



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
STI WELCOMES SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND	1
URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS	1
REDUCED AIR POLLUTION IMPROVES HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN	3
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER	4
EIA CONTRACT FOR SHENZHEN RIVER AWARDED	5
BOOK OF THE DECADES	6
REMOVAL OF CENTRE POINT DEATHS REGISTRY	7
CHARTER FOR YOUTH FORUM	8
HEADQUARTERS OF HEALTH DEPT ON MOVE	8
CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE SOUGHT	9
MEDICAL BOARDS AND COUNCILS ON MOVE	9
STREET SLEEPERS GIVEN BLANKETS	10
EC CHAIRMAN & BOE MEMBERS VISIT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	11

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

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STI WELCOMES SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR CHAU TAK-HAY, WELCOMED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE NEWS THAT A FINAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND (UR) OF MULTILATERAL TRADE TALKS.

"THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE," SAID MR CHAU.

"THE AGREEMENT IS, ON THE WHOLE, BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE UR WAS LAUNCHED IN 1986 FOLLOWING A MINISTERIAL MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AT PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY. IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS FOR THE ROUND TO COME TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"ONE OF THE MAIN BENEFITS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE UR FOR HONG KONG IS THAT IT AVERTS THE DAMAGING NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT A COLLAPSE OF THE ROUND WOULD HAVE HAD ON WORLD TRADE AND ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY."

"OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT IS THAT THE OVERALL PACKAGE IS ACCEPTABLE TO HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH AN EVALUATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL ASPECTS OF THE PACKAGE WILL HAVE TO AWAIT A DETAILED ANALYSIS."

"OUR NEGOTIATORS ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR HAVING DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB IN SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HONG KONG'S INTERESTS," MR CHAU SAID.

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URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS

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THE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS HELD UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GLOBAL TRADE TALKS IN GENEVA ENDED YESTERDAY (DECEMBER 15 GENEVA TIME) WHEN THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE, ATTENDED BY CHIEF NEGOTIATORS FROM ALMOST ALL OF THE 116 PARTICIPATING ECONOMIES, FORMALLY ENDORSED A FINAL AGREEMENT.

SPEAKING IN GENEVA, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, WELCOMED THE OUTCOME.

"INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS THE WINNER TODAY," HE SAID. "DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY MANY COUNTRIES TO MAKE THIS AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. IT SHOWS A CLEAR AND ENCOURAGING COMMITMENT TO OPEN TRADE AND MULTILATERAL DISCIPLINES."

MR MILLER SAID SMALLER PLAYERS IN THE GAME OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE LIKE HONG KONG NEEDED THE PROTECTION OF CLEAR RULES AND EFFECTIVE ARBITRATION IN CASES OF DISPUTE.

/"THE PACKAGE

"THE PACKAGE PROVIDES FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION," HE SAID. "IT WILL HAVE A FIRMER LEGAL BASIS THAN THE GATT EVER HAD, AND AN ENHANCED STATUS, PUTTING IT ON A PAR WITH THE IMF AND WORLD BANK."

A KEY OBJECTIVE OF HONG KONG, AND A KEY ELEMENT OF THE AGREED PACKAGE, IS A STRONGER DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM.

"TOO MANY DISPUTE PANEL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN IGNORED IN THE PAST," SAID MR MILLER. "THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEABLE PANEL DECISIONS. THIS SHOULD HELP POLICE THE MULTILATERAL TRADE REGIME."

THE PACKAGE WOULD EXTEND MULTILATERAL TRADE RULES TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRADE IN SERVICES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

"THESE WERE ALSO KEY OBJECTIVES FOR HONG KONG. ACHIEVING THEM MEANT BREAKING NEW GROUND IN COMPLEX AREAS. REACHING AN AGREEMENT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT," MR MILLER SAID.

"THAT WE MANAGED TO DO SO IS REMARKABLE. THAT WE REACHED AGREEMENT ON SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICE SECTORS, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION, MARITIME AND AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES IS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT.

"ONE AREA REMAINS OUTSTANDING, BASIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, CLEAR AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE WORK ON THIS SEPARATELY, OUTSIDE THE URUGUAY ROUND PACKAGE."

REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON FINANCIAL SERVICES WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT. IT WAS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE U.S.' PROPOSAL FOR TWO-TIER MFN.

HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES ULTIMATELY WITHDREW THIS UNPOPULAR PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT WAS FORGED INSTEAD ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HOLD ANY MFN EXEMPTIONS IN SUSPENSE PENDING A REVIEW.

AT THE END OF A TRIAL PERIOD, CONCESSIONS COULD BE WITHDRAWN, MODIFIED OR IMPROVED AFTER A TRIAL PERIOD BUT RIGHTS ACQUIRED IN THE INTERIM WOULD BE GUARANTEED.

"THIS 'SUCK IT AND SEE' SOLUTION ENSURED THAT WE GOT THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES OFF THE GROUND ON A FIRM MFN BASIS. WHILE NOT IDEAL, IT AVOIDS THE TWO-TIER APPROACH WHICH WOULD HAVE BREACHED THE EQUAL-TREATMENT-FOR-ALL THAT IS SO FUNDAMENTAL TO THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM."

MR MILLER SAID THE ANTI-DUMPING TEXT REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE.

"WE MANAGED TO MEET U.S. CONCERNS WHILE REASONABLY PROTECTING HONG KONG'S INTERESTS," SAID MR MILLER. "THE PACKAGE PROVIDES FOR TIGHTER RULES AND PROCEDURES WHICH IS GOOD, AND, MOST IMPORTANT IT CLARIFIES THE ROLE OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PANELS.

"IT MAY MAKE IT EASIER FOR AN INDUSTRY TO INITIATE A CASE, BUT NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP UNCOMPETITIVE INDUSTRIES FROM TRYING TO GET PROTECTION IN THIS WAY, AND IT INCLUDES A 'SUNSET' PROVISION WHICH MEANS A CASE MUST LAPSE AFTER FIVE YEARS UNLESS CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET."

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS FOR HONG KONG IN THE PACKAGE IS THE PHASING-OUT OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING QUOTAS OVER 10 YEARS.

"THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THE TEXTILES TRADE WITH A REASONABLE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS OR SO," SAID MR MILLER. "QUOTA GROWTH RATES WILL INCREASE SLIGHTLY, AND THE PHASE-OUT OF RESTRAINTS WILL BE GRADUAL. GIVEN THE ADAPTABILITY OF OUR INDUSTRY I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL MAKE THIS AN OPPORTUNITY AND NOT A THREAT."

THE MOST EASILY QUANTIFIABLE BENEFITS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN MARKET ACCESS TALKS ON TARIFF REDUCTIONS AND REMOVAL OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS.

MR MILLER SAID HONG KONG HAD AGREED TO BIND AT ZERO TARIFF A WIDE RANGE OF ITEMS COVERING ABOUT 29 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS.

IN RETURN, CONCESSIONS WERE MADE BY HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS EQUIVALENT TO TARIFF SAVINGS OF OVER US\$420 MILLION A YEAR ON IMPORTS OF HONG KONG-MADE PRODUCTS.

"GIVEN THE SIZE OF OUR RE-EXPORT TRADE, THE ACTUAL BENEFITS ACCRUING TO HONG KONG BUSINESS WILL IN FACT BE MUCH MORE THAN THAT," MR MILLER ADDED.

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL PACKAGE. "OF COURSE THERE ARE AREAS I AM NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH, BUT ON THE WHOLE THIS IS A GOOD AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE FACE OF OBSTACLES THAT AT TIMES LOOKED INSUPERABLE," HE SAID.

"PERSONALLY, I AM DELIGHTED AND I BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG WILL BE MUCH BETTER OFF ONCE WE GET THIS AGREEMENT FIRMLY IN PLACE."

TRADE MINISTERS OF THE 116 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO IN APRIL 1994 TO SIGN FORMALLY THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO AGREE IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

THE DATE ON WHICH THE AGREEMENT IS TO COME INTO FORCE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED. JANUARY 1, 1995 OR JULY 1, 1995 ARE LIKELY DATES.

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REDUCED AIR POLLUTION IMPROVES HEALTH
OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

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RESULTS OF A STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) ON THE EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY).

CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 1989 AND 1992 IN KWAI TSING AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE DIFFERING AIR QUALITY.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 3 TO 6 CLASSES ATTENDING 15 SCHOOLS IN THE TWO DISTRICTS WERE SELECTED FOR THE STUDY, WHICH USED METHODS OF QUESTIONNAIRES, LUNG FUNCTION TESTS, HISTAMINE TESTS AND APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSES.

APART FROM IDENTIFYING THE RISK FACTORS FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH PROBLEMS, THE STUDY ALSO AIMED AT ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH.

MAJOR FINDINGS SHOWED THAT EXPOSURES TO THE HAZARDS OF ADVERSE AIR QUALITY WERE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ALSO, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUEL RESTRICTION REGULATION IN 1990 HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A DECLINE IN THE RISK OF RESPIRATORY SICKNESS AND BRONCHIAL REACTIVITY.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT WHEN THE STUDY RESULTS ARE PROJECTED TO THE ENTIRE HONG KONG CHILDREN POPULATION, ABOUT 20,000 CLINIC CONSULTATIONS ON RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS WILL BE AVOIDED.

THE STUDY ALSO SHOWED THAT FOR CHILDREN WHO WERE EXPOSED TO TOBACCO SMOKE BECAUSE OF FAMILY MEMBERS, THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL HEALTH GAINS IF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY DID NOT SMOKE IN THE HOUSE.

IT ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS SCOPE FOR FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE RISKS TO HEALTH IF THE EMISSIONS OF PARTICULATE AND NITROGEN OXIDES WERE BETTER CONTROLLED.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF THE STUDY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR FRED TROMP, SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD PLANS IN HAND TO CONTROL PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS PARTICULATE AND NITROGEN OXIDES EMISSIONS FROM DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, HE SAID FIRM AND COMMITTED ACTIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT FRONT COULD PRODUCE REAL BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

"WE HOPE THIS MESSAGE WILL BE REMEMBERED AS WE NOW FOCUS ON THE NEED TO TACKLE AGGRESSIVELY THE PRESENT HEALTH PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS," HE SAID.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER THIS YEAR WAS 2.0%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1993 WAS 2.1%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET HAS REMAINED TIGHT IN RECENT MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1993, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 56,900, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 42,500.

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

THE SURVEY FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1993 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,800 HOUSEHOLDS OR 40,700 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS 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 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AT \$23.50 A COPY.

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EIA CONTRACT FOR SHENZHEN RIVER AWARDED

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THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SHENZHEN RIVER REGULATION MET IN SHENZHEN TODAY (THURSDAY) AND AGREED TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY ON STAGES I AND II OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER REGULATION PROJECT.

THE EIA STUDY WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AND A PRELIMINARY REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF STAGE I OF THE PROJECT. THE FULL EIA STUDY WILL TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE WORKING GROUP ALSO REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT AND NOTED THAT PREPARATORY WORK, INCLUDING A LAND SURVEY, SITE INVESTIGATIONS, AND HYDRAULIC MODEL TESTS, WAS NOW UNDER WAY.

THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE REMAINING TECHNICAL ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED. THESE INCLUDED FINALISATION OF DESIGN AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, AND LAND RESUMPTION REQUIRED FOR THE PROJECT.

BOTH HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHICH WOULD MITIGATE THE RISKS OF FLOODING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED TO WORK CLOSELY TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING TECHNICAL ISSUES THROUGH THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS, THE WORK OF WHICH WOULD BE INTENSIFIED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE WORKING GROUP WAS LED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR CANICE MAK. MEMBERS INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN; AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR RAYMOND CHAN; AND A FINANCE BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE.

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BOOK OF THE DECADES
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HONG KONG GENERATES SOME OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST-CHANGING AND MOST INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE - AND THE PACE IS SO FAST IT IS SOMETIMES HARD TO REMEMBER THE WAY IT WAS JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.

THIS VARIETY IS RECORDED IN A 160-PAGE, LARGE FORMAT GLOSSY BOOK ENTITLED "HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE - AESTHETICS OF DENSITY" WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE TERRITORY FROM TOMORROW AT \$320 FOR THE SOFT-COVER EDITION.

THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED TO ACCOMPANY AN EXHIBITION OF HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE SAME TITLE AT THE DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTUR-MUSEUM IN FRANKFURT WHICH OPENED ON NOVEMBER 14 AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FEBRUARY 27.

MODELS, DESIGNS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF NOTABLE HONG KONG BUILDINGS FOR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE FILL THE BOOK, TOGETHER WITH COMMENTARIES BY THE TERRITORY'S PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, DR TED PRYOR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAU SHIU-HUNG, AND THE DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTUR-MUSEUM DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR VITTORIO MAGNAGNO LAMPUGNANI.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER PATRICK ZACHMANN AND AN ESSAY BY GERMAN SINOLOGIST DR TILMAN SPENGLER OFFER TWO PERSONALISED VIEWS OF HONG KONG.

THE BOOK, LIKE THE EXHIBITION, LOOKS AT HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT FROM 1841 TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE STRIKING NEW CITY IT HAS BECOME.

AS WELL AS A FASCINATING COLLECTION OF HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS, THE BOOK CONTAINS PICTURES, DRAWINGS AND MODELS OF EXISTING STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE HONGKONGBANK HEADQUARTERS BUILDING; PACIFIC PLACE; HONG KONG PARK; CENTRAL PLAZA; THE SHUN TAK CENTRE; THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE BANK OF CHINA BUILDING.

PROJECTS THAT LIE AHEAD INCLUDE HONG KONG'S NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND A MASSIVE REDEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST KOWLOON WHERE IT IS PLANNED TO HOUSE 280,000 PEOPLE ON THE SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY KAI TAK AIRPORT.

DR PRYOR, WHO DIRECTED A STUDY TO PRODUCE AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KAI TAK, SAID THE BOOK ALLOWED PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE THE RATE AND SCOPE OF CHANGE IN HONG KONG.

"THE HISTORICAL COMPONENT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE," HE SAID. "AND HONG KONG'S DESIGNERS ARE PRODUCING QUITE EXCITING INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS - SOME OF THEM ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND BUILDING TECHNIQUES.

"EACH OF THE EXAMPLES CHOSEN HAS INDIVIDUAL MERITS AND CHARACTER - AND THE PEOPLE I BUMPED INTO AT THE FRANKFURT EXHIBITION WERE VERY COMPLIMENTARY."

DR PRYOR ADDED THAT THE BOOK REFLECTED HONG KONG'S WILLINGNESS TO TRY NEW STYLES.

"FOR US, THE WORST THING IS NOT MAKE A DECISION," DR PRYOR SAID. "WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BOLD IN OUR APPROACH."

THAT BOLDNESS IS AMPLY REPRESENTED IN "AESTHETICS" - WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS BUYING AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND LEADING BOOK STORES.

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REMOVAL OF CENTRE POINT DEATHS REGISTRY

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE CENTRE POINT DEATHS REGISTRY OF THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SITUATED AT 181 GLOUCESTER ROAD, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRE POINT, WAN CHAI WILL BE MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 20):

18TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE
213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST
WAN CHAI, HONG KONG

THE NEW DEATHS REGISTRY, RENAMED AS THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE (REGISTRATION OF DEATHS), QUEEN'S ROAD EAST OFFICE, WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON THE SAME DAY ON DEATH REGISTRATION, SEARCH OF DEATH RECORDS AND APPLICATION FOR DEATH CERTIFICATES. ITS OFFICE HOURS ARE:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	9 AM TO 12.30 PM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM TO 12.30 PM
SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	CLOSED

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID THIS WAS A JOINT OFFICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH OFFERED SERVICES ON ISSUE OF CREMATION PERMITS AND BOOKING OF CREMATION APPOINTMENTS.

FOR ENQUIRY, THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111.

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CHARTER FOR YOUTH FORUM

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YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO JOIN A CHARTER FOR YOUTH FORUM THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19) TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENT WHICH SETS OUT THE PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

THE FORUM, ORGANISED BY THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, AIMS TO ENHANCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH AND TO ENCOURAGE MORE TO BECOME SUBSCRIBERS.

YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE ONE-HOUR EVENT WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE CHARTER AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO YOUTH.

PARTICIPANTS WHO SIGN UP AS SUBSCRIBERS AT THE FORUM WILL EACH RECEIVE A COPY OF THE CHARTER IN THE FORM OF A CERTIFICATE.

OTHER PROGRAMMES INCLUDE A QUIZ ON THE CHARTER AND PERFORMANCES BY ARTISTES LEE KWOK-CHEUNG, KONG HEI-MAN, WONG HING-PING AND CHENG KA-WING AS WELL AS THE MUSIC OFFICE BRASS ENSEMBLE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO MAKE HIS DEBUT IN JOINING LEE KWOK-CHEUNG IN A DUO.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. THE FORUM WILL START AT 11 AM AT THE PIAZZA OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH FORUM ORGANISED BY THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO BE HELD THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19) AT 11 AM AT THE PIAZZA OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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HEADQUARTERS OF HEALTH DEPT ON MOVE

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THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI FROM NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 20).

A NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE UNITS WILL ALSO OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES ON THE 17TH AND 18TH FLOORS OF THE BUILDING ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

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|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| * PORT HEALTH OFFICE | DECEMBER 20 | (TEL: 961 8852) |
| * PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES | DECEMBER 22 | (TEL: 961 8754) |

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

- 9 -

- * FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DECEMBER 23 (TEL: 961 8855)
- * HONG KONG REGIONAL OFFICE JANUARY 10 (TEL: 961 8710)
- * HYGIENE DIVISION JANUARY 17 (TEL: 961 8812)

THE DEPARTMENT'S PATIENT RELATIONS UNIT CAN BE REACHED ON TEL 836 0077.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES WILL BE 961 8911.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT, TO BE ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE, CAN BE CONTACTED ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONDAY:

- * PIO MS WINNIE WONG 961 8539
- * SIO PETER HUNG 961 8540
- * IO MS IRIS TANG 961 8541

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN YUEN LONG SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE, LOCATED ON A BUILDING IN SAN TIN HOUSE, FAN TIN TSUEN, YUEN LONG, IS USED FOR DWELLING.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 14 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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MEDICAL BOARDS AND COUNCILS ON MOVE

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THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES WILL OPERATE IN NEW PREMISES ON THE 17TH FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI FROM NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 20).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CONTACT THE SECRETARIATS OF VARIOUS BOARDS AND COUNCILS ON THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

/NAME

NAME -----	TELEPHONE -----
CHIROPRACTORS COUNCIL	961 8656
DENTAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG	961 8649
LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG	961 8653
MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG	961 8647
MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD	961 8655
MIDWIVES BOARD	961 8650
NURSING BOARD	961 8650
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BOARD	961 8655
OPTOMETRISTS BOARD	961 8655
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD	961 8652
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS BOARD	961 8655
RADIATION BOARD	961 8640
RADIOGRAPHERS BOARD	961 8655
SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL	961 8654

THE FAX NUMBER OF THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS SECTION IS 891 7946.

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STREET SLEEPERS GIVEN BLANKETS

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTED 516 BLANKETS TO 459 STREET SLEEPERS ALL OVER THE TERRITORY LAST (WEDNESDAY) NIGHT.

OF THEM, 159 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 15 IN EAST KOWLOON, 251 IN WEST KOWLOON, 25 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EAST AND NINE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE EXERCISE WAS THE SECOND MOUNTED THIS WINTER TO HELP THE NEEDY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

- 11 -

EC CHAIRMAN & BOE MEMBERS VISIT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, PROF ROSIE YOUNG, AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (THURSDAY) TOURED THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN CHAI WAN.

THE BOE GROUP COMPRISED ITS CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW SO, AND MEMBERS MRS MINNIE LAI WEI KIT-LIN AND MR MICHAEL HONG MAN-HOI.

THE PARTY WAS WELCOME ON ARRIVAL BY THE SUPERVISOR OF THE SCHOOL, MR MICHAEL YEUNG MING-CHEUNG AND ITS PRINCIPAL, MR WONG PO-LAM.

THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN CHAI WAN, ESTABLISHED IN 1979, OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY THROUGH A CURRICULUM WHICH PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH A FIRM FOUNDATION IN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TOGETHER WITH THEORY AND SKILL IN PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

THE GROUP TOURED THE CLASSROOMS, SCIENCE LABORATORIES, THE SECTIONS ON MUSIC, TYPING, FASHION AND CLOTHING WORKSHOP, AND MECHANICAL WORKSHOP.

THEY ALSO MET AND TALKED TO TEACHING STAFF AND STUDENTS.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	4,015
REVERSAL OF LAF	-15
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-90
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,910
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.9 *+0.1* 16.12.93	

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

- 12 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.08 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.33	3.61
1 MONTH	3.11 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.90	3.86
3 MONTHS	3.05 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.98	4.05
6 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.87	4.26
12 MONTHS	3.48 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.76	4.72

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,917 MN

CLOSED 16 DECEMBER 1993

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