



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR UNDERLINES MAMMOTH TASKS AHEAD OF HA	1
CSB STATEMENT ON LOCALISATION	2
ECONOMIC LINK FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT	2
MORE SAFEGUARDS FOR MEMBERS OF PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES	3
NEW ZEALAND IMPOSES FINAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON CERTAIN FOOTWEAR FROM CHINA	5
SANDWICH CLASS FLATS TO GO ON SALE IN AUG/SEPT	6
ELDERLY SERVICE TARGETS WILL BE FULLY MET	7
CONTRACTING OUT OF PARKING METER MANAGEMENT	8
COMPANIES ALERTED TO IMPOSTORS	9
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE	10
LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY	11
FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET TOMORROW	11
ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FLIGHT TOMORROW	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	12

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

- 1 -

GOVERNOR UNDERLINES MAMMOTH TASKS AHEAD OF HA
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TO MEET THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IN HEALTH CARE SERVICES, A MORE EFFICIENT SYSTEM AND AN EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES WILL BE NEEDED, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR PATTEN ALSO SAID THE REFORMS THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) WERE INTRODUCING WOULD PREVENT HONG KONG FROM FALLING INTO SOME OF THE PITFALLS ENCOUNTERED BY OTHER HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS RIGHT AROUND THE WORLD.

THESE SYSTEMS ARE NOW WISHING THAT THEY HAD ACTED EARLIER TO HALT INEFFICIENCY AND TO HALT GROWING WASTE, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY CONVENTION 1993.

"PROPER FORWARD PLANNING IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF PROPER MANAGEMENT OF OUR HOSPITAL SERVICES AND I AM DELIGHTED, THEREFORE, TO SEE THE WORK THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS DONE IN THIS AREA," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE HA'S COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE DEMAND AND THE SUPPLY OF HOSPITAL BEDS FOR THE DECADE UP TO THE YEAR 2000 WOULD ENSURE THAT HOSPITAL SERVICES COULD MEET THE COMMUNITY'S CHANGING NEEDS.

ALSO, THE HA HAD TAKEN ON A MAMMOTH TASK TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A RADICAL EVOLUTION IN THE CULTURE OF HONG KONG'S HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

"OF COURSE IT WILL TAKE TIME, AND OF COURSE IT WILL TAKE A GOOD DEAL OF PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING FROM EVERYONE CONCERNED, TO MAKE SURE THAT IT ALL BEDS DOWN SATISFACTORILY," HE SAID.

THE GOAL UNDERLINING THE SERVICES, HE SAID, IS TO TREAT PATIENTS.

"WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IS PUTTING THE PATIENT FIRST. THAT'S THE MOTIVATION, I'M SURE, OF ALL OF YOU, OF ALL THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK IN OUR FIRST CLASS HEALTH CARE PROFESSION, THAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION IN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY."

HE ALSO ASSURED THE COMMUNITY THAT HE AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE BEHIND THE FORMIDABLE TASKS THAT LIE AHEAD OF THE HA.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

- 2 -

CSB STATEMENT ON LOCALISATION

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH SAID:

"AS THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE MR STUART HARBINSON SAID YESTERDAY, A REVIEW IS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE DEFINITIONS USED FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS TERMS OF APPOINTMENT. THIS REVIEW WILL NEED TO CONSIDER FACTORS SUCH AS RESIDENTIAL STATUS AND TIES WITH HONG KONG.

ANY CHANGES WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW WOULD RELATE SOLELY TO CANDIDATES' ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT ON LOCAL OR OVERSEAS TERMS. THE REVIEW IS EXPECTED TO TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS.

THIS REVIEW HAS NO EFFECT ON QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL POSTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. THESE POSTS MAY ONLY BE FILLED BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF CHINESE NATIONALITY WITHOUT FOREIGN RIGHT OF ABODE.

AS MR HARBINSON ALSO SAID YESTERDAY, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW DEVELOPING THE MOMENTUM OF LOCALISATION BY DEVELOPING A RESERVOIR OF LOCAL TALENT AT SENIOR LEVELS UPON WHICH TO DRAW IN FUTURE IN ORDER TO FILL POSTS AT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL LEVEL."

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ECONOMIC LINK FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

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THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SOUTHERN CHINA IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO GROW TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE TWO PLACES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE TOYS AND GAMES FAIR '93, MRS CHAN SAID THE TOY INDUSTRY, ALONG WITH OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WERE TRANSFERRING THEIR LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROCESSES TO CHINA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHEAPER LAND AND LABOUR.

"AS A RESULT, WE ARE SEEING A GRADUAL SHIFT IN HONG KONG'S ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS AWAY FROM MANUFACTURE TOWARDS QUALITY CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, PRODUCT DESIGN, PLANNING AND SHIPPING FUNCTIONS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE TOY INDUSTRY HAD MADE IMPRESSIVE STRIDES OVER THE YEARS.

"WE HAVE PROGRESSED FROM THE MANUFACTURE OF SIMPLE PLASTIC TOYS TO PRODUCING PRODUCTS WHICH RANGE FROM THE TRADITIONAL TO SOPHISTICATED, INNOVATIVE AND NOVELTY ITEMS CATERING FOR DIFFERENT MARKETS.

/"AN INTERESTING

"AN INTERESTING AND ENCOURAGING TREND IS THAT HONG KONG IS NOW GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS DESIGNING AND MARKETING MORE OF ITS OWN TOYS RATHER THAN SOLELY RELYING ON LICENSING AND CONTRACT MANUFACTURING FOR OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS," SHE SAID.

AT PRESENT, TOY EXPORTS REPRESENT 5.9 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORT.

IN 1991, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 20 PER CENT TO NEARLY \$44 BILLION.

THE U.S. MARKET REGISTERED A 13 PER CENT INCREASE IN 1991 WHILE MANY EUROPEAN MARKETS INCLUDING GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM POSTED IMPRESSIVE GROWTHS FROM 32 PER CENT TO 42 PER CENT.

NOTING THAT THE ASIAN ECONOMY IS THRIVING, MRS CHAN REMINDED TOY MANUFACTURERS NOT TO OVERLOOK THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THIS MARKET.

"IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN RAPID GROWTH IN THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

"WITH INCREASING PERSONAL WEALTH COMES THE ABILITY TO SPEND MORE ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS, SO THE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT FOR INCREASING SALES IN THE ASIAN MARKET," SHE SAID.

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MORE SAFEGUARDS FOR MEMBERS OF PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES

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THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE WILL GIVE A BASIC CRITERION FOR THE ACCEPTABILITY OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THE SCHEME MEMBERS ARE THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARIES OF THE ASSETS OF SUCH SCHEMES, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR SHIPMAN URGED SCHEME MEMBERS TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAFEGUARD THEIR FUTURE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

"WE ARE AFTER ALL THE BEST JUDGES AND THE BEST DEFENDERS OF OUR OWN INTERESTS," HE SAID.

MR SHIPMAN SAID THE ORDINANCE CONFERRED ON SCHEME MEMBERS THE RIGHT TO GIVE ADVICE AND TO BE KEPT INFORMED, AND TO FORM CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY FOR THAT PURPOSE.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE WILL BE APPOINTED AS THE REGISTRAR OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EFFECTING THE REGISTRATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND FOR MONITORING HOW THE FUNCTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED BY THE ORDINANCE ARE CARRIED OUT.

/MR SHIPMAN

MR SHIPMAN SAID THE REGISTRAR WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENSURE THAT THE ASSETS OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES WERE WELL MANAGED AND THAT THE SCHEMES REMAIN SOLVENT.

"HE WILL HAVE NEITHER THE POWERS NOR SUFFICIENT STAFF TO UNDERTAKE THE INVESTIGATIONS THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE," HE SAID.

THE ORDINANCE DOES NOT PROVIDE THE REGISTRAR WITH PERVASIVE POWERS OF REGULATION, SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE MAY WIELD.

"HIS ROLE WILL ESSENTIALLY BE WHAT THE TITLE WOULD SUGGEST, NAMELY TO MAINTAIN THE REGISTER OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND TO CHECK WHETHER CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

"HE WILL NOT BE EMPOWERED TO DIRECT HOW A RETIREMENT SCHEME SHOULD BE MANAGED. HIS ULTIMATE SANCTION WILL BE TO REMOVE A SCHEME FROM THE REGISTER, IN WHICH EVENT THE SCHEME WOULD HAVE TO BE WOUND UP AND THE AVAILABLE ASSETS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE MEMBERS.

THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE WAS PASSED INTO LAW BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH. THE ORDINANCE WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN JULY THIS YEAR.

PRIVATE SECTOR RETIREMENT SCHEMES ARE NOT AT PRESENT REGULATED BY ANY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. THERE ARE ABOUT 12,000 SUCH SCHEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FOR TAX EXEMPTION, BUT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH SCHEMES IS RECKONED TO BE CLOSER TO 22,000.

"WHETHER THIS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THE SOLVENCY OF SUCH SCHEMES WILL DEPEND ON THE PRUDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE EMPLOYER AND THE PERSON WHOM HE APPOINTS AS THE SCHEME ADMINISTRATOR, ON THE VIGILANCE AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF AUDITORS AND ACTUARIES AND, PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, ON THE VIGILANCE OF SCHEME MEMBERS.

"WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CLAIM THAT THE ORDINANCE WILL PREVENT FRAUD OR INSOLVENCY FROM OCCURRING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES IN FUTURE," MR SHIPMAN SAID.

THE LEGISLATION REQUIRES CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE A SCHEME WOULD QUALIFY FOR REGISTRATION AND FOR CERTAIN PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED THEREAFTER.

"WHILE THESE SAFEGUARDS SHOULD MAKE FRAUD OR MISMANAGEMENT MORE DIFFICULT, THEY CANNOT PREVENT THEM FROM OCCURRING, AND SCHEME MEMBERS SHOULD BE VIGILANT IN THEIR OWN PROTECTION," HE SAID.

MR SHIPMAN POINTED OUT THAT THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT SEEN TO BE THE FINAL ANSWER OR THE FINAL REGULATORY STEP.

"IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE ONLY 'A REASONABLE AND PRACTICABLE FIRST STEP'. EXPERIENCE WILL NO DOUBT POINT TO AREAS WHERE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS ARE NEEDED.

"MOREOVER, THE FUTURE DIRECTION HAS ALREADY BEEN INDICATED, IN THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED IN A CONSULTATION PAPER THAT IT SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEES UNDER THE AGE OF 65 TO BE COVERED BY A RETIREMENT SCHEME."

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MEASURE WOULD BE EXTENSIVE, AND THOSE WHO HAVE VIEWS ON IT ARE INVITED TO PUT THEM FORWARD TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, HE SAID.

"PROPER REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES IS CLEARLY NECESSARY BEFORE ANY MANDATORY SYSTEM COULD BE INSTITUTED, BUT THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF A MANDATORY SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT SCHEMES WILL INFLUENCE THE APPROPRIATE SYSTEM OF REGULATION, AND CHANGES TO THE PRESENT LEGISLATION MAY BE EXPECTED ON THAT ACCOUNT."

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NEW ZEALAND IMPOSES FINAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES
ON CERTAIN FOOTWEAR FROM CHINA

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THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED FINAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON THE IMPORTS OF CERTAIN NON-LEATHER WOMEN'S FOOTWEAR FROM CHINA, ACCORDING TO A COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR PUBLISHED BY THE TRADE DEPARTEMNT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE AMOUNT OF DUTY TO BE PAID IS THE AMOUNT BY WHICH THE "NORMAL VALUE" (VALUE OF DUTY EQUIVALENT) EXCEEDS THE VALUE OF DUTY OF THE GOODS WHEN ENTERING NEW ZEALAND FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

THE NORMAL VALUES SET BY THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SHOE TYPE -----	NORMAL VALUE ----- \$NZ	
	DIRECT SUPPLIERS -----	OTHER SUPPLIERS -----
FLAT SHOE		
SLING-BACK	8.38	9.11
SANDAL/SLIP-ON	8.05	8.75
CLOSED UPPER	8.55	9.29
MOCCASIN	8.81	9.58
LACE-UP	9.85	10.70
SCUFF	7.48	8.13
WEDGE SHOE		
SLING-BACK	8.66	9.41
SANDAL	7.90	8.59
CLOSED UPPER	8.50	9.24
HEEL SHOE		
SLING-BACK	8.71	9.47
SANDAL	8.54	9.28
CLOSED UPPER	9.78	10.63

THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INITIATED THE ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON CERTAIN NON-LEATHER WOMEN'S FOOTWEAR FROM CHINA IN MAY LAST YEAR.

THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED IN JULY, SINCE THEN, PROVISIONAL DUTIES WERE IMPOSED.

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SANDWICH CLASS FLATS TO GO ON SALE IN AUG/SEPT
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GOOD PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME AND THE FIRST BATCH OF 1,000 FLATS FOR THE FAST START SCHEME WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN HIS SESSION WITH THE MEDIA TODAY.

MR EASON SAID: "SITES ARE BEING IDENTIFIED FOR THE LONG-TERM SCHEME TO ENABLE THE HOUSING SOCIETY TO PRODUCE AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF 5,000 FLATS FROM 1995/96 ONWARDS TO BE SOLD AT CONCESSIONARY PRICES.

"DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION, SUCH AS APPLICATION PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, RESALE RESTRICTIONS AND HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED ARE BEING WORKED OUT WITH THE SOCIETY."

MR EASON SAID THE SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN PARALLEL WITH SUFFICIENT LAND SUPPLY TO THE MARKET TO ENABLE A STEADY SUPPLY OF NEW FLATS TO MEET DEMAND.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS THERE WILL BE A GOOD SUPPLY OF FLATS IN THE REGION OF 70,000 - 75,000 PER YEAR CONSISTING OF 40,000 FROM PUBLIC SECTOR AND 30,000 - 35,000 FROM PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR EASON WAS GLAD TO SEE A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET WITH RESIDENTIAL PRICES EASING BY ABOUT FIVE - 10 PER CENT.

"THIS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ANTI-SPECULATION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE HAVING AN EFFECT," HE SAID.

MR EASON HOPED THAT THE BANKING AND PROPERTY SECTORS CONTINUED TO CO-OPERATE BY MAINTAINING THE 70 PER CENT LOAN TO VALUATION RATIO.

ON THE SEWAGE STRATEGY, MR EASON SAID PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME IS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED AND DETAILED DESIGN WILL BEGIN THIS YEAR.

PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KOWLOON AND EASTERN HONG KONG ISLAND IN THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1997.

/IN PARALLEL

IN PARALLEL WITH THE HIGH PRIORITY SCHEME, WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON A NUMBER OF NEW SEWAGE PROJECTS IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THESE INCLUDE THE HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH SEWAGE SCHEME, TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME, TOLO HARBOUR SEWAGE MASTER PLAN AND NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT SEWERAGE SCHEME.

"BY ANY STANDARD, WE ARE BUILDING AND PLANNING A MAJOR SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURAL NETWORK, WHICH WILL GET US BACK OUR FRAGRANT HARBOUR," MR EASON SAID.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT A CHARGING SCHEME FOR THE SEWAGE SERVICES IS BEING FINALISED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION SOON.

THE CHARGES WILL BE MODEST AND AFFORDABLE AND WILL BE BASED ON THE POLLUTER-PAYS PRINCIPLE WITH NO ONE SUBSIDISING ANYONE ELSE OR PAYING MORE THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT CHARGING WILL BEGIN IN 1994.

MR EASON NOTED THAT THE NEXT BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE 1989 WHITE PAPER ON ENVIRONMENT IS DUE IN JUNE 1993.

"THE REVIEW WILL PRODUCE A SUBSTANTIAL DOCUMENT SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OUT FAR MORE COMPREHENSIVELY THAN IN THE PAST."

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE REVIEW WILL INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, HONG KONG'S POSITION TOWARDS THE EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO DE JANEIRO LAST JUNE, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT, GLOBAL WARMING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION.

MR EASON ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAST YEAR.

THESE INCLUDE THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE LEGCO ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL AND VARIOUS GREEN GROUPS.

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ELDERLY SERVICE TARGETS WILL BE FULLY MET

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THE KEY PLANNING TARGETS OF ELDERLY SERVICES, INCLUDING BOTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES, WILL BE FULLY MET IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR STRACHAN WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS PO CHUNG CHUEN YING HOME FOR THE ELDERLY. IT WAS THE FIRST CEREMONY THAT HE PERFORMED IN THE CAPACITY OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

- 8 -

"IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE 1992/93 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER, THE GOVERNOR PLEDGED TO ACHIEVE ALL THE KEY TARGETS IN THE WHITE PAPER FOR 1997," HE SAID.

SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME WOULD BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED, MR STRACHAN SAID, ADDING THAT SENIOR CITIZENS WOULD BE GIVEN A PRIORITY.

"MORE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING 5,000 ADDITIONAL PLACES IN CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES AND HOMES FOR THE AGED AS WELL AS 14 MORE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES AND 70 SOCIAL CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT SIGNIFIED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO HONOUR ITS OBLIGATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS WHO, DURING THEIR WORKING LIVES, MADE HONG KONG THE SUCCESS IT WAS TODAY.

HE SAID TUNG WAH DEVOTED AN INCREASING PORTION OF ITS RESOURCES TO THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY, APART FROM DEVELOPING ITS MEDICAL, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

"I AM ALSO GRATEFUL THAT MADAM PO CHUNG CHUEN-YING HAS MADE A HANDSOME DONATION TO MEET PART OF THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THIS HOME FOR THE ELDERLY," MR STRACHAN ADDED.

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CONTRACTING OUT OF PARKING METER MANAGEMENT

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE OF CONTRACTING OUT THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKING METERS.

THE PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MARCH AND TENDERS WILL BE INVITED IN JUNE, WITH THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER TAKING OVER BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE CONTRACTING OUT OF PARKING METERS WOULD BRING ABOUT HIGHER EFFICIENCY AND BETTER STANDARDS OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNCTIONS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"IN ADDITION, THE CONTRACT WILL PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR THE OPERATOR TO INTRODUCE NEW PARKING METER TECHNOLOGY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL MONITOR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE CONTRACTOR.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO RETAIN CONTROL OVER APPROVING PARKING METER TYPES, SETTING CHARGES, METER LOCATIONS AND THE RIGHT TO REMOVE OR SUSPEND METERS.

/THE POLICE

THE POLICE WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST PARKING OFFENCES AS AT PRESENT.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY STAFF MEMBERS IN TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND SEVEN IN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE AFFECTED.

THEY ARE BEING CONSULTED ON THEIR JOB FUTURE AND EVERY HELP WILL BE GIVEN TO THEM IN SEEKING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE OR WITH THE FUTURE OPERATOR.

ANYONE WHO IS MADE REDUNDANT WILL BE COMPENSATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL CIVIL SERVICE PRACTICES.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 13,000 PARKING METERS IN THE TERRITORY, INSTALLED AND MANAGED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT. THEY ARE MAINTAINED BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

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COMPANIES ALERTED TO IMPOSTORS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ADVISED COMPANY OWNERS TO BE WATCHFUL FOR PEOPLE IMPERSONATING AS OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID A NUMBER OF COMPANIES HAD RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE LABOUR OFFICERS AND ASKING FOR PARTICULARS OF THE COMPANIES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS MAKING ENQUIRIES WOULD ALWAYS MAKE KNOWN THEIR NAMES AND THE NAMES OF THEIR OFFICES.

"OFFICERS CONDUCTING SITE INSPECTIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY PRODUCING THEIR WARRANT CARDS," HE SAID.

"IF PROPRIETORS HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT A CALLER'S IDENTITY, THEY SHOULD ASK FOR HIS CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO CHECK WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OR REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION IF THEY HAVE FURTHER DOUBTS," HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

- 10 -

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE

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SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TO BE OFFERED TO LOCAL STUDENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE CURRICULUM AT FIVE CO-EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL UNITED WORLD COLLEGES IN UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ITALY AND HONG KONG THIS SEPTEMBER.

THE INSTITUTES ARE THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC IN UK, LESTER B PEARSON COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC IN CANADA, THE ARMAND HAMMER UNITED WORLD COLLEGE OF THE AMERICAN WEST IN USA, UNITED WORLD COLLEGE OF THE ADRIATIC IN ITALY AND LI PO CHUN UNITED WORLD COLLEGE OF HONG KONG.

THE COURSE IS RECOGNISED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

APPLICANTS MUST BE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WITH AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY; AGED OVER 16 AND UNDER 18; AND POSSESS (OR HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING) A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (OR GCE EQUIVALENT) WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE, INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

APPLICATIONS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW BY A SELECTION COMMITTEE.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS, DONATED BY SOME LOCAL LEADING ORGANISATIONS, WOULD NORMALLY COVER THE TUITION AND BOARDING FEES FOR THE TWO YEARS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE BY POST OR IN PERSON FROM THE LI PO CHUN UNITED WORLD COLLEGE OF HONG KONG, 10 LOK WO SHA LANE, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, HONG KONG OR THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY, FIFTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING, 16 ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS WITH SUPPORTING PAPERS MUST BE RETURNED TO EITHER ONE OF THE ABOVE OFFICES THROUGH THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS BEFORE FEBRUARY 22. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED ON TEL 640 0441.

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/11

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

- 11 -

LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON THURSDAY
(JANUARY 7) UP TO 4.30 PM

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1. READING 51 WITNESS STATEMENTS AND COMPUTERISED INCIDENT LOG PROVIDED BY THE POLICE.
2. STUDYING 193 PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES AND 70 PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY THE POLICE.
3. REVIEWING REPORT PROVIDED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.
4. STUDYING MATERIALS COMING IN FROM THE PUBLIC.
5. INTERVIEWING WITNESSES.
6. MAKING CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE COMMITTEE'S PAPERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE READING FROM 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPERS WILL BE EMBARGOED FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING ENDS.

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ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FLIGHT TOMORROW

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A GROUP OF ABOUT 60 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES WILL RETURN TO VIETNAM TOMORROW ON THE EIGHTH FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

A TOTAL OF 336 NON-REFUGEES HAVE SO FAR BEEN RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THIS PROGRAMME.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,100
REVERSAL OF LAF	+400
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114.5 *+0.2* 7.1.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.03 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.91	4.70
1 MONTH	3.43 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.76	4.97
3 MONTHS	3.75 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.75	5.26
6 MONTHS	3.99 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.74	5.41
12 MONTHS	4.66 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,422MN

CLOSED 7 JANUARY 1993

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