



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR VISITS STANLEY PRISON	1
HK BANKING SYSTEM IS SOUND: FS	1
PUBLIC URGED TO SAVE WATER	2
POLLING DAYS SET FOR LEGCO ELECTIONS	3
EXTENSION OF HONG KONG/EEC TEXTILES AGREEMENT	4
SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1991	5
DON'T FALL PREY TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHILE OVERSEAS	7
SIGNING OF DOCUMENT FOR DONATION TO CHINA	8
COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991 ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMENCEMENT	9
MAY ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES RELEASED	10
PILOT PROJECT ON CLEANLINESS PARTICIPATION SCHEME	15
FSD'S RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN STARTS	16
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY	18
CASH ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS	21
TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO LAW REFORM COMMISSION	22
CARE AND SHARE OPERATION TO COMMENCE ON SATURDAY	22
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	23

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 1 -

GOVERNOR VISITS STANLEY PRISON

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THE REHABILITATION OF ADULT OFFENDERS IS HELPED BY PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THEM TO TAKE PART IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WHILE IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WAS TOLD TODAY (THURSDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATION OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES DURING A VISIT TO STANLEY PRISON.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE VALUE OF GOODS PRODUCED HAD RISEN BY 80 PER CENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND WAS EXPECTED TO APPROACH \$300 MILLION THIS YEAR.

SIR DAVID TOURED VARIOUS WORKSHOPS IN STANLEY PRISON AND SAW A NUMBER OF MANUFACTURING PROCESSES INCLUDING PRINTING, SHOE-MAKING, CARPENTRY, SILK-SCREENING, SIGN-MAKING AND GARMENT MANUFACTURING.

HE ALSO VISITED THE TELEVISION AND RADIO REPAIR WORKSHOP.

THE WORK HELPS THE INMATES DEVELOP USEFUL SKILLS AND COMBAT BOREDOM, SIR DAVID WAS TOLD. HE LEARNT THAT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ARE PROVIDED; ABOUT 300 INMATES IN THE PRISON ARE PARTICIPATING IN CORRESPONDENCE COURSES, 13 ARE PURSUING BACHELOR DEGREE COURSES AND TWO ARE TAKING COURSES WITH THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR ERIC MCCOSH THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. HE MET WITH SENIOR OFFICERS AT THE PRISON AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

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HK BANKING SYSTEM IS SOUND: FS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE BANKING SYSTEM REMAINS SOUND AND IS WELL ABLE TO WITHSTAND ANY PRESSURE PUT UPON IT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE HONG KONG BANKING SYSTEM IS WELL CAPITALISED. THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINS STABLE. THE BANKS ARE OPERATING IN A GROWING ECONOMY. FUTURE PROSPECTS ARE ENCOURAGING, AND HAVE RECENTLY BEEN BOOSTED FURTHER BY CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT."

SIR PIERS STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LTD. WHICH AROSE FROM EXTERNAL AND EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE BCC GROUP WERE CONFINED TO THAT INSTITUTION.

"THEY DO NOT AFFECT THE STABILITY OF ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL BANK IN THE TERRITORY. NOR DO THEY REFLECT ADVERSELY ON THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG BANKING SYSTEM. IN THE EVENT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BANK NEEDS LIQUIDITY ASSISTANCE, THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND STANDS READY TO PROVIDE IT," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 2 -

PUBLIC URGED TO SAVE WATER

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EVERYONE MUST MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO USE LESS WATER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT EMPHASISED THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) AS THE NEED FOR WATER RESTRICTIONS BECOMES MORE IMMINENT DUE TO THE CONTINUING UNSATISFACTORY WATER STORAGE SITUATION.

TO HELP SAVE WATER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING DOS AND DON'TS:

DOS

- * CLOSE TAPS TIGHTLY WHEN TURNING OFF SUPPLY.
- * TAKE A SHOWER INSTEAD OF A BATH.
- * SAVE USED WATER FOR CLEANING FLOORS, WATERING POT PLANTS OR FLUSHING.
- * USE WASHING MACHINE OR DISHWASHER ONLY FOR FULL LOADS.
- * CHECK REGULARLY STORAGE TANKS, WORN TAP WASHERS AND PLUMBING PIPES FOR LEAKS OR OTHER POSSIBLE DEFECTS.

DON'TS

- * DON'T STORE EXCESSIVE WATER.
- * DON'T SHOWER TOO LONG.
- * DON'T USE WATER FOR PLAYING GAMES.
- * DON'T RINSE HANDS, CLOTHES OR VEGETABLES UNDER A RUNNING TAP.
- * DON'T USE TOILET TO FLUSH AWAY CONTENTS OF ASHTRAYS AND LITTER BINS.

TO HELP ACHIEVE WATER CONSERVATION, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THE HOUSING, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, REGIONAL SERVICES AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS IN SOLICITING THEIR SUPPORT IN ECONOMISING WATER SUPPLIED ON A CONCESSIONARY BASIS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES, SUCH AS WATERING PLANTING AREAS; CLEANSING OF PLAYGROUNDS, RECREATIONAL AREAS, HAWKER BAZAARS, COOKED FOOD STALLS, MARKETS, STAIRWAYS, COMMON AREAS, REFUSE CHUTES AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.

IN THE CASE OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS, WATER IS ALSO USED AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS, FOUNTAINS, WATER FEATURES, ARTIFICIAL LAKES IN RECREATIONAL AREAS, MODEL BOAT POOLS AND STREET WASHING.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS AT 9 AM TODAY (THURSDAY), THE RESERVOIR STORAGE STOOD AT 170 MILLION CUBIC METRES REPRESENTING 29 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY, COMPARED WITH 293.6 MILLION CUBIC METRES OR 50.1 PER CENT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT UNLESS THERE IS VERY SUBSTANTIAL RAINFALL DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THERE WILL BE A NEED TO INTRODUCE WATER RESTRICTIONS IN MID-AUGUST.

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POLLING DAYS SET FOR LEGCO ELECTIONS

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THE POLLING DAYS FOR THE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN FORMALLY APPOINTED - SEPTEMBER 12 FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES (INDIRECT ELECTIONS) AND SEPTEMBER 15 FOR THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES (DIRECT ELECTIONS).

THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE POLLING DAYS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON A THURSDAY WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, COULD BE MORE CONVENIENT TO MANY CORPORATE ELECTORS AND, ON THE OTHER, WOULD BE LESS CONFUSING TO THOSE INDIVIDUAL ELECTORS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN BOTH THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS.

THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON A SUNDAY IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICE INTRODUCED FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS ON A SUNDAY HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OF CONVENIENCE TO THE ELECTORS.

ALSO ANNOUNCED IN TOMORROW'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ARE APPOINTMENTS OF RETURNING OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE ELECTIONS.

THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR EACH OF THE NINE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL COME FROM A DISTRICT OFFICER OF THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENT DISTRICTS, WITH THE REMAINING DISTRICT OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICERS IN THE COMPONENT DISTRICTS ASSUMING THE ROLE OF ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE CONSTITUENCY.

OF THE 20 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, 17 WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS, EACH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE RELEVANT POLICY BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FROM THE SAME POLICY BRANCH WILL SERVE AS ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER.

/THE PRINCIPAL

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THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE RURAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, WHILE THE SECRETARIES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL SERVE AS RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNCIL.

THE RETURNING OFFICERS WILL BE CALLING FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES ON JULY 29, AND THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL AUGUST 12.

NOMINATION FORMS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS WILL BE OBTAINABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AS FROM JULY 22.

CANDIDATES FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS MAY OBTAIN THE NOMINATION FORMS FROM THE SAME DATE FROM THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE AT HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AND AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, EIGHTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL.

FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

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EXTENSION OF HONG KONG/EFC TEXTILES AGREEMENT

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN BRUSSELS THIS WEEK, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AD REFERENDUM ON A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE HK/EFC TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

"THE EXTENSION WILL APPLY TO ALL PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT, INCLUDING GROWTH RATES AND FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS A ROLLOVER OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT, WHICH EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 1991," DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ALAN LAI SAID.

"EARLY CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION MEANS THAT THE TRADE CAN NOW PLAN AHEAD FOR 1992 WITH CERTAINTY," HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 5 -

SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1991

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS, REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE INCREASED BY 40.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 22.1 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SECOND HALF OF 1990.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN REPORTING ON HIS DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES (INCLUDING THE NEW TERRITORIES) FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

THE LARGE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE COMING ON STREAM OF SEVERAL LARGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING LAGUNA CITY IN KWUN TONG, SCENEWAY GARDEN IN LEI YUE MUN ROAD, SOUTH HORIZON IN AP LEI CHAU, HONG KONG GARDEN IN TSING LUNG TAU AND BELVEDERE GARDEN IN TING KAU.

IN ALL, 82,962 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE AGREEMENTS INCREASED BY 92.4 PER CENT FROM \$62.17 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 44.7 PER CENT FROM \$82.69 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$119.62 BILLION IN THE CURRENT HALF YEAR.

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, 82,604 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, THE MAJORITY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, COMPARED WITH 84,463 AND 81,891 RESPECTIVELY DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1990, SHOWING A DECREASE OF 2.2 PER CENT AND AN INCREASE OF 0.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS INCREASED BY 14.0 PER CENT FROM \$78.62 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 11.2 PER CENT FROM \$80.58 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$89.63 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 5,594 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, COMPARED WITH 4,372 AND 5,474 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WERE 2,846 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS 19.1 PER CENT AND 9.6 PER CENT MORE THAN IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS DECREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT FROM \$17.48 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 BUT INCREASED BY 74.5 PER CENT FROM \$9.89 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$17.25 BILLION.

SEVENTY-EIGHT BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 101,172 OTHER MORTGAGES WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, COMPARED WITH 82 AND 95,382 RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND 73 AND 90,501 RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 DROPPED BY 71.3 PER CENT FROM \$7.31 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 0.7 PER CENT FROM \$2.12 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$2.10 BILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES ROSE BY 10.0 PER CENT FROM \$39.54 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 13.6 PER CENT FROM \$38.29 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$43.49 BILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON THESE 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 MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 7.0 PER CENT FROM \$16.53 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND BY 6.4 PER CENT FROM \$16.63 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 TO \$17.69 BILLION.

SEARCHES BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 TOTALLED 1,449,448, UP BY 18.6 PER CENT AND 4.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1990.

THERE WERE 332 SURRENDERS AND RESUMPTIONS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$0.21 BILLION PAID IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPARED WITH 721 AND \$0.41 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 AND 495 AND \$0.32 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

A TOTAL OF 561 GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 COMPARED WITH 617 AND 664 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- * THE SALE BY CASH TENDER ON JANUARY 15 OF A 32,800-SQUARE-METRE SITE (CHAI WAN INLAND LOT NO. 146) AT AREA 22, SIU SAI WAN, CHAI WAN TO CHASE LIGHT COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$540,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING HOTEL, GODOWN AND CINEMA) PURPOSES.
- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JANUARY 18 OF A 12,090-SQUARE-METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 110) IN AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO TO BEST REWARD DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$280,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.
- * THE GRANT ON FEBRUARY 25 OF A 4,033-SQUARE-METRE SITE (INLAND LOT NO. 8732) IN CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND BOUNDED BY HOLLYWOOD ROAD, SHING WONG STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY AT A PREMIUM OF \$207,260,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.
- * THE GRANT ON MARCH 28 OF A 584,720-SQUARE-METRE SITE (TERMINAL NO. 8) IN STONE CUTTERS ISLAND TO MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED AND COSCO-HIT TERMINALS (HONG KONG) LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$2,000,000,000 FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL PURPOSES.

- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MAY 3 OF A 11,400-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 111) IN AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO TO PEACE SUCCESS DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$325,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.
- * THE GRANT ON MAY 20 OF A 59,640-SQUARE METRE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 367) IN AREA 111, SHA TIN TO LI PO CHUN UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (HONG KONG) LIMITED AT A NOMINAL PREMIUM OF \$1,000 FOR A NON-PROFIT-MAKING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER COURSES (THE ORGANISATION OF SUCH COURSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION) FOR NOT LESS THAN 200 STUDENTS OF WHOM UP TO 42 PER CENT MUST BE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS ROSE BY 3.9 PER CENT FROM 1,270,158 IN JUNE 1990 TO 1,320,271 IN DECEMBER 1990 AND AGAIN BY 4.7 PER CENT TO 1,382,264 IN JUNE 1991.

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DON'T FALL PREY TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHILE OVERSEAS

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LOCAL RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT BE USED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND ACT AS DRUG COURIERS WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

THE "DON'T-CARRY-DRUG" MESSAGE WAS ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION IN THE ADVENT OF THE SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAY, AS MANY PEOPLE WOULD EMBARK ON THEIR LEISURE TRIPS OVERSEAS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID COPIES OF A LEAFLET "HAVE A NICE TRIP, DON'T CARRY DRUGS" HAD BEEN SENT TO MAJOR TRAVEL AGENCIES TO ADVISE TRAVELLERS ON WAYS TO AVOID INVOLVING IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

HE RECOMMENDED TRAVELLERS TO GET A COPY AND READ IT CAREFULLY WHEN THEY APPROACH THEIR AGENCIES FOR TRIP ARRANGEMENTS. THE LEAFLET IS ALSO OBTAINABLE AT A NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "INNOCENT TRAVELLERS ARE ALWAYS LIKELY TO BE TARGETS OF DRUG SYNDICATES.

"NO MATTER WHAT THE REWARD IS, MAY BE ONLY A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS OR A FREE AIR TICKET, THE PRICE CAN BE BIG -- LOSS OF FREEDOM OR LIFE WHEN APPREHENDED.

"THE DEATH PENALTY IS MANDATORY FOR TRAFFICKING IN SOME COUNTRIES, AND LONG PRISON SENTENCES OF UP TO 25 YEARS ARE ALSO COMMON," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT WITH INCREASING WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING AND BETTER INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN RECENT YEARS, MOST COUNTRIES WERE TAKING MORE STRINGENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND IMPOSING TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DRUG OFFENCE.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING ADVICE:

- * DON'T CARRY PACKAGES OR BAGGAGE FOR ANYONE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY SURE THEY CONTAIN NO ILLICIT DRUGS OR OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS.
- * NEVER AGREE TO CHECK IN BAGGAGE ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE EXCESS BAGGAGE.
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO SAY "IT IS ALRIGHT OR LEGAL TO USE DOPE OVER THERE". ALL COUNTRIES PROHIBIT ILLICIT DRUG USE.
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT THE TYPE THE CUSTOMS GO FOR.
- * DO REPORT TO THE POLICE OR THE CUSTOMS IF A POSSIBLE DRUG CARRYING DEAL IS PUT TO YOU. THE SYNDICATE WILL GET THE PROFIT; YOU WILL TAKE THE RISK.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO STRESSED THAT PENALTIES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES IN HONG KONG WERE VERY SEVERE : THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WAS LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 MILLION, AND THE ASSETS OF CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS COULD BE CONFISCATED.

EVEN PERSONS FOUND IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF DRUGS ARE LIABLE TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000.

THE SPOKESMAN APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO CALL THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU ON TEL. 527 1234 OR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 545 6182 IF THEY SUSPECTED THAT ANY PERSON WAS A DRUG TRAFFICKER OR PUSHER.

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SIGNING OF DOCUMENT FOR DONATION TO CHINA

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, LEFT FOR PEKING TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SIGN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME'S PROJECT (UNDP) DOCUMENT FOR THE RELIEF OF CHINA'S FLOOD VICTIMS FOR WHICH HONG KONG HAS DONATED \$50 MILLION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MRS WONG WOULD BE ATTENDING THE JOINT SIGNING CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER DONORS WHO HAVE ALSO MADE THEIR DONATION THROUGH UNDP.

MRS WONG WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY AFTER ATTENDING THE SIGNING CEREMONY, WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE UNDP.

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COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991 ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMENCEMENT
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THE CURRENT PROHIBITION ON SHARE REPURCHASES BY LOCAL COMPANIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WILL BE LIFTED WHEN THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991 COMES INTO OPERATION ON SEPTEMBER 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991 WAS RECENTLY PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 3. SECTION 1(2) OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT IT SHALL COME INTO OPERATION ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

"WHILE LIFTING THE PROHIBITION ON SHARE REPURCHASES, THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF CREDITORS AND NON-SELLING SHAREHOLDERS," HE SAID.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, THE MAIN SAFEGUARDS ARE THAT:

- * THE PURCHASE MUST BE PERMITTED BY THE COMPANY'S ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION;
- * THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE SHAREHOLDERS TO ANY PURCHASE MUST BE OBTAINED;
- * THE SHARES TO BE PURCHASED MUST BE FULLY PAID;
- * THE SHARES MUST BE PURCHASED OUT OF DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS;
- * THE SHARES PURCHASED MUST BE CANCELLED; AND
- * THERE MUST BE PROMPT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL PURCHASES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRIOR SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS VARY ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF REPURCHASE PROPOSED AND WHETHER THE COMPANY IS LISTED OR UNLISTED.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY. THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) IS GIVEN A BROAD DISCRETION TO WAIVE THE SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LISTED COMPANIES IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS IN A MARKET CRISIS. IN EXERCISING THIS DISCRETION, THE COMMISSION WILL ALWAYS HAVE DUE REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF NON-SELLING SHAREHOLDERS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE SFC WILL PUBLISH GUIDELINES IN THE GAZETTE ON THE EXERCISE OF THIS DISCRETION BEFORE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION COMES INTO OPERATION.

"THE ORDINANCE ALSO COVERS THE RELATED SUBJECT OF THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY A COMPANY TO A THIRD PARTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THAT COMPANY'S SHARES.

"IT CLARIFIES THE MEANING OF 'FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE' AND IMPOSES A GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE PROVISION OF IT.

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"HOWEVER, THE PROHIBITION IS SUBJECT TO A NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF UNLISTED COMPANIES," HE SAID.

LASTLY, THE ORDINANCE ADDRESSES THE SUBJECT OF DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS. WHILE THE SUBJECT IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH SHARE REPURCHASES, IT IS ALSO RELEVANT TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS AND ASSETS IN GENERAL BY A COMPANY.

"UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO STATUTORY PROVISION GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF A COMPANY TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES GOVERNED BY COMMON LAW. THE ORDINANCE INTRODUCES PROVISIONS WHICH SERVE TO CODIFY EXISTING GOOD ACCOUNTING PRACTICE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A STATUTORY DEFINITION OF DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS IS DESIRABLE IN ITSELF AND WILL STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF CREDITORS IN THE CONTEXT OF REPURCHASES SINCE AS AN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARD, THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT REPURCHASES CAN ONLY BE MADE OUT OF DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS.

THE GOVERNOR HAS NOW APPOINTED SEPTEMBER 1, 1991 TO BE THE DAY ON WHICH THE ORDINANCE COMES INTO OPERATION.

THE RELEVANT LEGAL NOTICE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

"LOCAL COMPANIES SHOULD NOW MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE WHEN IT COMES INTO OPERATION ON SEPTEMBER 1," HE SAID.

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MAY ORDERS-ON-HAND,
EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES RELEASED
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IN MAY 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991, BUT INCREASED BY 2% WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MAY 1991 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BUT DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ORDERS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN MAY 1991 INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 11 -

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE IN ORDERS.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN MAY 1991 WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN APRIL 1991, BUT DECREASED BY 9% WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1990.

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991, EMPLOYMENT IN MAY 1991 INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN MAY 1991 DECREASED IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND THE TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED A MODERATE INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT.

IN MAY 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 2% IN MONEY TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY AND MODERATELY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES, DUE TO THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL BONUSES AND PAYMENTS BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY AND SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 18% IN MONEY TERMS IN MAY 1991.

INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES, THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN MAY 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991 AND MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN MAY 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991, BUT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1990.

/IT SHOULD

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 12 -

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991 AND MAY 1990. PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN MAY 1991 FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1991, FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF BONUSES AND SALARY REVISION IN APRIL 1991 BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN MAY 1991 INCREASED MODERATELY OVER MAY 1990 FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITUATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE SECTORS IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MAY 1991 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 805 6441.

/TABLE 1

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 13 -

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF MAY 1991 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN APR. 91 (%)	COMPARED WITH MAY 90 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.43	*	+2
WEARING APPAREL	4.74	*	+3
TEXTILES	2.33	-6	-6
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.91	+11	+17
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.22	*	-2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.36	*	*
OTHERS	4.08	*	-1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF MAY 1991

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	APR. 91 (%)	MAY 90 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	*	-9
FOOD AND DRINKS	+2	-3
WEARING APPAREL	*	-4
TEXTILES	-1	-17
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	*	-26
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	+1	+4
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	-14
OTHERS	*	-3
CONSTRUCTION #	-1	-9

/SERVICES

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 14 -

SERVICES	*	*
-----	-	-
BANKS	*	+3
HOTELS	+1	-6
PUBLIC UTILITIES	-1	-3
OTHERS	*	+3

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	AVERAGE AS IN MAY 1991 (HK\$)	PER CAPITA EARNINGS	
		CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH APR. 91 (%)	MAY 90 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6,878	+2	+18
-----	-----	---	---
FOOD AND DRINKS	7,670	-2	+21
WEARING APPAREL	5,219	+4	+12
TEXTILES	7,025	+20	+24
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	6,605	*	+21
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	6,525	+5	+14
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	6,929	*	+22
OTHERS	8,674	-2	+13
CONSTRUCTION #	9,542	-1	+14
-----	-----	---	---
SERVICES	10,775	-20	+8
-----	-----	---	---
BANKS	10,546	+1	+9
HOTELS	7,105	*	+10
PUBLIC UTILITIES	10,463	*	+7
OTHERS	12,111	-44	+8

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

/NOTE :

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 15 -

NOTE : DUE TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 : UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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PILOT PROJECT ON CLEANLINESS PARTICIPATION SCHEME

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THE CLASSROOM CLEANLINESS PARTICIPATION SCHEME WILL BE TRIED OUT AS A PILOT PROJECT IN A NUMBER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER.

THE EIGHT-MONTH PILOT PROJECT WAS ENDORSED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING YESTERDAY.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH AN EVALUATION REPORT AT THE END OF THE TRIAL PERIOD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR K.H. CHAN WHO WILL OVERSEE THE PILOT PROJECT, EXPLAINED THAT THE AIMS WERE TO EDUCATE STUDENTS TO:

- * BE MORE AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT;
- * BE MORE CIVIC-MINDED;
- * DEVELOP A STRONGER SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE SCHOOL;
- * REINFORCE THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT, AND
- * DEVELOP A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

HE SAID STUDENTS WOULD ONLY BE ASKED TO CARRY OUT SIMPLE TASKS SUCH AS:

- * CLEANING DESKS AND CHAIRS, THE FLOOR AND THE CHALKBOARD IN THEIR CLASSROOM;
- * COLLECTING AND DISPOSING RUBBISH AND LITTER FROM THEIR OWN CLASSROOM, AND

/* LOCKING AND

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 16 -

* LOCKING AND UNLOCKING DOORS AND WINDOWS, SWITCHING ON AND OFF LIGHTING AND AIR CONDITIONING FACILITIES OF THEIR OWN CLASSROOM.

"THIS PRACTICE IS ALREADY IN OPERATION IN A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG," MR CHAN SAID.

HE FURTHER ADDED THAT JANITORS, WHO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THEIR EMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF THE SCHEME, NEED NOT WORRY.

"NONE WILL BE MADE REDUNDANT OR FIRED," MR CHAN ASSURED.

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FSD'S RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN STARTS

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (FSD) LAUNCHED THIS YEAR'S RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN AT THE CITYPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING TODAY (THURSDAY).

A RECRUITMENT COUNTER WITH EXHIBITION BOARDS DISPLAYING COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE WORK AND ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SET UP AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 10.30 AM AND 6 PM DAILY UNTIL SUNDAY (JULY 21). A VIDEO ON THE WORK AND TRAINING IS ALSO SHOWN AT THE VENUE.

THE FOUR-DAY EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CITYPLAZA MANAGEMENT OFFICE WHICH PROVIDED THE VENUE FREE OF CHARGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE SERVICE IS PROMOTING THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN THROUGH TELEVISION AND RADIO API'S (ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST) WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROADCAST RECENTLY."

OFFICERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES RECRUITMENT TEAM ARE ON DUTY TO DISTRIBUTE RECRUITMENT PUBLICITY PAMPHLETS AND APPLICATION FORMS AND TO ANSWER PUBLIC ENQUIRIES.

"THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN PLACES SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RECRUITING STATION OFFICERS. IT IS AIMED AT RECRUITING ABOUT 241 STAFF INCLUDING 97 STATION OFFICERS, 91 FIREMEN, SIX AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND 47 AMBULANCEMEN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MONTHLY SALARY OF A STATION OFFICER RANGES FROM \$13,530 TO \$16,815 DEPENDING ON ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE, AND RISES TO A MAXIMUM OF \$31,740 PER MONTH.

THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR STATION OFFICER IS FIVE SUBJECTS, INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B), AT GRADE E IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (HKCEE), OR EQUIVALENT.

/A SUITABLE

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 17 -

A SUITABLE NEW RECRUIT MAY BE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF SENIOR STATION OFFICER AFTER SERVING FOR FIVE YEARS WITH A SALARY OF \$27,480 PER MONTH.

"IT IS A MEANINGFUL JOB TO JOIN THE DEPARTMENT WHOSE PRIMARY STATUTORY DUTIES ARE TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY IN THE CASE OF FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY, TO EXTINGUISH FIRES, TO ASSIST ANY PERSON WHO APPEARS TO NEED PROMPT OR IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND TO GIVE ADVICE ON FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THE FIRST DAY OF THE CAMPAIGN, A PROBATIONARY STATION OFFICER, LUI KAI-MING, WHO DID NOT MEET THE STANDARD PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, AND SUCCESSFULLY REACHED THE STANDARD WHEN COMPLETING HIS 26-WEEK TRAINING EARLY THIS MONTH, WAS ALSO PRESENT AND SHARED HIS TRAINING EXPERIENCES WITH PEOPLE VISITING THE COUNTER.

LUI'S CHEST MEASUREMENT HAS 85 CENTIMETRES (ONE CENTIMETRE LESS THAN THE STANDARD) WHEN HE APPLIED FOR THE JOB AND THE MEASUREMENT WAS 89 CENTIMETRES WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL EARLY THIS MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT RELAXED ITS PHYSICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS LAST AUGUST FOR STATION OFFICER IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE SUITABLE YOUNG MEN TO JOIN THE SERVICE.

THE WEIGHT RANGE IS NOW 53 KILOGRAMS TO 89 KILOGRAMS (THE FORMER RANGE WAS 55 KILOGRAMS TO 87 KILOGRAMS) CORRESPONDING TO A HEIGHT-TO-WEIGHT SCALE OF 168 CENTIMETRES TO 191 CENTIMETRES.

ANOTHER RELAXATION IS THE REDUCTION OF CHEST MEASUREMENT FROM NOT LESS THAN 86 CENTIMETRES TO NOT LESS THAN 84 CENTIMETRES, DEFLATED WITH AN EXPANSION OF AT LEAST FIVE CENTIMETRES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PUBLIC COULD BE ASSURED THAT THE SLIGHT RELAXATION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE STANDARD OF FIRE-FIGHTING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT HAD DESIGNED A SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THEM.

"THE JOB OF A FIRE SERVICE STATION OFFICER REQUIRES A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF EFFICIENCY IN THE EXECUTION OF DUTIES IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, EMERGENCIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS." HE SAID.

A PERMANENT RECRUITMENT CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, IS OPEN FROM 9 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON SATURDAYS.

THE STAFF AT THE CENTRE GIVE ON-THE-SPOT EXAMINATION TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO TEST THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS AND EYESIGHT AND ASSIST THEM TO FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORMS.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 733 7519.

IN ADDITION, MOBILE RECRUITMENT COUNTERS WILL ALSO BE SET UP IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE SHOPPING CENTRES UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THEY WILL BE MANNED BY FSD STAFF FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1991

- 18 -

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.

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 WHICH 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 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.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "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 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 MILLILITRES 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 MILLILITRES 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"

GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES 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 POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES 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 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 RE-OPENING 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, 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 AS AT TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 4.7.91)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 18.7.91)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	1	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	2	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	3
BUTTERFLY	3	4

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	1	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT

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

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	3	3
APPROACH	2	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	4	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

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

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

DEEP WATER BAY AND SILVERSTRAND, FROM "1" TO "2"; APPROACH AND NEW CAFETERIA, FROM "2" TO "3".

THE CHANGE IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

BUTTERFLY, FROM "3" TO "4".

THE POOR GRADING OF BUTTERFLY IS DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH HAS FLUSHED THE POLLUTANTS FROM THE BEACH HINTERLAND TO THE SEA WATER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, MR P.R. HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

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CASH ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROVED TO ALLOCATE \$48,390 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO THE FAMILY OF A DRIVER KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON JULY 2.

THE 32-YEAR-OLD DRIVER WAS KILLED WHEN HIS PRIVATE CAR RAN OUT OF CONTROL AND PLOUGHED INTO A ROAD-DIVIDER ON A FLYOVER OF KWUN TONG BYPASS. HE WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, THREE CHILDREN AND HIS MOTHER.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE OTHER DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE SAME ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME. BUT IN ANY CASE, THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID WOULD NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION AWARDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SCHEME MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION AT 15 WATSON ROAD, VICTORIA CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY OR BY TELEPHONE 570 2410.

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TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO LAW REFORM COMMISSION

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION: MR ROBERT RIBEIRO QC AND PROFESSOR H.C. KUAN.

MR RIBEIRO IS A WIDELY RESPECTED ADVOCATE WITH A CONSIDERABLE BREADTH OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE.

PROFESSOR KUAN, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, IS DEAN OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY AND A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

MR MATHEWS WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENTS AND SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE NEW MEMBERS' EXPERIENCE WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE COMMISSION.

MR RIBEIRO AND PROFESSOR KUAN REPLACE MR MARTIN LEE AND PROFESSOR BYRON WENG WHO ARE RETIRING AFTER SIX YEARS AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

MR MATHEWS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK WHICH MR LEE AND PROFESSOR WENG HAD DEVOTED TO THE COMMISSION AND SAID IT HAD BEEN A PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE TIME.

MR MATHEWS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION: MR PETER RHODES AND MR LESLIE SUNG.

MR MATHEWS SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THESE TWO HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT OUR LAWS ARE IN TUNE WITH THE SOCIETY'S NEEDS HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER," SAID MR MATHEWS.

"THE COMMISSION'S PART IN THAT TASK IS AN IMPORTANT ONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO," HE ADDED.

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CARE AND SHARE OPERATION TO COMMENCE ON SATURDAY

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS TO LAUNCH A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN THIS SUMMER TO PROMOTE CARE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL HELP.

TO MARK THE KICK-OFF OF THE CAMPAIGN, ENTITLED "CARE AND SHARE OPERATION", A CEREMONY CUM WORKSHOP ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (WEST KOWLOON REGION) WILL BE HELD AT A TSIM SHA TSUI EAST HOTEL ON SATURDAY.

/OFFICIATING AT

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT WILL BE OMELCO MEMBER, DR DANIEL TSE, AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALEXANDER FUNG.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S "CARE AND SHARE OPERATION" CUM WORKSHOP ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (WEST KOWLOON REGION) WILL BE HELD AT THE ACADEMY ROOM, HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN, MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST ON JULY 20 (SATURDAY), BEGINNING AT 2 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER. SWD INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.7.91	540
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.7.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+266*

* LATE O/N ASSISTANCE
TO BE REVERSED ON 19.7.91

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.6 *-0.2* 18.7.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	18.7.91	17.7.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	5.46 PCT	5.56 PCT
1 MONTH	5.85 PCT	5.78 PCT
3 MONTHS	6.28 PCT	6.10 PCT
6 MONTHS	6.32 PCT	6.10 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.73 PCT	6.60 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	7,045 MN	5,967 MN

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