



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW HK OFFICE PREMISES IN TORONTO OPENS

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THE NEW PREMISES OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TORONTO WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS A THREE-STOREY HERITAGE BUILDING AT ST GEORGE STREET IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO.

THE COST OF ACQUIRING AND RENOVATING THE 100-YEAR-OLD HOUSE IS ABOUT CANADIAN \$2 MILLION.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WERE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, PRESIDENT OF CANADA'S TREASURY BOARD, MR ART EGGLETON, ONTARIO'S MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR RICHARD ALLEN, CHAIRMAN OF METRO TORONTO COUNCIL, MR ALAN TONKS, MAYOR JUNE ROWLANDS OF TORONTO, MAYOR JOYCE TRIMMER OF SCARBOROUGH, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SPADINA, MR TONY IANNO AND DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE, MR STEPHEN LAM.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MINISTER EGGLETON NOTED THAT THE OPENING OF THE NEW PREMISES WAS AN IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT SIGNAL BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LINKS.

HE CONFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S DESIRE TO EXPAND TRADE AND OTHER LINKS WITH ASIA-PACIFIC, IN PARTICULAR HONG KONG.

MINISTER ALLEN SAID THE HONG KONG OFFICE IN TORONTO REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT ONGOING LINK BETWEEN ONTARIO AND THE HONG KONG MARKET.

HE SAID: "AT A TIME WHEN ONTARIO BUSINESSES FACE INCREASED PRESSURES TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, IT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO SOLIDIFY AND EXPAND OUR TRADING AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES."

THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG OFFICE WAS CELEBRATED AT A GALA DINNER IN THE EVENING, WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CANADA'S NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, ROY MACLAREN, FIVE CITY MAYORS, AND MORE THAN 200 LOCAL DIGNITARIES, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PROMINENT BUSINESS PEOPLE.

GOODS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES MUST BE INSPECTED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TODAY (SATURDAY) DETAILS OF COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.

ALL MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES AND MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1991 THAT REQUIRE A NEW LICENCE FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR MUST BE INSPECTED.

THEY MUST OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS BEFORE RELICENSING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "AIMED AT ENHANCING ROAD SAFETY, THE COMPULSORY VEHICLE INSPECTION WILL CHECK ALL MECHANICAL PARTS OF THE VEHICLE TO ENSURE A BETTER ROADWORTHINESS."

"THE CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS IS ONLY VALID FOR RELICENSING DURING THE FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUE," HE ADDED.

GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES BUT NOT MORE THAN 16 TONNES WILL BE INSPECTED AT THE NEW KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE AT 8 TSUI HING STREET, KOWLOON BAY.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE BY TELEPHONE ON 751 8862, AND APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE BOOKED AT THE CENTRE.

THOSE VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT GREATER THAN 16 TONNES WILL BE INSPECTED AT THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE AT 2 CHEUNG YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE ON 759 7573, AND APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE BOOKED AT THE CENTRE.

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TAXI FARES TO GO UP TOMORROW

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FARES FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WILL BE REVISED FROM TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THIS FOLLOWED A RECENT APPROVAL OF FARE INCREASES BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS TO COVER INCREASES IN OPERATING COSTS.

UPON REVISION, THE FLAGFALL FOR THE FIRST TWO KILOMETRES WILL BE \$11.5 AND \$10 FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS RESPECTIVELY.

/SUBSEQUENT CHARGES

SUBSEQUENT CHARGES WILL BE REVISED CORRESPONDINGLY TO \$1 AND \$0.90 FOR EVERY 200 METRES TRAVELLED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PENDING CONVERSION OF METERS, TAXIS MAY CHARGE THE REVISED FARES STARTING TOMORROW BY DISPLAYING A CONVERSION TABLE SHOWING THE REVISED FARE SCALES.

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YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS

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PEOPLE DO HAVE STRESSES AND WORRIES, BUT DRUG OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE WILL NEVER HELP. IT WILL ONLY WORSEN THE PROBLEMS AND RUIN LIVES.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ALASDAIR SINCLAIR, TOLD STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE "CARE FOR YOUR FUTURE, SAY NO TO DRUGS" SAI KUNG DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS QUIZ COMPETITION CUM PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY HELD AT KING LAM NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE TODAY (SATURDAY).

"YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OFTEN INTRODUCED TO DRUG-TAKING BY THEIR FRIENDS WHO CLAIM THAT DRUGS CAN MAKE ONE FEEL GOOD AND EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING IT," MR SINCLAIR SAID.

"WHAT THEY WON'T BE TELLING YOU IS HOW ADDICTIVE THE DRUGS ARE, AND HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE DO LASTING DAMAGE TO THEIR BODIES, OR EVENTUALLY DIE FROM CONTINUED DRUG ABUSE," HE NOTED.

"ALL DRUG ABUSERS ARE TAKING SERIOUS RISKS WITH THEIR HEALTH. DRUGS CAN BRING ON CONFUSION AND FRIGHTENING HALLUCINATIONS AND CAUSE UNBALANCED EMOTIONS OR MORE SERIOUS MENTAL DISORDERS.

"SOME DRUGS CAN SLOW, EVEN STOP, THE BREATHING PROCESS, AND SOMEONE WHO OVERDOSES ACCIDENTALLY MAY BECOME UNCONSCIOUS OR EVEN DIE," MR SINCLAIR SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER URGED YOUNG PEOPLE NEVER BE TEMPTED BY CURIOSITY OR BOREDOM TO TRY DRUGS.

THEY WERE ADVISED TO SEEK HELP AND GUIDANCE FROM THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS OR SOCIAL WORKERS IF THEY HAD TROUBLES OR DIFFICULTIES.

HE ENCOURAGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO SEEK HELP FROM THE TELEPHONE HOTLINE 366 8822 OPERATED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DRUG-RELATED ISSUES, INCLUDING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES.

"DRUG ABUSE IS A LONG-STANDING PROBLEM IN HONG KONG AND HAS SERIOUS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS.

/"WHILE THE

"WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, WE NEED THE BACKING OF THE PEOPLE AS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNITY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR WORK AGAINST DRUG ABUSE," HE SAID.

OTHER GUESTS OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY INCLUDED THE ACTING SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHENG WAI-PANG, AND SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN HON-CHEUNG.

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TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR HYSAN AVENUE
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF HYSAN AVENUE IN CAUSEWAY BAY IS BEING RE-DELINEATED TO THREE LANES, WITH TWO TO BE ASSIGNED EASTBOUND AND ONE WESTBOUND.

THE ADDITIONAL EASTBOUND LANE IS TO PROVIDE MORE STORAGE SPACE FOR VEHICLES WAITING TO TURN RIGHT INTO SUNNING ROAD SO AS NOT TO BLOCK THE WAY OF VEHICLES HEADING TOWARDS YUN PING ROAD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT NEXT MONDAY (NOVEMBER 15), HE SAID.

THE 7 AM TO 7 PM NO-STOPPING RESTRICTIONS BASICALLY ON BOTH SIDES OF HYSAN AVENUE AND WEST SIDE OF SUNNING ROAD WILL ALSO BE IN FORCE FROM THE SAME DAY, HE ADDED.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT TRAFFIC ALONG HYSAN AVENUE AND SUNNING ROAD WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HANDICAPPED HELP BEAUTIFY WONG TAI SIN
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A RETAINING WALL IN WONG TAI SIN TAKES ON A NEW LOOK TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN A GROUP OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND VOLUNTEERS PAINT ON IT A MURAL TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF MUTUAL HELP BETWEEN THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ABLE-BODIE.

THE WALL AT UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, MEASURING 52 BY FOUR METRES, WAS PAINTED BY MORE THAN 80 PARTICIPANTS FROM TWO SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT.

SPEAKING AT A SOUVENIR-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT, SAID ENCOURAGING THE HANDICAPPED TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WOULD HELP TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CONFIDENCE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD UNDERSTAND THEM MORE AND COULD GRADUALLY ACCEPT THEM.

THE PROJECT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD AND DISTRICT OFFICE, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
 MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,735
REVERSAL OF LAF	+710
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,445
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-780
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,665
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.0 *-0.1* 13.11.93	

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GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM LONDON

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON ON 14.11.93.

GOVERNOR : GOOD AFTERNOON. IT'S NICE TO BE BACK. I HAD A VERY USEFUL VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. AS YOU KNOW, THE HONG KONG WORKS CONFERENCE WAS A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS AND NOW MANY OF THEM PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS IN THAT CONFERENCE ARE MOVING ON SOME OF THE CAPITALS OF EUROPE TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO PARIS, AND FRANKFURT AND AMSTERDAM ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS HERE IN HONG KONG AND HERE IN THE REGION. I'M DELIGHTED THAT ANSON CHAN WILL BE LEADING THAT CHARGE INTO EUROPE AND I'M SURE THAT THE MESSAGE WILL BE GETTING ACROSS IN THE REST OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS IT GOT ACROSS IN LONDON. THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO LONDON AS YOU KNOW WAS TO TALK TO SENIOR CABINET MEMBERS, TO TALK TO A LOT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, TO TALK TO THE LEADERS OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTIES AND TO TAKE PART IN A CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN BEST USE THE TIME THAT'S AVAILABLE TO TRY, IF WE POSSIBLY CAN, TO BRING THE TALKS ON HONG KONG'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. I THINK THAT YOU WOULD HAVE OBSERVED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN MESSAGES, ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES TO HAVE EMERGED FROM ALL THOSE MEETINGS, IS THE VERY, VERY SOLID SUPPORT, NOT ONLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL WATERFRONT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE BEEN TAKING IN HONG KONG, FIRM BUT REASONABLE. I DOUBT THERE'S BEEN A TIME IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DECADES WHEN THERE'S BEEN MORE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM AT WESTMINSTER. SO I WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE THAT CONFIRMED. WE MUST NOW LOOK FORWARD AND HOPE THAT WE CAN SEE RATHER MORE PROGRESS IN THE NEXT ROUND AND BEYOND THAN WE'VE SEEN IN THE LAST 15 ROUNDS, THOUGH AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND I HAVE MADE CLEAR, WE HAVE MADE A BIT OF PROGRESS THOUGH THE GAP BETWEEN THE SIDES REMAINS RATHER WIDER THAN WE WOULD LIKE. BACK TO WORK.

QUESTION : YOU MAY HAVE THE SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BUT THE UNITED DEMOCRATS HERE, MARTIN LEE WAS SAYING THE OTHER DAY, IT WOULD BE QUITE EASY FOR YOU COME 1997 TO SAY LEGCO REJECTED YOUR PROPOSAL FOR DEMOCRACY, AND THEN THE ARGUMENT IS LEGCO DOES NOT ACTUALLY REPRESENT THE VOICE OF HONG KONG...?.

/GOVERNOR:

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GOVERNOR : OBVIOUSLY, ANY CRITICISM PUT FORWARD BY MR LEE AND THE UDHK, I WOULD NEED TO LISTEN TO VERY CAREFULLY BECAUSE IN THE LAST ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THEY GOT THE LARGEST SHARE OF THE POPULAR VOTE AND IN THOSE ELECTIONS CLEARLY CAME NEARER THAN OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. SO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY REMAINS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE INTEREST. BUT I'M SURE THAT MR LEE AND OTHERS RECOGNISE THAT IT IS FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO TAKE THE LEGISLATIVE DECISION ON THE WAY FORWARD. WHEN I EVENTUALLY PUT PROPOSALS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHETHER THEY ARE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED WITH CHINA, WHICH I THINK WOULD BE THE BEST WAY FORWARD IF WE CAN ACHIEVE IT IN A REASONABLE WAY, OR WHETHER THEY ARE PROPOSALS WHICH ALAS HAVEN'T BEEN AGREED WITH BY CHINA, I WOULD BE ARGUING FOR THOSE PROPOSALS BECAUSE THOSE WILL BE THE PROPOSALS WHICH I THINK ARE REASONABLE AND FAIR AND I HOPE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE IMPORTANT THING FOR US TO DO IS TO HAVE CLEAN ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE, OBVIOUSLY NONE OF US, TRYING TO GET ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HELP ONE PARTY OR ANOTHER. BUT I REPEAT, ANYTHING THAT MR LEE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE TO SAY, I HAVE TO TAKE PARTICULAR AND CLOSE ATTENTION TO.

QUESTION : HAS MR MAJOR WRITTEN A LETTER TO MR LI PENG, URGING HIM TO SPEED UP THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ?

GOVERNOR : IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF AFTER THE CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING THAT WE HAD IN LONDON LAST WEEK THERE WAS FURTHER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING. BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE SOMETIMES WHEN IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ANNOUNCE THAT DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE THAN OTHERS. BUT I REPEAT, IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF THERE WERE EXCHANGES AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PERHAPS WORK....TO TAKE THE DECISION TO...?

GOVERNOR: WELL, DECISIONS WILL, OBVIOUSLY, BE TAKEN AT A SENIOR LEVEL ON BOTH SIDES AS THEY WERE TAKEN IN LONDON AT THE MOST SENIOR LEVEL LAST WEEK. BUT THE HARD WORK OF NEGOTIATION HAS TO GO ON ROUND THE TABLE. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY SAD THAT SIR ROBIN MCLAREN IS OFF THE FIELD FOR THE TIME BEING AS SOME OF YOU WILL KNOW, HAVING SEEN HIM WORKING IN HONG KONG. HE'S BEEN SUFFERING FROM A VERY BAD BACK FOR SOME MONTHS AND HAS BEEN HOSPITALISED WHILE THE DOCTORS SORT THAT OUT. BUT HE'S BEEN IN CONSIDERABLE PAIN AND HAS BEEN VERY BRAVE AND STOICAL OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. HIS PLACE IS BEING TAKEN BY CHRISTOPHER HUM WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND HE'S GOT AN EXCELLENT TEAM FROM HONG KONG INCLUDING A NUMBER OF MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT. BUT THAT IS WHERE THE REALLY HARD WORK WILL HAVE TO BE DONE THOUGH I AGREE WITH YOU THAT THE MAIN POLITICAL DECISION IS TAKEN AT A RATHER HIGHER LEVEL. LAST QUESTION.

QUESTION: IS IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS THIS UNITY IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENT ON HONG KONG POLICY AT THIS POINT AND IS THIS THE REASON FOR THE OPTIMISM IN LONDON THAT THE NEGOTIATION IS GOING TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE NEXT ROUND?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IT'S ALWAYS VERY HELPFUL TO FEEL THAT ONE HAS THE SORT OF SOLID SUPPORT THAT EXISTS IN WESTMINSTER AT THE MOMENT. AND THERE HAVE BEEN, IT'S A SLIGHTLY PATHETIC TACTIC THAT SOMETIMES USED, ATTEMPTS TO DRIVE WEDGES HERE AND THERE OVER THE LAST YEAR OR EIGHTEEN MONTHS. NOW I NOTICE NOBODY IS REALLY TRYING THAT PARTICULARLY SERIOUSLY AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY FISSURES, THERE AREN'T ANY CRACKS IN THE SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH THAT WE HAVE TAKEN BUT WHILE THERE ARE IN A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY ALWAYS GOING TO BE SOME CRITICAL VOICES AND SOME PEOPLE WHO DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT IT RIGHT. AND WE MUST TRY TO LEARN FROM THEM. OVERWHELMINGLY, THE POSITION IS THAT THERE IS VERY SOLID SUPPORT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN THE MEDIA, AT WESTMINSTER, IN THE GOVERNMENT, IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR WHAT WE ARE DOING. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE, I SUPPOSE, WHO LIKE MARTIN LEE AND THE UDHK THINK WE SHOULD HAVE GONE A BIT FURTHER AND THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO WHO THINK WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE QUITE SO FAR. BUT BY AND LARGE, PEOPLE THINK WE HAVE GOT IT ABOUT RIGHT. AND I NOTICE ONCE AGAIN FROM A POLL IN ONE OF TODAY'S HONG KONG NEWSPAPERS THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN HONG KONG SEEMS TO THINK THAT WE'VE GOT IT ABOUT RIGHT AS WELL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

QUESTION : DID YOU SEE ROBIN MCLAREN AT THE HOSPITAL?

GOVERNOR : I DIDN'T, ALAS. I SENT HIM SOME FLOWERS AND SOME FRUITS BUT I, HAVING BEEN IN A HOSPITAL MYSELF IN THE PAST, I AM NOT SURE THAT DOING BUSINESS BY THE BEDSIDE TOO RAPIDLY AFTER YOU HAVE AN OPERATION, IS A VERY GOOD IDEA BUT I AM SURE WE ALL WISH HIM A VERY SPEEDY RECOVERY AND BACK TO HIS NORMAL VIGOROUS PACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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WRITTEN CONTRACT FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT A MUST
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYEES INTENDING TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYERS TO ENTER INTO WRITTEN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS BEFORE THEY LEAVE HONG KONG FOR THE JOB TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE, A FOREIGN EMPLOYER WHO IS NOT IN HONG KONG AND NOT CARRYING ON A BUSINESS IN HONG KONG IS REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH ALL LOCAL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITH MONTHLY WAGES NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000 FOR WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPARTURE," LABOUR OFFICER (EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE), MR CHENG WAI-MAN, SAID.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF PROTECTION SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT ARE IN NO WAY LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION," HE EXPLAINED.

"A CONTRACT WITH TERMS THAT ARE UNFAIR TO THE EMPLOYEE OR DO NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE EMPLOYEE'S INTERESTS WILL NOT BE ATTESTED," HE STRESSED.

MR CHENG POINTED OUT THAT A DULY ATTESTED CONTRACT WILL NOT ONLY CLEARLY DEFINE THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES BUT WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT ARE REASONABLE.

IT SHOULD INCLUDE SUCH DETAILS AS PAY, NATURE AND HOURS OF WORK, HOLIDAYS, SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION, REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENT AND PROVISIONS FOR DEPENDANTS.

"IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERSEAS FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYERS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL REQUIRE A HONG KONG RESIDENT NOMINATED BY THE EMPLOYER TO FURNISH A BOND OR GUARANTEE BEFORE ATTESTING THE CONTRACT," MR CHENG SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS AN OFFENCE IF AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT FAILED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE OR FAILED TO PRESENT THE CONTRACT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPARTURE.

"THE EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR INDUCING AN EMPLOYEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, OR INDUCING THE EMPLOYEE TO DEPART HONG KONG TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS ATTESTED," HE SAID.

"OFFENDERS WILL BE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$50,000," HE ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES UNDER THE ORDINANCE MAY BE MADE TO THE EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ON 852 3535.

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HEROIC SERVICEMEN REMEMBERED

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, LAID A WREATH AT THE CENOTAPH IN STATUE SQUARE THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING TO HONOUR THOSE WHO HAD GIVEN THEIR LIVES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

THE SOLEMN CEREMONY MARKING REMEMBRANCE DAY BEGAN AT 11 AM WITH THE FIRING OF A GUN AT HMS TAMAR WHICH SIGNALLED THE OBSERVANCE OF TWO MINUTES' SILENCE.

AT THE FIRING OF A SECOND GUN, BUGLERS OF THE FIRST BATTALION, THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES, SOUNDED THE "LAST POST".

/WREATHS WERE

WREATHS WERE ALSO LAID BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG; THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN FOLEY; REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS; COMMONWEALTH REPRESENTATIVES; DEPUTY COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, BRIGADIER CHRISTOPHER HAMMERBECK; CAPTAIN-IN-CHARGE ROYAL NAVY, CAPITAL TOM SUNTER; COMMANDER ROYAL AIR FORCE, GROUP CAPTAIN SAM HUNT; THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG; AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY LAYING OF WREATHS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SERVICE UNITS, THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (HONG KONG AND CHINA BRANCH), COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, SOCIETIES AND OTHER BODIES.

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COMMUNITY SHOWING GREATER RESPECT FOR ELDERLY

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID THERE WAS AN INCREASING TREND OF PROMOTING GREATER RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CX FANTASY FLIGHT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AT HO MAN TIN.

SINCE 1979, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN ORGANISING A "FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY" ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER WHICH THIS YEAR IS MARKED AS THE "SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY" TO FURTHER SIGNIFY THE COMMUNITY'S RECOGNITION OF THE ELDERLY'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

"THIS IS THE FESTIVAL'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY. TO MARK THIS MEANINGFUL OCCASION, A SERIES OF TERRITORY-WIDE CELEBRATION PROGRAMMES AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ARE BEING LAUNCHED THESE FEW WEEKS AND THE PRESENT ACTIVITY IS ALSO ONE," HE SAID.

THERE ARE ABOUT 790,000 OLD PEOPLE AGED 60 AND OVER AND THE NUMBER IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE TO 900,000 IN FIVE YEARS' TIME.

MR STRACHAN SAID IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING POPULATION, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE GROWING DEMAND FOR SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE PLEDGE TO PROVIDE FAR-REACHING PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY IS REFLECTED IN THE INITIATIVES MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS LAST MONTH.

IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE IN RESPECT OF MEDICAL, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

IN PLANNING WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS ADOPTED IS THE BELIEF THAT AN OLD PERSON SHOULD BE HELPED TO LIVE IN HIS OWN COMMUNITY WITH DIGNITY AND THAT SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO FACILITATE HIS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY, BOTH SOCIALLY AND, IF HE LIKES, ECONOMICALLY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

"THE OVERALL SERVICE OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY IN ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR LIFE, TO ENABLE THEM TO RETAIN THEIR SELF-RESPECT, TO REMAIN ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, AND TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL CARE SUITED TO THEIR VARYING NEEDS," HE SAID.

TO HELP THE ELDERLY TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES ARE ALSO IMPORTANT.

THE RANGE OF SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE INCLUDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HOUSING ASSISTANCE, RESPITE SERVICE, MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES, SOCIAL CENTRES, OUTREACHING SERVICE, HOME HELP, COMMUNITY NURSING, DOMICILIARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, DOMICILIARY PHYSIOTHERAPY, DAY CARE CENTRES AND DAY HOSPITALS.

THESE SERVICES, WHILE PROVIDING THE NECESSARY HELP TO ELDERLY PERSONS, ARE ALSO AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

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GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP ISLANDS DISTRICT IN EARNEST

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT C C LAM, SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN UP AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1993 ISLANDS DISTRICT FESTIVAL TODAY (SUNDAY), MR LAM SAID THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN LANTAU WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE MASSIVE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

HE NOTED THAT TUNG CHUNG WOULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A NEW TOWN, BENEFITING NOT ONLY THE ISLANDERS, BUT ALSO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SPENT \$450 MILLION IN 1992/93 TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WHOLE ISLANDS DISTRICT AND THAT ANOTHER \$500 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT IN 1993/94.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANS TO SET UP PORT FACILITIES AT THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND, WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1997," MR LAM ADDED.

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WERE THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRISTOPHER WONG, AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG:

THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL PRESENTS MORE THAN 30 CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SPORTS, COMPETITIONS, PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS.

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