



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC MEETING AT CULTURAL CENTRE

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GOVERNOR: MICHAEL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FIRST OF ALL, WELCOME TO THE FOURTH PUBLIC MEETING THAT I'VE HAD SINCE I MADE A SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL JUST OVER A WEEK AGO. I HOPE YOU'VE ALL GOT THE RIGHT TICKETS. I AM NOT HERE TO PLAY THE ORGAN AND IF ANYBODY THINKS THIS IS THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL OF THE ASIAN ARTS THEY ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE. THE ONLY SURPRISE I'VE HAD OVER THE LAST WEEK OR SO IS THAT SOME PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS A STRANGE THING TO HAVE PUBLIC MEETINGS LIKE THIS. IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO WAS TO REFLECT THE THINGS THAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING TO ME OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. WHAT I WAS DOING WAS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND IT IS ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO TALK TO ME YOURSELVES ABOUT THE AGENDA THAT I HAVE PUT FORWARD FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THERE IS ALSO, I THINK, A RATHER CURIOUS VIEW THAT GOVERNMENT IS SOMEHOW WEAKER IF THE GOVERNOR, OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, COME BEFORE YOU TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. I THINK GOVERNMENT IS STRONGER AND BETTER WHEN IT DOES THAT. STRONGER AND BETTER FOR THIS REASON: WHEN PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT KNOW THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DECISIONS THEY TAKE, THEY THINK A LOT HARDER ABOUT THE DECISIONS AND TRY TO GET THE DECISIONS RIGHT. NOW, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN REPORTED A GREAT DEAL IN THE PAPERS AND ON THE RADIO AND TELEVISION, THE PROPOSALS THAT I PUT FORWARD IN MY SPEECH A WEEK AGO AND I WON'T GO THROUGH THEM ALL IN GREAT DETAIL THIS EVENING.

I HAVE FOUR AIMS, FOUR OBJECTIVES. FIRST OF ALL, TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AND COMMUNITY IN ASIA SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE STRONG ECONOMICALLY AND STRONG IN SOCIAL WAYS AS WELL. SECONDLY, I WANTED TO SHOW HOW WE CAN USE SOME OF THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH, SOME OF THE STRENGTH WHICH YOU HAVE CREATED TO MEET SOME OF OUR SOCIAL OBJECTIVES IN EDUCATION, IN SOCIAL WELFARE, IN HOUSING, IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND ELSEWHERE. THIRDLY, I WANTED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ABOUT HOW WE COULD INCREASE YOUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT TO SHAPE YOUR OWN FUTURE IN A WAY WHICH IS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH HONG KONG'S CONSTITUTION BEFORE AND AFTER 1997. AND LAST, I WANTED TO TRY TO SHOW HOW WE COULD FIGHT TO SECURE HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, FOR AS LONG AS ANY OF US CAN IMAGINE, BECAUSE THIS IS A MARVELLOUS AND SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY AND WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT IT STAYS THAT WAY.

THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO DO IN MY SPEECH AND I AM SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL WANT TO ASK ME ABOUT THIS EVENING. BUT JUST BEFORE YOU START PUNCHING THE AIR LIKE AN AMERICAN FOOTBALLER, CAN WE ALL AGREE ON TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T ASKED QUESTIONS BEFORE SHOULD HAVE THE PRIORITY THIS EVENING. IS THAT AGREED? AND SECONDLY, EVERYONE ONLY ASKS ONE QUESTION. AGREED? BECAUSE YOU DO GET PEOPLE WHO COME UP TO THE MICROPHONE AND, AFTER 10 MINUTES THEY SAY, AND FOR MY 27TH QUESTION --- SO, ON THAT BASIS WE'LL START. I'LL IDENTIFY TWO OR THREE PEOPLE AT DIFFERENT MICROPHONES AND LET'S SEE HOW MANY QUESTIONS WE CAN GET THROUGH BETWEEN NOW AND 7:15.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION BUT BEFORE I ASK MY QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING FIRST. I REPRESENT THE COSMETICS TRADE AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE DIFFICULTY THE COSMETICS AND PERFUMES TRADE IS FACING NOW. WE ARE VERY GLAD TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR FIVE YEAR PLAN, IT IS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND IT IS CONDUCIVE TO THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL, THE LEADERSHIP IS VERY STRONG AND CLEAR. YOU HAVE ASSURED US MORE THAN ONCE THAT YOU WANT TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH, YOU WANT THE PEOPLE TO PRODUCE WEALTH AND TO MAINTAIN FAIR COMPETITION, BUT THE COSMETICS TRADE IS THE ONLY TRADE WHICH SUFFERS A VERY CRAZY 30% DUTY. IT IS A HINDRANCE TO TRADE AND IT STOPS THE CUSTOMERS FROM BUYING CHEAPER PRODUCTS, AND ESPECIALLY FOR TOURISTS, THEY CAN GET THINGS CHEAPER ELSEWHERE. AND IN OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, THEY ARE LOWERING THE TAX. - WELL, I AM MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

WE ARE IN THE FRONT LINE OF THE RETAIL TRADE BUT BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL INTERFERENCE THE PRICE HAS BEEN PUSHED HIGHER AND HIGHER. THE DUTY ON COSMETICS AND PERFUMES MEANS ONLY VERY LITTLE TO THE TERRITORY REVENUE, BUT THEY MEAN A LOT TO US AND THEY CAUSE A LOT OF PAPERWORK, AND I AM SURE THAT THIS 30% DUTY IS FORMULATED BY SOME SHORT-SIGHTED OFFICIALS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRODUCE WEALTH. I'M SURE YOU ARE VERY BUSY AND I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TIME TO BUY PERFUME TO GIVE TO YOUR WIFE AS PRESENTS. IF YOU GO SHOPPING SOMETIME I'M SURE YOU CAN FEEL THE IMPACT ON THE CONSUMERS. WELL, I HOPE YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO HELP THIS TERRITORY TO BECOME A DUTY-FREE PORT AND A SHOPPER'S PARADISE. THANK YOU, MR GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR: WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE FROM THE COSMETICS AND PERFUME INDUSTRY AND WERE ASKING THE FIRST QUESTION, I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU WERE GOING TO TRY TO TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF. YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT THAT I DON'T USE COSMETICS MYSELF - EXCEPT WHEN I SHAVE - OR EXCEPT WHEN I'M IN A TELEVISION STUDIO. BUT I RECOGNISE THAT IT'S AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST - AND THIS WILL ENABLE US TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION VERY RAPIDLY - IF YOU WOULD LIKE, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY TO COME AND SEE ME SOMETIME TO TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRY, I'D BE DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU. A DEAL?

I JUST ADD THIS POINT. YOU FINISHED BY REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAILING TO HONG KONG. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WE ARE THE TOURIST CENTRE OF ASIA; MORE TOURISTS COMING HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN ASIA, AND ONE REASON WHY THEY COME IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SUPERB SHOPS.

GOVERNOR: IT'S JUST A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN WHO WAS VERY POLITE THE OTHER EVENING. AND THAT PROVES THAT VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST SURVEY DATED THE 1ST SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, HAS CONFIRMED THE LOW QUALITY OF SOME SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS. THE SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE STANDARD OF LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS. MANY TEXTBOOKS AND ASSESSMENT BOOKS WHICH WERE MORE POPULAR ASKED SILLY QUESTIONS AND DID NOT HAVE UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON WORLD AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL ISSUES. BOTH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS UNION HAVE ANNOUNCED MOVES TO RESTRICT UNSCRUPULOUS PUBLISHERS WHO PUSH UP PRICES AND PROMOTE SUB-STANDARD TEXTBOOKS. A PETITION FROM EIGHT TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER OFFICERS AND CONCERNED GROUPS PROMPTED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO INITIATE A SURVEY WHICH WILL BE USED TO COMPILE AND PUBLISH A LIST OF DISHONEST PUBLISHERS. SO FAR NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.

A REVIEW OF THE GRAMMATICAL STANDARDS OF SOME ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS HAS DRIVEN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ALMOST TO THE BRINK OF DESPAIR. DR AMY CHUI BIK-MEI, A LECTURER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SAID: "WE COULDN'T SEE WHAT THE EXERCISES IN A LOT OF THE BOOKS WANTED TO ACHIEVE IN TERMS OF TEACHING, AND THE BOOKS DON'T TEACH THE STUDENTS HOW THE LANGUAGE WORKS WITH FULL INFORMATION." AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER FROM KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, MR LAU YUK-KEE, EXAMINED DRAFTS FOR FIVE BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR A MODERN ENGLISH COURSE AND HE FOUND ERRORS IN ALL THE BOOKS, WHICH HE SAID WOULD REFLECT AND SO REINFORCE COMMON ERRORS MADE BY HONG KONG SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH. THEY OCCUR IN THE BOOK RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SO WILL BE ACCEPTED BY SOME TEACHERS AS CORRECT. I THINK IT WILL BE TOO MUCH IF I READ ALL OF THEM, I'M SORRY. AND I THANK YOU, LASTLY, FOR YOUR KINDNESS TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NEWSPAPER FROM ME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

GOVERNOR: JUST BEFORE ANSWERING, CAN I SAY THAT BOTH THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ON VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, BUT PERHAPS, IF QUESTIONERS FROM NOW ON COULD BE A LITTLE BIT BRIEFER, WE'D BE ABLE TO GET IN MORE QUESTIONS.

ALL OF US, I'M SURE, SHARE YOUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE STANDARD AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG. WE KNOW THAT IS PARTLY A MATTER OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND GIVING THEM MORE TIME TO GIVE TO THEIR PUPILS; BUT WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE A SYLLABUS IN OUR SCHOOLS WHICH IS UP TODATE, THAT WE DEVELOP OUR CURRICULUM IN A SENSIBLE WAY AND THAT WE HAVE THE TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIAL TO SUPPORT THAT.

NOW, I KNOW THAT THE QUALITY OF ENGLISH IS AN EDUCATIONAL SUBJECT WHICH CONCERNS A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT CONCERNS OUR UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES BECAUSE THEY ARE SOMETIMES WORRIED ABOUT THE STANDARD OF THOSE WHO ARE COMING INTO THEIR INSTITUTIONS, AND IT ALSO CONCERNS MANY BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD REMAIN AN INTERNATIONAL, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND, IF IT'S TO DO THAT, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN USE ENGLISH FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS CANTONESE AND MANDARIN. IT'S A SUBJECT THAT I'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, AND IT'S A SUBJECT THAT I INTEND TO DISCUSS WITH MY BUSINESS COUNCIL AND, IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I WILL CERTAINLY, AS YOU'VE SUGGESTED, TAKE UP WITH THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE PARTICULAR POINTS YOU'VE RAISED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF CURRICULUM MATERIAL IN THE CLASSROOM.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU HAVE A BIG REHABILITATION PROGRAMME. YOU MENTIONED A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT SHELTER WORKSHOP AND ACTIVITY CENTRES, BUT YOU HAVE NOT MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT JOB TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED PEOPLE. IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, IT HAS BEEN PROVED THAT, WITH THE RIGHT CURRICULUM AND WITH THE RIGHT TRAINING, THE DISABLED PEOPLE CAN BE RE-INTEGRATED INTO THE SOCIETY. SOME OF THEM CAN WORK AS CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OR WORK AS MACHINE OPERATORS IN FACTORIES. AND, ANOTHER THING. WHY IS THERE NOTHING MENTIONED ABOUT JOB TRAINING IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH? DON'T YOU THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT? AND I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO ASK YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE TEACHERS' QUALIFICATION AT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR THE DISABLED STUDENTS. FOR THESE TEACHERS, THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT WAS VERY LOW, SO HOW CAN THEY COPE WITH THE ECONOMIC RE-STRUCTURING AND HOW CAN THEY COPE WITH THE TENDENCY OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED ECONOMY? I HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS TO ASK BUT, AS I HAVE PROMISED YOU TO ASK ONE ONLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE REST IN MY LETTER.

GOVERNOR: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU ARE ENTIRELY RIGHT TO EXPRESS, WHICH I THINK IS A WIDELY HELD VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY, THAT AS A CIVILISED COMMUNITY, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, WE SHOULD DO MORE TO ASSIST THE DISABLED. NOW, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IT'S NOT PATRONISING, IT CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T TREAT DISABLED PEOPLE AS THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE CONSIDERABLE QUALITIES TO OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY. WHAT IT MEANS IS GIVING DISABLED PEOPLE THE CHANCE, THE OPPORTUNITY, TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. AND THAT, OF COURSE, MEANS ENSURING THAT THEY ARE TRAINED TO USE THE SKILLS THAT THEY HAVE. I DIDN'T MENTION TRAINING OF THE DISABLED SPECIFICALLY IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH, BUT I DID REFER TO OUR UNDERTAKING TO MEET THE KEY TARGETS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION WHICH, OF COURSE, TOUCHES ON TRAINING AMONG OTHER ISSUES. BUT I REPEAT - WE ARE DOING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY A GOOD TURN WHEN WE ENABLE THE DISABLED TO MAKE A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY SERVICES, BECAUSE THIS, ABOVE ALL, IS A COMMUNITY WHICH NEEDS TO MAKE THE MOST OF ALL ITS TALENTS AND THAT VERY DEFINITELY INCLUDES THE TALENTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE A DISABILITY. AND I WILL SEND YOU A REPLY TO YOUR LETTER, LIKE ALL GOOD CIVIL SERVANTS, WITHIN TEN DAYS.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I CAME TO A QUESTION TIME WITH THE GOVERNOR. WELCOME TO HONG KONG. I CAME NOT TO ASK A QUESTION BUT TO EXPRESS HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE PREVIOUS THREE QUESTION TIMES. FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW ON TELEVISION THAT YOU COMPLAINED THAT PEOPLE WERE ASKING TOO LONG QUESTIONS AND ONLY 11 QUESTIONERS WERE ABLE TO BRING UP THEIR QUESTIONS. BUT I FOUND A LOT OF FAMILIAR FACES THERE. THEY BELONG TO THE THREE-TIER COUNCILS. I THINK IT IS VERY UNFAIR BECAUSE ALL OF THEM HAVE THEIR OWN CHANNEL TO EXPRESS THE OPINION TO YOU. WHY DO THEY HAVE TO OCCUPY THE ONLY TIME THAT WE HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU DIRECTLY? ESPECIALLY I FOUND THAT A LADY WHO IS A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER; SHE WENT TO THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO SEE YOU WITH HER GROUP AND, AT ONE OF THE QUESTION TIMES, SHE READ FROM A THICK PILE OF PAPERS JUST AS IF SHE WAS QUESTIONING THE CHAIRMAN OF HER OWN GROUP.

/AFTER I .....

AFTER I SAW SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES, I WENT TO MAKE A LITTLE INVESTIGATION AND I FOUND OUT THAT THE CNTA WAS GIVING OUT TICKETS TO THESE MEMBERS OF THE THREE-TIER COUNCILS. BUT IT IS VERY UNFAIR FOR US COMMON CITIZENS OF HONG KONG, WE HAVE TO QUEUE-UP, PRODUCE OUR ID CARDS, TO GET TWO TICKETS EACH. SO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I MIGHT AS WELL TELEPHONE MR LI OF 'HONG KONG IN THE NINETIES', WHY DO I HAVE TO COME HERE? BUT THIS EVENING I STILL CAME HERE. MY MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO GIVE YOU SUPPORT BECAUSE LAST TIME I HEARD THAT THERE WERE NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT THIS KIND OF QUESTION TIME IS LOSING ITS POPULARITY AND PEOPLE ARE NOT INTERESTED. SO I WANT TO COME HERE TO SUPPORT YOU. WELL, WHY THE VENUES ARE NOT FILLED-UP, I THINK THERE ARE TWO REASONS. BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE HAVE GOT THE TICKETS AND THEY DON'T COME. AND THE SECOND REASON IS, A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME BUT THEY DON'T HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS, SO WHY BOTHER? LASTLY, I WANT TO SAY THIS, JUST LIKE THE OTHER GENTLEMAN WHO TALKED ABOUT THE TEXTBOOKS, IT HAS BEEN SAID SO MANY, MANY TIMES BEFORE, THEY HAVE BECOME CLICHES, SO NEXT TIME YOU HOLD ANY SUCH FUNCTIONS THERE MUST BE RULES AND REGULATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE THREE-TIER COUNCILS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASK QUESTIONS. ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASK QUESTIONS, AND NOBODY CAN GIVE YOU LETTERS OR PETITIONS.

GOVERNOR: I'LL TELL YOU HOW I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO DO THINGS IN THE FUTURE. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE YOU THE CHAIRMAN. CAN I JUST MAKE TWO OR THREE THINGS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. FIRST OF ALL, SO FAR AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG IS CONCERNED, THESE OCCASIONS ARE FOR YOU, THEY'RE FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND THEY'RE NOT JUST A GIMMICK; THEY'RE NOT JUST, AS SOMEBODY RATHER RUDELY SAID THE OTHER DAY, A SHOW; THEY'RE FROM NOW ON GOING TO BE PART OF THE WAY THAT HONG KONG IS GOVERNED. I'M GOING TO DO THEM, NOT JUST AFTER MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH EVERY YEAR, BUT I'M GOING TO DO SOME DURING THE YEAR AS WELL, BECAUSE I THINK YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK ME QUESTIONS.

SECONDLY, I'M SURE THE BILL OF RIGHTS WOULD TELL ME THAT MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE RIGHTS TOO. THERE'S A MEMBER OF A DISTRICT BOARD OVER THERE. TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, WHEN I POINT INTO THE AUDIENCE TO ASK SOMEBODY TO ASK A QUESTION - I'LL LET YOU INTO A SECRET - FIRST OF ALL, I VERY RARELY KNOW WHO EXACTLY I'M POINTING AT. SECONDLY, VERY OFTEN THE PERSON I'M POINTING AT ISN'T THE PERSON WHICH IS UP ASKING THE QUESTION. AND OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT AS WELL, TO SAY THAT THERE'S NOT VERY MUCH POINT IN INDIVIDUAL GROUPS TRYING TO USE A QUESTION ON AN OCCASION LIKE THIS TO MAKE A DEMONSTRATION IN ORDER TO GET SOME PUBLICITY. BUT I DARESAY THAT DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU AND OTHERS FEEL AS YOU DO, SOME PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BEHAVE LIKE THAT AND AFTER ALL, IT'S A FREE SOCIETY, AND THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE LAW, TO LET PEOPLE BEHAVE LIKE THAT AND DEAL WITH IT WITH AS MUCH GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT AS WE CAN MANAGE.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, FIRST OF ALL, I DO NOT BELONG TO ANY GROUP AND I QUEUED UP TO GET MY TICKET. I WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS ON HOUSING, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OPINION. WELL, MY QUESTION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, PLEASE BEAR WITH ME. IT'S A QUESTION ON THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME. IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURE TO FIGHT THE HIGH PROPERTY PRICES BUT WHY IS IT THAT THE PRICES OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ARE STILL LINKED WITH THE SO-CALLED MARKET PRICE?

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AND SECONDLY, ON PUBLIC HOUSING. I LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING MYSELF AND NOW THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SELL THESE HOUSING UNITS TO THE RESIDENTS, EVEN THOUGH THE SCHEME IS NOT VERY WELCOME. I WONDER WHY IS THERE THIS URGENCY, WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT TO DO THIS NOW? IF THE GOVERNOR IS SO CONFIDENT THAT IN THE LONG RUN, ALL THE RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD OWN THEIR OWN HOMES, IS IT THAT BEFORE 1997, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING ON THE ASSETS OF THE SAR?

GOVERNOR: CAN I DEAL WITH THE SECOND QUESTION FIRST, BECAUSE THERE IS A LACK OF LOGIC IN THE QUESTION, WHICH IS SURPRISING BECAUSE YOU WERE SO ARTICULATE IN WHAT YOU SAID. AND I SUSPECT THAT ONE OF YOUR JOKES WASN'T TRANSLATED. WHEN YOU SELL A HOUSING AUTHORITY FLAT TO ITS TENANTS YOU'RE NOT REDUCING THE STOCK OF ACCOMMODATION IN HONG KONG, BECAUSE IF THE TENANTS HAVEN'T BOUGHT THE ACCOMMODATION THEY WOULD HAVE GONE ON LIVING THERE ANYWAY. WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS CHANGING THEM FROM BEING TENANTS TO OWNER-OCCUPIERS, AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY PAY IN AS OWNER-OCCUPIERS, ALMOST CERTAINLY A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN THEY WERE PAYING IN RENT AS TENANTS, GOES INTO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO PRODUCE MORE HOMES FOR MORE PEOPLE. BUT WHILE IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO GIVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME HOME OWNERS, AND THE EXPERTS TELL US THAT ABOUT SIX OUT OF 10 FAMILIES IN HONG KONG MAY HAVE PUT THEMSELVES INTO THE HOME OWNERSHIP CATEGORY BY 1997, IT IS ALSO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE GO ON WITH A SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME, AND THAT, I'M DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD DO.

GOVERNOR: THE HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND THE HOUSING SOCIETY WILL BE BUILDING ABOUT 107 - WHEN I SAY ABOUT - THAT'S THE AVERAGE FIGURE, 107 UNITS A DAY, EVERY DAY, FROM NOW UNTIL 1997. THAT'S ABOUT 40,000 UNITS A YEAR, THAT'S GETTING ON TO 200,000 UNITS OVER THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD. A LOT OF THOSE WILL BE FOR PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND SOME, OF COURSE, WILL BE FOR HOME OWNERSHIP.

AND, AS FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION - THE ONE AFTER THE JOKE - AS FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION, WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO, AS YOU KNOW, THROUGH THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, IS TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF HOME OWNERSHIP FOR MANY PEOPLE AND THE MOST SENSIBLE THING TO REDUCE IT FROM IS THE MARKET PRICE. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT ELSE YOU COULD REDUCE IT FROM, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT A BETTER YARDSTICK, LET ME KNOW.

QUESTIONER: I DIDN'T SAY ANY INTRODUCTORY REMARKS SO MAY I SAY SOMETHING MORE NOW? BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTOOD MY QUESTION.

GOVERNOR: ALRIGHT, BUT BE VERY BRIEF, VERY VERY BRIEF.

QUESTIONER: FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, IF THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO SOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEM OF THE PEOPLE, THEN THE WAY TO DO IT IS JUST TO SELL THE UNIT AT CONSTRUCTION COST. AND SECONDLY, ON PUBLIC HOUSING. THE PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY WAS LAID DOWN BY LORD MACLEHOSE MANY MANY YEARS AGO. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER TRIED TO SELL ANY UNITS TO THE PEOPLE; SO, WHY AT THIS TIME, WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY SOCIAL PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON SELLING THESE UNITS TO THE RESIDENTS?

/QUESTION: .....

GOVERNOR: I ANSWERED YOUR SECOND QUESTION EARLIER WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT YOU ARE NOT REDUCING THE STOCK OF HOUSING IN HONG KONG BY SELLING SOME OF IT, BY SELLING SOME FLATS TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM, BECAUSE THEY GO ON LIVING IN THEM EVEN IF THEY WERE TENANTS. ON THE FIRST POINT, THE LOWER YOU REDUCE THE PRICE FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, THE FEWER THE NUMBER OF HOMES THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY PROVIDE THROUGH IT, BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE GETTING AS MUCH BACK FROM THOSE WHO COME INTO THE SCHEME, BUT YOU ARE ENTIRELY RIGHT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE, FOR THOSE WHO WANT IT, THE LADDER INTO HOME OWNERSHIP AN EASIER ONE TO CLIMB WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING A VERY LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO RENT.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION ON TERTIARY COLLEGES. IT IS VERY GOOD THAT YOU WANT MORE PEOPLE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE TERTIARY EDUCATION, BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHETHER THE RESOURCES OF HONG KONG CAN COPE WITH THE EXPANSION? FOR MY COLLEGE, THE CLASSROOMS ARE FILLED AND SOME OF THE STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE A SEAT. IT'S THE SAME FOR THE CANTEEN. IT'S ALWAYS FULL AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND A TABLE. I THOUGHT THIS ONLY HAPPENED IN MY COLLEGE BUT WHEN I TALKED TO MY FRIENDS, I FIND THAT THIS IS VERY COMMON FOR ALL THE TERTIARY COLLEGES. SO, WHEN YOU DESIGN YOUR TERTIARY EDUCATION BLUEPRINT, WILL YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE RESOURCES SHOULD BE IN-KEEPING WITH THE EXPANSION RATE?

GOVERNOR: WE ARE, AS YOU SAID, EXPANDING TERTIARY EDUCATION VERY RAPIDLY. A LOT OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ADVISE ME WERE HERE IN UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG 20, 25 YEARS AGO, WHEN YOU COULD LITERALLY COUNT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE GOING INTO TERTIARY EDUCATION HERE IN HUNDREDS. NOW, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT 14,000, 15,000 AND WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A SITUATION IN WHICH ALMOST ONE IN FIVE OF THE 17 TO 20 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP WILL BE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION.

NOW, YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT TO SAY THAT THAT HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BUILDINGS IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR AND THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO GO ON WITH A LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, BUT I AM SURE YOU'D AGREE WITH ME THAT IF WE WERE TO SAY TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO GO TO TERTIARY EDUCATION, 'I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN GO THIS YEAR BECAUSE THE CANTEENS ARE OVER-CROWDED,' THEY'D GIVE US A PRETTY DUSTY REPLY. BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK IS AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND, THAT IS, THAT WE HAVE - IT'S A REAL IMPERATIVE - WE HAVE TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE PUT INTO RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS.

NOW, THERE'S ONE SECRET THAT I'M GOING TO LET YOU INTO. I AM NOT JUST CHANCELLOR OF ONE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG. I AM CHANCELLOR OF ALL SEVEN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN HONG KONG AND I HAVE A DIFFERENT GOWN AND A DIFFERENT MORTARBOARD FOR EACH ONE AND I HAVE, ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, TO GO AND GIVE DEGREES TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE QUALIFYING FOR DOCTORATES OR MASTERS DEGREES. AND IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP MORE OF THEM IN HONG KONG AND MAKE THE USE OF THEIR EDUCATION AND LEARNING, WE HAVE TO INCREASE, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, QUITE SUBSTANTIALLY, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT'S PUT INTO RESEARCH.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: I'M SORRY, MR GOVERNOR, I'M WHEELCHAIR-BOUND AND I CANNOT STAND UP TO ASK MY QUESTION. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS INVOLVED IN THE REHABILITATION PACKAGE, THEY ARE:

TRANSPORT  
ACCESSIBILITY  
EMPLOYMENT  
GOVERNMENT POLICY  
HOUSING  
AND EDUCATION.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A LOT OF ORDINANCES AND POLICIES WOULD BE PASSED WHICH ARE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WELFARE AND NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, BUT THERE IS NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DISABLED ON THE COUNCIL, SO IT MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO REFLECT OUR VIEWS AND OUR NEEDS. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TRANSPORT. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR THE DISABLED TO USE.

WE HAVE STRONGLY DEMANDED TO HAVE A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY FOR THE DISABLED BUT IN YOUR POLITICAL BLUEPRINT THIS HAS NOT BEEN MATERIALISED AND WE ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED. WHEN YOU ALLOCATE SEATS TO THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, YOU SHOULD BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS. NOW, IN HONG KONG, MORE THAN 50% OF DISABLED PEOPLE ARE UNEMPLOYED. THEY ARE ALREADY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, THEY ARE BEING EXPLOITED. NOW, BECAUSE THEY ARE OUT OF WORK THEY ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN ANY OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, SO THIS IS DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION AND DOUBLE EXPLOITATION. NOW, THERE ARE ABOUT 270,000 DISABLED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, AND INCLUDING THE AGENCIES AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR THEM THERE ARE ABOUT 570,000 PEOPLE. SO THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL DEPRIVED OF THEIR REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SO HOW CAN THEY FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND INTERESTS?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, THE FIRST POINT YOU MADE ABOUT TRANSPORT IS ONE WHICH I KNOW IS STRONGLY FELT BY PEOPLE WHO ARE DISABLED AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AGENCIES. I HAD A QUESTION ON THIS ISSUE AT, I THINK MY SECOND PUBLIC MEETING, AND I SUGGESTED TO THE QUESTIONER ON THAT OCCASION THAT HE MIGHT LIKE TO COME WITH ME TO A MEETING WITH THE BUS COMPANIES AND THE RAILWAY COMPANIES TO DISCUSS FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED, AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME AS WELL, I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU THERE.

SECONDLY, YOU REFERRED TO THE PROPOSALS I PUT FORWARD ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. THERE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, AT PRESENT 21 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, AND MY PROPOSALS, WHICH I'LL DISCUSS WITH CHINA, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY, FOR THOSE CONSTITUENCIES, ARE THAT WE SHOULD, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE BY ELIMINATING CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP. AND THAT WILL, AMONG OTHERS, AFFECT THE CONSTITUENCY WHICH COVERS SOCIAL WORK WHERE FROM NOW ON, INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN AGENCIES WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE.

/SECONDLY, WE .....

SECONDLY, WE WILL HAVE TO INTRODUCE, IN 1995, NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH THE BASIC LAW. I PROPOSED, FOR THOSE NINE NEW CONSTITUENCIES, THAT WE SHOULD DESIGN THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF EVERY ECONOMIC FUNCTION, IN OTHER WORDS, EVERYONE WHO IS IN WORK, SHOULD HAVE A VOTE TO REPRESENT THEIR PLACE OF WORK. NOW, I THINK IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO DESIGN A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TO REPRESENT PEOPLE OTHER THAN AN ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUP. I THINK THAT MIGHT PLACE ME OUTSIDE THE BASIC LAW, FOR A START. BUT I WILL CERTAINLY CONSIDER YOUR PROPOSAL. IT MAY BE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ONE OF THE ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AT PRESENT REPRESENTED BY MORE THAN ONE CONSTITUENCY, BY MORE THAN ONE VOTE AMONG THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WOULD LIKE TO SURRENDER THEIR SEAT TO THE DISABLED.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS TO YOU DIRECTLY. AND I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE LADY WHO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE THREE-TIER COUNCILLORS OCCUPYING THE QUESTION TIME, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, AND THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, THEY REPRESENT AT LEAST 30% OF PUBLIC OPINION, SO THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK UP. IT WILL BE MORE UNMANAGEABLE IF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE COME HERE AND THEY TRY TO VOICE THEIR OWN OPINIONS. I WENT TO THE THREE PREVIOUS PUBLIC FORUMS BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY COUNCILLORS STANDING UP AND ASKING THEIR QUESTION TO YOU, SO I THINK SHE'S WRONG HERE. SO MUCH FOR MY OPENING REMARKS AND I WANT TO ASK ONE VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION.

IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, YOU SAID A LOT ABOUT YOUR HOUSING POLICY BUT I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE SQUATTER HUTS IN THE URBAN AREA. THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 57,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN SQUATTER HUTS IN URBAN AREAS AND YOU SAID THAT YOU HOPE THAT ALL THESE SQUATTER AREAS CAN BE CLEARED IN MARCH 1996, BUT I THINK IT IS TOO LATE. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU CAN DO THIS BEFORE 1995. THE REASON IS, MR GOVERNOR, YOU HAVE COME TO VISIT THE WONG TAI SIN SQUATTER AREA, BUT THE "PATTEN HURRICANE" HAD FAILED TO PUT OUT A FIRE WHICH GUTTED TAI HOM TSUEN - IT HAPPENED AFTER YOUR VISIT. AND THE FIRE BROKE OUT IN AN EMPTY HUT, SO YOU CAN SEE HOW DANGEROUS THE ENVIRONMENT WAS. THERE WAS THE DANGEROUS SLOPE AND THERE WAS THE FIRE BREAKING OUT FROM EMPTY HUTS, SO WOULD YOU CONSIDER ADVANCING YOUR PROGRAMME OF CLEARANCE?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR COMING TO SOME OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS AS WELL AS TO THIS ONE, AND NEXT TIME, I PROMISE I'LL ASK YOU AT AN EARLIER MEETING.

I QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF RE-SETTLING PEOPLE WHO AT PRESENT LIVE IN SQUATTING ACCOMMODATION, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AND YOU'RE ALSO RIGHT TO SAY THAT WE WANT TO RE-SETTLE ALL URBAN SQUATTERS ON GOVERNMENT LAND BY MARCH 1996. I THINK YOU'LL BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT SOMETIMES A PROBLEM IN RE-SETTLING PEOPLE LIVING IN THAT SORT OF ACCOMMODATION, IS THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO MOVE. THE FIRST SQUATTING AREA THAT I WENT TO, I WAS PRESENTED WITH A PETITION IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO STAY RATHER THAN BE MOVED. SO WE DO HAVE TO SOMETIMES DEAL WITH RATHER BIGGER SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAN YOU MIGHT ANTICIPATE IN RE-SETTLING, BUT WE MUST PRESS AHEAD AS FAST AS POSSIBLE AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR DRAWING THAT MATTER TO MY ATTENTION, EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK YOU A LONG TIME TO ASK THE QUESTION.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: THANK YOU, MR GOVERNOR, FOR GIVING US THIS PUBLIC FORUM TO CONSULT PUBLIC OPINION, THIS HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE AND IT REALLY CAN BE COMPARED TO THE COMET HALLEY WHICH APPEARS ONLY ONCE IN 150 YEARS TIME. I WANT TO ASK ONE QUESTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE WATER-SUPPLY FOR ONE YEAR AND YOU HAVE TO GO TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO SORT OUT THE PROBLEM, AND FINALLY, YOU FIND THAT YOU HAVE TO RESORT TO CIVIL PROCEEDINGS IN ORDER TO GET WHAT YOU WANT, SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

SECONDLY, I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEEDS OF A MINORITY GROUP OF HONG KONG, THESE ARE THE FARMERS. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION; IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO HAVE CLEAR AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION WHICH THEY NEED, TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SOCIETY. SO I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THIS: CAN THE INFORMATION PROGRAMME SHOULD APPEAR WITH SUB-TITLES AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK INSTEAD OF ONCE A MONTH, SO I'M SURE THAT IN THIS WAY, THEY CAN HAVE MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SOCIETY AND THEY CAN BE MORE USEFUL TO SOCIETY. I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING MORE.

GOVERNOR: WELL, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANOTHER QUESTION IN IF YOU DO, BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY OVERRUNNING. CAN I ANSWER THESE TWO, ALL RIGHT?

FIRST OF ALL, YOU OBVIOUSLY GOT AN INDIVIDUAL, A PARTICULAR CASE IN MIND ABOUT THE WATER, AND IT MAY BE ONE AFFECTING YOU. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ONE OF THE STEWARDS AFTERWARDS AND FIND OUT WHERE TO WRITE TO ME ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL CASE, I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT IT WHEN YOU WRITE TO ME.

SECONDLY, YOU'RE OF COURSE RIGHT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY TO HONG KONG -- SORRY? HE SAID "DEAF"?

INTERPRETER: THEY SOUND THE SAME, "LUNG FU" AND "LUNG YAN".

GOVERNOR: AH! YOU SEE HOW MUCH EASIER LIFE WOULD BE IF I SPOKE CANTONESE. BUT I JUST WANT TO PAY ONE TRIBUTE TO THOSE THREE BRILLIANT YOUNG WOMEN, THAT IS THE FIRST, EVEN TINY MISTAKE THAT THEY'VE MADE IN FOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS, UPTEN RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, SO THEY ARE BRILLIANT, AND ACTUALLY, THEY DESERVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

GOVERNOR: NOW, I WILL LET YOU INTO A SMALL SECRET, I WAS ABOUT TO TRY TO THINK OF AN ANSWER AS TO WHY THE FARMING COMMUNITY NEEDED MORE INFORMATION, AND I DON'T THINK IT WAS GOING TO BE A VERY CONVINCING ANSWER. I WILL PASS ON TO THE RTHK AND TO THE TELEVISION COMPANIES, THE POINT YOU'VE MADE ABOUT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF. IT'S AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT POINT. TELEVISION, IN PARTICULAR, IS EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT TO KEEPING DEAF PEOPLE IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY AND WE MUST SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME WAY OF MEETING YOUR UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN. IT'S A MUCH EASIER ANSWER TO GIVE THAN THE ONE I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE ABOUT FARMERS.

/QUESTION: .....

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

- 11 -

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF MY OPINION, I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND. THE NEXT TIME YOU HOLD THIS KIND OF PUBLIC FORUM, YOU SHOULD BE MORE FAR SIGHTED AND LOOK AT THE UPPER DECK. I HAD TO CHANGE MY SEAT IN ORDER TO ATTRACT YOUR ATTENTION.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND I THINK THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IS STILL TOO LITTLE. I LIVE AT SHUN LEI CHUN AND I CAN SEE THAT A LOT OF ELDERLY PEOPLE THERE, THEY STILL HAVE TO COLLECT EMPTY CANS AND TO COLLECT THE EMPTY CARTON BOXES FROM THE STREETS TO HELP TO MAKE ENDS MEET. I THINK THEY SHOULD ENJOY SOCIAL SECURITY AND THIS SHOWS THAT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE THEY ARE GETTING IS NOT ENOUGH AND I HOPE YOU CAN PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE WELFARE OF THESE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED. 825 DOLLARS A MONTH IS NOT ENOUGH, THOUGH I MUST SAY THEY ARE NOT TOO LITTLE. SOME PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT RAISING THE AMOUNT FROM 825 TO 1,900. I ALSO THINK THIS IS TOO MUCH, BUT WOULD YOU CONSIDER ADJUSTING THE AMOUNTS ACCORDING TO INFLATION EACH YEAR?

GOVERNOR: ABSOLUTELY. LET ME JUST TRY TO RESPOND BRIEFLY SO THAT WE CAN GET ANOTHER QUESTION IN. I THINK THERE IS CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVELS AND I'VE TRIED TO ADJUST THEM IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE BOTH FOR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO AREN'T AT PRESENT RECEIVING A SUPPLEMENT, AND THEIR FIGURE WILL GO UP FROM BETWEEN 600 AND 620 TO 820 A MONTH AND, FOR INDIVIDUALS - PEOPLE LIVING ON THEIR OWN - FOR INDIVIDUALS, THE FIGURE WILL GO UP FROM 825 TO 950. THAT'S JUST THE FIRST POINT. BUT THOSE FIGURES ARE IN THIS YEAR'S PRICES. YOU'LL HAVE TO COUNT IN ADDITION, AN INCREASE FOR INFLATION THAT WILL BE PRODUCED NEXT MARCH. I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU - AND THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE AND UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT - WE MUST NOT ALLOW PAYMENTS LIKE THAT TO BE GNAWED AWAY BY INFLATION EVERY YEAR. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE AT LEAST ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RISE IN PRICES. THAT IS, I THINK, A DUTY THAT WE OWE THOSE WHO, USUALLY THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, ARE IN NEED.

AND THE LAST POINT I MAKE IS THAT, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SITTING UP THERE, YOUR PERSONALITY WAS SO MAGNETIC THAT I FOUND YOU IN THE END.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, GOOD EVENING. I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE GIVEN THIS CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU. I THOUGHT YOU HAVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALES. BUT AT LAST I HAVE THIS CHANCE. AND, I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THESE PUBLIC FORUMS. I WANT YOU TO HOLD THEM MORE OFTEN. DON'T BE DISHEARTENED BECAUSE THE PLACE WAS HALF EMPTY LAST TIME. I WOULD COME EVEN IF I WAS THE ONLY ONE, I WOULD COME WITH ALL MY RESPECT AND I WOULD SPEAK TO YOU ONE-TO-ONE.

MR GOVERNOR, YOU ARE SO HARD WORKING AND YOU ARE SO CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE, WE ALL SUPPORT YOU. WHEN YOU GO BACK TO THE UK AND IF YOU RUN FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, THE 6 MILLION HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL NO DOUBT GIVE YOU OUR SUPPORT. IF YOU AGREE TO PAY FOR MY AIR PASSAGE, I WILL BE IN YOUR ELECTIONEERING TEAM.

/I WOULD .....

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ON THE YOUTH PROBLEM. I THINK THE MEDIA IS EXERTING A LOT OF INFLUENCE ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE. NOWADAYS, IN SOME OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, EVEN THE VERY BIG NEWSPAPERS, THEY CARRY STORIES WITH VERY CRUDE, OR SOMETIMES NUDE ILLUSTRATIONS AND THE CONTENT IS VERY EROTIC. IF YOU UNDERSTAND CHINESE YOU WILL SEE WHAT I MEAN. SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE, AFTER THEY HAVE READ THIS, HOW CAN THEY HELP GOING ASTRAY?

SECONDLY, THE BEHAVIOUR OF KILLING, ARSONING ARE PORTRAYED AS HEROIC DEEDS IN TELEVISION AND MOVIES. SO THIS IS VERY MISLEADING TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE. I'M SURE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPEND MORE ON EDUCATION. SUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT PLAYGROUND, THEY CAN BE OPENED TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEM TO RIDE THEIR BICYCLES THERE, OR TO DO SOMETHING TO SPEND THEIR ENERGY. IF THE GOVERNMENT THINKS FIT, THEY MAY CHARGE AN ENTRANCE FEE. IT'S OKAY. AND THERE ARE SO MANY UNDESIRABLE MOVIES SHOWING NOW, I THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO COUNTER THIS EFFECT. THE GOVERNMENT CAN PAY TO MAKE SOME ROMANCE AND FEATURE FILMS AND YOU CAN GIVE OUR TICKETS AND WE ARE SURE TO BRING OUR CHILDREN TO WATCH THESE FILMS. OF COURSE, THIS IS A DRAW ON THE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, BUT IF YOU HAVE TO HIRE MORE POLICEMEN TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, THIS IS ALSO A DRAW ON THE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES. WHAT I HAVE SUGGESTED IS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE.

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, I THINK IF I STARTED GOING TO ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS WITH YOU IN THE EVENINGS, MY WIFE MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS, BUT THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR YOUR SUPPORT. I THINK THE POINT YOU RAISE ABOUT THE THREAT TO FAMILY LIFE FROM PORNOGRAPHY, WHETHER IN MAGAZINES OR IN FILMS, IS A VERY REAL DANGER. AND IT IS A DANGER THAT WE HAVE TO TRY TO COPE WITH. OF COURSE, THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH PRODUCED SOME EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT PROPOSALS ON YOUNG PEOPLE, ON ENSURING THAT THEY ARE BETTER EDUCATED AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN IMPLEMENT THEIR PROPOSALS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

AND I'LL TELL SIR RUN RUN SHAW ABOUT THE FILMS.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. AS YOU ARE A POLITICIAN I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND MY QUESTION THE EASIER ONE IN THE WHOLE EVENING. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONS. TEN DAYS AFTER YOU DELIVERED YOUR POLICY SPEECH, WE CAN SEE FROM TV AND NEWSPAPERS WHAT THE REACTIONS FROM CHINA IS AND THE AIRPORT TALKS HAVE ALSO FAILED. YOU SAID THAT DEMOCRATISATION IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT, BUT CHINA HAS A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION TO DEMOCRACY. SO, THEY HAVE STRONGLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT YOUR PACKAGE AND I THINK SMOOTH TRANSITION IS ALL WE WANT AND GOOD RELATION BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG IS VERY IMPORTANT. I AM AFRAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE MORE CONFLICTS IN THE FUTURE. SO, WHEN YOU GO TO PEKING, WILL YOU USE YOUR POLITICIAN'S SKILL TO TRY TO EXPLAIN TO PEKING THE KIND OF DEMOCRACY WE WANT?

GOVERNOR: EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN IN HONG KONG, I'VE ATTEMPTED TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHAT SORT OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT YOU WANT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. I DON'T INVENT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TO BRING FORWARD PROPOSALS ABOUT THE 1995 ELECTIONS, ABOUT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE, ABOUT THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND SO ON. THOSE ARE ISSUES THAT WE DO HAVE TO TACKLE. AND WHAT I THOUGHT AND WHAT I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT IS A MODEST INCREASE IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT; ACHIEVED IN A WAY WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW. WHAT THE SURVEYS OF PUBLIC OPINION SUGGEST IS THAT SOME PEOPLE THINK I SHOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER AND FASTER. AND ACCORDING TO THE SURVEYS, A MUCH, MUCH SMALLER GROUP THINK THAT I'VE GONE TOO FAR, BUT WHAT THEY ALSO SEEM TO SHOW - THOSE SURVEYS - IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THINK THAT I'VE GOT IT ABOUT RIGHT, THINK THAT WHAT I'M PROPOSING IS A REASONABLE BALANCE. AND THAT IS WHAT I SHALL SAY WHEN I AM IN PEKING NEXT WEEK.

WHAT I WILL ALSO SAY IS THAT IT ISN'T ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE JUST TO CRITICISE MY PROPOSALS, ANY MORE THAN IT'S ENOUGH, FOR PEOPLE JUST TO SAY 'NO' EVERY TIME WE PUT FORWARD A NEW PROPOSAL ABOUT THE AIRPORT. IF PEOPLE CRITICISE THEN THEY SHOULD SAY, OPENLY, WHAT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS THEY THINK WOULD BE BETTER. OF COURSE EVERYONE SENSIBLE WANTS A GOOD AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. AS I SAID A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, WHAT HURTS CHINA, HURTS HONG KONG AND WHAT IS GOOD FOR HONG KONG IS GOOD FOR CHINA. BUT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP INVOLVES BOTH PARTIES. I THINK YOU HAVE AN EXPRESSION IN CHINESE THAT YOU CAN'T CLAP WITH ONE HAND. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT ALL THE UNDERSTANDING, ALL THE INTEREST, ALL THE EFFORT HAS TO BE IN ONE DIRECTION. IT NEEDS UNDERSTANDING FROM BOTH SIDES. I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH I'VE PUT FORWARD, WHICH WERE MADE IN HONG KONG, WHICH I THINK REFLECT THE VIEWS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WOULD BE GOOD FOR HONG KONG AND THEREFORE, AS I SAID EARLIER, GOOD FOR THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. AND THAT IS THE POINT THAT I SHALL MAKE AND THAT IS THE POINT WHICH I HOPE - WHATEVER THE WORDS THAT SOME PEOPLE USE - THAT IS THE POINT WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT.

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HK CAN WELL AFFORD SPENDING PLANS : FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (FRIDAY) REITERATED THAT HONG KONG COULD AFFORD THE SPENDING PLANS IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS.

THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE SECTION 301 TALKS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE RENEWAL OF THE MOST-FAVOURED-NATION STATUS FOR CHINA AUGURED WELL FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC SUCCESS, HE SAID.

"ALSO, THE UNEXPECTEDLY HEALTHY REVENUE POSITION WE EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1991 - 92 HAS CONTINUED," HE TOLD THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON OF THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THIS WINDFALL FISCAL SURPLUS HAS GIVEN US EXTRA FREEDOM OF ACTION IN OUR SPENDING PLANS," HE ADDED.

"COMBINED WITH OUR NEW APPROACH IN RESOURCE ALLOCATION, THIS ENABLES THE GOVERNMENT TO TRANSLATE POLICY ASPIRATIONS INTO FIRM FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS IN A NUMBER OF KEY PROGRAMME AREAS FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WITHOUT BREACHING OUR PRUDENT EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES OR EATING INTO OUR FORECAST FISCAL RESERVES," HE EXPLAINED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAINTAINED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND IN REVENUE WAS ITS "STABLE, PREDICTABLE AND LOW-TAX SYSTEM."

REFERRING TO THE OCCASIONAL CRITICISMS ON HONG KONG'S FAILURE TO OFFER "TAX BREAKS" TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE, HE SAID: "THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE DO NOT NEED THEM."

"A SIMPLE, STRAIGHT-FORWARD SYSTEM, WITH FEW PERMITTED DEDUCTIONS, ALLOWS US TO KEEP EFFECTIVE TAX RATES LOW, AS WELL AS MINIMISING THE COST OF COLLECTION."

MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THAT THE TAX SYSTEM WAS RELIABLE, EFFICIENT AND FAIR. HE CONGRATULATED CHAIRMAN MR BILL TURNBULL ON THE SMALL NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING CASES.

HE ADDED THAT THE WORK OF THE BOARD WAS COMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO TACKLE TAX AVOIDANCE AND EVASION.

HE NOTED THAT THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE HAD BEEN USEFUL IN CURBING SPECULATION IN DOMESTIC PROPERTY, BY MAKING STAMP DUTY PAYABLE ON EACH AND EVERY SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT NEW WAYS TO TACKLE TAX AVOIDANCE SO THAT, WHILE OUR TAX RATES REMAIN LOW, TAXES WHICH ARE DUE ARE PAID IN FULL," HE ADDED.

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KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE/MA WAN VIADUCT CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT ON THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING TO KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE, SUBJECT TO THE FINALISATION OF CONTRACT DETAILS.

THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD (CTB) HAS TODAY ACCEPTED THE JOINT VENTURE'S FIXED PRICE LUMP SUM TENDER, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN A MIXTURE OF HONG KONG DOLLARS AND JAPANESE YEN, AND IS EQUIVALENT TO HK\$1.64 BILLION IN MONEY OF THE DAY AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES.

THE CONTRACT WILL BE FORMALLY AWARDED NEXT MONTH WHEN CONTRACT DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THIS WILL BE ONE MONTH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

/THE KAP .....

THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT FORM A KEY PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, LINKING THE TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE TO THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WITH COMBINED ROAD AND RAIL STRUCTURES. THEY WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS TO COMPLETE.

"THE KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE HAS SUBMITTED THE LOWEST BID RECEIVED FROM THREE TENDERERS FOR THIS IMPORTANT PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, AND IT IS THE CLEAR WINNER," SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CTB, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID TODAY.

"ITS TENDER PRICE OF \$1.64 BILLION FOR DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGE AND VIADUCT COMES WELL WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE FOR THIS CONTRACT OF \$1.81 BILLION (MARCH 1991 PRICES), WHICH IS PART OF THE PROJECT ESTIMATE APPROVED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE IN JULY 1991.

"REMEMBER ALSO THAT THIS IS A FIXED-PRICE LUMP SUM CONTRACT WITH NO FUTURE ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT OUR ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$1.81 BILLION WAS IN MARCH 1991 PRICES, THEN THE SAVINGS WE HAVE ACHIEVED ON THIS CONTRACT ARE ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE," MR YEUNG SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID: "THIS FOLLOWS THE TREND WHICH IS ALREADY APPARENT IN OTHER GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. IT WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ON THE ACP AWARDED BELOW ESTIMATE TO 17, WITH A VALUE OF NEARLY \$19 BILLION.

"THAT IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN TERMS OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION, AND IT DEMONSTRATES THAT COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON A FIXED PRICE LUMP SUM BASIS IS VERY EFFECTIVE IN KEEPING THE COSTS OF THE ACP DOWN."

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS DECIDED TO USE A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT CONTRACT BECAUSE ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS WERE AVAILABLE, AND BECAUSE THERE WAS SUFFICIENT TIME FOR TENDERERS TO PREPARE THEIR OWN DESIGNS.

"ON A DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT CONTRACT SUCH AS THIS, THE TENDERERS COMPETE BY PRODUCING DESIGNS THAT COMBINE THEIR SPECIALIST SKILLS AND THEIR SOURCES OF MATERIALS WITH THE NEED FOR THE LOWEST POSSIBLE VIABLE PRICE. THAT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

"ALL THREE TENDERERS PRODUCED DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS WITH VERY COMPETITIVE DESIGNS AND PRICES. THE DESIGNS VARIED IN THEIR USE OF CONCRETE AND STEEL FOR THE BRIDGE, AND IN THEIR DESIGN OF THE BRIDGE TOWERS AND STEEL STAYS.

"THEY ALSO VARIED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THEIR CHOICE OF SPANS FOR THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, AND IN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTING BOX SECTIONS OF THE MA WAN VIADUCT WHICH WILL CARRY THE ENCLOSED RAILWAY AND LOWER ROADWAYS.

"THE KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE PRODUCED THE LOWEST BID WITH AN EXTREMELY ECONOMICAL DESIGN THAT FULLY MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

THE MA WAN VIADUCT WILL CROSS THE ISLAND OF MA WAN BETWEEN THE TSING MA BRIDGE AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF 502 METRES. THE GOVERNMENT STIPULATED THAT THIS STRUCTURE SHOULD BE BUILT IN CONCRETE.

THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WILL BE HONG KONG'S FIRST CABLE STAYED ROAD BRIDGE. IT WILL BE 820 METRES LONG, CROSSING THE CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF MA WAN AND LANTAU.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A CABLE STAYED DESIGN IS REGARDED INTERNATIONALLY AS AN EXTREMELY COST-EFFECTIVE FORM OF STRUCTURE FOR SUCH A SPAN.

THE ADVANTAGE OF CABLE STAYED BRIDGES IS THAT THEY OFFER SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIES IN THE USE OF MATERIALS FOR SPANS BETWEEN ABOUT 150 AND 500 METRES, COMPARED WITH SUSPENSION BRIDGES WHICH ARE NORMALLY ONLY CONSIDERED FOR SPANS ABOVE 500 METRES.

THE KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE'S DESIGN FOR THE BRIDGE COMPRISES CONCRETE MAIN SUPPORT TOWERS MORE THAN 150 METRES HIGH. FROM THESE TOWERS, CABLES WILL RADIATE DOWNWARDS TO SUPPORT THE MAIN CENTRAL 430-METRE SPAN, BUILT IN COMPOSITE STEEL AND CONCRETE.

THE MA WAN VIADUCT WILL HAVE LARGE PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BOX GIRDERS, WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE THE ENCLOSED RAILWAY AND LOWER ROADWAY.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT VENTURE ARE KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) OF HONG KONG AND THREE COMPANIES FROM JAPAN: MAEDA CORPORATION, YOKOGAWA BRIDGE CORPORATION, AND HITACHI ZOSEN CORPORATION.

THE SECOND LOWEST TENDER WAS SUBMITTED BY HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM, LED BY BOUYGUES SA AND DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS OF FRANCE, FOR A PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CABLE STAYED BRIDGE. THE ANGLO-JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION JOINT VENTURE, WHICH IS NOW BUILDING THE ADJACENT TSING MA BRIDGE UNDER A CONTRACT AWARDED IN MAY, SUBMITTED TWO HIGHER TENDERS BASED ON SEPARATE CABLE STAYED ALL-STEEL AND ALL-CONCRETE DESIGNS.

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EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS IN JUNE RELEASED  
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IN JUNE 1992, THERE WAS CONTINUED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR OVER A YEAR EARLIER, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED FURTHER.

ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE FALL IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUED STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA.

/WHILE THE .....

WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS COMBINED DECREASED IN JUNE 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDE.

IN JUNE 1992, EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER. AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS STILL AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS.

THERE WERE 587,300 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN JUNE 1992, REPRESENTATING A DECREASE OF 13.8% FROM JUNE 1991.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 903,600 IN JUNE 1992, WAS 3.3% HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1991.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 305,400, WAS UP BY 7.7%.

EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT 64,000, WAS 0.4% HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1991.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR JUNE 1992 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH COMPARISONS WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1991 AND MARCH 1992, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	JUN. 91	MAR. 92	JUN. 92	JUN. 92 OVER JUN. 91	JUN. 92 OVER MAR. 92
MANUFACTURING	681,100	605,200	587,300	-13.8	-3.0
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	63,800	62,100	64,000	+ 0.4	+3.1
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	874,300	863,200	903,600	+ 3.3	+4.7
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, AND BUSINESS SERVICES	283,600	303,400	305,400	+ 7.7	+0.6

THE SURVEY EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS.

THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN JUNE 1992 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE TWO SURVEYS ALSO PROVIDE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY DATA TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1991 AND MARCH 1992 ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	JUN. 91	MAR. 92	JUN. 92	JUN. 92 OVER JUN. 91	JUN. 92 OVER MAR. 92
MANUFACTURING	25,250	25,060	19,800	-21.6	-21.0
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	940	770	500	-47.5	-35.5
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	24,910	35,340	28,130	+12.9	-20.4
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, AND BUSINESS SERVICES	8,730	10,240	8,770	+ 0.6	-14.3

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN JUNE 1992, AT AROUND 75,780, WAS 4.8% LOWER THAN IN JUNE 1991. THE DECLINE WAS CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WITH DECREASES OF 47.5%, AND 21.6% RESPECTIVELY.

VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO INCREASE OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES INCREASED BY 12.9% AND 0.6% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JUNE 1992 WITH MARCH 1992, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES DECREASED IN ALL THE MAJOR SECTORS SURVEYED BUT THIS COMPARISON COULD BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS.

THE JUNE 1992 NOMINAL INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED BY SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR AND THE CORRESPONDING REAL INDICES (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES) ARE GIVEN BELOW :

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	JUN. 91	JUN. 92	JUN. 92 OVER JUN. 91
MANUFACTURING	104.9	117.2	+11.7
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	103.2	113.3	+ 9.8
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	101.4	115.4	+13.8

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	JUN. 91	JUN. 92	JUN. 92 OVER JUN. 91
MANUFACTURING	102.4	104.7	+ 2.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	100.8	101.3	+ 0.5
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	99.0	103.1	+ 4.1

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BETWEEN JUNE 1991 AND JUNE 1992, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS, AS MEASURED BY PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS. AN INCREASE OF 11.7% WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 9.8%. FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 13.8%.

AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN JUNE 1991 AND JUNE 1992, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN JUNE 1992, AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN JUNE 1991, INCREASED BY 2.2% FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, 0.5% FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND 4.1% FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, JUNE 1992 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, JUNE 1992.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT HK\$14 PER COPY AND HK\$9 PER COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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## LDC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN APPROVED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY APPROVED THE QUEEN STREET DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN IN SHEUNG WAN, WHICH IS PREPARED BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) FOR THE PURPOSE OF URBAN RENEWAL.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN IS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK OF REDEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE AREA BOUNDED BY QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, PAN KWAI LANE, KO SHING STREET AND BONHAM STRAND WEST IN SHEUNG WAN.

IT COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 0.95 HECTARES.

THE NOTICE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AREA IS IN DILAPIDATED CONDITION AND EXISTING BUILDINGS WITHIN THE AREA ARE MAINLY PRE-WAR, THREE- TO FOUR-STORY AND POST-WAR, SIX-STORY TENEMENT BUILDINGS MAINLY UNDER COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL USES.

A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE AREA IS GOVERNMENT LAND, PART OF WHICH IS USED AS TEMPORARY SITTING-OUT AREAS AND A TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD BAZAAR.

/IT COVERS .....

IT COVERS PART OF THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE TRADING CENTRE IN SHEUNG WAN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

SOME OF THE BUILDINGS ARE USED FOR STORAGE AND PROCESSING OF HERBAL MEDICINE. ACTIVITIES OF THIS TRADE, ESPECIALLY LOADING AND UNLOADING, HAVE BEEN CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CIRCULATION PROBLEMS.

FACTORS LIKE THE SMALL SIZE OF LOTS, FRAGMENTED OWNERSHIP AND THE LACK OF VEHICULAR ACCESS HAVE ALSO COMPLICATED THE REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

ACCORDING TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN, THE AREA WILL BE DEVELOPED IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO ENSURE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF LAND.

THE AREA BEING ZONED AS A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA WOULD PROVIDE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF ABOUT 1,200 SQUARE METRES AT THE EASTERN PART.

THE REMAINDER WILL MAINLY FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL USES WITH THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES INCLUDING A CARE AND ATTENTION HOME, A MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, A HOSTEL FOR SINGLE PERSONS, A HOSTEL FOR THE MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, A DAY NURSERY, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND A PUBLIC TOILET.

THE MAJORITY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN A PURPOSE-DESIGNED BUILDING WITHIN THE AREA.

THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN WAS EXHIBITED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

PRIOR TO THE EXHIBITION, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WAS CONSULTED ON THE PLAN.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PLAN, RECOGNISING THAT COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT WOULD PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENT TO THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT.

AT PRESENT, LDC IS ACQUIRING AFFECTED PROPERTIES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROPERTY OWNERS.

SHOULD IT BE UNABLE TO ACQUIRE ALL THE AFFECTED PROPERTIES, THE CORPORATION MAY REQUEST THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THE RESUMPTION OF LAND UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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COMMUNITY CHEST SETS TARGET AT \$138 MILLION  
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MRS LAVENDER PATTEN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) SHE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO HELP THE COMMUNITY CHEST RAISE FUNDS FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE CITIZENS.

SPEAKING IN THE CAPACITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE ORGANISATION'S 1992/93 FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN, MRS PATTEN SAID THE TARGET WAS TO RAISE \$138 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S.

SHE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALL OF THE MONEY WOULD BE PASSED ON TO WELFARE AGENCIES.

"FOR MANY YEARS THE CHEST HAS STUCK TO THIS PRINCIPLE - THAT EVERY DOLLAR DONATED BY THE PUBLIC MUST GO DIRECTLY TO CHARITY WITHOUT DEDUCTION," SHE SAID.

DONATIONS TO THE CHEST WOULD END UP NEITHER IN THE CHEST'S BANK ACCOUNT NOR IN SOME AGENCY OFFICE, BUT IN HELPING A HONG KONG PERSON IN NEED, SHE SAID.

"WHAT WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS HONG KONG PEOPLE IN NEED - A HANDICAPPED CHILD LEARNING TO WALK, A TEENAGER TRYING TO FORM HIS OWN VALUES, A YOUNG WIDOW STRUGGLING TO BRING UP HER CHILDREN ALONE, A DRUG ADDICT TRYING TO MAKE A NEW START, AN OLD PERSON WANTING TO FEEL USEFUL AND LOVED."

SHE SAID FAMILY SERVICES WERE ONE OF THE CHEST'S MAIN FOCUSES OF FUNDING AND SHE SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS AREA OF WORK.

"THE WELFARE OF FAMILIES IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, BOTH PERSONALLY AS A WIFE AND A MOTHER, AND ALSO PROFESSIONALLY.

"BEFORE COMING TO HONG KONG, I WORKED ON FAMILY LAW CASES IN BRITAIN, OFTEN DEALING WITH FAMILIES WHO FACED SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND CRISES, AND SO I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ENSURE THAT FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED AND HELPED TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES," MRS PATTEN ADDED.

MRS PATTEN SAID IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL HONOUR FOR HER TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE CHEST WHICH PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN HONG KONG'S WELFARE SYSTEM.

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HK TO REMAIN AN OPEN, LOW-TAX ECONOMY  
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN AN OPEN, LOW-TAX ECONOMY IN WHICH BUSINESSMEN HAD THE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN SOUND COMMERCIAL SENSE, AND TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF THEIR GOOD DECISION.

SPEAKING AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE HONG KONG JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR CHAU ELABORATED ON ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA RELATING TO BUSINESS AND THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG AS OUTLINED IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS.

THE GOVERNOR HAD STRONGLY RE-AFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG - A POLICY OF "MINIMUM INTERFERENCE AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT", MR CHAU SAID.

IT MEANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS COMPETITIVE AS AN EXPORTER TO THE WORLD'S MARKETS AND AS A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS, HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MR PATTEN HAD LAID DOWN A NUMBER OF KEY PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING GOVERNMENT POLICY IN HIS SPEECH, MR CHAU SAID FIRST ON THE LIST WAS THAT HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO GENERATE THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS WHICH HAD BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST DECADES.

"IN TALKING ABOUT THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNOR MADE TWO POINTS," HE SAID.

"THE FIRST IS THAT IT IS BUSINESSMEN - AND NOT POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS - WHO MAKE THE BEST COMMERCIAL DECISIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, HONG KONG OWES ITS ECONOMIC STRENGTH TO THE DYNAMISM AND VIGOUR OF ITS ENTREPRENEURS.

"THE SECOND IS THAT IT IS ECONOMIC SUCCESS WHICH ENABLES US TO AFFORD THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO WHICH PEOPLE RIGHTLY ASPIRE," MR CHAU ADDED.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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CONTRACT FOR SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) AWARDED A \$58.3 MILLION CONTRACT TO IMPROVE THE SEWERAGE FACILITIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR CHUNG KWOK-LEUNG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SUNG FOO KEE (CIVIL) LIMITED.

WORKS UNDER THE CONTRACT ENTAIL THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TOTAL OF 5,800 METRES OF 225 MM TO 600 MM DIAMETER PIPE SEWERS AND THE ASSOCIATED MANHOLES, 750 METRES OF 100 MM TO 200 MM DIAMETER PUMPING MAINS AND THREE SECONDARY PUMPING STATIONS AT SHOUSON HILL, DEEP WATER BAY, REPULSE BAY, MIDDLE BAY AND SOUTH BAY.

"THE NEW SEWERS WILL COLLECT SEWAGE FROM THE BEACH FACILITIES AND UNSEWERED PROPERTIES AT THE AREAS, WHICH ARE PRESENTLY SERVED BY INADEQUATELY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED PRIVATE SEPTIC TANKS OR SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

"THE SEWAGE WILL THEN BE PUMPED FROM REPULSE BAY TO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT ABERDEEN BY MEANS OF PUMPING MAINS FOR TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL," MR CHUNG SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TOTAL OF 1,030 METRES OF 225 MM TO 300 MM DIAMETER PIPE SEWER AND THE ASSOCIATED MANHOLES, 930 METRES OF 100 MM TO 200 MM DIAMETER PUMPING MAINS AND FOUR SECONDARY PUMPING STATIONS AT CHUNG HOM KOK AND MA HANG VALLEY.

"THESE ARE FOR COLLECTING SEWAGE FROM BEACH FACILITIES AND UNSEWERED PROPERTIES AT CHUNG HOM KOK AND FROM THE NEW MA HANG DEVELOPMENT.

"THE COLLECTED SEWAGE WILL THEN BE PUMPED FROM MA HANG TO THE NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT STANLEY, NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE STANLEY AREAS SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROJECT, FOR TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL," MR CHUNG SAID.

THE CONTRACT IS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT TO SEWERAGE FACILITIES OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SO AS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES.

WORKS FOR THE CONTRACT WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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GOVT'S INITIATIVES TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, TODAY (FRIDAY) OUTLINED SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT INITIATIVES TO HELP TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF THE CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL, MR FUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WHICH, WHEN OPERATIONAL IN 1994, WOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES TO STIMULATE THE GROWTH OF NEW INNOVATIVE AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED FIRMS.

"IT WILL ASSIST THESE 'START-UP' COMPANIES WITH PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, AND IT WILL FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES RELEVANT TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH," HE SAID.

AS A FURTHER INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO EXAMINE THE CASE FOR DEVELOPING A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG.

"THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CO-ORGANISING WITH THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE PARKS IN DECEMBER," HE SAID.

MR FUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D) CAPABILITY AS CRUCIAL IF TECHNOLOGIES WERE GOING TO BE USEFULLY APPLIED IN HONG KONG'S OWN INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE SAID AN APPLIED R & D SCHEME WOULD BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE \$200 MILLION TO COMPANIES IN THE FORM OF MATCHING INVESTMENTS IN R & D PROJECTS.

"THE OBJECT IS TO ENCOURAGE HIGHER LEVEL OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN APPLIED R & D.

"WE ALSO HOPE TO IMPROVE THE R & D CAPABILITIES OF OUR UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS AND HAVE INCREASED FUNDING FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES TO OVER \$400 MILLION FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF MANUFACTURING HAD HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL, MR FUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT EACH YEAR SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES TO PROVIDE MANPOWER TRAINING THROUGH THE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS.

"THE NUMBER OF FIRST YEAR FIRST DEGREE PLACES IN OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WILL INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT 10,000 TO 14,500 BY 1995, THUS CATERING FOR NEARLY 25 PER CENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 17-20 AGE GROUP," HE SAID.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING CO REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF UT FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 16, 1992 AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31 (2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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HOME-SCHOOL CO-OPERATION SOUGHT

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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE PROMOTED THROUGH A COMMITTEE ON HOME-SCHOOL CO-OPERATION WHICH WILL BE SET UP EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR WONG TOLD PARENTS ATTENDING THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF LUNG KONG WORLD FEDERATION SCHOOLS THAT COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION AMONG SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS WERE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

"THE FIRST POLICY SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND THE STANDARD OF TEACHER TRAINING," HE SAID.

THE ANNOUNCED PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HE SAID, INCLUDED MORE TEACHERS, REDUCTION OF CLASS SIZE TO 35 PUPILS, AND WHOLE-DAY OPERATION IN NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

IN FOUR YEARS' TIME, MR WONG SAID, THE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO WOULD BE REDUCED FROM 27 TO 24 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND FROM 22 TO 20 IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THESE MEASURES WOULD REDUCE THE WORKLOAD OF TEACHERS WHO WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AND TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS, HE ADDED.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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RESUMPTION OF STREETS IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR SAM KA LANE, MAN HING LANE AND PART OF PAK TSZ LANE AND UN SHING LANE IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN AND CHI SHING LANE IN WAN CHAI.

THE LANES ARE ALL UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIPS AND ARE NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED. SOME ARE PARTLY OCCUPIED BY STALLS OBSTRUCTING PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT.

THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE LANES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. WORK ON THE PROJECTS IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

NOTICES CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLANS AND SCHEMES SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS AND LAND RESUMPTION CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

PLANS FOR THE WORKS FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

PLANS FOR THE WORKS FOR CHI SHING LANE CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING AND REACH THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 15 (TUESDAY).

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JOINT EFFORTS TO TACKLE STUDENT SUICIDE

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THE PROBLEM OF STUDENT SUICIDES CAN BEST BE TACKLED THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS OF SCHOOLS, PARENTS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES), MRS GRACE YUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS, MRS YUNG SAID INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS WERE TRYING TO DEVELOP DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES ACCORDING TO THEIR STUDENTS' NEEDS AS WELL AS THEIR OWN UNIQUE CONDITIONS.

/SHE EXPLAINED .....

SHE EXPLAINED THAT THOUGH THE MEANS MAY BE DIFFERENT, THE ENDS WOULD BE THE SAME:

- \* TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE SCHOOL AND THEIR SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT; AND
- \* TO HELP STUDENTS WITH PROBLEMS AS WELL AS TO CREATE A PLEASING AND INVITING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH STUDENTS ARE TO ENJOY THEIR STUDIES.

"IN PARTICULAR, MANY TEACHERS ARE ORGANISING PROGRAMMES TO STRENGTHEN STUDENTS' COPING SKILLS AND TO HELP THEM DEVELOP A REALISTIC AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE," MRS YUNG SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, SHE SAID, A LOT HAD ALSO BEEN DONE BY SCHOOLS TO FOSTER AMIABLE HOME-SCHOOL RELATIONS SO AS TO SOLICIT PARENTS' CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

"THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE PARENTS DAY AND TALKS, TEACHERS MADE THE BEST USE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO INSTIL IN PARENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND THE NEED TO GIVE CARE AND SUPPORT TO THEIR CHILDREN TO HELP THEM FACE FRUSTRATIONS AND HANDLE STRESS POSITIVELY AND REALISTICALLY.

"I DO HOPE THAT SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WILL KEEP UP THIS GOOD WORK WITH PERSEVERANCE AND PATIENCE," SHE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD PRODUCED A FULL-COLOUR EDUCATIONAL LEAFLET ON GOOD PARENTING WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS OF PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

IN APRIL, A BOOKMARK WITH TELEPHONE HELPLINES PROVIDED BY A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

BESIDES, TO ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE, A VIDEO TAPE ON A COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH DISCUSSION GUIDELINES," MRS YUNG SAID.

"THE PROGRAMME IS ABOUT A STUDENT WHO, DESPITE SUFFERING FROM MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, MANAGED TO FACE IMMENSE ADVERSITY WITH PERSEVERANCE AND STRONG WILL," SHE SAID.

MRS YUNG SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO PRODUCE AN EDUCATIONAL FILM ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE FOR USE IN ETV LESSONS AND WILL BROADCAST AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AS WELL AS A SERIES OF TV PROGRAMMES WITH THE THEME ON GOOD AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTING.

MRS YUNG SAID WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED AN EXPERT FROM THE U.S. IN THE FIELD OF SUICIDE PREVENTION TO CONDUCT A THREE-DAY WORKSHOP AND A HALF-DAY CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SUICIDE PREVENTION.

SHE SAID THE MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT, MS DIANE RYERSON, HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS FOR GUIDANCE PERSONNEL INCLUDING LECTURERS OF THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AS WELL AS STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THIS GROUP OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS CAN IN TURN BECOME TRAINERS AND HELP SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES ON SUICIDE PREVENTION," MRS YUNG ADDED.

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#### BETTER TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR AIRPORT PASSENGERS

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PASSENGERS TO AND FROM KAI TAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WILL BE BETTER SERVED BY A NEW SPACIOUS AIRBUS TERMINUS FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE AS THE EXISTING AIRBUS TERMINUS WOULD BE RELOCATED TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF DAKOTA DRIVE, A MORE SPACIOUS AREA OPPOSITE THE PRESENT ONE.

THE AREA LEFT OVER WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO AN ADDITIONAL TAXI BOARDING AREA TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT TRAFFIC SITUATION AND TO CATER FOR MORE TAXI PASSENGERS.

IN ADDITION TO BEING MORE SPACIOUS, THE NEW AIRBUS TERMINUS IS LINKED TO THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL HALL BY A COVERED WALKWAY TO PROVIDE AN ALL-WEATHER COVERAGE.

AS A RESULT OF THE RELOCATION OF THE BUS TERMINUS, THE NEARSIDE LANE OF THE WESTBOUND DAKOTA DRIVE OUTSIDE THE BUILDING SERVICES COMPLEX OF THE AIRPORT WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A BUS LANE FROM 6.50 AM TOMORROW.

THE AIRBUS ROUTES TERMINATING AT THE TERMINUS INCLUDE:  
A1 - LEAVING FOR TSIM SHA TSUI AT 15-MINUTE FREQUENCY AT \$8;  
A2 - LEAVING FOR MACAU FERRY TERMINUS, CENTRAL AT 15/20-MINUTE FREQUENCY AT \$12; AND A3 - TO CAUSEWAY BAY AT 15/20-MINUTE FREQUENCY AT \$12 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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SEMINAR ON MASS MEDIA INFLUENCE ON YOUTH

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SOME 120 YOUTH WORKERS, EDUCATIONALISTS, PARENTS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE MASS MEDIA ON YOUTH AT A SEMINAR TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, IS TO EXAMINE THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMISSION SAID THE FORUM IS ALSO AIMED AT SOLICITING VIEWS FROM DIFFERENT PARTIES.

"IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, PARENTS, FIELD WORKERS AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES COULD HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S STANDPOINTS," HE ADDED.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE OFFICIATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI. THE GUEST-OF-HONOUR WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, MRS PAMELA CHAN WONG-SHUI.

OTHER GUESTS INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION, MS DAISY LI; A PRODUCER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION HONG KONG, MS AMEN NG; A PRODUCER OF THE HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD., MR MARK LEUNG AND A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF MASS MEDIA ON YOUTH, DR JOSEPH CHAN MAN.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS: BRIEFINGS BY GUEST SPEAKERS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND A FEEDBACK SESSION TO BE CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR NELSON CHOW, THE CONVENOR OF THE WORKING GROUP.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS, 4TH FLOOR, NORTH TOWER, 41 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BY 9.15 AM.

A WELCOMING SPEECH WILL BE DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI, AROUND 9.30 AM, TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN OPENING ADDRESS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, MRS PAMELA CHAN WONG-SHUI.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (YOUTH), MISS SUSIE HO, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON THE BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,000
REVERSAL OF LAF	-500
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+800
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,300
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 110.6 *+0.1* 16.10.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.77 PCT	13 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.86	3.57
1 MONTH	2.80 PCT	16 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.31	3.74
3 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	19 MONTHS	2405	5.502	102.36	3.99
6 MONTHS	2.95 PCT	22 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.43	4.17
12 MONTHS	3.48 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,186MN

CLOSED 16 OCTOBER 1992

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