



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992

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HK WELCOMES ORDERS AND IDEAS FROM FASHION BUYERS: GOVERNOR
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HONG KONG, BEING A MAJOR GARMENT MARKET, WELCOMES NOT ONLY ORDERS FROM WORLD-WIDE BUYERS BUT THEIR IDEAS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG FASHION WEEK 1992, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG'S DESIGNERS WERE NOW BECOMING ATTUNED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FASHION.

THEY ARE LEARNING TO MAKE THEIR OWN UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO GARMENT DESIGN AS SEEN IN THE FASHION WEEK, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG OWED A GREAT DEAL TO ITS TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES WHICH FUELLED THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH THE 1960S AND 70S.

"AND ALTHOUGH HONG KONG IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A SERVICE ECONOMY, THEY ARE STILL EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO US," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG FASHION WEEK WAS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE WITH MORE EXHIBITORS AND A WIDER PRODUCT RANGE.

"IT ALSO INCLUDES A SPECIAL FEATURE - THE HONG KONG FASHION HISTORY EXHIBITION - WHICH HAS BEEN ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THE EMPLOYEES' UNIONS - AN EXAMPLE OF THE COOPERATION WHICH HAS BEEN THE CORNERSTONE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS," SIR DAVID SAID.

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BILL OF RIGHTS PROVIDES A CORNERSTONE FOR LIFE IN HONG KONG
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THE BILL OF RIGHTS PROVIDED A CORNERSTONE FOR LIFE IN HONG KONG AND HONG KONG WAS THE STRONGER FOR IT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR CEREMONY TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE COURTS, THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN MEASURE LAWS AND PRACTICES AGAINST BENCHMARKS THAT ARE ACCEPTED WORLDWIDE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WHICH MIRRORED THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG, WAS NEVER INTENDED TO GRANT UNFETTERED INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PROTECTING, DEVELOPING AND ORGANISING THE COLLECTIVE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY WAS RECOGNISED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

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"MOST OF THE FREEDOMS IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS ARE PERMITTED TO BE LIMITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. A PARTICULAR FREEDOM MAY BE RESTRAINED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF A CONFLICTING PUBLIC INTEREST. IT IS A QUESTION OF BALANCE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

ON A SUGGESTION THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS ENABLED CRIMINALS TO GO FREE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT GONE SOFT ON CRIMINALS.

"THE BILL OF RIGHTS CONTAINS STRICT SAFEGUARDS THAT APPLY TO THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES.

"THE COMMUNITY HAS AN INTEREST IN BRINGING OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE BUT IT ALSO HAS AN EQUAL INTEREST IN NOT CONVICTING THE INNOCENT," MR MATHEWS SAID.

IT HAD BEEN SAID THAT THE COURTS WOULD BE INUNDATED WITH BILL OF RIGHTS POINTS AND THAT HONG KONG'S SYSTEM OF JUSTICE WOULD BECOME CLOGGED AND UNABLE TO FUNCTION.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID: "THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED AND IN MY VIEW WILL NOT DO SO."

WHILE THERE WERE MANY BILL OF RIGHTS POINTS BEING TAKEN IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT ONLY TWO DECISIONS HAD REACHED THE COURT OF APPEAL.

IN ONE OF THE COURT OF APPEAL DECISIONS, A NUMBER OF PRESUMPTIONS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE WERE FOUND REPEALED FOR BEING NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

MR MATHEWS SAID CONSIDERATION WAS UNDER WAY AS TO WHETHER OTHER SIMILAR PRESUMPTIONS IN OTHER PIECES OF LEGISLATION SHOULD BE AMENDED OR REPEALED.

"BE THAT AS IT MAY, I MUST APPLAUD THE COURT OF APPEAL IN ITS DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE A FIRM THEORETICAL BASE FOR DECIDING BILL OF RIGHTS ISSUES," MR MATHEWS REMARKED.

"THE COURT OF APPEAL HAS RECOGNISED IN THAT CASE THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS MUST RECEIVE A GENEROUS AND PURPOSIVE INTERPRETATION.

"THE LANGUAGE OF THE COVENANT AS MIRRORED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE IS BROAD - NECESSARILY SO, TO ENSURE A FLEXIBLE AND TIMELESS CHARACTER.

"IT NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO COPE WITH AN EVER CHANGING AND VIBRANT HONG KONG SOCIETY, AS WELL AS A SOCIETY THAT DESIRES AT ALL TIMES TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY," MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE COURT OF APPEAL ALSO DECIDED IN THAT CASE THAT THE BURDEN OF JUSTIFYING A LIMITATION OF FREEDOM LIES ON THE GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS A BURDEN WE READILY SHOULDER. ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH LEGISLATES TO PROTECT SOCIETY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE WHY IT IS FELT NECESSARY TO LIMIT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS TO ACHIEVE ITS ENDS." MR MATHEWS SAID.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT THE COURT OF APPEAL RECOGNISED THAT NEW KINDS OF EVIDENCE NEED TO BE GIVEN BY THE CROWN TO SHOW WHY AN EVIL IN SOCIETY, SUCH AS DRUG TRAFFICKING, JUSTIFIED THE LIMITATION ON RIGHTS.

"THE TASK OF GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME MORE DEMANDING, BUT IN THE PROCESS, MORE RESPONSIBLE.

"THE COURT OF APPEAL HAS MADE AN EXCELLENT START TO BILL OF RIGHTS JURISPRUDENCE IN HONG KONG. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES START RELYING ON OUR OWN CASE LAW," MR MATHEWS SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE APPROACH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CHALLENGES TO EXISTING LAWS BROUGHT UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS, MR MATHEWS SAID THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE ORIGINATOR OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, NATURALLY RESPECTED THE RIGHTS THAT IT PROTECTED.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD A DUTY TO DEFEND THE PRE-EXISTING LAW OF HONG KONG ACCORDING TO ITS TERMS WHEN THAT WAS APPROPRIATE.

"WITH ANY BILL OF RIGHTS CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT'S STARTING POINT IS TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF THE CHALLENGE.

"WHERE THE VIEW TAKEN IS THAT A LAW REFLECTS A COMMUNITY CONCERN THAT AMOUNTS TO A PERMISSIBLE LIMITATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT, THE DECISION TAKEN WILL BE VIGOROUSLY TO DEFEND THE CHALLENGED LAW.

"IF THE COMMUNITY INTEREST AND THE INDIVIDUAL INTEREST IS SEEN TO BE FINELY BALANCED, THE DECISION WILL BE TO DEFEND SO AS TO ALLOW AN IMPARTIAL COURT DECIDE THE ISSUE," HE EXPLAINED.

AS TO WHETHER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN A CASE BETWEEN PRIVATE PARTIES WHERE BILL OF RIGHTS POINTS WERE RAISED, MR MATHEWS SAID IN DECIDING ON INTERVENTION ONE SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF NOT DELAYING OR EXTENDING PROCEEDINGS AND BY SO DOING ADDING TO THEIR COST.

"ONE PARTY CAN OFTEN BE EXPECTED TO ADVANCE AN INTERPRETATION OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN INTERPRETATION.

"A COURT MAY APPOINT AN AMICUS CURIAE WHO MAY ALSO BE EXPECTED TO ADVANCE THIS INTERPRETATION," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROPERLY BE EXPECTED TO BE INVOLVED WHERE THERE WAS NO ONE TO ARGUE A PUBLIC INTEREST POINT OR THE COURT REQUESTED THE CROWN TO DO SO.

MR MATHEWS SAID A BILL OF RIGHTS LITIGATION CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS ACTED TO ENSURE THAT CASES WITH BILL OF RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS WERE DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY AND AS CONSISTENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

WHERE LEGISLATION WAS HELD TO HAVE BEEN REPEALED BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS THE COMMITTEE ADVISED ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER LEGISLATION, OR FOR GOVERNMENT PRACTICE.

MR MATHEWS ALSO MENTIONED TWO LEGAL INITIATIVES FOR THIS YEAR.

FIRSTLY, MR MATHEWS SAID THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED ITS REPORT ON "ILLEGITIMACY" WHICH AIMED TO REMOVE AS FAR AS WAS PRACTICABLE THE LEGAL DISADVANTAGES WHICH AT PRESENT ATTACH TO AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

NOTING THAT THE PRESENT LAW WAS DISCRIMINATORY AND UNFAIR BECAUSE THE TARGET OF THE DISCRIMINATION WAS NOT PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISCONDUCT, MR MATHEWS SAID THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE SERVED TO REINFORCE THE ARGUMENTS FOR REFORM IN AN AREA OF THE LAW WHICH WAS CLEARLY OUT OF LINE WITH MODERN THINKING.

HE HOPED A BILL IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT COULD BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

SECONDLY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ANTICIPATED PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS WORKING IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG HAD RECENTLY PRODUCED TWO REPORTS WITH ONE CONTAINING OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR THE REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND THE OTHER A PROPOSED SCHEME FOR THE ADMISSION OF NON-HONG KONG QUALIFIED LAWYERS AS HONG KONG SOLICITORS.

HE NOTED THAT BOTH REPORTS REPRESENTED AN IMAGINATIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH AND THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CURRENTLY GIVING DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO THESE PROPOSALS.

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BROAD EDUCATION NEEDED FOR CHINESE TO VIEW WESTERN LAW

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BROAD EDUCATION WAS ONE WAY OF HELPING TO BRIDGE THE DEEPROOTED GAP BETWEEN THE WESTERN AND ORIENT CULTURES - ESPECIALLY IN THE WAY THE CHINESE MAN VIEWED WESTERN LAW, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1992 LEGAL YEAR HELD AT THE CITY HALL, SIR TI LIANG SAID: "THE ESSENCE OF OUR LAW SHOULD BE EXPLAINED AND MADE KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE A RATIONAL APPRECIATION OF SUCH FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS AS JURY TRIALS, THE BURDEN OF PROOF, THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS, AND SO ON."

"AND MORE CHINESE SHOULD BE USED IN THE LAW AND THE COURTS, FOR THE LAW SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN A LANGUAGE THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND," HE SAID.

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EARLIER, THE CHIEF JUSTICE STATED THAT WESTERN CIVILISATION BASED ITSELF ON A CONCEPT OF STRUGGLE AND INTERACTION BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, QUOTING PROFESSOR TOYNBEE: "THERE IS A RIGHT AND THERE IS A WRONG, AND THE TWO ARE LOCKED IN PERPETUAL BATTLE."

ANOTHER SCHOLAR SAID WESTERN CIVILISATION WAS CENTRED ON CONFRONTATION, AS MANIFESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN PARLIAMENT, IN A COURT OF LAW, AND IN ALL FORMS OF DEBATE.

"THAT OF THE ORIENT IS HARMONY. THE WEST IN THEIR CONCEPT OF THE LAW STRESSES RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IN THE ORIENT, THE EMPHASIS IS AN OBLIGATION: OBLIGATION TOWARDS UNIVERSE, TOWARDS ONE'S FELLOW MEN, AND TOWARDS ONESELF," HE EXPLAINED.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE CHIEF JUSTICE ALSO SHARED WITH THE AUDIENCE A QUESTION WHICH HAD CAUSED HIM CONCERN OVER THE YEARS - HAS THE COMMON LAW TAKEN ROOTS IN HONG KONG?

"EACH TIME GREAT BRITAIN FOUNDED A COLONY, THE SETTLERS BROUGHT WITH THEM A BRITISH FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND A BRITISH, OR ENGLISH, LEGAL SYSTEM.

"OVER THE CENTURIES, THE COMMON LAW HAS MADE A HOME ON EACH OF THE CONTINENTS. IN SOME OF THE OLDER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND, THE COMMON LAW HAS TAKEN ROOT AND FLOWERED; IN OTHERS, THE LAW HAS YET TO FIND SOIL SUFFICIENTLY FERTILE FOR IT TO TAKE A FIRM HOLD," HE SAID.

SIR TI LIANG POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMON LAW WAS MORE CONFIDENTLY AND READILY ACCEPTED WHERE THE CULTURE AND TRADITION OF THE PEOPLE WERE AKIN TO THAT OF GREAT BRITAIN.

"WHERE THE COMMON LAW HAD TO CONTEND WITH AN INDIGENOUS AND LONG-ESTABLISHED CIVILISATION, THE PROCESS HAD TO TAKE MUCH LONGER, WITH MANY MORE HURDLES TO OVERCOME," HE ADDED.

TAKING THE TRANSPLANTATION OF FLOWERS AS AN EXAMPLE, THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID: "IN RECENT YEARS, JURISTS HAVE DISCUSSED THE TRANSPLANTATION OF, NOT FLOWERS, BUT LAW, FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER. QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED AS TO WHETHER THE COMMON LAW HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY TRANSPLANTED IN PARTS OF ASIA, WHETHER THE OLD ROMAN DUTCH LAW HAS BEEN HAPPILY ADOPTED IN SOUTH AFRICA, OR WHETHER CAMEROUN HAS FULLY ABSORBED THE SPIRIT OF THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION."

STATING THAT THE QUESTIONS ASKED HAD ENORMOUS IMPLICATIONS, SIR TI LIANG SAID: "IT IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF TRANSLOCATING A LEGAL SYSTEM TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE LAW, WHEN IT REACHES FOREIGN SOIL, SHOULD TAKE ROOT, AND FLOWER, AND PROPAGATE.

"IT IS ONLY WHEN THIS STAGE IS REACHED THAT ONE CAN SAY THE TRANSLOCATION IS COMPLETE AND TRANSPLANTATION HAS TAKEN PLACE," HE EXPLAINED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE EMPHASISED THAT THE FINAL STAGE MUST BE TRANSFORMATION - A PROCESS BY WHICH THE SPIRIT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS SO INTERMINGLED WITH THE CULTURE AND ETHOS OF THE NEW SOCIETY THAT A NEW SYSTEM EMERGES, STILL LARGELY BASED ON THE ANCESTRY WHENCE IT CAME, BUT EVIDENCING A METAMORPHOSIS WHICH HAS ERADICATED ITS FOREIGNNESS.

SIR TI LIANG DID NOT DOUBT THAT THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM NOW APPLICABLE IN HONG KONG WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BY THE INTELLECTUALS AND THE PROFESSIONALS.

"THEIR EDUCATION AND THEIR EXPOSURE WOULD HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER BROUGHT THEM INTO CONTACT WITH THE ESSENTIALS OF THE SYSTEM."

HOWEVER, HE WAS THINKING MORE OF THE GRASSROOTS, COMPRISING POSTMEN, BUS DRIVERS, STALL KEEPERS, CRAFTSMEN, FARMERS, AND OTHERS.

"I SUSPECT THAT TO THIS VAST GROUP OF PEOPLE OUR LAW IS STILL AN ALIEN THING IMPORTED FROM A COUNTRY THEY KNOW HARDLY ANYTHING ABOUT, WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND, EXPRESSING CONCEPTS THEY PROBABLY FIND OUTLANDISH AND PERHAPS EVEN IMMORAL OR UNJUST. THE TRANSPLANTATION OF THE ENGLISH LAW ON TO CHINESE SOIL HAS THEREFORE ONLY BEEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL," HE NOTED.

"QUITE APART FROM LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES, A MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM LIES IN THE VERY MAKEUP OF THE CHINESE AND THE MODERN WESTERN MAN, IN HIS VIEW OF HIMSELF, IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE, AND IN HIS APPROACH TO LIFE," HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR WU TEH YAO OF SINGAPORE, "MODERN WESTERN MAN, UNLIKE THE EAST ASIAN MAN,.....THINKS THAT HE IS THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE, THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS, THE CAPTAIN OF HIS OWN SOUL. HE WANTS TO SCALE THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, GO DOWN TO THE DEEPEST REACHES OF THE SEA; HE WANTS TO CONQUER NATURE ON EARTH AND SPACE TOO."

ON THE CONTRARY, THE EAST ASIAN MAN, OR THE CHINESE, SEES HIMSELF AS PART - AND A MINUTE PART AT THAT - OF THE UNIVERSE, AND HE STRIVES NOT TO CONQUER IT BUT LIVE IN HARMONY WITH IT, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OBSERVED.

"AT ONE WITH THE HILLS AND THE STREAMS, THE BREEZE AND THE SINGING OF THE BIRDS, HE IS AT PEACE, WITH THE WORLD AND WITHIN HIMSELF. HE HAS NO IDENTITY CRISIS."

TURNING TO THE GAP-BRIDGING BETWEEN THE WESTERN AND ORIENT CULTURES, SIR TI LIANG ADMITTED THAT THE MEASURES WOULD BE COSTLY IN TERMS OF TIME, MONEY, AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND THERE WAS NO QUICK AND EASY SOLUTION.

NEVERTHELESS, THE CHIEF JUSTICE CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS WITH THE FOLLOWING HOPEFUL AND OPTIMISTIC REMARKS - HONG KONG HAS HAD ONE AND A HALF CENTURY IN WHICH TO BUILD UP A TRADITION: A TRADITION OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND EXPEDITIOUS DISPOSAL OF CASES FAIRLY, A TRADITION OF AN INDEPENDENT AND FEARLESS LEGAL PROFESSION, AND A TRADITION OF RESPECT AND CO-OPERATION ACCORDED BY THE EXECUTIVE TO THE JUDICIARY.

"THIS LONG TRADITION, I BELIEVE, CANNOT BE EASILY REMOVED, AND WILL REMAIN THE SAFEGUARD OF OUR LIFE STYLE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME," HE ASSURED THE AUDIENCE COMPRISING JUDGES, MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

EARLIER, SIR TI LIANG ACKNOWLEDGED IN HIS SPEECH THE EVENTUAL RETIREMENT OF MR JUSTICE BARNES, AFTER SOME 20 YEARS ON THE BENCH WHERE HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE WAS WELL KNOWN.

HE ALSO SENT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MR JUSTICE HUNTER, A HIGHLY RESPECTED JUDGE OF THE APPEAL.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, MR ANTHONY ROGERS; AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, MR DONALD YAP.

THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR ORGANISED BY THE JUDICIARY BEGAN WITH A CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, GARDEN ROAD, AT 4 PM.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR PROVIDED BY THE DRAGON COMPANY OF HONG KONG MILITARY SERVICE CORPS WITH MUSIC BY THE BAND OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS AT THE EDINBURGH PLACE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE INSPECTION WAS FOLLOWED BY ADDRESSES AT THE CONCERT HALL OF CITY HALL WHICH FINISHED AT ABOUT 6.30 PM.

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LEGCO TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 15).

OF THE SIX BILLS, THREE WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THESE BILLS ARE THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1991 AND TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991.

DEBATES ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1991 AND THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WILL BE RESUMED AND DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

IN ADDITION, THE HON EDWARD HO WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

ALSO, DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA WILL MOVE AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON PUBLIC HOUSING SUBSIDY POLICY.

THE HON PETER WONG WILL PRESENT AND ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1990-91.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 1991

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, AT \$143,472 MILLION, GREW BY 11% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED TRADE VALUE FIGURES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6% TO \$20,457 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 22% TO \$52,300 MILLION. THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 13% TO \$72,756 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 10% TO \$70,715 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991, AT \$1,393,108 MILLION, INCREASED BY 19% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 1% TO \$208,746 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 28% TO \$482,354 MILLION.

THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19% TO \$691,100 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20% TO \$702,008 MILLION.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1991 WITH NOVEMBER 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, SINGAPORE, FRANCE, JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS DECREASED BY 24%, 23%, 23%, 17%, 16% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE USA, CHINA AND TAIWAN INCREASED BY 7%, 4%, 4% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, CHINA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, BY 13%, 13% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE TO THE NETHERLANDS, TAIWAN, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED BY 7%, 4%, 4% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE USA AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 7%, 7% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,862 MILLION OR 4%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,766 MILLION OR 12%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,762 MILLION OR 11%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$492 MILLION OR 3%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$2,180 MILLION OR 11%), AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$1,877 MILLION OR 8%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1991 WITH NOVEMBER 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA, ITALY AND TAIWAN, BY 17%, 13% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM THE USA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED BY 9%, 8%, 6% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND, SINGAPORE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 24%, 6% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, CHINA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 27%, 24%, 23%, 23%, 22% AND 18% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM THE USA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND ITALY INCREASED BY 11%, 10% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND DECREASED BY 7%.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$13,712 MILLION OR 23%); TEXTILES (BY \$12,992 MILLION OR 18%); CLOTHING (BY \$10,578 MILLION OR 22%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$9,566 MILLION OR 21%).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$729 MILLION OR 15%), AND CORK AND WOOD MANUFACTURES (BY \$275 MILLION OR 7%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1991 WITH NOVEMBER 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE USA, CHINA AND FRANCE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 65%, 43%, 27% AND 23% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE TO TAIWAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 15%, 13%, 12% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 6%.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, CHINA, CANADA, THE USA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY 42%, 41%, 36%, 29%, 24%, 20% AND 20% RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED BY 15% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 6%.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$13,800 MILLION OR 27%); CLOTHING (BY \$13,349 MILLION OR 31%); TEXTILES (BY \$10,030 MILLION OR 23%); AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$8,885 MILLION OR 72%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$471 MILLION OR 12%), AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$149 MILLION OR 1%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1991 WILL BE RELEASED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE NOVEMBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND JANUARY 20, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$33.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 582 4915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
USA	6,168	+ 4	56,532	- 7
CHINA	4,936	+ 4	48,976	+ 13
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,441	- 24	17,402	+ 10
UK	1,106	- 23	12,383	+ 3
JAPAN	1,030	- 16	10,716	- 4
SINGAPORE	677	- 23	8,022	+ 13
TAIWAN	597	+ 3	5,486	+ 4
NETHERLANDS	379	- 12	4,731	+ 7
CANADA	417	+ 7	4,494	- 7
FRANCE	291	- 17	3,346	+ 4

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,856	+ 7	67,563	+ 4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	2,264	- 10	22,196	- 8
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,672	- 5	17,605	+ 11
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,629	- 25	17,269	- 11
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,567	- 18	16,683	+ 12
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,703	+ 3	16,027	+ 3

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
CHINA	27,622	+ 17	264,114	+ 23
JAPAN	11,362	+ 6	114,671	+ 23
TAIWAN	6,799	+ 12	67,124	+ 27

USA	4,857	+ 9	52,894	+ 11
REP OF KOREA	3,005	+ 8	31,660	+ 24
SINGAPORE	2,615	- 6	28,640	+ 22
UK	1,466	+ 6	15,040	+ 18
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,524	- 3	14,967	+ 10
ITALY	1,126	+ 13	10,565	+ 6
SWITZERLAND	963	- 24	9,661	- 7

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,590	+ 6	85,062	+ 18
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,969	+ 8	72,146	+ 23
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,127	+ 20	59,481	+ 22
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,384	+ 2	54,455	+ 21
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	5,348	+ 16	50,212	+ 19
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,387	- 7	34,387	+ 10

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
CHINA	14,804	+ 27	137,238	+ 36
USA	11,539	+ 43	100,275	+ 24
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,747	- 6	29,059	+ 42
JAPAN	3,195	+ 12	26,614	+ 20
TAIWAN	2,488	+ 15	22,412	+ 15
REP OF KOREA	1,241	*	13,463	+ 12
UK	1,444	+ 13	13,244	+ 20
SINGAPORE	1,173	+ 1	10,964	- 6
FRANCE	781	+ 23	8,194	+ 41
CANADA	802	+ 65	7,712	+ 29

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	NOV 91 OVER NOV 90 (%)	JAN-NOV 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-NOV 91 OVER JAN-NOV 90 (%)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,253	+ 32	65,100	+ 27
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,837	+ 30	56,797	+ 31

/TEXTILE YARN

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TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,805	+ 17	52,863	+ 23
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,584	+ 11	40,857	+ 23
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,117	+ 12	39,364	+ 15
FOOTWEAR	2,286	+ 55	21,204	+ 72

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO FACE BUSY YEAR

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THIS YEAR WILL BE ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AS THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DETENTION CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR ERIC MCCOSH, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE YEAR, MR MCCOSH SAID DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DOWNTURN IN THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION IN HONG KONG, THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO FURTHER RELIEVE THE POLICE OF THEIR DUTIES IN MANAGING DETENTION CENTRES.

WHEN THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION DECREASES SIGNIFICANTLY, THERE ARE PLANS TO CLOSE THE HEI LING CHAU AND NEI KWU CHAU DETENTION CENTRES AND CONVERT THEM INTO A MEDIUM AND A MINIMUM SECURITY PENAL INSTITUTIONS RESPECTIVELY.

STAFF AT THE TWO CENTRES WILL BE RE-DEPLOYED TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHERE MORE STAFF ARE NEEDED.

MR MCCOSH SAID BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE ONE PER CENT SAVING IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"WE ARE NATURALLY NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS BECAUSE IT WILL BRING US PROBLEMS," HE SAID, ADDING HOWEVER THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE CUT WITHOUT COMPROMISING SECURITY AT ITS INSTITUTIONS.

/SAVINGS IDENTIFIED

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SAVINGS IDENTIFIED INCLUDED THE DELETION OF 65 POSTS, MAINLY FROM THE TRAINING RESERVE, AND A SIGNIFICANT CUT IN RECRUITMENT FUNDS.

FURTHERMORE, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING AN INTERNAL REVIEW TO IDENTIFY FURTHER SAVINGS.

REVIEWING THE PAST YEAR, MR MCCOSH SAID 1991 HAD BEEN A VERY DEMANDING AND DIFFICULT YEAR.

THE TWO MAIN PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE DEPARTMENT WERE OVERCROWDING IN THE PENAL INSTITUTIONS AND DETENTION CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

AS REGARDS OVERCROWDING, MR MCCOSH SAID IN JANUARY THIS YEAR THE PENAL POPULATION, STANDING AT 11,437, WAS 24 PER CENT OVER CERTIFIED ACCOMMODATION.

THIS COMPARES WITH 12,632 OR 40 PER CENT OVERCROWDING IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, MR MCCOSH SAID VIOLENCE IN DETENTION CENTRES REMAINED AN AREA OF CONCERN.

HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT THE MAJORITY RESIDENTS AN THE CENTRES ARE LAW-ABIDING AND THAT THE SITUATION IS LARGELY UNDER CONTROL.

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD DEFERS DISCUSSION ON COMPENSATION SCHEME

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) DEFERRED DISCUSSION ON A PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR WORKERS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE DEFERMENT WAS MADE AT THE REQUEST OF EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD.

AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD WERE ABSENT FROM THE MEETING, IT WAS FELT THAT THEIR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SCHEME SHOULD BE SOUGHT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INTEREST OF THE AFFECTED WORKERS.

ALSO, DISCUSSION WAS DEFERRED ON A PROGRESS REPORT ON LABOUR LEGISLATION.

TODAY'S MEETING NOTED A REPORT ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 11TH ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION IN BANGKOK FROM NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 2 LAST YEAR.

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INCREASING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN HK LAST YEAR

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THERE ARE BIG INCREASES OF ACTIVITY IN MOST AREAS IN COMPANIES REGISTRY FOR LAST YEAR WHEN COMPARED WITH 1990, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, FOR THE COMPANIES REGISTRY OF HIS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

THE COMPANIES REGISTRY FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPANIES NOW REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE HAD INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT FROM 265,452 TO 304,538.

THE NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR HAD INCREASED BY 68 PER CENT FROM 26,147 TO 43,975.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEA COMPANIES WHICH HAD AN ESTABLISHED PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT FROM 2,635 TO 2,828.

THE NUMBER OF NEW OVERSEA COMPANIES ESTABLISHING A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI LAST YEAR WAS 402, AN INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF SUCH COMPANIES IN 1990.

NO SEPARATE STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED ON HOW MANY OVERSEA COMPANIES INCORPORATE LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OR TAKE UP A MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN A HONG KONG COMPANY.

EXISTING COMPANIES INCREASED THEIR NOMINAL CAPITAL BY \$28,599 MILLION, A DECREASE OF 14 PER CENT OVER THE INCREASE OF \$33,122 MILLION IN 1990.

THE NOMINAL CAPITAL OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED DURING THE YEAR INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT FROM \$3,163 MILLION TO \$4,097 MILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED BY CHARGES REGISTERED ON THE ASSETS OF COMPANIES INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT FROM \$84,100 MILLION TO \$108,285 MILLION.

THE AMOUNT REPAID ON CHARGES, AS EVIDENCED BY CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION, DECREASED BY 17 PER CENT FROM \$12,022 MILLION TO \$9,998 MILLION.

DURING THE YEAR A TOTAL OF 177 PROSPECTUSES OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, INCLUDING 79 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, WERE APPROVED COMPARED WITH 154 PROSPECTUSES, INCLUDING 88 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FOR FILING DURING THE YEAR INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT FROM 797,180 TO 967,152.

THE FIGURES FOR LAST YEAR INDICATED THAT IN THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR, 23,178 COMPANIES WERE REGISTERED COMPARED WITH 20,797 IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS.

/THE TOTAL

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AGAINST COMPANIES AND THEIR DIRECTORS FOR BREACHES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, MAINLY FOR FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL RETURNS WITH ACCOUNTS, WAS 132 LAST YEAR.

ANOTHER 98 SUMMONSES WERE OUTSTANDING FROM 1990. OF THIS TOTAL OF 230 SUMMONSES, 85 RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS (COMPARED WITH 120 IN 1990) AND 50 REMAINED TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES IMPOSED FOR CONVICTIONS LAST YEAR WAS \$309,580 COMPARED WITH \$267,030 IN 1990.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, MR GLEESON SAID THEY REFLECTED INCREASED COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY LOCALLY AND INCREASED INTEREST IN HONG KONG BY OVERSEA INVESTORS.

THE NEW COMPANY NAMES SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED ON MARCH 1, LAST YEAR AND WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REGISTRY HAD IMPROVED, AND THE TIME TAKEN TO REGISTER A NEW COMPANY HAD FALLEN FROM MORE THAN SIX WEEKS TO ONE WEEK.

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INTRODUCTION OF REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS FOR SERVICES

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THE TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991, WHICH ALLOWS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS FOR SERVICES, WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 2, THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, MS ALICE TAI, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

A NEW SET OF TRADE MARKS RULES GOVERNING PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT ON THE SAME DATE, MS TAI ADDED.

TO PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTH INTRODUCTION OF REGISTRATION, APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FOR TRADE MARKS FOR SERVICES MAY BE FILED WITH THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY FROM JANUARY 28.

"APPLICATIONS FILED BETWEEN JANUARY 28 AND MARCH 2 WILL BE TREATED AS IF THEY WERE FILED ON MARCH 2," MS TAI SAID.

THE NEW SET OF TRADE MARKS RULES WILL BE GAZETTED THIS FRIDAY (JANUARY 17).

"IN INTRODUCING THE NEW RULES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIMPLIFY, STANDARDISE AND MODERNISE THE EXISTING RULES," SHE SAID.

/"CHANGES HAVE

"CHANGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE NEW RULES TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AND FOR SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS BY PARTNERSHIPS, AND TO EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR TAKING CERTAIN PROCEDURAL STEPS," MS TAI SAID.

THE FEE STRUCTURE HAS BEEN SIMPLIFIED AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBMITTING EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN REVISED.

UNDER THE NEW RULES, ANY APPLICANT WHO DOES NOT RESIDE OR CARRY ON BUSINESS IN HONG KONG IS REQUIRED TO GIVE AN ADDRESS FOR SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE RULES ALSO ENABLE AN ASSIGNEE OF AN APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION TO BE TREATED AS THE APPLICANT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS FOR SERVICES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT, 15TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI FROM JANUARY 17.

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FLAT OWNERS FINED FOR ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED FLAT OWNERS THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO CARRY OUT BUILDING WORKS INSIDE THEIR PREMISES WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

THE WARNING CAME SHORTLY AFTER A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH TWO CO-OWNERS OF A FLAT ON APLIU STREET, KOWLOON WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$12,000 FOR CARRYING OUT UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS INSIDE THEIR PREMISES.

STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE INSPECTED THE PREMISES ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF 192 APLIU STREET ON APRIL 18 LAST YEAR AND REVEALED THAT CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT, THE COURT HEARD.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS INCLUDED SUB-DIVIDING THE PREMISES INTO FIVE SEPARATE UNITS WITH BRICK WALLS, THICKENING THE FLOOR SLAB OF THE PREMISES AND BUILDING A METAL CAGE ATTACHED TO THE EXTERNAL WALL OF THE PREMISES.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT AS A RESULT OF THE UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS, THE STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF THE BUILDING WAS RENDERED POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

THE TWO DEFENDANTS, LEUNG NAI-MING AND CHOI CHING, PLEADED GUILTY TO THE OFFENCE AND WERE EACH FINED \$6,000 AND ORDERED TO PAY \$2,000 FOR THE COURT COSTS.

PASSING THE SENTENCE, NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRATE, MR K.E. BALL, SAID THE PARTITIONS ERECTED, WHICH AMOUNTED TO NINE TO 10 TONS OF WEIGHT, BY COMMON SENSE WAS OF SUCH A SCALE TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING.

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WALL CHARTS DEPICT HONG KONG STORY

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A PROJECT TO CAPTURE THE BEST OF HONG KONG'S HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN A SERIES OF WALL CHARTS IS NOW COMPLETED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL THREE SHEETS IN A SERIES OF 10.

JOINTLY PRODUCED BY THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, THE WALL CHARTS ARE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING GREATER PUBLIC INTEREST IN HISTORICAL SITES WHICH HONG KONG SEEKS TO PRESERVE AS ITS 'HERITAGE'.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, MR ALEX YIP, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT EACH CHART FEATURES A DIFFERENT GROUP OF HISTORICAL SITES RANGING FROM SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS TO FORTS AND CLOCK TOWERS.

EMINENTLY FRAMEABLE, THE FULL-COLOUR CHARTS IN SEPARATE ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS WERE PRODUCED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: OFFICIAL BUILDINGS, CHINESE TEMPLES, OLD HOUSES, CHINESE FORTS, TIME AND TIDE, ANCESTRAL HALLS, WALLED VILLAGES, RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, AS WELL AS HAKKA VILLAGES.

A SELECTION OF 30 STRUCTURES WHICH BEAR UNIQUE FEATURES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION ARE DEPICTED THROUGH WORDS AND PICTURES.

AMONG THESE STRUCTURES ARE KUN LUN GATE TOWER, TUNG CHUNG FORT, HAKKA WAI, HOI PA VILLAGE, STANLEY POLICE STATION, ISLAND HOUSE AND SIGNAL TOWER.

THE WALL CHARTS ARE BASED ON A COLLECTION OF 50 PAINTINGS SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED FROM A WELL-KNOWN HONG KONG ARTIST, MR BRIAN TILBROOK. ALSO INCLUDED ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERESTING ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS.

"THESE CHARTS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR DISPLAY AND USE IN THEIR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES," MR YIP SAID.

WITH THE LAST IN THE SERIES RECENTLY PUBLISHED, FULL SETS OF WALL CHARTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$5 PER COPY.

COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WALL CHARTS ARE AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO FILM AND A WELL-ILLUSTRATED "COFFEE-TABLE" BOOK GIVING IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.

COPIES OF THE VIDEO FILM ARE AVAILABLE ON LOAN TO INTERESTED SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS, WHEREAS THE ALBUM, ENTITLED "HONG KONG HERITAGE", CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AT \$147 EACH.

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DISTRICT OFFICER VISITS FIRE VICTIMS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID BROWNING, WENT TO YUEN CHAU KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA (THA) THIS (MONDAY) MORNING TO VISIT VICTIMS OF A RECENT THIRD ALARM FIRE.

THE FIRE, WHICH BROKE OUT ON SATURDAY MORNING, DAMAGED FOUR ROWS OF STRUCTURES AND MADE MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE HOMELESS.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE RESIDENTS, MR BROWNING SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP.

DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL DISTRIBUTE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND TO THE VICTIMS AT THE THA'S CARITAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CENTRE BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 4 PM TOMORROW.

THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE FUND TOMORROW CAN ALSO GO TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, BEFORE JANUARY 23.

MEANWHILE, MR BROWNING ALSO URGED VICTIMS OF ANOTHER FIRE IN SHA TIN TAU THA EARLIER THIS MONTH TO OBTAIN THE RELIEF FUND FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE FROM TOMORROW UNTIL JANUARY 23.

THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND THE FIRE REGISTRATION CARDS ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON TEL. 604 8078 EXT. 54.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 30.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 177.847 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 175.294 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 29.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION AT SAI KUNG
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SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER TO SOME PREMISES AT SAI KUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 15) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG THE SECTION OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN FEI NGO SHAN ROAD AND HIRAM'S HIGHWAY, INCLUDING FEI NGO SHAN ROAD, ANDERSON ROAD, LUNG WO, TAN SHA, SAM LONG, TSENG LAN SHUE, PAK SHEK WO, PIK UK, PIK UK PRISON, RAZOR HILL ROAD, TA KU LING SHAN TSUEN, TAI PO TSAI SAN TSUEN, PAK SHEK TERRACE, SIU TO YUEN TSUEN, CLEAR WATER BAY APARTMENTS AND PAK SHEK WO SAN TSUEN.

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	11.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	13.1.92	+69
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-69
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.3 *-0.4* 13.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.71 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.17	5.06
1 MONTH	3.78 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.86 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.89 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.18 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,322 MN

CLOSED 13 JANUARY 1992

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