



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor's spokesman on FCO statement

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In response to media inquiries on the statement issued today (Friday) by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Governor's spokesman, Kerry McGlynn, said :

"Everybody in Hong Kong knows the Governor's views on this issue. The FCO statement speaks for itself. The British Government is obviously as concerned as the Hong Kong community about perceived threats to Hong Kong's autonomy after 1997."

Asked if the Governor knew in advance of the FCO action, Mr McGlynn said: "Yes. Ministers always consult the Governor on matters relating to Hong Kong, especially when threats are made to Hong Kong's promised autonomy."

End

Hong Kong - Europe's business base in East Asia

* * * * *

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, continuing her official visit to Paris, today (Friday) impressed on French business leaders the advantages of establishing and maintaining a presence in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong is Europe's business base in East Asia. It is the place that European companies choose, above all other places in the region, to set up their regional headquarters," she said.

Mrs Chan was delivering a keynote speech at a luncheon hosted by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. About 200 business people packed the lunch venue, despite many encountering transport difficulties stemming from the industrial dispute affecting the city.

She said that in addition to the obvious advantages of Hong Kong as a business centre - from its position as an aviation, shipping, communications and information hub - the territory had become a major market in its own right.

"Our appetite for European goods and services is large. So far this year our imports from France - ranging from luxury goods, foods and wines to aircraft - have surged 85 per cent.

"But businesses do not flock to Hong Kong for the domestic market alone. They come to do business with the whole of the East Asian region, particularly China. According to a recent estimate, there are now some 160,000 enterprises in China funded from Hong Kong and jointly managed; and on a cumulative basis our realised direct investment in China is now estimated at US\$66 billion, accounting for 60 per cent of China's total," Mrs Chan said.

She emphasised that not only did Hong Kong invest in China, but it helped to strike deals, raise funds and direct interested investors to the right projects.

Seventeen Chinese state-owned enterprises had enjoyed successful listings on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and there was considerable scope for Hong Kong to develop further as a funding centre for both the Chinese equity and debt markets.

The Chief Secretary pointed out that China was a fast developing market, but an unfamiliar one in which the business environment would be much more challenging and risky than that in Europe, North America or Hong Kong. However, Hong Kong's commercial expertise and knowledge of China could help minimise the risks for overseas investors wanting to enter that market.

Mrs Chan said Hong Kong's geographical position played a part in its success as a business centre. But, "the key is that Hong Kong provides the legal infrastructure on which business depends".

"We have the rule of law which has protected our liberties and allowed free rein to the natural talents and entrepreneurial skills of our overwhelmingly Chinese population, free from the threat of arbitrary intervention in our daily lives," she said.

The Chief Secretary added that the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law recognised that Hong Kong's success as a community and as a business centre depended on the continuation of its system of government and its way of life beyond 1997. And that was why it was agreed in the Joint Declaration that Hong Kong would not become a part of China just like any other province, but a Special Administrative Region with a high degree of autonomy.

"What we are going through in 1997 is unique in history. Everyone in Hong Kong who is honest about it will admit that they have concerns about the transition. But everyone also wants to make it work," Mrs Chan said.

Today, Mrs Chan held meetings with directors of the big French company, Thomson CSF, the major French employers federation CNPF, and the President of the Paris Stock Exchange, Mr Jean-Francois Theodore, as well as giving interviews to both French and Hong Kong media representatives.

Mrs Chan said there was a great deal of interest in Europe about Hong Kong and she was able to bring Italian and French business people and political leaders up to date with the progress being made with transitional issues.

She said they were generally confident about the prospects for the Hong Kong economy, but there were concerns about the arrangements for the transition, in particular the progress of discussions with the Chinese.

"Overall, they are concerned that Hong Kong should be able to maintain its current lifestyle, its current systems and the freedoms that the community currently enjoys," Mrs Chan said.

End

Airport Financial Support Agreement signed

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The final piece of the financing arrangements for the Airport Core Programme has been "slotted into place" with the signing of the Financial Support Agreement (FSA) for the new airport today (Friday).

This was stated by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, after signing the FSA with the Airport Authority's (AA) Chairman, Mr Wong Po-yan.

The signing took place after AA held its first board meeting following the coming into force of the Airport Authority Ordinance.

As ex-Chairman of the Provisional Airport Authority (PAA), Mr Tsang said he was pleased that work at Chek Lap Kok had been proceeding at full pace towards its April 1998 opening date.

He said with the signing of FSA the opportunity was now opened to the private sector to invest in the new airport project.

"The FSA opens the way for the AA to conclude its arrangements with banks and other lenders to raise the \$11.6 billion it needs to complete the new airport project.

"And major franchisees would also be able to finalise their own financial arrangements on the basis of the FSA," he said.

Mr Tsang said the Government would continue to give strong support to the new airport project and wished the new chairman and the Authority every success with the completion of the project on time, within budget, and with the operation of what will be one of the world's finest airports.

Also speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Wong said: "Today is a very important day in the history of Hong Kong's new airport project, as it has seen the establishment of the AA in succession to the Provisional Airport Authority first set up five years ago."

"Our task as the AA continues from that of the PAA before us, first to provide, and then to operate, an airport that will maintain Hong Kong's status as a centre of international and regional aviation."

Mr Wong pledged that he and his fellow members and staff of the Authority would all remain committed to ensuring that in April 1998 "we provide Hong Kong with an international airport worthy of this great city: an airport of which Hong Kong can be proud."

He said the first meeting of the AA board and the signing of FSA were two events that would help to ensure that the momentum already achieved in developing Hong Kong's new airport would, with Government's assurance of its strong support, continue under the new Authority.

"Today's signing of the FSA gives the Authority the certainty it needs of access to the borrowing required to finance the project up to airport opening. A major part of that borrowing has already been very successfully underwritten," he said.

Having signed the FSA, AA would move quickly to sign the key airside franchises for air cargo, aircraft catering and aviation fuel supply services.

End

Majority satisfied with present situation: HAB survey

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A public opinion survey conducted in November by the Home Affairs Branch (HAB) has shown that 62 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the present situation in Hong Kong.

Releasing the latest findings of the bimonthly survey, an HAB spokesman said the percentage was the same as that recorded in September.

The survey also showed that 60 per cent of the respondents believed the Government had taken public opinion into account when formulating policies and making decisions.

As to the overall performance of the Government, 38 per cent expressed satisfaction while 36 per cent thought otherwise. The corresponding figures in the September poll were 36 per cent and 38 per cent.

The survey also revealed that of the three most-mentioned problems facing the territory, labour-related problems continued to top the list of concerns, at 66 per cent compared with September's 60 per cent.

Among that group of respondents, those who were concerned about "unemployment" dropped from 86 per cent to 82 per cent while the number of those who worried about the "importation of labour" remained at 30 per cent.

However, 60 per cent (up from 45 per cent) considered that the Government had exerted effort in solving the labour problem and five per cent (up from two per cent) said the problem had been well handled.

"Housing-related problems" came second on the list at 30 per cent while "economy-related problems" took third place at 21 per cent, compared to 27 per cent and 17 per cent in the previous findings respectively.

The survey was the 61st in the series to gauge the trend of public opinion on perceived problems in Hong Kong and the community's views of the general situation.

Through a random sampling of residential telephone numbers, 1,518 persons aged between 15 and 64 were interviewed.

End

Chinese drafts for all legislation prepared

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The Legal Department has prepared Chinese drafts for all ordinances and subsidiary legislation which were enacted in English only, the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the annual general meeting of an international association of law firms which was attended by representatives of law firms from 16 countries, Mr Mathews said by the end of November this year, of all the ordinances and subsidiary legislation enacted only in English language, the Chinese texts of 174 ordinances had been approved by the Bilingual Laws Advisory Committee (BLAC) and declared authentic by the Governor-in-Council.

Of the remaining ordinances, drafts of 101 items had been examined by BLAC, and drafts of all other ordinances and subsidiary legislation that were to remain in force had been prepared by the Legal Department, he said.

"My target is to have the Chinese texts of all that legislation authenticated before July 1, 1997," Mr Mathews said.

The Attorney General also disclosed that since the first bilingual ordinance was enacted in April 1989, all ordinances, other than those amending monolingual ordinances, had been enacted bilingually.

By the end of November this year, a total of 132 bilingual principal Ordinances had been enacted. In addition, 47 bilingual amending ordinances had been enacted, and hundreds of pieces of bilingual subsidiary legislation had been made, he said.

At present, there are more than 600 principal Ordinances and about 1,000 pieces of subsidiary legislation in Hong Kong.

Outlining the Legal Department's work in preparation for the transfer of sovereignty in 1997, Mr Mathews said of the over 200 multilateral international agreements extended by the United Kingdom to Hong Kong, the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) had reached agreement, in principle, on the continued application of 170 treaties.

These included 23 agreements establishing international organisations in which Hong Kong participates, for example the Asian Development Bank, the World Health Organisation, the Customs Co-operation Council, the International Maritime Organisation, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. There were less than 20 treaties left for discussion, Mr Mathews said.

On bilateral agreements extended by the United Kingdom to Hong Kong in a variety of practical areas, such as extradition, investment promotion and protection, and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, Mr Mathews said agreement had been reached in JLG on model texts for Hong Kong bilateral agreements in areas such as investment promotion and protection, surrender of fugitive offenders, mutual legal assistance, and transfer of sentenced persons.

A number of bilateral agreements based on those model texts had already been signed. They included six Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements and three Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements, Mr Mathews said.

"Further agreements have been initialled and are awaiting clearance in the JLG before signature.

"Negotiations are continuing as quickly as possible with additional partners in order that a reasonably comprehensive framework of bilateral agreements can be in place by July 1, 1997," he said.

He added: "Assuming timely agreement from the Chinese side on consultation papers now with them or still to be handed over, it should be possible to introduce localising Bills covering most of the UK enactments which apply to Hong Kong by late 1996 at the latest."

As regards the adaptation of laws, Mr Mathews said proposals for the adaptation of nearly 270 ordinances had been handed over to the Chinese side in over 60 papers. More papers were now being prepared.

He said much of the work was routine (for example, adapting terminology such as "the Governor"). But there were more complex matters (for example relating to Crown land, Crown proceedings, nationality and right of abode) which would require careful consideration before they were adapted.

"The precise forum in which these proposals will be discussed and the precise mechanism by which the proposals will be given legislative effect have not been resolved, but our plans for the exercise have been fully explained to the Chinese side through the JLG channel," Mr Mathews said.

He added: "It is clear that a great deal of work has been done in the two areas of localisation and adaptation of laws, and more remains to be done.

"My department is pushing ahead with the work and our programmes will allow us to complete the work in a timely fashion.

"I am confident that as a result of our work, the integrity of the Hong Kong statute book will be maintained after 1 July 1997."

Mr Mathews said another aspect of the Legal Department's work in preparing for the transition was that of enhancing mutual understanding with their legal counterparts in the Peoples' Republic of China and establishing a good working relationship with them.

"Just as personal friendships require constant nurturing and repair, relationships between institutions in different jurisdictions require constant effort and determination to ensure mutual understanding," he noted.

Mr Mathews added that channels for achieving such understanding with Chinese legal officials included organising visits to and from China, and holding briefings for visitors from China.

He said in 1994, there was a total of 16 incoming visits and four outgoing visits. This year, there had so far been 16 incoming visits and nine outgoing visits.

"One of these was my own visit to Beijing and Shanghai, where I had the opportunity to discuss many issues of common interest," Mr Mathews said.

He said all these efforts were directed towards the smooth transfer of sovereignty, the preservation of our common law system, and the continued maintenance of the rule of law.

He said he had heard of some people painting a picture of the rule of law being swept away as if by some evil deluge of Biblical proportions at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997.

He remarked that such dire predictions were based on no justifiable grounds and he for one totally rejected such a doomsday scenario, adding that the Government offered hope to the people of Hong Kong -- hope through action.

He said: "Over the past years, we have worked to preserve and enhance the rule of law in Hong Kong and to make it a better place for all to live in for now and the future."

"We shall continue to do so, for the benefit of the community and the generations to come."

"Our legal system in the future will be very much the same, if not better, than the one in which we now take pride," Mr Mathews said.

End

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the transfer yesterday (Thursday) of 192 Vietnamese migrants selected for the Orderly Repatriation Programme from the High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Mrs Leung Lau Yau-fun and Mr Robert Chan Chin-yuan. The other two were representatives of two non-government organisations - Miss Marie Vander Elst from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Mr Stephen Tsui from Oxfam.

End

Public Service Commission member appointed

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The Government announced today (Friday) the appointment of Ms Bebe Chu Pui-ying as member of the Public Service Commission for a two-year period from December 1.

Ms Chu is a solicitor with Stevenson, Wong and Co. She has served for two years on the Board of Directors of the Surviving Spouses' and Children's Pensions Scheme and is actively involved in voluntary services. She is a member of Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers, Council on Professional Conduct in Education and Family Law Association. She is also the Chairman of Family Law Committee, Law Society of Hong Kong.

Chaired by Mr A K Chui, the Public Service Commission advises the Governor on appointments, promotions and disciplinary matters in the middle and senior ranks of the civil service.

Other members include Mr P J Thompson, Mrs Eleanor Ling Ching-man, Mr D G Jeaffreson, Mr Christopher Cheng Wai-chee, Dr Thomas Leung Kwok-fai, Miss Eleanor Wong Bei-lee and Mrs Ng Yeoh Saw-kheng.

End

Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 1995

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The 1995 edition of the Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics, published by the Census and Statistics Department and presented in both English and Chinese for the first time, is now on sale.

The report contains statistics on a wide range of topics including population; births and deaths; labour; external trade; industrial production; distributive trades; food supplies; transport services; building and construction; communications and tourism; public accounts; money and finance; prices; housing; education; medical and health; social welfare; law and order; culture, entertainment and recreation; the environment; climate and geography; and national accounts.

There are altogether 265 tables in 18 sections. Most of the data are presented for seven years, spanning over a period of 10 years.

The report is available at \$92 per copy from the Government Publications Centre at Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway.

It can also be purchased at the publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End

Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 takes effect

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The Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 takes effect today (Friday), a government spokesman announced today.

"The Privy Council approved the new Order on October 18, 1995 and it will become effective on December 1, 1995," the spokesman said.

The Order is essentially an updated version of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 1977, and contains provisions on technical issues relating to civil aviation.

"This includes, inter alia, provisions governing airworthiness; operation and equipment of aircraft; management of aircraft crew; licensing and operation of aerodromes and control of air traffic," the spokesman said.

"The new Order will provide an up-to-date framework for regulating and administering civil aviation in Hong Kong, which is essential in maintaining our role as a centre of international and regional civil aviation."

"At a later date, our intention is that the Order be localised as part of the process of localising civil aviation enactments currently applied to Hong Kong," he added.

End

Appointments to financial services bodies announced

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The Financial Secretary has appointed two bankers and an actuary to three financial services bodies.

A spokesman for the Financial Services Branch announced today (Friday) that -

Mr David Wong has been appointed as a member of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) Advisory Committee;

Mr Stuart Leckie as a director of the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Co Ltd (HKSCC); and

Mr Anthony Yuen as Deputy Chairman of the Arbitration Panel established under the Leveraged Foreign Exchange Trading Ordinance.

Mr Wong, a banker, replaces Mr Henry Fan who has become a non-executive director of the SFC. Mr Wong's appointment is for a period of two years from November 28, 1995.

Mr Leckie, an actuary, is re-appointed to the board of the HKSCC from November 28, 1995 to the date of the 1996 Annual General Meeting of the HKSCC.

Mr Yuen, a banker and a serving member of the Arbitration Panel, replaces Mr Chris Pavlou who has resigned following his recent transfer to Tokyo. Mr Yuen's appointment as Deputy Chairman of the Arbitration Panel is for the period between November 28, 1995 and December 27, 1996.

End

New "pay-as-you-earn" tax scheme introduced

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The Tax Reserve Certificate (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 and the Tax Reserve Certificate (Fourth Series) (Amendment) Rules 1995 will come into operation on Monday (December 4), a government spokesman announced today (Friday).

"The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has implemented an additional system for purchasing and redeeming Tax Reserve Certificates (TRC).

"The new scheme, which will initially be piloted in the civil service, will enable civil servants to authorise the Treasury to deduct a specified sum from their monthly salaries for the purchase of TRCs.

"The deduction, which will be recorded on civil servants' monthly salary statements, will be credited to a TRC account maintained by IRD in the taxpayer's name.

"When tax is due for payment, the demand note will be settled by IRD on its due date by deduction from the credit available in the taxpayer's TRC account." the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the minimum amount of each purchase of TRCs had been increased from \$50 to \$300 and that, as from the same day, the annual rate of interest payable on tax reserve certificates will be increased from 5.04% to 5.64%.

Further enquiries may be made by calling the Tax Reserve Certificate Section of the Inland Revenue Department on 2594 3048.

End

Extension of Sai Kung West Country Park proposed

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The Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) has proposed to extend the Sai Kung West Country Park.

The proposed extension, measuring about 123 hectares, covers the Wan Tsai peninsula and its three neighbouring islands at Hoi Ha Wan.

A spokesman for the Authority said the extension was mainly for landscape conservation and recreation, with the nearby hills and undulating plains being offered for passive outdoor activities such as hiking and picnicking.

The spokesman said: "The proposed extension in the north-eastern part of Sai Kung West Country Park is formerly a borrow area which has been successfully restored by tree planting."

On management of the area, he pointed out that it would be in two phases.

The first phase will primarily aim at preserving the landscape and upkeeping the existing trails connected to the Wan Tsai peninsula from Hoi Ha and Tai Tan.

Subject to availability of resources, the phase two development will involve the provision of recreational and educational facilities and the promotion of more extensive use of the area by hikers.

To preserve the landscape character of the three adjacent islands, recreational facilities will not be provided.

On visitor facilities, the spokesman said the existing footpaths would be maintained in Wan Tsai peninsula in the first phase.

Phase two of the development would involve the provision of recreational facilities such as picnic tables, benches, litter bins, shelters, information boards, view compasses and way markers at strategic locations, he said.

Marine conservation education facilities may be provided along the coast of the peninsula when Hoi Ha Wan becomes a marine park.

In accordance with section 8 of the Country Parks Ordinance, the Authority has prepared the draft map and explanatory statement for the proposed Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension). A notice to that effect was published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Copies of the draft map are available for inspection by the public free of charge at the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), Land Registry, Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office as well as public enquiry service centres of district offices.

Uncoloured copies of the draft map are also available for sale at \$35 each from AFD on 14th floor of Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon.

End

Mrs Patten opens "10 years of AIDS in Pictures" exhibition

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Mrs Patten today (Friday) urges the public to take preventive measures against AIDS and points out that everyone has the responsibility to protect himself or herself, their families and others from infection.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the "10 Years of AIDS in Pictures" exhibition at the Plaza of the Headquarters of Hongkong Bank in Central, Mrs Patten said despite advances in medical science, AIDS still remained as an incurable disease and continued to grow around the world and in Hong Kong.

She said the disease not only threatened the life and health of millions of people world-wide, but also had a devastating effect on families and communities.

"In the absence of any effective cure, prevention plays a very important part in containing the disease. Educating the public in order to increase their knowledge of the disease is vital," she said.

Mrs Patten pointed out that under the Chairmanship of Ms Carlye Tsui, the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS had launched many useful campaigns.

The theme of the 1995 World AIDS Day is "Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities".

Mrs Patten said "everyone with HIV or AIDS has the rights to be treated with human dignity without discrimination and the rights to proper health care".

"Everyone has the shared responsibility not only to protect him or herself, their families and others from infection, but to show tolerance and compassion to those with the disease."

It is the responsibility of the communities to care for those living with HIV and AIDS and to educate their members about the epidemic. It is also the governments' responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are devoted to HIV and AIDS programmes and that all people, including the disadvantaged and vulnerable have access to available HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes.

"1995 is a very significant year in the history of AIDS in Hong Kong because it has been a decade since the first case of AIDS was diagnosed. The photos in the exhibition show us that history in pictures," Mrs Patten said.

Also officiating at the ceremony were the Chairman of the Committee on the Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS), Ms Carlye Tsui; the Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan; and the Director of Information Services, Mrs Irene Yau.

Ms Carlye Tsui said she was concerned about the spread of AIDS in Hong Kong. "Since that first AIDS case was reported ten years ago, 602 people in Hong Kong have been infected by the HIV virus and of these 161 have developed AIDS. Many have died of AIDS complications," she said.

Ms Tsui added that the most effective way to fight against AIDS was through education, and that was the reason CEPAIDS was set up in 1987.

She said: "By targeting the general public, drug abusers, community groups, schools, and the youth of Hong Kong, we have helped to raise AIDS awareness significantly. And we intend to continue that fight until a cure is found."

The "10 Years of AIDS in Pictures" exhibition is jointly organised by the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS to commemorate the World AIDS Day 95. More than 90 memorable pictures of different aspects on AIDS are being displayed in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be staged at the Plaza of the Headquarters of Hongkong Bank in Central from today until December 9. Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition.

End

HKMA and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas sign agreement

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced that it signed a bilateral repurchase agreement (repo) with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas today (Friday) in Hong Kong, the fifth such agreement HKMA has entered into with central banks in the region.

On November 20, HKMA signed agreements on the repo of US dollar government securities to provide liquidity on a bilateral basis with the Reserve Bank of Australia, Bank Indonesia, Bank Negara Malaysia and Bank of Thailand.

Repos are simultaneous agreements to buy securities for an agreed amount of cash and to agree to sell back the same securities at a specified later date for a specified amount.

Bilateral repos are straightforward commercial transactions that the Exchange Fund has been transacting with commercial banks and investment houses to improve its liquidity.

Establishing well secured repo lines with central banks whose credit standing are generally higher than that of private sector banks would improve liquidity of the Exchange Fund under minimum risk.

End

Lectures on Hong Kong's heritage to be held

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The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) is organising a series of lectures starting from tomorrow (Saturday) on Hong Kong's heritage.

The opening lecture on villages in the New Territories will be given by Dr Patrick Hase of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch at 2.30 pm at the AMO Gallery, 136 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

The talk will be illustrated with past and present photographs of the villages to enhance people's understanding of what they see in those areas and the traditional life and history of Hong Kong.

Topics of the lectures to follow include "Kowloon Walled City", "The Space and Face of 19th Century Urban Hong Kong", "Approach to Conservation - Work on Historic Buildings in Hong Kong" and "Our Heritage: Hong Kong's old Chinese and colonial buildings".

These free lectures will be held in some of the Saturday afternoons from now until March 2. They are to coincide with a photographic exhibition on the old faces of Sheung Wan and Western District now being held at the AMO Gallery.

Details of the lectures and the exhibition can be obtained from AMO on 2721 2326.

End

Santa Claus flies in by Wessex helicopter

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The lack of snow in a Hong Kong December morning will not deter the arrival of Santa Claus at the St Stephen's Chapel Family Fete. Abandoning his traditional mode of transport -- his reindeer-driven sleigh -- Santa Claus will arrive in style in Royal Air Force Wessex helicopter.

Helicopter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Alex Szymanski, from 28 (AC) Squadron, based at Sek Kong, will rendezvous with Santa Claus "somewhere south of the North Pole" and deliver him at 11.20 am tomorrow (Saturday) to the playing field of St Stephen's College at Wong Ma Kok Road, Stanley where his passenger will be given a rousing welcome by local children.

Over the years, the annual St Stephen's Chapel Family Fete has been able to contribute generously to many local charities. Money raised at this year's event will go to the Ing Mei Orphanage Fund, the Methodist Shelter at Stanley Fort, TREATS, the Children's Cancer Foundation and Father Luiz's Home in Macau.

End

Draft Shau Kei Wan Outline Zoning Plan amended

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

A spokesman for the Board said the amendments to the land use layout and the road alignment for the Aldrich Bay reclamation area would facilitate the early implementation of a Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS) development to meet the housing demand.

In the reclamation area, three sites are reserved for residential development.

A 2.32-hectare in the eastern part is reserved for a PSPS development. A public rental housing and Home Ownership Scheme development which occupies an area of 7.6 hectares is proposed in the central part.

Another site with an area of 0.74 hectare in the north-western part is reserved for private housing.

Three sizeable "Open Space" zones are proposed in areas located to the western and eastern part of the public housing site and along the waterfront.

Meanwhile, two "Government/Institution/Community" sites along Tai On Street and along the waterfront are reserved for school developments.

"To allow a more flexible design for industrial use and a larger open space development, an 'Industrial' zone ('I') located along Tung Hei Road in A Kung Ngam is swapped with a nearby 'Open Space' ('O') zone and 'Road Reserve' area," the spokesman said.

"The resulting 'I' and 'O' zones will have an area of approximately 0.5 hectare and 0.23 hectare respectively," he added.

The amendment plan (No S/H9/5) is now available for public inspection until December 22, 1995 at:

* Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Central, Hong Kong;

- * Hong Kong District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong; and
- * Eastern District Office Public Enquiry Service Centre,
ground floor, Eastern Law Courts Building,
29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong before December 22, 1995.

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

End

Amendments to Tsing Yi Outline Zoning Plan announced

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the approved Tsing Yi Outline Zoning Plan.

Major amendments involve the provision of residential development at two sites.

One of the sites is located at the end of Liu To Road. With an area of 4.81 hectares, the site has been rezoned from "Government/Institution/Community" ("G/IC") to "Residential (Group A)" ("R(A)") to facilitate a public housing development there.

The other site to the south of Tsing Luk Street, with an area of 1.01 hectares, has been rezoned from "Open Space" ("O") to "R(A)" for a private sector participation scheme development.

In connection with the development of the Airport Railway Tsing Yi Station, a site to the north of the elevated Tsing Tsuen Road has been rezoned from "O" to "G/IC" for a public lorry park cum transport interchange.

An area at the intersection of the Tsing Ma and Ting Kau Bridges has been rezoned from "Road" to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Ventilation Building".

A site to the east of Tsing Yi Heung Sze Wui Road has been rezoned from "G/IC" to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Sewage Treatment Plant" to reflect existing use.

Technical amendments to the plan include amendments to the covering Notes of the plan and the Notes of a number of land use zonings.

The amendment plan (No S/TY/11) is now available for public inspection until February 1, 1996 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road,
Central, Hong Kong;
- * Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Planning Office,
27th floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices Building,
38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories; and
- * Kwai Tsing District Office,
10th floor, Kwai Hing Government Offices Building,
166-174 Hing Fong Road,
Kwai Chung, New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before February 1, 1996.

Copies of the draft plan can be purchased 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

Board amends draft Shek Kip Mei Outline Zoning Plan

* * * * *

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced an amendment to the draft Shek Kip Mei Outline Zoning Plan.

The amendment relates to a residential development on a 4.35-hectare site zoned "Residential (Group C) 5" ("R(C)5") at Tai Wo Ping near Beacon Heights off Lung Ping Road. The "R(C)5" zone is divided into two sub-areas with maximum building heights of 131 metres and 194 metres above the Hong Kong Principal Datum.

The revised zoning and height restrictions will facilitate a better layout for housing development to overcome the noise problem arising from Lung Cheung Road.

The amendment plan (No S/K4/6) is now available for public inspection until December 22, 1995 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road,
Central, Hong Kong;
- * Kowloon District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong; and
- * Sham Shui Po District Office,
sixth floor, 290 Un Chau Street, Cheung Sha Wan,
Kowloon.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before December 22, 1995.

Copies of the draft plan are available for sale 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

Draft North Point Outline Zoning Plan amended

* * * * *

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced two amendments to the draft North Point Outline Zoning Plan.

"As the existing Causeway Bay Police Station at Electric Road is no longer required by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, part of the site, with an area of 0.13 hectare, has been rezoned to 'Commercial' and the remaining 0.06 hectare of the site to 'Open Space'," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said.

Another amendment is to rezone a 0.25-hectare site near the junction of Tong Shui Road and Wharf Road from "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Comprehensive Redevelopment Area" to "Government/Institution/Community" ("G/IC").

"A site at Oil Street currently occupied by the Government Supplies Department as office and storage depot has been rezoned from 'G/IC' to 'Comprehensive Development Area' ('CDA').

"The 'CDA' site, with an area of 1.16 hectares, will include a mix of office, hotel, carpark, open space, retail and residential development," the spokesman added.

Technical amendment includes the addition of a set of new Notes for the "CDA" zoning.

The amendment plan (No S/H8/6) is now available for public inspection until December 22, 1995 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong;
- * Hong Kong District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong; and
- * Eastern District Office,
Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor,
Eastern Law Courts Building, 29 Tai On Street,
Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before December 22, 1995.

Copies of the draft plan are available for sale 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

Import (Radiation) (Prohibition) Regulations amended

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The Import (Radiation) (Prohibition) (Amendment) Regulation 1995, which seeks to provide a definition of "irradiating apparatus" and "radioactive substance" in the existing regulations along the same line as the provisions in the Radiation Ordinance, was published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

A government spokesman said: "An amendment to the existing Schedule to the Import (Radiation) (Prohibition) Regulations under the Import and Export Ordinance has been approved by the Governor in Council on November 21, 1995.

"Under the amendment, the existing Schedule of chemical elements and apparatus would be repealed and substituted by a new Schedule which makes reference to the new definitions of radioactive substances and irradiating apparatus."

He said: "These two terms are now defined in the Regulation in the same way as they are defined in the Radiation Ordinance.

"Under the Ordinance, radioactive substance means any substance which consists of or contains any radioactive chemical element, whether natural or artificial, and whose specific activity exceeds 75 bequerels of parent radioactive chemical element per gram of substance.

"Irradiating apparatus means any apparatus which is intended to produce or emit ionizing radiation; or is capable of producing or emitting ionizing radiation at a dose rate exceeding five microsievert per hour at a distance of five centimetres from any accessible point of the surface of the apparatus."

End

Road closure and alteration at O'Brien Road in Wan Chai

* * * * *

The Government intends to implement temporary closure and permanent alterations at a section of O'Brien Road in Wan Chai from January 4 next year to facilitate improvement works at the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Wan Chai Station.

A section of pavement in O'Brien Road between Hennessy Road and Johnston Road will be temporarily closed and permanently altered to facilitate demolition of the existing MTR entrances and construction of new station entrances and associated structures.

Pedestrian walkway will be maintained to the adjacent shops and building entrances during the construction period.

A lane of the carriageway of another section of O'Brien Road and its junction with Thomson Road will be temporarily closed and altered to facilitate construction. Temporary traffic diversion will be implemented.

Alternative vehicular routing and suitable pedestrian facilities will be provided. Traffic signs will be set up to guide motorists.

Details of the closures and alterations are contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any claims for compensation must be made in writing to the Director of Lands.

Plans showing the affected area are available for public inspection at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Wan Chai District Office, ground floor, 2 O'Brien Road, Wan Chai; and the District Lands Office (Hong Kong West), 19th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End

Refuse transfer facilities in Cheung Chau

* * * * *

The Government intends to carry out works at Tai Kwai Wan in Cheung Chau to provide berthing facilities and marine access for refuse transfer vessels operating in the area.

Works will involve the modification of about 55 metres of sloping seawall to vertical seawall, the construction of a mooring dolphin and protective works for an existing water mains to the north of the site, and the dredging of sea-bed within an area of about 1,860 square metres.

Works will commence early next year for completion by mid-1997.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be injuriously affected by the undertaking of the works may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before December 1, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money which he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and should submit such particulars which he possesses to substantiate his claim.

The notice together with its related plans can be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

They can also be seen at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong and at the Cheung Chau Sub-office of the Islands District Office, ground floor, 22 San Hing Street, Cheung Chau.

End

Refuse transfer facilities at Lamma Island

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The Government intends to dredge the foreshore and sea-bed within an area of about 1.4 hectares at Sok Kwu Wan in Lamma Island.

This is to form a site for developing refuse transfer facilities and to provide marine access for refuse transfer vessels for the Sok Kwu Wan Station of the Outlying Islands Refuse Transfer Facilities.

A government spokesman said an initial environmental impact assessment for the Outlying Islands Refuse Transfer Facilities was carried out in September 1993 based on a conceptual design.

The assessment concludes, among other things, that the site formation work at Sok Kwu Wan would not cause unacceptable impacts to the environment, provided that certain mitigation measures are incorporated.

"The contractor will be required to carry out a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment to assess the environmental impact caused by the site formation work and to address the details of the mitigation measures with reference to his actual design," the spokesman added.

"Suitable mitigation measures will be incorporated in the work to ensure that there will be no unacceptable impact and that the mariculture operation nearby will not be affected," he stressed.

Work will commence in the middle of next year for completion by late 1997.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before February 1, 1996.

Notice of such objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he alleges he will be affected.

The notice, in both English and Chinese, together with its related plans can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plan can also be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

The plan is also available for public inspection at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

End

Tenders invited for sewage works

* * * * *

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is inviting tenders for a works contract relating to the construction of a sewage treatment plant in Sham Tseng, the New Territories.

The works mainly involve the reclamation of about three hectares of the foreshore at Sham Tseng adjacent to the existing Garden Bakery site to provide land for the construction of a new sewage treatment plant.

A buffer area will also be provided to separate the treatment works from other buildings in the area.

A spokesman for DSD said the contract formed part of the Ting Kau and Sham Tseng Sewerage, Sewage Treatment and Disposal Project.

"When the project is completed all sewage in the coastal area from Ting Kau to Tsing Lung Tau will be collected and treated at the new sewage treatment plant before discharge into offshore waters.

"This will improve the water quality along the western coastline of Tsuen Wan," he noted.

Works are scheduled to begin in March 1996 for completion in about 15 months.

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

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from Montgomery Watson Hong Kong Limited, 1911 Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay.

The tender closing date is noon on December 22, 1995.

End

Two secondary schools for Tseung Kwan O

* * * * *

The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of two secondary schools in Tseung Kwan O.

The schools will be constructed to a new standard design, each comprising 26 classrooms, 14 special rooms, three remedial teaching rooms, an assembly hall and ancillary facilities, two basketball courts, covered playground and car park.

There will also be a student activity centre, staff common rooms, guidance activity/interview rooms, more playground area as well as facilities for the disabled. The gross floor area of each school will be about 9,400 square metres.

Works will start in March next year for completion in August 1997.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board and placed in the Government secretariat tender box at the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before 12 noon on Friday, December 29.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Reprovisioning of Lai King Community Hall

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the reprovisioning of Lai King Community Hall at Lai King Estate, Kwai Chung.

Works involve construction of a single storey community hall block of about 800 square metres in gross floor area together with drainage and ancillary external works.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

It must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box in the lift lobby on the lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on Friday, December 22.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Groups A, B and C for Building Works will be permitted to tender.

End

Tenders invited for indoor games hall renovation

* * * * *

The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the renovation of entrance halls and public areas and provision of air-conditioning to six Regional Council indoor games halls.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the department at 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

It must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box in the lift lobby on the lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on Friday, December 29. Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Group C for Building Works and List II for Building Works will be permitted to tender.

End

Fresh water cut in Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng

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Fresh water supply to all premises in Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Tuesday (December 5) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermain works.

Affected areas include Sham Tsz Street, Garden Bakery, San Miguel Brewery, Rhine Terrace and Garden, Lido Garden, Seacrest Villa Phase 1 to 4, Sham Tseng Tsuen, Sham Tseng Tung Tsuen, Pai Min Kok Tsuen, Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen, Yuen Tun Tsuen, Hong Kong Garden, Lung Tan Court, Choi Yuen Tsuen and Ka Lung Tsuen.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,519	0930	-250
Closing balance in the account	1,272	1000	-250
Change attributable to :		1100	-250
Money market activity	-256	1200	-250
LAF today	+9	1500	-250
		1600	-256

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.6 *+0.2* 01.12.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.65	2 years	2711	5.60	100.04	5.65
1 month	5.61	3 years	3810	6.15	100.90	5.89
3 months	5.55	5 years	5009	6.95	102.71	6.38
6 months	5.54	7 years	7211	6.82	100.68	6.81
12 months	5.53	5 years	M502	7.30	102.38	6.84

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$19,694 million

Closed December 1, 1995

End