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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

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BRITAIN AND CHINA TO HOLD 11TH ROUND OF TALKS

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BEIJING AT 1600 HOURS TODAY (SUNDAY):

THE BRITISH SIDE AND THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE AGREED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, SIR ROBIN MCLAREN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, MR JIANG ENZHU, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WILL HOLD THEIR ELEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS IN BEIJING ON 8 AND 9 SEPTEMBER 1993 ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA.

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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR P1 PLACES IN 1994

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PARENTS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR A PRIMARY ONE PLACE IN PUBLIC-SECTOR SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM CAN OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM TOMORROW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY ONE ARE OPEN TO ALL HONG KONG BELONGING CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1988 AND WHO ARE NOT STUDYING IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL.

HE SAID PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE ATTENDING KINDERGARTENS CAN OBTAIN THE APPLICATION FORMS, INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE FORM FROM THEIR KINDERGARTENS.

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING KINDERGARTENS, THE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES AND OFFICES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED DURING OFFICE HOURS FROM SEPTEMBER 20 TO 24 DIRECT TO A GOVERNMENT OR AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WHICH THE PARENT WISHES TO APPLY FOR A DISCRETIONARY PLACE.

THE SCHOOL MAY EITHER BE WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE CHILD LIVES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED PARENTS TO SELECT A NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL IN ORDER TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AND TO TAKE THE "POINT SYSTEM" INTO CONSIDERATION IN SELECTING THE SCHOOL.

HE EMPHASISED THAT ONLY ONE APPLICATION FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED IN RESPECT OF ANY ONE CHILD.

/"IF PARENTS

"IF PARENTS ARE FOUND TO HAVE APPLIED TO MORE THAN ONE GOVERNMENT OR AIDED SCHOOL, THEIR APPLICATION WILL BE RENDERED VOID AND ALLOCATION OF A DISCRETIONARY PLACE MADE ON THE BASIS OF SUCH APPLICATION WILL BE WITHDRAWN," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REQUESTED PARENTS OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO CANNOT USE CHINESE AS A LEARNING MEDIUM TO SEEK ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT AT 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG (TEL 572 4383), BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FORM.

HE REMARKED THAT SCHOOLS RECEIVING TOO FEW APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PLACES MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE PRIMARY ONE CLASSES.

IN SUCH CASES, CHILDREN ALREADY ACCEPTED BY THESE SCHOOLS FOR DISCRETIONARY PLACES WILL HAVE TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY RE-ALLOCATED TO SOME OTHER SCHOOLS THAT HAVE VACANCIES.

IF PARENTS ONLY WISH TO APPLY FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION, THEY SHOULD SEND IN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION CENTRES WITHIN OFFICE HOURS DURING THE SAME PERIOD:

- * PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT,
LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE,
269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, 1/F, HONG KONG
- * EDUCATION DEPARTMENT KOWLOON SUB-OFFICE,
ROOM 706, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
1/F, KCR HOUSE, SHATIN STATION, NT
- * TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
G/F, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, NT
- * TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING,
1/F, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NT
- * TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
2/F, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NT
- * YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
G/F, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING,
269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NT
- * NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE,
FANLING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
G/F, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NT

PARENTS WHO WISH THEIR CHILDREN TO ATTEND PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS OR PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SHOULD APPLY TO THE SCHOOLS DIRECT SINCE THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM.

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION PROCEDURES, PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO DIAL THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE: 891 0088.

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LIAISON GROUP FOR COUNTRY PARKS VISITORS TO BE SET UP
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COUNTRY PARK VISITORS WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS OR TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED ARE WELCOME TO JOIN A LIAISON GROUP TO BE SET UP BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY.

ANNOUNCING THE SCHEME, SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), MR LAI CHING-WAI, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY): "THE AIM OF SETTING UP A COUNTRY PARKS VISITOR LIAISON GROUP WAS TO PROVIDE A CHANNEL FOR DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE VISITORS AND THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY."

"WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH THIS INTERACTION, WE CAN KNOW MORE ABOUT PUBLIC'S EXPECTATION OF SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS SO THAT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE WHERE POSSIBLE."

HE SAID THIS WAS ALSO A KIND OF "CUSTOMERS RELATIONS SERVICE" LAUNCHED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO TIE IN WITH ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES OF PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

THE LIAISON GROUP WILL MEET TWO TO THREE TIMES A YEAR TO DISCUSS WITH STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT ON VARIOUS MATTERS CONCERNING COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS.

THE FIRST MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 14 AT THE TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO JOIN THE GROUP ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE A FORM WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT ALL COUNTRY PARKS VISITOR CENTRES, THE LION NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE, VARIOUS COUNTRY PARK WARDEN POSTS, AND THE ENQUIRY COUNTER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON 12TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

AS THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH GROUP IS LIMITED, SELECTION BY LOT MAY BE NECESSARY IF THERE ARE TOO MANY APPLICANTS.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 21 COUNTRY PARKS AND 14 SPECIAL AREAS IN HONG KONG WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 41,320 HECTARES.

THESE LEISURE AREAS ATTRACTED OVER 10 MILLION VISITORS EACH YEAR. THE VISITORS' ACTIVITIES INCLUDE LEISURE WALKING, MORNING EXERCISE, HIKING, BARBECUING, CAMPING TO SCHOOL FIELD STUDIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

FACILITIES PROVIDED IN THE PARKS INCLUDE PICNIC SITES WITH TABLES AND BENCHES, BARBECUE PITS, LITTER BINS, CHILDREN'S PLAY APPARATUS, SHELTERS, CAMPSITES AND TOILETS - ALL CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO BLEND WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

IN ADDITION, FOOTPATHS, FAMILY WALKS AND NATURE TRAILS PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO THE HILLS AND THE WOODLANDS FOR VISITORS TO ENJOY THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF THESE AREAS.

AS A MEASURE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP SIX VISITOR CENTRES AT ABERDEEN, TAI MEI TUK, PAK TAM CHUNG, TAI HANG TUN, SHING MUN AND TAI MO SHAN.

EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE AREAS WHICH INCLUDE HILL FIRE FIGHTING, TREE PLANTING AND THE REMOVAL OF MORE THAN 3,500 TONNES OF LITTER A YEAR.

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AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SCRIPT WRITERS

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LOCAL SCRIPT WRITERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR WORKS TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) TO COMPETE FOR AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCRIPTS 1993.

LAUNCHED IN 1990, THE SCHEME AIMS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT YOUNG AND UP-AND-COMING PLAYWRIGHTS.

IT ALSO ENCOURAGES WRITERS TO TAKE PART IN COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY VARIOUS BODIES TO PROMOTE ORIGINAL DRAMA SCRIPT WRITING.

THE AWARD SCHEME IS DIVIDED INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL AND OPEN SECTIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR CFPA TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID ELIGIBLE ENTRIES WERE NOT RESTRICTED TO ORIGINAL SCRIPTS IN CHINESE WHICH HAD ONLY WON PRIZES IN HONG KONG THIS YEAR.

"ORIGINAL SCRIPTS WHICH ARE PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1993 WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARDS," HE SAID.

ALL ENTRIES HAVE TO BE NOMINATED BY EITHER THE ORGANISER OF THE DRAMA COMPETITION CONCERNED, OR A MEMBER OF THE DRAMA COMMITTEE OF CFPA OR AN ASSESSOR OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT WRITING SCHEME.

THERE WILL BE SIX PRIZES IN THE OPEN SECTION AND THREE IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION.

CASH PRIZES OF \$15,000, \$10,000 AND \$7,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF FULL-LENGTH PLAYS WHILE PRIZES OF \$10,000, \$7,000 AND \$5,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF ONE-ACT PLAYS/SHORTER WORKS IN THE OPEN SECTION.

CASH PRIZES OF \$7,000, \$5,000 AND \$2,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION.

/THE DEADLINE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

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THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE END OF DECEMBER. RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR.

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CFPA SECRETARIAT ON 40TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 594 5624.

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