



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992

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GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO WORK FOR HK'S INTERESTS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HIS ONLY AIM WAS TO WORK FOR THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND FOR THE FAMILIES WHO MAKE THE TERRITORY THEIR HOME, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

MR PATTEN SAID IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS HE INTENDED TO ACT DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD, WITH THE AUTHORITY WHICH WAS INCUMBENT UPON HIM AS GOVERNOR.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I THINK THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW AT LEAST FIVE PRINCIPLES IN ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT WE BUILD ON THE FOUNDATIONS THAT YOU AND OTHERS HAVE LAID IN THE LAST FEW YEARS."

"FIRST, WE SHOULD STICK TO POLICIES THAT HAVE WORKED, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUE TO BE A LOW-TAX COMMUNITY, AND THAT MEANS LOW TAX ON INDIVIDUALS AND LOW TAX ON BUSINESS. IN ORDER TO REMAIN A LOW-TAX HIGH-GROWTH ECONOMY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE REMAIN PRUDENT ABOUT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND ITS CONTROL," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR CRITERION WHICH I INTEND THAT WE SHOULD STICK TO, AND THAT IS THAT PUBLIC SPENDING SHOULD NOT GROW BY MORE THAN THE TREND GROWTH RATE IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE," HE ADDED.

"WE ALSO HAVE TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF A MARKET ECONOMY, WITH A GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO MINIMUM INTERVENTION BUT MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SECOND PRINCIPLE WE HAVE TO FOLLOW WAS TO HAVE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE TO GO ON BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

"THAT DOESN'T JUST MEAN BUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, IT ALSO MEANS BUILDING OUR SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL, AND IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS OUR PHYSICAL FABRIC," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN GAVE HIS VIEWS ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT: "EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A NEW AIRPORT. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE NEW RAILWAY-LINE, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THOSE PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED AS WELL."

"BECAUSE THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS ARE FOR DOING THAT. THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR HONG KONG, THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR CHINA, THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR THE WHOLE REGION. ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH HAS ENSURED THAT THIS REGION GOES ON EXPANDING IS INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE," HE SAID.

"WE KNOW, TOO, SOME OF THE SPECIFIC AND IDENTIFIABLE ADVANTAGES. WE KNOW OF THE ASSESSMENT THAT THE AIRPORT WOULD ADD IN ADDITIONAL WEALTH TO HONG KONG, \$420 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2010, A HUGE INCREASE IN OUR GNP. WE KNOW THAT FOR STARTERS, WE SEE ANOTHER 350 HECTARES OF LAND RECLAIMED, IN A CITY WHERE THE PRESSURE ON LAND IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE," HE ADDED.

/MR PATTEN .....

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MR PATTEN SAID NO COMMUNITY HAD CARRIED THROUGH SO MANY MAJOR PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ON TIME, UNDER THE BUDGET AND MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG ONLY HAS ONE AIM, AND THAT IS TO BUILD THE BEST POSSIBLE AIRPORT FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE.

"MY BOTTOM-LINE IS TO GET AN AIRPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AT THE BEST PRICE, WITH ALL ITS ASSOCIATED PROJECTS. AND THAT, I REPEAT, IS THE TOTALITY OF MY POSITION ON THAT EVER-INTERESTING TOPIC," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN SAID THE RULE OF LAW WAS THE THIRD PRINCIPLE: "A GOOD HONEST PUBLIC SERVICE, AND A VIGOROUS AND RIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION, ARE ALL ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY."

HE SAID CORRUPTION WOULD BE HUNTED-OUT WHEREVER IT HAPPENS: "THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE WHAT HAPPENS IN HONG KONG, AND WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GUARANTEE THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE THE POSITION IN HONG KONG FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE WAS THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT OUR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY HELPED TO SUSTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE, IT WAS ALSO TRUE THAT OUR WAY OF LIFE HELPED US TO SUSTAIN STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

ON THE SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997, HE SAID: "WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE AS WE BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THAT IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ALSO STRONG, DECISIVE AND EFFECTIVE."

"I HOPE THAT EVERYBODY WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE WILL TAKE THAT POINT TO HEART, IT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY ON ALL OF US.

"WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS SENSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE AND FAIR. AND IF WE CAN ACHIEVE BOTH OF THOSE OBJECTIVES, THEN I BELIEVE, VERY STRONGLY, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCING OTHERS - IN FOR EXAMPLE, PEKING AND LONDON - THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IN HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE SMOOTHLY AND UNINTERRUPTED THROUGH 1997," HE SAID.

ON THE FINAL POINT, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE WANT, ALL OF US WANT, A GOOD TRUSTING CO-OPERATIVE CANDID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA."

"THAT'S CERTAINLY WHAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WANTS, AND I ASSUME THAT IS WHAT CHINA WANTS AS WELL. MUCH IS GOING TO REST ON OUR RELATIONSHIP, MUCH IS GOING TO REST ON OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

/"THERE'LL BE .....

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"THERE'LL BE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE TO TRY THAT LITTLE BIT HARDER TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW. AT ALL TIMES, WE'LL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE A CERTAIN GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT, WHICH ISN'T ALWAYS A VERY COMMON CURRENCY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUT I'M SURE WILL BE IN OURS.

"NONE OF THAT MEANS RESILING FROM WHAT WE BELIEVE IS BEST FOR HONG KONG. IT DOES MEAN BEING PATIENT AND CAUTIOUS AND UNDERSTANDING, AS WELL AS FIRM, IN EXPLAINING WHAT WE BELIEVE IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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THE GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO  
THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
HELD AT THE REGENT HOTEL  
ON TUESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 1992

CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

YOUR REFERENCE TO A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE REMINDS ME OF WHAT IS PERHAPS AN APPROPRIATE WAY OF BEGINNING MY REMARKS TODAY. A BRITISH HOME SECRETARY, A FEW YEARS AGO - AND THE HOME SECRETARY, AS YOU WILL KNOW, IS THE MINISTER IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE AMONG OTHER THINGS FOR OUR PRISON SERVICE, FOR BRITAIN'S PRISONS - HE WAS PAYING HIS FIRST VISIT AS HOME SECRETARY TO ONE OF BRITAIN'S LARGEST PRISONS, DARTMOOR, WHERE MOST OF BRITAIN'S LONGEST-SERVING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE IS HELD. AND IN HIS PREVIOUS LIFE HE'D BEEN A LAWYER WITH A REPUTATION FOR A GREAT DEAL OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF REFORM AND REHABILITATION AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE A NICE CHANGE IF HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE ASSEMBLED CONVICTS WHEN HE GOT TO DARTMOOR, TO GIVE THEM HIS USUAL SPEECH ON THE SUBJECT. THE GOVERNOR AGREED THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AND ON HIS WAY DOWN TO THE PRISON CANTEEN TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLED 'LIFERS' AND '20-YEAR MEN', THE MINISTER WONDERED HOW HE SHOULD BEGIN HIS REMARKS. "GENTLEMEN", HE THOUGHT SOUNDED A LITTLE TOO CIVIL, "COMRADES" SOUNDED TOO MUCH LIKE A PARTY-MEETING, SO IN THE EVENT HE BEGAN HIS SPEECH BY SAYING, "I'M PLEASSED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY". I'M OBVIOUSLY PLEASSED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, RECOGNISING THAT ON BALANCE, I THINK THAT A SPEECH ON REFORM AND REHABILITATION WOULD BE OUT OF PLACE, BUT I GUESS YOU MAY GIVE ME CAUSE TO CHANGE MY MIND DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWENTY MINUTES OR SO.

/AS A .....

AS A NEWCOMER, I AM OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED TO MEET SO MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED TO MAKE HONG KONG THE SUCCESS STORY THAT IT IS. AND AS A NEWCOMER, AS A NEW RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, I'M AS OVERWHELMED AS OTHERS HAVE BEEN, BY THE SOCIAL, THE INTELLECTUAL AND THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THIS CITY AND THIS TERRITORY. I DESCRIBED IT, IN MY INAUGURAL SPEECH, AS 'ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD', AND DAY AFTER DAY I HAVE SEEN FOR MYSELF WHAT AN UNDERSTATEMENT THAT REMARK AMOUNTED TO. 'WONDER OF THE WORLD' IN ONE VERY PRACTICAL SENSE WHICH AFFECTS ALL OF YOU. 'WONDER OF THE WORLD' BECAUSE THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD - ACROSS ASIA ONE FINDS VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM - WHICH ISN'T AT PRESENT FLAT ON ITS BACK ECONOMICALLY.

IN EUROPE WE SEE COUNTRIES GRAPPLING WITH INFLATION, WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE, COUNTRIES WORRIED ABOUT COMPETITIVENESS AND A PREY, IN SOME RESPECTS, TO PROTECTIONISM. WE SEE MUCH THE SAME PICTURE IN NORTH AMERICA: GOVERNMENTS WRESTLING WITH HUGE FISCAL DEFICITS, AGAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR COMPETITIVENESS. LATIN AMERICA: COUNTRIES WRESTLING WITH CRIPPLING DEBT BURDENS. AND AFRICA, FACING GRINDING POVERTY, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, DEBT, POLITICAL INSTABILITY.

NOT THE STORY IN ASIA, AND NOT THE STORY AT ASIA'S HEART, IN HONG KONG. IN ASIA, WE'VE BEEN GROWING AT ABOUT THREE-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE AVERAGE GLOBAL RATE. GROWING AT THAT RATE, FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN INCREASING OUR MARKET SHARE GLOBALLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN DOING MORE TRADE WITH ONE ANOTHER. AND BOTH THOSE THINGS ARE ABUNDANTLY TRUE OF HONG KONG. WE'VE MOVED UPMARKET, WE'VE BECOME A MORE SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY, WE'VE ADDED VALUE; WE'VE BECOME, THEREFORE, INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE, AND AT THE SAME TIME WE'VE ACTED AS A TRIGGER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTHERN CHINA. SO HONG KONG HAS BEEN BOOMING WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN FALLING BEHIND.

THAT DOESN'T JUST HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR PEOPLE'S STANDARD OF LIVING, IT ALSO HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES. BECAUSE WE HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MEET MANY OF THE COLLECTIVE AMBITIONS WHICH OUR COMMUNITY SHARES. WE'VE SEEN A REVOLUTION IN THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC HOUSING. WE'VE SEEN ASTONISHING CHANGES IN HEALTH, WITH DISEASES THAT NOT LONG AGO KILLED PEOPLE BY THE TEN THOUSAND VIRTUALLY ERADICATED. A COMMUNITY WHICH NOW HAS A BETTER CHILD MORTALITY RATE THAN THE UNITED STATES OR THE UNITED KINGDOM OR AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND. A COMMUNITY WHICH BECAUSE OF ITS STRONG ECONOMY CAN NOW SEND ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION YOUNG PEOPLE BY THE THOUSAND RATHER THAN BY THE HUNDRED AS WAS THE CASE JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.

NONE OF THAT MEANS THAT WE CAN BE COMPLACENT. NONE OF THAT MEANS THAT WE DON'T HAVE NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HURDLES TO CLEAR. SO HOW CAN WE TACKLE OUR NEW PROBLEMS WITHOUT LOSING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS? HOW CAN WE DO THAT AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS IN A WHIRLWIND OF CHANGE, AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE SEEING A MELT-DOWN OF WHAT WE PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT WERE THE IMPLACABLE CERTAINTIES OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY? HOW CAN WE DO THAT AT A TIME WHEN WE ALL KNOW WE ALL REQUIRE GREATER SENSITIVITY AND GREATER SOPHISTICATION IN HANDLING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE PRC? I THINK THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW AT LEAST FIVE PRINCIPLES IN ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT WE BUILD ON THE FOUNDATIONS THAT YOU AND OTHERS HAVE LAID IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

FIRST OF ALL, WE SHOULD STICK TO POLICIES THAT HAVE WORKED. WE SHOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUE TO BE A LOW-TAX COMMUNITY, AND THAT MEANS LOW TAX ON INDIVIDUALS AND LOW TAX ON BUSINESS. FAIR TAXES - AND THAT'S A POINT I'M SURE WE'LL WANT TO DEBATE FROM TIME TO TIME - BUT LOW TAXES. IN ORDER TO REMAIN A LOW-TAX HIGH-GROWTH ECONOMY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE REMAIN PRUDENT ABOUT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND ITS CONTROL. WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR CRITERION WHICH I INTEND THAT WE SHOULD STICK TO, AND THAT IS THAT PUBLIC SPENDING SHOULD NOT GROW BY MORE THAN THE TREND GROWTH RATE IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. BECAUSE THE TREND GROWTH RATE IS ABOUT 5% A YEAR, THAT GIVES US ENORMOUS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES YEAR AFTER YEAR TO UNDERTAKE THE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES THAT WE WANT. THE PARADOX IS THAT IF WE WERE TO LOSE CONTROL OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, WE COULD EASILY FIND OURSELVES GROWING LESS FAST AND THEREFORE HAVING LESS MONEY IN THE LONG RUN TO SPEND ON THE OBJECTIVES THAT WE ALL SHARE. WE ALSO HAVE TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF A MARKET ECONOMY, WITH A GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO MINIMUM INTERVENTION BUT MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. BUT WITH A GOVERNMENT AS WELL, DETERMINED TO ENSURE - AS ADAM SMITH WOULD HAVE LIKED US TO - THAT WE HAVE AN ECONOMY WHICH IS OPEN AND COMPETITIVE IN ALL ASPECTS. AND I'M SURE THAT COMPETITION IS AN ISSUE THAT WE'LL WANT TO DEBATE BOTH INSIDE THE CHAMBER AND OUTSIDE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

SECONDLY, THE SECOND PRINCIPLE WE HAVE TO FOLLOW IS TO HAVE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE TO GO ON BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE. THAT DOESN'T JUST MEAN BUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, THOUGH I'LL RETURN TO THAT IN A MOMENT, IT ALSO MEANS BUILDING OUR SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL, AND IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS OUR PHYSICAL FABRIC. I'VE GOT NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT THERE WILL BE AN INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, AND WE THEREFORE HAVE A CLEAR AGENDA FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION. BUT WE ALSO NEED - AND HERE I COME TO A SUBJECT ALREADY FAMILIAR IN EVERY SOUND-BITE WHICH I'M REQUIRED TO GIVE - WE ALSO HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE BUILD THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE NEED. I KEEP ON READING IN THE NEWSPAPERS SPECULATIVE ARTICLES ABOUT MY VIEWS ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND IT MIGHT BE SIMPLE IF I SET THEM OUT TODAY AS PUBLICLY AND COGENTLY AS I CAN. MY VIEWS ARE SIMPLE AND THEY ARE THREEFOLD.

/FIRST OF .....

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FIRST OF ALL, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A NEW AIRPORT. I REPEAT, EVERYBODY. AND EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE NEW RAILWAY-LINE, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THOSE PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED AS WELL. AND WHY? WHY? - BECAUSE THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS ARE FOR DOING THAT. THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR HONG KONG, THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR CHINA, THE OVERWHELMING ARGUMENTS FOR THE WHOLE REGION. ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH HAS ENSURED THAT THIS REGION GOES ON EXPANDING IS INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE. LOOK AT THE INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE IN SINGAPORE, IN TAIWAN, IN MALAYSIA, IN THAILAND, IN SOUTH KOREA. ARE WE REALLY TO SAY THAT WHAT IS RIGHT IN THOSE COMMUNITIES IS SOMETHING THAT WE SHOULD TURN OUR BACKS ON IN HONG KONG? WE KNOW, TOO, SOME OF THE SPECIFIC AND IDENTIFIABLE ADVANTAGES. WE KNOW OF THE ASSESSMENT THAT THE AIRPORT WOULD ADD IN ADDITIONAL WEALTH TO HONG KONG, \$420 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2010, A HUGE INCREASE IN OUR GNP. WE KNOW THAT FOR STARTERS, WE SEE ANOTHER 350 HECTARES OF LAND RECLAIMED, IN A CITY WHERE THE PRESSURE ON LAND IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE. AND WE KNOW AS WELL, THAT WE ARE GOING TO OPEN UP NEW AREAS, LIKE NORTH LANTAU, FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. WE KNOW OF THE ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE OF A NEW AIRPORT FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN KOWLOON WHO WON'T HAVE, ANYMORE, TO HAVE THE AEROPLANES FLYING IN BETWEEN THEIR LAUNDRY. WE KNOW THAT ALL THOSE THINGS ARE TRUE. SO THE SOONER WE CAN TURN THEM INTO REALITY, THE BETTER.

AND MY SECOND POINT: I CAME ACROSS, THE OTHER DAY, A REMARK BY ONE OF HONG KONG'S WISEST ELDER STATESMEN - I HOPE I LIVE TO BE HIS AGE - WHO SAID THAT SO LONG AS PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE DIGGING HOLES IN THE GROUND EVERYTHING IN THE ECONOMY WOULD BE ALL RIGHT. WELL WE'VE DUG A LOT OF HOLES IN THE GROUND, NOT BOTTOMLESS-PITS BUT HOLES IN THE GROUND WHICH HAVE TURNED INTO SPECTACULAR TUNNELS, WHICH HAVE TURNED INTO EFFICIENT RAIL-SYSTEMS - RAIL-SYSTEMS THAT MAKE A PROFIT, HEAVENS ABOVE! - ROADS THAT WORK, WE'VE DONE ALL THAT. WHEN I'M TOLD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF COST-EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT, WHEN I'M TOLD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DELIVERING PROJECTS ON TIME AND TO COST, I MUST SAY I'M INCLINED TO RESPOND BY SAYING: THESE AREN'T ISSUES ON WHICH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG NEED TO STARE INTO THE CRYSTAL-BALL, THEY AREN'T ISSUES WHERE WE NEED THE HELP OF SOOTHSAYERS OR FORTUNE-TELLERS. NO COMMUNITY HAS CARRIED THROUGH SO MANY MAJOR PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ON TIME, UNDER THE BUDGET, NO COMMUNITY HAS DONE THAT MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN HONG KONG. AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE BEFORE WE CAN AND WILL DO AGAIN - I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE - IN RELATION TO THE AIRPORT AND THE RAILWAY AND ALL THE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT. SO THE SOONER WE CAN GET ON WITH IT AGAIN, THE BETTER.

/THIRD - MY .....

THIRD - MY THIRD POINT ON THE AIRPORT - MY LAST, AT LEAST TODAY - MY LAST UNTIL THE NEXT SOUND-BITE. I'VE ONLY GOT ONE AIM, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG ONLY HAS ONE AIM, AND THAT IS TO BUILD THE BEST POSSIBLE AIRPORT FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE. NO OTHER AIM - A VERY GOOD TRACK-RECORD WHICH SHOWS WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE - BUT NO OTHER SET OF OBJECTIVES. SO IF ANYBODY WAS SAYING TO US, "YOU CAN GET A BETTER AIRPORT FOR A LOWER PRICE IN THIS WAY OR THAT", IT WOULD BE PERVERSE OF US TO TURN THEM DOWN. BUT ALAS, I DON'T HEAR THAT BEING SAID. IF IT IS SAID, WE WILL LISTEN. WE'LL BE FLEXIBLE AND SENSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND PATIENT AND COURTEOUS - I'LL GO ON THROUGH ROGET'S THESAURUS. MY BOTTOM-LINE IS TO GET AN AIRPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AT THE BEST PRICE, WITH ALL ITS ASSOCIATED PROJECTS. AND THAT, I REPEAT, IS THE TOTALITY OF MY POSITION ON THAT EVER-INTERESTING TOPIC.

THREE OTHER POINTS WHICH I WILL MAKE BRIEFLY. THREE OTHER PRINCIPLES WHICH I BELIEVE WE MUST STICK TO. FIRST, AND IT'S A POINT THAT I'VE MADE ONCE OR TWICE ALREADY AND I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS VERY SURPRISING: THE RULE OF LAW, A GOOD HONEST PUBLIC SERVICE, AND A VIGOROUS AND RIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION, ARE ALL ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY. INVESTORS WANT TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THEY'RE ON A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD, THEY WANT TO BE CONFIDENT THAT EVERYONE IS PLAYING BY THE SAME RULES, THEY WANT TO BE CONFIDENT - TO REPEAT A POINT I'VE JUST MADE - THAT CORRUPTION WILL BE HUNTED-OUT WHEREVER IT HAPPENS. THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE WHAT HAPPENS IN HONG KONG, AND WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GUARANTEE THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE THE POSITION IN HONG KONG FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

FOUR, AGAIN A POINT THAT I SHALL CONTINUE TO MAKE: WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT OUR STABILITY AND OUR PROSPERITY HELP TO SUSTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE, SO IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT OUR WAY OF LIFE HELPS US TO SUSTAIN OUR STABILITY AND OUR PROSPERITY. WHAT WAY OF LIFE? A COMMITMENT TO THE THINGS I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. A COMMITMENT TO FREE-MARKET ECONOMICS, A COMMITMENT TO AN OPEN SOCIETY, A COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW, A COMMITMENT TO A FREE PRESS - EVEN WHEN THEY COURTEOUSLY FOLLOW THE GOVERNOR INTO DEPARTMENT STORES. THE GOVERNOR THINKS THAT THE MORE HE GOES INTO DEPARTMENT STORES, THE LESS THEY'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM INTO THEM. A COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, AND A COMMITMENT TO INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY. HOW DO WE DO THAT IN A WAY WHICH IS SENSIBLE? HOW DO WE DEVELOP THAT PROCESS IN A WAY WHICH IS MATURE AND SUSTAINABLE? WHAT WILL MAKE THAT INCREASED PARTICIPATION SUSTAINABLE? PEOPLE TALK QUITE PROPERLY, ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR BEING A SMOOTH TRANSITION THROUGH 1997, AND OF COURSE THAT'S RIGHT, NOBODY IN THEIR RIGHT MIND COULD WANT SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SMOOTH TRANSITION. WE DON'T WANT TO FIND IN 1997 THAT WE'RE HAVING TO CHANGE FROM ONE GAUGE TO ANOTHER. WE DON'T WANT TO FIND THE LIGHTS ARE SET AT RED. WE WANT TO SEE A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

/LET ME .....

LET ME TELL YOU TWO THINGS WHICH I THINK ARE IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO SECURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION. FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE AS WE BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THAT IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ALSO STRONG, DECISIVE AND EFFECTIVE. AND I HOPE THAT EVERYBODY WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE WILL TAKE THAT POINT TO HEART, IT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY ON ALL OF US. SECONDLY, WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS SENSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE AND FAIR. AND IF WE CAN ACHIEVE BOTH OF THOSE OBJECTIVES, THEN I BELIEVE, VERY STRONGLY, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCING OTHERS - IN FOR EXAMPLE, PEKING AND LONDON - THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IN HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE SMOOTHLY AND UNINTERRUPTED THROUGH 1997.

LET ME MAKE ONE LAST POINT. WE WANT, ALL OF US WANT, A GOOD TRUSTING CO-OPERATIVE CANDID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. THAT'S CERTAINLY WHAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WANTS, AND I ASSUME THAT IS WHAT CHINA WANTS AS WELL. MUCH IS GOING TO REST ON OUR RELATIONSHIP, MUCH IS GOING TO REST ON OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE YEARS AHEAD. THERE'LL BE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE TO BITE OUR TONGUES ON BOTH SIDES. MINE IS ALREADY A LITTLE SHORTER THAN IT WAS WHEN I ARRIVED IN HONG KONG. THERE'LL BE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE TO TRY THAT LITTLE BIT HARDER TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW. AT ALL TIMES, WE'LL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE A CERTAIN GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT, WHICH ISN'T ALWAYS A VERY COMMON CURRENCY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUT I'M SURE WILL BE IN OURS. NONE OF THAT MEANS RESILING FROM WHAT WE BELIEVE IS BEST FOR HONG KONG. IT DOES MEAN BEING PATIENT AND CAUTIOUS AND UNDERSTANDING, AS WELL AS FIRM, IN EXPLAINING WHAT WE BELIEVE IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

I HOPE, GOD WILLING, TO BE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG UNTIL 1997. I ONLY USE THE WORD "HOPE" AND THE WORDS "GOD WILLING" - THIS IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY SPECULATION IN THE PRESS - BECAUSE I GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AND HAVE AN INTENSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF HUBRIS IN POLITICS. SO, I SHALL BE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, WITH THOSE QUALIFICATIONS, UNTIL 1997, AND I INTEND TO ACT DURING THAT PERIOD, DURING THAT ENTIRE PERIOD, WITH THE AUTHORITY WHICH IS INCUMBENT UPON ME AS GOVERNOR. I ONLY HAVE ONE AGENDA, I ONLY HAVE ONE AIM, I ONLY HAVE ONE BOTTOM-LINE, AND THAT IS TO WORK FOR THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND FOR THE FAMILIES WHO MAKE HONG KONG THEIR HOME, BOTH TODAY, AND WHO WILL MAKE HONG KONG THEIR HOME IN THE FUTURE LONG AFTER THE LAST BRITISH GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN UP THE BURDENS OF AN OFFICE WHICH HE CARRIES WITH PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM.

CONSULTATION PAPER ON HEARSAY RULE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAS ISSUED A CONSULTATION PAPER REGARDING THE PROPOSED REFORM OF THE LAW RELATING TO HEARSAY RULE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

THE CONSULTATION PAPER, WHICH IS LARGELY BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A 1991 ENGLISH LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION PAPER, SETS OUT TWO REFORM MODELS FOR HONG KONG.

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, MR STUART STOKER, SAID: "THE FIRST OPTION IS TO REFINE THE EXISTING LAW BY SIMPLIFYING THE NOTICE PROCEDURE AND STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENTIAL AND PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS.

"THE SECOND OPTION IS TO DO AWAY WITH THE HEARSAY RULE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS ALTOGETHER."

THE PRESENT LAW RELATING TO THE HEARSAY RULE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVED COMPLEX PROCEDURES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE GIVING OF NOTICE WHERE A PARTY WISHED TO USE HEARSAY EVIDENCE IN COURT.

"IT HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CRITICISM. A REVIEW OF THE LAW WOULD THEREFORE BE USEFUL," MR STOKER SAID.

COPIES OF THE PAPER HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE LAW SOCIETY, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS (HONG KONG BRANCH), THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS, THE HONG KONG MAGISTRATES' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ADVOCATES, THE JUDICIARY AND THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE LAW DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

COPIES HAVE ALSO BEEN SENT TO THOSE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL LITIGATION. THE COMMISSION WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 30.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER OR TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT ARE INVITED TO TELEPHONE OR WRITE TO THE SECRETARIAT, LAW REFORM COMMISSION, FIRST FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG. (TEL 867 2020; FAX: 845 2215).

SUCCESSFUL REPATRIATION WELCOMED

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, TODAY WELCOMED THE SUCCESSFUL AND SMOOTH REPATRIATION OF 60 VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME (ORP).

"THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT EVEN NON-VOLUNTEERS ARE BEGINNING TO ACCEPT THAT THEIR FUTURE LIES IN VIETNAM, WHERE THEY CAN START A NORMAL LIFE INSTEAD OF LANGUISHING IN DETENTION CENTRES IN HONG KONG."

MR BRESNIHAN CONFIRMED THAT 16 OF THE NUNG ETHNIC GROUP REFERRED TO IN THE RECENT ASIA WATCH SUBMISSION TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WERE ON BOARD THE ORP FLIGHT.

THE ALLEGATION BY ASIA WATCH THAT 133 MEMBERS OF THIS ETHNIC GROUP WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PERSECUTION IF RETURNED TO VIETNAM WAS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED, HE SAID.

"TWENTY-FOUR OF THEM RETURNED VOLUNTARILY LAST YEAR AND - LIKE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED SO FAR - THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO ANY PERSECUTION AT THE HANDS OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

MR BRESNIHAN POINTED OUT THAT REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION PROCEDURES ARE APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS ONLY.

WHILE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO GROUP ALLEGIANCE - BE IT ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL - NO ONE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A REFUGEE SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP OF SUCH A GROUP.

"THIS APPROACH IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH UNHCR PRINCIPLES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL THE RETURNEES ON TODAY'S FLIGHT WERE SCREENED-OUT NON-REFUGEES AND THEIR CASES HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY UNHCR.

FIFTEEN OF THEM, INCLUDING NINE OF THE 10 DEPORTEES, CHOSE TO RETURN AS VOLUNTEERS BEFORE THEY BOARD THE FLIGHT.

HE FIRMLY REJECTED THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ASIA WATCH THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S SCREENING PROCEDURES WERE FLAWED AND BIASED.

"THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE IN THIS ALLEGATION. OUR PROCEDURES WERE DRAWN UP WITH THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNHCR. THEY HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF JUDICIAL REVIEW AND HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE FAIR AND PRACTICAL," HE SAID.

HE SAID APART FROM THE 16 NUNG RETURNEES ON TODAY'S FLIGHT AND THE 24 VOLUNTEERS WHO RETURNED LAST YEAR, ALL BUT A FEW OF THE NUNG GROUP HAD NOW BEEN THROUGH THE SCREENING PROCESS. THE MAJORITY HAD BEEN SCREENED OUT, AND 30 OF THEM HAD APPLIED FOR VOLUNTARY RETURN.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID 12 OF THE NUNG GROUP HAD BEEN SCREENED-IN BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS REFUGEES, THE UNHCR HAD EXERCISED THEIR MANDATE IN RESPECT OF THREE FURTHER CASES.

AN ADDITIONAL FIVE WERE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL STATUS DETERMINATION PROCESS.

MR BRESNIHAN SAID A REPLY HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ASIA WATCH THIS MORNING RELATING TO THE NUNG GROUP. THE OTHER ISSUES RAISED IN THEIR SUBMISSION WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION AND A FURTHER REPLY WOULD BE SENT TO ASIA WATCH AT A LATER DATE.

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63,253 ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES

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THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES AND POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES THIS YEAR IS 89.97 PER CENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA), THE SPOKESMAN SAID 75,702 STUDENTS TOOK PART THIS YEAR.

APART FROM 954 STUDENTS WHO HAVE OPTED OUT DURING THE YEAR, 63,253 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES, INCLUDING 55,324 WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS.

"IN ADDITION, 3,999 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FULL-TIME POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADVISED STUDENTS TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL SCHOOLS TO CHECK THE ALLOCATION RESULTS ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 6).

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO OTHER SCHOOLS OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OR INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES WILL EACH BE GIVEN A REGISTRATION FORM WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL DURING REGISTRATION THE FOLLOWING DAY (FRIDAY).

FOR REGISTRATION, STUDENTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM:

- \* THE REGISTRATION FORM;
- \* THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD;
- \* TWO RECENT PASSPORT-SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS; AND
- \* ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER ONE MONTH'S SCHOOL FEE WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SCHOOL.

/STUDENTS FAILING .....

STUDENTS FAILING TO REGISTER ON FRIDAY WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE SUBSIDISED SCHOOL PLACE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SCHOOL PLACES WILL EACH BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION SHEETS ON THE POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSES AND ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO SECONDARY 4 OF THE GOVERNMENT EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL START FROM NEXT TUESDAY TO FRIDAY (AUGUST 11-14).

HE SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD CALL IN PERSON AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE AT 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI (TEL 892 6669).

ALSO, THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM THEIR STUDENT'S PARTICULARS SLIP ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION RECORDS AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SECTION AND A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SLIP WHICH WILL BE KEPT BY THE SECTION.

"STUDENTS SEEKING INFORMATION ON ADULT EDUCATION COURSES SHOULD CONTACT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION DIRECT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL ENQUIRIES ON THE ALLOCATION RESULTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE EDUCATION RECORDS AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SECTION (TEL 891 9099).

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CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AWARDED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$7.7 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE KWUN TONG SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT, WHICH IS FOR THE STAGE TWO EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING SCREENING PLANT, INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF TWO ADDITIONAL SCREW PUMPS, ONE COARSE SCREEN AND ONE FINE SCREEN.

UPON COMPLETION THE CAPACITY OF THE PLANT WILL BE INCREASED FROM 600,000 CUBIC METRES TO 1 MILLION CUBIC METRES A DAY.

THE WORKS WILL ENABLE THE PLANT TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FLOWS FROM FUTURE PUMPING STATIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE EAST KOWLOON SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL SCHEME.

THE INSTALLATION WORKS WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMMISSIONING IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

THE KWUN TONG SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT IS A PRELIMINARY TREATMENT PLANT DESIGNED TO SCREEN AND REMOVE GRIT FROM THE SEWAGE COLLECTED FROM NGAU TAU KOK, SAU MAU PING, KWUN TONG AND YAU TONG AREAS BEFORE IT IS DISCHARGED THROUGH SUBMARINE OUTFALLS.

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CELEBRATIONS TO MARK CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY

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A PROCESSION AND A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD IN TAI PO ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 6) TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY OF TAI PO MARKET, WHICH WAS FORMLY KNOWN AS TAI WO SHI.

THE CELEBRATION WILL BEGIN WITH AN OFFERING TO ANCESTORS IN MAN MO TEMPLE, FU SIN STREET AT 8.30 AM.

A LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE PROCESSION WILL THEN BE HELD AT TAI PO PLAYGROUND, HEUNG SZE WUI STREET AT 10 AM.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM; DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE; HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT; AND REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

THE PROCESSION, INVOLVING 16 FLOATS, DRAGON AND LION DANCES, BAND PERFORMANCES, AND "PIU SIK", WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

IT WILL EN ROUTE THE MAJOR STREETS IN TAI PO MARKET, AND ROAD CLOSURE AND TRAFFIC DIVERSION MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE AREA FROM 9.30 AM TO 1.30 PM.

IN THE EVENING, A SPECTACULAR CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT TAI PO PLAYGROUND, BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM.

THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE SINGING PERFORMANCES, PUPPET SHOW, GAME STALLS, LION DANCES, BAND PERFORMANCES, AND A VARIETY OF CHINESE FOLK ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS.

THE CELEBRATION WILL CONTINUE ON THE NEXT DAY (FRIDAY) WITH THE HOLDING OF A BANQUET FOR THE ELDERLY IN TAI PO DISTRICT.

THE BANQUET, OFFICIATED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG; AND THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR PANG HANG-YIN; WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM AT A RESTAURANT IN HEUNG SZE WUI STREET.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES.

PRESS BADGES FOR ENTERING THE GUEST SPECTATOR STAND ON TAI PO KWONG FUK ROAD WILL BE ISSUED AT THE RECEPTION COUNTER PUT UP AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE STAND.

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SAFETY COURSE FOR CAISSON WORKERS

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A "SAFETY COURSE FOR CAISSON WORK" WILL BE HELD LATER THIS MONTH TO ENHANCE WORKERS' AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL DANGERS WHEN OPERATING IN CAISSONS AND MANHOLES.

THE ONE-DAY COURSE, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, WAS PLANNED TO BE HELD IN MID-SEPTEMBER BUT HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD FOLLOWING RECENT ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SUCH WORKERS.

IT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF THE "SAFETY COURSES OF HIGH-RISK NATURE".

AS ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CAISSON AND MANHOLE OPERATIONS ARE CAUSED MAINLY BY THE PRESENCE OF HARMFUL GASES AND OXYGEN DEFICIENCY WHICH MAY RESULT IN DEATHS, THE COURSE WILL AIM AT TEACHING WORKERS THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS THEY SHOULD TAKE BEFORE THE OPERATION.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF SELECTED CASES WILL BE ANALYSED AND DISCUSSED IN CLASS TO FURTHER INCREASE THE GENERAL SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG WORKERS AND HELP PREVENT THE OCCURENCE OF SIMILAR ACCIDENTS.

THE COURSE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM ON AUGUST 20, WILL BE HELD AT THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

INTERESTED WORKERS MAY CALL THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL ON 739 9377 FOR APPLICATION OR ENQUIRIES.

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4.4M USE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE

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MORE THAN 4.4 MILLION PEOPLE MADE USE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESCS) AND THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE PESCS, ATTACHED TO THE 19 DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PROVIDED VARIOUS TYPES OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

"THESE INCLUDED ANSWERING GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES; HANDING OUT GOVERNMENT FORMS, LEAFLETS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS; ADMINISTERING DECLARATIONS AND OATHS; AND MAKING REFERRALS UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME AND THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME," HE ADDED.

DURING THE PERIOD, 222,017 DECLARATIONS AND OATHS WERE ADMINISTERED. THE MOST IN DEMAND WERE DECLARATIONS OF TRUE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO EDUCATION, EXAMINATION AND EMIGRATION.

/THE PESCS .....

THE PESCS HAVE ALSO REFERRED 1,192 CASES TO THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, WHICH IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND CNTA.

RENT OFFICERS OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT ATTENDING 15 DISTRICT OFFICES HANDLED A TOTAL OF 7,711 ENQUIRIES ON RENT AND TENANCY PROBLEMS IN THE SAME PERIOD.

MEANWHILE, THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE HANDLED 73,091 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES FROM JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE CENTRE WAS SET UP LAST APRIL TO BACK UP THE DISTRICT PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE.

"ANYONE WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT PESCS OR ABOUT GOVERNMENT SERVICES MAY TELEPHONE THE CENTRE ON TEL 835 2500.

"THE LINE OPERATES FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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STRATEGIC INFORMATION STUDY FOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON A MAJOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGIC STUDY FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN A CONCERTED MOVE TO ALIGN DEPARTMENTAL PLANNING WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES.

THE STUDY UNDERLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM COMMITMENT IN MOVING AWAY FROM THE PROJECT-BY-PROJECT APPROACH TRADITIONALLY USED TO IMPLEMENT COMPUTERISATION, AND REPLACING IT BY A STRATEGIC PLANNING APPROACH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE STRATEGY WAS EXPECTED TO COVER INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN SUPPORT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION RECORDS, INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND SYSTEMS INTEGRATION.

A CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY WAS HELD TODAY AT THE NEW EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, WAN CHAI.

TAKING PART WERE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG; THE DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, MR K.H. LAU; THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KPMG PEAT MARWICK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS, MR STAN MILLER, AND THE HEAD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE COMPANY, MR DAVID NICHOLLS.

THE \$1.7 MILLION STUDY WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE IN FOUR MONTHS.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992

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THE CONSULTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO RECOMMEND, IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE INFORMATION NEEDS STUDY AND THE LIKELY TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS AND RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, A FIVE-YEAR INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY PLAN TO MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION NEEDS.

THE PLAN WILL COVER, AMONG OTHER AREAS:

- \* A PORTFOLIO OF STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS WITH PRIORITIES;
- \* A BLUEPRINT OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE IN SUPPORT OF THE STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS;
- \* PROFILES OF RESOURCES, CASH FLOW REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS;
- \* STRATEGIES FOR HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE BASED ON THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE;
- \* INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RELATED MANAGEMENT, STAFFING, AND TRAINING IMPLICATIONS; AND
- \* A PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT, MONITORING AND REVIEW MECHANISM FOR THE STRATEGY PLAN.

THE STUDY WILL BE OVERSEEN BY A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH, THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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#### IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON OVERSEAS STUDY

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SIX OFFICERS OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE FOR EUROPE AND USA FOR TRAINING LATER THIS MONTH.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR LAI TUNG-KWOK; CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, MR EDDY TSUI AND MR KUO KWOK-TUNG; AND SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR TAM TAK-KWONG; WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY ON AN EIGHT-WEEK STUDY OF THE IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR HO KWOK-YAN; AND CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR AU CHEUK-LUEN; WILL SPEND NINE MONTHS IN PROGRAMME AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, USA.

AT A BRIEFING TODAY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG, SAID HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OFFICERS RECEIVING OVERSEAS TRAINING AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH AND LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

/THE STUDY .....

THE STUDY TRIPS WOULD HELP OFFICERS IN SELF DEVELOPMENT AND ENABLE THEM TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF OVERSEAS VISITORS WHOM THEY WOULD MEET IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES.

MR YEUNG STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT FULLY RECOGNISED THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THESE OVERSEAS STUDY TRIPS AND COURSES AND THAT EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH SUCH OPPORTUNITIES.

HE URGED THE OFFICERS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIDEN THEIR HORIZON AND TO ACHIEVE SELF ENRICHMENT.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	4 AUG 92	4 AUG 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q232	H270
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,720 MN	HKD 1,410 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 300 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.69 PCT	2.78 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.72 PCT	2.82 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 19 PCT	ABOUT 14 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.73 PCT	2.85 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 10 AUGUST 1992 -

TENDER DATE	11 AUG 92	11 AUG 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q233	Y293
ISSUE DATE	12 AUG 92	12 AUG 92
MATURITY DATE	11 NOV 92	11 AUG 93
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160 MN	HKD 200+60 MN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	988
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+150
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,138

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 109.8 \*\*0.1\* 4.8.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.03 PCT	15 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.32	3.62
1 MONTH	2.76 PCT	18 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.31	3.97
3 MONTHS	2.69 PCT	21 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.30	4.19
6 MONTHS	2.79 PCT					
12 MONTHS	3.30 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,795MN

CLOSED 4 AUGUST 1992

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