



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS .....	1
GOVT RESPONSE TO CONSUMER COUNCIL'S BANKING INDUSTRY STUDY .....	3
TWO GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$1,225 MILLION .....	5
\$8M GRANTED FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN RWANDA .....	5
TAC ENDORSES CITYBUS FARE INCREASE .....	6
MORE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS IN 1993/94 .....	8
HK CONCERNED OVER NEW MEXICAN CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTS .....	9
ELEVEN-MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED .....	10
REPORT ON THE 1992 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS NOW ON SALE .....	11
CNTA OPENS 38 TEMPORARY SHELTERS DURING RAINSTORM .....	12
EYE WITNESSES OF LANDSLIP REQUESTED TO CALL GEO .....	13
AWARDS FOR GURKHA HEROES .....	13
121 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME .....	14
FRESH WATER CUTS IN TSUEN WAN AND SAI KUNG .....	14
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ....	15
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY TENDER RESULTS .....	16

TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION  
OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AT NOON ON JULY 26:

GOVERNOR: GOOD MORNING. I HAVE HAD TWO VERY GOOD MEETINGS THIS MORNING WITH THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, PADDY ASHDOWN, AND ALSO WITH DAVID HOWELL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE.

THEY HAVE BOTH BEEN VERY UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS IN HONG KONG TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE CLEAN AND FAIR ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN 1994 AND 1995. THEY HAVE SHOWN AS WELL, AS YOU KNOW, A BROADER INTEREST IN THE WELFARE AND LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND I WAS VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO BRIEF THEM THIS MORNING ON DEVELOPMENTS, ON OUR VIEWS ON THE WAY FORWARD, THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AS MUCH CO-OPERATION IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AS POSSIBLE OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, IN PARTICULAR, OF COURSE, OVER THAT LONG LIST OF JLG ISSUES WHICH, ALAS, STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

QUESTION: HAVE THEY BEEN CRITICAL OF YOU OVER THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

GOVERNOR: THEY WERE NOT CRITICAL DURING MY MEETINGS, BUT I MUST OBVIOUSLY LEAVE IT TO THEM TO SET OUT IN DETAIL THEIR OWN VIEWS. I WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT WE ARE DOING IN DETAIL TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM SAFEGUARDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG. I TOLD THEM ABOUT OUR DECISIONS ON THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION, ABOUT OUR DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL AID, ABOUT OUR DECISIONS ON OPENING UP GOVERNMENT AND MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN ALL THOSE DEVELOPMENTS.

QUESTION: HOW WAS YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT?

GOVERNOR: I HAD A VERY INTERESTING MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE WEATHER HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR US TO HAVE A MEETING IN THE GARDEN! HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS SINCE I LAST TALKED TO HIM. I WAS ABLE TO SET OUT FOR HIM, AS I DID FOR THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MY THOUGHTS ON THE WAY FORWARD IN HONG KONG. I WAS ABLE TO TELL THEM ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY IN HONG KONG, ABOUT THE IMPORTANT DEBATE WE ARE HAVING ABOUT PROVISION FOR THE ELDERLY AND ALSO TO TALK TO THEM IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AGENDA. THEY WERE VERY INTERESTED AND NOT LEAST IN HEARING MY THOUGHTS ABOUT MY PRIORITIES FOR MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, I WILL BE DOING THAT IN MY LEGCO SPEECH IN OCTOBER, BUT I WANTED TO SKETCH OUT FOR THEM IN GENERAL SOME OF THE THEMES THAT I WOULD WANT TO BE TAKING FORWARD, FOR EXAMPLE, THE REMAINING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRIORITIES BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, AND OUR DETERMINATION TO WORK IN AS CO-OPERATIVE A WAY WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION: THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND HAS JUST CONCLUDED ITS MEETING IN HONG KONG. WOULD YOU BE KEEN TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS DONATIONS TO RWANDA AT THIS TROUBLED TIME?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THERE WILL BE A HUGE AMOUNT OF SYMPATHY FOR THAT PARTICULAR CAUSE IN HONG KONG AND I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL CONSIDER VERY SYMPATHETICALLY THE REQUIREMENTS OF RWANDA. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH HAS TOUCHED THE WORLD'S CONSCIENCE AND HAS OBVIOUSLY TOUCHED THE CONSCIENCES OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AS WELL.

QUESTION: ARE YOU GOING TO SEE TONY BLAIR WHILE YOU ARE HERE?

GOVERNOR: NO, I AM NOT GOING TO ON THIS VISIT, BUT I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ON A FUTURE VISIT. WHILE HONG KONG IS IMPORTANT FOR THE LABOUR PARTY AS FOR OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, I WOULD JUDGE THAT MR BLAIR HAS OTHER PRIORITIES ON HIS BOOK IN HIS FIRST WEEK AS LABOUR LEADER.

I AM GOING TO SEE JACK CUNNINGHAM TOMORROW WHO IS THE SHADOW FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN IN THE LABOUR PARTY AND I WILL OF COURSE SAY DURING MY MEETING WITH JACK THAT, WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT FOR TONY BLAIR, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET HIM AGAIN AND TELL HIM AT FIRST HAND WHAT OUR VIEWS ARE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE SPOKEN TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES -

GOVERNOR: I KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL. ON THE WHOLE I HAVE GOT TO KNOW HIM IN THE WAY THAT ONE GETS TO KNOW MEMBERS OF ANOTHER PARTY BY DOING PROGRAMMES LIKE QUESTION TIME AND DEBATES WITH HIM, BUT I DO NOT KNOW HIM AS MUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, JACK CUNNINGHAM, WHO WAS MY SHADOW FOR SOME TIME, AND YOU ESTABLISH QUITE A CLOSE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. I DO NOT KNOW HIM AS WELL AS I KNEW BRYAN GOULD, WHO WAS NOT ONLY MY SHADOW, BUT I WAS AT UNIVERSITY WITH HIM ON THE SAME STAIRCASE AS I THINK YOU KNOW. I HAVE MET HIM ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND DEBATED AND DISCUSSED MATTERS WITH HIM ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

QUESTION: ON HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: I AM SURE THAT HE WILL BE AS GOOD AND SENSIBLE AS JACK CUNNINGHAM HAS BEEN ON HONG KONG, YES.

WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THERE IS PRETTY MUCH A CONSENSUS ACROSS BRITISH POLITICS ON HONG KONG AND THERE ARE NOT MANY SUBJECTS ON WHICH YOU COULD SAY THAT. I REGARD THAT AS A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH. IT IS IMPORTANT, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, TO KEEP IT LIKE THAT OF HONG KONG. THERE MAY WELL BE DIFFERENCES ABOUT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF POLICY FROM TIME TO TIME. BY AND LARGE THERE IS A REMARKABLE AND CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT ON HONG KONG AND I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I DID NOT WANT TO ASK MR BLAIR FOR A MEETING THIS WEEK BECAUSE HE HAS ONLY JUST BECOME LEADER AND HE HAS MANY OTHER THINGS ON HIS BOOK, BUT I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM IN THE FUTURE AS I SAW JOHN SMITH IN THE PAST.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY ON THIS REPORT AT 16 SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS HAVE NOT BEEN GRANTED BRITISH PASSPORTS?

GOVERNOR: I WILL READ MY COPY OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST WITH INTEREST AND READ THE REPORT. THANK YOU.

## GOVT RESPONSE TO CONSUMER COUNCIL'S BANKING INDUSTRY STUDY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE BROAD DIRECTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL THAT THERE SHOULD BE INCREASED COMPETITION IN RETAIL DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES AND MORE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION BY THE BANKING SECTOR, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD WOULD BE TAKEN ON BOTH FRONTS, SAID MR CARTLAND ON THE PUBLICATION TODAY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S INDUSTRY STUDY ON THE BANKING SECTOR.

THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IS BASED ON A STUDY PRODUCED BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) WHICH HAS CARRIED OUT AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE ARGUMENTS AND SUPPORTING DATA IN THE CONSUMER COUNCIL REPORT PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE HKMA ALSO PUBLISHED ITS STUDY TODAY.

MR CARTLAND SAID RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL DEALING WITH FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE COINCIDED LARGELY WITH THE PACKAGE RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING PARTY ESTABLISHED BY THE HKMA IN JANUARY 1994. THERE ARE ONLY MINOR DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS AND TIMING.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACKAGE WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE TRANSPARENCY OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH, MR CARTLAND SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDED FULL DISCLOSURE OF BANKS PROFITS AND MORE DETAILED BALANCE SHEET INFORMATION.

IN CERTAIN AREAS, SUCH AS THE DISCLOSURE OF TRANSFERS TO OR FROM INNER RESERVES IN RESPECT OF THE 1994 ACCOUNTS, THE PACE WILL BE FASTER THAN THAT PROPOSED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

DETAILS OF THE ITEMS FOR DISCLOSURE IN THE 1994 ACCOUNTS WILL BE FINALISED IN AUGUST 1994.

ON DISCLOSURE OF BALANCE SHEET INNER RESERVES, THE HKMA WOULD UNDERTAKE A REVIEW IN MID-1995. THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCLOSURE IN THE 1996 ACCOUNTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

ON THE QUESTION OF DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES, MR CARTLAND SAID: "IN LINE WITH OUR FIRM BELIEF IN FREE MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT AGREES THAT MORE COMPETITION IN RETAIL INTEREST RATES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AS IT WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO PRODUCT INNOVATION AND GREATER EFFICIENCY.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE ACCEPTED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE THE INTEREST RATE CAP ON TIME DEPOSITS IN 1995."

HE ADDED THAT FURTHER STEPS IN LIBERALISING THE INTEREST RATE REGIME WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY WHEN THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGE IN 1995 HAD BEEN FULLY ASSESSED AND THE TRANSITIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING HONG KONG SHOULD NO LONGER BE A FACTOR THAT WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THIS WOULD NOT BE BEFORE 1997.

/THE GOVERNMENT .....

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT, WHILE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE MORE COMPETITION IN THE MARKET, TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO MAINTAIN STABILITY OF THE MONETARY AND BANKING SYSTEMS.

MR CARTLAND SAID EXPERIENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAD SHOWN THAT DEREGULATION OF INTEREST RATES CARRIED DOWNSIDE RISKS AS INDIVIDUAL BANKS TRIED TO EXPAND OR PROTECT THEIR MARKET SHARE.

DESPITE THE CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF HONG KONG'S SYSTEM OF BANKING SUPERVISION OVER THE PAST YEARS, NO SYSTEM COULD GUARANTEE THAT BANKS WOULD NOT RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

IN RESPECT OF MONETARY STABILITY, THE HKMA CONCLUDED THAT THE INTEREST RATE RULES PLAYED A HELPFUL, THOUGH NOT CRUCIAL, ROLE IN MAINTAINING EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY AND THAT THE POWER TO IMPOSE NEGATIVE INTEREST RATES UNDER THE RULES HAD TO BE RETAINED.

THE HKMA STUDY ALSO ADVISED THAT PRUDENCE WAS CALLED FOR AT A TIME WHEN WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS WERE UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL FLOWS AND FINANCIAL MARKETS HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE VOLATILE AND LARGER IN VOLUME. THE U.S. DOLLAR INTEREST RATES ARE NOW ON AN INCREASING TREND, WHICH MAY DAMPEN GENERALLY THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

IT IS THUS ADVISABLE NOT TO ASSUME UNDUE RISK IN THE MONETARY AND BANKING SYSTEMS AS INSTABILITY WOULD UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

MR CARTLAND SAID THERE WERE ALSO NO COMPELLING REASONS FOR FULL-SCALE LIBERALISATION OF INTEREST RATES AT THIS TIME.

CONTRARY TO COMMON BELIEF, SMALL DEPOSITORS MIGHT BE WORSE OFF AS BANKS WOULD PROBABLY REACT BY INTRODUCING ADDITIONAL CHARGES AND TIERED INTEREST RATES IN FAVOUR OF LARGER DEPOSITORS, AS WELL AS SCALING DOWN ON SERVICES.

THE HKMA STUDY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR BANKS TO EARN EXCESSIVE PROFITS FROM THE INTEREST RATE RULES HAD BEEN ERODED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR DEPOSITS GOVERNED BY THE RULES, BY THE COSTS OF NON-PRICE COMPETITION AND BY A DECLINE IN DEPOSIT MARGINS.

COMMENTING ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH THE INTEREST RATE CAP ON TIME DEPOSITS IN 1995 AND TO ENCOURAGE MORE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE BY BANKS REPRESENTED POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD.

THE HKMA WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE OPERATION OF THE INTEREST RATE RULES TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE APPLIED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD STIFLE INNOVATION OR COMPETITION WITHIN PRUDENT BOUNDARIES, SIR HAMISH SAID.

IN RESPECT OF THE LINK BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE U.S. DOLLAR, SIR HAMISH SAID THE LINK WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CRUCIAL TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE LINK AND WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAID.

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

- 5 -

TWO GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$1,225 MILLION

\* \* \* \* \*

TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,225 MILLION AT THE PUBLIC LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED IN AREA 30, TAI PO, WAS BOUGHT BY CHOLLOW INVESTMENTS LIMITED AT \$890 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$600 MILLION. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 23,800 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 11,424 SQUARE METRES BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1998.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED AT AREA 2, TAI PO KAU HUI, TAI PO, AND HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,114 SQUARE METRES, WAS BOUGHT BY LANDSTAR INVESTMENT LIMITED AT \$335 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENING AT \$200 MILLION.

IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES EXCLUDING GODOWN.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,600 SQUARE METRES BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1988.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL OF HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, AND WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR NIGEL BURLEY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$8M GRANTED FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN RWANDA

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) RECOMMENDED THAT THREE GRANTS TALLING \$8 MILLION BE MADE FROM THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO RWANDANS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO THREE SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FROM HONG KONG RED CROSS, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES HONG KONG AND HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND.

"THE THREE RELIEF ORGANISATIONS HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS ON PROVIDING RELIEF SERVICES FOR THE RWANDAN REFUGEES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

"THE COMMITTEE IS SATISFIED THAT THE THREE PROPOSALS ARE IN LINE WITH THE GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS FROM THE FUND. THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THAT EACH PROPOSAL HAS ITS OWN MERITS AND CAN CATER FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HAVING REGARD TO THE ESTIMATED BUDGET OF EACH PROPOSAL, THE NATURE OF THE RELIEF SERVICES AND THE LIKELY NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE APPLICATION BE SUPPORTED TO THE FOLLOWING EXTENT IN TERMS OF MONEY:

HONG KONG RED CROSS	\$2 MILLION
MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES HONG KONG	\$4 MILLION
HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	\$2 MILLION

/ "THE COMMITTEE .....

"THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THESE GRANTS WILL BE AN APPROPRIATE MEANS TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY AND OFFER ASSISTANCE ON THE COMMUNITY'S BEHALF TO THE RWANDAN VICTIMS. THE COMMITTEE HOPES THAT THESE WILL STIMULATE FURTHER RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

TO ENSURE THAT THE GRANTS WILL BE USED FOR THE DESIGNATED PURPOSES, HONG KONG RED CROSS, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES HONG KONG AND HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AN EVALUATION REPORT AND AN AUDITED ACCOUNT ON THE USE OF THE GRANT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GRANTS WOULD BE PROCESSED IMMEDIATELY AND THIS WOULD BE THE THIRD TIME THAT GRANTS HAD BEEN MADE FROM THE FUND SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN DECEMBER 1993.

A GRANT OF \$2 MILLION WAS MADE TO OXFAM HONG KONG IN JUNE AS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE RELIEF PROGRAMME FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA.

THREE GRANTS TOTTALLING \$20 MILLION WERE MADE TO THREE RELIEF ORGANISATIONS EARLIER THIS MONTH FOR CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THEIR RELIEF PROGRAMMES FOR THE FLOOD-AFFECTED POPULATION IN CHINA.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT PUBLIC DONATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE WERE THE MAIN SOURCES OF THE FUND.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO DONATE TO THE FUND FOR GENERAL RELIEF PURPOSES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY TO THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ROOM 553, EAST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES OR CALL 810 3503.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY. OTHER MEMBERS ARE MS ROSANNA WONG, DR RAYMOND CH'IEN, MRS ELSIE TU, MR HUI YIN-FAT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAC ENDORSES CITYBUS FARE INCREASE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) ENDORSES THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION TO GIVE CITYBUS A FARE INCREASE BY A WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 13.4 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER.

THE RECOMMENDED INCREASE IS LOWER THAN THE 15.5 PER CENT SOUGHT BY THE COMPANY.

EXCLUDING THE INCREASE FOR CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES WHICH WAS INTRODUCED ON APRIL 1 TOGETHER WITH THE FARE RISE FOR KOWLOON MOTOR BUS, THE PROPOSED NEW FARES FOR HONG KONG ISLAND ROUTES OF CITYBUS WOULD GO UP BY A WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 14 PER CENT.

THE PROPOSED FARE RISE WILL MEAN THAT ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF THE DAILY COMMUTERS WILL ONLY PAY 20 TO 50 CENTS MORE PER TRIP.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE RATE OF INCREASE IN RESPECT OF INDIVIDUAL ROUTES INDICATES THE FOLLOWING:

	RATE OF PER CENT INCREASE -----	INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS -----
* 14 NON AIR- CONDITIONED SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	11.1 PER CENT TO 14.3 PER CENT	20 CENTS TO 40 CENTS
* 18 SHORT DISTANCE AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	13.9 PER CENT TO 16.0 PER CENT	40 CENTS TO 60 CENTS
* 3 LONG DISTANCE SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	13.3 PER CENT TO 14.1 PER CENT	80 CENTS TO 90 CENTS
* 3 RECREATIONAL SERVICES	17.2 PER CENT TO 18.2 PER CENT	\$1.0

THE PROPOSED FARE RISE HAS A NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) - A MERE 0.01 PER CENT.

IN CONSIDERING THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, MEMBERS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASE IN OPERATING COST, QUALITY OF SERVICES, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND PUBLIC AFFORDABILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT OPERATING COSTS OF THE CITYBUS HAD INCREASED BY 23.6 PER CENT IN 1994 AND WERE FORECAST TO INCREASE BY 27.6 PER CENT IN 1995, MAINLY BECAUSE OF HIGHER STAFF COST, FUEL AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AND INTEREST AND DEPRECIATION CHARGES.

MEMBERS HELD THE VIEW THAT CITYBUS IS A NEW OPERATOR AND WOULD REQUIRE A REASONABLE RETURN AS AN INCENTIVE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT, THE COMPANY HAS PLANS TO ACQUIRE MORE NEW BUSES TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED GROWTH IN PATRONAGE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY CITYBUS TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE SATISFACTORY SINCE THE COMPANY COMMENCED NEW SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 1993.

PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON NON AIR-CONDITIONED ROUTES OF CITYBUS HAVE BEEN PAYING THE SAME FARES SINCE LAST APRIL AND THE ESTIMATED INFLATION RATE BETWEEN APRIL 1993 AND THIS AUGUST IS 12 PER CENT.

THE MEETING WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE COMPANY'S FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME BETWEEN 1994 AND 1998.

MEMBERS LEARNT THAT CITYBUS WAS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE NEW ROUTES AND IMPROVEMENT AND RATIONALISATION OF SERVICES TO MEET CHANGES AND DEMAND IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

THE COMPANY'S FLEET SIZE WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 245 BUSES IN 1994 TO 337 IN 1998. HIGHER QUALITY SERVICE WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE USE OF MORE AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY'S FORWARD PLANING PROGRAMME WAS ALSO PRESENTED TO THE MEETING. MEMBERS TOOK NOTE OF THE PROPOSED NEW ROUTES AND EXPANSION OF FLEET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### MORE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS IN 1993/94

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN 1993/94 INCREASED BY 27.5 PER CENT TO 13,498 COMPARED WITH 10,583 IN 1992/93.

THE INCREASE WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRANSPORT TRIPS MADE, GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF TCU'S ROLE, AND HIGHER PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES REMAINED THE MAIN AREA OF CONCERN, ACCOUNTING FOR 59.3 PER CENT OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY COMPLAINTS RELATED TO ENFORCEMENT MATTERS (17.6 PER CENT) AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS (15.4 PER CENT).

OF THE 8,002 COMPLAINTS ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES RECEIVED BY TCU IN 1993/94, 3,604 (45 PER CENT) WERE RELATED TO TAXI SERVICE. THE FIGURE REPRESENTED A 32 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THERE WERE ALSO MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST GREEN MINI-BUS (FROM 524 TO 777); YAU MA TEI FERRY (FROM 111 TO 152); KOWLOON MOTOR BUS (FROM 1,028 TO 1,363); CHINA MOTOR BUS (FROM 718 TO 850); MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (FROM 20 TO 34) AND STAR FERRY (FROM 1 TO 12).

THERE WERE 403 COMPLAINTS AGAINST CITYBUS DUE LARGELY TO THE INITIAL TEETHING PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ITS OPERATION OF 26 NEW ROUTES ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1993.

THERE WERE FEWER COMPLAINTS AGAINST KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY (FROM 25 TO 15); TRAMS (FROM 86 TO 58) AND LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (FROM 49 TO 44 CASES).

MOST OF THE 2,380 COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS RELATED TO ILLEGAL PARKING WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 56.8 PER CENT.

AMONG THE 2,075 COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, 45 PER CENT, OR 939 CASES, WERE RELATED TO ROAD CONGESTION.

ALL THE COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN REFERRED BY TCU TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES FOR CONSIDERATION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION WHERE APPROPRIATE.

DURING THE YEAR, INVESTIGATIONS WERE COMPLETED ON 12,463 COMPLAINTS. ABOUT 65 PER CENT OF THESE CASES WERE SUBSTANTIATED, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WAS TAKEN TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

- 9 -

HK CONCERNED OVER NEW MEXICAN  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTS

\* \* \* \* \*

TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, HEADED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL MR THOMAS YIU, TODAY (TUESDAY) MET A VISITING MEXICAN DELEGATION AND EXPRESSED HONG KONG'S CONCERN OVER THE NEW MEXICAN CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN REQUIREMENTS ANNOUNCED IN MAY FOR ALL IMPORTS SUBJECT TO MEXICAN ANTI-DUMPING (AD) OR COUNTERVAILING (CV) DUTIES.

THE MEXICAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MEXICO, MR EDUARDO PEREZ MOTTA.

"WE EXPLAINED TO THEM THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE IN PRINCIPLE AND IN PRACTICE WITH THE MEXICAN REQUIREMENTS, AND MADE CLEAR OUR REQUEST THAT HONG KONG BE EXEMPTED FROM THEM," MR YIU SAID AFTER THE MEETING.

DURING THE MEETING, THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER. MR YIU SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE FIVE GOVERNMENT APPROVED CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE USUAL CERTIFICATION SERVICES.

ON MAY 31, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IN A GAZETTE NEW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE CLASSIFIED IN SUCH TARIFF ITEMS THAT WERE SUBJECT TO MEXICAN AD OR CV DUTIES.

ORIGINALLY SET TO COME INTO FORCE ON JULY 15 BUT SUBSEQUENTLY DEFERRED TO SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS APPLY NOT ONLY TO SUCH IMPORT FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ATTRACTED MEXICAN AD OR CV DUTIES, BUT ALSO SUCH IMPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN EFFECT, THEY REQUIRE EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THESE MEXICAN ORIGIN RULES FOR THEIR EXPORTS TO MEXICO. AT PRESENT, NO MEXICAN ORIGIN RULES APPLY TO HONG KONG IMPORTS.

AS FOR CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TWO SETS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIED TEXTILES, APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS FOR ALL OTHER GOODS.

FOR THE FORMER, THE PROCEDURES REQUIRE THE USE OF A SPECIFIED CERTIFICATION FORM, TO BE FILLED IN SPANISH OR IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE WITH SPANISH TRANSLATION.

AS FOR OTHER GOODS, THE CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN CAN BE IN ANY FORM BUT MUST INCLUDE CERTAIN SPECIFIED INFORMATION.

MR YIU EXPLAINED THAT HONG KONG HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH BOTH THE NEW MEXICAN ORIGIN RULES AND THE NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

"FIRST, NO MEXICAN ORIGIN RULES CURRENTLY APPLY FOR IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG; THE APPLICATION OF MEXICAN ORIGIN RULES, UNLESS THEY ARE IDENTICAL TO OUR OWN RULES, COULD AFFECT TRADE BETWEEN MEXICO AND HONG KONG," HE SAID.

/"SECONDLY, HONG .....

"SECONDLY, HONG KONG HAS DIFFICULTY IN PRINCIPLE WITH ANY REQUESTS FROM OUR TRADING PARTNERS FOR OUR CERTIFICATION SYSTEM TO BE AMENDED TO FOLLOW THEIR SPECIFICATIONS.

"HONG KONG ACTIVELY TRADES WITH MANY COUNTRIES AND THERE ARE AS MANY DIFFERENT ORIGIN RULES AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS; IT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE IN PRACTICE FOR US TO HAVE A CERTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL OF THEM.

"IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE IN PRINCIPLE EITHER. OUR SYSTEM WOULD BE SO COMPLICATED AND CONFUSING THAT ENFORCEMENT AND CONTROL WOULD BE DIFFICULT."

DURING THE MEETING, THE MEXICAN SIDE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIM OF THEIR NEW MEASURES WAS TO TACKLE ORIGIN FRAUDS. MR YIU POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD TAKEN A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO COMBAT SUCH FRAUDS.

"FIRST, WE MAINTAIN A SET OF ORIGIN RULES WHICH ARE BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND WHICH ARE APPLIED UNIFORMLY TO ALL MARKETS," HE SAID.

"IN PARALLEL, WE OPERATE A TIGHT CERTIFICATION SYSTEM UNDER WHICH WE CO-ORDINATE ALL CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES AND ENSURE THAT THE SAME PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES IN THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN ARE ADOPTED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE FIVE GOVERNMENT APPROVED CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS.

"ALL THE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN ISSUED BY THESE BODIES IS GOVERNED BY LAW. TO BACK UP THE SYSTEM, VIGOROUS CONTROL IS ENFORCED THROUGH CHECKS AND INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE."

MR YIU CONTINUED: "THEN WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, WE GIVE EVERY CO-OPERATION WE CAN TO OUR TRADING PARTNERS IN JOINT EFFORTS TO COMBAT CONTROL PROBLEMS SUCH AS ORIGIN OR CERTIFICATION FRAUDS.

"SO FAR WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO OUR TRADING PARTNERS THAT THIS APPROACH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE, AND HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE TO BEST CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AGAINST ORIGIN FRAUDS BY MAINTAINING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND INTEGRITY OF ITS CERTIFICATION SYSTEM."

- - - - 0 - - - -

ELEVEN-MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED

\* \* \* \* \*

TEN MEN AND AN INFANT WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH (JUNE), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 461.

TWO NEW AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 107 WITH 68 DEATHS REPORTED.

OF THE 461 HIV-INFECTED, 175 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH HOMOSEXUAL OR BISEXUAL SEX AND 171 THROUGH HETEROSEXUAL SEX, 11 WERE INJECTING DRUG USERS, ONE WAS MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION AROUND THE TIME OF BIRTH, AND 65 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 38, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 329,173 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

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

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,433,075 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 32 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REPORT ON THE 1992 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION  
AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS NOW ON SALE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE REPORT ON THE 1992 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$34 PER COPY.

THE REPORT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REPORTS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY ON THE SURVEY.

IT CONTAINS DETAILED STATISTICS ON THE COST STRUCTURE AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS FOR THE REFERENCE YEAR 1992, BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FROM ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS REFER TO THE INDUSTRIES OF:

- \* BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION
- \* REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- \* ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES

EXAMPLES OF THE STATISTICAL ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE :

- \* NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES
- \* GROSS OUTPUT, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOMES
- \* VALUE ADDED (A MEASURE OF CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT) AND GROSS SURPLUS
- \* CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

/OTHER OPERATING .....

\* OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

\* GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS

APART FROM STATISTICS RELATING TO THE YEAR 1992, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS SOME SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1990 AND 1991 TO SHOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE INDUSTRIES IN RECENT YEARS.

THE STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR POLICY FORMULATION, DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

COPIES OF THE REPORT MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3204.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### CNTA OPENS 38 TEMPORARY SHELTERS DURING RAINSTORM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED A TOTAL OF 38 TEMPORARY SHELTERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY SINCE THE HOISTING OF THE RED RAINSTORM WARNING IN THE EARLY HOURS LAST FIRDAY (JULY 22).

A TOTAL OF 624 PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN THESE CENTRES, A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

REGARDING THE KWUN LUNG LAU RESIDENTS NOW STAYING IN THE SHEK TONG TSUI INDOOR GAMES HALL, HE SAID THE HOUSING SOCIETY WAS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO OFFER THEM ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

A HOUSING SOCIETY HOLTINE - 858 0433 - IS STILL OPERATING FOR ENQUIRIES.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 240 RESIDENTS ARE STAYING IN THE GAMES HALL.

SO FAR, 551 FAMILIES OF BLOCKS C AND D HAVE RETURNED HOME TO COLLECT THEIR BELONGINGS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAN CHAI HAS CLOSED AS THE 59 PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE THERE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME.

THEY MOVED INTO THE TEMPORARY SHELTER PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF A WALL OF A THREE-STOREY BUILDING AT 6 KENNEDY STREET YESTERDAY (MONDAY) MORNING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

- 13 -

EYE WITNESSES OF LANDSLIP REQUESTED TO CALL GEO

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS ANXIOUS TO CONTACT ANY EYE WITNESSES OF THE LANDSLIP WHICH OCCURRED AT KWUN LUNG LAU, KENNEDY TOWN, LAST SATURDAY (JULY 23).

"INFORMATION THAT MAY BE PROVIDED BY EYE WITNESSES OF THE INCIDENT WILL BE USEFUL TO THE INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY GEO.

"ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN THE OCCURRENCE OF THE LANDSLIP OR ANYTHING PERTINENT TO THE LANDSLIP IS REQUESTED TO CALL GEO AT 762 5353 DURING OFFICE HOURS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

AWARDS FOR GURKHA HEROES

\* \* \* \* \*

TWO GURKHA SOLDIERS WHO, IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS, DISPLAYED EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE AND INITIATIVE, WILL RECEIVE COMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL SIR JOHN FOLEY, AT THE PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

LANCE CORPORAL KHEMBAHADUR GALAMI WAS CYCLING THROUGH TAM MEI MARRIED QUARTERS WHEN HE SPOTTED SMOKE COMING FROM AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW.

HE ALERTED THE OCCUPANTS AND EVACUATED THE BUILDING. HAVING ISOLATED THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, HE GAVE ORDERS TO CALL THE FIRE SERVICES.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE CLIMBED THE STAIRS, TAKING A HOSE PIPE WITH HIM AND ENTERED THE BURNING ROOM TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE.

BY HIS PROMPT, COURAGEOUS AND SELFLESS ACTION, HE UNDOUBTEDLY MINIMISED THE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING AND THE POSSESSIONS OF THE OCCUPANTS.

CORPORAL INDRAPRASAD GHALE, SIXTH GURKHA RIFLES, WAS ON EXERCISE IN THE LABI AREA OF THE JUNGLE IN BRUNEI WHEN, DURING A VIOLENT TROPICAL STORM, HE HEARD CRIES FOR HELP.

THREE SOLDIERS HAD BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING AND WERE TEMPORARILY PARALYSED.

HE LOCATED THEM IN THE DARKNESS AND ADMINISTERED FIRST AID.

UNABLE TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO THE RADIO BY THE LIGHTNING, HE DECIDED TO MOVE THE CASUALTIES SOME 50 METRES TO A LOGGING TRACK WHERE THE LIGHT WAS BETTER AND HE COULD ASSESS AND TREAT THEIR INJURIES.

HE REMAINED AWAKE ALL NIGHT, COMFORTING AND ASSISTING THE CASUALTIES UNTIL 4.30 AM WHEN THE WEATHER BEGAN TO IMPROVE.

CPL INDRAPRASAD THEN COVERED TWO KILOMETRES THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO CONTACT ASSISTANCE AND AT 8.45 AM THE THREE CASUALTIES WERE EVACUATED.

- - - - -

/NOTE TO .....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE CAN PHOTOGRAPH AND INTERVIEW THE TWO SOLDIERS FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF THE COMMENDATIONS.

THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE MAIN GATE AT THE PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS NO LATER THAN 10.30 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

121 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

\* \* \* \* \*

A GROUP OF 121 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 52 MEN, 30 WOMEN, 23 BOYS AND 16 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 212TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,000 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,613 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRESH WATER CUTS IN TSUEN WAN AND SAI KUNG

\* \* \* \* \*

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS LEAKAGE DETECTION.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD (TSUEN WAN SECTION), CHUNG ON STREET, SHA TSUI ROAD AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORK, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL ALSO BE CUT OFF FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY (JULY 29) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES IN MANG KUNG UK, HANG HAU WING LUNG ROAD, NG FAI TIN, PAN LONG WAN, SHEUNG YEUNG, HA YEUNG, MIU TSAI, MAU PO, TAI AU MUN, LEUNG FAI TIN, SHEUNG SZE WAN, SIU HANG HAU, TAI HANG HAU, LUNG HA WAN ROAD, TSIU WO, TAI WAN TAU, TAI O MUN ROAD, SHEUNG LAU WAN, TIN WAN TSAI, TIN HA, TAI WONG KUNG, PO TOI O, TAI MIU AU, CLEAR WATER BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB AS WELL AS TIN HAU TEMPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

- 15 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,660	0930	-318
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,626	1000	-224
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-144
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-143	1200	-143
LAF TODAY	+1,109	1500	-143
		1600	-143
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 122.8	*+0.0*	26.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.77	16 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.12	5.72
1 MONTH	3.87	22 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.44	6.18
3 MONTHS	4.21	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.52	6.68
6 MONTHS	4.59	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.60	6.82
12 MONTHS	5.28	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.29	6.96

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 32,829 MN

CLOSED 26 JULY 1994

----- 0 -----

/16 .....

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

- 16 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
TENDER RESULTS

\* \* \* \* \*

TENDER DATE	26 JUL 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q430
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$5,820 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,500 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.22 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.23 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 23 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.26 PCT

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 1 AUG 1994-

TENDER DATE	2 AUG 94	2 AUG 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q431	H470
ISSUE DATE	3 AUG 94	3 AUG 94
MATURITY DATE	2 NOV 94	3 FEB 95
TENOR	91 DAYS	184 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,500 + 300 MN	HK\$800 + 160 MN

----- 0 -----