



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
LOCAL TERMS FOR ELIGIBLE EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS	1
GOVT STUDYING COURT JUDGEMENT ON VR CASE	2
HIV-INFECTED CASES HIT RECORD	2
RE-ORGANISATION OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT	3
MOBILE NETWORKS' DIRECT INTERCONNECTION WITH INT'L GATEWAY AND FAX SERVICES CHARGES	4
MEASURE TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK IN KAM TIN	5
TENDERS INVITED FOR TWO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS	6
CONSULTATION ON CHARGING FOR CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT ENDS SOON	6
BANK LICENCE REVOKED	7
PNEUMOCONIOTICS REMINDED TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS	7
REPAIR WORKS FOR YUEN LONG SEWERS	8
CONSTRUCTION OF CARGO HANDLING AREA IN RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER	9
ROADWORKS PROPOSED FOR SHA TIN AND CHEUNG CHAU	9
GURKHA ENGINEERS TO HELP IN NEPAL DISASTER RELIEF	11
ACP MINI-EXHIBITION IN KWAI FONG	11
ROAD CLOSURE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING	12
CURTAIN FALLS FOR YOUTH MUSIC CAMP	12
ISRAEL POSTAL SERVICES RESUME	13
CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES SOUGHT	13
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	14

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

- 1 -

LOCAL TERMS FOR ELIGIBLE EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT OVERSEAS AGREEMENT (CONTRACT) CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

UNDER THE EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, THE STATUS OF A CANDIDATE FOR A CIVIL SERVICE VACANCY, THAT IS, WHETHER HE OR SHE IS TO BE APPOINTED ON "OVERSEAS" OR "LOCAL" TERMS, IS ESTABLISHED BEFORE HE OR SHE IS OFFERED AN APPOINTMENT.

"THE PRACTICE HAS BEEN NOT TO ALLOW ANY CHANGE OF TERMS AFTER THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"BUT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN CHANGE SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE YEARS, FROM SOMEONE BEING A TOTAL NEWCOMER TO HONG KONG TO SOMEONE WHO HAS LIVED AND WORKED HERE FOR MANY YEARS, REGARDS HONG KONG AS HIS OR HER HOME AND IS COMMITTED TO STAYING HERE AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

"IT IS ONLY REASONABLE TO ALLOW SUCH A PERSON TO APPLY FOR A CHANGE TO LOCAL TERMS, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS."

ONE SUCH CONDITION IS THAT THE OFFICER HAS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG BY BECOMING A "PERMANENT RESIDENT", AS DEFINED UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE. FOR MOST OVERSEAS OFFICERS THIS WOULD INVOLVE THEIR NATURALISING AS BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS.

OTHER CONDITIONS INCLUDE THE NORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT - SERVICE NEED, SATISFACTORY CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE, AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS WOULD TRANSFER TO LOCAL AGREEMENT TERMS.

"BUT IN GRADES WHERE SUCH TERMS ARE NOT CURRENTLY ON OFFER, OUR TENTATIVE THINKING IS THAT FURTHER EMPLOYMENT BEYOND THE FIRST LOCAL CONTRACT SHOULD BE ON THE PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT," HE SAID.

"THE OFFER OF SUCH FURTHER EMPLOYMENT MIGHT ALSO BE CONDITIONAL UPON THE OFFICER HAVING ATTAINED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

"HOWEVER THESE ARE LONGER-TERM MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH STAFF, AND ALSO POSSIBLY WITH THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

OVERSEAS OFFICERS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS WILL REMAIN ON OVERSEAS TERMS AND CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT BY LOCAL OFFICERS UNDER THE LOCALISATION POLICY.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE LOCALISATION POLICY, ADDING THAT THE TWO MAJOR TENETS OF THE POLICY - GIVING PREFERENCE TO LOCAL CANDIDATES ON RECRUITMENT AND REPLACING OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS BY SUITABLE LOCAL OFFICERS - REMAINED UNCHANGED.

/HE BELIEVED

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

- 2 -

HE BELIEVED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WHO WOULD STAY IN SERVICE AS A RESULT OF THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, AND THE NUMBER WHO WOULD HAVE STAYED UNDER THE OLD POLICY WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE VERY GREAT.

"WE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE INUNDATED WITH APPLICATIONS AND IN ANY CASE MOST OF THE OVERSEAS OFFICERS TRANSFERRING WOULD PROBABLY HAVE HAD THEIR CONTRACTS RENEWED ANYWAY.

"OVERALL, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AS MANY OF THE LONG-SERVING OVERSEAS CONTRACT OFFICERS HAVE CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

"IF THEY ARE PREPARED TO COMMIT THEMSELVES BY BECOMING PERMANENT RESIDENTS, HONG KONG MUST STAND TO BENEFIT."

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE CHANGES WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE FILLING OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS IN THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT.

"THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW ON THIS SUBJECT ARE CLEAR AND WELL KNOWN," THE SPOKESMAN STATED.

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GOVT STUDYING COURT JUDGEMENT ON VR CASE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT UNDER WHICH SEVEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WERE AWARDED DAMAGES FOR UNLAWFUL DETENTION.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE STUDYING THIS JUDGEMENT AND UNTIL IT HAS DONE SO IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON IT," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

FOLLOWING AN EARLIER HABEAS CORPUS JUDGEMENT IN FAVOUR OF THIS GROUP OF VIETNAMESE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONCEDED IN THIS CASE THAT THERE WAS AN UNLAWFUL DETENTION AND THUS EXPECTED THE COURT TO MAKE AN AWARD OF DAMAGES TO THE PLAINTIFFS.

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HIV-INFECTED CASES HIT RECORD

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A RECORD NUMBER OF 12 PEOPLE - 11 MEN AND ONE WOMAN - WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH (JUNE), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS BRINGS TO 381 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG.

DURING THE MONTH THREE AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED.

/THE JUNE

THE JUNE FIGURES ADD UP TO 44 AND 13 RESPECTIVELY THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED HIV AND AIDS CASES RECORDED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THE HIGHEST HALF-YEARLY FIGURES ON RECORD.

RELEASING THE STATISTICS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT (SPECIAL PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME), DR S S LEE, ATTRIBUTED THE RECORD TO THE INCREASING SPREAD VIA THE HETEROSEXUAL ROUTE, A GENERAL TREND IN HONG KONG AND WORLDWIDE.

"EIGHT OF THE 12 NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV-INFECTED CASES CONTRACTED THE DISEASE THROUGH HETEROSEXUAL CONTACT," HE ADDED.

UP TO THE END OF JUNE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 86 WITH 55 DEATHS. THE 31 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

"OF THE 381 PERSONS INFECTED, 275 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, EIGHT WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 65 GOT 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 33, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION," DR LEE SAID.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 275,241 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

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

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,264,961 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 27 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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RE-ORGANISATION OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT (BLD) WILL BE SPLIT INTO TWO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS, NAMELY, THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1 TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THEIR OPERATIONS.

THE RE-ORGANISATION WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JULY 16.

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT, TO BE HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS, WILL TAKE OVER THE EXISTING FUNCTIONS OF THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BLD AND WILL PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS IN TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL BE HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION, LAND SURVEY AND MAPPING, AND GOVERNMENT CONVEYANCING FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY HANDLED BY THE LANDS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE AND THE LEGAL ADVISORY AND CONVEYANCING OFFICE OF THE BLD RESPECTIVELY.

/THE DIRECTORS

THE DIRECTORS OF THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ANSWERABLE TO THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS.

THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF LANDS WILL BE FILLED BY MR ROBERT POPE WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING AS DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, WHILE THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS WILL BE TEMPORARILY COVERED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON.

BOTH APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE PENDING THE COMPLETION OF FORMAL PROCEDURES TO FILL THE POSTS BY PROMOTION ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

WHEN THE RE-ORGANISATION OF BLD, THE FOUR MAIN POLICY AREAS OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, NAMELY TOWN PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, LAND ADMINISTRATION AND PRIVATE BUILDING CONTROL, WILL BE HANDLED AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL BY FOUR SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS, ALL WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO THE BRANCH.

THE RE-ORGANISATION WILL ENABLE BOO TO OPERATE AS A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT SO THAT IT CAN RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO NEW DEMANDS IN PRIVATE BUILDING CONTROL, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE.

THE NEW BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE A MORE DISTINCT IDENTITY AND BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A GREATER INCENTIVE TO STAFF TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE.

THE SPLIT OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT INTO TWO WILL NOT INCUR ADDITIONAL COSTS.

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MOBILE NETWORKS' DIRECT INTERCONNECTION
WITH INT'L GATEWAY AND FAX SERVICES CHARGES
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CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE NETWORKS WILL BE ABLE TO INTERCONNECT DIRECTLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY OF HONG KONG TELECOM INTERNATIONAL, INSTEAD OF VIA THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S NETWORK, FROM AUGUST 1.

UNDER THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT OF DIRECT INTERCONNECTION, MOBILE PHONE OPERATORS WILL RECEIVE A SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL CALL REVENUE.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE OPERATORS WILL BE ABLE TO PASS ON PART OF THESE BENEFITS TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL CALL CUSTOMERS BY WAY OF, FOR EXAMPLE, PRICE DISCOUNTS," THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MR A S K WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN ADDITION TO THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIALLING CHARGES ANNOUNCED RECENTLY, MR WONG SAID THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR MOBILE PHONE NETWORKS WOULD REPRESENT ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN ENHANCING THE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL CALL CUSTOMERS.

/MR WONG

MR WONG ALSO SAID THE NEW CHARGES FOR FAX AND OTHER NON-TELEPHONIC SERVICES OF HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY GAZETTED TODAY CLARIFIED THAT CUSTOMERS WERE FREE TO CONNECT THEIR FAX MACHINES WITH THE RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS TELEPHONE LINES WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGES OVER THE BASIC TELEPHONE LINE RENTAL.

ON TOP OF THIS FREE BASIC FAX SERVICES, CUSTOMERS CAN HAVE THE OPTION TO OBTAIN A RANGE OF PREMIUM SERVICES SUCH AS MAINTENANCE SUPPORT, FAX DIRECTORY AND CALL FORWARDING, AT ADDITIONAL CHARGES.

"THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION IN THE PAST OVER THE PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR FAX SERVICE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT GAZETTED TODAY WILL PROVIDE CLEARER INFORMATION FOR THE CUSTOMERS TO CHOOSE AND PAY FOR THEIR FAX SERVICES," SAID MR WONG.

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MEASURE TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK IN KAM TIN

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSTRUCT A CONCRETE NULLAH IN THE FORESHORE AND SEABED IN KAM TIN RIVER TO ALLEVIATE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN KAM TIN AREA.

THE WORKS WILL START IN LATE 1994, COMPLETING BY LATE 1997.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED, ABOUT 3.86 HECTARES, IS PUBLISHED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE JULY 30, 1994.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AND AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

THE PLAN CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANS TO BUILD A TIDE GAUGE HOUSE AT TUNG WAN ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE TIDE GAUGE HOUSE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON A PLATFORM ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING CATWALK OF THE SHEK PIK PIER WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 17 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE PLATFORM AND THE TIDE GAUGE HOUSE ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN LATE THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1994.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY.

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 BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLAN, HAS BEEN POSTED ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE AND AT THE ISLAND DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE PLAN CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TWO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY FACILITIES AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

SOME FENCE AND GATES IN THE AIRPORT AREA WILL BE REPLACED.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE ALSO BEING CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE PLAYGROUND AT SHA TSUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

WORKS INCLUDE DEMOLISHING THE SERVICES BUILDING, REPLACING THE PERIMETER FENCE, THREE TENNIS COURTS, THE LIGHTING FACILITIES OF THE SOCCER PITCHES AND TENNIS COURTS AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTING A CONCRETE SPECTATOR STAND FOR 1,000 PERSONS.

THE PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER RESPECTIVELY FOR COMPLETION IN 14 AND 11 MONTHS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON AUGUST 20.

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CONSULTATION ON CHARGING FOR CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT ENDS SOON

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CHEMICAL WASTE PRODUCERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES ARE REMINDED TO SEND IN THEIR COMMENTS BY AUGUST 14 ON THE PROPOSED DIRECT CHARGING SCHEME FOR USING THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME, WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES, ARE TO APPLY THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE AND TO ENCOURAGE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING ACTIVITIES.

IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOVER A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF THE COST OF PROVIDING AND OPERATING THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID BRIEFINGS HAD BEEN ORGANISED FOR MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS.

MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN INCLUDE THE LEVEL OF CHARGES AND THE PERCEIVED BURDEN ON INDUSTRY.

THE SPOKESMAN CLARIFIED THAT ALTHOUGH THE INITIAL LEVEL OF CHARGES WILL RANGE FROM ABOUT \$500 - \$2,500 PER TONNE, DEPENDING ON THE KIND OF TREATMENT REQUIRED, MOST TYPES OF WASTE WILL ATTRACT THE LOWER LEVEL OF CHARGES AND, FOR A TYPICAL WASTE PRODUCER, THE IMPACT ON PRODUCTION COSTS WOULD AT MOST BE AN INCREASE OF ONLY ABOUT 1 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS COULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, ENVIRONMENT DIVISION, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING.

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BANK LICENCE REVOKED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE BANKING LICENCE OF THE FIRST INTERSTATE BANK OF CALIFORNIA (FICAL) HAD BEEN REVOKED AT THE REQUEST OF THE BANK.

FICAL SOLD ITS HONG KONG BANKING OPERATIONS TO THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK IN MAY 1992. ON COMPLETION OF THE TRANSFER OF BUSINESS, FICAL HAS CEASED TO CARRY ON BANKING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR.

AFTER THE REVOCATION, THERE ARE 168 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 136 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

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PNEUMOCONIOTICS REMINDED TO APPLY FOR
ADDITIONAL EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS

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SUFFERERS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS DIAGNOSED BEFORE JANUARY 1981 ARE REMINDED TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS BEFORE OCTOBER 9 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE PERIODICAL PAYMENTS STARTING FROM JULY 9 THIS YEAR.

"FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL BY THE LEGCO FINANCE COMMITTEE OF A SUM OF \$175 MILLION FOR THE ADDITIONAL EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, AN ELIGIBLE PRE-1981 PNEUMOCONIOTIC WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE \$3,000 A MONTH TO BE PAID QUARTERLY UNTIL DEATH," LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION), MR LAI KA-TONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO APPLY AT THEIR EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE BECAUSE THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT STARTING ON JULY 9 IF HE MAKES AN APPLICATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THAT DATE.

AS REGARDS APPLICATIONS MADE AFTER OCTOBER 9, THE ENTITLEMENT FOR THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT WILL START FROM THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION.

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

- 8 -

STAFF OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION OFFICE HAS ALREADY HELPED ABOUT 100 PNEUMOCONIOTICS IN MAKING APPLICATIONS, MR LAI SAID.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO CALL ON TEL 852 3091 FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR APPLICATION IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME.

MR LAI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME, IF A PRE-1981 PNEUMOCONIOTIC DIES AS A RESULT OF THE DISEASE, A SUM NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 WILL BE PAYABLE FOR HIS FUNERAL EXPENSES.

HE SAID BOTH THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS AND THE FUNERAL EXPENSES WILL BE INFLATION-ADJUSTED ANNUALLY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MR LAI SAID APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FOR SUFFERERS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS DIAGNOSED AFTER 1981 TO CLAIM FURTHER COMPENSATION UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993, FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INCAPACITY HE MAY HAVE SUFFERED.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD.

ELIGIBLE PNEUMOCONIOTICS CAN MAKE PRIOR APPOINTMENT ON TEL 541 0032.

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REPAIR WORKS FOR YUEN LONG SEWERS

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS TO IMPROVE THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN YUEN LONG.

A ONE-KILOMETRE-LONG SEWER WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED AND A SIX-KILOMETRE-LONG SEWER WILL BE REPAIRED.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER FOR COMPLETION IN 18 MONTHS.

BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STUDY, THE WORKS AIM AT IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE EXISTING SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN COLLECTING AND CONVEYING FOUL WATER FROM YUEN LONG TOWN, INCLUDING YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, TO THE YUEN LONG SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW WORKS DIVISION, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 44TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 20.

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

- 9 -

CONSTRUCTION OF CARGO HANDLING AREA IN
RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CARGO HANDLING AREA IN RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER, STAGE III.

THE WORKS MAINLY COMPRISE THE PAVING OF 1.185 HECTARES OF THE STAGE III CARGO HANDLING AREA IN RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE SOME 200 METRES OF SEA FRONTAGE WHICH WILL HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE CURRENT SHORTFALL OF PUBLIC CARGO HANDLING AREAS IN THE TERRITORY.

CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO START IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 10 MONTHS.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TENDERS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED ACCORDINGLY ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE (BUT SHOULD NOT BEAR ANY INDICATION WHICH MAY RELATE THE TENDER TO THE TENDERER), ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOX IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, (AUGUST 20).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES REGION, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, HOMANTIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES,, 88 CHUNG HAU STREET, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 762 3520.

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ROADWORKS PROPOSED FOR SHA TIN AND CHEUNG CHAU

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT ROADWORKS IN NGAU PEI SHA, CHAP WAI KON AND TO SHEK VILLAGES, SHA TIN, TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREAS.

THE PROPOSED ROADWORKS FORM PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION SCHEME IN THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE WORKS INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATHS, EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ACCESS ROADS AND PARKING AREAS IN THE VILLAGES' EXTENSION AREAS.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES EXTENDING AND WIDENING KWONG SIN STREET, CONSTRUCTING CARRIAGEWAYS, STAIRS AMENITY AREA AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT PERMANENT ALTERNATIVE ACCESS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO CATER FOR THE EXISTING ACCESS THAT HAS TO BE CLOSED IF NECESSARY.

/"DURING THE

"DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, NECESSARY ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED SO THAT ANY INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE MINIMISED," HE ADDED.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES; AND
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION, NEW TERRITORIES.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 750-METRE-LONG ROAD TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE IN THE CENTRAL PART OF CHEUNG CHAU.

"THE NEW ROAD WILL PROVIDE AN UPGRADED ROAD NETWORK TO FACILITATE THE ACCESS OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY FIRE ENGINES," HE SAID.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT:

- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG, AND
- * THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE'S CHEUNG CHAU SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 22 SAN HING STREET, CHEUNG CHAU.

NOTICES FOR THE PROPOSED WORKS IN SHA TIN AND CHEUNG CHAU WERE GAZETTED TODAY.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSALS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28, 1993, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

GURKHA ENGINEERS TO HELP IN NEPAL DISASTER RELIEF

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HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG CONFIRMED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT 100 SOLDIERS FROM THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS ARE TO BE DEPLOYED FROM HONG KONG TO NEPAL TO HELP WITH DISASTER RELIEF IN THE FLOOD-STRICKEN COUNTRY.

THE SOLDIERS, APART FROM THEIR BRITISH OFFICERS ARE GURKHAS RECRUITED FROM NEPAL. THEY ARE SPECIALIST ENGINEER TROOPS WHO WILL BE EMPLOYED MAINLY IN BUILDING BRIDGES TO REPLACE THOSE WASHED AWAY BY THE FLOODS.

RESTORING COMMUNICATIONS IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES SO THAT RELIEF SUPPLIES MAY BE DISTRIBUTED.

AN ADVANCE PARTY OF SOME 29 SOLDIERS LEFT FOR NEPAL LAST (THURSDAY) NIGHT. A FURTHER OF 49 SOLDIERS WILL LEAVE TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE SOLDIERS ARE PART OF 68 SQUADRON, QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS, BASED AT PEROWNE BARRACKS, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TROOPS ARE BEING DEPLOYED AT THE REQUEST OF BRITAIN'S OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING BRIDGES AND CRANES, IS BEING LOADED TODAY BEFORE BEING MOVED TO KAI TAK AIRPORT FOR THE FLIGHT TO NEPAL THIS WEEKEND.

THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FILM THE LOADING AT 70 SUPPORT SQUADRON, QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS, BORNEO LINES, SEK KONG AT 2.30 PM THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE GUARDROOM, BORNEO LINES, NO LATER THAN 2.15 PM. JSPRS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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ACP MINI-EXHIBITION IN KWAI FONG

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A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON THE 10 PROJECTS IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) BEGAN TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE EXPO (LEVEL 1) OF THE METRO PLAZA IN KWAI FONG.

ORGANISED BY THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DAILY FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM UNTIL THIS SUNDAY (AUGUST 1).

"THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION IS TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ACP PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH ARE WELL UNDERWAY, OR WILL BEGIN SOON, IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT," A NAPCO SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS A SMALL BUT INFORMATIVE EXHIBITION COMPRISING A VIDEO PRESENTATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS THROUGH WHICH VISITORS WILL LEARN ABOUT FEATURES AND PROGRESS OF THE ACP PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

"THEY WILL ALSO LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES AND CONTROLS TO ENSURE THAT THE ACP PROJECTS ARE BUILT IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER," HE SAID.

LEAFLETS ON THE ACP PROJECTS IN KWAI TSING ARE AVAILABLE AT THE EXHIBITION VENUE.

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ROAD CLOSURE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE PART OF PAK WAN STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO IN JUNE NEXT YEAR TO FACILITATE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PAK TIN ESTATE.

THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THIS PART OF THE ROAD WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC BLOCKS, OPEN SPACE AND EMERGENCY ACCESS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * KOWLOON WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, 290 UN CHAU STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28 DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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CURTAIN FALLS FOR YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

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A GRAND FINALE CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 1) AT 3 PM TO MARK THE CLOSE OF THE 1993 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP.

THE CONCERT, TO BE PRESENTED BY MORE THAN 200 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MUSICIANS FROM BRITAIN, USA, JAPAN, MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, WILL BE THE CULMINATION OF TWO WEEKS' HARD WORK BY CAMP INSTRUCTORS AND CAMPERS.

IT PROVIDES THE CAMPERS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC AND FOR AUDIENCE TO SEE HOW THEY HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING GIVEN BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INSTRUCTORS.

THE TWO-WEEK CAMP IS BEING HELD AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE.

THE TWO-HOUR CONCERT WILL FEATURE CHINESE AND WESTERN PIECES SUCH AS AVE VERUM CORPUS, BACHIANAS BRASILEIRAS NO. 1, HAVANAISE OP. 83 AND TEA PLANTATIONS ALONG THE LIAN RIVER BY THE MUSIC CAMP'S CHINESE ORCHESTRA, CHOIR AND STRING ORCHESTRA (SENIOR).

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONCERT TO BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM AT 3 PM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 1).

MUSIC OFFICE STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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ISRAEL POSTAL SERVICES RESUME

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THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MRS DORIS HO, ANNOUNCES TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO ISRAEL ARE NOW BACK TO NORMAL.

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN ISRAEL HAVE ENDED THEIR INDUSTRIAL ACTION, SHE SAID.

ITEMS FOR ISRAEL THAT WERE SUBJECT TO CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TEMPORARILY NOT ACCEPTED WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR POSTING WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THREE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ERECTED ON A BUILDING AT 2 MARCONI ROAD IN KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

TWO OF THE STRUCTURES ARE APPENDAGES OF A FLAT ON THE TOP FLOOR OF MARCONI COURT WHILE THE THIRD IS AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE ERECTED ON THE ROOF ABOVE THE SAME PREMISES.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR TWO CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON SEPTEMBER 29 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,935
REVERSAL OF LAF	+65
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,000
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.5 *+0.0* 30.7.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.48 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.54	3.88
1 MONTH	2.72 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.71	4.09
3 MONTHS	3.12 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.69	4.33
6 MONTHS	3.46 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.69	4.57
12 MONTHS	3.83 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 26,496 MN

CLOSED 30 JULY 1993

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