



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOOD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM NEEDS SENSIBLE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
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THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THE COSTS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE AND THE NEED FOR SENSIBLE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IF THE HEALTH OF THE SYSTEM ITSELF IS TO REMAIN GOOD, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY'S SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION, MR PATTEN SAID SOME PEOPLE STILL FELT UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS AND MARKETS WAS APPLIED TO HEALTH CARE.

"THERE IS A TENDENCY HERE, AS ELSEWHERE, TO SEE HEALTH CARE AS TOO FUNDAMENTAL AN ISSUE TO APPLY NORMAL BUSINESS PRACTICES," HE SAID.

THE OBJECTIVE FOR THE CORPORATE PLAN OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS TO ACHIEVE QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE HOSPITAL SERVICES, SAID MR PATTEN.

"I BELIEVE MOST STRONGLY THAT MARKET MECHANISMS ARE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE," HE SAID.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS.

"FIRST, THE KEY POINT OF MARKET MECHANISMS IS NOT THE QUESTION OF PRICE, BUT THE INDICATION THAT THEY GIVE AS TO THE STATE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED THAT A FREELY OPERATING MARKET WAS THE MOST EFFICIENT MECHANISM THEY KNEW FOR IDENTIFYING WHERE NEEDS WERE AND DIRECTING RESOURCES TO MEET THOSE NEEDS.

HE SAID: "A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT IS TRULY PUTTING THE PATIENT FIRST NEEDS TO HAVE THE MECHANISMS TO IDENTIFY THE DEMANDS OF ITS PATIENTS AND RESPOND TO THEM QUICKLY.

"SECOND, INEFFICIENCIES ARE A GREAT ENEMY OF QUALITY.

"THEY TEND TO DISCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND IMPROVEMENT."

BY PROMOTING THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES - ENCOURAGING QUALITY MANAGEMENT - THE MARKET MECHANISMS HELP TO PROMOTE THE QUALITY OF FRONT LINE CARE TO THE PATIENT, HE NOTED.

"WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE PRUDENT AND SECURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL ENSURE THAT THE FINE SYSTEM THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP CAN BE MAINTAINED AND DEVELOPED TO MEET HONG KONG'S CHANGING NEEDS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO COMMENDED THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR SHOWING THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ITS OWN IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS, SUCH THAT THE HONG KONG HOSPITAL SYSTEM COULD OFFER INSPIRATION TO OTHER TERRITORIES IN HOW TO MANAGE AND IMPROVE THEIR OWN SYSTEMS.

STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPECTED FOR 1994

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, EXPECTED HONG KONG'S ECONOMY TO MAINTAIN STEADY GROWTH IN 1994.

SPEAKING AT A MEDIA SESSION TO REVIEW 1993 AND TO LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR, HE SAID ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1994 WAS LIKELY TO BE AROUND FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, DEMAND WOULD BE UNDERPINNED BY SUSTAINED FULL EMPLOYMENT AND STEADY INCREASE IN INCOMES AND THE PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, HE SAID.

ON EXTERNAL TRADE, HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE CONTINUED ROBUST GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS AND IN TRADE IN SERVICES DUE TO IMPROVED ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND SHOULD ALSO BOOST SENTIMENTS, HENCE RAISING EXPECTATIONS FOR A FASTER GROWTH IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG COULD EXPECT TO BENEFIT FROM THE RECENT UNIFICATION OF THE RENMINBI EXCHANGE RATE.

THIS WAS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS FULL CONVERTIBILITY OF THE RENMINBI AND WOULD FACILITATE CHINA'S EFFORTS TO RE-ENTER GATT AND WOULD ALSO HELP TO ATTRACT MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT INTO CHINA, HE SAID.

ON INFLATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT IN 1994 INFLATION WAS LIKELY TO STAY AT MORE OR LESS THE SAME LEVEL AS IN 1993.

ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN 1993, HE NOTED THAT THE FORECAST GDP GROWTH RATE OF 5.5 PER CENT FOR THE YEAR WAS LIKELY TO BE LARGELY ACHIEVABLE.

THE FORECAST CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION RATE FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, AT AN AVERAGE OF 8.5 PER CENT, WAS ALSO LIKELY TO BE ON TARGET GIVEN THE ACTUAL OUTTURN SO FAR, HE SAID.

ON THE MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK FOR 1994-97, SIR HAMISH SAID THE DYNAMIC ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, COUPLED WITH GRADUAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE, POINTED TO GOOD BUSINESS PROSPECTS AHEAD.

HE ADDED THAT THE LONGER TERM PROSPECTS FOR CHINA'S ECONOMY SHOULD BE BRIGHT.

HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THE CONTINUATION OF CHINA'S ECONOMY AND CURRENCY REFORMS WHICH WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO HONG KONG ON SEVERAL COUNTS.

HE SAID THESE REFORMS WOULD MAKE CHINA'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS MORE MARKET-DRIVEN AND THIS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY FOREIGN INVESTORS AND HELP ACHIEVE LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.

THE REFORMS, HE ADDED, SHOULD HELP PROMOTE THE GATT-CONSISTENCY OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC REGIME AND FACILITATE HER APPLICATION FOR RESUMPTION OF GATT MEMBERSHIP.

HE SAID CHINA'S GATT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY TRADE ACTIONS AGAINST CHINA WHICH WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG BEARING IN MIND THAT RE-EXPORTS TOOK UP TWO-THIRDS OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS AND THAT 80 PER CENT OF ITS RE-EXPORT TRADE WAS CHINA-RELATED.

THE REFORMS ALSO PROMOTED TRANSPARENCY AND TRADE CERTAINTY IN CHINA AND SHOULD BE WELCOME NEWS TO HONG KONG, GIVEN THE FACT THAT HONG KONG WAS CHINA'S LARGEST INVESTOR AND SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, HE EXPECTED THE MEDIUM TERM TREND GDP GROWTH RATE TO MAINTAIN AT FIVE PER CENT PER ANNUM AND THE CORRESPONDING TREND INFLATION RATE IN TERMS OF THE GDP DEFLATOR AT 8.5 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

ON THE NEW AIRPORT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT TOOK AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD WITH THE PUBLICATION IN THE FORM OF A WHITE BILL, THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL, ON JANUARY 3 FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

COMMENTING ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD BE GOING TO BEIJING AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRELIMINARY WORKING COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION TO BRIEF THEM ON THE BILL, HE SAID: "DURING THIS CONSULTATION EXERCISE WE WILL BE RESPONDING IN HONG KONG TO QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"WE WOULD RESPOND TO MEMBERS OF THE PRELIMINARY WORKING COMMITTEE IN THE SAME WAY WE WOULD RESPOND TO OTHER GROUPS IN HONG KONG. THERE IS THEREFORE NO QUESTION OF US SENDING OFFICIALS TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF THE COMMITTEE IN PEKING OR ANYWHERE ELSE."

HE SAID THERE WERE WELL-ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION ON TRANSITIONAL ISSUES.

ON AIRPORT SUBJECTS, THERE ARE FORMAL CHANNELS INCLUDING THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE AND THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, HE SAID.

THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION HAVE BEEN SET UP UNDER FORMAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN PRESENT AND FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWERS.

"IT WOULD BE CONFUSING FOR THE PUBLIC, AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE TRANSITION, TO BLUR THESE ARRANGEMENTS WITH GROUPS WHICH DO NOT HAVE SUCH A FORMAL BASIS," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, WE DO OF COURSE HAVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH FOR AIRPORT ISSUES HAS ITS OWN SPECIALIST SUB-COMMITTEE."

HE ADDED THE GOVERNMENT HAD THIS WEEK STARTED DISCUSSING THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL WITH THESE GROUPS, AND MORE MEETINGS WOULD BE TAKING PLACE DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.

ON HONG KONG'S PROPERTY MARKET IN 1993, HE NOTED THAT MORTGAGE LENDING BY THE BANKS SHOWED A RENEWED UPSURGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR, ACCOMPANIED BY A FURTHER RISE IN PRICES.

CONDITIONS WERE NOW MORE STABLE ALTHOUGH THE LATENT DEMAND WAS STILL THERE, HE ADDED.

OVER THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, THE BANKS' MORTGAGE LENDING GREW BY ABOUT 15 PER CENT WHILE PROPERTY PRICES ROSE BY 20 PER CENT.

HE BELIEVED THAT WITHOUT THE 70 PER CENT MORTGAGE CEILING, AND EVEN TIGHTER LENDING POLICIES BY SOME BANKS, THE GROWTH IN LENDING AND CONSEQUENT OVERHEATING OF THE PROPERTY MARKET WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER.

THIS SHOWED THE VALUE OF THE 70 PER CENT CEILING IN HELPING TO RESTRAIN EXCESSIVE LENDING AND IN PROVIDING BANKS WITH A CUSHION AGAINST ANY DOWNTURN IN THE MARKET, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY CASE FOR THE CEILING TO BE LIFTED AT PRESENT.

ON THE MONETARY AND BANKING SECTOR, SIR HAMISH NOTED THAT THE BANKING SECTOR ENJOYED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND PROFITABLE YEAR IN 1993, HELPED BY THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY.

A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) ON APRIL 1, 1993.

DURING THE YEAR, THE HKMA HAD INTRODUCED THE CENTRAL MONEY MARKETS UNIT WHICH WOULD FACILITATE SCRIPTLESS TRADING OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DEBT INSTRUMENTS AND HAD ALSO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE THREE-YEAR EXCHANGE FUND NOTE WHICH HAD HELPED TO DEEPEN THE GROWING HONG KONG DOLLAR DEBT INSTRUMENT MARKET.

HE SAID THAT 1994 WOULD SEE THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF HONG KONG AS AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

TURNING TO THE STOCK AND FUTURES MARKETS, SIR HAMISH DESCRIBED 1993 AS "A SUCCESSFUL AND RECORD-BREAKING YEAR".

THE STOCK MARKET SAW TREMENDOUS PROGRESS, IN PARTICULAR IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR WITH THE HANG SENG INDEX HAVING MORE THAN DOUBLED.

MARKET CAPITALISATION ALSO GREW SUBSTANTIALLY AND TRADING VOLUME HAD REMAINED AT ROBUST LEVEL, HE ADDED.

AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE LISTING OF CHINESE STATE ENTERPRISES IN HONG KONG. THE SIX LISTINGS SO FAR HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND THREE MORE LISTINGS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1994.

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GOVT WOULD RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ON AIRPORT BILL : CS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND TO MEMBERS OF THE PRELIMINARY WORKING COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (PWC) IN THE SAME WAY AS IT RESPONDED TO ANY OTHER GROUP IF THEY WISHED TO POSE QUESTIONS ON THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TWO SCHOOLS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, MRS CHAN SAID: "IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY QUESTION OF US SENDING OFFICIALS TO BEIJING TO EXPLAIN TO THE PWC ABOUT THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL."

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO DEAL WITH TRANSITIONAL MATTERS UNDER THE JLG.

"IN THE CASE OF THE AIRPORT, WE HAVE THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. WE ALSO HAVE THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ALSO HAS ITS OWN SPECIALIST SUB-COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH ALL AIRPORT MATTERS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"THESE ARE FORMAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH BOTH SOVEREIGN POWERS HAVE AGREED SHOULD BE SET UP TO DEAL WITH AIRPORT MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE AIRPORT.

"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY NEED TO ESTABLISH YET ANOTHER CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION. INDEED, TO DO SO WOULD I THINK BE, FIRST OF ALL, VERY CONFUSING TO HONG KONG PEOPLE AND WILL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN SO FAR AS ACHIEVING A SMOOTH TRANSITION IS CONCERNED."

ASKED TO RESPOND TO REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE UNDER CHINA'S STATE COUNCIL, MR LU PING ON THE STATUS OF HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENT, MRS CHAN SAID: "THE QUESTION OF WHO IS A PERMANENT HONG KONG RESIDENT AND WHO HAS A RESIDENT STATUS IS A MATTER THAT WE HAVE RAISED WITH THE CHINESE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"WE'VE HAD A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AND ARE CONTINUING AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE VERY SOON."

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CHIEF SECRETARY SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING SCHOOLS

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CHIEF SECRETARY: FIRST OF ALL, GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE, AS YOU KNOW I'VE JUST VISITED THE ST. JOSEPH SECONDARY SCHOOL AND THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HERE. THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF VISITS I'M HOPING TO PAY TO VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO SEE FOR MYSELF HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED AND TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON INTERESTS WITH THE STAFF WHO ARE ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE SERVICE, AND I AM VERY GLAD TO BE ABLE TO VISIT BOTH THESE SCHOOLS THIS AFTERNOON. I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PWC. AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE HAVE A WELL ESTABLISHED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO DEAL WITH TRANSITIONAL MATTERS UNDER THE JLG. IN THE CASE OF THE AIRPORT, WE HAVE THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. WE ALSO HAVE THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ALSO HAS ITS OWN SPECIALIST SUB-COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH ALL AIRPORT MATTERS. AS WE SUGGESTED TO THE CHINESE LAST SUMMER, WE HAVE NOW PUBLISHED A WHITE BILL ON THE AIRPORT CORPORATION AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING THE HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THIS BILL. THIS WEEK WE HAVE STARTED A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE AND IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE WILL BE HOLDING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE VERY HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND SO IF MEMBERS OF THE PWC WISH TO POSE QUESTIONS ON THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL, WE WOULD RESPOND TO THESE MEMBERS OF THE PWC IN THE SAME WAY AS WE RESPOND TO ANY OTHER GROUP. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY QUESTION OF US SENDING OFFICIALS TO BEIJING TO EXPLAIN TO THE PWC ABOUT THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL. FINALLY, I HAVE REFERRED TO THE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. THESE ARE FORMAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH BOTH SOVEREIGN POWERS HAVE AGREED SHOULD BE SET UP TO DEAL WITH AIRPORT MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE AIRPORT. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY NEED TO ESTABLISH YET ANOTHER CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION. INDEED, TO DO SO WOULD I THINK BE, FIRST OF ALL, VERY CONFUSING TO HONG KONG PEOPLE AND WILL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN SO FAR AS ACHIEVING A SMOOTH TRANSITION IS CONCERNED.

QUESTION: MRS CHAN, ARE YOU AFRAID THAT GOVERNMENT..... PWC BY ALLOWING GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ...?

CHIEF SECRETARY: I THINK I HAVE ALREADY SAID WE HAVE WELL ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THESE CHANNELS ARE ADEQUATE AND I AM SURE THAT THE CHINESE, LIKE THE BRITISH AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS, WOULD WISH TO COMPLY WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE MOU ON THE AIRPORT.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON MR LU PING'S REMARKS ON THE STATUS OF HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENT? (TRANSLATION)

CHIEF SECRETARY: THE QUESTION OF WHO IS A PERMANENT HONG KONG RESIDENT AND WHO HAS A RESIDENT STATUS IS A MATTER THAT WE HAVE RAISED WITH THE CHINESE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. WE HAD A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AND ARE CONTINUING AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE VERY SOON. I KNOW THAT MR LU PING HAS A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERN OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND HE REALISES THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HONG KONG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND I AM SURE THAT LIKE US, MR LU PING WILL BE VERY ANXIOUS TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH US ON THIS PROBLEM. THANK YOU.

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CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS TWO SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION DEPT

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) HAD A CLOSE LOOK AT LIFE IN A GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND AN AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL.

HER VISIT TO ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE AT KENNEDY ROAD, THE HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN WAN CHAI IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF FAMILIARISATION TOURS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND FACILITIES SINCE SHE TOOK UP OFFICE AS CHIEF SECRETARY LAST NOVEMBER.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, MRS CHAN WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, WHICH HAS A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 120 YEARS, BY ITS PRINCIPAL, THE REV BRO THOMAS FAVIER.

DURING THE TOUR, SHE OBSERVED A WIDE VARIETY OF CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A SECONDARY TWO MUSIC LESSON AND SECONDARY SIX COMPUTER STUDIES, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, STAFF AND THE STUDENTS' UNION.

ON THE VISIT TO THE CO-EDUCATIONAL HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, MRS CHAN WAS TOLD THAT THE BI-SESSIONAL SCHOOL PLACED MUCH EMPHASIS ON MORAL AND CIVIC EDUCATION THROUGH ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS DRAMA, MUSIC AND ART COMPETITIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTORATE WELCOMED MRS CHAN WHEN SHE ENDED THE DAY'S TOUR AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, WAN CHAI. MR WONG BRIEFED HER ON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION ON MAJOR ISSUES.

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LAW REFORM COMMISSION PUBLISHES REPORT ON COPYRIGHT

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED ITS REPORT ON COPYRIGHT WHICH COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO BROADCASTING, LITERARY WORKS, VIDEOTAPES AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

THE REPORT IS THE RESULT OF SIX YEARS OF HARD WORK BY THE COMMISSION AND ONE OF ITS SUB-COMMITTEES.

IT WAS STATED IN THE REPORT THAT HONG KONG'S PRESENT LAW IS BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1956, WHICH IS NOW INADEQUATE TO COPE WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS THE INTRODUCTION OF CABLE TELEVISION.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT STANDARDS HAVE EVOLVED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW CONCEPTS SUCH AS "MORAL RIGHTS" (THE RIGHT BE IDENTIFIED AS AUTHOR OR A WORK AND TO OBJECT TO ITS DEROGATORY TREATMENT).

IN THE REPORT, THE COMMISSION ARGUES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND HAS THEREFORE IN MANY AREAS CHOSEN TO FOLLOW THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COPYRIGHT, DESIGNS AND PATENTS ACT 1988, WHICH REPRESENTS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF COPYRIGHT LAW IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THERE IS, THE COMMISSION POINTS OUT, MUCH TO BE SAID FOR FOLLOWING ENGLISH LAW IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM CASE LAW DEVELOPMENT THERE.

AMONG CHANGES PROPOSED IS THE IMPOSITION OF LIABILITY NOT ONLY ON THE OCCUPIER OF PREMISES WHERE AN INFRINGING PERFORMANCE HAD TAKEN PLACE, BUT ALSO ON THE SUPPLIER OF APPARATUS OR THE COPY OF THE FILM OR SOUND RECORDING.

WHILE MUCH OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT IS HIGHLY TECHNICAL, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE LIKELY TO AFFECT THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET:

- * THE COMMISSION REJECTS THE IDEA OF A BLANK TAPE LEVY, A PROPOSAL FAVOURED BY COPYRIGHT OWNERS WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPOSED A LEVY ON BLANK TAPES IN RETURN FOR WHICH PURCHASERS WOULD HAVE BEEN FREE TO TAPE COPYRIGHT MATERIAL.

THE COMMISSION, HOWEVER, PROPOSES THAT VIDEOTAPING OF A BROADCAST SOLELY TO ENABLE IT TO BE VIEWED AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME SHOULD BE PERMITTED.

- * THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE LAW SHOULD ALLOW COPYING OF A REASONABLE PROPORTION OF A PRINTED WORK.

AT PRESENT, THE PHOTOCOPYING OF EVEN A LIMITED EXTRACT FROM A PUBLISHED WORK BREACHES THE PUBLISHER'S COPYRIGHT.

- * COPYING OR ADAPTATION OF A COMPUTER PROGRAMME AS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN THE UTILISATION OF THE COMPUTER PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PERMITTED. THE EXISTING LAW SUGGESTS THE COPYRIGHT OWNER'S CONSENT IS REQUIRED.
- * THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS A SCHEME OF STATUTORY CONTROL FOR COLLECTING SOCIETIES, THE BODIES WHICH COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE ROYALTIES ON BEHALF OF COPYRIGHT OWNERS. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO SUCH CONTROL.
- * THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS (BUT WITH SOME RESERVATIONS) THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING RIGHT OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER TO RESTRICT PARALLEL IMPORTS. (THESE ARE NOT "PIRATE COPIES", BUT COPIES LAWFULLY MANUFACTURED ELSEWHERE AND IMPORTED TO HONG KONG IN BREACH OF AN EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTION LICENCE).
- * THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THE CREATION OF A NEW COPYRIGHT TRIBUNAL, BASED ON THE EXISTING PERFORMING RIGHT TRIBUNAL BUT WITH EXTENDED JURISDICTION.

THE NEW TRIBUNAL WOULD HAVE POWERS TO ADJUDICATE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A LICENSING SCHEME WAS REASONABLE.

IT WOULD ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO SETTLE DISPUTES OVER DESIGN RIGHT. THE NEW TRIBUNAL WOULD BE CHAIRED BY A LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSON, ASSISTED BY A NUMBER OF LAY ASSESSORS FROM THE COPYRIGHT FIELD.

RELEASING DETAILS OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR JUSTICE NAZARETH.

"THIS IS A COMPLEX AREA OF THE LAW AND THE COMMISSION'S REPORT REFLECTS THE IMMENSE AMOUNT OF HARD WORK PUT INTO THIS SUBJECT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE," HE SAID

THE REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH FOR CONSIDERATION AND NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW MEMBER TO BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR NORMAN LEUNG NAI-PANG A MEMBER OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) TO REPLACE MR ROBERT GEORGE KOTEWALL, QC, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1.

THE APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN MADE ON THE NOMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE THREE-MEMBER BEC ORIGINALLY COMPRISED MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING AS CHAIRMAN AND PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, AND MR KOTEWALL AS MEMBERS.

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OWING TO HIS HEAVY WORK COMMITMENTS, MR KOTEWALL HAS TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMISSION WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 31 LAST YEAR.

MR NORMAN LEUNG NAI-PANG, AGED 53, HAS BEEN APPOINTED A BEC MEMBER FOR THREE YEARS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1996.

A SOLICITOR IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, MR LEUNG IS MARRIED WITH FOUR CHILDREN. HE WAS MADE JUSTICE OF PEACE IN 1983, MBE IN 1986, AND AWARDED CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE MEDAL IN 1992, AND RECENTLY MADE AN OBE IN THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST.

MR LEUNG HAS A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

HE SERVED THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME FROM 1972 TO 1978, THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD FROM 1983 TO 1987. LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM 1990 TO 1992, LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PANEL FROM 1985 TO 1993 AND HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY FROM 1985 TO 1993.

AT PRESENT MR LEUNG IS COMMISSIONER OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WHICH HE HAS JOINED SINCE 1977.

HE ALSO SITS ON THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG AND HAS BEEN ITS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SINCE 1992.

MR LEUNG IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW (FILM CENSORSHIP).

THE APPOINTMENT OF MR LEUNG WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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NOISE-REDUCING WORKS ON ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL RELAY NOISE-REDUCING SURFACING MATERIAL ON A 300-METRE-LONG SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR FRONTING CITY GARDEN, NORTH POINT FROM THIS SATURDAY (JANUARY 8).

THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN SIX STAGES ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ONLY. AT EACH STAGE, TWO OF THE FOUR LANES ON THE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE CLOSED.

THE WORKS ON EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY WILL START AT 8.30 PM ON SATURDAYS AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAYS FROM JANUARY 8 TO 30 AND FROM FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 13 RESPECTIVELY.

THE WORKS ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE EXISTING SURFACE IS DETERIORATING.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

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PARKING METERS MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AWARDED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL PARKING METERS IN HONG KONG TO SERCO GUARDIAN (FM) LIMITED.

THE THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WILL START FROM MARCH 20 THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT, THE CONTRACTOR WILL TAKE OVER THE COLLECTION, COUNTING AND BANKING OF METER REVENUE.

IT WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH PUBLIC TELEPHONE REPORTS ABOUT DEFECTIVE METERS, MAINTAIN AND CLEANSE ALL PARKING METERS, AND MAINTAIN METER POSTS, PARKING SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS ASSOCIATED WITH METERED PARKING SPACES.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL HOWEVER RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE LEVEL OF PARKING CHARGES, TYPES OF METERS TO BE USED, AND DESIGNATION AND SUSPENSION OF METERED PARKING SPACES.

THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PARKING OFFENCES.

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACTOR WILL BE MONITORED BY A SPECIAL TEAM IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN HELPING THE STAFF AFFECTED BY THE CONTRACTING OUT EXERCISE TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT. OUT OF THE 118 STAFF INVOLVED, 38 HAVE OPTED TO RETIRE. SEVENTY HAVE SO FAR BEEN OFFERED OTHER JOBS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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PENALTY PROVISIONS FOR BUS SERVICE DEFICIENCIES STRENGTHENED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCIAL PENALTY PROVISIONS IN THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICE ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EXERCISE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES.

THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 26.

THE BILL WILL ENABLE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO IMPOSE FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON A FRANCHISED BUS OPERATOR BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ROUTES WHERE SERVICE DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

/THIS CONTRASTS

THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE EXISTING PROVISIONS WHERE A PENALTY CAN BE IMPOSED (UP TO \$10,000 FOR THE FIRST OCCASION, \$20,000 ON THE SECOND OCCASION AND \$50,000 ON THE THIRD AND ANY SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS) FOR SERVICE DEFICIENCIES FOUND ON THE FRANCHISE AS A WHOLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE NUMBER OF ROUTES INVOLVED.

THE BILL WILL ALSO PLACE IT BEYOND DOUBT THAT SUCH PENALTIES CANNOT BE PASSED ON TO BUS PASSENGERS BY EXCLUDING SUCH FINES FROM OPERATING EXPENSES IN THE CONSIDERATION OF FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO TRANSFER TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT EXCO'S POWER TO MAKE BUS REGULATIONS COVERING MATTERS SUCH AS PROVISION OF DESTINATION INDICATORS, CONDUCT OF BUS DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS AND SO ON.

THIS DELEGATION OF POWER WILL RELIEVE THE EXCO FROM HAVING TO DEAL WITH SUCH ROUTINE MATTERS.

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STAMPS TO MARK YEAR OF THE DOG

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WOULD BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 27 ON THE THEME OF "YEAR OF THE DOG."

THIS IS THE EIGHTH IN THE CURRENT SERIES OF LUNAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES RELEASED BY THE POST OFFICE STARTING WITH THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT IN 1987. THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS: \$1, \$1.90, \$2.40 AND \$5.

A SOUVENIR SHEET INCORPORATING THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED. A STAMP BOOKLET CONTAINING SIX EACH OF THE \$1 AND \$2.40 STAMPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$20.40 EACH.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR KAN TAI-KEUNG AND PRINTED BY LEIGH-MARDON OF AUSTRALIA.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM JANUARY 13.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, AS FROM JANUARY 13 AT \$1 EACH.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS AND SOUVENIR SHEET COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM JANUARY 13 TO 19.

THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

A RESTRICTION OF TWO STAMP BOOKLETS, 10 SOUVENIR SHEETS AND FIVE SHEETS OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION (VIZ, 250 SETS OF STAMPS) PER CUSTOMER QUEUING WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

/FIRST DAY

FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK AT \$13.30 EACH WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES:

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

CUSTOMERS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THESE SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS ARE ADVISED TO DO SO THROUGH PLACING ADVANCE ORDERS.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON JANUARY 27 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

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ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING AWARD OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS
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THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS ORGANISING AN AWARD SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SERVICES SYSTEMS.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED BETWEEN NOW AND FEBRUARY 28 FOR ALL BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL LAST MORE THAN ONE YEAR, TO COMPETE FOR THE ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING AWARD 1994.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, MISS MARY CHOW, SAID THE AWARD SCHEME AIMED TO FOSTER PUBLIC APPRECIATION FOR BUILDINGS THAT HAD ACHIEVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE.

"WE HOPE THE SCHEME WILL ALSO INCREASE THE AWARENESS AMONG PROFESSIONALS OF THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING DESIGNS," SHE SAID.

THE ENTRIES WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE OVERALL MERIT OF THE BUILDINGS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THEIR ENERGY-EFFICIENCY FEATURES AND THEIR DESIGN INNOVATION.

THE ASSESSMENT PANEL WILL COMPRISE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS CHRISTINE LOH, PROFESSOR POON CHUNG-KWONG OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR ROCCO YIM FROM THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, MR JAMES KWAN FROM THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MR DANIEL LAM FROM THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AND THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

/THE WINNERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

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THE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN APRIL.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL. ENQUIRIES MAY ALSO BE DIRECTED TO THE BRANCH ON TEL 848 2980.

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ROVING EXHIBITION ON AIDS

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A FIVE-DAY EXHIBITION WILL OPEN THIS SATURDAY (JANUARY 8) AT 1 PM AT WO CHE ESTATE COMMERCIAL CENTRE TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF AIDS.

THE ROVING EXHIBITION WILL LATER MOVE TO THE FOLLOWING FIVE COMMERCIAL CENTRES IN DIFFERENT HOUSING ESTATES UNTIL EARLY MARCH:

OI MAN ESTATE, HO MAN TIN	JANUARY 14 - 20
BUTTERFLY ESTATE, TUEN MUN	JANUARY 21 - 27
SIU SAI WAN ESTATE, CHAI WAN	FEBRUARY 18 - 24
CHEUNG FAT ESTATE, TSING YI	FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3
LOK WAH ESTATE, KWUN TONG	MARCH 4 - 10

A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING, WILL OFFICIATE AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICE), DR P Y LAM; URBAN COUNCILLOR AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS, MISS CARLYE TSUI; THE CONVENOR OF THE PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP ON AIDS, MISS ANN LAM, AND A DISC JOCKEY, MISS SHIRLEY HUI.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY. THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT WO CHE ESTATE COMMERCIAL CENTRE BEFORE 12.45 PM ON SATURDAY.

NO PARKING SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

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WIND INSTRUMENT TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

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STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY FOUR TO FORM ONE WHO WISH TO LEARN TO PLAY WIND INSTRUMENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN A TRAINING SCHEME RUN BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH.

WEEKLY ONE-HOUR TRAINING SESSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT VARIOUS MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

BECAUSE PLAYING IN ORCHESTRAS OR BANDS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF INSTRUMENT TRAINING, TRAINEES WHO ATTAINED A GOOD MUSICAL STANDARD ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN AT LEAST ONE MUSIC OFFICE ORCHESTRA OR BAND, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID.

THE MUSIC OFFICE ALSO ORGANISES A SERIES OF MUSICAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING A MUSIC CAMP, A BAND FESTIVAL, AND AN ANNUAL GALA EVERY YEAR TO BROADEN TRAINEES' EXPERIENCE.

MONTHLY TRAINING FEE AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL IS \$100.

APPLICANTS WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH AN INSPECTION OF THEIR HANDS AND MOUTH AS WELL AS A SIMPLE VOICE TEST AT THE MUSIC CENTRES IN MARCH. THE FIRST TRAINING SESSION WILL START IN APRIL.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 2.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 582 5314.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,093
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,907
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-525
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,475
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 127.6 *-0.1* 6.1.94	

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

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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	2.64 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.27	3.60
1 MONTH	2.89 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.93	3.84
3 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.98	4.03
6 MONTHS	3.18 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.94	4.23
12 MONTHS	3.50 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.86	4.69

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,179 MN

CLOSED 6 JANUARY 1994

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