



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1992

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CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS GOVT CLINIC

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE LAM TIN POLYCLINIC TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE DAILY OPERATION OF THE CLINIC - ONE OF 54 RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SIR DAVID FIRST TOURED THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT. THERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM AND APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR CHRONIC CASES, MADE SINCE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1989.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES CENTRE WHERE HE WAS TOLD THAT 91 PER CENT OF THE NEW-BORN BABIES IN HONG KONG USE THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE NEXT STOP WAS THE SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC WHERE SIR DAVID SAW A GROUP OF SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO WERE HAVING THEIR ANNUAL DENTAL EXAMINATION OR RECEIVING ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

BEFORE ENDING HIS TOUR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS BRIEFED ON THE PILOT DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWUN TONG SHORTLY.

THE SYSTEM, COMPRISING A NETWORK OF SIX HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS WITH NGAU TAU KOK CLINIC SERVING AS THE DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE, AIMS TO FOSTER A TEAMWORK APPROACH AND ENSURE GREATER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

A DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF LOCAL COMMUNITY PERSONNEL AND SERVICE PROVIDERS, WILL SHORTLY BE FORMED.

SIR DAVID WAS ALSO TOLD ABOUT THE PROGRAMME OF PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

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INTERIM REPORT ON CHINESE MEDICINE
PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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PRACTITIONERS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE (TCM) SHOULD BE REGISTERED IN ORDER TO ASSURE PROSPECTIVE PATIENTS ON STANDARDS AND TO ACCORD PROPER STATUS TO PRACTITIONERS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE MEDICINE (WPCM) WHICH IS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT, THE WORKING PARTY CHAIRMAN, MRS HELEN YU LAI CHING-PING STRESSED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR SOME FORM OF REGISTRATION OR REGULATION OF TCM PRACTICE IN THE INTEREST OF SAFE PATIENT CARE.

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THE WORKING PARTY HAS SUGGESTED THAT A PANEL OF EXPERTS BE SET UP TO WORK OUT THE FORM OF REGISTRATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

BUT THE WORKING PARTY ENVISAGED THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF TCM PRACTITIONERS WOULD BE A PRE-REQUISITE TO ANY SUCH SYSTEM.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY WHO APPEARED ON THE PANEL WITH MRS YU INCLUDED EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT SUCH AS DR YEUNG HIN-WING, DR WONG TZE-WAI, DR MABEL YANG AND DR PAUL BUT.

THE WPCM WAS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN AUGUST 1989 TO REVIEW THE USE AND PRACTICE OF TCM IN HONG KONG.

MRS YU HIGHLIGHTED A NUMBER OF PRIORITY AREAS THAT, IN THE WORKING PARTY'S VIEWS, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.

THE WORKING PARTY SUGGESTED THAT A LIST OF POTENT AND TOXIC HERBS SHOULD BE DRAWN UP WITH EXPERT ADVICE SO AS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THEIR PROPER USE.

IT ALSO CONSIDERED A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL TCM PRACTITIONERS ESSENTIAL FOR FULLER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROFESSION.

THE SHORTAGE OF TCM DISPENSERS WAS ANOTHER ISSUE OF CONCERN. THE WPCM SUGGESTED THAT THE TRADE AND TCM PRACTITIONERS SHOULD CONSIDER EARLY INCENTIVES TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN THEM.

THE WORKING PARTY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT HEALTH EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC IN THE PROPER USE OF TCM SHOULD FORM PART OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S PROGRAMME IN HEALTH CARE.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID: "THE CONSENSUS OF THE WPCM SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THEIR REVIEW.

MEMBERS' OBJECTIVES AND PRIME CONCERN WERE: PATIENT SAFETY; CONSUMER ASSURANCE; PROPER USE OF TCM; AND RECOGNITION FOR THE ROLE OF TCM PRACTITIONERS.

"IN PURSUING THESE OBJECTIVES, WE HAVE TAKEN DUE ACCOUNT OF LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRACTICALITIES," MRS YU SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL IN PRINCIPLE TO FURTHER AND DEVELOP TCM ON THE STRENGTHS OF ITS HERITAGE.

"IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO APPLY TO TCM IN GENERAL THE CONTROLS ON WESTERN MEDICINE AND PRACTITIONERS ALTHOUGH REFERENCE SHOULD BE TAKEN WHERE APPLICABLE," SHE SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY NOTED THAT THE CONTINUING USE OF TCM BY MANY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND RECOGNISED THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF TCM PRACTITIONERS IN HEALTH CARE, TREATMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

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"IN VIEW OF PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE PROPER USE AND GOOD PRACTICE OF TCM, WE CONSIDER SOME CHANGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES BOTH APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY," MRS YU SAID.

"THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE WORLD TREND TO GIVE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE ADEQUATE IMPORTANCE," SHE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE PATTERN IN THE USE OF TCM IN HONG KONG AND TO ASCERTAIN PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS IT, THE WPCM COMMISSIONED CHINESE MEDICINAL MATERIAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO CONDUCT FOUR SURVEYS INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TCM.

MRS YU SAID: "THE WORKING PARTY WELCOMES VIEWS ON ITS PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS. WE VALUE PUBLIC VIEWS AND WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER THEM IN PREPARING OUR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT."

COPIES OF THE INTERIM REPORT, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICE PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES AS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

VIEWS IN WRITING SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARY OF THE WPCM, PO BOX 13282, GPO, HONG KONG BY APRIL 16 THIS YEAR.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO INTERVIEW MEMBERS OF THE WPCM ARE WELCOME TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH ITS SECRETARY, MR PETER KWOK. MR KWOK CAN BE CONTACTED ON TEL. 810 2941 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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PROCESSING OF URBAN TAXI TENDERS COMPLETED

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THE AVERAGE PREMIUM ACCEPTED IN THE LATEST TENDERS FOR 200 URBAN TAXI LICENCES IS \$1,512,055.50, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 66.24 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE OF \$909,562.03 IN THE LAST TENDER EXERCISE IN NOVEMBER 1990.

A TOTAL OF 387 TENDERS WERE RECEIVED WHEN ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS CLOSED ON DECEMBER 20 LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS \$1,523,000 AND THE LOWEST \$1,510,389.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS THEY OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS
FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1991 RELEASED

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WAS 1.9%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.6%, 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 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1991 WAS 1.8%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.6%.

THE STEADY DECREASE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SINCE THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR INDICATED THAT CONDITIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET HAD TIGHTENED UP AGAIN IN RECENT MONTHS. MEANWHILE, THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1991 WAS 1.9%, COMPARED WITH 2.2% FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1991 AND 1.4% FOR SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1990.

ALTHOUGH THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.5 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER, IT WAS 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT LOWER THAN THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

THESE DIFFERENCES ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, MEANING THAT THEY ARE NOT DUE TO SAMPLING FLUCTUATIONS.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1991 WAS ESTIMATED AT 53,400, COMPARED WITH 61,700 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1991 AND 39,500 IN SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1990.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1991 WAS 1.6%, COMPARED WITH 1.5% FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991 AND 0.9% FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1990.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, WHILE THE INCREASE OF 0.7 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1991 WAS 45,700, COMPARED WITH 40,500 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST 1991 AND 24,800 IN SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1990.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

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AS THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

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

THE SURVEY FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1991 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.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY 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 ILO.

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 DECEMBER 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND MARCH 20 AT \$13.50 PER COPY.

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RIVER AND MARINE WATER QUALITY REPORTS PUBLISHED

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THE WATER QUALITY OF MOST OF HONG KONG'S RIVERS AND MARINE WATERS HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF WATER QUALITY SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD).

THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONDUCTED THE GOVERNMENT'S WATER QUALITY SURVEYS SINCE 1986.

TWO FULL REPORTS ON ITS MARINE AND RIVER MONITORING PROGRAMMES DURING 1989 AND 1990 ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

THE 48-PAGE "RIVER WATER QUALITY IN HONG KONG FOR 1989-1990", COMPILED IN ENGLISH, GIVES A REVIEW OF RIVER WATER QUALITY.

THE 93-PAGE "MARINE WATER QUALITY IN HONG KONG FOR 1990", ALSO AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, GIVES A REVIEW OF SEA WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY.

IN THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORTS, WATER QUALITY WAS MONITORED AT 75 RIVER AND 92 MARINE LOCATIONS.

AT EACH, A WIDE RANGE OF PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY.

THE RIVER REPORT SHOWS THAT THE WATER QUALITY IN SOME OF HONG KONG'S RIVERS IS IMPROVING.

OTHER RIVERS REMAIN IN AN EXTREMELY BAD STATE. THE WORST ARE THOSE IN THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF THE TERRITORY WHERE THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROLS HAVE NOT YET BEEN INTRODUCED.

IMPROVEMENT IN THESE RIVERS DEPENDS ON THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCING THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LAW, PROVIDING NEW OR IMPROVED SEWAGE UNDER ITS MASTER PLANS, AND COMPLETING RIVER CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS.

ALL OF THESE ACTIONS ARE IN PROGRESS BUT DEMAND MORE TIME AND RESOURCES.

THE MARINE REPORT SHOWS THAT THE COASTAL WATER QUALITY CONTINUED TO GIVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN DURING 1990.

AREAS SUCH AS VICTORIA HARBOUR, INNER DEEP BAY AND MOST OF THE TYPHOON SHELTERS HAVE VERY POOR WATER QUALITY. THE STEEPEST DECLINES CONTINUE IN THE URBAN TYPHOON SHELTERS.

THE HIGH LEVELS OF CHEMICAL POLLUTANTS AND HEAVY METALS IN THE SEDIMENTS SHOW SERIOUS INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BETWEEN 1991 AND 2001, DREDGING ACTIVITIES ARE EXPECTED IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF HONG KONG WHICH WILL GENERATE AN ESTIMATED OF 26 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF HEAVILY CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS.

SAFE DISPOSAL OF THESE SEDIMENTS COULD AMOUNT TO \$1.6 BILLION, AN AVERAGE OF \$60 PER CUBIC METRE.

INADEQUATELY TREATED SEWAGE DISCHARGED INTO OUR COASTAL WATERS CONTINUES TO CAUSE PROBLEMS IN MANY AREAS WHERE THE CURRENTS ARE WEAK.

THE RESULT CAN BE RED TIDES, WHICH ARE ALWAYS HARMFUL AND MAY BE TOXIC, OR LOSS OF OXYGEN FROM THE WATER, WHICH KILLS FISH AND CAN CAUSE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR OUR COASTAL CITIES.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE 1991 MONITORING RESULTS INDICATED THAT THE TRENDS OF THE 1990 RESULTS HAD CONTINUED IN BOTH THE MARINE AND INLAND WATERS OF HONG KONG.

THE REPORTS ON MARINE WATER QUALITY AND RIVER WATER QUALITY CONTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND TOWN PLANNERS WHOSE WORK RELATES TO WATER QUALITY.

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THE REPORTS SERVE AS REFERENCE BOOKS FOR RESEARCHERS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

THE REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE RIVER WATER QUALITY REPORT AT \$28 EACH AND MARINE WATER QUALITY REPORT AT \$46.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) MR PAUL HOLMES ON TEL. 835 1234 OR SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR EDMOND HO ON TEL. 835 1238.

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CONTINUOUS EFFORTS NEEDED TO ENSURE PORT EFFICIENCY

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CONTINUOUS EFFORTS OF ALL OPERATORS, USERS AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SHORTEST TURN-AROUND TIME FOR SHIPS CALLING AT THE HONG KONG PORT, WHICH IS SECOND TO NONE IN EFFICIENCY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, WHEN SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO PRESENT PLAQUES TO THE HONG KONG VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS TODAY (THURSDAY).

MRS CHAN SAID ACCURATE WEATHER FORECASTING HELPS SHIPS PLAN THEIR MOVEMENTS SO AS TO MAXIMISE BOTH EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY.

THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS HAD INCREASED FROM 70 IN 1986 TO 81 NOW.

SHE SAID THE MARINE WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEM INTO WHICH THEIR OBSERVATIONS GO IS OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO ALL SHIPPING CALLING AT HONG KONG, IN TERMS OF BOTH EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY.

"THE SYSTEM IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE TO SHIPPING.

"AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY HAS REASON TO BE GRATEFUL TO THE SHIPOWNERS CONCERNED, AND TO THEIR OFFICERS, FOR THEIR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SCHEME," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAD BEEN THE BUSIEST EVER FOR PORT THROUGHPUT, PORT DEVELOPMENT AND PORT PLANNING.

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IN THAT PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF VESSELS CALLING AT THE PORT INCREASED BY ABOUT 40 PER CENT, THE AMOUNT OF CARGO HANDLED THROUGH THE PORT INCREASED BY ABOUT 70 PER CENT AND THE NUMBER OF CONTAINERS HANDLED INCREASED BY ABOUT 130 PER CENT.

MRS CHAN SAID THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE PORT IS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR HONG KONG'S OWN ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT ALSO FOR THAT OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

"TRADE MUST CONTINUE TO FLOW SMOOTHLY," SHE ADDED.

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SERVICE OF HK VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS RECOGNISED
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PLAQUES WERE PRESENTED TO THE HONG KONG VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY (RO) AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS' SCHEME AT A CEREMONY AT RO THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THE GUESTS OF HONOUR INCLUDED THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN; THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION LTD., MR M. FARLIE; AND THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER.

ALSO ATTENDING WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE MARINE COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE SHIPPING MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION, THE GUESTS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE RO'S DIRECTOR, MR PATRICK SHAM, SAW DISPLAYS ON THE FLEET OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS.

THEY ALSO SAW FOR THEMSELVES HOW SHIPS' WEATHER OBSERVATIONS ARE USED, THE NEW WEATHER BROADCAST SYSTEMS FOR GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE PORT AND MARINE WEATHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE RO.

GUIDED TOURS WERE ALSO CONDUCTED FOR GUESTS TO SEE RO'S FACILITIES.

INSTITUTED IN 1947, THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS' SCHEME IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME IN WHICH SHIPS ARE RECRUITED FOR TAKING AND TRANSMITTING METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SEAS AND OCEANS OF THE WORLD.

THE PROGRAMME PROVIDES A UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR THE COLLECTION OF THESE OBSERVATIONS AND THEIR USE FOR THE BENEFIT OF SHIPPING.

WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF LOCAL SHIPOWNERS AND SHIPPING AGENTS, THE RO HAS BEEN RECRUITING AND MAINTAINING A FLEET OF VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS SINCE 1949.

AT PRESENT, THE FLEET OF HONG KONG VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS CONSISTS OF OVER 80 SHIPS, WHICH SENT IN REAL TIME OVER 6,500 WEATHER REPORTS TO THE RO LAST YEAR.

THESE REPORTS FORM THE BASIS FOR MARINE FORECASTS AND WARNINGS AND FOR PREPARING MARINE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARIES WHICH ARE USED EXTENSIVELY FOR PLANNING MARINE OPERATIONS AND FOR RESEARCH.

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CIVIL SERVICE JOBS CHALLENGING AND REWARDING: SHA

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE CHALLENGING AND REWARDING.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 13TH CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR SUEN SAID JOINING THE CIVIL SERVICE ALSO MEANT A COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND TO WORK FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR HONG KONG.

HE SAID: "HONG KONG IS AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX SOCIETY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL PART IN TRAINING YOUNG PEOPLE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THIS TECHNOLOGICAL AGE."

MR SUEN NOTED THAT EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 3,000 HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES JOIN THE WORKFORCE IN FIELDS AS DIVERSE AS ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL WORK.

"THIS INJECTION OF NEW BLOOD AND FRESH IDEAS TO THE WORKFORCE CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO HONG KONG'S WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY," HE SAID.

WITH THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENT, MR SUEN SAID, THE GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING MORE COMPLEX AND THUS MORE DEMANDING OF ITS STAFF.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, LIKE ALL EMPLOYERS, NEEDS ENTHUSIASTIC, HARDWORKING AND TALENTED PEOPLE TO TAKE UP THESE CHALLENGES AND JOIN THE RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE SAID.

APPEALING TO THE UNDERGRADUATES TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION, MR SUEN SAID THEY WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO TALK TO STAFF MANNING THE EXHIBITION TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEIR WORK.

"USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP YOURSELF TO DECIDE NOT ONLY TO JOIN THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUT ALSO PERHAPS, TO NARROW DOWN YOUR CHOICES OF GRADE OR DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

THE TWO-DAY CAREERS EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, WITH A TOTAL OF 38 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND GRADES PARTICIPATING.

IT AIMS TO PROVIDE UNDERGRADUATES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNMENT POSTS IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND GRADES.

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PROPRIETORS TO WATCH FOR IMPOSTERS

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON COMPANY PROPRIETORS TO BE WATCHFUL AGAINST PEOPLE IMPERSONATING AS LABOUR OFFICERS ASKING FOR MONEY.

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, A NUMBER OF COMPANIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ASKED BY PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE LABOUR OFFICERS TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS OR PUBLICATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE COMPANIES.

"PROPRIETORS SHOULD NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE FREE OF CHARGE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS ASKING FOR MONEY IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES OR PUBLICATIONS," HE SAID.

"WHEN MAKING ENQUIRIES WITH A COMPANY, OFFICERS WILL ALWAYS GIVE THEIR NAMES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS OR OFFICE ADDRESSES, WHILE THOSE ON SITE VISITS WILL PRODUCE VALID WARRANT CARDS FOR IDENTIFICATION," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED PROPRIETORS TO ASK FOR A CALLER'S FULL PARTICULARS OF OFFICE, INCLUDING HIS CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF THEY HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT HIS IDENTITY AND TO CHECK WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"THEY MAY ALSO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION IF THEY SUSPECT THE CALLER IS AN IMPOSTER," HE SAID.

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SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON "SUMMARY FINDINGS
OF 1991 POPULATION CENSUS"

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THE NOVEMBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON THE BROAD FINDINGS OF THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS.

THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS 15 TABLES, ONE CHART AND COMMENTARIES PROVIDING A BROAD PICTURE OF THE POPULATION AS REVEALED BY THE CENSUS.

COMPARISONS ARE MADE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE 1981 CENSUS AND 1986 BY-CENSUS WHERE THEY ARE POSSIBLE.

THE SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE FEATURES A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING THE BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC, EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION AND THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$48 PER COPY.

PURCHASES MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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ANNUAL STAMP PACK TO GO ON SALE

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THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MRS DORIS S.Y. HO ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY), THAT THE ANNUAL STAMP PACK FOR LAST YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM JANUARY 27.

THE PACK CONTAINS ALL THE SPECIAL STAMPS ISSUED LAST YEAR, NAMELY YEAR OF THE RAM, HONG KONG EDUCATION, 100 YEARS OF TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG, 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE, AND HONG KONG LANDMARKS.

THE PACK, IDEAL FOR A GIFT AND PERSONAL COLLECTION, WILL BE SOLD AT \$88 AT THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PHILATELIC OFFICES:

- AIRPORT POST OFFICE
- BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
- GENERAL POST OFFICE
- GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
- PEAK POST OFFICE
- SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
- TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

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PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY

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THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 22) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, IT WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1992

- 12 -

FAMILY OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIM RECEIVES CASH AID

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROVED \$63,580 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO THE DEPENDANTS OF A DECORATION WORKER WHO WAS KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON DECEMBER 20 LAST YEAR.

YU YUK-SANG, 44, WAS KILLED BY A PRIVATE CAR WHILE WALKING ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR TA KU LING SUN TSUEN. HE WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, AGED MOTHER AND TWO CHILDREN.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE OTHER DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE SAME ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME. BUT IN ANY CASE, THE AMOUNT REPAID WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION AWARDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHEME MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION AT 15 WATSON ROAD, VICTORIA CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY OR ON TEL. 570 2410.

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EARLY WELFARE PAYMENT

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOK COUPONS MAY RECEIVE THEIR WELFARE PAYMENT EARLIER IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON JANUARY 30, 31 AND FEBRUARY 3, OR AFTER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE UNDER BANK PAYMENT SYSTEM WILL ALSO HAVE THEIR PAYMENT ADVANCED TO FEBRUARY 3 IF THE PAYMENT DATE FALLS ON FEBRUARY 5.

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EFFORTS TO BOOST LOCAL PIG INDUSTRY

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TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR LOCAL PIG FARMERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO PURCHASE SUPERB PEDIGREE PIGS FOR RAISING IN HONG KONG.

THIS MOVE IS TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL BREEDING STOCK AND PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY FRESH PORK FOR HONG KONG CITIZENS.

THE REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT ADVANCED PIG BREEDING CENTRES IN IOWA, MINNESOTA AND OHIO.

THEY PLAN TO PURCHASE SOME 40 HEADS OF QUALITY BREEDING PIG VALUED AT MORE THAN \$400,000.

THESE HEADS WILL INCLUDE MAINLY LARGE WHITE, LANDRACE, HAMPSHIRE AND DUROC WHICH ARE THE MOST POPULAR BREEDS IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME IN 1988 THAT LOCAL PIG FARMERS PUT IN LARGE INVESTMENT TO INTRODUCE HIGH QUALITY PIG STOCKS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, PRESENTED A BANNER TO THE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AND PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF LOCAL PIGS.

DR LEE SAID THIS COULD BE REGARDED AS INDICATIONS OF REVIVED INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE OF THE PIG FARMERS IN THE LOCAL PIG INDUSTRY.

TAKING PART IN THE TRIP ARE THE SECRETARY OF THE FEDERATION OF PIG RAISING CO-OPERATIVES OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES (FPRCS), MR FOK WUI-KO AND A MEMBER-FARMER, MR LEUNG CHI-WAH.

THE CHAIRMAN OF FPRCS, MR LEUNG CHIK, WHO ALSO ATTENDED TODAY'S FUNCTION, SAID OVER 20 QUALITY BREEDING PIGS WERE IMPORTED FROM TAIWAN FOR EXHIBITION IN THE FARMERS FESTIVAL LAST MONTH AND THEY WERE INSTANTLY ACQUIRED BY LOCAL FARMERS.

THIS HAD REFLECTED LOCAL FARMERS' CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL PIG INDUSTRY.

THEREFORE THE FPRCS DECIDED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED STATES TO BUY MORE QUALITY BREEDING PIGS.

THE FPRCS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1954 TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PIG INDUSTRY AND ENHANCE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PIG FARMERS.

APART FROM ACQUIRING BREEDING STOCK, THE FPRCS OPERATES BULK-PURCHASE SCHEME OF ANIMAL FEEDS BENEFITTING MANY PIG FARMERS.

ITS MEMBER-SOCIETIES ALSO PROVIDE CREDIT FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER-FARMERS, SOLVING THEIR LIQUIDITY PROBLEM.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1992

- 14 -

FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL IN YUEN LONG

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE SHUI BIN TSUEN MINI-SOCCER PITCH ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 19) AFTERNOON.

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN. ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE GAMES STALLS, PERFORMANCE BY THE POLICE DOG UNIT AND LUCKY DRAWS.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE AT 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

THE CARNIVAL WILL BEGIN AT 1.30 PM. THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROBIN YIP; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR VINCE WALSH; AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND THE YUEN LONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. IT AIMS TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS TO REPORT CRIMES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 1.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 19) AT SHUI BIN TSUEN MINI-SOCCER PITCH.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS PART-TIME SCORE COPIERS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RECRUITING PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN SCORE COPYING.

APPLICANTS SHOULD POSSESS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC THEORY GRADE VIII OR ABOVE, OR EQUIVALENT AND HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE MUSIC NUMERICAL SCORE ROTATION AND ETHNIC INSTRUMENTATION.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COPY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCORES FOR USE BY MUSIC OFFICE'S ORCHESTRAS OR BANDS. FEES FOR COPYING WILL RANGE FROM \$9 TO \$19 PER FOOLSCAP-SIZED PAGE.

NAMES OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE PUT ON A PART-TIME STAFF LIST OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. THEIR SERVICE WILL BE CALLED UPON AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

/THEY WILL

THEY WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH PENSION, MEDICAL OR DENTAL BENEFITS, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES, HOUSING ALLOWANCES OR OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

APPLICATION FORMS (G.F. 340) ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE ON 25TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI BY FEBRUARY 1.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 582 5340.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	15.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	16.1.92	+742
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-742
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.1 **0.5* 16.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF. BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.42 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.55	5.42
1 MONTH	4.00 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.02 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.08 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.54 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,585 MN

CLOSED 16 JANUARY 1992

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