



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

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GOVERNOR VISITS INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED ON THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

"INDUSTRY IS ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS OF OUR ECONOMY. WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING COMPANIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE QUALITY-CONSCIOUS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID TOOK A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN WORK TO PROMOTE IMPROVED QUALITY IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

HE MET A GROUP BEING TRAINED AS ASSESSORS FOR THE LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME, WHICH AIMS TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF TESTING AND MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG LABORATORIES.

HE LATER VISITED THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, WHICH HOLDS THE REFERENCE STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT FOR HONG KONG AND PROVIDES CALIBRATION SERVICES FOR INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"THE STANDARDS DEMANDED BY OUR OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS ARE RISING ALL THE TIME," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS HELPING HONG KONG COMPANIES MEET THAT CHALLENGE BY MAKING SURE THAT THE INFORMATION AND THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY THEY NEED TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND DESIGN ARE AVAILABLE LOCALLY."

SIR DAVID ALSO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S ONE STOP UNIT, WHICH OFFERS ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO OVERSEAS MANUFACTURING COMPANIES INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN HONG KONG.

AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, THE UNIT AIMS TO DEAL, IN ONE OFFICE, WITH ALL THE LIKELY PROBLEMS AN INVESTOR MIGHT ENCOUNTER.

"OVERSEAS COMPANIES CAN BRING USEFUL NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT METHODS TO THE TERRITORY, AS WELL AS VALUABLE INVESTMENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK IN SMOOTHING THE PATH FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS IS EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE."

SIR DAVID WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING THE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA.

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DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS/POSTINGS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE FOLLOWING SENIOR DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS AND POSTINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1991:

MR MICHAEL SUEN MING-YEUNG, PRESENTLY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, WILL SUCCEED MR PETER TSAO KWANG-YUNG AS SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS. MR TSAO WILL BE RETIRING AFTER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT;

MR MICHAEL SZE CHO-CHEUNG, PRESENTLY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, WILL BECOME SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS;

MR ANTHONY MILLER, PRESENTLY INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR AT THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, WILL BECOME DIRECTOR OF MARINE;

MR MICHAEL HANSON, PRESENTLY DEPUTY HEAD OF THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT, WILL BECOME INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR, CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MR PETER TSAO KWANG-YUNG AND THE OTHER OFFICERS NAMED ABOVE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MR PETER TSAO KWANG-YUNG, CBE, CPM, JP

AGED 57, MR TSAO FIRST JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1955. HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER IN 1966 AND THROUGH A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS, HE BECAME COMMISSIONER IN THE FORMER TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT IN 1979. HE TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JULY 1982 AND ROSE TO THE RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN 1986. SINCE JOINING THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE, MR TSAO HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES FROM 1983 TO 1984, SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & INFORMATION FROM 1985 TO 1986, MINISTER FOR HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MEMBER STATES FROM 1986 TO 1987, AND THEN AS SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & INFORMATION AGAIN UNTIL 1989, WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

MR MICHAEL SUEN MING-YEUNG, JP

AGED 47, MR SUEN JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1966. HE ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN 1991. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, MR SUEN SERVED IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE FORMER ENVIRONMENT BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT FROM 1981 TO 1983, DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES IN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM 1983 TO 1985, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM 1985 TO 1986 AND DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES FROM 1986 TO 1987. HE WAS REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE CITY & NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION FROM 1987 TO 1989 WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

/MR MICHAEL SZE

MR MICHAEL SZE CHO-CHEUNG, JP

AGED 46, MR SZE FIRST JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1969 AND HE WAS APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE SAME YEAR. THROUGH A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS, HE ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1989. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, MR SZE SERVED IN THE FORMER RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. MORE RECENTLY HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH FROM 1981 TO 1984, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRADE DEPARTMENT FROM 1984 TO 1987, AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE FROM 1987 TO 1990 WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

MR ANTHONY MILLER, JP

AGED 41, MR MILLER JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1972. HE ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1991. DURING THE EARLY PART OF HIS CAREER, MR MILLER SERVED IN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND HOUSING BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY, HE HAS SERVED AS PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE FROM 1979 TO 1982, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HOUSING DEPARTMENT FROM 1982 TO 1983, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH IN 1984, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & INFORMATION BRANCH FROM 1985 TO 1986, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, TRADE DEPARTMENT FROM 1986 TO 1989 WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR, CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

MR MICHAEL J.J. HANSON

AGED 41, MR HANSON WAS SECONDED FROM THE UK HOME CIVIL SERVICE TO THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN 1985. HE WAS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & INFORMATION BRANCH FROM 1985 TO 1987, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SECURITY BRANCH FROM 1987 TO 1988 AND REFUGEES CO-ORDINATOR, SECURITY BRANCH FROM 1988 TO 1990 WHEN HE BECAME DEPUTY HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT.

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

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

COMPARED WITH JULY 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN JULY 1991 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, MODERATELY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

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

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN JULY 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991, BUT DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1990.

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991, EMPLOYMENT IN JULY 1991 INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, DUE TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUMMER WORKERS.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, EMPLOYMENT INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS, WEARING APPAREL AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH JULY 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN JULY 1991 DECREASED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN JULY 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES AND SLIGHTLY IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY, DUE PARTLY TO THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL BONUSES AND PAYMENTS.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, BUT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH JULY 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS IN JULY 1991.

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

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN JULY 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991 AND DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JULY 1991 INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER JUNE 1991 AND SUBSTANTIALLY OVER JULY 1990. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN JULY 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JULY 1991 FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER JUNE 1991 AND SIGNIFICANTLY OVER JULY 1990.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF JULY 1991	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
		JUNE 91	JULY 90
	(MONTHS)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.40	*	+2
WEARING APPAREL	4.75	*	+3
TEXTILES	2.39	+5	+8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.08	-15	+12
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.16	*	-1
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.37	*	-1
OTHERS	4.11	*	-1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF JULY 1991	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	JUNE 91	JULY 90
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	*	-9
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	-1
WEARING APPAREL	*	-4
TEXTILES	+1	-16
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	+7	-16
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-1	-2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	-16
OTHERS	*	-2
CONSTRUCTION #	*	-10

/SERVICES

SERVICES	+1	-1
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BANKS	+1	+1
HOTELS	*	-7
PUBLIC UTILITIES	+1	-3
OTHERS	*	+2

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

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

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

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

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	AVERAGE AS IN JULY 1991	PER CAPITA EARNINGS	
		CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
-----	-----	JUNE 91	JULY 90
	(HK\$)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6,795	+1	+16
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FOOD AND DRINKS	7,782	+2	+14
WEARING APPAREL	5,297	*	+11
TEXTILES	6,149	-1	+12
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	6,543	+6	+22
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	6,681	+6	+16
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	6,840	-2	+20
OTHERS	8,763	+2	+16
CONSTRUCTION #	9,665	+1	+18
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/SERVICES

SERVICES	11,267	+1	+11
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BANKS	10,347	-6	+10
HOTELS	7,799	-1	+4
PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,532	+11	+11
OTHERS	12,524	-2	+12

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

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

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :

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

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GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$135 MILLION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND FETCHED A TOTAL OF \$135 MILLION IN A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 11, ON LAI STREET, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,839 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN).

IT WAS SOLD TO THE KAI CAROUSE COMPANY LTD FOR \$117 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$75 MILLION.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,182 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1995.

THE OTHER SITE IS A LOT ADJOINING 31C WYNDHAM STREET ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT MEASURES ABOUT 78.5 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE SITE WAS BOUGHT BY THE YEUTI INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD FOR \$18 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$8 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 470 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 25, 1994.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

IT WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROGER HARDING.

HE SAID HE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE SELLING PRICES.

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BID TO ENSURE WAGE PAYMENT TO IMPORTED WORKERS
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LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL BE VISITING WORKPLACES TO WITNESS PAYMENT OF WAGES TO IMPORTED WORKERS IN A STEPPED-UP EFFORT TO WEED OUT MALPRACTICES OF UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS.

THE NEW MEASURE, TO BEGIN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FULLY SUPPORTED THE MEASURE.

LAST WEEK, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SENT OUT A LETTER TO ALL THE 2,488 EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS ADVISING THEM TO PAY WAGES THROUGH BANKS DIRECT INTO THE WORKERS' ACCOUNTS AND REMINDING THEM OF THE LAW REGARDING WAGE PAYMENT AND WAGE DEDUCTION.

"OUR LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL BE CALLING ON THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO DO NOT TAKE OUR ADVICE AND WILL WITNESS PAYMENT OF WAGES TO ENSURE THAT THE IMPORTED WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR WAGES IN FULL," ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU, SAID.

"THE INSPECTORS WILL ALSO VISIT THE WORKPLACES AND ACCOMMODATIONS OF IMPORTED WORKERS TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THEIR STATUTORY AND CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS AND WILL DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS IN SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THEM TO LODGE COMPLAINTS," MR MAK ADDED.

DURING THESE VISITS, LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL ALSO CHECK WHETHER THERE IS ANY BREACH OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE RULES AND CONDITIONS OF THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEMES.

"WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE OF MALPRACTICE, PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE EMPLOYERS CONCERNED," MR MAK SAID.

HE SAID IF THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A SERIOUS OFFENCE, SUCH AS FALSE REPRESENTATION AND FORGING DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH VISA APPLICATION OF IMPORTED WORKERS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL REFER THE CASE TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION FOR FURTHER ACTION.

/"THE MAXIMUM

"THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR THESE OFFENCES ARE TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON SUMMARY CONVICTION AND 14 YEARS AND \$50,000 ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT," HE ADDED.

IN TODAY'S LAB MEETING, MEMBERS HAD ALSO DISCUSSED SEVERAL OTHER PROPOSALS TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF IMPORTED WORKERS. THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED THE BUILDINGS AT NOS. 12 AND 28 WING ON STREET AND NO. 11 GILMAN STREET IN CENTRAL TO BE DANGEROUS, WHILE NOS. 22, 24 AND 26 WING ON STREET AND NOS. 21 AND 23 GILMAN STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR (PGBS) SAID THE STRUCTURES WERE TWO AND THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED OF LOADBEARING BRICK WALLS WITH STRUCTURAL TIMBER FLOORS AND TIMBER ROOF JOISTS.

NUMBER 28 WING ON STREET IS VERY DILAPIDATED WITH STRUCTURAL TIMBER MEMBERS BADLY DECAYED AND WITH EVIDENCE OF DETERIORATING LOADBEARING BRICKWORK.

PORTIONS OF THE BUILDING WERE PREVIOUSLY TIED TOGETHER WITH METAL TIE RODS BUT RECENT INSPECTIONS HAVE SHOWN THAT FURTHER MOVEMENT OF THE FRONT AND REAR WALLS AND UPPER PORTION OF THE PARTY WALL WITH NO. 30 HAS TAKEN PLACE.

NUMBER 30 WING ON STREET WAS CLOSED IN JUNE THIS YEAR FOLLOWING A FIRE.

FURTHER, THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT THE PARTY WALL BETWEEN NOS. 28 AND 30 HAS MOVED AWAY FROM NO. 28 WHICH COULD CAUSE A COLLAPSE OF THE ROOF AND FLOOR WITHIN NO. 28.

ADDITIONALLY, HE SAID THE TIMBER STAIRCASE WAS IN SUSPECT CONDITION.

IT IS NOTED THAT THE BUILDING WAS LAST REPAIRED IN 1972 AND HAS BEEN UNDER PERIODIC SURVEILLANCE SINCE.

THE BUILDING WAS DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED AND THERE WAS A RISK OF COLLAPSE, THE PGBS SAID.

MEANWHILE, NO. 12 WING ON STREET AND NO. 11 GILMAN STREET ARE ALSO IN VERY DILAPIDATED CONDITION WITH DEFECTIVE STRUCTURAL TIMBERS AND BADLY DETERIORATED LOADBEARING BRICKWORK.

/THE FRONT

THE FRONT WALL FACING GILMAN STREET IS MOVING OUTWARDS AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF OTHER MOVEMENT HAVING TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THE BUILDING.

THE PGBS SAID THE BUILDING WAS DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

NUMBERS 22, 24 AND 26 WING ON STREET AND NOS. 21 AND 23 GILMAN STREET ARE ALL VERY DILAPIDATED WITH DEFECTIVE STRUCTURAL TIMBER JOISTS AND DETERIORATED LOADBEARING BRICKWORK.

THERE IS EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTY WALLS AND FRONT AND REAR WALLS HAVING TAKEN PLACE, PARTICULARLY IN NOS. 24 AND 23.

HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT NOS. 22 AND 24, AND NOS. 21 AND 23 ARE BY REASON OF THEIR DESIGN STRUCTURALLY DEPENDENT UPON EACH OTHER.

NUMBERS 24, 26 AND 23 WERE LAST REPAIRED IN 1971 WHILE NOS. 22 AND 21 NEEDED EMERGENCY SHORING PRIOR TO REPAIR IN 1975 AND WERE ALSO SUBJECT TO MINOR REPAIR IN 1987.

HE SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT NO. 26 WING ON STREET COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 28 AND THAT NOS. 22 AND 24 WING ON STREET AND NOS. 21 AND 23 GILMAN STREET, WHICH ARE INTERDEPENDENT, COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE DEMOLITION OF NOS. 26 AND 28 WING ON STREET.

THEREFORE, NOS. 22, 24 AND 26 WING ON STREET AND NOS. 21 AND 23 GILMAN STREET SHOULD ALL BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED AS BEING CONSIDERED LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 21 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT EIGHT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 23), THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. ALL OTHER GENERAL OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

TWO OF THE LOTS ARE LOCATED AT THE WESTERN RECLAMATION, HONG KONG ISLAND, AND HAVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,100 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 5,700 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

BOTH SITES ARE EARMARKED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS (EXCLUDING VEHICLE PARKING).

THE TENANCY FOR BOTH LOTS IS UP TO DECEMBER 31, 1992 AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

THE REMAINING LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 18, TSING YI, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITE WITH AN AREA ABOUT 2,800 SQUARE METRES IS INTENDED FOR VEHICLE REPAIRS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON OCTOBER 4.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, HONG KONG WEST, AND KWAI TSING; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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275 VMS RETURNED TODAY

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A GROUP OF 275 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 111 MEN, 71 WOMEN, 40 BOYS AND 53 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 67TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,559 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 9,855 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.9.91	-64
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+64
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.0 *+0.0* 18.9.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	17.9.91	18.9.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.53 PCT	4.22 PCT
1 MONTH	4.61 PCT	4.40 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.91 PCT	4.65 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.43 PCT	5.24 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.23 PCT	5.86 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	3,460 MN	5,742 MN

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