



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1989

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GOVERNOR CALLS FOR LASTING SOLUTION TO VBP PROBLEM

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, HAS CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO AGREE URGENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE THAT HONG KONG IS UNDER IN COPING WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, AND TO FIND A LASTING SOLUTION THAT DEALS WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES IN GENEVA TODAY (TUESDAY), THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG HAD PLAYED ITS PART TO THE FULL IN ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN THE FIRST GENEVA CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AGO.

"BUT THESE WERE YESTERDAY'S ARRANGEMENTS. THEY NO LONGER MEET TODAY'S PROBLEM," SIR DAVID SAID.

OUTLINING THE ENORMOUS PROBLEM HONG KONG FACED DUE TO A MASSIVE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THAT THE SITUATION WAS CRITICAL. IT COULD NOT GO ON AND HONG KONG COULD NOT CONTINUE TO SHOULDER THIS BURDEN.

SIR DAVID SAID LIKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IN 1979, THE SOLUTION NEEDED TO BE MADE UP OF SEVERAL PARTS, ALL OF WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL IF IT WAS TO WORK.

* THE UNSAFE, ILLEGAL DEPARTURE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE MUST BE STOPPED OR DRASTICALLY REDUCED. THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE VIETNAM AND HAVE A PLACE TO GO TO, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO BY A MEANS WHICH IS BOTH SAFE AND LEGAL;

* SECONDLY, IF PLACES IN THE AREA ARE TO PROVIDE ASYLUM FOR PEOPLE SEEKING A HOME ELSEWHERE WHO HAVE LANDED ON THEIR SHORES, THE COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT MUST BE PREPARED TO OFFER A PROGRAMME OF QUICK AND EFFECTIVE RESETTLEMENT FOR GENUINE REFUGEES;

* THIRDLY, TO RELIEVE A PART OF HONG KONG'S HEAVY BURDEN, A REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRE, SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL FUNDING, SHOULD BE SET UP FROM WHICH REFUGEES COULD MOVE ON TO PERMANENT HOMES IN RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

* FOURTHLY, ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE BOTH PRACTICAL AND HUMANE MUST BE MADE FOR THE HUGE NUMBERS OF NEW ARRIVALS WHO ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES AND HAVE NO PROSPECT OF GETTING TO THE DESTINATIONS THEY SEEK.

THESE PEOPLE TOO ARE A RESPONSIBILITY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CANNOT SHRUG OFF. IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT VIETNAM, LIKE EVERY OTHER MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, SHOULD ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN TAKING BACK ITS OWN CITIZENS, BOTH THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER TO DO SO AND THOSE WHO DO NOT VOLUNTEER.

/IF THERE

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IF THERE IS A DELAY BETWEEN ARRIVAL AND REPATRIATION THEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD SHOULDER THE COST.

THE GOVERNOR SAID A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION WAS BEING DISCUSSED BY THE CONFERENCE.

"IF THIS PLAN IS TO ADDRESS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IT WILL NEED TO BE TRULY COMPREHENSIVE, COVERING ALL THE ASPECTS I HAVE LISTED," HE SAID.

"ABOVE ALL, IT WILL HAVE TO REDUCE THE OUTFLOW FROM VIETNAM AND TO ENSURE THAT PROPER ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE PUT IN PLACE TO RETURN THOSE WHO ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT WITHOUT THIS HONG KONG COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS PART BY PROVIDING FIRST ASYLUM. AN UNBALANCED PLAN WOULD BE THE SOUND OF ONLY ONE HAND CLAPPING.

ON THE COMMENT THAT IT WAS WRONG OR INHUMANE TO SEND BACK TO VIETNAM THOSE WHO DID NOT VOLUNTEER TO GO, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "BUT IS IT? THIS IS WHAT IS DONE WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALL OVER THE WORLD: OF COURSE THERE MUST BE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THOSE WHO RETURN TO BE DECENTLY TREATED; AND THE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MONITORED."

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THE REAL INHUMANITY WAS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LEAVE VIETNAM WITH WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN IN UNSAFE BOATS IN THE HOPE OF GETTING TO DESTINATIONS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD WHICH THEY WOULD NEVER REACH BECAUSE THE DOORS WERE CLOSED.

"THE REAL INHUMANITY IS THAT THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE TO BE CONFINED IN CAMPS WITH NO HOPE OF RESETTLEMENT," THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

"AS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS SAID, VOLUNTARY RETURNS ARE FAR FEWER THAN NEW ARRIVALS. THE LOGIC IS INESCAPABLE -- THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE BOAT PEOPLE THEMSELVES NEW ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD URGENTLY BE PUT IN PLACE.

"THE HUMANE COURSE IS TO SET UP, AND SET UP QUICKLY, PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURNING TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES."

SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS NOT THE VIEW OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ALONE.

"SOME OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WORKING IN THE CAMPS IN HONG KONG ARE INCREASINGLY SEEING MANDATORY REPATRIATION AS THE ONLY HUMANE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM," HE SAID.

"WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP BY THIS CONFERENCE TO ACHIEVE THE VERY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A SCHEME. THE PROCESS SHOULD START AT ONCE."

/THE GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT TEN YEARS AGO HONG KONG WAS REELING UNDER THE IMPACT OF A MASSIVE INFLUX OF PEOPLE ARRIVING IN BOATS FROM VIETNAM, WITH THE TERRITORY HAVING 66,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN JULY 1979.

"TODAY WE ARE AGAIN REELING UNDER A CONSTANT STREAM OF PEOPLE ARRIVING FROM VIETNAM. OVER 9,000 OF THEM ARRIVED IN MAY ALONE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"RECENTLY WE HAVE HAD AS MANY AS 1,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARRIVING IN A SINGLE DAY ON SMALL OVERCROWDED, UNSEAWORTHY BOATS.

"TODAY THERE ARE ALMOST 43,000 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, BY FAR THE LARGEST NUMBER IN ANY TERRITORY IN THE REGION," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AGO HAD ACHIEVED REMARKABLE RESULTS.

ARRANGEMENTS WERE PUT IN PLACE BY WHICH :-

THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM WAS REDUCED;

A PROGRAMME FOR ORDERLY DEPARTURE WAS SUBSTITUTED FOR CLANDESTINE AND UNSAFE FLIGHT;

HONG KONG AND MOST OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA AGREED TO GIVE TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO THOSE ARRIVING ON THEIR SHORES BY BOAT;

IN RETURN, COUNTRIES ELSEWHERE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE A PROGRAMME OF RESETTLEMENT SO THAT NONE OF THE PLACES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM SHOULD BE LEFT HOLDING REFUGEES; AND

THE COSTS OF THE WHOLE PROGRAMME WOULD BE SHARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"HONG KONG PLAYED ITS PART IN THESE ARRANGEMENTS TO THE FULL. OVER 117,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE COME TO HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN LOOKED AFTER AND MOVED ON TO PERMANENT HOMES.

"NONE HAS BEEN TURNED AWAY," SIR DAVID POINTED OUT.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG WAS GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED RESETTLEMENT PLACES, NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND ALSO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAD MADE THEIR OWN GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

"THE PROBLEM HAS NOT GONE AWAY, BUT THE NATURE OF IT HAS CHANGED," SIR DAVID NOTED.

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"ONLY ONE THING HAS REMAINED CONSTANT. THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE NOW ARRIVING ON OUR SHORES EACH WEEK ARE NOT SEEKING TO STAY IN HONG KONG. THEIR AIM IS TO REACH THE COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT; ABOVE ALL, THEY WANT TO GO TO NORTH AMERICA," HE ADDED.

"THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM HAS CHANGED, PARTLY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE COMING HAVE CHANGED AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE WELCOME THEY WERE ONCE GIVEN ROUND THE WORLD HAS FADED," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT TEN YEARS AGO THOSE LEAVING VIETNAM, MOSTLY ETHNIC CHINESE FLEEING FROM WHAT HAD BEEN SOUTH VIETNAM, WERE GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES.

"BUT IN RECENT YEARS THE PEOPLE ARRIVING HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. THOSE COMING TO HONG KONG HAVE MOSTLY BEEN VIETNAMESE FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF VIETNAM.

"THEY ARE NOT THE VICTIMS OF A SUDDEN CHANGE OF POLITICAL REGIME. THEY ARE SEEKING ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES RATHER THAN FLEEING POLITICAL PERSECUTION.

"HALF OF THOSE NOW ARRIVING ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 20. ONE THIRD ARE CHILDREN OF 15 OR LESS," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE PROBLEM HAS ALSO CHANGED BECAUSE SINCE 1980 OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT HAVE STEADILY FALLEN. FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH NORTH AMERICA HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED.

"FOR THE PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM THE NECESSARY BALANCE ACHIEVED UNDER THE 1979 ARRANGEMENTS NO LONGER EXISTS.

"HONG KONG AND THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA HAVE LIVED UP TO THEIR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN BY CONTINUING TO PROVIDE FIRST ASYLUM, BUT CAN THE SAME BE SAID OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE?"

"THOSE BLEAK WORDS 'COMPASSION FATIGUE' HAVE BEEN ALL TOO REAL," SIR DAVID SAID.

LAST YEAR, OVER 18,000 PEOPLE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BY BOAT FROM VIETNAM: LESS THAN 3,000 LEFT FOR RESETTLEMENT.

"SOME COUNTRIES HAVE SAID THAT THOSE ARRIVING NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR RESETTLEMENT AS REFUGEES UNDER THE NORMAL RULES. THERE IS THE SOUND OF ONLY ONE HAND CLAPPING," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"THE CONSEQUENCES FOR HONG KONG ARE APPALLING," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE PEOPLE MOVING ALONG THE COAST OF CHINA AND ARRIVING IN THEIR SMALL, OVERCROWDED BOATS, ARE COMING RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED PLACES IN THE WORLD.

"OUR RESOURCES HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED," HE ADDED.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE COMMUNITY HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY UNWILLING TO TOLERATE THE ARRIVAL OF A NEVER ENDING FLOOD OF PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM.

"THEY ASK WHEN IT WILL EVER STOP. UNDERSTANDABLY THEY BEGRUDGE THE RESOURCES AND THE EFFORTS WHICH THEY HAVE DEVOTED TO THESE UNINVITED GUESTS AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY WHEN SO MANY OTHER PRIORITIES ARE CLAMOURING FOR OUR ATTENTION," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUMS SPENT WERE NOT SMALL AND THAT COSTS HAD BEEN RISING SHARPLY : US\$120 MILLION IN THE LAST FIVE YEAS, OF WHICH US\$64 MILLION WAS SPENT LAST YEAR ALONE.

"PEOPLE QUESTION WHETHER THE GENEROSITY WE HAVE SHOWN FOR SO MANY YEARS IS NOT NOW BEING ABUSED," SIR DAVID SAID.

"ALL THIS AGAINST A BACKGROUND WHERE EVERY DAY SOME 30 TO 40 PEOPLE WHO, UNLIKE THE BOAT PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM, OFTEN HAVE CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH RELATIVES IN HONG KONG, HAVE TO BE RETURNED TO CHINA BECAUSE THEY HAVE COME INTO THE TERRITORY ILLEGALLY AND WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR THEM," HE POINTED OUT.

WITH THE 1979 GENEVA ARRANGEMENTS BREAKING DOWN AND PEOPLE STILL FLOODING IN, HONG KONG INTRODUCED A POLICY OF SCREENING IN JUNE LAST YEAR WHEREBY ALL WHO ARRIVED WERE SCREENED TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEY WERE REFUGEES UNDER ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL RULES AS APPROVED BY THE UNHCR.

"THE PROCESS HAS BEEN CAREFUL, ELABORATE -- INDEED SO ELABORATE THAT UP TO NOW IT HAS BEEN TOO SLOW," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CASES HAS SHOWN THAT SOME 90 PER CENT OF THOSE SCREENED SO FAR DO NOT QUALIFY FOR REFUGEE STATUS UNDER NORMAL INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA.

"THEIR REASONS FOR LEAVING VIETNAM HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC. THEIR CHANCES OF RESETTLEMENT ARE THUS VIRTUALLY NIL," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

BUT DESPITE THE CHANGE IN POLICY LARGE NUMBERS HAD CONTINUED TO POUR INTO HONG KONG.

"THIS YEAR SOME 18,000 PEOPLE HAVE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BY BOAT FROM VIETNAM. 4,500 OF THESE HAVE ARRIVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF JUNE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST SIX WEEKS WE HAVE HAD AN AVERAGE OF OVER 300 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN SAILING INTO HONG KONG ON SMALL BOATS."

"THE SITUATION IS NOW CRITICAL," SIR DAVID SAID. "WE LOOK TO THIS CONFERENCE TO PROVIDE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WE NOW FACE.

"ONLY THEN CAN WE CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR PART. THIS PROBLEM HAS GONE ON TOO LONG. IT NOW CRIES OUT FOR A REALISTIC AND LASTING SOLUTION."

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VBP PROBLEM GETTING THOROUGH AIRING: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY HE HOPED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE PLEASED THAT A PROBLEM WHICH HAS PLAGUED US FOR A LONG TIME WAS GETTING A VERY THOROUGH AIRING IN GENEVA.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES, SIR DAVID SAID SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON PARTS OF THE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH NOBODY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WOULD COME OUT AT THE END.

HE WELCOMED THE OFFER BY THE PHILIPPINO DELEGATION TO HOST THE PROPOSED REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT CENTRE FOR REFUGEES IN FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES, DESCRIBING IT AS SOMETHING WHICH HONG KONG HAD BEEN HOPING FOR BUT NOT FORESEEN BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.

THE GOVERNOR TOLD REPORTERS THAT APART FROM ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE THE UK/HK TEAM HAD MET THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION.

THE MEETING WOULD CONTINUE TOMORROW AND HE HOPED TO FIND A WAY FORWARD IN AGREEING ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATING PEOPLE TO VIETNAM, HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE TEAM HAD ALSO MET THE US DELEGATION TO DISCUSS PERCEPTIONS THAT THE BRITISH AND UNITED STATES HAD ON THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

THESE PERCEPTIONS, HE SAID, WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME IN THAT BOTH COUNTRIES RECOGNISED THAT THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES AND WHO WERE NOT GOING TO BE RESETTLED.

"BUT WE ALSO HAVE A DIFFERENCE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO ABOUT THAT PROBLEM," HE SAID.

ON A COMMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, THAT HONG KONG MIGHT BE FORCED TO SUSPEND ITS PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY IF THE BOAT PEOPLE CRISIS CONTINUED UNRELIEVED, THE GOVERNOR SAID THIS WAS A STATEMENT OF FACT.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS SUFFERING FROM INTOLERABLE PRESSURES AND ALL ITS FACILITIES WERE OVERWHELMED.

"IT IS A STATEMENT OF FACT THAT UNLESS WE CAN FIND SOME WAY OF RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM, AND BY THAT I MEAN THAT THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DECREASE OR WE CAN FIND WAYS OF DEALING WITH THE HUGH NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE'VE ALREADY GOT, THEN WE SIMPLY CAN'T GO ON AS WE ARE."

"BUT THIS IS A POINT WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO REACH," HE STRESSED.

"WHAT WE ARE DOING IS TO WARN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE FACING AN INTOLERABLE STRAIN, AND WE CAN'T SIMPLY GO ON AS WE ARE IF THIS INTOLERABLE STRAIN CONTINUES WITHOUT RELIEF," HE SAID.

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ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN GENEVA

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THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR RESETTLEMENT OF GENUINE REFUGEES, A STOPPAGE OF THE MASSIVE OUTFLOW FROM VIETNAM, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GO TO LEAVE VIETNAM IN A LEGAL AND ORDERLY WAY, AND, VERY IMPORTANTLY, ARRANGEMENTS TO SEND BACK TO VIETNAM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID YESTERDAY (MONDAY):

"THOSE THINGS, ALL TOGETHER, NOW OR IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, ARE WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR," HE TOLD REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL IN GENEVA TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES DUE TO START TODAY (TUESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED THE WORLD COMMUNITY WOULD FIRST OF ALL UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PROBLEM FOR HONG KONG WAS.

"UP TO NOW, WE HAVE BEEN FACING A PROBLEM IN HONG KONG AND THE WORLD AS A WHOLE HAS VIRTUALLY DISREGARDED IT. THAT'S STAGE ONE.

"STAGE TWO IS ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GENUINE REFUGEES.

"STAGE THREE, AND THE HARDEST OF THEM ALL, IS MAKING PEOPLE REALISE THAT PART OF THE SOLUTION MUST BE RETURNING PEOPLE TO VIETNAM WHO ARE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES".

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE HELD WITH THE VIETNAMESE.

"I EXPECT SIR GEOFFREY HOWE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER MYSELF."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SIR DAVID SAID THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE THE UNITED STATES TO UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

"THE REALITIES ARE, FIRST, THAT NEARLY EVERYBODY WHO COMES TO HONG KONG DOESN'T WANT TO COME TO HONG KONG. THEY WANT TO GO TO NORTH AMERICA. ABOVE ALL, THEY WANT TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES.

"BUT THOSE DOORS ARE CLOSED TO THEM BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES SAYS THAT MOST OF THESE PEOPLE DON'T QUALIFY TO GO TO THE STATES.

"SO WE HAVE A TRAGIC SITUATION OF PEOPLE SETTING OUT ON A JOURNEY TO NOWHERE, THEY WON'T GET TO THEIR DESTINATION.

"SECONDLY, FACING THAT REALITY AND REALISING THAT THE GENUINELY HUMANE THING TO DO IS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM WITHOUT BEING PENALISED.

"THAT IS GENUINELY HUMANE, FAR BETTER THAN BEING CONFINED FOR MONTHS OR YEARS IN DETENTION CENTRES," SIR DAVID SAID.

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PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COPING WITH VBP: SIR DAVID

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO GO ON MAKING PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO RECEIVE THE CONTINUOUS INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID AFTER VISITING THE SEK KONG CAMP TODAY (TUESDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS THERE TO SEE PROGRESS OF WORK IN ERECTING TENTS ON THE RUNWAY TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR VIETNAMESE ARRIVALS.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT LOCAL PEOPLE IN SEK KONG WOULD FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF VIETNAMESE IN THEIR AREA. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VBP CAMP WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ARMY CAMP AND THERE WERE TWO BARBED-WIRE FENCES BETWEEN THE CAMP AND THE LOCAL POPULATION.

"IT IS BEING GUARDED BY THE POLICE FORCE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BIG PROBLEMS ON THE SOKO ISLANDS WHEN TRYING TO MOVE PEOPLE OUT IN THE EVENT OF THE APPROACH OF A TYPHOON.

"AND IT CAUSES AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF TROUBLE FOR OUR SECURITY FORCES TO MOVE PEOPLE OFF THE REMOTE ISLANDS. WE HAVE GOT TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHICH WILL PROVIDE A DEGREE OF CONTINUITY AND SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE DATE WHEN THE CAMP COULD BE USED, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO USE THIS CAMP SOMETIME TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK IF THE FLOW OF VBP CONTINUED AT THE PRESENT RATE AND THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO FIRM DATE YET.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT VILLAGERS MIGHT TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE GOVERNMENT MOVING VBP INTO THE CAMP, SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED COOL HEADS WOULD PREVAIL IN THIS SITUATION.

"IT WOULD NOT DO ANYBODY GOOD IN THE COMMUNITY TO RESORT TO ANY SORT OF DRASTIC ACTION.

"AND OF COURSE, THE POLICE WILL BE GUARDING THIS CAMP AND WILL BE LOOKING AFTER SECURITY GENERALLY. SO I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAS ANYTHING TO FEAR AT ALL FROM THE PRESENCE OF BOAT PEOPLE HERE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ARMY FOR THE TREMENDOUS JOB THEY HAD DONE. "IT IS A GREAT EFFORT AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE," SIR DAVID REMARKED.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID LATER VISITED AND INSPECTED FACILITIES AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE, SHA TIN, WHERE 6,500 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAD TO BE CROWDED INTO BLOCKS AND TENTS BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING LARGE INFLUX OF VBP.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE, THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED FOR THEIR HARD WORK UNDER DIFFICULT EMERGENCY CONDITIONS IN OPERATING THE WHITEHEAD AND OTHER DETENTION CENTRES AND REFUGEE CAMPS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO BEEN PUTTING IN SPECIAL EFFORTS IN CAPITAL WORKS AND THE PROVISION OF SECURITY FENCES, ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE AND OTHER ANCILIARY FACILITIES FOR EMERGENCY VBP ACCOMMODATION.

SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 18,122 VBP ARRIVALS, AN INCREASE OF 10,586 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

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PUBLIC URGED TO SPEAK UP ON TRANSPORT POLICY
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK UP ON THE TRANSPORT POLICY GREEN PAPER.

MR LEUNG SAID PUBLIC VIEWS WERE NECESSARY TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINE THE PRACTICABILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD AN OPEN MIND ON THE MANAGEMENT MEASURES OUTLINED IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, HE EMPHASISED WHEN SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF SOUTH KOWLOON.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC DURING THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS ENDING IN SEPTEMBER WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF FORMULATING LONG-TERM TRANSPORT POLICIES UP TO THE 21ST CENTURY.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR LEUNG DISPELLED TWO COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING: THAT LONG-TERM PLANNING WAS LACKING, AND THAT BUILDING MORE ROADS WOULD SOLVE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT TOOK POSITIVE ACTION IN SYSTEMATIC, LONG-TERM PLANNING IN THE 1960'S WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE HONG KONG PASSENGER TRANSPORT STUDY, THE MASS TRANSIT STUDY AND THE LONG TERM ROAD STUDY.

THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-1) WAS COMPLETED IN 1976.

/IT PRODUCED

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IT PRODUCED A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM INTO THE 1990'S, AND BECAME THE BACKBONE OF THE 1979 WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY.

THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY DEVELOPED BY CTS-1 PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN ACCOMMODATING RAPID GROWTH IN TRANSPORT DEMAND, HE SAID.

THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (STC-2) WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1986 TO PROJECT GROWTH IN TRANSPORT DEMAND UP TO 2001, AND TO APPRAISE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND POLICY OPTIONS TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES.

THIS STUDY BECAME THE BASIS OF THE GREEN PAPER.

"AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THE STUDY IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPUTERISED TRANSPORT MODEL WHICH CAN BE UPDATED REGULARLY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FUTURE CHANGES IN POLICIES, PLANS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

"IMPORTANT DATA SUCH AS THE LOCATIONS OF FUTURE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT WILL BE FED INTO THE MODEL SO THAT AN OPTIMUM AND PRACTICAL ROAD AND RAIL NETWORK CAN CONTINUE TO BE DEvised TO COPE WITH CHANGING NEEDS," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE SECOND MISCONCEPTION WAS THAT CONGESTION WOULD DISAPPEAR WITH THE BUILDING OF MORE ROADS, MR LEUNG SAID.

ROAD AND RAIL CONSTRUCTION HAD BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT, REQUIRING RECLAMATION, BUILDING TUNNELS AND ELEVATED ROADS TO IMPROVE THE ROAD NETWORK.

"MOREOVER, DUE TO INSUFFICIENT SPACE IN THE BUILT-UP AREAS, THERE IS VERY LIMITED SCOPE TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL AND DISTRIBUTOR ROADS WHICH NOW MAKE UP 70 PER CENT OF OUR ROAD NETWORK," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT TO ALLOW UNRESTRAINED GROWTH IN ROAD TRAFFIC WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE AS IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE ECONOMY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT WITHOUT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC COULD OVERLOAD THE EXISTING AND PLANNED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER MEASURES SUCH AS BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORT PLANNING WHICH WOULD HELP REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

MR LEUNG ALSO CALLED ON THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN REDUCING PEAK HOUR CONGESTION.

"YOU, AS EMPLOYERS CAN FOR EXAMPLE, HELP BY SUPPORTING A GREATER USE OF FLEXI-TIME AND STAGGERED WORKING HOURS," HE ADDED.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1989

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CIVIL SERVICE PAY TO BE ADJUSTED

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, MET THE STAFF SIDES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL AND THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1989 PAY ADJUSTMENT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH ALSO MET THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL.

MR GREWAL SAID: "THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THIS MORNING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PAY TREND SURVEY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 1988 TO JANUARY 31, 1989.

"ALSO CONSIDERED WERE THE ADVICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE DIRECTORATE, DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS; THE COST OF LIVING INCREASES; AND THE PAY CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY THE STAFF SIDES.

"WHERE THE NON-DIRECTORATE PAY ADJUSTMENT IS CONCERNED, WE WERE AUTHORISED TO MAKE AN OFFER TO THE STAFF SIDES BASED ON THE 1988-89 PAY TREND INDICATORS, AS ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY'S RECOMMENDATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED.

"THUS THE AWARD WILL BE 13.43 PER CENT FOR THE UPPER BAND AND 14.81 PER CENT FOR BOTH THE MIDDLE AND LOWER BANDS WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR."

THE UPPER BAND OF SALARIES IS FROM \$18,000 TO \$35,890 A MONTH, THE MIDDLE BAND FROM \$5,700 TO \$17,999 AND THE LOWER BAND IS BELOW \$5,700.

MR GREWAL ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT THE PAY AWARD FOR DIRECTORATE OFFICERS AND OFFICERS ON DIRECTORATE EQUIVALENT SALARIES IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND THE JUDICIARY WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE PAY TREND SURVEY ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE 14.5 PER CENT.

THIS PERCENTAGE WAS THE MOST COMMON PAY INCREASE IN 1988-89 ESTABLISHED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY ON REMUNERATION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1989 PAY ADJUSTMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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WRITTEN CONTRACT REQUIRED FOR OVERSEAS WORK
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EMPLOYERS WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED THAT THEY WERE REQUIRED BY LAW TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH ALL MANUAL WORKERS WHOM THEY ENGAGE TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

THE CONTRACTS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE WORKERS AND ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

IN A RECENT COURT CASE, AN EMPLOYER WAS FINED \$2,000 BY A WESTERN COURT MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH HIS EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED AS A MECHANIC OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

IN ANOTHER CONVICTION, A TRADING COMPANY WAS FOUND TO HAVE EMPLOYED FOUR WORKERS TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG WITHOUT SUBMITTING ANY CONTRACT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION, DESPITE AGREEMENTS BEING MADE WITH THE EMPLOYEES IN THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE EMPLOYER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FINED \$3,200 BY A SAN PO KONG COURT MAGISTRATE.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT WOULD BE PROSECUTED IF HE FAILED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH A MANUAL WORKER BEFORE DEPARTURE OR INDUCED A WORKER TO DEPART FROM HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT WAS ATTESTED.

UPON CONVICTION, AN EMPLOYER IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$50,000.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE RESPECTIVE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE MAY BE MADE TO THE EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT 5-8523535 OR 5-8523537.

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MAY RAINFALL FOURTH HIGHEST ON RECORD
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MAY WAS A VERY EVENTFUL MONTH IN TERMS OF THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG. RAINFALL WAS MUCH ABOVE NORMAL, WITH HAIL REPORTED DURING ONE OF THE MANY RAIN EPISODES. TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS WERE ALSO HOISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR DURING THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON BRENDA, INCLUDING THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL WHICH HAD NOT BEEN HOISTED SINCE AUGUST 1986.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 771.9 MILLIMETRES, WHICH IS MORE THAN TWO AND A HALF TIMES THE NORMAL RAINFALL OF 298.1 MILLIMETRES AND THE FOURTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MAY.

/THIS BROUGHT

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THIS BROUGHT THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY TO 1,047.4 MILLIMETRES, WHICH IS 87 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF 561.1 MILLIMETRES AND THE NINTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO MAY.

MOST OF THE RAIN IN MAY WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH AND TYPHOON BRENDA WHICH AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS FROM MAY 19 TO 21. ON MAY 2, 104.8 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL BETWEEN NOON AND 1 PM. THIS AMOUNT IS THE HIGHEST HOURLY RAINFALL EVER RECORDED FOR MAY. IT IS ALSO THE SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD, JUST 3.4 MILLIMETRES LESS THAN THE HIGHEST RECORDED ON JUNE 12, 1966.

THE DAILY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 322.8 MILLIMETRES ON MAY 20 ASSOCIATED WITH TYPHOON BRENDA IS THE SECOND HIGHEST DAILY RAINFALL ON RECORD FOR MAY AND THE EIGHTH HIGHEST FOR ALL MONTHS.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ACTIVE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE WHICH LINGERED OVER THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG, A SQUALL LINE WITH INTENSE THUNDERSTORMS PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON ON MAY 1. HAIL WITH DIAMETERS OF LESS THAN A CENTIMETRE WAS REPORTED AT TUEN MUN.

THE WEATHER DETERIORATED FURTHER THE NEXT DAY. THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED OVER A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD AROUND NOON TIME OVER MOST OF THE URBAN AREAS.

THE HEAVY RAIN RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS OVER THE TERRITORY, BRINGING SEVERE DISRUPTIONS TO ROAD, RAIL AND AIR TRANSPORT. A MAN WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY LIGHTNING WHILE TWO OTHER PEOPLE WERE DROWNED.

ALTHOUGH RAIN PERSISTED FOR ANOTHER TWO DAYS, THE INTENSITY AND FREQUENCY GRADUALLY DECREASED AS THE TROUGH MOVED SLOWLY SOUTHWARDS TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

WITH A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE ESTABLISHING OVER SOUTHERN CHINA, WEATHER BECAME MAINLY FINE ON MAY 5 APART FROM SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS. GENERALLY FINE CONDITIONS PERSISTED FOR THE NEXT EIGHT DAYS. WINDS ALSO TURNED FROM EASTERLY TO SOUTHERLY BY MAY 9, BRINGING VERY WARM MARITIME AIR TO THE COASTAL AREAS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, TEMPERATURES WERE ON THE RISING TREND WITH THE DAYTIME MAXIMUM REACHING 31 DEGREES CELSIUS ON MAY 11, THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH.

THE ARRIVAL OF A LATE-SEASON SURGE OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON ON MAY 13 BROUGHT AN END TO THE PERIOD OF HOT WEATEHR. TEMPERATURES DROPPED MARKEDLY AND THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 20.9 DEGREES ON THE MORNING OF MAY 14 WAS THE LOWEST RECORDED FOR THE MONTH. THE WEATHER BETWEEN MAY 13 AND 15 WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN.

WITH THE NORTHEAST MONSOON SUBSIDING, WARMER AND BRIGHTER CONDITIONS RETURNED ON MAY 16. GENERALLY FINE WEATHER CONTINUED FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS APART FROM SHOWERS ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17 ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF A WEAK TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE.

/MEANWHILE ,

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MEANWHILE, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM BRENDA SWEEP ACROSS THE PHILIPPINES AND MOVED INTO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IT INTENSIFIED FURTHER INTO A TYPHOON ON MAY 19 AND ITS OUTERMOST RAINBAND AFFECTED HONG KONG THAT MORNING. LOCAL WEATHER DETERIORATED PROGRESSIVELY AS BRENDA TOOK ON A NORTHWESTWARD COURSE.

STORMY CONDITIONS PREVAILED OVER THE TERRITORY ON MAY 20 WHILE BRENDA SKIRTED PAST AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 130 KILOMETRES TO THE SOUTHWEST. IT MADE LANDFALL OVER THE COAST OF WESTERN GUANGDONG DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 20 AND DISSIPATED RAPIDLY OVER LAND. WEATHER GRADUALLY IMPROVED ON MAY 21 WITH SOME SUNNY PERIODS THE NEXT DAY.

THE WEATHER FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH WAS DOMINATED BY TWO EASTERLY SURGES WHICH RESULTED IN COOLER CONDITIONS AND LOWER TEMPERATURES. APART FROM SOME SUNSHINE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE TWO SURGES ON MAY 28 AND 29, THE WEATHER REMAINED RATHER CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 44 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 1, 2, 3, 13, 17, 24, AND 30. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 2, 3, 20, AND 21. LANDSLIP WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 2, 20, AND 21.

APART FROM TYPHOON BRENDA, ANOTHER TROPICAL CYCLONE, CECIL, ALSO OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 14 11.30 PM	MAY 15 5.10 AM
TYPHOON BRENDA	1	MAY 19 8.45 AM	MAY 19 9.45 PM
	3	MAY 19 9.45 PM	MAY 20 5.15 AM
	8NE	MAY 20 5.15 AM	MAY 20 4.00 PM
	8SE	MAY 20 4.00 PM	MAY 20 11.15 PM
	3	MAY 20 11.15 PM	MAY 21 7.15 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 26 2.50 PM	MAY 27 8.30 AM

/THE MONTH'S

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THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	109.2 HOURS ;	53.4 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	12.35 MJ/SQ.M ;	4.13 MJ/SQ.M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	771.9 MM ;	473.8 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	80 PER CENT ;	7 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86 PER CENT ;	3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	27.4 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	1.5 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	25.1 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	23.4 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	0.5 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	22.5 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	96.2 MM ;	47.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

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DRAINAGE PROBLEMS ON DB AGENDA

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING ON THURSDAY (JUNE 15).

THE DISCUSSION HAS BEEN PROMPTED BY THE MAY 2 THUNDERSTORM, WHICH CAUSE FLOODING IN MANY AREAS OF THE DISTRICT AND PARALYSED TRAFFIC.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 1989-90 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT YUK WAH CRESCENT, PROBLEMS CAUSED BY GARAGES IN FUNG WONG SHAN TSUEN, AND NOISE ARISING FROM THE OPERATIONS OF AN ENGINEERING COMPANY AT THE AIRPORT.

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IT WILL ALSO CONSIDER FIVE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON MINOR WORKS PROJECTS AND STREET MANAGEMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, FOURTH FLOOR, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET.

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LUNCH-TIME CONCERT DRAWS LARGE CROWD

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A MUSIC OFFICE WOODWIND QUINTET TODAY (TUESDAY) PRESENTED A SPECIAL LUNCH-TIME CONCERT AT WANCHAI TOWER I, HARBOUR ROAD.

THE CONCERT ATTRACTED HUNDREDS OF OFFICE WORKERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND PASSERS-BY WHO WERE ENTERTAINED BY SUCH CLASSICAL PIECES AS BEETHOVEN'S 'SYMPHONY NO. 5', AGAY'S 'FIVE EASY DANCES' AND DEBUSSY'S 'LE PETIT NEGRE'.

THE CONCERT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PREPARED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN WAN CHAI. THE OTHER TWO WILL BE HELD AT THE SAME VENUE ON JUNE 20 AND 27.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 15), THE RIGHT-TURN FROM JUNCTION ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO RENFREW ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE RE-OPENED, AND KAM SHING ROAD BETWEEN ITS TWO JUNCTIONS WITH JUNCTION ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FOR ONE-WAY ANTI-CLOCKWISE OPERATION.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON KCR KOWLOON STATION PODIUM
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HONG KONG COLISEUM, TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE APRIL WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MID-JULY.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

THE UNNAMED ROAD LEADING TO/EXITING FROM THE LOADING/UNLOADING AREA AND THE COACH PARK ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE KCR RAILWAY TERMINUS ON THE STATION PODIUM ARE CLOSED.

THE LAY-BY ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE KCR RAILWAY TERMINUS ON THE STATION PODIUM IS CLOSED.

THE EIGHT METERED PARKING SPACES FOR COACHES ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE KCR RAILWAY TERMINUS ON THE STATION PODIUM ARE CANCELLED.

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LANE CLOSURE ON SHA TIN ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD T5 IN SHA TIN, 300 METRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD SLIP ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TIN WAI ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 15) FOR 12 MONTHS.

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SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO TWO AREAS
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LAI CHI KOK ROAD, TONG MEI ROAD, SYCAMORE STREET, TUNG CHAU STREET, BEDFORD ROAD, LARCH STREET, FUK TSUN STREET, WILLOW STREET, LIME STREET, MAPLE STREET, FIR STREET, WALNUT STREET, TAI KOK TSUI ROAD AND OAK STREET.

ALSO TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 15) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT SAI KUNG TUK, HONG TSUEN ROAD, HONG TING ROAD, HONG NIN PATH, HONG TING PATH AND A SECTION OF HONG KIN ROAD BETWEEN HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND HONG TSUEN ROAD.

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