



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
NEW AIRPORT - THE FINANCIAL PLAN .....	1
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOITERING LAW .....	3
CFC CONSUMPTION IN HK REDUCED BY HALF .....	4
MEASURES TO RELIEVE MTR PEAK HOUR CONGESTION ANNOUNCED .....	5
DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES .....	6
FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED .....	7
BUILDING IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS .....	7
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY ANNOUNCED .....	8
ONEROUS TASK FOR CSD STAFF .....	12
POST OFFICE ORDINANCE TO BE UPDATED .....	13
IRELAND MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED .....	13
GERMANY POSTAL SERVICE DELAYED BY STRIKE .....	13
SERVICES OF PO LEUNG KUK COMMENDED .....	14
MORE TELEPHONE LINES FOR LABOUR ENQUIRY SERVICE .....	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	15

NEW AIRPORT - THE FINANCIAL PLAN

\* \* \* \* \*

AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY ON THE FINANCIAL PLAN FOR HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, WHEN SHE PRESENTED DETAILS OF THE PLAN TO A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP AND THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE PRESENTATION WAS BASED ON THE ESTIMATE OF \$46.3 BILLION, (AT MARCH 1991 PRICES) WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 2, FOR THE TOTAL CAPITAL COST OF COMMISSIONING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE AIRPORT IN 1997.

"WE HAVE A STRATEGY WHICH IS PRUDENT AND ROBUST," MRS CHAN SAID.

"FIVE OVERALL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN. THESE ARE:

"FIRST, TO COMPLETE THE AIRPORT ON TIME AND IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER CONSISTENT WITH ACHIEVEMENT OF OPERATING STANDARDS EXPECTED OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

"SECOND, TO OPTIMISE THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, WHICH WILL MINIMISE DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

"THIRD, TO ENABLE THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO RAISE DEBT WITHOUT GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE.

"FOURTH, TO ENSURE THAT CONTINGENT LIABILITIES ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

"FIFTH, TO ENSURE THAT THE AIRPORT WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE AS A VIABLE BUSINESS ALONG PRUDENT COMMERCIAL LINES TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL ITS USERS AND THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG."

OF THE TOTAL \$46.3 BILLION, THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WILL DEVELOP AND FUND WORKS COSTING \$33.7 BILLION THROUGH GOVERNMENT EQUITY AND ITS OWN BORROWINGS.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTING THE AIRPORT SITE, PASSENGER TERMINALS, AND RUNWAYS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL FUND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, METEOROLOGICAL, POSTAL, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND OTHER FACILITIES ESTIMATED, SUBJECT TO FINAL REFINEMENTS, TO COST \$3.1 BILLION.

IT IS INTENDED THAT MAJOR SUPPORT FACILITIES SUCH AS AIR CARGO TERMINALS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, CATERING AND FUELLING FACILITIES WILL BE DEVELOPED THROUGH DIRECT PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT.

- 2 -

IT HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT THE COST OF THESE FACILITIES WILL BE \$9.5 BILLION, BUT THE ACTUAL COST WILL DEPEND ON THE COMMERCIAL JUDGEMENT OF THE INVESTORS CONCERNED.

MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WOULD INVITE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTORS TO TENDER FOR THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE THESE SUPPORT FACILITIES ON AN OPEN AND COMPETITIVE BASIS.

BASED ON CONSERVATIVE PROJECTIONS OF COSTS AND REVENUES AND OTHER ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING INTEREST RATES, ACCEPTABLE DEBT MATURITIES, AND A REASONABLY FAVOURABLE LENDING ENVIRONMENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE AIRPORT CAN BE FINANCED EFFECTIVELY WITH \$13.6 BILLION OF GOVERNMENT EQUITY, \$23.3 BILLION OF INITIAL DEBT, AND \$1.29 BILLION OF PRE-COMPLETION LAND REVENUES.

THE TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING OF \$38.19 BILLION IS INTENDED TO MEET THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S CAPITAL COSTS OF \$33.7 BILLION, AND INTEREST PAYMENTS AND ASSOCIATED FINANCING FEES OF ABOUT \$4.5 BILLION.

AS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 2, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY ADDITIONAL EQUITY UP TO A TOTAL OF \$5.9 BILLION, WHICH COULD BE CALLED UNDER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY WILL BE EXPECTED TO ADOPT RIGOROUS COST CONTROL PROCEDURES WHICH WILL BE MONITORED CLOSELY BY THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE NEW AIRPORT WILL RECEIVE REVENUES BY INHERITING KAI TAK'S TRAFFIC FLOWS AND STRONG REVENUE STREAMS.

THESE INCLUDE CHARGES LEVIED ON AIRLINES FOR LANDING AND PARKING, AND REVENUES FROM IN-TERMINAL AND OTHER CONCESSIONS SUCH AS DUTY FREE LIQUOR SHOPS AND AIR CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES.

THE FINANCIAL PLAN ASSUMES THAT, WHEN THE AIRPORT OPENS IN 1997, THERE WILL BE A PASSENGER TERMINAL CHARGE (PTC) EQUIVALENT TO BETWEEN \$50 AND \$100 AT MARCH 1991 PRICES.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE COST TO PASSENGERS IS KEPT WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS, THIS WILL BE OFFSET BY A REDUCTION IN AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX (APDT) SO THAT THE TOTAL OF BOTH CHARGES DOES NOT EXCEED THE CURRENT APDT LEVEL OF \$150.

THE FINANCIAL PLAN ALSO ASSUMES THAT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WILL RECEIVE REVENUES FROM REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ON THE AIRPORT ISLAND WHICH WILL BE GRANTED TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MRS CHAN SAID CONSULTATIONS WERE UNDER WAY WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

- 3 -

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOITERING LAW

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL SEEKING TO AMEND THE PRESENT LAW ON LOITERING WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 13.

THE OFFENCE OF LOITERING IS CONTAINED IN THE CRIMES ORDINANCE, WHICH IS ONE OF SIX PIECES OF LAW EXEMPTED FROM THE OPERATION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE DURING THE FREEZE PERIOD WHICH EXPIRES IN JUNE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FOLLOWING A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE CRIMES ORDINANCE, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT ONLY THE SECTION DEALING WITH LOITERING REQUIRED IMMEDIATE MODIFICATION BECAUSE IT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SECTION BE AMENDED BY THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 TO READ : "A PERSON WHO LOITERS IN A PUBLIC PLACE OR IN THE COMMON PARTS OF ANY BUILDING WITH INTENT TO COMMIT AN ARRESTABLE OFFENCE COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$10,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS."

THE EXISTING SECTION READS: "ANY PERSON WHO LOITERS IN A PUBLIC PLACE OR IN THE COMMON PARTS OF ANY BUILDING SHALL, UNLESS HE GIVES A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION FOR HIS PRESENCE THERE, BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$2,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRESENT LOITERING OFFENCE WAS SUBJECT TO CRITICISM ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS DRAFTED TOO WIDELY, PROVIDING THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE AND DISCRIMINATION, AND HAD RESULTED IN DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS BY THE COURTS.

"IT IS NECESSARY TO RETAIN THE LOITERING OFFENCE AS A CRIME PREVENTION MEASURE. UNDER THE AMENDMENT, A SUSPECT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION FOR SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR AND THERE WILL BE A NEW REQUIREMENT ON THE PART OF THE PROSECUTION TO PROVE INTENT TO COMMIT AN ARRESTABLE OFFENCE, WHICH IS A NON-TRIVIAL OFFENCE CARRYING A PENALTY OF MORE THAN 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE EXPLAINED.

ANY FAILURE OF A SUSPECT TO GIVE A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF HIS PRESENCE AND BEHAVIOUR WILL FORM PART OF THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE. IT WILL NOT, AS IT DOES AT PRESENT, CONSTITUTE A PART OF THE OFFENCE.

"THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION OF THE ACCUSED BEING COMPELLED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. HE WILL BE CAUTIONED IN THE NORMAL WAY, THAT IS, THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING BUT THAT ANYTHING HE DOES SAY MAY BE USED IN EVIDENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

----- 0 -----

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

- 4 -

CFC CONSUMPTION IN HK REDUCED BY HALF

\* \* \* \* \*

HONG KONG HAS SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING BY HALF THE CONSUMPTION OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFCS) WITHIN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE CONTROL OF THESE SUBSTANCES WHICH CAUSE THE DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER.

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY COOPER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY): "WE HAVE WELL EXCEEDED OUR TARGET IN REDUCING THE CONSUMPTION OF CFCS SINCE THE CONTROLS ON THE SCHEDULED CFCS CAME INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1989."

"IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CONTROL, THE CONSUMPTION WAS REDUCED FROM 3,855 TONNES TO 2,126 TONNES AND IN THE SECOND YEAR IT WAS FURTHER REDUCED TO 1,962 TONNES, A TARGET WHICH WE ARE NOT SCHEDULED TO ACHIEVE UNTIL 1995. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO PHASE OUT CFCS TOTALLY BY 2001," MR COOPER SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS INCLUDED IN UK'S RATIFICATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1989.

"WE HAVE BEEN TAKING EVERY STEP TO IMPLEMENT THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL AND TO FULFIL OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PROTOCOL," MR COOPER SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE IN JULY 1989 TO PROHIBIT THE MANUFACTURE OF SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER AND CONTROL THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF THESE SUBSTANCES THROUGH REGISTRATION AND LICENSING PROVISIONS.

"THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL MAY MAKE REGULATIONS GENERALLY TO CONTROL SPECIFIED SUBSTANCES," HE ADDED.

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED CONCERN OVER THE DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER AND POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS OF THIS DEPLETION, MR COOPER SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING HOW CONSUMPTION OF THESE SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES MIGHT BE REDUCED EVEN FURTHER, HOW INCENTIVES MIGHT BE PROVIDED TO RECYCLE OR RECLAIM CFCS, HOW THE VENTING OF CFCS TO THE ATMOSPHERE MIGHT BE PROHIBITED AND HOW USERS OF CFCS MIGHT BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO CFCS OR BETTER CONSERVE THOSE THEY ALREADY HAVE."

HE ALSO SAID THE SUBMISSIONS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE STUDIED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

MEASURES TO RELIEVE MTR PEAK HOUR CONGESTION ANNOUNCED

\* \* \* \* \*

A SERIES OF STRATEGIC MEASURES COMBINING NEW BUS ROUTES, FERRY IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES WILL BE LAUNCHED IN SUMMER WITH AN AIM TO TACKLE THE CONGESTION PROBLEM ALONG THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF EXPRESS BUS ROUTES FROM YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN TO TSIM SHA TSUI; NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS SERVICES FROM MA ON SHAN AND KWAI CHUNG TO HONG KONG; MORE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES FROM NEW TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES FROM TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN TO CENTRAL.

ANNOUNCING THE RELIEVE MEASURES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (BUS DEVELOPMENT), MRS DOROTHY CHAN YUEN TAK-FAI, SAID THE FIRST STAGE OF THE BUS PLAN WOULD BE LAUNCHED ON MAY 18.

TWO NEW AIR-CONDITIONED CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED BY KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY ON THAT DATE. ONE ROUTE - ROUTE 336 - WILL PLY BETWEEN LEI MUK SHU AND SHEUNG WAN AND THE OTHER - ROUTE 312 - BETWEEN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA AND TIN HAU.

"THESE SERVICES WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MTR FOR PASSENGERS FROM TSUEN WAN AND WILL ENCOURAGE KCR PASSENGERS TO INTERCHANGE FOR BUSES AT HUNG HOM INSTEAD OF THE MTR AT KOWLOON TONG," MRS CHAN SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE FREQUENCY ON ROUTES 300 AND 301 INTRODUCED LAST SUMMER WILL BE ENHANCED TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY WHILE THEY WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO SHEUNG WAN SERVING A LARGER CATCHMENT," SHE ADDED.

ALSO EXTENDED TO SHEUNG WAN ARE ROUTES 305, 307, 337 AND 348.

TO ENCOURAGE COMMUTERS TO DIRECT FROM THE MTR TO BUSES, THERE WILL BE A FARE REDUCTION ON ALL '300' SERIES OF SERVICES DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOUR.

TO PROVIDE MORE LOADING AREA FOR CROSS HARBOUR BUSES OUTSIDE THE TOLL PLAZA OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, A NEW BUS STOP FOR FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE DESIGNATED OUTSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE TUNNEL.

ALSO, THERE WILL BE A SHORT SECTION OF BUS LANE AT THE TOLL PLAZA TO HELP BUSES TO BYPASS THE QUEUING TRAFFIC.

MRS CHAN SAID MORE BUS SERVICES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE COMING MONTHS IN STAGES WHICH ALTOGETHER WILL PROVIDE AN EXTRA CAPACITY FOR 7,000 COMMUTERS AT THE PEAK HOUR.

INCLUDED IN THE STRATEGY IS A NEW BUS LANE ON WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR SOUTHBOUND WITH LINKED TRAFFIC SIGNALS WHICH WILL ENABLE NEW TERRITORIES EXPRESS BUSES TO TRAVEL FASTER INTO URBAN KOWLOON.

NEW FERRIES WITH HIGHER SPEED WILL BE USED ON THE TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN TO CENTRAL ROUTES.

MRS CHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON THE FINAL DETAILS OF THESE MEASURES WITH THE CONCERNED PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES. THESE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN STAGES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE GENERAL MANAGER OF KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY, MR CHARLES LUI CHUNG YUEN, AND THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (URBAN), MR LEE SHU CHEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT 10 PROPOSALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM CONSORTIA INTERESTED IN OPERATING DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

MOST OF THESE CONSORTIA HAD LOCAL AND OVERSEAS PARTNERS.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE SUCH ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY. THIS SHOWS THAT LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE MARKET POTENTIAL AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG," MR WONG SAID.

"THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED WILL BE EVALUATED CAREFULLY AGAINST A SET OF CRITERIA INCLUDING TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, FINANCIAL CAPABILITY, CORPORATE STRUCTURE, LEVEL OF INVESTMENT, IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE, AND QUALITY OF SERVICE.

"ALL THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO US WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE FOR THE TIME BEING," HE SAID.

A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN LATE JULY.

IN JANUARY THIS YEAR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY ANNOUNCED THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIGITAL CELLULAR PHONE IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM PERMITTING THE THREE EXISTING OPERATORS (HONG KONG TELECOM CSL LTD, HUTCHISON TELEPHONE COMPANY LTD AND PACIFIC LINK COMMUNICATIONS LTD) TO CONVERT THEIR ANALOGUE SYSTEMS INTO DIGITAL ONES, A NEW OPERATOR WILL BE LICENSED TO OPERATE A NEW DIGITAL SYSTEM BASED ON THE EUROPEAN GSM STANDARD.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 200,000 CELLULAR PHONE SUBSCRIBERS IN THE TERRITORY.

HONG KONG HAS THE HIGHEST PENETRATION RATE FOR HAND-HELD PORTABLE PHONES IN ANY SIZEABLE CELLULAR PHONE MARKET IN THE WORLD.

. - - - - 0 - - - -

FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED FOUR NEW MEMBERS TO THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS UNTIL MARCH 31, 1994.

THEY ARE MRS RITA FAN HSU LAI-TAI, MR JAMES TO KUN-SUN, MR ROBERT GEORGE KOTEWALL AND MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG.

IN ADDITION, MR JUSTEIN WONG AND MRS MIRIAM LAU HAVE BEEN REAPPOINTED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO AND THREE YEARS RESPECTIVELY AFTER THEIR TERMS EXPIRE AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUILDING IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED THE BUILDING AT 206 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL IN SHEUNG WAN TO BE DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR (PGBS) SAID THE STRUCTURE WAS A FOUR-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDING WITH COCKLOFT AND CONSTRUCTED OF LOAD-BEARING WALLS WITH TIMBER STAIRCASE AND FLOORS AND A CONCRETE ROOF.

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION BY THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN ISSUED A REPAIR ORDER.

TIMBER SHORING HAS BEEN INSTALLED DURING THE DEMOLITION OF THE BUILDINGS AT 204 AND 208 ON THE SAME ROAD.

RECENT INSPECTIONS SHOWED THAT MOVEMENT HAD TAKEN PLACE TO THE REAR WALL OF THE BUILDING AS SEEN BY THE BULGING AND FRACTURE OF THE WALL WHICH ACTS AS A RETAINING WALL TO ON WO LANE. THERE WAS ALSO WATER SEEPAGE ON THE WALL.

THE PGBS SAID INSPECTION ALSO SHOWED THAT MOVEMENT OF THE BUILDING WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE REAR PORTION AND THERE WERE FRACTURES ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING.

HE SAID THERE WAS DANGER OF A COLLAPSE OCCURRING PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE REAR PORTION OF THE BUILDING AND IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC, THE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE CLOSED AS BEING DANGEROUS AND BE DEMOLISHED.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 11 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY ANNOUNCED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT BIWEEKLY INTERVALS DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN. BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS :

- \* GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- \* GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

/\* GRADE "3" .....

- \* GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- \* GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A GRADE "3" OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 16.4.92)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 30.4.92)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	3	3
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	1	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	2	2
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1

## TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	3
BUTTERFLY	3	3

## SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	2
SILVERSTRAND	3	3
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	2	2

## ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	3	3
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	2	2
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	2
SILVERMINE BAY	4	4
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	2	2
TUNG O*	1	1

## TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	4	4
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	3

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.  
 \* NON-GAZETTED BEACH.

/THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

DEEP WATER BAY, MIDDLE BAY, CAMPERS, PAK SHA CHAU AND PUI O FROM "1" TO "2"; TUNG WAN ON MA WAN FROM "2" TO "3".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

WHILE THE GRADING OF BEACHES SHOWS THE HEALTH RISKS SWIMMERS MIGHT FACE BECAUSE OF SEWAGE POLLUTION, SOME BEACHES MAY BE AFFECTED BY OTHER PROBLEMS AS WELL.

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR RED TIDES OFTEN OCCUR.

A RED TIDE IS A SUDDEN GROWTH OF MICROSCOPIC PLANT LIFE. RED TIDES OCCUR OFTEN AND WITH GREAT INTENSITY WHERE THERE IS ABUNDANT NUTRIENT POLLUTION FROM THE LAND AND SEWAGE SOURCES, BUT THEY ALSO NEED THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE, AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT AND OTHER CONDITIONS.

SOME RED TIDES OCCUR IN UNPOLLUTED WATERS.

MOST RED TIDES ARE NOT DIRECTLY HARMFUL TO SWIMMERS, ALTHOUGH THEY CAN BE VERY HARMFUL TO OTHER MARINE LIFE, ESPECIALLY IF THEY OCCUR FREQUENTLY IN A RESTRICTED AREA.

HOWEVER, AS RED TIDES CAN BE UNPLEASANT TO SWIMMERS, AND THERE IS A SLIGHT RISK THAT SOME WOULD SUFFER ALLERGIC OR OTHER ADVERSE REACTIONS TO CONTACT WITH THE RED TIDE, THE BEACH AUTHORITIES USUALLY TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF ADVISING PEOPLE NOT TO SWIM WHERE A BEACH IS AFFECTED.

THE RED FLAG HAS BEEN HOISTED FOR THIS PURPOSE AT SEVERAL BEACHES IN THE LAST FEW DAYS AND THIS MAY BE REPEATED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

THE RED TIDE CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN THE ROUTINE BEACH GRADING AS IT IS TRANSIENT.

IN ADDITION TO THE ROUTINE MONITORING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY, THE EPD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY (DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY MEDICINE AND DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY) WILL CONDUCT AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL-MICROBIOLOGICAL STUDY AT REPULSE BAY BEACH AND BUTTERFLY BEACH STARTING JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE STUDY AIMS TO IDENTIFY AND QUANTIFY THE PATHOGENS THAT MIGHT CAUSE DISEASES AMONG BATHERS SWIMMING IN POLLUTED BEACH WATER, SO THAT APPROPRIATE STANDARD CAN BE USED AND EFFECTIVE POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES CAN BE DEvised.

-----  
NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL HOLMES, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, ON TEL. 835 1234.

ONEROUS TASK FOR CSD STAFF

\* \* \* \* \*

THE RECENT UPSURGE IN CRIME PARTICULARLY VIOLENT CRIME HAS MADE THE WORK OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES MORE ONEROUS, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR RONALD ARCULLI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PASSING-OUT PARADE IN STANLEY, MR ARCULLI SAID NO DOUBT THIS WOULD ADD STRAINS ON THE DEPARTMENT, BUT IT WOULD ALSO DEMONSTRATE THE VITAL ROLE THE DEPARTMENT PLAYED IN KEEPING GOOD ORDER WITHIN THE SOCIETY.

"THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE SERVICE IS TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE ORDERS OF THE COURTS WHICH INVOLVE CUSTODY OF OFFENDERS IN SECURE HUMANE CONDITIONS BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO PROVIDE PURPOSEFUL TREATMENT AND TRAINING FOR THE REFORMATION AND REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS," MR ARCULLI SAID.

"IT IS CLEARLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE THAT OFFENDERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES AFTER THEIR RELEASE FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS."

HE SAID OVERCROWDING IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS AS A RESULT OF INFLUX OF CHINESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAD BEEN PERTURBING.

HE SAID THIS UNDESIRABLE SITUATION WOULD BE IMPROVED WHEN ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR PRISONERS WAS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING THE RESHUFFLE OF RESOURCES IN TUNG TAU CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

MOREOVER, MR ARCULLI SAID THERE WAS A PLAN TO CONVERT ONE OF THE DETENTION CENTRES INTO A MEDIUM SECURITY INSTITUTION TO HOUSE 700 PRISONERS OF LOWER SECURITY GRADING.

HE SAID DESPITE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF OVERCROWDING AND THE STRAIN ON STAFF RESOURCES, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD MAINTAINED A HIGH STANDARD IN ALL ITS AREAS OF OPERATION.

"IT HAS INDEED CONTINUED TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE ITS PROGRAMMES OF AFTERCARE, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE DETENTION CENTRES ACCOMMODATING MORE THAN 35,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS," HE ADDED.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 201 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED 20 WEEKS' BASIC TRAINING.

POST OFFICE ORDINANCE TO BE UPDATED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE OUTDATED PROVISIONS OF THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE, WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

"THE BILL IS BASICALLY A 'TIDYING UP' EXERCISE, REMEDYING EXISTING DEFICIENCIES IN THE LAW," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN PARTICULAR, THE BILL AMENDS OUTDATED PROVISIONS PROHIBITING THE POSTING OF LOTTERY TICKETS OR RELATED INFORMATION, RESTRICTING THEIR APPLICATION TO ILLEGAL LOTTERIES.

"SIMILARLY OUTDATED PROVISION PREVENTING THE POSTING OF COIN OR GOLD OR SILVER BULLION ARE TO BE REPEALED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL WILL ALSO ALLOW THE POSTMASTER GENERAL TO AUTHORISE DESTRUCTION OF UNDELIVERABLE MAIL, AND ADJUSTS VARIOUS PENALTIES SET FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE CONSISTENT AND THAT THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT IS MAINTAINED.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 13.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IRELAND MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT OWING TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY A POSTAL WORKER UNION IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC, LETTER MAIL SERVICES IN IRELAND ARE UNABLE TO OPERATE.

AS A RESULT, SUCH SERVICES TO AND FROM IRELAND HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN SERVICES ARE RESUMED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GERMANY POSTAL SERVICE DELAYED BY STRIKE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT LETTERS AND PARCELS POSTED TO OR FROM GERMANY WOULD BE DELAYED BECAUSE SOME AREAS IN GERMANY WERE AFFECTED BY POSTAL WORKERS GOING ON STRIKE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

- 14 -

SERVICES OF PO LEUNG KUK COMMENDED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, PAID TRIBUTE TO PO LEUNG KUK FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEETING THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PO LEUNG KUK DURING THEIR COURTESY CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT, MR CARTLAND ASSURED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE KUK.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TSANG SIU-CHUN, OUTLINED THE ORGANISATION'S EXISTING SERVICES AND PROJECTS UNDER PLANNING AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR OFFERING THEM VALUABLE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE TELEPHONE LINES FOR LABOUR ENQUIRY SERVICE

\* \* \* \* \*

ADDITIONAL LINES WILL BE ADDED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE (GETS) LATER THIS WEEK TO FURTHER IMPROVE ITS SERVICE ON GENERAL LABOUR MATTERS.

THE GETS WILL START OPERATING ON A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER -- 717 1771 (12 LINES) ON SATURDAY (MAY 2) AFTER MOVING TO A NEW OFFICE IN KOWLOON EAST GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING.

BETWEEN MARCH LAST YEAR AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, THE SERVICE RECEIVED 74,927 ENQUIRIES, OR A DAILY AVERAGE OF 275.

OF THESE ENQUIRIES, ABOUT 89 PER CENT OR 66,662 IN NUMBER WERE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY LABOUR INSPECTORS. 1.6 PER CENT OR 1,243 CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY A DATAPHONE WHICH PLAYED BACK PRE-RECORDED TAPES ON 29 SELECTED LABOUR TOPICS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

THE REMAINING 7,022 ENQUIRIES, WHICH REQUIRED IN-DEPTH ANSWERS OR FOLLOW-UP ACTION, WERE REFERRED TO RELEVANT DIVISIONS OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

MOST OF THE ENQUIRIES CONCERNED PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, WHILE THE OTHERS RELATED TO FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS AND OTHER LABOUR LAWS.

THE GETS HOTLINE OPERATES DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD CALL BETWEEN 9 AM AND 10 AM, 1 PM AND 2 PM OR AFTER 4 PM FOR EASIER ACCESS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

- 15 -

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

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	29.4.92	988
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	30.4.92	+273
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-273
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.8 \*+0.0\* 30.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.66 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.87	5.04
1 MONTH	3.68 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.18	5.46
3 MONTHS	3.71 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.87 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.39 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,875 MN

CLOSED 30 APRIL 1992

----- 0 -----