



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CS TO LEAD HK'S MFN LOBBYING	1
TRANSPORT LINKS VITAL TO CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT: CS	1
WHITE PAPER ON ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1993 TO PARLIAMENT	3
MAXIMISING THE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK AIRPORT	3
STATEMENT ON DRUG BAN PROPOSAL	5
CJ WELCOMES MS TAI AS JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR	6
JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED	6
SITUATION OF THREE VM WOMEN EXPLAINED	7
MORE CAN BE DONE TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S ROLE	7
TENDERS FOR RIVER TRADE TERMINAL	8
VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF NEAR MISS MARINE INCIDENTS ON TRIAL	10
HEAVY FINE IMPOSED FOR FAILING TO PAY WAGES	12
FLAT OWNERS FINED FOR IGNORING DEMOLITION ORDERS	12
GOVERNMENT CARES FOR THE ELDERLY	13
VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO CARING FOR ELDERLY	13
DEADLINE CLOSES WITH 207 FUNDING APPLICATIONS	14
COMPUTER SOFTWARE DESIGN CONTEST TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION	15
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT WORKERS	16
CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE	17
54 VMS RETURN TO VIETNAM	17
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND TENDER RESULTS	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	19

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 1 -

CS TO LEAD HK'S MFN LOBBYING

* * * * *

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN LATE APRIL TO LOBBY FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS FOR CHINA, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

MRS CHAN WILL BE MEETING SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON AND BUSINESS AND TRADE GROUPS IN NEW YORK.

"THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA ARE HONG KONG'S TWO LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS AND A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM WILL BE A VITAL FACTOR IN HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"I SHALL BE SETTING OUT IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS TO HONG KONG."

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT FAILURE TO RENEW MFN WOULD SLASH HONG KONG'S GDP GROWTH BY UP TO THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS, AND EMPLOYMENT BY UP TO 75,000 JOBS.

MRS CHAN IS EXPECTED TO SPEND THREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND TWO DAYS IN NEW YORK.

APART FROM MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, SHE WILL HAVE A FULL PROGRAMME OF IMPORTANT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, MEETINGS WITH INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC POLICY ORGANISATIONS, TRADE ORGANISATIONS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS.

DETAILS OF MRS CHAN'S ITINERARY WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME OF THE VISIT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSPORT LINKS VITAL TO CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT: CS

* * * * *

HONG KONG'S ROLES AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE AND A GATEWAY TO CHINA DEPEND CRITICALLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT LINKS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IT IS VITAL FOR CHINA AND FOR HONG KONG THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STAND STILL," MRS CHAN TOLD AN AUDIENCE AT THE TRANSDelta CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT.

SHE SAID HONG KONG NEEDED BETTER HIGHWAYS LINKING THE TERRITORY WITH GUANGDONG, MORE CONTAINER TERMINAL CAPACITY TO HANDLE THE BOOMING CHINA TRADE, AND CHEK LAP KOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SECURE ITS POSITION AS CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE AFTER 1997.

/SPEAKING ON

- 2 -

SPEAKING ON THE TOPIC: "HONG KONG'S ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEARL RIVER DELTA", THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID NEITHER GUANGDONG NOR HONG KONG COULD HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT THEY HAD OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS WITHOUT EACH OTHER.

"NOT MANY MATURE ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH NEW GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES, RIGHT ON THEIR DOORSTEP, IN THE WAY THAT HONG KONG HAS.

"NOT MANY UNDERDEVELOPED ECONOMIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE MASSIVE OUTSIDE INVESTMENT, MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND THE FULL RANGE OF BUSINESS SERVICES, AT THE VERY MOMENT THEY NEEDED IT, AS GUANGDONG HAS," SHE SAID.

AS A RESULT, HONG KONG HAS HAD GROWTH RATES OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AVERAGING OVER SIX PER CENT. AND GUANGDONG HAS AVERAGED OVER 15 PER CENT GROWTH ANNUALLY OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A RECORD THAT DEVELOPING ECONOMIES THE WORLD OVER CAN ONLY ENVY, SHE NOTED.

TO DATE, THERE ARE SOME 20,000 BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN GUANGDONG WITH HONG KONG OWNERSHIP. OVER THREE MILLION JOBS WERE CREATED THERE.

"A VITAL ELEMENT IN ALL THIS HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE OPENING OF LOK MA CHAU CROSSING ROUND-THE-CLOCK IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

TOTAL CROSS-BORDER PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG LAST YEAR PASSED THE 50 MILLION MARK - THE BUSIEST BORDER IN THE WORLD. MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE TRAVELLED BY RAIL.

MRS CHAN ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORMULATING A RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WHICH WAS LIKELY TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR NEW RAIL LINK TO THE BORDER.

"WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE PROVISION OF A NEW PORT RAIL LINE FROM THE BORDER TO THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT," SHE ADDED.

ON WATERBORNE TRAFFIC, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID IT WAS VITAL THAT CONTAINER TERMINAL NINE GOT THE GO-AHEAD QUICKLY, IF THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S CONTAINER PORT, AND THE CHINESE CONTAINER TRAFFIC THROUGH HONG KONG WAS NOT TO BE ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRAINED.

ON THE NEW AIRPORT, MRS CHAN SAID ONE THIRD OF THE AIRPORT PLATFORM HAD BEEN RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA, TYING UP ONE THIRD OF THE WORLD'S DREDGING CAPACITY.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AIRPORT WILL BE BUILT," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO SEE THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ITS LATEST FINANCING PROPOSAL FOR THE AIRPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WHITE PAPER ON ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1993 TO PARLIAMENT

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1993 TO PARLIAMENT (ANNUAL REPORT) HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

AS IN PAST YEARS, THE ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF A WHITE PAPER BOTH IN LONDON AND HONG KONG. THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED IN 1985, DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON THE HONG KONG BILL, TO PRODUCE ANNUAL REPORTS ON HONG KONG AND TO LAY THEM BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES OF REPORTS IS TO KEEP PARLIAMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE ANNUAL REPORT IS THE NINTH SUCH REPORT. IT CONTAINS A SURVEY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN HONG KONG DURING 1993.

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE VISITS TO HONG KONG BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, VISITS BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONTACTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, HUMAN RIGHTS, VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, EMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, LAW AND ORDER, LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER ON THE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE CHINESE TRANSLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, FREE OF CHARGE, TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THEY CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE (GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL), AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES SECTION OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT (FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL).

- - - - 0 - - - -

MAXIMISING THE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK AIRPORT

* * * * *

THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING AT OPTIONS TO MAXIMISE THE CAPACITY OF THE KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE UTILISATION OF ITS FACILITIES WHICH HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS DESIGN CAPACITY, TO MEET THE DEMAND OF AIR TRANSPORT IN THE COMING FEW YEARS BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT.

THESE INCLUDE IMPROVING THE RUNWAY CAPACITY AND EXPANDING THE AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON, THE AIR PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND THE ACCESS ROAD NETWORK, THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR PETER LOK KUNG-NAM, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

/ADDRESSING THE

ADDRESSING THE TRANSDelta CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG, MR LOK SAID A COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFICIENT AIR TRANSPORT NETWORK WAS ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC INTEREST OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID IN THE PAST DECADE, AIR TRAFFIC IN HONG KONG GREW AT AN YEARLY RATE OF 10 PER CENT.

BY THE END OF 1993, THE ANNUAL PASSENGER FLOW REACHED 24.5 MILLION, EXCEEDING THE CAPACITY ORIGINALLY DESIGNED SOME TWO YEARS EARLIER THAN FORECAST.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 370 SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS LANDING AND TAKING OFF ON THE SINGLE RUNWAY OF KAI TAK, REPRESENTING 83 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL CAPACITY.

ON BUSY DAYS, THERE ARE OVER 400 FLIGHTS, OR 90 PER CENT OF THE CAPACITY OF THE RUNWAY.

VIRTUALLY ALL TIME SLOTS FROM 9.30 AM TO 11.30 PM AVAILABLE FOR FLIGHT SCHEDULING HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP. NEW FLIGHTS CAN ONLY BE FITTED INTO THE SLOTS BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 9.30 AM.

"HOWEVER, THERE ARE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN USING THESE TIME SLOTS REQUIRING PASSENGERS TO SET OFF FROM HOME IN THE SMALL HOURS AT THEIR PLACE OF DEPARTURE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS ALSO HAD A BEARING ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE NEW AIRPORT AS FLIGHTS LOST TO OTHER AIRPORTS WOULD NOT COME BACK TO HONG KONG.

"IN THE FEW YEARS BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW AIRPORT, WE ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO ENHANCE THE FACILITIES AND MAXIMISE THE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK TO MEET THE EVER-GROWING DEMAND," MR LOK SAID.

"WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITIES AND STAFFING TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF THE RUNWAY WHILE MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL SAFETY.

"TO THIS END, TWO SECONDARY SURVEILLANCE RADAR WILL BE ACQUIRED TO ENABLE OUR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS TO MORE PRECISELY MAINTAIN SEPARATION BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND SO MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THE AIRSPACE," HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, HE SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTROLLERS AT KAI TAK WOULD BE EXPANDED AND NEW WORK STATIONS WOULD BE ADDED TO SHARE THE INCREASING WORKLOAD.

A COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR MONITORING THE BUILD-UP OF AIR TRAFFIC FIVE HOURS IN ADVANCE IS BEING DEVELOPED SO THAT REGULATING MEASURES MAY BE TAKEN TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE TRAFFIC FLOW OCCURRING.

ON THE DESIGN OF THE RUNWAY, THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL EXIT TAXIWAY INVOLVING A GENTLE CURVE TO REDUCE THE RUNWAY OCCUPANCY OF EACH FLIGHT.

WITH THESE MEASURES, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE RUNWAY AT KAI TAK CAN BE ENHANCED BY ONE SCHEDULED FLIGHT PER HOUR IN EACH OF THE COMING THREE YEARS.

DESPITE ALL THE ABOVE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION WORKS, THE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THAT WHILE THE HIGH STANDARD IN AIR SAFETY WILL BE ENSURED, THE LEVEL OF PASSENGER COMFORT AT KAI TAK MAY BE ERODED GIVEN THE HIGH DEMANDS IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

MR LOK SAID IT WAS THEREFORE HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE NEW AIRPORT BE COMPLETED AND COMMISSIONED ON TIME.

----- 0 -----

STATEMENT ON DRUG BAN PROPOSAL

* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO A PROPOSAL MADE BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR ON THE BANNING OF METAMIZOLE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE MATTER HAD IN FACT BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD.

NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE SPOKESMAN AGAIN EMPHASISED THAT METAMIZOLE WAS A PRESCRIPTION-ONLY ITEM. THE USE OF DRUG WILL BE PUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF DOCTORS.

HE IS CONFIDENT THAT DOCTORS WILL EXERCISE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT IN THE USE OF THIS DRUG.

ON THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF FEVER AND THE CAUTIOUS USE OF ANTI-FEVER DRUG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT (CHEU) HAD ALREADY PREPARED HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIAL FOR THE PUBLIC.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CONTACT THE CHEU FOR HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIAL OR CALL UP THE UNIT FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON TEL 835 1825.

----- 0 -----

CJ WELCOMES MS TAI AS JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR

* * * * *

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, TODAY (TUESDAY) WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF MS ALICE TAI YUEN-YING AS JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR.

"GIVEN HER PROVEN ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG, FAMILIARITY WITH THE WORKINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND A SOUND LEGAL EDUCATION, I AM SURE MS TAI WILL MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIARY.

"THE FACT THAT MS TAI IS FULLY BILINGUAL IS AN OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE," SIR TI LIANG SAID.

"WITH THE STEADY EXPANSION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JUDICIARY OVER THE YEARS, GROWING SOPHISTICATION OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE, AND RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS FOR EFFICIENCY, THE TASK OF MANAGING THE JUDICIARY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPLEX.

"I AM PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE RECRUITMENT. THIS WAS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE EXERCISE AND I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY ALL CANDIDATES," HE ADDED.

MS TAI HAS BEEN SELECTED FROM AMONGST 267 CANDIDATES.

----- 0 -----

JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MS ALICE TAI YUEN-YING WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE POST OF JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR IN THE JUDICIARY ON MARCH 28.

AS THE JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR, SHE WILL HELP THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIARY AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURTS AND TRIBUNALS.

SHE WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, SECURING AND MANAGING THE JUDICIARY'S HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPING SYSTEMS AND OTHER MEASURES WHICH WILL HELP THE JUDICIARY TO ENHANCE ITS PERFORMANCE.

AGED 43, MS TAI FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1974.

SHE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LONDON OFFICE AND THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 7 -

IN 1990, MS TAI LEFT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, WHICH SHE STILL OCCUPIES.

SHE HOLDS A BACHELOR OF LAWS (HONOURS) DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND A MASTER OF LAWS (PUBLIC LAW) DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MS TAI IS MARRIED WITH TWO SONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SITUATION OF THREE VM WOMEN EXPLAINED

* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, TODAY (TUESDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THREE VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WOMEN, WHO ARE SEEKING TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS IN THE UNITED STATES, WERE NOT REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM THIS MORNING.

THE THREE WOMEN, ONE OF WHOM HAS A BABY DAUGHTER, HAVE ALL BEEN DETERMINED TO BE NON-REFUGEES.

"THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION CLEARLY PROVIDES THAT ALL SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS SHOULD RETURN HOME AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS PRINCIPLE," MR BRESNIHAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE IT APPEARS AS IF THESE WOMEN MAY BE GIVEN CLEARANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO GIVE THEM SOME FURTHER TIME TO PROCESS THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS FROM HONG KONG."

ALL SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. MR BRESNIHAN CONFIRMED THAT IF THEY DID NOT VOLUNTEER TO GO HOME, THE GOVERNMENT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REPATRIATE THEM AT ANY TIME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE CAN BE DONE TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S ROLE

* * * * *

WOMEN'S ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY HAS, WITHOUT DOUBT, BEEN GREATLY ENHANCED. BUT THERE IS STILL A WAY TO GO, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION ORGANISED BY HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, MRS PATTEN SAID WOMEN PLAYED A PROMINENT PART IN HONG KONG'S PUBLIC LIFE.

"THE SENIOR MEMBER OF EXCO IS A WOMAN. THE CHIEF SECRETARY IS NOW A WOMAN. WOMEN OCCUPY SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE MEDIA, IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

/MRS PATTEN

MRS PATTEN SAID WHILE MORE WOMEN WERE GETTING TO THE TOP, NOT ENOUGH WERE DOING SO.

"THIRTY-EIGHT PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE IS FEMALE, BUT MEN STILL ACCOUNT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF MANAGERIAL POSTS.

"AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE CLOSING GAP IN PAY, WOMEN'S INCOME IS STILL ONLY 77 PER CENT OF THAT OF MEN," SHE SAID.

"IF WE WANT MORE WOMEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE OF THE TERRITORY, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME ALLOWANCE FOR WOMEN IN THE WORK PLACE; THAT MEANS THINGS LIKE FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS, CRECHES, AND PROVISION FOR CHILD CARE."

TALKING ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MRS PATTEN SAID THE SOCIETY MUST BE READY TO GIVE THOSE WOMEN ABUSED BY THEIR HUSBANDS OR PARTNERS THE HELP AND SUPPORT THEY NEEDED.

SHE SAID SHE WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON WOMEN'S ISSUES HAD GENERATED A HEALTHY DEBATE AND HAD HELPED TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

"AS A WOMAN I AM AS INTERESTED AS YOU ARE IN THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER, AND WILL BE AS INTERESTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE."

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS FOR RIVER TRADE TERMINAL

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INVITE TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL IN AREA 38, TUEN MUN TO HANDLE THE GROWING RIVER TRADE WITH THE PEARL RIVER DELTA.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER EXTENSIVE PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS LOCAL RESIDENTS CONCERNS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE PLAN.

TO DEAL WITH THE CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE TERMINAL ON LOCAL TRAFFIC AND TUEN MUN ROAD, THE PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT A FULL TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT INCLUDING NOISE GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND NIGHT-TIME TRAFFIC.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO UPGRADE THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK TO TIE IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND AVOID CONGESTION BY TERMINAL TRAFFIC.

THIS WILL INCLUDE WIDENING A SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD AND BUILDING A NEW BYPASS ALONG THE CASTLE PEAK FOOTHILLS.

THE DEVELOPER WILL ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO USE SEA RATHER THAN LAND TRANSPORT FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING RIVER BOAT CARGOES.

PROPOSALS HAVE ALSO BEEN DRAWN UP TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS.

A GOVERNMENT CONSULTANCY STUDY HAS RECOMMENDED CAREFUL ALIGNMENT OF ROADS, SPECIAL ROAD SURFACE TREATMENTS AND INSULATION AGAINST NOISE TO MITIGATE EFFECTS ON LOCAL RESIDENTS.

IN ADDITION, THE PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WHICH WILL ALSO COVER DUST AND DREDGING OF MARINE MUD DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

THE DEVELOPER MUST ALSO PROPOSE APPROPRIATE MITIGATION MEASURES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE ANY WORK ON SITE CAN BEGIN.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION WITH THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PLANNING PROCESS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IF THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL WAS NOT BUILT, THE LOCAL ECONOMY WOULD LOSE MORE THAN \$13 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2006.

THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD ESTIMATES THAT THE 20.7 MILLION TONNES OF FREIGHT CARRIED BY RIVER IN 1993 WILL DOUBLE BY 2001 AND QUADRUPLE BY 2011.

THERE IS ALSO A GROWING NEED FOR DEDICATED CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITIES FOR RIVER TRADE.

ALTHOUGH CONTAINERISATION ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 10 PER CENT OF RIVER CARGOES IN 1991, THE PROPORTION INCREASED TO 20 PER CENT IN 1993 AND IS EXPECTED TO REACH 41 PER CENT BY 2011.

RIVER CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES, MAINLY PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, ARE EXPECTED TO REACH CAPACITY BY 1996.

IF THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL IS NOT BUILT THE CUMULATIVE LOSS OF RIVER SHIPMENT CARGO BETWEEN 1997 AND 2011 COULD REACH 7.4 MILLION TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS OF CONTAINERISED FREIGHT AND 15.2 MILLION TONNES OF BREAK-BULK CARGO.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL GAZETTE THE TERMINAL UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED (RECLAMATION) ORDINANCE AND THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

THE NEED FOR A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL WAS RECOGNISED IN THE PADS (PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY) REPORT IN 1988.

THE RIVER TRADE CARGO ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, IN MARCH 1992, REPORTED THAT THE NEED WAS BECOMING PRESSING.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT, IN APRIL 1992, CALLED FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN BUILDING AND OPERATING THE TERMINAL, SEVERAL PRIVATE COMPANIES RESPONDED.

THE MULTI-PURPOSE TERMINAL WILL ENABLE THE OPERATORS TO SORT, STORE AND CONSOLIDATE RIVER TRADE CARGO.

IT CAN THEN BE TRANSFERRED TO BIGGER VESSELS AND TRANSPORTED TO CONTAINER TERMINALS OR OTHER PORT FACILITIES FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 10 -

VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF NEAR MISS MARINE INCIDENTS ON TRIAL
* * * * *

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS LAUNCHED A ONE-YEAR TRIAL ON A SYSTEM TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON NEAR MISS INCIDENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THE TRAFFIC BLACK SPOTS IN HONG KONG WATERS, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR ALLAN PYRKE, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

STARTING FROM TODAY ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN, OR HAS WITNESSED WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE A NEAR MISS SITUATION BETWEEN TWO VESSELS CAN MAKE USE OF THE TRIAL SYSTEM TO MAKE A REPORT TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

"ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL ENABLE US TO IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF VESSELS CAUSING SUCH INCIDENTS AND THE AREAS WHERE THEY OCCURRED," MR PYRKE SAID.

"IT MAY THEN BE POSSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PLAN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISKS BEFORE A SERIOUS ACCIDENT OCCURS," HE SAID.

UNDER HONG KONG LAW, REPORTING OF MARINE ACCIDENTS ARE MANDATORY BUT THERE IS NO SIMILAR REQUIREMENT FOR THE NEAR MISS INCIDENTS.

THE INCREASED MARINE ACTIVITY WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED ACCIDENTS RISKS. LAST YEAR, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 378 MARINE ACCIDENT REPORTS IN HONG KONG WATERS WHICH IS A 30 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1992 FIGURES.

"ALTHOUGH ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THESE ACCIDENTS WERE MINOR SUCH AS BUMPING OF SMALL VESSELS AT ANCHORAGES, TYPHOON SHELTERS OR PUBLIC PIERS, UNFORTUNATELY EIGHT PERSONS DIED AND ANOTHER 47 INJURED IN THE MORE SERIOUS ONES," MR PYRKE SAID.

"BY WORLD'S STANDARD, OUR CASUALTY FIGURES ARE LOW, BUT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY," MR PYRKE SAID, ADDING THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL USE EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO REDUCE ACCIDENT RISKS.

"INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE REPORTING SYSTEM WILL NOT BE USED FOR PROSECUTION PURPOSES UNLESS THE REPORTEE INDICATES IN THE FORM OR THROUGH OTHER MEANS THAT HE WISHES TO TAKE IT FURTHER," MR PYRKE SAID.

INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE ANALYSIS INCLUDE THE TYPES OF VESSELS INVOLVED, THEIR COURSES AND SPEED, THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT, THE CLOSEST DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO VESSELS AND WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN TO AVOID COLLISION.

TO FACILITATE THE REPORTING OF SUCH INCIDENTS, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNED A USER-FRIENDLY FORM FOR PEOPLE TO REPORT SUCH INCIDENTS.

"THE REPORTEES ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO TICK THE APPROPRIATE ANSWERS IN THE BOXES PROVIDED AND MARK THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT ON A MAP INCORPORATED IN THE FORM.

/"I ANTICIPATE

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 11 -

"I ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN 10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE IT," HE SAID.

"OF COURSE IF THEY WANT TO GIVE MORE INFORMATION, THERE IS BLANK SPACE FOR A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT," HE ADDED.

THESE FORMS CAN BE RETURNED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT EITHER BY POST USING A POSTAGE-FREE BUSINESS REPLY FOLDER ATTACHED TO THE FORM, BY FAX ON 545 0556, HAND IN AT ANY DISTRICT MARINE OFFICE OR REPORT OVER HOTLINE 815 5500.

FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM TODAY AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD AND OFFICES OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICES OF THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG CARGO VESSEL TRADERS' ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON MOTOR BOATS AND TUG BOATS ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATEI FERRY COMPANY, FAR EAST HYDROFOIL COMPANY AND DISCOVERY BAY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES LIMITED.

THE TRIAL SCHEME IS SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG CARGO VESSEL TRADERS' ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON MOTOR BOATS AND TUG BOATS ASSOCIATION, FAR EAST HYDROFOIL COMPANY, THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATEI FERRY COMPANY AND DISCOVERY BAY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES LIMITED.

"THEY HAVE GIVEN THE SCHEME A FLYING START BY ASSISTING IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORMS, URGING THEIR MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES TO REPORT SUCH INCIDENTS AND ALSO BY GIVING SHARING THE COSTS OF THE SCHEME," MR PYRKE.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL ASSESS THE APPLICABILITY OF THE SCHEME AFTER ONE YEAR AND THEN DECIDE WHETHER IT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED PERMANENTLY.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR ALLAN PYRKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE AND THE SENIOR DIRECTORATE OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, WILL MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THIS AFTERNOON TO ANSWER ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON THE TRIAL SCHEME AND OTHER MARINE SAFETY ISSUES.

THE MEDIA SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE HARBOUR CLUB, 25TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL STARTING AT 4 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 12 -

HEAVY FINE IMPOSED FOR FAILING TO PAY WAGES
* * * * *

EMPLOYERS ARE REMINDED TO PAY WAGES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT ALLOWED BY LAW OR THEY WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF 12 MONTHS.

THE GOLION HONG KONG LIMITED IN MONG KOK WAS RECENTLY FINED \$25,000 AND ORDERED TO PAY COURT COSTS OF \$3,000 BY A NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO PAY WAGES WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF AN EMPLOYEE WAS TERMINATED.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT WHEN THE EMPLOYEE, WHO WAS A CLERK OF THE COMPANY, LODGED A COMPLAINT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE THAT HER EMPLOYER HAD NOT PAID HER WAGES OF \$2,000 AFTER HER CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WAS TERMINATED.

FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION, A SUMMONS WAS ISSUED AGAINST THE EMPLOYER.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE (EO), WAGES ARE DUE AT THE END OF THE WAGE PERIOD AND MUST BE PAID AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BUT IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS, LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MRS GRACE SHEK, POINTED OUT.

"SECTION 25 OF THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES THAT WHERE A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IS TERMINATED, WAGES AND ANY OTHER SUMS DUE TO THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DAY OF TERMINATION," SHE SAID.

AN EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH HIS STATUTORY OBLIGATION WILL COMMIT AN OFFENCE AND WILL BE LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FLAT OWNERS FINED FOR IGNORING DEMOLITION ORDERS
* * * * *

FLAT OWNERS WHO REPEATEDLY IGNORE DEMOLITION ORDERS ISSUED BY THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT ON UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF HEAVY FINES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH TWO FLAT OWNERS WERE EACH FINED \$44,250 FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH DEMOLITION ORDERS TO REMOVE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT WHEN STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT, ACTING ON A COMPLAINT, INSPECTED THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN AN INDUSTRIAL CENTRE AT SUI WO ROAD, FO TAN, SHA TIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1991.

ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WERE SERVED ON THE OWNERS OF THESE PREMISES ON MAY 21, 1992 REQUIRING THEM TO REMOVE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

/THE ORDERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 13 -

THE ORDERS WERE IGNORED. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE TWO FLAT OWNERS WERE EACH FINED \$10,000 PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$10 FOR 248 DAYS ON APRIL 1, 1993 AT THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY.

DESPITE HAVING PLEADED GUILTY AND CONTINUED PERSUASION BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT, BOTH FLAT OWNERS FAILED TO REMOVE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS COMPLETELY UNTIL JANUARY 25, 1994.

THEY WERE PROSECUTED AGAIN ON JANUARY 27, 1994 AT THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY, AND EACH WAS FINED \$150 PER DAY FOR 295 DAYS, AMOUNTING TO \$44,250.

EACH OWNER WAS FINED \$56,730 FOR THE TWO OFFENCES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNMENT CARES FOR THE ELDERLY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALL ALONG CARED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY, YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER ROBERT CHAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD PROPOSED FUNDINGS FOR AN EXTRA 1,660 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, SIX DAY CARE CENTRES, AN ELDERLY HEALTH CENTRE AND 14 SERVICES CENTRES FOR THE AGED IN HIS BUDGET.

SPEAKING AT A RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY CEREMONY IN PING SHAN, HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A NEW \$20,000 DEPENDENT GRANDPARENT ALLOWANCE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES.

MR CHAN SAID INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED DESPITE THE GENEROUS TAX CUTS.

HE ADDED THAT \$0.7 BILLION WOULD BE ALLOCATED ON FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN YUEN LONG IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO CARING FOR ELDERLY

* * * * *

MRS PATTEN TODAY (TUESDAY) HIGHLY PRAISED THE VOLUNTEERS OF HELPING HAND FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK IN THE ANNUAL COOKIE CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAD MADE ANOTHER SUCCESS THIS YEAR.

MRS PATTEN ALSO PRAISED VOLUNTEERS WHO TOOK PART IN HELPING HAND'S "WELLNESS PROJECT" THIS YEAR BY VISITING ELDERLY PEOPLE AND ORGANISING PROGRAMMES FOR THEM.

/SPEAKING AT

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 14 -

SPEAKING AT HELPING HAND "COOKIE CAMPAIGN THANK YOU TEA" TODAY, MRS PATTEN SAID ALL 150,000 COOKIES WERE SOLD WITH OVER \$5 MILLION RAISED, WHICH WAS WELL OVER THE TARGET.

SHE SAID: "IT IS A CAMPAIGN WHICH INVOLVES PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTEER WORK.

"IN ITS RECENT COOKIE CAMPAIGN, HELPING HAND MOBILISED VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WOMEN'S GROUPS, STUDENTS AND ELDERLY PEOPLE."

HELPING HAND IS LAUNCHING THE "WELLNESS PROJECT" THIS YEAR, WHICH HAS INVOLVED A LARGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS AS "WELLNESS AMBASSADORS", MRS PATTEN SAID.

"THIS PROJECT IS NOT JUST PROVIDING A SERVICE. IT IS REALLY ABOUT CARING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION," MRS PATTEN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEADLINE CLOSES WITH 207 FUNDING APPLICATIONS

* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 207 APPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO \$1,195 MILLION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THE CLOSING DATE LAST THURSDAY (MARCH 3) FOR THE \$180 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED IN THE 1994/95 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, SAID THE BULK OF APPLICATIONS CAME FROM THE VARIOUS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, WITH 139 APPLICATIONS, ACCOUNTING FOR \$638 MILLION.

THE OTHERS WERE FROM THE INDUSTRY-SUPPORT BODIES (34 APPLICATIONS, \$275 MILLION); PRIVATE COMPANIES (14 APPLICATIONS, \$148 MILLION); TRADE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS (12 APPLICATIONS, \$75 MILLION) AND PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES (EIGHT APPLICATIONS, \$59 MILLION).

MR YOUNG SAID THE COST OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PROJECTS WAS IN THE REGION OF SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS, WHILE THE DURATION OF THE PROJECTS RANGED FROM ONE YEAR TO SEVEN YEARS.

HE SAID THE APPLICATIONS, WHICH FELL INTO A WIDE VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL AREAS SUCH AS ELECTRONICS, BIOTECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, PLASTICS AND SO ON, WOULD BE PRELIMINARILY VETTED BY EXPERTS AND LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS FOR THE PARTICULAR FIELD.

THE APPLICATIONS WOULD THEN BE EXAMINED BY THE PROJECTS VETTING COMMITTEE WHICH COMPRISED THE CHAIRMEN OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC)'S COMMITTEES AND OTHER ITDC MEMBERS BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE ITDC FOR DISCUSSION AT THE END APRIL.

/"WE HOPE

"WE HOPE THAT FUNDING FOR THE FIRST BATCH OF APPLICATIONS COSTING LESS THAN \$10 MILLION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN EARLY MAY," MR YOUNG SAID, ADDING THAT THOSE PROJECTS COSTING MORE THAN \$10 MILLION WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL LATER.

ON THE FUNDING CRITERIA, MR YOUNG SAID NO PRIORITIES WOULD BE GIVEN FOR ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR OF INDUSTRY OR ANY SPECIFIC AREA OF TECHNOLOGY.

"PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING SUPPORT SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"EXAMPLES ARE THOSE WHICH AIM TO PROVIDE A COMMUNAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT SERVICE, INTRODUCE NEW TECHNIQUES OF MANUFACTURING, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY OR ENHANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY.

"ANOTHER CRITERION IS THAT PROJECTS SHOULD BE NON-PROFIT MAKING IN NATURE, EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE LONG TERM," HE SAID.

MR YOUNG SAID THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING, WHICH WOULD IN MOST CASES TAKE THE FORM OF GRANTS, WAS A NEW INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WHICH WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ESTIMATES, A PROVISION OF \$180 MILLION WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE 1994/95 FINANCIAL YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMPUTER SOFTWARE DESIGN CONTEST TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION

* * * * *

COMPUTER FANS ARE INVITED TO DESIGN INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND ENTER A COMPETITION TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

A CPCE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE COMPETITION, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, HAD BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY, AND SPONSORED BY AST COMPUTER.

HE SUGGESTED SUCH THEMES AS URGING THE PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS, THE ELECTION PROCESS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING THE PERFORMANCES OF ELECTED MEMBERS.

THERE WILL BE TWO DIVISIONS - SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND OPEN.

THE TOP THREE WINNERS OF EACH DIVISION WILL BE AWARDED GIFT COUPONS VALUED AT \$10,000, \$7,000 AND \$5,000 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SIX CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$1,000 GIFT COUPONS.

/ALL ENTRIES,

ALL ENTRIES, WITH THE DISKETTES PLUS ALL OTHER NECESSARY SYSTEM AND APPLICATION SOFTWARES, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH APPLICATION FORMS TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT AT 31ST FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI DURING OFFICE HOURS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MAY 13.

THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT A SIX-DAY CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION FROM JULY 2 AT THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM.

APPLICATION FORMS WITH DETAILS ON THE CONTEST CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE 20 TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES AND THE CPCE OFFICE IN WAN CHAI.

A BRIEFING SESSION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 19 (SATURDAY) AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 835 1381.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT WORKERS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT WORKERS UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME WILL BE ON MARCH 25 (FRIDAY).

"EMPLOYERS WHO INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDANCE NOTES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER PROCESSING.

ABOUT 11,000 QUOTAS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RE-USE THIS YEAR.

"IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF EMPLOYERS TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IF THEY WANT TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH."

ENQUIRIES ON IMMIGRATION-RELATED MATTERS CAN BE MADE TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON TEL 829 3220 AND 829 3225.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 17 -

CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE

* * * * *

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

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURE IS LOCATED ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF STATE THEATRE BUILDING IN KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT FOR DWELLING PURPOSE.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON JULY 6 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (TUESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

54 VMS RETURN TO VIETNAM

* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 54 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS RETURNED TO VIETNAM TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE 16TH FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

THE RETURNEES, COMPRISING 29 MEN, 10 WOMEN, 11 BOYS AND FOUR GIRLS, ARE FROM CHI MA WAN (UPPER) AND WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRES.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES ON THESE FLIGHTS TO 849.

THE 54 RETURNEES ARRIVED IN HONG KONG MOSTLY IN 1988 AND 1989, AND WERE ALL SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/18

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 18 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

* * * * *

TENDER DATE	8 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q410
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD4,562 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,300 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.65 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.66 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 32 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.68 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 14 MARCH 1994 -

TENDER DATE	15 MAR 94	15 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q411	H460
ISSUE DATE	16 MAR 94	16 MAR 94
MATURITY DATE	15 JUN 94	14 SEPT 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,500 + 300 MN	HKD500+100 MN

----- 0 -----

/19

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

- 19 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,980
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,164
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,836
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.7 *-0.1*	8.3.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.42 PCT	18 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.91	4.74
1 MONTH	3.53 PCT	21 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.81	4.94
3 MONTHS	3.67 PCT	24 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.81	5.11
6 MONTHS	3.87 PCT	32 MONTHS	3610	4.20	97.09	5.47
12 MONTHS	4.33 PCT	35 MONTHS	3701	4.60	97.60	5.58

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,464 MN

CLOSED 8 MARCH, 1994

- - - - 0 - - - -