



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Statement on Court of Final Appeal

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Following is a Government statement on Court of Final Appeal:

"The Government has read with interest the second opinion of Sir William Wade QC in respect of the Court of Final Appeal. We note that it represents a shift from his earlier opinion in 1991.

"On the question of whether the '4+1' composition of the court agreed at the JLG in September 1991 is consistent with the Basic Law, Sir William, having now seen the draft CFA Bill and the statement issued by HMG in November 1994, now considers that -

(a) the use of the word "judges" in the plural in Article 82 of the Basic Law is not conclusive, since it would be natural to use the generic plural so as to leave the number of overseas judges open, to be prescribed by a further law under Article 83, and since the plural need not necessarily mean a plurality on any one occasion; and

(b) Article 82 of the Basic Law, being framed in general terms, is capable of a range of interpretations, from unlimited discretion at one end of the scale to a 'four to one' ratio at the other, and all these interpretations could arguably be said to be in accord with the Basic Law.

In other words, while Sir William would still have preferred a more liberal interpretation, he now accepts that the 4+1 provision in the CFA Bill is arguably consistent with the Basic Law.

"With respect also to the appointment to the CFA of non-permanent Hong Kong judges, Sir William no longer considers the JLG agreement to be in breach of the Basic Law.

"The Government re-iterates its firm belief that the 1991 JLG agreement in respect of the Court of Final Appeal is not in breach of the Joint Declaration or Basic Law."

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Civil service records will be left for future administration

In response to questions about civil service personnel records, a Government spokesman said today (Friday) that all material, necessary for the administration of the civil service, including staff appraisal reports, would be left for the future Administration.

"The allegation in some press reports today that such material would be sent to the UK before June 1997 is simply not true," he said.

The spokesman added: "Records we keep on civil servants will be available for the future administration.

"The records will include the results of integrity checks for senior civil servants. However, the detailed information required in the checking process will be destroyed. All officers who have been or will be subject to integrity checks, have been informed of this practice."

The spokesman explained that it had always been the Government's intention that, as part of the newly introduced integrity checking system, sensitive personal information collected in the course of integrity checking of senior civil servants would be destroyed once the checking procedure on an officer had been completed and his status established.

"Detailed records which go into an officer's lifestyle and records of interviews including that with his referees, will no longer be required once his integrity has been clearly established," he said.

"Civil servants are naturally concerned about the provision and collection of such highly personal information and destroying the material once the check has been completed provides the necessary reassurance," the spokesman said.

On the question of providing information on senior civil servants, the spokesman said: "Under the Basic Law, the Chief Executive will nominate principal officials to the Central People's Government for appointment.

"To enable the Chief Executive (Designate) to make such nominations, the Hong Kong Government will co-operate by providing him with the necessary information," he said.

"The Hong Kong Government is fully committed to the faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration," the spokesman said.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Bills on motorist and employer insurance coverage gazetted

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The Government has proposed to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Ordinance and the Employees' Compensation Ordinance to require a motorist or an employer to purchase a minimum amount of insurance cover, instead of the unlimited insurance cover currently required.

The minimum amount of insurance cover in each case would be \$100 million for any one event.

A Government spokesman explained today (Friday) that, in line with worldwide trends, reinsurers in Hong Kong had decided that they could no longer provide unlimited reinsurance cover for motor vehicle third party liability and employees' compensation insurance, because such cover was not commercially viable.

"However, without unlimited reinsurance protection, insurers will not be able to provide unlimited insurance coverage to motorists or employers in Hong Kong.

"As a result, the requirements of the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Ordinance and the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, under which a motorist or an employer must take out unlimited insurance cover, cannot be met.

"It is, therefore, necessary to set a limit for such insurance cover which, however, should provide adequate protection for victims," he said.

The spokesman said the proposed limit of \$100 million for any one event was appropriate, having regard to the capacity of reinsurers to meet claims upon insurers.

"We have also noted that the largest such claim so far has not exceeded \$30 million for any one event," he said.

The spokesman added that the proposed amendments would not prejudice the rights of an injured person to seek compensation over and above the limit of \$100 million in the unlikely event that liabilities exceeded that amount, as any excess above the limit would be payable out of the assets of the insured.

"If any excess liabilities remain unpaid thereafter, the rights of an injured party are further protected by the compensation funds maintained by the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board or the Motor Insurers' Bureau of Hong Kong," he said.

The Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) (Amendment) Bill 1995 also proposes to exempt vehicles used exclusively on construction and industrial sites from the requirement for compulsory motor vehicle insurance.

Legislation introduced in 1988 extended the requirement to vehicles used on "private roads", which include construction and industrial sites.

As such vehicles are regarded as plant and equipment, it has been the market practice to insure them by standard all risks insurance policies, not by motor vehicle (third party risk) insurance.

However, such policies exclude liabilities compulsorily insurable under any other legislation. Hence there is a risk that third party claims arising in connection with site-based vehicles will not be entertained under the standard all risks insurance policy.

"The proposed amendment will rectify this anomaly by eliminating the risk and ensuring that vehicles used exclusively on construction and industrial sites may continue to be insured under the standard all risks insurance policy," the spokesman said.

Details of the proposed amendments are contained in the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Amendment Bill 1995 and the Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1995 published in the Gazette today.

They will be introduced into the Legislative Council on January 25.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 1995 gazetted

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The Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 1995 was gazetted today (Friday). It will be introduced into the Legislative Council on January 25.

A Government spokesman said the Bill sought to implement a number of measures to improve the provision of legal aid services recommended by an inter-departmental working group.

The report of the working group was published last July after the recommendations in it had been approved by the Governor-in-Council.

"The recommendations will meet the public demand for greater access to legal aid," the spokesman added.

"The Bill proposes an expansion of the scopes of both the standard legal aid scheme and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme for the 'sandwich' cases," he said.

"It also proposes that the Director of Legal Aid should also be given the discretion to waive the means test in meritorious civil Bill of Rights (BOR) cases, and that legal aid should be extended to assist individuals to pursue election petitions on BOR grounds."

The working group's recommendations relating to the establishment of an independent Legal Aid Services Council are not dealt with in the present Bill.

"This will be the subject of a separate Bill," the spokesman explained.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

103 Vietnamese transferred from High Island Centre

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All 103 Vietnamese migrants scheduled for return to Vietnam under the Orderly Repatriation Programme next week voluntarily left the High Island Detention Centre early this (Friday) afternoon for Victoria Prison.

They will undergo pre-flight documentation and medical checks before leaving Hong Kong on Wednesday (January 18).

The Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Brian Bresnihan, said a transfer exercise was originally planned for tomorrow afternoon. It had been brought forward 24 hours in the light of the fire in the centre early this morning.

The vast majority of the Vietnamese migrants presented themselves for transfer to Victoria Prison before noon. The last group of five volunteered shortly before 2 pm.

At no stage was it necessary to deploy officers of the Correctional Services Department or the Police to remove Vietnamese migrants out of the camp.

In a subsequent search of the camp many home-made weapons were found and eight Vietnamese migrants suspected of involvement in the earlier fire were taken away for inquiries.

The fire broke out simultaneously in four dormitories which suggests that arson was involved.

Mr Bresnihan said he deplored the fire which could have had very serious consequences. "Fortunately, no Vietnamese migrants were injured. The Police are still investigating the incident."

Mr Bresnihan stressed that the Government remained determined to repatriate all screened-out Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Transfer of Vietnamese from High Island Detention Centre today

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The Government announced today (Friday) that about 100 Vietnamese migrants would be transferred from High Island Detention Centre this afternoon in preparation for their return home under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

They will be transferred to Victoria Prison for pre-flight documentation and medical checks before leaving Hong Kong on January 18 (Wednesday).

A Government spokesman said the transfer exercise had been brought forward 24 hours.

"In the light of the fire in the High Island Detention Centre early this morning, we considered it only prudent to move the Vietnamese migrants to Victoria Prison as soon as possible.

"On December 15 last year, they were told that unless they volunteered by December 22, they could be returned on the next ORP flight.

"Yesterday, they were asked to present themselves for transfer from High Island."

The transfer will be monitored by representatives of non-government organisations (Oxfam and for the first time Medecins Sans Frontieres), and non-official Justices of the Peace. The monitors' role is to observe and report on the transfer and their reports will be made public.

The spokesman said the monitors were fully briefed on January 10. "We are very grateful to their agreeing to act as monitors," he said.

Attention News Editors:

There will be a fixed press position at High Island this (Friday) afternoon from where the operation and departure from the camp can be observed. Photographers are advised to bring telephoto lens for the best coverage.

Press coaches will be provided, leaving from the Central Government Offices car park, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong. Your representatives should arrive by 11.45 am.

Anyone wishing to use their own transport will have to stop at the road barrier at the entrance to the reservoir area and to transfer to the press coaches, which will arrive at about 12.45 pm. Access to the area and the press position will be by press coach only.

Reporters covering the operation are advised to bring some snacks and water as it is not known how long the operation will take.

Details of the press arrangements for January 18 will be announced later.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Sharp increases in penalties for endangered species offences

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People who illegally trade in highly endangered species will now have to face a maximum penalty of \$5 million fine and imprisonment for two years under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) (Amendment) Bill passed by the Legislative Council on Wednesday (January 11) and published as an Ordinance in the Gazette today (Friday).

The revised legislation set a sharp, across-the-board increases in maximum penalties for contraventions of restrictions on international trade in and possession of endangered species, the previous penalties being a maximum fine of \$25,000 for a first offence and \$50,000 and six months' imprisonment for a second or subsequent offence.

The levels of penalties will hereafter be decided according to whether the offence is committed for a commercial or non-commercial purpose and whether the species involved is highly endangered or less endangered.

Import, export or possession of endangered species without a licence for a commercial purpose attracts the highest penalties under the amended legislation.

Where such an offence involves a highly endangered species, the maximum penalty will be a fine of \$5 million and two years' imprisonment. This includes illegal trade in items such as rhino horn, tiger parts, gall bladders and bile from highly endangered species of bear and medicines claiming to contain rhino or tiger ingredients.

Where a less endangered species is involved, the maximum penalty will be \$500,000 and one year's imprisonment. This covers animals and plants including their parts and derivatives such as leopard cat, slow loris, owls, some parrots, corals, some wild orchids and some wild American ginseng.

Offences not involving a commercial purpose, but involving a highly endangered species, will attract a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and imprisonment for one year. Where such an offence involves a less endangered species, the maximum penalty is \$50,000 and six months' imprisonment.

Commenting on the new changes, the Assistant Director (Conservation and Country Parks) of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Frank Lau, said: "The substantial increases in penalties reflect the seriousness Hong Kong attaches to such offences.

"We hope this will provide an effective deterrent on people trading illegally in endangered species since they will now stand a greater risk," he said.

Last year, there was a total of 557 successful prosecutions under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, resulting in a total fine of \$1.4 million.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Urban and New Territories taxis to charge new fares on Sunday

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Fares for urban and New Territories taxis will be revised from this Sunday (January 15).

The flagfall for the first two kilometres will be \$13 and \$11 for urban and New Territories taxis respectively. Subsequent charges will be revised correspondingly to \$1.1 and \$1 for every 0.2 kilometre travelled.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said before meter conversion was made, taxis may charge the revised fares by displaying a conversion table showing the revised fare scales.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Meeting on Hong Kong Arts Development Council Bill

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The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council:

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) has put its position to the Legislative Council Bills Committee to facilitate discussions by the committee today (Friday) on the HKADC Bill.

Today's meeting was held to discuss the outstanding issues relating to Clauses 4(a) and (d) of the bill, together with arts criticism, film art and council membership.

The HKADC understands that in response to feedback from the bills committee, the Recreation and Culture Branch has proposed two options for amending Clauses 4(a) and 4(d), one of which is to combine these two into one clause which reads:

(a) to plan, promote, support and improve the broad development of and to promote, support and improve the participation and education in and the knowledge, practice, appreciation, accessibility and informed criticism of the arts, including the literary, performing and visual arts, with a view to improving the quality of life of the whole community;

The HKADC is not in favour of this amendment because it is too unclear, unwieldy and complicated. The Council would therefore like to propose the following new Clauses 4(a) and 4(b) to replace Clauses 4(a) and 4(d) in the original bill:

(a) to plan, promote and support the broad development of the arts, placing emphasis on the literary, performing and visual arts, with a view to improving the quality of life of the whole community;

(b) to develop and improve the participation and education in and the knowledge, practice, appreciation, accessibility and informed criticism of the arts;

As a consequence, the council also proposes that Clauses 4(b) and (c) in the original bill be renumbered as 4(c) and 4(d).

Arts criticism

The HKADC's view on this remains the same as stated in its submission to the bills committee on November 7. The council is also aware that the bills committee has been taking into consideration the views submitted by different knowledgeable parties and individuals. The council considers that the amendments it has proposed to Clause 4 above take proper account of arts criticism in the proper context. As pointed out in the council's submission to the bills committee on October 7, the council's arts committees have been and will continue to process grant applications for the promotion of arts criticism within its present committee structure. Arts criticism has never been excluded from the council's purview.

Film art

The HKADC would like to restate its position on film art as presented to the bills committee by the HKADC deputation on November 22. The HKADC recognises film as an art form. While the council does not preclude any art forms as being worthy of grant awards or other support, the council cannot support the inclusion of film art alongside the literary, performing and visual arts in Clause 4(a). The HKADC's proposed new Clause 4(a) prescribes an emphasis on the literary, performing and visual arts but does not exclude any other art forms. Clause 4(a) does not attempt to, nor should it, be all inclusive because the list cannot be exhaustive with the continuous evolvement or revival of other art forms.

As explained by the HKADC deputation on November 22, the council is ready to support with appropriate funding projects which further film art on a scale which can be accommodated within the budgets of its Arts Committees, for example, script-writing. Film production projects cannot, unfortunately, be borne by the HKADC within its presently available resources. Meanwhile, some council members have been in touch with people involved in the less commercial side of the film circle to discuss how the HKADC can work with them for the promotion of film art in Hong Kong.

Council membership

The HKADC has welcomed and endorsed the latest amendments to Clause 3(3)(a) put forward by the Recreation and Culture Branch. The HKADC has also endorsed the new Clauses 3(3A) and 3(3B) in principle but with some reservations about their feasibility. The HKADC would like to emphasise its position that it is up to the arts community to organise itself into credible bodies to make use of the opportunity afforded by these clauses. Elections are a matter between the Government and the arts groups and the organisation of such elections should not involve the council in any way.

The HKADC would be glad to give further information and assistance to facilitate the coming bills committee discussion. The council would like to reiterate its concern for an expeditious passage of the bill to allow the HKADC to be set up by April this year, so that the council could embark on its plans to further the development of the arts in Hong Kong with full executive power.

The HKADC would not like the passage of the bill to be delayed or prevented by failure to resolve the issue of membership.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

BA considers reports on broadcasting scene

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The following is issued on behalf of the Broadcasting Authority:

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) met yesterday (Thursday) and considered a number of reports and analyses on the local broadcasting scene.

Amongst the matters dealt with were some complaints about local television and radio broadcasting. The BA warned Wharf Cable for the broadcast of advertising material on the Cable Learning Channel and the Cable International Channel.

A spokesman for BA said the advertising material in the form of flipcards, billboards and, in one case, a conventional advertisement, was used in some acquired programmes to promote various commercial concerns.

The spokesman said the BA noted that Wharf Cable had not received any payment for the material, but the broadcast of any advertising material was a clear breach of the terms of Wharf Cable's licence.

The BA also issued a serious warning to Metro Broadcast for the indirect advertising within a programme of cars and a record shop.

The BA said its rules required advertising and promotion to be clearly identified as such, so that listeners would not be misled.

The BA noted that its latest survey on radio listening habits and public opinion about radio services has begun on January 12 and will last until February 25.

The survey, being conducted on behalf of the BA by International Research Associates (HK) Ltd, will involve face to face personal interviews with members of about 1,500 households, and the results will be used to derive the community's demands and expectations of radio broadcasting, to assess public standards and to detect changing trends in radio listening habits.

The survey will provide valuable feedback as the BA embarks on its mid-term review of Commercial Radio's licence.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Five nominations for Municipal Council elections received

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A total of five nominations of candidates were received today (Friday) for the Municipal Council elections on March 5.

The total number of nominations received so far is 87.

The nomination period will last until January 23.

The breakdown of nominations by district is as follows:

Central and Western	3
Wan Chai	4
Eastern	9
Southern	4
Yau Tsim Mong	4
Sham Shui Po	3
Kowloon City	6
Wong Tai Sin	8
Kung Tong	11
Tsuen Wan	0
Tuen Mun	7
Yuen Long	5
North	3

Tai Po	5
Sai kung	2
Sha Tin	10
Kwai Tsing	3
Islands	0

Total: 87

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Sewerage improvement works in Chai Wan and Shau Kei Wan

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for sewerage improvement works in Chai Wan and Shau Kei Wan.

The project involves the upgrading of sewers in the two districts and re-lining of a trunk sewer on Chai Wan Road and Fung Yip Street. The works are scheduled to begin in April for completion in 24 months.

A notice of the tender invitation was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Sewerage Projects Division, 44th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

The tender closing date is noon on January 27.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

New roads for Yuen Long proposed

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The Territory Development Department has proposed constructing new roads at Ha Mei San Tsuen in Yuen Long to meet development needs of the Tin Shui Wai New Town.

The project, which is part of the new town's development programme, also includes the construction of car park spaces and footpaths.

A notice of the proposed road works was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan and scheme showing the proposed works can be seen during office hours at:

* Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central;

* Yuen Long District Lands Office, ninth to 11th floors, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long; and

* Yuen Long District Office, Yuen Long District Branch Offices Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, no later than March 14, describing his interest and manner in which he will be affected.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Ferry berth planned for Sok Kwu Wan

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The Government plans to construct a 75-metre long public pier at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island to provide berthing and landing facilities for Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings) Company Limited and public uses.

The public pier will be built within an area of about 6,000 square metres of foreshore and seabed and works will begin in September for completion by 1997.

The extent of the area affected is notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plans can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central. The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected, may submit a written claim of compensation to the Director of Lands on or before January 13, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final statement of his claim, and submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Board amends Ma Wan outline zoning plan

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Ma Wan Outline Zoning Plan.

A major amendment is to extend the boundary of the "Comprehensive Development Area" in Pak Wan Tsai to incorporate a proposed reclamation area for accommodating additional community facilities to serve the future residents on Ma Wan Island. As a result, the planning scheme boundary has also been extended.

Another amendment is to adjust the boundary of the "Village Type Development" zone in Tin Liu to provide more land for village housing development and to retain the over 70-year old Fong Yuen Study Hall.

The amendment plan (No. S/MWI/2) is available for public inspection until March 13 from:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor,
Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;
- * Lantau and Islands District Planning Office,
10th floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong; and
- * Tsuen Wan District Office,
first floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building,
174-208 Castle Peak Road,
Tsuen Wan,
New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before March 13.

Copies of the draft plan can be bought at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Anti-rabies inoculation drive launched in fishing ports

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department will launch a half-yearly dog inoculation drive in fishing ports over the next two weeks so that fishermen can have their dogs immunised against rabies.

Starting from Monday (January 16), mobile dog inoculation teams will go to seven fishing ports one after the other and make boat-to-boat visits between 10 am and 4 pm daily. The whole operation is expected to last until January 24.

They will visit the fishing ports in Sha Tau Kok on January 16; Cheung Chau on January 16 and 17; Sam Mun Chai on January 17 and 18; Shau Kei Wan on January 18 and 19; Castle Peak Bay on January 19 and 20; Aberdeen and Sai Kung on January 23 and 24.

The drive, a regular exercise since 1980, is intended to help fishermen who find little time to take their dogs to an inoculation centre or a government kennel for inoculation.

The department's Senior Veterinary Officer, Dr K. K. Liu, said today (Friday) that the drive was part of the Government's continuing efforts to prevent the outbreak of rabies in Hong Kong.

"The territory regained the rabies-free area status on July 10, 1989 by having successfully prevented the outbreak of any indigenous rabies case since July 10, 1987," he said.

Nevertheless, he stressed that rabies was a deadly disease transmissible from animals to human. Dogs on fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable because of their possible contacts with other animals outside Hong Kong.

"It is, therefore, important that fishermen's dogs are inoculated against the disease at least every three years to keep up their immunity," Dr Liu added.

He called on fishermen who owned dogs to make full use of the special inoculation service.

Under the Rabies Ordinance, all dogs over five months old are required to be licensed and inoculated against rabies. Failure to do so will render the owner liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

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Operation to flush out illegal immigrants

A territory-wide operation against illegal immigration mounted by the Police has resulted in the arrests of 140 people.

The operation is part of the Government's continuous effort to flush out illegal immigrants.

The 140 suspected illegal immigrants arrested by the Police have been referred to the Immigration Department. Those found to be illegal immigrants will be repatriated.

A Government spokesman reiterated today (Friday) that there was no question of any amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Our latest operation should drive home the point that there will be no change to this policy. Anyone foolish enough to believe otherwise is only cheating oneself," he said.

The spokesman stressed that apart from continuous checks throughout the territory, there was no let-up in anti-illegal immigration efforts at the border.

"A high state of vigilance will continue to be maintained by the Police and the security forces both at the land and sea borders," he said.

During the operation, which began at 5 am yesterday (Thursday) and ended at 5 am today, the Police stepped up their identification spot checks in public places and carried out checks at suspicious locations throughout the territory.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Arrest of immigration offenders

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Immigration investigators conducted an operation at a beancurd workshop in Yuen Long today (Friday) and arrested six Chinese and two Filipino nationals who are suspected to have breached their conditions of stay in Hong Kong.

The five two-way permit visitors and an imported worker from China, all men, aged between 26 and 56, are suspected to have taken up unapproved employment at the workshop.

The Filipino couple, both 39, are on employment status as domestic helpers. They are also suspected to be employed at the same workshop.

A Hong Kong resident who is the owner of the workshop is assisting with investigation.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department reminds that visitors are not allowed to take up any employment, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission from the Director of Immigration.

Imported workers are admitted only for a specific job with a specified employer.

As for foreign domestic helpers, they should only take up domestic duties for their contract employers and are not permitted to work part-time or engage in non-domestic duties.

Those who breach their conditions of stay will be prosecuted and on conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for two years.

People including employers who aid and abet others to commit these offences are also liable to prosecution and penalty.

Last year, the Immigration Department investigated 666 cases involving imported workers, 2,339 foreign domestic helpers and 5,528 Chinese two-way permit holders.

"The increasing number of illegal workers in 1994 has been a matter of concern.

"To tackle the problem, we have stepped up control at the points of entry and increased our enforcement actions through investigation and raids of suspected blackspots.

"The strength of the Immigration Task Force will also be increased from the existing 46 to 92 officers later this year so that more large-scale operations against illegal immigrants and illegal workers can be mounted," the spokesman added.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Fire prevention photo exhibitions

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The Fire Services Department will hold a photographic exhibition on fire prevention in Lei Tung Estate Commercial Complex, Ap Lei Chau, from noon to 4 pm on Sunday (January 15).

The exhibition is one of a series of activities to publicise this year's Fire Prevention Campaign.

Information pamphlets will be available at the booth.

Similar exhibitions will be held at Po Lam Estate in Tseung Kwan O on February 19 and Hin Keng Estate in Sha Tin on March 26. The opening hours will be the same.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Islands District photo exhibition begins today

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Sixty-five photos featuring scenic spots and social customs in the Islands District will be on display for three days at the exhibition hall in Shun Tak Centre, Sheung Wan, starting from this (Friday) afternoon.

They are the winning entries of a photo competition organised by the Islands District Board's Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Environmental Improvement Committee and the Cheung Chau Photographic Society.

Committee Chairman Mr Kwong Kwok-wei said the response to the event was very encouraging.

"We have received over 1,600 submissions and they are all of a very high standard," he added.

The competition was aimed at enhancing the public's understanding in the Islands district as well as to enhance their interests in photography.

End/ Friday, January 13, 1995

Closure of North Point illegal structures sought

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The Building Authority is seeking to close two unauthorised structure in North Point so that they can be demolished without endangering the occupants and the public. The two-storey unauthorised structures used as shops are located at the rear service lane in 108-110 Java Road.

Notices applying for Closure Orders from the District Court under the Buildings Ordinance on May 12 this year were posted on the premises today (Friday).

Demolition works are expected to start as soon as the Closure Orders are issued.

End/Friday, January 13, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,981	0930	-5,304
Closing balance in the account	2,735	1000	-5,992
Change attributable to :		1100	-5,482
Money market activity	-1,828	1200	-3,927
LAF today	+1,582	1500	-1,825
		1600	-1,828

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 120.8 *+0.0* 13.1.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	8.09	17 months	2605	6.35	97.83	8.24
1 month	8.24	23 months	2611	6.90	97.60	8.50
3 months	7.75	28 months	3704	6.15	94.98	8.79
6 months	7.88	34 months	3710	7.25	96.37	8.93
12 months	8.10	60 months	5912	8.15	96.32	9.30

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 43,650 MN

Closed January 13, 1995

End/Friday, January 13, 1995