



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1991

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TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TSING MA BRIDGE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THE FIRST OF TWO CABLE SUPPORTED BRIDGES OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR NEW AIRPORT-RELATED CONTRACT TO BE LET AFTER THE INITIALLING OF THE SINO-BRITISH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EARLY THIS MONTH.

"IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE EXTENSIVE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW AIRPORT TO BE BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND PORT AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ON LANTAU ISLAND," HE SAID.

MR KWEI SAID THE TSING MA BRIDGE WOULD CROSS THE SHIPPING CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF TSING YI AND MA WAN IN THE FORM OF A SUSPENSION BRIDGE WITH A MAIN SPAN OF 1,377 METRES AND A VERTICAL NAVIGATION CLEARANCE OF 60 METRES.

IN THE BRIDGE DECK THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 40,000 TONNES OF STRUCTURAL STEEL WHICH WAS ABOUT ONE-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE STRUCTURAL STEEL USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HONG KONG BANK HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

HE SAID THE 36-METRE WIDE BRIDGE DECK WOULD ACCOMMODATE SIX-LANE CARRIAGEWAYS ON ITS UPPER DECK.

TWO SHELTERED TRAFFIC LANES FOR EMERGENCY USE AND TWO RAILWAY TRACKS WOULD BE PROVIDED AT A LOWER LEVEL INSIDE THE BRIDGE DECK.

THE BRIDGE TOWERS, 196 METRES HIGH, WOULD BE OF CONCRETE.

THE DIRECTOR SAID UPON COMPLETION, THE TSING MA BRIDGE WOULD BE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

TENDER DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FROM TODAY. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS DECEMBER 16 THIS YEAR.

THE AWARDING OF CONTRACT WILL BE MADE IN THE EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR. CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE FIVE YEARS.

THE TENDERS FOR THE SECOND CABLE SUPPORTED BRIDGE, THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, AND THE MA WAN VIADUCT WILL BE INVITED SHORTLY.

THE BRIDGE AND THE VIADUCT WILL LINK THE TSING MA BRIDGE WITH THE TOLL PLAZA ON LANTAU ISLAND AND THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY LEADING TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

IT IS SCHEDULED THAT BOTH BRIDGES WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

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DECISION ON MFA EXTENSION WELCOMED

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WELCOMED THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) FROM AUGUST 1, 1991 UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1992.

SPEAKING IN GENEVA, HE SAID: "THE MFA IS THE MULTILATERAL UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH OUR BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS ARE MADE. THE DECISION TO EXTEND IT MEANS THAT OUR BUSINESSMEN CAN CONTINUE TO PLAN AHEAD WITH CERTAINTY."

HE ADDED: "THE EXTENSION OF 17 MONTHS TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO BRIDGE THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN AN AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND CAN BE EXPECTED TO COME INTO EFFECT."

COMMENTING ON THE DECISION, MR FOOTMAN SAID "THE EXTENSION IS IN ESSENCE A ROLLOVER OF THE MFA AND THE 1986 PROTOCOL OF EXTENSION. THE DECISION ALSO REAFFIRMS PARTICIPANTS' COMMITMENT TO ENDEAVOUR TO IMPROVE THE TRADE SITUATION PAVING THE WAY FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING SECTOR INTO THE GATT UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS.

"THIS IS IMPORTANT, AS ALL PARTIES MUST NOW TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXTILES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND. HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THEY RESUME IN GENEVA IN SEPTEMBER."

THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE MFA WAS MADE BY THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE OF THE GATT. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES TO THE MFA, INCLUDING HONG KONG. MR ARTHUR DUNKEL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF GATT, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE.

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION

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THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION WAS HELD ON 31 JULY 1991. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR THE 1991/92 FINANCIAL YEAR BE HK\$3,330 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT THE 1991/92 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME BE ADJUSTED TO PROVIDE 5.53 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY'S SCHEME TO SELL PUBLIC RENTAL FLATS TO SITTING TENANTS.

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BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED

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COMMENTING ON THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), ON THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE CLOSURE OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S REPORT IS A VERY FULL ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED, WHEN AND WHY. IT IS VERY CLEAR FROM THE REPORT THAT AT EACH STAGE THE COMMISSIONER TOOK THE RIGHT DECISIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF DEPOSITORS AND MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BANKING SYSTEM, WHICH ARE HIS PRIME CONCERNS."

MEANWHILE, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO PRINT SOME 40,000 COPIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DEPOSITORS THROUGH THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE. A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THESE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE.

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SUBSCRIPTION TV REVIEW UNDERWAY

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IN RESPONSE TO A NUMBER OF PRESS INQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED A SATELLITE TELEVISION UPLINK AND DOWNLINK LICENCE TO HUTCHVISION HONG KONG LIMITED ON DECEMBER 18 LAST YEAR, JUST OVER ONE MONTH AFTER THE HONG KONG CABLE COMMUNICATIONS LTD (HKCC) RESOLVED TO GIVE UP THE CABLE TELEVISION PROJECT.

"THE LICENCE STIPULATES THAT THE LICENSEE SHALL NOT TRANSMIT ANY PROGRAMME IN CANTONESE LANGUAGE BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 1993, SAVE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY WHICH MAY BE GRANTED IN SPECIFIC INSTANCES.

"THEREAFTER, THE LICENSEE MAY BROADCAST RE-RUN CANTONESE PROGRAMMES, BUT PROGRAMMES NOT PREVIOUSLY SHOWN ON TELEVISION IN HONG KONG WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE LICENCE ALSO PROVIDES THAT THIS RESTRICTION MAY BE REMOVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AT ANY TIME BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 1993," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE RESTRICTION ON CANTONESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING IMPOSED ON HUTCHVISION IS BASED ON ONE OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE SATELLITE TELEVISION REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AS LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL LAST YEAR.

/THIS PRINCIPLE

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THIS PRINCIPLE IS THAT SATELLITE TELEVISION UPLINKED FROM HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE TARGETTED PRINCIPALLY AT THE HONG KONG AUDIENCE. HENCE THE RESTRICTION ON CANTONESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING.

HUTCHVISION CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THIS REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SATELLITE TELEVISION IN HONG KONG WHEN THEY APPLIED FOR THE SATELLITE TELEVISION LICENCE.

THEY STATED THAT THEY PLANNED TO LAUNCH A PAN-ASIAN SATELLITE TELEVISION PROGRAMMING SERVICE WHICH WOULD BE RECEIVABLE IN MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. HONG KONG VIEWERS WERE THEREFORE NOT THEIR PRINCIPAL TARGET AUDIENCE.

THEY ALSO STATED THAT THEIR SERVICE WOULD NOT COMPETE WITH THE EXISTING AND PLANNED BROADCASTERS, AND WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY JEOPARDISE THE ESSENTIAL BUSINESS OF, OR HAVE AN ADVERSE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON, LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS WHICH BROADCAST BOTH ENGLISH AND CANTONESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES.

"HUTCHVISION ACCEPTED THE LICENCE IN FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS ENTAILED, AND IN FACT THE LICENCE WAS GRANTED PARTLY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE LARGE ENGLISH-SPEAKING TELEVISION AUDIENCE THROUGHOUT ASIA AND THE VIABILITY OF FUNDING THROUGH REGIONAL ADVERTISING REVENUE.

"THE RESTRICTIONS AIMED NOT ONLY TO PROTECT HKCC BUT ALSO ATV AND TVB WHO ACCEPTED THEIR CURRENT LICENCES AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A SITUATION WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE A FOURTH CANTONESE LANGUAGE BROADCASTER, IN ADDITION TO CABLE TELEVISION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH RECEIVED HUTCHVISION'S APPLICATION LAST FRIDAY (JULY 25) FOR A REVIEW OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON CANTONESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING AND SUBSCRIPTION RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO RELAX THE RESTRICTION ON CANTONESE LANGUAGE BROADCASTING THREE MONTHS AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF HKCC.

"FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF HKCC, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REVIEW THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SUBSCRIPTION TV. THAT REVIEW IS NOW UNDERWAY AND WILL BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, WE WILL BE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO PROVIDE SUBSCRIPTION TV IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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VISA WORK FOR HONG KONG RESUMED AT BRITISH EMBASSY, MANILA

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 8, THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MANILA WILL RESUME ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT VISAS FOR HONG KONG, A SERVICE WHICH IT HAS SUSPENDED, SINCE JANUARY 30 THIS YEAR.

APPLICANTS FOR HONG KONG EMPLOYMENT VISAS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MANILA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8 AS THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS SUCH APPLICATIONS SHALL CEASE ON THE SAME DAY.

FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS, THE VISA WILL BE ENDORSED IN THEIR PASSPORTS BY THE EMBASSY IN MANILA AS BEFORE.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROCESS THOSE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BEFORE AUGUST 8 AND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE ISSUED WITH VISA PROMISSORY LETTERS THROUGH THEIR SPONSORS/EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL THE INFORMATION OFFICE ON TEL. 824 6111 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO SPEED UP

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OPERATION APPENDAGES WHICH IS THE CODE-NAME OF AN OPERATION LAUNCHED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IN MARCH THIS YEAR AGAINST DANGEROUS PROJECTING ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, HAS ACHIEVED VERY ENCOURAGING RESULTS.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF 3,078 REMOVAL ORDERS WERE ISSUED AT 30 BUILDINGS IN THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD ENDING JUNE.

TO DATE, MORE THAN 2,780 REMOVAL ORDERS, OR 90 PER CENT, HAVE BEEN VOLUNTARILY COMPLIED WITH BY OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS AND THE OTHERS ARE STILL BEING DEALT WITH.

THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON INSPECTED FOUR OF THE 30 BUILDINGS TO SEE THE PROGRESS THERE.

THEY INCLUDED TAK LEE BUILDING, 993 KING'S ROAD, QUARRY BAY; YAN OI BUILDING, 2-24 YAN OI STREET/4 FOO YUEN STREET, SAN PO KONG; I-FENG BUILDING, 24-40 CHI KIANG STREET/237-239A TO KWA WAN ROAD, TO KWA WAN; WING MING BUILDING, 34-42 YEN CHOW STREET/221A-221B YEE KUK STREET, SHAM SHUI PO.

/HE WAS

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR, MR CHENG WEI-DART.

AFTER THE INSPECTION, MR EASON SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULT OF THE OPERATION.

"IT HAS CLEARLY IMPROVED THE ENVIRONMENT AND REINSTATED STANDARDS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE BUILDINGS TARGETTED IN THE OPERATION.

"THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH THE REMOVAL ORDERS ALSO INDICATES THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BUILDING OWNERS AND RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE OPERATION AND WISH TO HAVE SAFE BUILDINGS," HE ADDED.

TODAY, BOO STAFF ALSO POSTED 514 ORDERS WHICH REQUIRED THE REMOVAL OF 1,006 UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS (UBW'S) PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF WAI LEE BUILDING AND PO LEE BUILDING AT NO. 995 AND 997 KING'S ROAD.

THE UBW'S INCLUDED METAL CAGES, CANOPIES AND METAL FLOWER RACKS WHICH ARE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY AND AESTHETICALLY UNDESIRABLE, IN THE BUILDINGS TARGETTED FOR THE OPERATION.

MR EASON ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT AS AN EXTENSION TO OPERATION APPENDAGES, ANOTHER OPERATION CODE-NAMED OPERATION CATHERINE WHEEL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

OPERATION CATHERINE WHEEL IS DESIGNED TO SPEED UP THE REMOVAL PROCESS BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOOD OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR IT, HE EXPLAINED.

"INSTEAD OF ISSUING REMOVAL ORDERS ON THE OWNERS CONCERNED AS AT PRESENT, ADVISORY LETTERS WILL BE SENT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, TO OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF BUILDINGS TARGETTED IN OPERATION CATHERINE WHEEL, REQUESTING THEM TO TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE PROJECTING UBWS IN THE BUILDING THEMSELVES," HE SAID.

"TALKS AND MEETINGS WILL ALSO BE HELD WITH OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF THESE BUILDINGS TO ASK FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN ORDER TO MOBILISE THE OWNERS AND RESIDENTS TO REMOVE PROJECTING UBW'S VOLUNTARILY.

"BUILDINGS TARGETTED IN THIS SECOND OPERATION WILL BE SELECTED FROM BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE TARGETTED IN THE FIRST OPERATION, HENCE THE NAME CATHERINE WHEEL."

MR EASON APPEALED TO THE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IN THIS SECOND OPERATION BY TAKING PROMPT ACTION TO REMOVE THE PROJECTING UBW'S IN THEIR BUILDINGS BOTH FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT AS WELL AS FOR THE PUBLIC.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO THE ADVISORY LETTERS, REMOVAL ORDERS WILL BE ISSUED, AND THE UBW'S WILL BE REMOVED BY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS IF NECESSARY.

EXCO APPROVES CESSATION OF FERRY SERVICES

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF) TO CEASE OPERATING FOUR FRANCHISED FERRY SERVICES LATER THIS YEAR.

THEY INCLUDED THE VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND KWUN TONG; AND PASSENGER SERVICES BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND KWUN TONG, BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND SAM KA TSUEN, AND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND TAP MUN.

SINCE THE HYF VESSEL PROVIDING DAILY SERVICE TO TAP MUN IS ALSO USED TO OPERATE A WEEKEND SERVICE FOR TUNG PING CHAU, HYF WILL RELINQUISH THE LICENSED SERVICE BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND TUNG PING CHAU SIMULTANEOUSLY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IN 1990, HYF LOST \$13 MILLION IN THE OPERATION OF THESE SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE LOSS-INCURRING ROUTES, FOR WHICH ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ARE OR WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE, WAS CONTEMPLATED TO HELP PRESERVE THE COMPANY'S OVERALL FINANCIAL VIABILITY, AVOID EXCESSIVE CROSS-SUBSIDISATION, AND RELIEVE UPWARD PRESSURE ON HYF FARES.

COMMENTING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EXISTING CROSS HARBOUR BUS AND MTR SERVICES ALREADY PROVIDED A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE 3,400 PASSENGERS CURRENTLY USING THE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND KWUN TONG DAILY.

"THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING CAN COMFORTABLY ABSORB THE 300 VEHICLES CURRENTLY USING THE VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN SAI WAN HO AND KWUN TONG DAILY," HE SAID.

REPLACEMENT BY A LICENSED OPERATOR USING SMALLER VESSELS IS PROPOSED FOR THE SAI WAN HO TO SAM KA TSUEN SERVICE.

SIMILARLY, THE MA LIU SHUI TO TAP MUN AND MA LIU SHUI TO TUNG PING CHAU PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES WILL GO TO LICENSED OPERATORS.

"A BETTER MATCH BETWEEN DEMAND AND VESSEL CAPACITY, RESULTING IN REDUCED OPERATING COSTS, IS EXPECTED TO ENABLE THE SERVICES TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL BREAKEVEN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SELECTION OF THE REPLACEMENT OPERATORS WOULD BE DONE THROUGH OPEN TENDER. HYF WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES UNTIL THE NEW OPERATORS ARE SELECTED AND READY TO PROVIDE SERVICE.

1989/90 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY
AND THE REBASING OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES
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A DETAILED REPORT ENTITLED "1989/90 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY AND THE REBASING OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES" WAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE HANG SENG BANK IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990.

BASED ON THE SURVEY RESULTS, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE REBASED. THE NEW SERIES OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE APRIL 1991.

THE REPORT GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE OBJECTIVE, DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY OF THE 1989/90 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

AN ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS AND DETAILED TABLES SHOWING THE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.

THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS CONCEPTS AND METHODS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES AND THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE 1989/90-BASED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SERIES.

THE REPORT, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE AT \$56 PER COPY, CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE REPORT CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 805 6420.

A CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED SOON.

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244 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 244 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 131 MEN, 52 WOMEN, 39 BOYS AND 22 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 61ST BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 8,306 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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ONE MORE CASE OF AIDS CONFIRMED

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ONE MORE CASE OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIDS CASES IN HONG KONG TO 54.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID THE NEW AIDS PATIENT DIED SOON AFTER HE WAS DIAGNOSED TO HAVE THE DISEASE.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 37 AIDS PATIENTS DIED AND 17 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

RELEASING THE STATISTICS ON THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR JUNE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID FOUR MORE PERSONS INCLUDING A WOMAN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST, TOTALLING 180 THE NUMBER OF HIV CARRIERS WHO HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED AIDS.

OF THESE, 52 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, 106 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, FOUR WERE DRUG ABUSERS, THREE ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND THE INFORMATION FOR THE OTHER 15 WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 198,280 BLOOD SPECIMEN HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS.

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

UP TO JUNE, 910,077 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 16 WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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愛滋病抗體檢驗
 AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing
病毒組 衛生署
 Virus Unit, Department of Health

	Apr 85-May 91		Jun 91		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve
經由政府診所及醫院轉介 Referrals from Govt. hospitals and clinics	16525	87	595	3	17120	90
經由私家醫生及補助醫院轉介 Referrals from private practitioners and subvented hospitals	2218	46	16	0	2234	46
前往社會衛生科診所求診人次 Attendances at social hygiene clinics	169670	34	1931	1	171601	35
血友病患者 Haemophiliacs	512	60	4	0	516	60
濫用靜脈注射毒品者 IV drug abusers	5545	1	106	0	5651	1
經由家庭計劃指導員轉介 Referrals from Family Planning Association	223	0	3	0	226	0
健康護理人員 Health care personnel	913	0	19	0	932	0

總數
 TOTAL 195606 228 2674 4 198280 232
 此乃驗血樣本數目, 而非人數, 因某些人士的檢驗是重複的

* This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals.

	Aug 85-May 91		Jun 91		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve
香港紅十字會輸血服務 Hong Kong Red Cross Blood transfusion Service	898255	16	11822	0	910077	16

Department of Health
July 1991

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON AND OVER THE GROUND FLOOR YARD AT NO. 9 NEW EASTERN TERRACE IN CAUSEWAY BAY, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 18 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE AUTHORITY ALSO SEEKS TO CLOSE FOR THE SAME REASON, THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT THE ROOF A, B, C, D1-3 AND F OF WING MING BUILDING AT 34-42 YEN CHOW STREET AND 212A-212B YEE KUK STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 9 WAS POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS TODAY.

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

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN WAN CHAI TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON FLAT A, 16TH FLOOR, 117-123 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI AND THE ROOF ABOVE SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 1 HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE PREMISES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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- 12 -

FOUR NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TODAY FOR LEGCO ELECTIONS

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FOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER WERE RECEIVED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS SO FAR TO 54.

THREE NOMINATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. ONE NOMINATION WAS RECEIVED FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

SO FAR, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE REGISTERED IN LABOUR, TEACHING, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING, AND TOURISM WITH EACH RECEIVING TWO NOMINATIONS.

THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS WAS SEVEN FOR NEW TERRITORIES EAST.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL END ON AUGUST 12.

THERE ARE 21 SEATS IN THE 20 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WITH TWO SEATS FOR THE LABOUR CONSTITUENCY. AS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS, ALL NINE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE DOUBLE SEAT.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED TODAY.

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY/ ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
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FINANCE	LI KWOK-PO, DAVID	M	52	BANKER	842 3206
MEDICAL	LEONG CHE- HUNG, EDWARD	M	52	MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	523 8562 524 9596
ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	LAU SHIU- KWAN, FRANCIS	M	56	SURVEYOR	730 6212
GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
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NEW TERRITORIES WEST	TANG SIU-TONG	M	48	DOCTOR	477 3552 443 2202 116 3311 CALL 123

/FOLLOWING IS

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY -----	ELECTORAL DIVISION -----	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED -----
1. COMMERCIAL	FIRST COMMERCIAL	0
2. COMMERCIAL	SECOND COMMERCIAL	0
3. INDUSTRIAL	FIRST INDUSTRIAL	0
4. INDUSTRIAL	SECOND INDUSTRIAL	0
5. FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICE	FINANCE	1
6. FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICE	FINANCIAL SERVICES	1
7. LABOUR		2
8. SOCIAL SERVICES		0
9. MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE	MEDICAL	1
10. MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE	HEALTH CARE	0
11. TEACHING		2
12. LEGAL		0
13. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	ENGINEERING	2
14. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	2
15. ACCOUNTANCY		1
16. REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION		1
17. TOURISM		2
18. URBAN COUNCIL		1
19. REGIONAL COUNCIL		0
20. RURAL		0

		SUB-TOTAL : 16
		=====

GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY -----	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED -----
1. HONG KONG ISLAND EAST	3
2. HONG KONG ISLAND WEST	4
3. KOWLOON EAST	4
4. KOWLOON CENTRAL	5
5. KOWLOON WEST	5
6. NEW TERRITORIES EAST	7
7. NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH	3
8. NEW TERRITORIES WEST	3
9. NEW TERRITORIES NORTH	4

SUB-TOTAL:	38
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CHINESE VERSION OF ENVIRONMENT HK 1991 ON SALE NOW

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THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1991 IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

THE ANNUAL REPORT, PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD), REVEALED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS SO FAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 10-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES.

THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE 181-PAGE REPORT, PACKED WITH DIAGRAMS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME COLOUR PICTURES, GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANY AND VARIED ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DURING 1990.

THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT WAS ALREADY PUT ON SALE IN JUNE.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE YEAR 1990, COVERED BY THE REPORT, WAS A SPECIAL YEAR BECAUSE IT SAW THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE 10-YEAR PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AS OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION PUBLISHED IN 1989.

/SUCH ACHIEVEMENTS

SUCH ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE REDUCED DRAMATICALLY THE AMOUNT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN THE AIR IN MIXED RESIDENTIAL/INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

ALSO, SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH AIR POLLUTION PRODUCED BY MOTOR VEHICLES WERE FINALISED.

THIS STRATEGY INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO SMOKE EMISSION CONTROLS, THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AND MORE STRINGENT EMISSION CONTROL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW CARS, AND ACTION TO RESTRAIN THE USE OF DIESEL.

THE YEAR 1990 ALSO SAW A VERY SATISFACTORY FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN.

THAT PLAN ENVISAGED THE CLOSURE OF OLD REFUSE INCINERATORS AND A NUMBER OF SMALL, INEFFICIENT, URBAN LANDFILLS AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY A SERIES OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS FEEDING LARGE, ENVIRONMENTALLY WELL ENGINEERED AND OPERATED, LANDFILLS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS.

IMPROVED MEANS OF TACKLING WATER POLLUTION BECAME AVAILABLE WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990, WHICH REMOVED EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING OF DISCHARGES OF EXISTING FACTORIES WITHIN WATER CONTROL ZONES, AND ABOLISHED THE 30 PER CENT PERMITTED INCREASE OF DISCHARGES WHICH THOSE EXEMPTED FACTORIES HAD PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED.

ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1991, AT \$30 A COPY, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT CAN BE ADDRESSED TO THE FOLLOWING EPD OFFICERS:

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT	
MR SIMON HUI	TEL. NO. 835 1105
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT	
MR C.W. TSE	TEL. NO. 835 1088
NOISE	MR RAYMOND CHAN
	TEL. NO. 835 1122
WATER & WASTES	
MR PAUL HOLMES	TEL. NO. 835 1003
DR DANIEL LAU	TEL. NO. 782 7300

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1991

- 16 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	30.7.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	31.7.91	-98
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+98
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.4 *+0.0* 31.7.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	30.7.91	31.7.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	6.03 PCT	5.80 PCT
1 MONTH	6.04 PCT	5.90 PCT
3 MONTHS	6.17 PCT	6.01 PCT
6 MONTHS	6.27 PCT	6.21 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.55 PCT	6.51 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	4,522 MN	5,715 MN

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