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DIFFICULT ISSUE DEALT WITH CONSIDERABLE COMPETENCE: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG HAVE DEALT WITH THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ISSUE OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WITH CONSIDERABLE COMPETENCE OVER THE LAST DECADE AND MORE, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, MR PATTEN SAID: "I THINK THE WORLD RECOGNISES THAT NO COMMUNITY CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT ECONOMIC MIGRANTS IN LARGE NUMBERS."

"I THINK THAT IT'S CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT IT IS BEST FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLAINLY ECONOMIC MIGRANTS TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND TO MAKE A LIFE FOR THEMSELVES THERE WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE AND UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE UNHCR," HE SAID.

"PEOPLE HAVE TO RECOGNISE THAT THE ECONOMY IN VIETNAM IS IMPROVING, I THINK THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THAT, AND THAT THEIR LIVES ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY WOULD BE FAR BETTER LIVED IN VIETNAM THAN IN A CAMP LIKE THIS," HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE AIRPORT TALKS, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE'VE ASKED FOR A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. I'D LIKE TO SEE IT TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, AT WHICH WE CAN RESPOND TO THOSE PROPOSALS WHICH WE'RE AT PRESENT STUDYING VERY CLOSELY."

"AND WE WILL WANT TO RESPOND TO THEM AS CONSTRUCTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT WE CAN MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS IS CONCEIVABLE," HE SAID.

"I'VE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT I BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE ARE ALL WHOLLY SOLVABLE, WHOLLY SOLUBLE, ON THEIR MERITS.

"I THINK WE COULD SORT THEM OUT ON THEIR MERITS WITH THE SORT OF SPEED WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND DOUBTLESS, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN CHINA, WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE.

"CONCRETE PROPOSALS, INTERESTING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY CHINESE OFFICIALS. WE ARE STUDYING THEM; WE WILL RESPOND NEXT WEEK AND I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE EARLY AGREEMENT DURING THE MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO HOLD ON WEDNESDAY," MR PATTEN SAID.

"I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THERE CAN BE ANY DIFFICULTY ABOUT THAT BECAUSE IT WILL AFTER ALL, BE US THAT IS RESPONDING TO CHINESE PROPOSALS NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND.

"WE'RE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH. AS YOU KNOW, FOR US THE ONLY BOTTOM LINE IS TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE PROJECT AT THE BEST POSSIBLE COST. I THINK THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD EXPECT OF US AND IT'S IN THAT SENSE THAT WE'LL BE NEGOTIATING ON THEIR BEHALF," HE ADDED.

/EARLIER, ACCOMPANIED .....

EARLIER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, AND THE ACTING REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR EDDY CHAN, THE GOVERNOR ARRIVED AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AND THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR JOHN ASHWORTH, AND THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CENTRE, MR JASMINDER KANG, ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRE.

HE WAS TOLD THAT WHITEHEAD WAS THE LARGEST DETENTION CENTRE IN THE TERRITORY, HAVING A CAPACITY OF 25,000. MANAGED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IT CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATES 22,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

APART FROM DORMITORIES, THERE ARE VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING SCHOOL COMPLEXES, CLINICS AND WORKSHOPS.

HE LEARNT THAT NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES IN THE CENTRE. THESE INCLUDED VOCATIONAL TRAINING, WORK PROGRAMMES, BABY CARE, COUNSELLING AND RECREATION.

MR PATTEN FIRST TOURED A PURPOSE-BUILT SCHOOL COMPLEX AND WATCHED A CLASS IN SESSION.

THEN, HE VISITED A WORKSHOP WHERE VIETNAMESE ASSEMBLED WATCH PARTS.

AFTERWARDS, HE WALKED THROUGH TWO DORMITORIES AND TALKED TO SOME OF THE RESIDENTS.

HAVING TOURED THE DETENTION CENTRE, MR PATTEN WENT ON TO THE UNHCR OFFICE IN YAU MA TEI. THERE HE WAS MET BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION, MR ROBERT VAN LEEUWEN, AND HIS DEPUTY, MR KAISER ZAMAN.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY MR VAN LEEUWEN ON THE WORK OF THE UNHCR. HE WAS TOLD THAT UNHCR PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN HONG KONG.

IT ALSO DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO MONITORING AND ASSISTING THE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES BACK IN VIETNAM.

MR PATTEN WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE UNHCR SUPPORTED HONG KONG IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMMES AND HELPED TO PROMOTE VOLUNTARY RETURN.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNHCR, MR VAN LEEUWEN PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO THE GOVERNOR TO THANK HONG KONG FOR ITS HELP IN PROVIDING FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN THE TERRITORY.

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EXCELLENT PROGRESS ON AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME: SECRETARY FOR WORKS

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EXCELLENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) CONTRACTS, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TOLD A SEMINAR THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR BLAKE SAID THAT SO FAR 14 OF THE 62 MAJOR WORKS CONTRACTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PORTION OF THE ACP HAD BEEN AWARDED AND ALL WERE WELL WITHIN THE BUDGET FIXED.

"THIS GIVES EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE BUDGETARY TARGETS ESTABLISHED IN THE BASELINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ARE ACHIEVEABLE," HE SAID.

ABOUT 280 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE SEMINAR WHICH FOCUSED ON THE NINE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS THAT MAKE UP THE ACP, APART FROM THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE NINE PROJECTS WILL PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH NEWLY RECLAIMED LAND TO PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT BREATHING SPACE TO THE OVERCROWDED AREAS OF WEST KOWLOON AND MAJOR NEW ROAD LINKS INCLUDING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR SUSPENSION BRIDGES.

THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL SERVE THE NEW AIRPORT AND FORM PART OF A PROJECTED NEW HIGHWAY SYSTEM CONNECTING WITH CHINA, A NEW RAILWAY LINE RELIEVING THE EXISTING NATHAN ROAD MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORRIDOR, AND OPEN UP LAND FOR A CONTINUATION OF A SUCCESSFUL NEW TOWN PROGRAMME WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS.

SEVEN MORE MAJOR WORKS CONTRACTS ARE DUE TO BE AWARDED THIS YEAR. THESE COMPRISE CONTRACTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

* THE YAM O SECTION OF THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY FOR WHICH THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD WILL TODAY AWARD THE CONTRACT, AND WORK IS DUE TO BEGIN SHORTLY.

* FOUR CONTRACTS WILL BE AWARDED ON THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT. ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF THE 300 HECTARES OF RECLAMATION FOR WEST KOWLOON HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.

* TENDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR WORK ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION WHICH COMPRISES 20 HECTARES OF THE EXISTING SEAWALL OPPOSITE EXCHANGE SQUARE.

* THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND THE MA WAN VIADUCT. THE REMAINING MAJOR STRUCTURES TO COMPLETE THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING IS SCHEDULED TO BE AWARDED BY NOVEMBER AND THE AWARD WILL BE AHEAD OF THE MASTER PROGRAMME AND WITHIN BUDGET.

/ALSO SPEAKING .....

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, THE ACTING PROJECT MANAGER OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR H K WONG, SAID 16 CONTRACTS ON THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PORTION OF THE ACP WOULD BE AWARDED NEXT YEAR AND 22 IN 1994.

MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENT WOULD BUILD UP RAPIDLY IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE $4.8 BILLION WORTH (AT MONEY OF THE DAY PRICES) OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AT THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT.

THESE INCLUDE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER TO BE OPERATED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, METERIOLOGICAL STATIONS TO BE OPERATED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND AN AIRMAIL CENTRE BY THE POST OFFICE.

OTHERS INCLUDE FACILITIES REQUIRED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO FULFIL THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THE OPERATION OF THE NEW AIRPORT.

"THERE WILL BE VERY GOOD BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIERS IN HI-TECH EQUIPMENT FOR AIRPORT OPERATION," MR WONG SAID.

"SUCH EQUIPMENT INCLUDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEMS, RADAR DATA PROCESSING AND DISPLAY SYSTEM AND FLIGHT DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM," HE NOTED.

A THIRD SPEAKER, THE ACTING PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR MIKE RANDALL, ADDRESSED THE SEMINAR ON THE ACP GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS.

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CONTRACT AWARDED FOR NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED A $1,336 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YAM O SECTION OF THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY TO A CONSORTIUM MADE UP OF A HONG KONG COMPANY AND TWO JAPANESE COMPANIES.

THE CONSORTIUM, THE AOKI CORPORATION/FRANKI CONTRACTORS LIMITED/TOBISHIMA CORPORATION JOINT VENTURE, HAS SUBMITTED THE LOWEST TENDER.

THE CONTRACT SUM IS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE PROJECT.

THE CONTRACT, AS WITH OTHER MAJOR CONTRACTS UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP), IS A FIXED PRICE LUMP SUM CONTRACT.

THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, ONE OF THE 10 CORE PROJECTS UNDER THE ACP, WILL BE A DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST OF LANTAU.

/IT WILL .....

IT WILL CONNECT WITH THE WESTERN END OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, FORMING PART OF AN EXTENSIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK LINKING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK TO THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPRESSWAY IS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS: TAI HO, YAM O AND TUNG CHUNG.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE TAI HO SECTION WAS AWARDED IN JUNE THIS YEAR, WHILE TENDERS FOR THE TUNG CHUNG SECTION WILL BE INVITED LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE YAM O SECTION WILL RUN BETWEEN TSING CHAU TSAI AND TA PANG PO ON LANTAU. IT WILL BE BUILT PARTLY ON HILLSIDE AND PARTLY ON RECLAIMED LAND.

WORKS WILL ALSO COMPRISE THE FORMATION OF RESERVES FOR THE PROPOSED AIRPORT RAILWAY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, RUBBLE MOUND SEAWALL, PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGES AND A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY.

THE CONTRACT AWARD FOR YAM O WAS APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY).

WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK AND BE COMPLETED IN FOUR YEARS' TIME.

THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED TENDERS FROM SEVEN PREQUALIFIED CONSORTIA, WITH TENDER SUMS RANGING FROM $1,336 MILLION TO $1,893 MILLION.

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LEVY ON OUTBOUND PACKAGE TOUR FARES TO FALL

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS APPROVED A REQUEST FROM THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (TIC) TO REDUCE THE EXISTING LEVY ON OUTBOUND PACKAGE TOUR FARES FROM 1 PER CENT TO 0.5 PER CENT.

"THE LEVY REDUCTION IS SUBJECT TO TWO CONDITIONS - FIRST, THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND (TICRF) HAS ALREADY ACCUMULATED A RESERVE OF $100 MILLION; AND SECONDLY, THE TICRF HAS RESOLVED TO INCREASE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION TO AGGRIEVED OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS FROM THE PRESENT 70 PER CENT TO 80 PER CENT OF THE PACKAGE TOUR FARE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS THESE CONDITIONS HAVE NOW BEEN MET, BOTH THE REDUCTION IN LEVY AND THE INCREASE IN COMPENSATION WILL TAKE EFFECT NEXT TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 15).

THE LEVY AND COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS ARE PART OF A REGULATORY REFORM PACKAGE AGREED BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION, TIC AND TICRF FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENHANCING PROTECTION TO OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS AND STRENGTHENING THE SELF-REGULATORY ROLE OF THE TIC.

/THEIR INTRODUCTION .....

THEIR INTRODUCTION REPRESENTS THE FIRST STAGE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM PACKAGE.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REST OF THE PACKAGE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH WAS GAZETTED ON JULY 17, 1992 AND WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 14, 1992.

THE TIC IS THE SELF-REGULATORY ORGANISATION FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY. THE TICRF IS ITS SUBSIDIARY, RESPONSIBLE FOR HOLDING A COMPENSATION FUND FOR OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS.

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SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO VISIT VIETNAM

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, WILL LEAVE FOR VIETNAM ON SATURDAY FOR A SEVEN-DAY VISIT.

MR ASPREY WILL VISIT THE AREAS FROM WHERE MANY VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ORIGINATED, SUCH AS HAIPHONG, HUE, DANANG AND HO CHI MINH CITY, TO SEE SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM HONG KONG, A SECURITY BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE WILL LOOK AT VARIOUS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AID SCHEMES AND PROPOSALS FOR SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN JULY.

HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM, AND UNHCR AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICIALS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MR ASPREY WILL MEET THE NEWS MEDIA ON HIS RETURN FROM VIETNAM ON SEPTEMBER 20 (SUNDAY). MEDIA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT BUILDING AT 9.30 PM.

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VIEWS SOUGHT ON SCHEME AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, MET REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS TODAY (THURSDAY) TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS ON A PROPOSAL FOR A REWARD FOR INFORMATION SCHEME TO HELP THE POLICE AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SECURITY BRANCH AND THE POLICE AS A MEANS TO TACKLE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WHO COME HERE TO WORK.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, ABOUT 21,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, COMPARED WITH 15,300 ARRESTED DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TODAY'S MEETING IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS THE SECURITY BRANCH WILL BE HOLDING WITH TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED REWARD SCHEME.

ANOTHER MEASURE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (II) IS A PLAN BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO SET UP A SPECIAL ANTI-II TASK FORCE OF ABOUT 100 OFFICERS.

MR STRACHAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND NO LET UP IN EFFORTS AGAINST THEM.

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OPERATION ON DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS FORGES AHEAD
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PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR ANTHONY SAMSON, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON SAW FOR HIMSELF THE PROGRESS OF AN OPERATION AIMING AT REMOVING DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS FROM BUILDINGS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

MR SAMSON, WHO IS HEAD OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO), INSPECTED THE PROGRESS OF WORKS ON FOUR BUILDINGS IN MONG KOK WHICH ARE AMONG THE 52 TARGETED BUILDINGS IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE OPERATION.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE OPERATION "CATHERINE WHEEL" WHICH BEGAN LATE LAST YEAR, MR SAMSON SAID FIVE OF THE BUILDINGS COVERED IN THE FIRST PHASE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY RESTORED BY THE REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS SUCH AS CANOPIES, CAGES AND FLOWER RACKS EXTENDING FROM THE PREMISES.

IN ADDITION, THE REMOVAL OF SIMILAR PROJECTIONS ON 12 OTHER BUILDINGS HAD REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

/"SOME 6,800 .....

"SOME 6,800 ADVISORY LETTERS WERE SERVED TO OWNERS AND RESIDENTS COVERING A TOTAL OF 11,160 UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS HAVING TO BE REMOVED.

"ONLY THOSE OWNERS WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO THE ADVISORY LETTER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WILL BE SERVED STATUTORY REMOVAL ORDERS. SHOULD AFFECTED OWNERS NOT COMPLY WITH THE ORDERS, THE STRUCTURES WILL THEN BE DISMANTLED BY THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR WITH THE COSTS INCURRED TO BE RECOVERED FROM THE OWNERS.

"THE RESULT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AS ABOUT 55 PER CENT OF THE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS WERE CO-OPERATIVE.

THEY VOLUNTARILY REMOVED THE DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS WITHOUT HAVING THE AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE THE REMOVAL ORDERS."

HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN FOUND NECESSARY TO SERVE ABOUT 3,000 REMOVAL ORDERS ON UNCOOPERATIVE OWNERS.

HE SAID UNDER THE OPERATION BUILDINGS WERE MADE SAFE NOT ONLY FOR THE RESIDENTS BUT ALSO FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS MOST OF THE DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS WERE HANGING OVER CROWDED STREETS.

"WITH THE WORK NEARING COMPLETION IN THE REMOVAL OF THESE PROJECTIONS, SOME 15 ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN TARGETED IN THE FOLLOW-UP SECOND PHASE OF THE OPERATION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MORE BUILDINGS WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST IN DUE COURSE," MR SAMSON SAID.

THE FOUR BUILDINGS IN MONG KOK WHICH WERE INSPECTED TODAY ARE ALL LOCATED WITHIN AN AREA BOUNDED BY MONG KOK ROAD, CHEUNG WONG ROAD, SHUM CHUN STREET, ARGYLE STREET AND CANTON ROAD.

DURING THE INSPECTION, MR SAMSON ALSO SAW BOO STAFF DELIVER ADVISORY LETTERS TO OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF THE NEWLY TARGETED CHEUNG FAI MANSION IN TONG MI ROAD, MONG KOK, ASKING THEM TO VOLUNTARILY REMOVE THE DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS FROM THEIR PREMISES.

A TOTAL OF 230 ADVISORY LETTERS WERE ISSUED INVOLVING 335 DANGEROUS PROJECTIONS.

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FIRST HK DISABLED MAN ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF REHAB INT'L

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A WHEELCHAIR USER FROM HONG KONG, MR PETER CHAN, HAS BEEN ELECTED THE REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS DURING THE 17TH WORLD CONGRESS OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL BEING HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

HE IS TO SUCCEED MR M B LEE, ALSO FROM HONG KONG, WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED A PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AT THE CONGRESS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER REHABILITATION WORK.

/A MEMBER .....

A MEMBER OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REHABILITATION ALLIANCE IN HONG KONG, MR CHAN IS THE FIRST DISABLED PERSON FROM THE TERRITORY TO BE ELECTED TO THIS POSITION.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, DR JOSEPH KWOK, HAS BEEN ELECTED THE HON SECRETARY AND TREASURER FOR THE REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

THE SECREATARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WHO HEADS THE HONG KONG DELEGATION TO KENYA, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE NEW APPOINTMENTS.

SHE SAID MR CHAN WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE HONG KONG REHABILITATION FIELD AND HAD REPRESENTED THE INTERESTS OF DISABLED PERSONS IN MAJOR GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES, IN PARTICULAR THE WORKING PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION.

THE GREEN PAPER, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS YEAR, HAD ATTRACTED IMMENSE INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS DURING THE NAIROBI CONGRESS WITH MANY OVERSEAS DELEGATES ASKING FOR COPIES.

THE SPEECH BY MRS WONG ON THE FORMULATION OF DISABILITY POLICIES AND LEGISLATION AT THE PLENARY SESSION WAS ALSO WELL RECEIVED BY OVER 2,000 DELEGATES FROM MORE THAN 110 MEMBER COUNTRIES.

IN HER SPEECH, SHE HAD CALLED FOR ACTION AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY TO ENABLE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO EXERCISE THEIR INVIOLABLE HUMAN RIGHTS.

SHE ALSO CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT WHICH PROVIDED LEADERSHIP AND FUNDING SUPPORT.

THE REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL 17TH WORLD CONGRESS IS BEING HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA, BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 7 AND 11.

THE NEXT WORLD CONGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1996.

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TAP MUN TEMPLE GETS FACELIFT

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN REMOTE AREAS.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RE-OPENING CEREMONY OF A 400-YEAR-OLD TIN HAU TEMPLE IN TAP MUN, TAI PO.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS IN THESE AREAS. TAP MUN IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF ITS KIND," HE SAID.

/MR LAM .....

MR LAM POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED TAP MUN RESIDENTS WITH DOOR-TO-DOOR POSTAL SERVICES AS WELL AS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING EFFICIENT AND SAFE FERRY SERVICES.

ON PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE, HE SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT TREASURES OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY TIN HAU TEMPLE WOULD BE PRESERVED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AFTER THE RENOVATION."

OF THE $1.3 MILLION RENOVATION COSTS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED $300,000 VIA THE CHINESE TEMPLE COMMITTEE TO SUBSIDISE THE PROJECT. THE REMAINDER WAS CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

OVERLOOKING THE TOLO (CHEK MUN) CHANNEL, THE TEMPLE IS A POPULAR PLACE FOR THE FISHING FOLKS IN THE VICINITY.

MR LAM PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT AND WISHED THEM PROSPERITY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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NEW MINIBUS ROUTE TO SERVE TSEUNG KWAN O

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A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 18 IN TSEUNG KWAN O WILL COME INTO SERVICE FROM 6.30 AM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 12), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE MINIBUS WILL PLY BETWEEN HANG HAU (NORTH) AND NORTH POINT VIA TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL AND EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

IT WILL RUN AT AN EIGHT-MINUTE INTERVAL FROM 6.30 AM AT HANG HAU AND FROM 7 AM AT NORTH POINT DAILY UNTIL 11 PM AT BOTH POINTS.

THE FARE WILL BE $8 PER SINGLE JOURNEY. THE SECTION FARE WILL BE $2.5 AFTER LEAVING ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR ON THE WAY TO NORTH POINT.

THE SECTION FARES AFTER DEPARTING EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL ON THE JOURNEY TO HANG HAU WILL BE $3.5 AND $2.5 RESPECTIVELY.

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ARTS AND BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICES ON MOVE

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THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE OF THE CULTURE DIVISION OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES AT WANCHAI TOWER III FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 16).

THE OFFICES ARE ON THE 40TH FLOOR OF WANCHAI TOWER III, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE ARE 594 5600 AND 594 5636 RESPECTIVELY. THE FAXLINE NUMBER IS 802 4893.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,700
REVERSAL OF LAF	-200
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+175
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,675

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 109.0 *+0.2* 10.9.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.07 PCT	14 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.55	3.20
1 MONTH	2.61 PCT	17 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.95	3.40
3 MONTHS	2.42 PCT	20 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.95	3.71
6 MONTHS	2.57 PCT	23 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.00	3.87
12 MONTHS	3.08 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,159 MN

CLOSED 10 SEPTEMBER 1992

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