



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
A PLEDGE OF QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE	1
MAJOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS OUTLINED	2
AMBIGUITIES OVER ISSUE AND TRADING OF WARRANTS TO BE CLARIFIED	4
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1992	5
SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS IN SEPTEMBER	6
CONTRACT SIGNED FOR TRANSMISSION PIPELINES FOR CHINA WATER	7
CONTRACT FOR TIN SHUI WAI INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AWARDED	8
SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING SMUGGLING	9
MAJORITY OF REDUNDANT TUNNEL STAFF RE-EMPLOYED	10
CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT	11
CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE FACTORY SAFETY	11
EXHIBITION TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED	12
SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL	13
WAN CHAI FESTIVAL PHOTO AND CHINESE PAINTINGS DISPLAY	14
WEATHER OF SEPTEMBER	14
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	22

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1992

- 1 -

A PLEDGE OF QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE

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THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE HEAD OF THE EFFICIENCY UNIT, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ELABORATE ON THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH, MR FOOTMAN SAID THE PROGRAMME UNDERWROTE THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO OPENNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD STANDARDS OF SERVICE.

"UNDER THE PROGRAMME, ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WILL, OVER TIME, PRODUCE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES TO THE PUBLIC WHICH SPELL OUT CLEARLY WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHAT STANDARDS HAVE BEEN SET, SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL KNOW WHETHER SUCH STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AND WHAT TO DO IF THEY ARE NOT," MR FOOTMAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH GOOD PUBLIC SERVICES. THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE INITIATIVE WOULD PROVIDE A SHARPER FOCUS AND STRONGER IMPETUS TO THESE EFFORTS.

HE SAID THAT THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WOULD ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES, BASED ON CLEAR CRITERIA, HOW WELL THEY WERE BEING SERVED.

THE FIRST BATCH OF PERFORMANCE PLEDGES FOR A SELECTED NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WOULD BE PUBLISHED WITHIN THREE MONTHS. THE SCOPE OF THE PLEDGES WOULD INCLUDE:

- INLAND REVENUE, FIRE SERVICES AND TRADE - ACROSS THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THEY ARE THE LEAD DEPARTMENTS;
- TRANSPORT - VEHICLE AND DRIVING LICENCES, WHICH MAKE UP SOME 75 PER CENT OF THEIR FEE-PAYING TRANSACTIONS;
- IMMIGRATION - SERVICES PROVIDED AT CONTROL POINTS AND BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE REGISTRIES;
- HEALTH - SERVICES PROVIDED IN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY'S SPECIALIST CLINICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS;
- POLICE - SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

MR FOOTMAN SAID ACTION WAS IN HAND TO IDENTIFY THE SECOND BATCH OF DEPARTMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, WHICH WOULD BE A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE SAID PERFORMANCE PLEDGES INCORPORATED THE CONCEPT OF A "USER'S COMMITTEE", WHERE THESE COULD HELP MONITOR THE PLEDGES. THE COMMITTEES WOULD CONSIST MAINLY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COULD BE BASED ON EXISTING COMMITTEES.

/"THESE COMMITTEES

"THESE COMMITTEES WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

ANOTHER KEY FEATURE OF THE PROGRAMME IS TO INSTIL IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE A CULTURE WHICH REGARDS THE PUBLIC AS CLIENTS WITH RIGHTS.

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR W K LAM, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH HAD COMMENCED WORK ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE NEW CLIENT-BASED CULTURE. THIS CULTURE SHOULD INFUSE EVERY AREA OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

MR LAM SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE ENTITLED TO EXPECT COURTEOUS AND HELPFUL SERVICE FROM CIVIL SERVANTS. CIVIL SERVANTS DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC WOULD BE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY NAME AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC WOULD RECEIVE AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

"TRAINING COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED TO HELP THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTABLISH NEW STANDARDS OF COURTESY AND HELPFULNESS. SERVICE ENVIRONMENT WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS," MR LAM SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME WAS ESSENTIAL TO ITS SUCCESS, AND CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE BY PROVIDING FEEDBACK TO DEPARTMENTS AND SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENTS.

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MAJOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS OUTLINED

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THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR CHOW CHE-KING, TODAY (THURSDAY) OUTLINED MAJOR URBAN RECLAMATION PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND IN THIS DECADE.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, MR CHOW SAID THESE PROJECTS WERE AIMED AT REDUCING EXCESSIVE DENSITIES IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS AND RESTRUCTURING THE CITY FORM TO CREATE A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK.

THEY INCLUDED THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, THE SIU SAI WAN RECLAMATION, THE ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION AND THE GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION.

HE SAID THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION EXTENDED ALONG THE WATERFRONT FROM SHEUNG WAN EAST OF THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL TO CAUSEWAY BAY NORTH OF VICTORIA PARK.

IT COVERS A TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AREA OF 169 HECTARES, OF WHICH 108 HECTARES ARE PROVIDED FOR VARIOUS LAND USES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID DEVELOPMENT ON THE RECLAIMED LAND WOULD INCLUDE THE EXPANSION OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT NORTHWARD TO THE NEW WATERFRONT FOR A HIGH-PROFILE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT; A TRUNK ROAD LINKING THE FUTURE ROUTE 7 TO THE WEST WITH THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR TO THE EAST; A MASS TRANSIT LINE CONNECTING BOTH THE MTR ISLAND LINE AND ACROSS THE HARBOUR TO THE KOWLOON MTR LINE.

HE SAID ABOUT 21 HECTARES WOULD BE DEVOTED TO GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTIONAL USES PLUS ANOTHER 24 HECTARES RESERVED FOR LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT.

A CONTINUOUS PROMENADE WILL RUN ALL THE WAY ALONG THE NEW WATERFRONT TOGETHER WITH A LEISURE BASIN IN THE MIDDLE.

THESE WILL MEET THE MUCH-NEEDED DEMAND IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE ADJOINING CROWDED DISTRICT.

"ALTHOUGH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED A MAJOR REQUIREMENT IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER, SOME ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL SITES FACING THE HARBOUR ARE ALLOWED FOR A SMALL POPULATION UP TO 10,000 ONLY," HE SAID.

MR CHOW SAID THE PROJECTS WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN PHASES AND THAT THE TOTAL PROJECT COST WAS ESTIMATED TO BE OVER \$20 BILLION AT CURRENT PRICES AND THE OVERALL PROGRAMME WOULD STRETCH OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD INTO THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CENTURY.

ON THE SIU SAI WAN RECLAMATION, MR CHOW SAID THE SITE WAS ONE IN THE FIRST BATCH OF URBAN RECLAMATION SELECTED FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

THE 23 HECTARES OF RECLAIMED LAND WILL PROVIDE SITE FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY USES.

HE ADDED THAT RECLAMATION OF THE AREA HAD BEEN COMPLETED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR AND ONE MAJOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

REFERRING TO THE ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION, MR CHOW SAID IT COVERED ABOUT 19 HECTARES OF RECLAIMED LAND IN THE EXISTING TYPHOON SHELTER AND PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTIAL, OPEN SPACE AND OTHER USES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE SHAU KEI WAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HOUSING WILL ACCOMMODATE THE BULK OF A POPULATION OF 23,000 PLANNED FOR THE AREA.

"THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE AT THE END OF 1999," HE ADDED.

MR CHOW SAID ANOTHER MAJOR RECLAMATION WAS THE GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND ADJOINING KENNEDY TOWN.

"THIS PROPOSED GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION IS TO BE FORMED BY RECLAIMING THE TRIANGULAR PORTION OF THE SEA ENCLOSED BY GREEN ISLAND AND THE NORTH-WESTERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

"THE AREA IS APPROXIMATELY 187 HECTARES AND PROVIDES SITES FOR HOUSING AND OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS, AS WELL AS LAND FOR EXTENSION OF TRANSPORT NETWORK THAT LINKS UP THE AREA WITH THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE FUTURE STRATEGIC ROUTE LEADING TO THE PORT PENINSULA AND NORTH LANTAU," HE SAID.

HE SAID 54 HECTARES OF THE RECLAIMED LAND WOULD BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE FOR A POPULATION OF 110,000 WHILE ANOTHER 44 HECTARES WERE RESERVED FOR OPEN SPACES AND PARKS.

MEANWHILE, WHILE THE OVERALL PROGRAMME WAS NOT FINALISED, MR CHOW SAID AN INITIAL AREA AT BELCHER BAY WOULD BE RECLAIMED NEXT YEAR FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TO LINK UP THE EXISTING UPGRADED CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST WITH SMITHFIELD IN KENNEDY TOWN.

THE COST FOR THE WHOLE PROJECT WAS IN THE ORDER OF \$8 BILLION AT CURRENT PRICES.

"THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD WILL LIKELY STRETCH BEYOND THE END OF THIS CENTURY," HE ADDED.

MR CHOW SAID AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF INTENSIVE PLANNING, THERE WOULD BE A LOT MORE DEVELOPMENT WORK GOING ON ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND IN THIS DECADE.

"WITH THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN THE PAST CONTINUING, WE, RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG, WILL WITNESS GREATER PROSPERITY AND BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE DECADE TO COME AND REAP THE REWARDS OF OUR EFFORTS TODAY," HE SAID.

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AMBIGUITIES OVER ISSUE AND TRADING OF WARRANTS TO BE CLARIFIED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO EXEMPT CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW, AIMS TO CLARIFY CERTAIN EXISTING LEGAL AMBIGUITIES RELATING TO THE ISSUE AND TRADING OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES.

THE BILL PROPOSES TO DISAPPLY THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE TO ANY CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES WHICH IS:

- (A) LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG;
- (B) ENTERED INTO AS THE RESULT OF AN ADVERTISEMENT, INVITATION OR DOCUMENT WHICH IS EXCLUDED FROM THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 4 (1) OF THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE;
- (C) ENTERED INTO BY AN EXEMPT DEALER OR A DEALER REGISTERED UNDER SECURITIES ORDINANCE; OR

(D) ENTERED INTO

(D) ENTERED INTO BY A DEALER REGISTERED UNDER THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE.

"THE PROPOSED MOVE IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS DEVELOPING HONG KONG AS AN ATTRACTIVE MARKET FOR WARRANTS AND OTHER CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES," MR NENDICK SAID.

CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES, SUCH AS CURRENCY WARRANTS, COMMODITY WARRANTS, INDEX WARRANTS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR IN THE EUROPEAN MARKETS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"DESPITE THE CONSIDERABLE INVESTOR DEMAND POTENTIAL FOR THEM IN HONG KONG, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS MARKET HAS BEEN RATHER LIMITED IN THE TERRITORY," MR NENDICK SAID.

"ONE OF THE MAIN OBSTACLES IS THE LIMITATION IMPOSED BY THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE," HE NOTED.

"THESE TYPES OF WARRANTS HAVE CHARACTERISTICS OF GAMBLING WHICH COULD BRING THEM WITHIN THE DEFINITION AS DESCRIBED IN THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE,"

"THE ISSUE AND TRADING OF SUCH WARRANTS IN HONG KONG, OTHER THAN BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE, WHICH ARE EXEMPT FROM THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, MAY BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE MAY ALSO POSE A PROBLEM FOR TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO THOSE OTHER CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY PRODUCTS SETTLED BY PAYMENT OF CASH DIFFERENCES, SUCH AS CASH-SETTLED OPTIONS ON SHARES OR OTHER SECURITIES.

"HOWEVER, WE SEE NO REASON WHY ISSUERS OTHER THAN AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER INTO SUCH CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCES," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE CAPITAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION WERE CONSULTED ON THESE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 28.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1992
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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1992 WERE BOTH 2.0%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD JULY - SEPTEMBER 1992 WERE BOTH 1.9%.

/THE LATEST

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET HAS CONTINUED TO TIGHTEN IN RECENT MONTHS, AS BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE EDGED LOWER.

DURING THE PERIOD JUNE - AUGUST 1992, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 54,600, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 56,800.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1992 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,800 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,100 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND DECEMBER 21 AT \$15.50 PER COPY.

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SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS IN SEPTEMBER

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER DECREASED BY 6.8% COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND BY 25.6% COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

IN ALL, 11,745 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS ABOUT \$30.86 BILLION.

THESE FIGURES WERE INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS REGISTERED IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

THERE WERE SIX BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 14,946 OTHER MORTGAGES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH, COMPARED TO 10 AND 19,189 RESPECTIVELY IN SEPTEMBER, 1991.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH WAS ABOUT 0.53 BILLION COMPARED WITH ABOUT \$0.92 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER, 1991.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DROPPED BY 17% FROM ABOUT \$7.23 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1991 TO ABOUT \$6.01 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER, 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON BUILDING AND OTHER MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGE'S RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 13.9% FROM ABOUT \$3.42 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1991 TO ABOUT \$3.89 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER, 1992.

MEANWHILE, DETAILS OF LAND OFFICE CONSENTS GIVEN TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR SALES AND PURCHASES OF UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE ALSO RELEASED.

LAST MONTH, FOUR SUCH CONSENTS WERE GRANTED INVOLVING 1,546 UNITS IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 2,995 UNITS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR TRANSMISSION PIPELINES FOR CHINA WATER
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A \$337 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND LAYING OF WATER TRANSMISSION PIPELINES BETWEEN THE PUMPING STATIONS AT MUK WU AND TAI PO TAU IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS IS THE SEVENTH IN A SERIES OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CHINA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES FOR STAGED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES TO RECEIVE AND TRANSFER ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA.

ON COMPLETION OF THE EXPANSION, THE RECEPTION AND TRANSFER CAPACITY WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE EXISTING 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER YEAR TO 1,100 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER YEAR.

STAGE I OF THE PROJECT, AT AN ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF \$2,092 MILLION, COVERS ALL THE MAJOR WORKS REQUIRED FOR COMMISSIONING BY EARLY 1995.

MUK WU IS THE FOREMOST POINT IN THE TERRITORY'S CHINA WATER RECEPTION AND TRANSFER SYSTEM WHERE WATER RECEIVED WILL BE TRANSFERRED ALONG THREE MAJOR ROUTES TO THE WESTERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

THE CENTRAL ROUTE IS MADE UP OF LARGE DIAMETER PIPELINES THAT RUN FROM MUK WU TO TAI PO TAU, VIA SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING.

THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE SUPPLY AND LAYING OF 14.5 KILOMETRES OF STEEL PIPELINES, WHICH ARE WITH DIAMETERS OF 2.2 AND 2.4 METRES, FOR THE ROUTE.

THE PIPELINES WILL RUN IN PARALLEL WITH THE EXISTING ONES TO AUGMENT THE TRANSFER OF CHINA WATER TO TAI PO TAU PUMPING STATION AND TO PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR BY FEEDING INTO THE EXISTING NAM CHUNG AQUEDUCT OFF A BRANCH AT RIVER INDUS.

WORKS ON THIS CONTRACT WILL TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GUANGDONG WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED.

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CONTRACT FOR TIN SHUI WAI INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AWARDED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A \$217.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TIN SHUI WAI WEST ACCESS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR BERNARD LAM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF SUNG FOO KEE (CIVIL) LIMITED, WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CONTRACT.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW TOWN AND IS THE LAST MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT.

THE SCOPE OF THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE UPGRADING OF THE EXISTING HUNG TIN ROAD TO A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, FORMING A GRADE SEPARATED INTERCHANGE AT HUNG SHUI KIU.

IT ALSO INVOLVES EXTENDING HUNG TIN ROAD BY A FLYOVER ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO CONNECT THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR THROUGH A TRUMPET INTERCHANGE AT TAI TO TSUEN.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1995.

ON COMPLETION, THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN AND THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR WHICH IS BEING BUILT BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION NEXT SEPTEMBER.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 9 -

SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING SMUGGLING

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS MADE BY LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DAVID CAREY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF HMS PEACOCK, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY).

"AT 10.45 PM LAST NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) THE ROYAL NAVY PATROL CRAFT HMS PEACOCK WAS CONDUCTING A JOINT ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATION WITH THE MARINE HARBOUR DIVISION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE WHEN SHE OBSERVED A GROUP OF "TAI FEIS" CONFIGURED FOR SMUGGLING LOITERING SOUTH OF KAU YI CHAU. TWO FAST PURSUIT CRAFT (FPC'S) WERE LAUNCHED FROM PEACOCK TO INVESTIGATE AND ATTEMPT INTERCEPTION.

A ROYAL NAVY RATING FROM ONE OF THE FPC'S JUMPED ABOARD ONE OF THE TAI FEIS AS IT TRIED TO SPEED AWAY AND ATTEMPTED TO CUT THE FUEL SUPPLY TO THE 10-METRE VESSEL'S FIVE LARGE OUTBOARD ENGINES TO IMMOBILISE IT.

IN THE COURSE OF THIS ACTION HE WAS SUBJECTED TO A SERIES OF ATTACKS BY TWO OF THE FOUR MEN CREW WIELDING WEAPONS. KNIVES AND A 10-FOOT POLE WERE LATER RECOVERED AT THE SCENE. BY THIS TIME THE TAI FEI WAS MAKING 50-60 KNOTS HEADING SOUTH OUT OF THE HONG KONG WATERS.

DURING THE INCIDENT, THE RATING RECEIVED BRUISES AND LACERATIONS. HE FELT SO THREATENED THAT HE DREW HIS PERSONAL WEAPON - A 9MM PISTOL - AND FIRED THREE SHOTS IN SELF DEFENCE AT HIS ASSAILANTS AS THE ATTACKS CONTINUED. AS A RESULT OF THIS ONE OF THE MEN RECEIVED A BULLET WOUND IN HIS ARM AND THE OTHER WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG.

BOTH MEN JUMPED INTO THE SEA, WHILE THE REMAINING TWO ON THE TAI FEI WERE OVERPOWERED AND DETAINED. AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH BY ROYAL NAVY AND MARINE POLICE CRAFT, THE TWO MEN WERE LOCATED ON THE SHORE OF HEI LING CHAU.

THE FOUR MEN, ALL MAINLANDERS AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM CARRYING A LARGE SUM OF MONEY, WERE ARRESTED BY POLICE.

THE TWO INJURED CHINESE WERE TAKEN TO QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE RN RATING WAS TREATED AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOR CUTS, BRUISES AND OTHER INJURIES.

ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND MILITARY INQUIRIES INTO THE INCIDENT ARE CONTINUING."

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 10 -

MAJORITY OF REDUNDANT TUNNEL STAFF RE-EMPLOYED

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT OF THE 311 OFFICERS AFFECTED BY THE CONTRACTING OUT OF THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE FOUR REMAINING GOVERNMENT TUNNELS, 162 HAVE BEEN REDEPLOYED TO OTHER GRADES IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO OF THEM HAVE ALREADY TAKEN UP THEIR NEW POSTS. THE REMAINING OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP THE OFFERS SHORTLY.

HE SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE TRANSPORT ASSISTANTS, WHO MADE UP THE LARGEST GROUP OF STAFF AFFECTED, HAVE TAKEN UP APPOINTMENTS AS CLERICAL ASSISTANTS AND OFFICE ASSISTANTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

A FAIR NUMBER HAVE JOINED THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AS FOREMEN AND THE REMAINING HAVE JOINED OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES.

WORKMEN AFFECTED HAVE ALL BEEN REDEPLOYED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS. MORE THAN HALF OF THE COOKS HAVE ALSO BEEN REDEPLOYED.

THE MAJORITY OF TRANSPORT CONTROLLERS HAVE OPTED FOR RETIREMENT.

A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE TWO CONTRACTORS TAKING OVER THE OPERATION OF THE TUNNELS.

A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE OFFICERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO A NEW MONITORING TEAM IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO FIND SUITABLE POSTS FOR STAFF WHO HAVE INDICATED THEIR WISH TO BE REDEPLOYED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN OFFERED ANY APPOINTMENT.

"ALTOGETHER, 122 OFFICERS IN THE VARIOUS GRADES HAVE OPTED FOR RETIREMENT. AS 162 OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REDEPLOYED OR OFFERED APPOINTMENT, THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS TO BE MADE REDUNDANT WILL BE LESS THAN 30.

WITH OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FIND JOBS FOR THESE STAFF, HOPEFULLY THE EVENTUAL NUMBER MAY BE FURTHER REDUCED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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/11

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 11 -

CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A HK\$3.8 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE M Y LEUNG, AND THE SENIOR PARTNER OF PRICE WATERHOUSE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS, MR DAVID JAMES HUMANN, AT A CEREMONY AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS.

AFTER SIGNING THE CONTRACT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CONSULTANCY WOULD BEGIN IN EARLY NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN JUNE NEXT YEAR. THERE WOULD BE THREE ANNUAL REVIEWS, EACH LASTS FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

HE SAID THE MAIN TASKS OF THE CONSULTANTS WERE TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES OF IMPROVEMENT IN EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS, TO ADVISE ON THE REDESIGN OF THE WORK PROCESSES AND PRACTICES, AND TO PROPOSE IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH TO TIE IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS UNDER THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY.

HE ALSO SAID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS COUPLED WITH STREAMLINED WORK PROCEDURES WOULD SPEED UP PROCESSING TIME AND ENHANCE THE MANPOWER PRODUCTIVITY.

"IT WILL ENABLE US TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND ALSO TO ACHIEVE A STAFF SAVING OF NOT LESS THAN 600 POSTS.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH REGARDING A MORE EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE AND PERFORMANCES PLEDGES BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS", THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE FACTORY SAFETY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) LAUNCHED AN EXTENSIVE FIRE AND CHEMICAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO AROUSE FACTORY OWNERS' ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

"THE TWO-MONTH CAMPAIGN IS AIMED AT BRINGING DOWN THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FIRE AND CHEMICALS," DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR KAN HON-SANG, SAID.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, FACTORIES HOUSED IN POORLY MANAGED BUILDINGS AND THOSE INVOLVING WORK PROCESSES WITH HIGH FIRE HAZARDS AND THE USE OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES WILL BE SELECTED FOR INSPECTION.

/"FACTORY INSPECTORS

"FACTORY INSPECTORS WILL EXPLAIN TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACES) AND (DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES) REGULATIONS AND HELP THEM IN COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS.

IN ADDITION, FACTORY INSPECTORS WILL DISTRIBUTE TO FACTORY MANAGEMENT A SPECIALLY DESIGNED WARNING NOTICE ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS.

"WE WILL URGE THE MANAGEMENT TO DISPLAY THE NOTICE PROMINENTLY IN THE WORKPLACE TO REMIND WORKERS OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN GOOD VENTILATION AND TO WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING," MR KAN SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDED A SPECIAL OPERATION ON SITES OF RENOVATION WORK.

"THE SPECIAL OPERATION HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN THE LIGHT OF TWO RECENT FIRES IN BUILDINGS UNDER RENOVATION," MR KAN SAID, ADDING THAT IN ONE CASE, TWO WORKERS WERE KILLED.

"OUR INSPECTORS WILL ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS TAKE ALL NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING THE PROPER LABELLING OF THE CONTAINERS OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES AND DANGEROUS GOODS, AND THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF THE WORKERS IN CARRYING OUT THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS," HE SAID.

WHILE THE CAMPAIGN IS EDUCATIONAL IN NATURE, FACTORY INSPECTORS WILL TAKE OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO CHOOSE TO CUT CORNERS AND WHO PERSISTENTLY IGNORE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

HE SAID SOME 400 SUMMONSES WERE TAKEN OUT IN A SIMILAR EXERCISE LAST YEAR.

IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR SAFETY AND HEALTH, MR KAN CALLED ON ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO CLOSELY OBSERVE THE LAW AND WORK TOGETHER TO PUT THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER.

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EXHIBITION TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN SHA TIN TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

"THE EVENT AIMS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED PERSONS AND TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO ENGAGE MORE DISABLED WORKERS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT) MR TANG KONG-KIN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN THE EXHIBITION, THE DEPARTMENT'S FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS, ITS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS WILL BE DISPLAYED.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 13 -

ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING DISABLED EMPLOYEES IN DIFFERENT JOBS.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES AND TO DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS.

IN ADDITION, A QUIZ WILL BE HELD ON THE SPOT TO AROUSE VISITORS' INTEREST IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED.

PARTICIPANTS MAY WIN ATTRACTIVE PRIZES INCLUDING DISCMAN, DIGITAL DIARY, WALKMAN AND TEA SET.

THE EXHIBITION WILL REMAIN OPEN DAILY FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM UNTIL MONDAY (OCTOBER 19) AT LEVEL THREE OF THE NEW TOWN PLAZA. IT WILL BE HELD IN OTHER COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL 1992 WILL BE HELD BETWEEN OCTOBER 26 AND NOVEMBER 22.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR KWAN MING, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FESTIVAL, COSTING \$1.5 MILLION, WAS AIMED AT FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS AS WELL AS ENCOURAGING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

HE SAID A TOTAL OF 50 ACTIVITIES INCLUDING VARIETY SHOWS, CANTONESE OPERAS, CARNIVALS, PICNICS, CONCERTS AND A TERRITORY-WIDE SOCIAL DANCE COMPETITION HAD BEEN ARRANGED.

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MOST OF THE PROGRAMMES.

A GRAND OPENING FOLLOWED BY A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26 AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE LAI KOK COMMUNITY CENTRE, LAI KOK ESTATE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 720 4251.

THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 14 -

WAN CHAI FESTIVAL PHOTO AND CHINESE PAINTINGS DISPLAY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO A PHOTOGRAPHY AND CHINESE PAINTINGS EXHIBITION WHICH WILL OPEN TOMORROW (FRIDAY), AND WALK AWAY WITH AUTOGRAPHED WORKS AS SOUVENIRS.

ORGANISED BY THE 1992 WAN CHAI FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, IT WILL ALSO BE OPEN ON SATURDAY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM AT THE MUSEUM OF CHINESE HISTORICAL RELICS, CAUSEWAY CENTRE, 28 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE SOME 300 PIECES OF WORKS BY SOME 50 PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHERS ON STILL LIFE, LANDSCAPE AND PORTRAITS. TWELVE OF THEM WILL IMPROVISE AT THE VENUE FOR ADMIRERS.

THE 16 WINNING ENTRIES OF A RECENT PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION ON THE THEME "TO LIVE AND WORK BETTER IN WAN CHAI" WILL ALSO BE SHOWN.

THE OPENING CEREMONY AND PRIZE PRESENTATION TO THE WINNERS WILL BE HELD AT 12.30 PM. WANCHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; AND ASSISTANT WANCHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TOM FONG; WILL BE THE OFFICIATING GUESTS.

THE EVENT IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE YMCA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE WHARF (HOLDINGS) LIMITED.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL START AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON 1ST FLOOR, MUSEUM OF CHINESE HISTORICAL RELICS, CAUSEWAY CENTRE, 28 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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WEATHER OF SEPTEMBER

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LIKE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER WAS HOT AND SUNNY WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE RAIN.

THE WARM AND DRY ANOMALIES WERE AGAIN VERY MUCH LINKED TO THE PASSAGE OF TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE RYUKYUS AND TAIWAN.

THE MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.8 DEGREES FOR THE WHOLE MONTH WAS THE HIGHEST EVER ON RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE OF 28.9 DEGREES AND THE MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 31.4 DEGREES WERE SEPTEMBER'S SECOND AND FIFTH HIGHEST RESPECTIVELY.

/IN RESPECT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 15 -

IN RESPECT OF ITS DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 31.1 DEGREES AND ITS MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 29.5 DEGREES, SEPTEMBER 1 MIGHT BE REGARDED AS THE HOTTEST SEPTEMBER DAY ON RECORD.

ONE SIGNIFICANT RAINY EPISODE OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE REMNANT OF TYPHOON OMAR MOVED ACROSS GUANGDONG AND PASSED TO THE NORTH OF HONG KONG.

OVERALL, THE MONTH'S RAINFALL OF 63.1 MILLIMETRES WAS ONLY ABOUT 21 PER CENT OF THE SEPTEMBER NORMAL OF 299.7 MILLIMETRES.

IT WAS THE DRIEST SEPTEMBER SINCE 1966 AND THE FOURTH DRIEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD.

TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 2,571.4 MILLIMETRES. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PERIOD'S AVERAGE OF 2,007.1 MILLIMETRES, RAINFALL SO FAR IN 1992 WAS STILL ABOVE NORMAL BUT BY A REDUCED MARGIN OF 28 PER CENT.

THE HOT WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM POLLY WAS CARRIED OVER FROM AUGUST INTO SEPTEMBER.

WEST TO NORTHWESTERLY WINDS BROUGHT DRY AIR OFF THE LAND AND MAINTAINED A SPELL OF FINE WEATHER DESPITE SOME HAZE ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND 3.

EVEN THOUGH POLLY HAD WEAKENED AND MOVED AWAY BY THEN, THE HEAT DID NOT RELENT AS TYPHOON OMAR SOON FOLLOWED AND MOVED TOWARDS TAIWAN.

TEMPERATURES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 33.5 DEGREES ON SEPTEMBER 4.

THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY ON SEPTEMBER 5 AS OMAR SWEEPED ACROSS TAIWAN AND CAME NEARER. BUT STILL THE OPPRESSIVE HEAT LINGERED, CULMINATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THUNDERSTORMS THAT EVENING.

MEANWHILE, THE WESTERLIES FRESHENED AND RAIN BECAME FREQUENT OVERNIGHT. AS THE REMNANT OF OMAR MOVED PAST TO THE NORTH OF HONG KONG, WINDS TURNED SOUTHEASTERLY THE NEXT DAY BUT REMAINED FRESH AND GUSTY.

THERE WERE ALSO OCCASIONAL STRONG WINDS OFFSHORE ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 6. THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OVER 120 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED IN THE YUEN LONG AREA ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND 23 CASES OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED.

WINDS SOON MODERATED DURING THE DAY BUT LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED TILL THE NEXT MORNING, ENDING WITH AN OUTBREAK OF THUNDERY SHOWERS NEAR MIDDAY.

THE SUN RE-APPEARED ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 8 AND THE WEATHER STAYED FINE THE NEXT DAY APART FROM A FEW ODD SHOWERS.

/THE ARRIVAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

THE ARRIVAL OF AN EASTERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT CLOUDY PERIODS AND LIGHT RAIN ON THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER 10 AND TRIGGERED OFF SOME THUNDERSTORMS AROUND MIDNIGHT.

FINE WEATHER RETURNED ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND PERSISTED FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS DESPITE SOME LIGHT RAIN PATCHES IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 12 AND 15.

A CONVERGENCE OF AIR FLOW IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG LED TO CLOUDIER WEATHER ON SEPTEMBER 16. SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED AROUND NOON TIME AND AGAIN NEAR MIDNIGHT.

A FRESH EASTERLY AIRSTREAM SOON BECAME ESTABLISHED DURING THE NIGHT AND THE WEATHER WAS A MIXTURE OF SUNSHINE AND CLOUDS FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

TEMPERATURE DROPPED SLIGHTLY DURING THE PERIOD WITH MIDDAY AND MIDNIGHT BEING THE MOST PROBABLE TIMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIGHT SHOWERS.

MEANWHILE, CONDITIONS TURNED INCREASINGLY WINDY WITH STRONG EASTERLIES BLOWING OFFSHORE ON SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19 UNDER THE ENHANCED INFLUENCE OF AN AREA OF LOW PRESSURE OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA NEAR XISHA.

AFTER THE EASTERLIES SUBSIDED DURING THE DAY ON SEPTEMBER 20, SUNNY AND HOT WEATHER SET IN. AFFECTED BY THE OUTER CIRCULATION OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM TED WHICH WAS LOCATED OVER THE LUZON STRAIT, WINDS IN HONG KONG TURNED NORTH TO NORTHWESTERLY ON SEPTEMBER 21.

AS IN THE CASE OF OMAR ON SEPTEMBER 4, TEMPERATURES AGAIN SOARED AND REACHED THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 33.5 DEGREES THAT DAY.

WITH TED TRACKING NORTHWARDS ACROSS EASTERN CHINA AND MOVING AWAY, LOCAL WINDS TURNED WESTERLY AND THEN EASTERLY ON SEPTEMBER 24. THE WEATHER REMAINED FINE APART FROM SOME HAZE THAT MORNING.

A SURGE OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON CAME IN THE FORM OF A FRESH EASTERLY AIRSTREAM ON SEPTEMBER 26. THE DAYTIME MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES DROPPED BY FIVE DEGREES BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27.

EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE STILL LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY, SOME LIGHT RAIN PATCHES ALSO OCCURRED FROM TIME TO TIME AND WERE MOST FREQUENT FROM THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 26 TO THE NEXT MORNING.

A WEAK REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON BROUGHT A CLOUDIER DAY ON SEPTEMBER 29 BUT THIS PRODUCED NO LASTING EFFECTS ON THE MAINLY FINE AND HOT THEME WHICH PERSISTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

SEVEN TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER BUT NONE AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

MOST OF THE TROPICAL CYCLONES DEVELOPED FURTHER EAST TOWARDS THE CENTRAL NORTH PACIFIC AND TRACKED NORTHWARDS.

THE THREE THAT DID MOVE TOWARDS THE ASIAN LAND MASS, NAMELY POLLY, OMAR AND TED, ONLY RESULTED IN SOME VERY HOT TEMPERATURES IN HONG KONG.

TAIWAN AND EASTERN CHINA BORE THE BRUNT OF THESE LANDFALLING TROPICAL CYCLONES.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DURING THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. DETAILS OF THE ISSUE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1 MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN SEPTEMBER 1992

TYPE OF WARNING	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	SEP 18, 0430 - SEP 18, 0800
	SEP 18, 2120 - SEP 20, 0805
	SEP 26, 0800 - SEP 26, 1100
	SEP 26, 2315 - SEP 27, 1245
FLOOD WARNINGS	SEP 7, 0515 - SEP 7, 0815
	SEP 10, 2250 - SEP 11, 0050
	SEP 16, 2335 - SEP 17, 0200
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	SEP 5, 2125 - SEP 6, 0700
	SEP 7, 0145 - SEP 7, 0930
	SEP 7, 1636 - SEP 7, 1836
	SEP 8, 0510 - SEP 8, 0710
	SEP 8, 0810 - SEP 8, 1210
	SEP 8, 1420 - SEP 8, 1620
	SEP 8, 2240 - SEP 9, 0540
	SEP 10, 1525 - SEP 10, 1725
	SEP 10, 2030 - SEP 11, 0600
	SEP 11, 1255 - SEP 11, 1455
	SEP 16, 1105 - SEP 16, 1500
	SEP 16, 2205 - SEP 17, 0705
SEP 17, 0835 - SEP 17, 1135	

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - SEPTEMBER 1992

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	200.5 HOURS ; 18.8 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	15.91 MJ/SQM ; 0.58 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	63.1 MM ; 236.6 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	54% ; 9% LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	75% ; 3% LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	31.4 DEGREES ; 1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	28.9 DEGREES ; 1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	26.8 DEGREES ; 1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.9 DEGREES ; 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	134.8 MM ; 15.5 MM BELOW NORMAL

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT BIWEEKLY INTERVALS DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

/THE GRADING

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN. BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS :

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADE OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 1.10.92)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 15.10.92)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	1	1
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	1	1
HAIRPIN	1	1
MIDDLE BAY	1	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	2
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	1	1
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	2	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	2
BUTTERFLY	2	2
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

/ISLANDS DISTRICT

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	1
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	1
HUNG SHING YEH	1	2
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2	1
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	3	3
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	2	2
GEMINI	2	2
HOI MEI WAN	2	2
LIDO	2	2
TING KAU	2	2
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	1	1

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

CHEUNG SHA LOWER, SILVERMINE BAY AND CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH FROM "2" TO "1"; MIDDLE BAY AND ST. STEPHEN'S FROM "1" TO "2".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR DAVID L HALL, ON TEL 835 1234.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

- 22 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+500
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,000

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 110.5 *-0.1* 15.10.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.72 PCT	13 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.03	3.43
1 MONTH	2.77 PCT	16 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.56	3.55
3 MONTHS	2.80 PCT	19 MONTHS	2405	5.502	102.59	3.84
6 MONTHS	2.89 PCT	22 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.68	4.03
12 MONTHS	3.43 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,394 MN

CLOSED 15 OCTOBER 1992

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