



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
SCA'S SPEECH IN FIRST PART OF MOTION DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REVIEW	1
SCA'S SPEECH IN SECOND PART OF MOTION DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REVIEW	2
SEM ON EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5	4
S FOR S ON SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS	7
LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT	8
GOVERNOR STRESSES NEED FOR THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATORS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG	10
GOVERNOR KEEN TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OMELCO	11
FS WELCOMES PROPOSED SCHEME FOR BCCHK DEPOSITORS	11
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MARCH - MAY 1992	12
NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	13
REVISION OF CERTIFICATION FEES	13
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MOVES TO WU CHUNG HOUSE	15
VIDEO ON FILM CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS	16
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON MOVE	16
DRUG TALKS FOR PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS	17
BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	18

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 1 -

SCA'S SPEECH IN FIRST PART OF MOTION DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REVIEW

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN THE FIRST PART OF THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ELECTORAL REVIEW, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

I, TOO, WOULD WISH MR VICENT CHENG A HAPPY BIRTHDAY. WITHOUT IRONY, NOR PUNT INTENDED, I ALSO WISH HIM MANY HAPPY RETURNS. I CAN SYMPATHISE WITH HIM FOR I, TOO, HAVE JUST SPENT MY 20TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN THIS CHAMBER. BEFORE I COME TO MY SPEECH, I WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER ONE POINT RAISED BY MR WONG WAI-YIN AS TO HIS LUCK LETTER TO ME. I HAVE TO CONFIRM THAT I HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT AND INDEED HAD I RECEIVED IT I WOULD HAVE FOUND THE QUESTION DIFFICULT TO ANSWER AS IT IS SO MUCH HYPOTHETICAL IN NATURE.

WHEN I INFORMED THIS COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD COMMENCED A REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE 1991 ELECTIONS, I SAID THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE SELECT COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW TO SEEKING THE BEST ANSWERS THAT WOULD MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. IN THE EVENT, WE HAVE HAD A SERIES OF USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGES WITH THE SELECT COMMITTEE DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. ALTHOUGH WE PRESENTED 15 PAPERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON VARIOUS ISSUES INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION, SYSTEM OF VOTING, DEMARCATION OF CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, VOTER REGISTRATION, AND SO ON, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENTATIONS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE WERE TO SERVE TWO PURPOSES: FIRST, TO SHARE WITH THE SELECT COMMITTEE THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE WOULD BENEFIT OF OUR RESEARCH INTO THE WHOLE RANGE OF ELECTORAL ISSUES UNDER REVIEW AND, SECONDLY, TO STIMULATE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THESE ISSUES. IN THIS LATTER AIM, THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S OPEN SESSIONS PROVIDED A USEFUL FORUM. JUDGING FROM THE INTENSE INTEREST ON THE SUBJECTS WHICH BOTH THE MEDIA AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE SHOWN OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THESE TWO PURPOSES HAVE BOTH BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MET.

SO, ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT THEY HAVE DEVOTED TO THIS IMPORTANT AND WORTHWHILE TASK. IT IS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THE MANY ISSUES INVOLVED WITHIN SUCH A SHORT SPACE OF TIME, AND TO COME UP WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS.

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 2 -

I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT THERE IS A WIDE MEASURE OF CONSENSUS ON A LARGE NUMBER OF THE SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT. I HAVE HOWEVER ALSO NOTED THE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON THE SYSTEM OF VOTING FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, AS REFLECTED BY MEMBERS' SPEECHES IN TODAY'S DEBATE. CLEARLY, WE WILL NEED TO STUDY ALL THESE WITH GREAT CARE, TOGETHER WITH ANY FUTURE PUBLIC COMMENTS WHICH WE MAY RECEIVE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. OUR GOAL, SURELY, IS TO IDENTIFY THE MOST EQUITABLE AND PRACTICABLE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD BEST SERVE THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE ISSUES BEFORE US ARE MANY AND COMPLEX. BEFORE COMING TO ANY CONCLUSIONS THE ADMINISTRATION WILL WANT TO CONSIDER AND WEIGH UP ALL THE ARGUMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH BY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AS WELL AS BY OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, AND BECAUSE THE REPORT IS ONE FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO THIS COUNCIL, THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS TO VOTE ON EITHER MR ARCULLI'S MOTION, OR THE AMENDMENT MOTION PROPOSED BY MR MCGREGOR. THEY WILL THEREFORE NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTING. THANK YOU.

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SCA'S SPEECH IN SECOND PART OF MOTION DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REVIEW

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN THE SECOND PART OF THE MOTION DEBATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ELECTORAL REVIEW, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

MR FUNG'S AMENDMENT ASSERTS THAT THE EXISTING VOTING SYSTEM FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS IS UNFAIR AND POSSIBLY VIOLATES THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE. THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT ACCEPT THESE ASSERTIONS. OUR PRESENT SYSTEM OF ELECTION, BOTH FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, HAVE FULLY MET THE RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE. THE QUESTION OF UNFAIRNESS OR VIOLATION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE THEREFORE DOES NOT ARISE.

/THE ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 3 -

THE ADMINISTRATION DOES, HOWEVER, RECOGNISE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM WHICH COULD BE IMPROVED. MISS EMILY LAU HAS REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO A POSSIBLE DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE VOTES CONTROLLED BY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL. RULES PREVENT THIS COULD INDEED BE FURTHER IMPROVED. OTHER EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE OF SOME OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE ELIGIBILITY OF VOTING, AND THE QUALIFICATION OF AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES. BUT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE WITHOUT HAVING TO RADICALLY OVERHAUL THE SYSTEM. THESE ISSUES HAVE ALL BEEN LOOKED INTO BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE WHICH HAS MADE A NUMBER OF USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS REPORT. WE WILL STUDY WITH GREAT CARE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, AS WELL AS THE VIEWS PUT FORTH BY MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON, WHEN WE PUT TOGETHER THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1995. OUR AIM WOULD BE TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC.

MR FUNG HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY TO LOOK INTO ASPECTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM. I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND THE RATIONALE FOR THIS SUGGESTION AT THIS POINT IN TIME, GIVEN THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE HAS JUST PRODUCED A REPORT WHICH, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, ADDRESSES EXACTLY THESE VERY SAME ISSUES.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, AS EXPLAINED IN MY SPEECH IN THE EARLY HOURS OF TODAY, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT, AS WELL AS THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC. FOR THIS REASON, THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON EITHER MR ARCULLI'S MOTION OR THE AMENDMENT MOTION PROPOSED BY MR FUNG. THANK YOU.

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SEM ON EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

MAY I FIRST, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THANK THE EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR ITS FIFTH REPORT. AS EX-OFFICIO VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, I CAN PERSONALLY ATTEST TO THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF ITS MEMBERS AND TO THE DEPTH OF THOUGHT AND INTENSITY OF DEBATE THAT HAVE GONE INTO THE PREPARATION OF ECR5. I AM SURE ALSO THAT MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMISSION WILL WISH ME TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE TO OUR CHAIRMAN, MRS RITA FAN, FOR GUIDING US SO SKILFULLY THROUGH THE MAZE OF INTER-LOCKING ISSUES TO ARRIVE AT A STRATEGIC VIEW OF THE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED BY AND FOR OUR TEACHING FORCE.

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION HAS BROUGHT INTO THE CLASSROOM PUPILS FROM MORE DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, WITH A WIDER RANGE OF SCHOLASTIC ABILITY AND MOTIVATION. THIS HAS MADE TEACHING MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER. THE COMMISSION'S PREVIOUS REPORT, ECR4, ADDRESSED THIS PROBLEM. NEW INITIATIVES WERE RECOMMENDED TO IMPROVE THE CURRICULUM, ENHANCE COUNSELLING, SET ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND RATIONALIZE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. THESE HAVE BECOME POLICY AND ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED. BUT THE BACKBONE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE LINCHPIN TO MAKE ALL THESE IMPROVEMENTS WORK, CONTINUES TO BE THE TEACHER. FACED WITH INCREASINGLY COMPLEX TASKS, HE OR SHE REQUIRES CONSTANT UPGRADING OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, AS WELL AS SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION NOT ONLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO FROM PRINCIPALS, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

PARADOXICALLY, OUR VERY ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAS TENDED TO MAKE TEACHING LESS ATTRACTIVE AS A CAREER AT A TIME WHEN THE DEMANDS PLACED ON OUR TEACHERS, BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY, ARE AT THEIR GREATEST. EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF DEGREE PLACES AND GOOD PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HAVE GIVEN YOUNG SCHOOL-LEAVERS AN INCREASING ARRAY OF CHOICES AND MADE A TEACHING CAREER LOOK RELATIVELY LESS ATTRACTIVE. A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO MAKE A TEACHING CAREER MORE WORTHWHILE, FOR WE NEED TEACHERS WITH THE RIGHT QUALITIES AND ATTITUDES TO WHOM WE CAN ENTRUST THE EDUCATION OF OUR NEXT GENERATION.

THIS IS WHAT ECR5 HAS SOUGHT TO DO. IT PROPOSES A PACKAGE TO IMPROVE THE PREPARATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND TO REMOVE DISINCENTIVES TO PROMISING YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TEACHING.

/THE PACKAGE

THIS PACKAGE HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AND ACCLAIMED AS A COMPREHENSIVE, FORWARD-LOOKING AND REALISTIC PACKAGE TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DEMANDS ON THE TEACHING PROFESSION. OF COURSE, THERE ARE AND WILL BE, OTHER VIEWS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, SOME OFFERING ALTERNATIVES AND OTHERS ACTUALLY DISAGREEING WITH WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED. THIS IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE ECR5 DEALS WITH A HIGHLY COMPLEX SUBJECT AND ITS MANY RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECT DIFFERENT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY.

ECR5 IS NOW UNDERGOING A PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. I URGE THE PUBLIC, AND THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR, TO STUDY THE REPORT CAREFULLY OVER THE SUMMER AND TO LET US HAVE THEIR VIEWS.

THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME VIEWS FROM ALL SOURCES AND WILL LISTEN TO THEM CAREFULLY. WHEN THE PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION IS OVER, THE COMMISSION WILL TAKE STOCK OF THE PUBLIC RESPONSE AND CONSIDER WHETHER ITS RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE MODIFIED IN ANY WAY. I SHALL THEN, AS SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, FORMULATE POLICY PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS AND THE FURTHER THOUGHTS, IF ANY, OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION. THIS ELABORATE PROCESS IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS ARE FULLY REFLECTED AND GIVEN WEIGHT IN THE EXAMINATION OF POLICY OPTIONS.

SINCE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON ECR5 ARE IN PROGRESS, I DO NOT PROPOSE TO COMMENT TODAY ON SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OR PUBLIC VIEWS ON THEM. INSTEAD, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FOUR GENERAL POINTS.

FIRST, UNLIKE PREVIOUS REPORTS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, ECR5 DEALS WITH A SINGLE SUBJECT - TEACHERS. THIS REFLECTS BOTH THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROPOSED REFORMS. SO FAR, PUBLIC ATTENTION SEEMS TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IS NEEDED, IT WOULD BE QUITE WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT ALL THE PRESENT INADEQUACIES CAN BE RESOLVED SIMPLY BY INJECTING MORE CASH INTO THE SYSTEM. THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN OUR CLASSROOMS REQUIRE TACKLING WITH IMAGINATION, PATIENCE AND DEDICATION. MONEY WILL NOT BE EVERYTHING. I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY WILL TREAT BUT ECR5 NOT PASSIVELY AS JUST A CATALOGUE OF OVERDUE IMPROVEMENTS, BUT POSITIVELY BOTH AS AN INVITATION TO BETTER AND MORE CLEARLY DEFINED OPPORTUNITIES AND AS A CHALLENGE TO HIGHER LEVELS OF ENDEAVOUR.

SECONDLY, I KNOW THERE IS A VIEW THAT ALL THE ECR5 RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS A PACKAGE. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY TO MAKE PROGRESS. I ALSO ACCEPT THAT MANY OF THE PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT ARE INTER-DEPENDENT. BUT THERE ARE OBVIOUS LIMITS TO HOW FAR ONE CAN GO WITH AN "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH. IF THE COROLLARY TO NOT BEING ABLE TO PROCEED WITH ALL ECR5 PROPOSALS IS TO MAKE NO PROGRESS AT ALL AND COMMON SENSE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE POSITION TO TAKE. SOME DEGREE OF PRIORITY SETTING WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME VIEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY ON WHAT THE PRIORITIES SHOULD BE.

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THIRDLY, THERE IS A FURTHER FACET TO PRIORITY SETTING, NAMELY THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF ECR5 RECOMMENDATIONS VIS-A-VIS OTHER DESIRABLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. THERE IS A VIEW STRONGLY HELD IN SOME QUARTERS AS ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR CONVERTING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSES TO WHOLE-DAY OPERATION. I HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING IN SOME DETAIL, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION IN THIS COUNCIL ON 24 JUNE. OUR POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO RUN WHOLE-DAY CLASSES WHEREVER THE ENROLMENT SITUATION IN THE LOCALITY ALLOWS. THIS ENCOURAGEMENT IS GIVEN IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL AND MORE SENIOR TEACHING POSTS AND AN ENHANCED CLASS GRANT. RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS APART, THIS POLICY WILL ENABLE ALL CONCERNED TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE OF THIS MODE OF OPERATION. IT WILL ALSO AVOID A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR GOOD QUALITY TEACHERS WHICH, AS ECR5 DEMONSTRATES, THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS NOT WELL-PLACED TO MEET. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO ADOPT A DEFINITIVE TIMETABLE FOR WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING AT THIS STAGE. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH HAS SURROUNDED THE QUESTION OF WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING, I WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I WOULD WELCOME VIEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THE PRIORITY WHICH SHOULD BE ACCORDED TO SETTING A TIMETABLE FOR FULL CONVERSION TO WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING, IN RELATION TO THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR TEACHERS IN ECR5.

FINALLY, AND I APOLOGISE FOR KEEPING MEMBERS WAITING, I COME TO THE QUESTION OF FUNDING. TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BRIEFING ON 8 JULY ON SPENDING PRIORITIES HAS ALREADY PROVIDED THE ANSWER. THE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE TO ARISE FROM ECR5 IN 1993-94 HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTED AS A SPENDING ASPIRATION. WHETHER THIS ASPIRATION CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY DEPENDS ON SEVERAL THINGS. FIRST, IT DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ECR5 AND WHAT POLICIES ARE FINALLY ADOPTED. SECONDLY, IT DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF NEW MONEY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL AND THE PROPORTION OF SUCH NEW MONEY WHICH CAN BE COMMITTED TO FUND THOSE POLICIES. THIRDLY, IN CASE THE AMOUNT OF NEW MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ECR5, IT WILL DEPEND ON WHAT SCOPE - AND WHAT SUPPORT - I SHALL HAVE TO REDEPLOY EXISTING RESOURCES FROM WITHIN MY PROGRAMME AREA. THUS, FUNDING FOR ECR5, IN THE SAME WAY AS FUNDING FOR OTHER SPENDING ASPIRATIONS, WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF MEETING THE GREATEST PERCEIVED NEEDS IN A SITUATION OF LIMITED RESOURCES. I TRUST MEMBERS WILL UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE, IF I CANNOT SAY TODAY WHETHER OR NOT THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO FUND THE WHOLE OF ECR5. BUT I WILL SAY THIS: AS SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, I SHALL DO MY LEVEL BEST TO TRY AND SECURE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IF THEY PROVE TO BE WIDELY SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY. I AM GLAD AND ENCOURAGED TO LEARN TODAY THAT I SHALL HAVE MEMBERS' STRONG SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES WITH THE GOOD WORK THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS DONE IN ITS FIFTH REPORT AND SUPPORTS THE SPIRIT OF THE MOTION.

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S FOR S ON SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

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MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

I HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE POINTS MADE BY MEMBERS THIS EVENING. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL COMMUNITIES THAT OFFENDERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE JUSTICE SIMPLY BY CROSSING BORDERS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD RETAIN AFTER 1997 EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES FOR THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL HELP TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S STANDING AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN WHICH THE RULE OF LAW PREVAILS AND IN WHICH IT IS SAFE TO LIVE AND TO WORK.

HONG KONG'S EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SURRENDER OF OFFENDERS ARE BASED ON BILATERAL TREATIES WITH MORE THAN 40 FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS APPLIED TO HONG KONG, AND ON A NETWORK OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES UNDER UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT FORM BEYOND 1997. THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEREFORE AGREED IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP THAT THEY SHOULD BE REPLACED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL CONTINUE IN EFFECT BEYOND 1997. BOTH SIDES HAVE ALSO AGREED A MODEL AGREEMENT, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH HONG KONG SHOULD NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

WE INTEND INITIALLY TO CONCENTRATE ON AGREEMENTS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE CURRENTLY HAVE AGREEMENTS THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM; WITH WHICH THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND REGULAR COMMERCIAL AND IMMIGRATION LINKS; AND WHICH HAVE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE SO FAR INITIALLED AGREEMENTS WITH FOUR COUNTRIES: THE NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND MALAYSIA. WE ARE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND WE HOPE TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SHORTLY. I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE VERY GOOD PROGRESS.

WE WILL NEED TO ENACT LOCAL LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE AGREEMENTS. I HOPE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION INTO THIS COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR. THIS LEGISLATION WILL INCLUDE THE SAFEGUARDS WHICH MR TO HAS MENTIONED WHICH ARE NORMALLY FOUND IN EXTRADITION AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS. THESE INCLUDE:

- (1) THE DOUBLE CRIMINALITY RULE, THAT IS THE ACT IN RESPECT OF WHICH A FUGITIVE'S RETURN IS REQUESTED MUST CONSTITUTE A CRIME IN BOTH JURISDICTIONS AT THE TIME IT WAS COMMITTED;
- (2) THE PRIMA FACIE RULE, THAT IS THERE IS A PRIMA FACIE CASE AGAINST A PERSON WHOSE RETURN IS REQUESTED;

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- (3) THE SPECIALITY RULE, THAT IS A RETURNED FUGITIVE WILL NOT BE TRIED FOR ANY OFFENCES OTHER THAN THAT FOR WHICH HE WAS SURRENDERED; AND
- (4) THAT RETURN MAY BE REFUSED IF THE OFFENCE IN QUESTION IS A POLITICAL OFFENCE.

WE INTEND ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER IN DUE COURSE WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK TO NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE PRC BEFORE 1997, AND BETWEEN THE FUTURE SAR AND THE PRC AFTER 1997. IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO CONCLUDE ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, GIVEN THE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS. SOME OF WHICH OTHER SPEAKERS HAVE MENTIONED. WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO CONSIDER THE MATTER AFTER WE HAVE CONCLUDED AND BROUGHT INTO OPERATION BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AND AFTER WE HAVE ENACTED DOMESTIC LEGISLATION. THANK YOU, MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

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LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT

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A MOTION PROPOSED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5 WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT ITS TWO-DAY MEETING WHICH ENDED TODAY (THURSDAY).

A TOTAL OF 19 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE WHICH WAS WINDED UP BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN.

EARLIER, AN AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR TO A MOTION ON A REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WAS PASSED AFTER A FIVE-HOUR DEBATE. THIRTY-NINE MEMBERS DEBATED THE MOTION.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION RAISED BY THE HON RONALD ARCULLI WAS DEFEATED.

IN ADDITION, AN AMENDMENT MOVED BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG TO THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED. A TOTAL OF 19 MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE AMENDMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THERE WAS ALSO AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE RAISED BY THE HON JAMES TO ON EXTRADITION AND REMOVAL OF CRIMINALS. FIVE MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING, 10 BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

/OF THEM,

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 9 -

OF THEM, SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1991-92) BILL 1992, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WERE PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS.

BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, SECURITIES (CLEARING HOUSES) BILL, RABIES BILL, LINGNAN COLLEGE BILL, CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (NOISE AT WORK) REGULATION WAS ALSO PASSED.

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 10 -

GOVERNOR STRESSES NEED FOR THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATORS
TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOLD MEMBERS OF OMELCO AT A DINNER THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY THE INCREASED DEMOCRATISATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD PUT AN END TO THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION THAT HAD DISTINGUISHED POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER, HE SAID.

THE BEST WAY OF GUARANTEEING THE SURVIVAL OF HONG KONG'S INSTITUTIONS WAS THROUGH THEIR VIGOUR, RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THAT HE TOOK THE IMPORTANCE BOTH OF STRONG EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT AND ITS ACCOUNTABILITY VERY SERIOUSLY.

IN PARTICULAR, HE WOULD BE LOOKING AT WAYS OF MAKING HIMSELF PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE, DISCUSSING THOSE IDEAS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PUTTING SOME PROPOSALS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN THEY RETURNED TO WORK IN THE AUTUMN.

MR PATTEN RE-AFFIRMED THAT HE WANTED TO ESTABLISH A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC.

MR PATTEN SAID THAT ON THE CORE POLITICAL QUESTIONS HE WANTED TO PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS PRACTICABLE.

HE WOULD BE CONSULTING WIDELY IN HONG KONG OVER THE SUMMER, PUTTING ADVICE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE EARLY AUTUMN, AND SETTING OUT HIS BROAD INTENTIONS IN HIS SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER.

THE GOVERNOR CONCLUDED: "I HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG NOW FOR EXACTLY A WEEK. I AM TODAY EVEN MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT I CARRY, BUT ALSO MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE RESILIENT AND RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH WHOM I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING."

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GOVERNOR KEEN TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OMELCO

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY) THAT HE WAS VERY KEEN TO HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A DINNER GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF THE TWO COUNCILS, MR PATTEN SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAYS IN WHICH HE COULD BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"AND I'LL BE PUTTING PROPOSALS TO LEGCO IN THE AUTUMN WHEN THEY COME BACK TO WORK," HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, MR PATTEN SAID: "I'M SURE THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WILL WORK VERY CONSTRUCTIVELY OVER THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN.

"IT'S IN ALL OUR INTEREST AND THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG, IN THE INTEREST OF SOUTHERN CHINA TO HAVE AN EARLY RESOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.

"WE'LL HAVE A GREAT AIRPORT; WE'LL HAVE A LOT MORE LAND RECLAMATION; WE'LL HAVE ALL THE OTHER PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIRPORT IN DUE COURSE. OF THAT, I'M ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT."

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FS WELCOMES PROPOSED SCHEME FOR BCCHK DEPOSITORS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT ANNOUNCED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WHEREBY SMALL DEPOSITORS OF BCCHK MAY RECEIVE PAYMENT IN FULL IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS' TIME.

"THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS FOR SMALL DEPOSITORS. IT MUST BE EXTREMELY RARE IN ANY BANK LIQUIDATION FOR SMALL DEPOSITORS TO BE REPAID IN FULL AND SO QUICKLY," HE SAID.

"I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT BOTH THE SMALL AND LARGE CREDITORS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED SCHEME.

"FULL PAYMENT TO SMALL CREDITORS WILL PROBABLY NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LARGE CREDITORS, AS THE SMALL CREDITORS' CLAIMS REPRESENT LESS THAN 3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF RECORDED CLAIMS. AND THE LARGE CREDITORS WILL BENEFIT BECAUSE THE PROPOSED SCHEME WILL SPEED UP THE SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CLAIMS AND REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS," HE SAID.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE PROPOSED SCHEME WILL SUCCEED, AND BE AGREED BY THE LARGE CREDITORS," MR MACLEOD SAID.

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 12 -

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MARCH - MAY 1992

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD MARCH TO MAY THIS YEAR WAS 2.6 PER CENT, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.3 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE THIS YEAR WAS 2.3 PER CENT, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.2 PER CENT.

LATEST FIGURES INDICATED THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD STARTED TO EDGE DOWN IN RECENT MONTHS, WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE.

DURING THE PERIOD MARCH TO MAY THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 71,700, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 63,400.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUAL GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR MARCH TO MAY THIS YEAR COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,700 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS OBTAINED BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE THIS YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 21 AT \$15.5 A COPY.

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 13 -

NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ATTENDANCE OF SOME HONG KONG RESIDENTS AT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES IN CHINA, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT DURING THEIR MEETING WITH THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG HIN-CHUNG, ON TUESDAY (JULY 14), THE REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD SUBMIT FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES IN CHINA AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THEY ENCOUNTERED IN APPLYING FOR ONE-WAY PERMITS.

THEY HAD COME TO DO SO TODAY.

"ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS OR OPINIONS ABOUT IMMIGRATION MATTERS CAN WRITE TO US ANY TIME. THEY MAY CHOOSE TO DO SO INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY. THERE IS NO SPECIFIED FORMAT AND THEY MAY SEND IN THEIR LETTERS BY POST OR IN PERSON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SUCH LETTERS DO NOT CONSTITUTE APPLICATIONS AND NO FEE IS REQUIRED," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

"WE WILL STUDY THE INFORMATION AND DECIDE WHETHER AND HOW IT SHOULD BE REFLECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES BUT WE MUST EMPHASISE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF SUCH LETTERS DOES NOT ACCORD THE WRITERS ANY SPECIAL STATUS OR TREATMENT," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN IMMIGRATION POLICY.

THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

NATIONALS OF CHINA WHO WISH TO COME FROM CHINA TO HONG KONG FOR SETTLEMENT MUST APPLY TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR ONE-WAY PERMITS.

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REVISION OF CERTIFICATION FEES

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE REVISION OF FEES RELATING TO THE ORIGIN CERTIFICATION OF EXPORTS.

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (FEES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATION 1992 WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE REVISION WILL COVER APPLICATION FEES FOR CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES AND THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF FACTORIES FOR THE CERTIFICATION SERVICE.

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THE NEW SCALE OF FEES AND THEIR EFFECTIVE DATES ARE:

TYPE OF APPLICATION -----	FEES -----		IMPLEMENTATION DATE -----
	CURRENT ----- (\$)	NEW ----- (\$)	
(A) CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, OTHER THAN GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE	55	100	JANUARY 1, 1993
(B) GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES	75	135	JANUARY 1, 1993
(C) FACTORY REGISTRATION (ANNUAL FEE)	500	1,500	AUGUST 1, 1992

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE INCREASE WAS NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF HONG KONG'S CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

"SINCE 1990, WHEN CERTIFICATION FEES WERE LAST REVISED, CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF CONSIGNMENT CHECKS SO AS TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF THE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM."

"THE GOOD NAME OF OUR SYSTEM MUST BE PROTECTED TO ALLAY ANY CONCERN OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS OVER THE TRUE ORIGIN OF GOODS."

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED:

"WE APPRECIATE THAT FEE INCREASES, HOWEVER JUSTIFIED, ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE WELCOME BY THOSE AFFECTED.

"TO SOFTEN THE IMPACT, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE THE NEW FEES OVER A LONGER PERIOD, AND NOT TO RECOVER FULL COSTS IN SOME ITEMS IN 1992.

"THE TEXTILE ADVISORY BOARD AND THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND SUPPORT THE REVISION," HE ADDED.

A COSTING REVIEW HAS SHOWN THAT THE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN RUN AT CONSIDERABLE DEFICIT.

THE FEES, EVEN AFTER THE REVISION, WILL STILL FALL SHORT OF FULLY RECOVERING THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICE.

THE FIVE GOVERNMENT APPROVED CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS WILL INCREASE FEES CORRESPONDINGLY FOR CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN AND GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES THEY ISSUE, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THEM SEPARATELY.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 15 -

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MOVES TO WU CHUNG HOUSE

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THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL MOVE TO NEW PREMISES IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, WAN CHAI, FROM ITS PRESENT OFFICES IN LEE GARDENS THIS SATURDAY (JULY 18).

THE DEPARTMENT WILL OCCUPY PREMISES FROM THE NINTH TO THE 16TH FLOORS OF THE NEW BUILDING IN 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST WHICH IS NEXT TO HOPEWELL CENTRE.

"WHEN WE FIRST MOVED FROM THE FRENCH MISSION BUILDING IN BATTERY PATH TO LEE GARDENS IN SEPTEMBER 1967, WE ONLY TOOK UP THE THIRD FLOOR AND PART OF THE FOURTH FLOOR AND OTHER OFFICE SPACE IN NEARBY BUILDINGS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE SAID TODAY THE DEPARTMENT HAD EXPANDED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO RENT NEARLY THE ENTIRE EASTERN BLOCK - FROM THE SECOND TO THE FIFTH FLOORS - OF LEE GARDENS.

THE EXPANSION DEMONSTRATED GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT, IN TERMS OF FINANCE AND MANPOWER, TO EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF HONG KONG.

THE MOVE TO WU CHUNG HOUSE WILL BE COMPLETED ON SUNDAY (JULY 26).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD CALL THE NEW ENQUIRY NUMBER - 892 6123 - DURING THE REMOVAL PERIOD FROM JULY 18 TO 26.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION, WHICH WILL BE ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE, WILL BE FULLY OPERATIONAL NEXT MONDAY (JULY 20). THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE OFFICERS ARE:

CIO	MR ANDREW YUEN	892 6190
PIO	MR PETER OLAES	892 6191
EO (IPR)	MRS M.H. LIU	892 6192
SIO (NEWS)1	MR HANNY LEE	892 6193
AEO (NEWS)1	MISS S.S. LAU	892 6194
AEO (NEWS)2	MR K.L. LIU	892 6196

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/16

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 16 -

VIDEO ON FILM CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON THE PRODUCTION OF A 20-MINUTE VIDEO ON FILM CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE VIDEO WAS INTENDED FOR INTERNAL USE TO ILLUSTRATE THE EXISTING STANDARDS GOVERNING THE THREE-TIER FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

AS REGARDS THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PROGRAMMES OF THE FUTURE PAY-TV SERVICE, IT WAS BEING DRAFTED AND WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME TIME YET, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON MOVE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND A NUMBER OF ITS SERVICE UNITS WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES IN WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI FROM NEXT MONDAY (JULY 20).

THE OFFICES, INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SECTION (CLEIC SECTION), THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SECTION (TAVA SECTION) AND THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE (CCCAI), WILL OCCUPY THE SEVENTH, EIGHTH AND PART OF THE NINTH FLOOR AREAS OF THE BUILDING.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES WILL BE 834 7447.

ENQUIRIES NUMBER FOR CLEIC SECTION, TAVA SECTION AND CCCAI WILL BE 838 6079, 834 7472 AND 836 3114 RESPECTIVELY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 892 5323, 892 5325 OR 892 5326, EFFECTIVE FROM NEXT MONDAY (JULY 20).

THE FAX NUMBER OF THE UNIT WILL BE 838 0114.

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/17

DRUG TALKS FOR PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS

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TWO SEMINARS TO INTRODUCE A PROGRAMME ON DRUG EDUCATION FOR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE TERRITORY WERE HELD TODAY (THURSDAY).

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL BE LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER, TALKS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS AT ABOUT 1,050 SCHOOLS WITHIN A THREE-YEAR PERIOD.

THE TALKS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY STAFF OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WHO HAVE GIVEN DRUG EDUCATION TALKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STUDENTS SINCE 1984.

"THE EXTENSION OF THE TALKS TO PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS IS A CRUCIAL MEASURE TO TACKLE THE RISING TREND OF THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUNGSTERS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID.

LASTING ABOUT 45 MINUTES, EACH TALK WILL MAINLY INCLUDE FOUR PARTS.

"FIRSTLY, THE SPEAKER WILL ASK DRUG-RELATED QUESTIONS TO AROUSE THE INTEREST AND ATTENTION OF THE STUDENTS.

"SECONDLY, A 10-MINUTE MULTI-IMAGE SLIDE FOCUSING ON DECISION-MAKING, REFUSAL AND STRESSES/WORRIES HANDLING SKILLS, AND METHODS OF ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY, POSITIVE AND FRUITFUL LIFE WILL BE SHOWN," HE SAID.

"THIRDLY, A NUMBER OF ROLE-PLAYS WILL BE ORGANISED FOR STUDENTS TO ENRICH THEIR KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE SHOW.

"LASTLY, THERE WILL BE CONCLUSION AND QUESTION TIME," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A WORKING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL WORK SECTOR WAS SET UP IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO LOOK INTO THE FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME ENDORSED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

"IN THE INITIAL SIX-WEEK PERIOD, ONLY TWO TALKS A WEEK WILL BE ARRANGED TO FACILITATE EVALUATION WITH STUDENTS, PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO ASSESS THE CONTENT AND USEFULNESS OF THE TALKS," HE SAID.

TODAY'S SEMINARS WERE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI, DURING WHICH THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WERE DISCUSSED.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 18 -

BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS

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MEMBERS OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS IN WAN CHAI AND STAFF IN THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT FIELD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A TWO-HOUR SEMINAR ON SATURDAY (JULY 18).

A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT MANAGER, MR JOHNNIE CHAN, WILL SPEAK ON HOW TO SELECT AND SUPERVISE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES.

AN ACCOUNTANT, MR FAN SAI-YEE, AND A SOLICITOR, MR WONG TAI-LUI, WILL DISCUSS ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND TENANCY LAW RESPECTIVELY.

OWNERS' PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE TOUCHED ON BY ANOTHER SPEAKER, ESTATE MANAGER MR FAN CHEUK-HUNG.

ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,028
REVERSAL OF LAF	-40
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	988

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 109.7 *-0.1* 16.7.92

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

- 19 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	1.93 PCT	16 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.89	4.05
1 MONTH	1.98 PCT	19 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.86	4.32
3 MONTHS	2.25 PCT	22 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.77	4.53
6 MONTHS	2.71 PCT					
12 MONTHS	3.54 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,337 MN

CLOSED 16 JULY 1992

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