENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE INQUEST AS THERE ARE STILL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE BACKGROUND AS REGARDS THE INCIDENTS, THE HYDROGEN GENERATION AND STORAGE PLANT, THE FIRE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS AND THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVESTIGATION TEAM.

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A CALL AT 10.08 AM ON AUGUST 28, 1992 THROUGH THE POLICE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE THAT A FIRE WITH EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN THE TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION'S HYDROGEN GENERATION PLANT.

FULL FIRE AND AMBULANCE RESOURCES WERE DESPATCHED IMMEDIATELY.

FIREMEN ARRIVED AT THE SCENE WITHIN SIX MINUTES OF THE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT AND FOUND THAT THE REPORTED HYDROGEN GENERATION PLANT AND THE STRUCTURES HOUSING IT WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE OPERATION WAS COMPLETED AT 11.20 AM THE SAME DAY. TWO PERSONS DIED AND 19 OTHERS WERE INJURED IN THE INCIDENT.

DANGEROUS GOODS LICENCES

PRIOR TO THE COMMISSIONING OF THE HYDROGEN GENERATION PLANT, CLP WAS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE PREREQUISITE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR MANUFACTURE, STORAGE AND USE OF HYDROGEN IN THE PLANT.

A TOTAL OF FIVE DANGEROUS GOODS LICENCES WERE ISSUED FOR THESE PURPOSES.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVESTIGATION TEAM

FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, THE GOVERNOR INSTRUCTED THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF THE EXPLOSION.

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ACCORDINGLY, AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVESTIGATION TEAM HEADED BY A DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND COMPRISING 16 MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY WAS FORMED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1992.

THE TEAM HAD TAKEN THREE MONTHS TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION AND A REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR UPON COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION.

"THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON WHETHER TO REBUILD THE DAMAGED SYSTEM IN THE EXPLOSION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, IT HAS GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING TO INTRODUCE POSITIVE MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT IF AND WHEN IT DOES REBUILD."

ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION BY THE COMPANY TO REBUILD THE PLANT, DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WOULD ENSURE THAT ALL THE NECESSARY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE FULLY COMPLIED WITH TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN FUTURE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SUCCESSFUL MULTILATERAL TALKS WORTH US\$120B IN TRADE EXPANSION

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE THAT HONG KONG ATTACHED TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TALKS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

"THE MULTILATERAL TRADE SYSTEM UNDER THE GATT HAS SERVED THE WORLD WELL. A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THIS LATEST ROUND, THE URUGUAY ROUND, WOULD BE WORTH AT LEAST US\$120 BILLION ANNUALLY IN THE EXPANSION OF GLOBAL TRADE," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER MEETING WITH THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, MR MILLER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM FOR THE SMALLER AND MEDIUM-SIZED ECONOMIES.

"IN THE GATT, ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES, BIG OR SMALL, HAVE AN EQUAL VOICE. MARKET ACCESS GRANTED ONE PARTY BY ANOTHER AUTOMATICALLY APPLIES TO ALL.

"DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARTIES BIG OR SMALL CAN BE GIVEN A HEARING. DISPUTES CAN BE SETTLED AND THE FAIRNESS OF THEIR SETTLEMENT MONITORED BY ALL PARTIES.

"THIS IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT FOR SMALLER PLAYERS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE LACK THE POLITICAL CLOUT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES BY LARGER PLAYERS," HE SAID.

/MR MILLER

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MR MILLER ALSO WELCOMED RECENT SIGNS THAT THE DISAGREEMENTS AMONG MAJOR PLAYERS WHICH HAS STALLED THE URUGUAY ROUND TALKS WERE BEING ADDRESSED.

"THE TALKS HAVE ALREADY GONE ON FOR FAR TOO LONG. ANY FURTHER DELAY IN RESOLVING DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE MAJORS WOULD JEOPARDISE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION."

AS FAILURE TO CONCLUDE THE ROUND BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WOULD UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PROCESS, MR MILLER SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF EUROPE AND AMERICA TO FIND A WAY FORWARD.

HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE COMPLACENCY AMONG THE MAJOR PLAYERS AS WELL AS ANY ATTEMPT TO UNRAVEL ANY PART OF THE CAREFULLY BALANCED PACKAGE PRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1991.

"THIS IS A MULTILATERAL PROCESS, NOT A BILATERAL ONE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR SOME OF THE LARGER PLAYERS TO ASSUME THAT ONCE THEY HAVE SETTLED THEIR DIFFERENCES, THE DEAL IS DONE.

"NOR SHOULD THEY EXPECT OTHER PLAYERS TO FIND WAYS TO SWEETEN THE DEAL FOR THEM."

MR MILLER DREW ATTENTION TO TWO PARTICULAR AREAS OF CONCERN TO HONG KONG: THE PROPOSED PHASE-OUT OF THE MULTI FIBRE AGREEMENT (MFA) AND ANTI-DUMPING CODE.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA WHICH SUGGEST CERTAIN PLAYERS WOULD LIKE A LONGER PHASE-OUT PERIOD FOR THE MFA.

THE CLAIM THAT THEIR HEAVILY PROTECTED INDUSTRIES COULD NOT STAND BOTH A REDUCTION IN TARIFFS AND A PHASE-OUT OF THE MFA IS NONSENSE, HE SAID.

"THE MFA, WHICH IS A DEROGATION FROM THE FREE TRADE SYSTEM UNDER THE GATT, WAS INTRODUCED 19 YEARS AGO IN ORDER TO ALLOW THESE SAME INDUSTRIES TIME TO ADJUST."

"SURELY TO GOODNESS THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO DO SO."

IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES, MR MILLER SAID: "TEN YEARS TO PHASE-OUT THE MFA IS ALREADY TOO LONG."

ON ANTI-DUMPING, MR MILLER STRESSED THE NEED TO TIGHTEN NOT LOOSEN DISCIPLINE.

"ANTI-DUMPING HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND DAMAGING WEAPONS IN THE PROTECTIONIST ARMOURY.

"WE HAVE INDUSTRIALISTS ALREADY PROTECTED BY BOTH VERY HIGH TARIFFS AND BY EXPORT RESTRAINT SYSTEMS FILING ANTI-DUMPING SUITES AGAINST THE MOST OPEN ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD."

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UNDER THE EXISTING CODE, HE SAID, THE ACCUSED IS GUILTY UNTIL IT PROVES ITS INNOCENCE AND IN THE MEANTIME, PUNITIVE ADDITIONAL DUTIES MUST BE PAID AND BUYERS THEREFORE LOOK ELSEWHERE.

"THE CODE, THE DISCIPLINES WHICH GOVERN IT AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES UNDER IT MUST BE TIGHTENED TO PREVENT ABUSE."

"I HAVE SEEN INFORMAL PROPOSALS WHICH GO IN ENTIRELY THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THEY ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," HE SAID.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INDEPENDENT PATENT SYSTEM FOR HK
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HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE AN INDEPENDENT, COST-EFFECTIVE PATENT SYSTEM WITH ITS OWN LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE GRANT OF PATENTS TO PROTECT INVENTIONS.

THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND ABLE TO EARN THE RESPECT OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE PATENTS STEERING COMMITTEE RELEASED FOR CONSULTATION TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO ADVISE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE TYPE OF PATENT SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN HONG KONG FOR THE PROTECTION OF INVENTIONS.

"THE COMMITTEE BY A MAJORITY ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT A SYSTEM FOR GRANTING PETTY PATENTS BE INTRODUCED TO PROTECT INVENTIONS WHICH HAVE A SHORT COMMERCIAL LIFE.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE A NEW ALTERNATIVE FORM OF PROTECTION FOR INVENTIONS FOR THE MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES WHICH MAKE SHORT-TERM PRODUCTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID.

THE EXISTING PATENT SYSTEM IN HONG KONG IS BASICALLY A SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AFTER REGISTRATION IN HONG KONG OF A PATENT GRANTED BY THE UK PATENT OFFICE OR THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE DESIGNATING UK. THE EXISTING PATENT LAW MAKES REFERENCES TO THE UK PATENT LAW.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE NEW PATENT SYSTEM SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE GRANT OF AN INDEPENDENT PATENT IN HONG KONG BASED ON THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS GRANTED BY THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE AND ALSO, IN THE SECOND PHASE, PATENTS GRANTED BY THE CHINESE PATENT OFFICE.

IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT AN APPLICANT FOR EITHER A EUROPEAN PATENT OR A CHINESE PATENT WILL BE ABLE TO SEEK TO REGISTER THAT PATENT IN HONG KONG UPON THE FULL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

"SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD GIVE HONG KONG THE BENEFIT OF A PATENT SYSTEM WITH FULLY SEARCHED AND EXAMINED PATENTS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO INVEST IN ITS OWN EXAMINATION SYSTEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN CHOOSING THE EUROPEAN AND CHINESE PATENT AUTHORITIES, HE SAID, THE COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THEIR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, THE NEED TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO THE EXISTING UK-BASED SYSTEM, THE HIGH LEVEL OF TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE COUNTRIES UNDER THESE AUTHORITIES, AND THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NEW PATENT LAW SHOULD PROVIDE THAT THE REGISTERED PATENT ONCE GRANTED IN HONG KONG WILL BE A HONG KONG PATENT INDEPENDENT OF THE EUROPEAN OR CHINESE PATENT. IT WILL BE ENFORCED HERE BY THE HONG KONG COURTS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW AN EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH.

"THEY ARE DESIGNED TO DISCONTINUE THE EXISTING DEPENDENCY ON UK PATENTS BUT TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY WITH THE EXISTING PATENT SYSTEM.

"THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY MODELLING THE PROPOSED PATENT LAW ON THE UK LAW WHICH ARE REFERRED TO BY EXISTING HONG KONG PATENT LAW WITH THE EUROPEAN PATENT CONVENTION WHICH GOVERNS THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE; AND BY ALLOWING FOR THE CONTINUED REGISTRATION OF EUROPEAN PATENTS DESIGNATING UK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE HAVE ISSUED THE REPORT TO CONCERNED PARTIES IN THE INDUSTRY, PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC FIELDS FOR CONSULTATION," HE ADDED.

"THEY WILL HAVE UNTIL AUGUST 20 THIS YEAR TO SEND THEIR COMMENTS TO US TO FACILITATE OUR DELIBERATIONS AS TO HOW BEST THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN FORWARD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY WRITE TO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, THIRD FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT.

A CHINESE TRANSLATION OF CHAPTERS 1, 9 AND 13 OF THE REPORT WHICH SUMMARISES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST.

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HONG KONG AT THE CROSSROADS OF ASIA
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FREE TRADE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION HAD HELPED HONG KONG TO BECOME THE 10TH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY IN THE WORLD WITH A GDP THE ENVY OF MANY DEVELOPED NATIONS, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPAL HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN JAPAN, MR DAVID LAN.

ADDRESSING THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG-JAPAN BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE OF KEIDANREN IN TOKYO TODAY, MR LAN SAID ASIA WAS THE FASTEST GROWING REGION IN THE WORLD WITH PREDICTIONS OF A 5-6 PER CENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OVER THE NEXT DECADE - AND HONG KONG WAS RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

THE KEIDANREN (JAPAN FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS) IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ORGANISATION IN JAPAN INCORPORATING THE MAJOR BUSINESS SECTOR.

"HONG KONG'S EXPERTISE AND ITS RANGE OF SUPPORTING SERVICES AS A BACK UP FOR INVESTORS ARE JUST SOME OF THE INCENTIVES THAT ATTRACT OVERSEAS COMPANIES TO ESTABLISH THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OR OFFICES IN THE TERRITORY, GENERALLY AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO DO BUSINESS WITH CHINA.

"IN FACT, MANY FOREIGN CORPORATIONS ARE ALREADY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR UNIQUE POSITION AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA. IN 1992, NEARLY 1,350 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG," MR LAN SAID.

HE SAID IN ADDITION TO WELL ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE, HONG KONG COULD DRAW ON A LARGE POOL OF EXPERTS WITH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF CHINA, ITS CULTURE AND LANGUAGE, AS WELL AS HOW BUSINESS OPERATED IN THE WEST.

THIS KNOW-HOW HAD OFTEN RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF MULTI-NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH HONG KONG REPRESENTATION IN THE BUSINESS VENTURE.

ON THE NEW AIRPORT, MR LAN NOTED THAT JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES HAD BEEN AWARDED THE LARGEST SHARE OF CONTRACTS IN TERMS OF VALUE AND THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS.

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CS BRIEFED ON CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON INSPECTED CHILD WELFARE SERVICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

SIR DAVID WAS GREETED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S HONG HONG REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE HARBOUR BUILDING, CENTRAL.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE SERVICES OF ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE AND SMALL GROUP HOMES AND THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME TO MOVE CHILDREN FROM LARGE INSTITUTIONS TO NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

"WE HAVE STREAMLINED OUR ADOPTION PROCESS AND AS A RESULT CHILDREN CAN BE PLACED INTO ADOPTIVE HOMES MUCH EARLIER. WE ALSO EXPAND FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AND SMALL GROUP HOMES," MR STRACHAN SAID.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN GROWING UP IN FAMILY-LIKE SETTING FOR THEIR NORMAL DEVELOPMENT.

FOSTER CARE IS A FORM OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICE WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FOR ORPHANS OR CHILDREN WHO LACK ADEQUATE FAMILY CARE BECAUSE OF NEGLECT, ILLNESS OF PARENTS OR OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

"WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FOSTER PARENTS. THROUGH FOSTERING, CHILDREN CAN GROW UNDER A PROPER FAMILY SETTING AND ENJOY HAPPY CHILDHOOD. FOSTER PARENTS CAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, GAIN SATISFACTION THROUGH SERVING THE COMMUNITY," MR STRACHAN SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN APPEALING TO ELIGIBLE COUPLES TO JOIN THE FOSTER PARENTS TEAM BY HOLDING EXHIBITIONS AND SEMINARS TO PUBLICISE THE SERVICE, HE ADDED.

SMALL GROUP HOME IS A TYPE OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDED IN A FAMILY SETTING FOR A GROUP OF EIGHT CHILDREN UNDER THE CARE OF HOUSE-PARENTS TO HELP THEM GROW IN A NORMAL ATMOSPHERE.

THE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH FIVE FOSTER CARE AGENCIES AND PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 360 PLACES. THE NUMBER WILL GROW TO REACH 600 BY 1996/97.

FOUR AGENCIES ARE NOW PROVIDING 23 SMALL GROUP HOME UNITS FOR 184 CHILDREN. THE NUMBER OF HOME UNITS WILL BE BOOSTED TO 80, PROVIDING 640 PLACES IN FOUR YEARS' TIME.

WHILE DISCUSSING WITH THE SWD STAFF MEMBERS ON THE PROGRESS OF THEIR WORK ON CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, SIR DAVID TOLD MR STRACHAN THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON CHILDREN WELFARE IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE PROVISION OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THOSE CHILDREN IN NEED.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THE CHIEF SECRETARY VISITED PO LEUNG KUK'S FUNG TAK SMALL GROUP HOME IN WONG TAI SIN TO SEE FOR HIMSELF HOW THIS FORM OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE ALLOW NORMAL UPBRINGING FOR CHILDREN IN A FAMILY-LIKE SETTING.

SIR DAVID ALSO PRAISED THE STAFF THERE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

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GOVT BUYS NEW OFFICES IN WAN CHAI

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE MINGWAY COMPANY LIMITED, A SUBSIDIARY OF HOPEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED FOR THE PURCHASE OF NINE FLOORS IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, WAN CHAI, AT A PRICE OF \$850 MILLION.

THE PURCHASE, WHICH REPRESENTS \$3,750 PER SQUARE FOOT, IS THE FIRST IN A NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS TO BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE \$2,010 MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, SAID AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY THAT THE NEW OFFICE SPACE WAS INTENDED FOR USE BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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AWARD SCHEME FOR BEST COUNTER STAFF

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS TO LAUNCH A BEST LICENSING SERVICE AWARD NEXT MONTH FOR THE COUNTER STAFF IN ITS LICENSING DIVISION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE AWARD SCHEME, MR HUI SAID THE COUNTER STAFF HAD MADE A LOT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN MAKING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME ON LICENSING SERVICES A SUCCESS.

"WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADHERE TO THE PLEDGED WAITING TIMES DESPITE INCREASING DEMAND FOR LICENCES WITHOUT THE NEED TO INCREASE STAFF.

"FEEDBACK FROM OUR CUSTOMERS AND THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. OUR STAFF HAVE BEEN DOING A JOLLY GOOD JOB," MR HUI SAID.

"IN ORDER TO SHOW THE DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION, WE ARE GOING TO LAUNCH A BEST LICENSING SERVICE AWARD FOR THE COUNTER STAFF IN THE LICENSING DIVISION FROM JUNE 1 TO 30. THIS AWARD SCHEME IS SPONSORED BY THE SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED," HE ADDED.

DURING JUNE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO COME TO THE LICENSING OFFICES FOR LICENSING OR DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENT SERVICES WILL BE INVITED TO COMPLETE A NOMINATION FORM ON THE BEST COUNTER STAFF AND PUT IT IN A SPECIAL BALLOT BOX LOCATED PROMINENTLY IN THESE OFFICES.

THE BEST 10 COUNTER STAFF MEMBERS SO ELECTED WILL EACH BE AWARDED A TROPHY AND A MEAL COUPON. NOMINATORS WILL ENTER A LUCKY DRAW IN WHICH 10 WILL EACH BE AWARDED A PETROL COUPON WORTH \$800.

/DIRECTOR FOR

DIRECTOR FOR HONG KONG AND MACAU OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, MR ROBERT YOUND, SAID THE COMPANY WAS HONOURED TO BE ABLE TO SPONSOR THE BEST LICENSING SERVICE AWARD.

"THE AWARD, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, AIMS TO ENCOURAGE CIVIL SERVANTS TO OFFER A BETTER STANDARD OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

HE URGED ALL PARTIES TO FULLY SUPPORT THE EVENT SO THAT THE GOAL IN IMPROVING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC COULD BE ACHIEVED.

MR HUI ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD SOON SET UP CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUPS AS A SECOND PHASE OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME.

"THIS WILL ENABLE OUR CUSTOMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MONITORING OUR SERVICE, AND ADVISE ON THE WAYS TO MAKE OUR LICENSING SERVICES MORE USER-FRIENDLY," HE SAID.

TWO CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUPS WILL BE FORMED. ONE OF THEM WILL MONITOR THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE WHILE THE OTHER THE REMAINING THREE LICENSING OFFICES.

"WE SHALL ONLY INVITE CUSTOMERS CALLING AT OUR LICENSING OFFICES TO BE CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP MEMBERS. IF OUR CUSTOMERS ARE INTERESTED, ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IS TO FILL IN A SIMPLE FORM, AVAILABLE AT ALL LICENSING OFFICES, AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORMS TO OUR DROP-IN BOXES. WE SHALL THEN BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM," MR HUI ADDED.

EACH CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP WILL COMPRISE A CHAIRMAN, AND ABOUT 20 MEMBERS. THE FIRST MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONVENED AROUND SEPTEMBER AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL BE HELD QUARTERLY.

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FEEs SET FOR ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS

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THE COMPANIES REGISTRY WILL CHARGE A FEE OF \$50 FOR ADMINISTERING EACH AFFIDAVIT, AFFIRMATION OR STATUTORY DECLARATION REQUIRED TO BE MADE BEFORE OR FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES UNDER AN ORDINANCE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$5 WILL BE CHARGED FOR EACH EXHIBIT ATTACHED TO SUCH DOCUMENT, HE ADDED.

THE CHARGES, WHICH TAKE EFFECT TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UPON THE GAZETAL OF THE RELEVANT NOTICE, HAVE BEEN SET AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE RECOVERY OF COSTS.

IN THE PAST, AFFIDAVITS, AFFIRMATIONS AND STATUTORY DECLARATIONS WERE ADMINISTERED FREE OF CHARGE.

"HOWEVER, STAFF OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERING A LARGE NUMBER OF STATUTORY DECLARATIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO BE MADE BEFORE OR FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN 1992, A TOTAL OF 53,697 DECLARATIONS/AFFIDAVITS WERE ADMINISTERED TO CONFIRM COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE OR TO COMMENCE WINDING-UP ACTIONS FOR COMPANIES."

"BECAUSE OF THE EVER-INCREASING TIME AND STAFF RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THIS WORK, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT COSTS FOR SUCH SERVICES SHOULD BE RECOVERED," HE SAID.

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FOUR MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED

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FOUR MEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH (APRIL), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 359.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT (SPECIAL PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME), DR S S LEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ONE AIDS CASE WAS REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 81 WITH 52 DEATHS. THE 29 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 359 PERSONS INFECTED, 255 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, EIGHT WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 64 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 32, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 269,029 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,239,448 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 27 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1993

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WORK OF TUNG WAH HOSPITAL COMMENDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR ITS CONTINUOUS EFFORTS IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY DURING HIS MEETING WITH ITS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR JACKIE WONG, PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO MR STRACHAN AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM DEVELOPMENTS OF THE GROUP'S MAJOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN THE YEAR.

IN THE MEETING, MR STRACHAN ASSURED BOARD MEMBERS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM TO FURTHER IMPROVE WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

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DE TO SPEAK AT EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, WILL SPEAK AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE IS "TOWARDS QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN SCHOOLS".

DR CHENG KAI-MING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND MR CHRIS PICKLES OF HONG KONG TELECOM WILL SPEAK ON SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH STAFF APPRAISAL AND TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME EXECUTIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF.

THE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE INCLUDES AN EXPERIENCE SHARING SESSION FOR ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF ALL GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO, IN ADDITIONAL TO TEACHING, ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM ON FRIDAY IN THE LECTURE THEATRE, SEVENTH FLOOR, VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TOWER, WOOD ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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- 15 -

SCHOOLS TO BE "ON-LINE" WITH TEACHER DATABANK

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SCHOOLS WITH TEACHING VACANCIES WILL BE ABLE TO BE "ON-LINE" WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S DATABANK OF POTENTIAL PART- AND FULL-TIME TEACHERS IN THE THIRD PHASE OF THE "BE MY TEACHER" RECRUITMENT DRIVE WHICH BEGINS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE RECRUITMENT DRIVE WAS LAUNCHED ON MAY 3 WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF FIVE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE RECRUITMENT FORMS THROUGH THESE ORGANISATIONS, RESULTING IN RECORDING DETAILS OF NEARLY 3,000 POTENTIAL TEACHERS INTO THE COMPUTER IN THE RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE (TRIO).

STARTING FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH REGULAR OR TEMPORARY VACANCIES CAN OBTAIN POTENTIAL TEACHERS' INFORMATION THROUGH THE TRIO DATABANK.

"SCHOOLS INTENDING TO RECRUIT TEACHERS FOR CERTAIN SUBJECTS CAN FILL IN A FORM, ONE FOR EACH POST, AND RETURN IT TO TRIO BY FAX OR POST," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"AFTER RECEIVING THE REQUEST, TRIO WILL PROVIDE A COMPUTER PRINTOUT OF A LIST OF TEACHERS HAVING SUITABLE QUALIFICATIONS AND SUBJECT RELEVANCE TO SCHOOLS TO SELECT," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

TRIO WAS SET UP TO LAUNCH A LARGE-SCALE "BE MY TEACHER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN TO FULFILL THE OBJECTIVES FOR A BETTER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT SET OUT IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER.

HE SAID 780 MORE PRIMARY TEACHERS WOULD BE NEEDED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE TO REDUCE THE PRIMARY 1 CLASS SIZE TO 35 THIS SEPTEMBER.

TRIO WOULD CONTINUE TO DISTRIBUTE AND RECEIVE APPLICATION FORMS FROM PEOPLE WITH QUALIFICATIONS RANGING FROM SECONDARY 5 WITH FIVE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION PASSES, INCLUDING ENGLISH AND CHINESE TO TERTIARY GRADUATES TO HELP IN EDUCATING HONG KONG'S STUDENT POPULATION EITHER AS FULL- OR PART-TIME TEACHERS.

OF THE RETURNED FORMS, 355 WERE FROM PEOPLE WITH TEACHER'S CERTIFICATES, 186 WITH THE IN-SERVICE COURSE ON TEACHER TRAINING, 290 WITH SECONDARY 5 OR 7 EDUCATION, 599 WITH EITHER POLYTECHNIC OR APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, AND 986 WITH EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS DEGREES.

THE APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE AT ROOM 1402 ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, THE 19 DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AND VIA FAX BY SIMPLY DIALING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 24-HOUR AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE ON 891 0088.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE "BE MY TEACHER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN WILL INCLUDE AN ESSAY COMPETITION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS AIMED AT ENHANCING THE IMAGE OF TEACHERS.

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1993

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HK TO OBSERVE TOTAL ECLIPSE

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WEATHER PERMITTING, A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON WILL BE OBSERVABLE IN HONG KONG FROM 8.12 PM TO 9.49 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 4).

DETAILS OF THE ECLIPSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	HONG KONG TIME	AZIMUTH DIRECTION	ELEVATION (DEGREE)
MOON ENTERS PENUMBRA	1811	EAST-SOUTHEAST	-9 DEGREES
MOONRISE	1856	EAST-SOUTHEAST	0 DEGREE
MOON ENTERS UMBRA	1911	EAST-SOUTHEAST	3 DEGREES
TOTAL ECLIPSE BEGINS	2012	EAST-SOUTHEAST	15 DEGREES
MIDDLE OF ECLIPSE	2101	EAST-SOUTHEAST	24 DEGREES
TOTAL ECLIPSE ENDS	2149	SOUTHEAST	32 DEGREES
MOON LEAVES UMBRA	2250	SOUTH-SOUTHEAST	40 DEGREES
MOON LEAVES PENUMBRA	2350	SOUTH-SOUTHEAST	44 DEGREES

THE ECLIPSE WOULD BEST BE OBSERVED IN PLACES WITH NO OBSTRUCTION OF SIGHT TO THE EAST-SOUTHEAST.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 111.8 *-0.3* 27.5.93

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.44 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.82	3.71
1 MONTH	2.95 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.16	3.84
3 MONTHS	3.01 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.26	4.02
6 MONTHS	3.21 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.27	4.18
12 MONTHS	3.54 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,325 MN

CLOSED 27 MAY 1993

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