



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BILL TO CLEAR DOUBTS OVER SUCCESSION AND LAND TITLES

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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO REMOVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION TO LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES (NT) WILL BE GAZETTED THIS FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 19).

ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND (EXEMPTION) BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE BILL WOULD ALSO SERVE TO REMOVE DOUBTS ABOUT EXISTING LAND TITLES IN THE NT.

SCHEDULED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING ON NOVEMBER 24, THE BILL PROVIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT ANY LAND IN THE NT, OTHER THAN RURAL LAND, SHALL, FROM THE DATE OF THE RELEVANT LAND GRANT, BE DEEMED TO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXEMPT FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE (NTO).

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND LEADING TO THE GAZETTING OF THE BILL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROVISIONS OF THE NTO APPLIED TO ALL LAND IN THE NT THAT HAS NOT BEEN EXEMPT FROM PART II OF THE ORDINANCE, WHETHER IT BE RURAL OR URBANISED, OR WHETHER THE OWNER IS AN INDIGENOUS OR NON-INDIGENOUS RESIDENT.

ALMOST ALL PROPERTIES IN THE NT, INCLUDING PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS, HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWNS AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, ARE SUBJECT TO THE NTO AND MAY THEREFORE BE SUBJECT TO CHINESE CUSTOMARY LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCCESSION.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD BOUGHT PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO PART II OF THE NTO WERE GENERALLY NOT AWARE THAT CHINESE CUSTOMARY LAW MAY APPLY TO THEIR PROPERTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCCESSION.

"FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING MEASURES TO TACKLE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY NT PROPERTY OWNERS.

"AS A FIRST STEP, WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 25, 1993, ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO EXEMPT ALL FUTURE GRANTS OF LAND IN THE NT FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NTO, EXCEPT FOR GRANTS TO INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS UNDER THE SMALL HOUSE POLICY OR TO CUSTOMARY BODIES ESTABLISHED BY CLANS AND FAMILIES IN THE NT, BY THE INCLUSION OF A GENERAL CONDITION TO THAT EFFECT IN THE GRANTS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE ABOVE MEASURES ELIMINATED THE PROBLEM FOR LAND GRANTED AFTER JUNE 25, 1993, THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR GOVERNMENT TO USE ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS TO EXEMPT LAND ALREADY GRANTED BEFORE THAT DATE AND NOW HELD IN UNDIVIDED SHARES BY INDIVIDUAL OWNERS, UNLESS ALL OF THEM JOIN TOGETHER TO APPLY.

"BY DEEMING ALL NON-RURAL LAND IN THE NT TO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXEMPT FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NTO UNDER THIS SHORT BILL TO BE GAZETTED, THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THOSE NT PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING SUCCESSION RIGHTS CAN THUS BE OVERCOME," HE ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION TO HAVE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT (FROM THE DATE OF THE RELEVANT LAND GRANT), THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT EXISTING TITLES TO LAND OR PROPERTY IN THE NT WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM A VENDOR WHO ACQUIRED THE PROPERTY BY REGISTRATION OF PROBATE, LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION OR CUSTOMARY SUCCESSION FROM A DECEASED OWNER.

"THERE IS GENERAL UNCERTAINTY OF WHAT THE TRUE LEGAL POSITION MAY BE. THIS IS BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE ASSUME THAT THE GENERAL LAWS OF HONG KONG WOULD APPLY TO THEIR PROPERTIES IN THE NT WHETHER THEY DIE TESTATE OR INTESTATE.

"PROBATE OF WILLS OR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION ON INTESTACY HAVE BEEN OBTAINED AND CONVEYANCING CARRIED OUT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GENERAL LAWS, INCLUDING THE LAWS OF SUCCESSION TO LAND, OF HONG KONG APPLY."

"UNLESS STEPS ARE TAKEN TO VALIDATE THESE CONVEYANCES, FUTURE POTENTIAL PURCHASERS MAY ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT ANY DEFECTS THERE MAY BE IN THEIR TITLE TO AVOID THE PURCHASE CONTRACT," HE POINTED OUT.

THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS PROVISIONS TO FACILITATE THOSE OWNERS OF RURAL LAND WHO WISH TO AVOID THE EFFECT OF CUSTOMARY RULES OF SUCCESSION ON THEIR PROPERTY BY PROVIDING FOR THE EXEMPTION OF LAND, INCLUDING UNDIVIDED SHARES, FROM THE APPLICATION OF PART II OF THE NTO, BY THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS UPON APPLICATION OF THE LANDOWNER CONCERNED BY A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE PROCEDURE.

THIS IS A NEW METHOD IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING PROCEDURE UNDER THE NTO, WHICH IS MORE CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING AND WHICH OWNERS HAVE NOT USED IN THE PAST.

AS REGARDS OWNERS OF NON-RURAL LAND, THEY WILL BE AWARE THAT THEIR LAND IS EXEMPT FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE NTO AND THEY MAY RESORT TO THE REMEDY OF MAKING A WILL IF THEY WISH CUSTOMARY RULES OF SUCCESSION TO APPLY.

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HK'S FUTURE LIES WITH CHINA

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HONG KONG'S FUTURE LIES WITH CHINA BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REALITIES, THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN FRANKFURT TODAY (MONDAY).

GIVING A KEYNOTE SPEECH TO MORE THAN 350 GERMAN BUSINESS LEADERS THERE, MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG WANTED TO SECURE THAT FUTURE BY CO-OPERATING WITH CHINA TO ENSURE THAT AFTER 1997 "WE CAN CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE RULE OF LAW, A FREE AND OPEN MARKET AND GOOD CLEAN GOVERNMENT".

"THESE PRINCIPLES AND RULES HAVE SERVED US WELL IN THE PAST AND ARE THE BEST GUARANTEES FOR OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN MADE IT PLAIN THAT HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE SWALLOWED UP WHEN SOVEREIGNTY REVERTED TO CHINA.

AS FAR AS INVESTORS ARE CONCERNED IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL IN HONG KONG AFTER THE MIDNIGHT BELLS ON JUNE 30, 1993.

"THERE IS NOTHING MAGICAL ABOUT THAT DATE AS FAR AS OUR ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA, AND SOUTHERN CHINA IN PARTICULAR, ARE CONCERNED.

"IN THIS REGARD, THERE WILL NOT BE, AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR, A NEW BEGINNING," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE SAID ALTHOUGH HONG KONG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FACE DIFFICULTIES FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE REMAINING YEARS OF TRANSITION, THESE WOULD BE OVERCOME "BY BELIEVING IN OUR OWN INNATE STRENGTHS AND BY ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD AND NEVER BACKWARDS".

THERE HAVE BEEN GROWING ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. SHE SAID THIS HAD LED TO EXPANSION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AIR AND SHIPPING SERVICES, NEW ROAD AND RAIL LINKS AND THE MASSIVE CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS OF VEHICLES AND PEOPLE NOW NUMBERING OVER 20,000 VEHICLES A DAY AND 50 MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR.

"ALL THESE ARE INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION GOING ON APACE, NOT WAITING FOR 1997.

"WE ARE SEEING TRANSFORMATION LONG BEFORE TRANSITION," MRS CHAN SAID.

ON CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT, MRS CHAN SAID OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE SKILL IN MANAGING THE TRANSITION FROM COMMAND TO MARKET ECONOMICS.

AND THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT IT WOULD SUCCEED IN COOLING DOWN ITS ECONOMY WITHOUT SEVERE DISRUPTIONS.

"BUT IT IS THE AWAKENING OF THE LATENT ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF THE POPULATION AT LARGE THAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"THIS SPIRIT BOTH FEEDS AND IS REINFORCED BY THE ECONOMIC CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE."

MRS CHAN EMPHASISED THAT ALL THESE CHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHIN A SINGLE COUNTRY THAT FOR THE MOST PART SHARED A COMMON HISTORY, CULTURE AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE. THIS MADE FOR A VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE FROM THAT IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

SHE SAID THERE WAS HUGE SCOPE FOR FURTHER EXCHANGES BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA WITH THE MOST OBVIOUS BEING IN THE AREA OF TRADE AS MARKETS DEVELOPED AND DIVERSIFIED. AND HONG KONG WAS THE NATURAL HUB FROM WHICH TO DO BUSINESS.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THE STRONG ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GERMANY WITH TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO CENTRES GROWING AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 17 PER CENT.

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CARS, SHE SAID, WERE THE LARGEST SINGLE IMPORT IN VALUE TERMS SO IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT MERCEDES BENZ HAD ITS LARGEST SHARE OF ANY SINGLE CAR MARKET WORLDWIDE IN HONG KONG.

MRS CHAN, WHO IS ON A THREE COUNTRY, FOUR CITY HONG KONG PROMOTION IN EUROPE, CONTINUED WITH A BUSY SCHEDULE IN FRANKFURT.

EARLIER IN THE DAY SHE HAD A MEETING WITH DR BERND GOOS, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OF THE BUNDESBANK, GERMANY'S CENTRAL BANK.

ON SUNDAY NIGHT SHE HOSTED A DINNER FOR A GROUP OF LEADING GERMAN BANKERS AND LATER THIS AFTERNOON (MONDAY) MRS CHAN FLIES TO THE NETHERLANDS TO START ANOTHER ROUND OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND SPEECHES IN BOTH THE HAGUE AND AMSTERDAM.

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STATEMENT ON CONDOMS REPORTS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON REPORTS RELEASED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ON CONDOMS TODAY (MONDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND IS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT AT THIS STAGE.

HOWEVER, STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN, DIMENSION, WALL THICKNESS AND UNIFORMITY, ELASTICITY, FREEDOM FROM HOLES AND VISIBLE DEFECTS, COLOUR FASTNESS, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF CONDOMS ARE COVERED BY A BRITISH STANDARD ISSUED IN 1989.

STANDARDS OF CONDOMS ARE ALSO PUBLISHED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

IT IS RECKONED THAT THE USE OF RELIABLE BRANDS OF CONDOMS IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACEPTION AND PREVENTION OF AIDS AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.

SUBSTANDARD CONDOMS WOULD BE CONTROLLED UNDER A PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON CONSUMER GOODS SAFETY IN SO FAR AS THEY ARE NOT REASONABLY SAFE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ISSUE NOTICES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF, AND TO RECALL UNSAFE CONSUMER GOODS FROM THE MARKET.

SUPPLIERS OF UNSAFE CONSUMER GOODS WOULD BE, ON FIRST CONVICTION, SUBJECT TO A FINE OF \$100,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT."

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HK AND AUSTRALIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON
SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

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HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA TODAY (MONDAY) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON THE SURRENDER OF ACCUSED AND CONVICTED PERSONS THAT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE AFTER 1997.

THIS IS THE THIRD AGREEMENT THAT HONG KONG HAS SIGNED IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF CO-OPERATION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CRIME.

THE FIRST ONE WAS SIGNED WITH THE NETHERLANDS; THE SECOND WITH CANADA. MORE AGREEMENTS ARE BEING NEGOTIATED.

THE AGREEMENT LAYS DOWN THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA WILL SURRENDER ACCUSED AND CONVICTED PERSONS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

SIGNING THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY. THE SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, MR FRANK WALKER, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIA.

MR ASPREY SAID THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT FOR THE RETURN OF ACCUSED AND CONVICTED PERSONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA WAS COVERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH SCHEME.

"HOWEVER, THAT SCHEME WILL LAPSE BY 1997. THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEREFORE AGREED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD NEGOTIATE A NEW NETWORK OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS THAT WILL SURVIVE 1997."

THE NEW AGREEMENT SIGNIFIES THE SHARED COMMITMENT OF HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA TO COMBATING INTERNATIONAL CRIME. IT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS A PLACE WHERE THE RULE OF LAW PREVAILS.

THE AGREEMENT CONTAINS ALL THE SAFEGUARDS THAT ARE FOUND IN OTHER SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THESE INCLUDE:

- * THE DOUBLE CRIMINALITY RULE: THE ACT IN RESPECT OF WHICH AN ACCUSED OR CONVICTED PERSON IS REQUESTED MUST CONSTITUTE A CRIME IN BOTH JURISDICTIONS;
- * THE PRIMA-FACIE RULE: THERE MUST BE A PRIMA-FACIE CASE AGAINST A PERSON WHOSE RETURN IS REQUESTED;
- * THE SPECIALTY RULE: A RETURNED PERSON SHOULD NOT BE TRIED FOR OFFENCES OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH HE WAS SURRENDERED;
- * THE POLITICAL OFFENCE RULE: RETURN SHALL BE REFUSED IF THE OFFENCE IN QUESTION IS A POLITICAL OFFENCE.

THE AGREEMENT WILL COME INTO FORCE AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF A NEW FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ORDINANCE WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE BACKING.

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CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON THIS LOCALISED LEGISLATION IS UNDER WAY.

FOLLOWING THAT, IT IS HOPED TO INTRODUCE THE BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR.

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LAND REGISTRATION FIGURES FOR OCTOBER

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, MAINLY FLATS, RECEIVED BY THE LAND REGISTRY FOR REGISTRATION LAST MONTH DECREASED BY 21 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH, AND BY 13.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

IN ALL, 7,134 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION LAST MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS \$17.90 BILLION.

THESE FIGURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE LAND REGISTRAR ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES.

A TABLE SHOWING THE RELEVANT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND FOR OCTOBER LAST YEAR WAS ALSO RELEASED.

THERE WERE FOUR BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 14,071 OTHER MORTGAGES RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION LAST MONTH, COMPARED WITH FIVE AND 12,637 RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH WAS \$0.81 BILLION COMPARED WITH \$0.37 BILLION IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES ROSE BY 10.8 PER CENT, FROM \$5.91 BILLION IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR TO \$6.55 BILLION IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, DECREASED BY 12.9 PER CENT, FROM \$3.58 BILLION IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR TO \$3.12 BILLION IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

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EFFECTIVE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE HELPS OFFENDERS

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AN EFFECTIVE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFFENDERS TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS SOCIETY AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW, CULMINATING IN SUCCESSFUL RE-INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS MUST WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES, THE COURTS AND THE SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICE AGENCIES, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 13TH ASIAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (APCCA), SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO BE PROGRESSIVE, RECEPTIVE TO CHANGE AND TO WORK UNDER PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

"ADMINISTRATORS MUST ALSO BE MORE CONSCIOUS OF PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR SERVICE AND HOW BEST THAT SERVICE CAN BE DELIVERED.

"BUT SINCE CORRECTIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE EXTENDED AND MOVED FAR BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THE PENAL SETTING, AND AS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAYS AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE CORRECTION OF OFFENDERS, THERE IS MUCH THE COMMUNITY ITSELF CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS PROVIDED.

"IN THIS WAY WE CAN SECURE GREATER PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SERVICE AND WIN SUPPORT FOR THE RE-INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE BACK INTO SOCIETY," HE SAID.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE REGION TO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS THROUGH SINCERE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES AND MEANS OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION.

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE IS THE BIGGEST SINCE IT WAS FIRST HELD IN FEBRUARY 1980 FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND THE THEN PRISONS DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HONG KONG HAS HOSTED THE CONFERENCE IN THE PAST 13 YEARS.

THE FIRST ONE WAS ATTENDED BY 27 SENIOR CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS FROM 13 COUNTRIES IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION.

THIS YEAR SOME 59 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 19 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AND TWO ORGANISATIONS HAVE ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE.

THE CONFERENCE HAD MET IN THAILAND, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND CHINA. LAST YEAR, IT WAS HELD IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

"THE GROWTH OF APCCA IS YET ANOTHER INDICATOR OF THE EMERGENCE OF THIS REGION OVER THE LAST DECADE OR SO, NOT JUST AS AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE WHICH SETS AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, BUT AS AN AREA WHERE THERE IS A LIVELY MARKET PLACE IN IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS WHICH ARE HELPING OUR VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES SHAPE A MODERN AND PROGRESSIVE IDENTITY.

"THIS CONFERENCE IS BUT ONE ILLUSTRATION OF HOW CO-OPERATION AND EXPERIENCE-SHARING BENEFITS US ALL," SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE AGENDA INCLUDES THE RIGHTS AND TREATMENT OF UNCONVICTED PRISONERS, THE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFENDERS, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR CORRECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR CORRECTIONS.

A FULL PROGRAMME OF VISITS TO VARIOUS TYPES OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG WILL BE ARRANGED DURING THE CONFERENCE. A FINAL REPORT WILL BE COMPILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

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HOTLINE FOR OVERLOADING COMPLAINTS

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A HOTLINE WILL BE SET UP IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES.

THE HOTLINE - 829 5555 - WILL BE OPERATED FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 17).

COMPLAINTS WILL BE DEALT WITH MANUALLY DURING OFFICE HOURS. A TELEPHONE RECORDING SYSTEM WILL BE OPERATED AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

APART FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HOTLINE, THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO USE THE 24-HOUR POLICE HOTLINE - 527 7177 - TO FILE COMPLAINTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM BOTH SOURCES WOULD BE PASSED ON TO THE RELEVANT REGIONAL TRAFFIC UNIT OF THE POLICE FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMPLAINANT WILL BE KEPT IN CONFIDENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS AGAINST THE LAW FOR A GOODS VEHICLE TO HAVE A LOADING EXCEEDING THE PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT ASSIGNED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

"OVERLOADING DOES NOT ONLY LOWER THE BRAKING ABILITY OF THE VEHICLE THUS INCREASING A CHANCE FOR ACCIDENT, IT ALSO DAMAGES ROAD PAVEMENT AND INCREASES THE NEED FOR ROAD REPAIR," HE SAID.

UPON CONVICTION, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES IS A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS ON FIRST CONVICTION AND A FINE OF \$10,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS ON SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

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HK ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION OPENS IN FRANKFURT

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THE LARGEST EXHIBITION EVER ASSEMBLED ON HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN GERMANY YESTERDAY (SUNDAY), MARKING THE START OF A MAJOR HONG KONG PROMOTION IN THREE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

THE EXHIBITION, TITLED "HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE - THE AESTHETICS OF DENSITY", SHOWCASES THE TRANSFORMATION OF HONG KONG FROM A BARREN ROCK IN THE EARLY 1840'S TO ITS PRESENT-DAY "METROPOLIS" STATUS, AND ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD MORE THAN 200 GUESTS THAT THE BUILDINGS OF HONG KONG WERE ONE OF ITS MOST ENDURING IMAGES.

THEY CREATED THE BIGGEST SINGLE IMPRESSION FOR PEOPLE WHEN THEY FIRST FLEW INTO HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE CITY'S "ASTOUNDINGLY CONCENTRATED URBAN ENVIRONMENT".

MRS CHAN DREW COMPARISONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FRANKFURT, WHERE THE EXHIBITION IS BEING HELD. HONG KONG'S 72 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF URBAN AREAS CATERED FOR ABOUT FOUR MILLION PEOPLE, WHEREAS THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF FRANKFURT COVERING SOME 248 SQUARE KILOMETRES WAS HOME AND WORKPLACE FOR ABOUT 635,000 PEOPLE.

"IT IS SOMETIMES SAID IN JEST ABOUT HONG KONG THAT IT IS A GREAT CITY, BUT IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER WHEN IT IS FINISHED. BUT THIS THROWAWAY LINE MISSES THE POINT.

"IN FACT, THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TIME AND TIME AGAIN. THEY ARE IN A STATE OF CONTINUAL RENEWAL AND EXPANSION," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE SAID TALKING OF CHANGE INEVITABLY LED TO MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 30, 1997 AND THE RESUMPTION OF CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY. HOWEVER, SHE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S WAY OF DOING THINGS WOULD BE PRESERVED UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"ONE NATION'S FLAG WILL GO DOWN AND ANOTHER'S WILL GO UP IN 1997. BUT NOT MUCH MORE. IN HONG KONG, IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL, UNDERPINNED BY THE SAME INDEPENDENT LEGAL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTERED BY THE SAME EFFICIENT, DEDICATED AND CLEAN CIVIL SERVICE."

THE MAYOR OF FRANKFURT, DR HANS-JUERGEN MOOG, SAID MRS CHAN'S VISIT CLEARLY INDICATED THAT GERMANY SHOULD STRENGTHEN STILL FURTHER ITS RELATIONS WITH HONG KONG.

"THIS IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT FRANKFURT IS NOW TO BECOME THE SEAT OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK," HE SAID.

THE ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION IS BEING HELD IN THE PRESTIGIOUS GERMAN MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE AND INCLUDES 11 CORE PROJECTS, COMPLETE WITH BUILDING MODELS, ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, PLANS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VIEWS.

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SOME OF HONG KONG'S MOST OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF ARCHITECTURE ARE FEATURED SUCH AS THE BANK OF CHINA TOWER, THE HONG KONG BANK BUILDING, LIPPO CENTRE, CENTRAL PLAZA AND THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE EXHIBITION, COSTING SOME HK\$3.7 MILLION, HAS BEEN CO-ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE GERMAN MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE. IT WILL BE ON SHOW FOR THREE MONTHS.

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SWAC SUPPORTS PAY RISE FOR CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF THE SALARY SCALE OF CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS FROM THE MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS) POINT 12-18 TO MPS POINT 13-20 WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE IN 1976 THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS HAD INCREASED.

THESE INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INTEGRATED CHILD CARE SERVICE, THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE.

CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS HAD ALSO ASSUMED HEAVIER STAFF SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND HIGHER EXPECTATIONS OF CHILDREN FROM PARENTS.

SWAC CHAIRMAN MR ERIC LI SAID: "THE PAY RISE IS TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE INCREASE IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS."

MEMBERS ALSO REALISED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WERE STILL REVIEWING THE ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND HOPED THAT THE RESULT WOULD BE COMING OUT VERY SOON.

"IF THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NEED TO BE RAISED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW THE SALARY STRUCTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS SO THAT IT WOULD NOT CREATE ANY PROBLEMS IN RECRUITMENT," MR LI SAID.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE CHILD CARE CENTRES WOULD NOT INCREASE THEIR FEES NEXT APRIL. NEVERTHELESS THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON COSTS AT ITS ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES IN SEPTEMBER.

"THIS NEW SALARY SCALE SHOULD BE APPLICABLE TO ALL CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS IN SUBVENTED/AIDED DAY CRECHES AND DAY NURSERIES WHO MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHILD CARE REGULATIONS," MR LI ADDED.

DETAILS OF THE SUPPORTED SALARY SCALE FOR CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUALIFICATIONS	EXISTING SCALE	SWD PROPOSED SCALE
-----	-----	-----
	MPS PT.	MPS PT.
I. (I) HKCE 2ES;	12 - 18 (\$11,610 - \$15,735)	13 - 20 (\$12,315 - \$17,340)
(II) COMPLETION OF CHILD CARE TRAINING;		
(III) 3 YEARS' CHILD CARE EXPERIENCE; AND		
(IV) AGED 25 OR ABOVE.		
OR		
--		
II. (I) 5 YEARS' EXPERIENCE AS A REGISTERED CHILD CARE WORKER; AND	- DITTO -	- DITTO -
(II) AGED 28 OR ABOVE.		

THE MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN AND REAFFIRMED ITS MAJOR PRINCIPLES.

"WOMEN AND MEN SHOULD BE EQUAL ON MATTERS RELATING TO LAWS, RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION," MR LI SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS HOPED THAT THESE PRINCIPLES WOULD BE REALISED AND SAW THE NEED FOR A CHARTER FOR WOMEN AND A COMMISSION ON WOMEN MATTERS TO CARRY OUT CONSULTATION WORK AND RESEARCHES.

MEMBERS CONSIDERED THAT THE CHARTER FOR WOMEN ALONE MIGHT NOT BE ADEQUATE TO CHANGE THE ESTABLISHED SOCIAL ATTITUDE.

MORE FUNDS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO STRENGTHEN CIVIC EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE SERVICES.

SUCH WOULD ENABLE WOMEN TO ASSUME MORE ROLES, APART FROM THE TRADITIONAL ONE IN THE FAMILY, TO WORK AND PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN AN ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM ANY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION.

"I MUST STRESS THAT AT PRESENT FAMILY IS STILL AN IMPORTANT UNIT IN HONG KONG COMMUNITY. IF WOMEN CHOOSE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES AS FULL-TIME HOUSEWIVES THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY SHOULD BE FULLY RESPECTED," MR LI CONCLUDED.

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TENDER FOR THIRD ISSUE OF EXCHANGE FUND NOTES
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THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES THAT THE TENDER FOR THE THIRD ISSUE OF TWO-YEAR EXCHANGE FUND NOTES WILL BE HELD NEXT MONDAY (NOVEMBER 22) FOR SETTLEMENT ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 23).

SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS ISSUE, AN AMOUNT OF \$500 MILLION TWO-YEAR NOTES WILL BE ON OFFER.

IN ADDITION, ANOTHER \$100 MILLION WILL BE HELD AS RESERVE BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY TO MARKET MAKERS IN THE SECONDARY MARKET.

THE NOTES WILL MATURE ON NOVEMBER 23, 1995 AND WILL CARRY INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 4.15 PER CENT PER ANNUM PAYABLE SEMI-ANNUALLY IN ARREARS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO TENDER FOR THE NOTES MAY DO SO THROUGH ANY OF THE MARKET MAKERS OR RECOGNISED DEALERS ON THE PUBLISHED LIST WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY ON 30TH FLOOR, 3 GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (OR TELEPHONE 878 8150).

EACH TENDER MUST BE FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$50,000 OR INTEGRAL MULTIPLES THEREOF.

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ENGLAND BANK CHIEF VISITS MONETARY AUTHORITY
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MR EDDIE GEORGE, THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, VISITED THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) TODAY (MONDAY) AND MET WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HKMA, MR JOSEPH YAM.

THIS IS MR GEORGE'S FIRST VISIT TO HONG KONG SINCE HE BECAME GOVERNOR IN JULY THIS YEAR. MR GEORGE WAS FORMERLY DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE BANK FROM 1990 TO JULY THIS YEAR.

"WE ARE VERY HONOURED BY THE VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND TO THE HKMA. WE HAVE HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND MR GEORGE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE VARIOUS MONETARY REFORMS THAT WE PUT IN PLACE FOR HONG KONG IN THE PAST 10 YEARS," MR YAM SAID.

"THE BANK HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKMA AND ITS INTEGRATION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL BANKING FRATERNITY.

"THE BANK HAS ALSO BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN SHARING WITH US THEIR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN CENTRAL BANKING MATTERS. THIS IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING WE ARE THANKFUL FOR," MR YAM ADDED.

"THE HKMA LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING AND STRENGTHENING OUR CO-OPERATION WITH THE BANK IN THE YEARS TO COME," MR YAM SAID.

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JACKIE CHAN JETS OFF FOR HK FILM FESTIVAL

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FILM STAR JACKIE CHAN SET OFF FOR PARIS LAST NIGHT (SUNDAY) TO HELP LAUNCH A FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG MOVIES BEING HELD AS PART OF THE LARGEST EUROPEAN PROMOTION THE TERRITORY HAS MOUNTED.

HIS LATEST ACTION MOVIE, CRIME STORY, WILL OPEN THE 20-FILM FESTIVAL IN THE SALLE DE LA CINEMATHEQUE, PALAIS DE CHAILLOT, BEING SHOWN OVER THREE WEEKS FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 17).

THE FESTIVAL OFFERINGS WERE CHOSEN BY HONG KONG'S MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND LA CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE TO PRESENT A TASTE OF THE VARIOUS STYLES OF MOVIES MADE IN HONG KONG.

THE TERRITORY PRODUCED 206 MOVIES LAST YEAR, CONFIRMING IT AS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST FILM INDUSTRY.

THE FESTIVAL IS CO-ORDINATED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS PART OF A MAJOR PROMOTION IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS. IT IS SPONSORED BY SIX MAJOR HONG KONG FIRMS: CATHAY PACIFIC, CITIC PACIFIC, HANG SENG BANK, HUTCHISON WHAMPOA, INCHCAPE PACIFIC AND SINO GROUP.

THE NEWLY COMPLETED "CRIME STORY" WAS HIGHLY RATED BY THE CINEMATHEQUE SELECTION TEAM AND, AS WITH MOST OF THE FESTIVAL FILMS, HAS BEEN SUBTITLED IN FRENCH.

THREE OTHER HONG KONG FILM STARS, MAGGIE CHEUNG, JOEY WANG AND ROSAMUND KWAN, WILL ATTEND THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING NIGHT, ALONG WITH MRS ANSON CHAN, WHO TAKES UP HER NEW POST AS CHIEF SECRETARY ON NOVEMBER 29.

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THREE CANDIDATES RUN FOR BY-ELECTION

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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE RECEIVED THREE NOMINATIONS FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WONG UK CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION WHEN THE TWO-WEEK NOMINATION PERIOD ENDED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE BY-ELECTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATES:

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL
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MR WONG YIU-SANG	35	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER	637 4949
MR LEUNG CHI-WAI	40	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE	691 0228
MR WONG KENG-CHUEN, VINCENT	33	UNIVERSITY LECTURER	788 8627

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DRY AND COOL IN OCTOBER

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OCTOBER WAS GENERALLY DRIER AND SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN NORMAL, A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT COMPILED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SAID.

THE DOMINANCE OF CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONES HELPED TO SUSTAIN THE PREVAILING NORTHEAST MONSOON.

THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,016.2 HECTOPASCALS WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR OCTOBER.

AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF DRY CONTINENTAL AIR AND FINE WEATHER, MOST OF THE RAIN DURING THE MONTH FELL ON OCTOBER 13 AND 14 WHEN A TROPICAL DEPRESSION PASSED OVER THE COASTAL WATERS OF GUANGDONG.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 87.8 MILLIMETRES WAS 39 PER CENT BELOW THE OCTOBER NORMAL OF 144.8 MILLIMETRES.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNT OF 2,183.6 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1 WAS CLOSE TO THE CLIMATOLOGICAL AVERAGE, BEING ONLY ONE PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 2,151.9 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

RAIN THAT STARTED AROUND MIDNIGHT ON THE LAST DAY OF SEPTEMBER DUE TO FRESH EASTERLY WINDS PERSISTED TILL THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 1.

THE MOST AFFECTED AREA WAS THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY WHERE MORE THAN 20 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN WERE RECORDED.

THE RAIN GAVE WAY TO SUNNY PERIODS AFTER DAYBREAK THAT DAY BUT CLOUDS RETURNED ON OCTOBER 2.

DRIER AIR REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST ON OCTOBER 3 AND A SPELL OF FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER SET IN AFTERWARDS.

AS WINDS MODERATED ON OCTOBER 5, TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 29.0 DEGREES DURING THE DAY.

ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 5, A REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON ARRIVED FROM THE NORTH.

TEMPERATURES CAME DOWN BY ONE TO TWO DEGREES OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

CONDITIONS BECAME EVEN DRIER, WITH RELATIVE HUMIDITY FALLING BELOW 30 PER CENT ON OCTOBER 7.

MEANWHILE, THE DRY AIR MASS ENSURED THAT THE FINE SPELL CONTINUED DESPITE ANOTHER FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES ON OCTOBER 11.

AS A TROPICAL DEPRESSION APPROACHED FROM THE SOUTHEAST, THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY ON OCTOBER 13.

RAIN, LIGHT AT FIRST, BECAME CONTINUOUS LATER THAT MORNING AND LASTED NEARLY 24 HOURS.

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IT WAS HEAVIEST IN THE SMALL HOURS OF OCTOBER 14 AND NORTHEASTERLY WINDS WERE OCCASIONALLY STRONG OFFSHORE.

URBAN FLOODING OCCURRED IN SHAM SHUI PO AND CHEUNG SHA WAN WHERE FLOOD WATER WAS REPORTED TO BE ONE METRE DEEP.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED DURING THE DAY EVEN THOUGH LIGHT RAIN RETURNED ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 14.

MEANWHILE, WINDS HAD TURNED EASTERLY AND OCCASIONAL STRONG WINDS AFFECTED OFFSHORE AREAS EARLY ON OCTOBER 16. PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN FELL THAT NIGHT AND THE WEATHER STAYED MAINLY CLOUDY OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS AS A WEAK REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON BROUGHT ANOTHER SLIGHT DROP IN TEMPERATURES IN HONG KONG.

THE WEATHER TOWARDS THE CHUNG YEUNG HOLIDAY WEEKEND WAS GENERALLY FINE AND DRY. DAYTIME RELATIVE HUMIDITY WAS NO MORE THAN 60 PER CENT.

SEVENTY-SIX CASES OF HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED ON OCTOBER 24.

EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED THAT DAY AND THE WINDY CONDITIONS LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF SCAFFOLDINGS IN KWAI CHUNG ON OCTOBER 25.

TWO VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED IN THE INCIDENT BUT NO ONE WAS HURT.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN BEFORE FINE WEATHER RETURNED ON OCTOBER 28.

A MAJOR NORTHERLY SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST EARLY ON OCTOBER 29. STRONG WINDS BLEW ON HIGH GROUND AND OVER OFFSHORE AREAS.

WITH THE ADVECTION OF COOL AND DRY AIR FROM THE CONTINENT, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN BOTH TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 17.2 DEGREES WAS RECORDED EARLY ON OCTOBER 31.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY DROPPING BELOW 30 PER CENT DURING THE DAY, HILL FIRES WERE RAMPANT AND THE TERRITORY COUNTED A TOTAL OF 83 CASES THAT DAY.

DURING OCTOBER, NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED BECAUSE OF ADVERSE WEATHER.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR OCTOBER ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN OCTOBER 1993

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS	
NAME OF T.C.	SIGNAL NO.
TROPICAL DEPRESSION	1 OCT 12 1645 - OCT 13 1645
STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL	
	OCT 1 0335 - OCT 1 1600 OCT 7 0015 - OCT 7 1020 OCT 29 1745 - OCT 31 1130
FLOOD WARNINGS	
	OCT 14 0120 - OCT 14 0645
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	
	OCT 13 2305 - OCT 14 0705
FIRE DANGER WARNING	
YELLOW	OCT 1 0615 - OCT 1 2215 OCT 3 0000 - OCT 3 2245 OCT 6 0615 - OCT 10 2350 OCT 11 0750 - OCT 11 2135 OCT 17 0750 - OCT 17 2200
RED	OCT 23 0000 - OCT 24 2300 OCT 30 0000 - NOV 3 0350

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - OCTOBER 1993

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	198.4 HOURS; 3.4 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.35 MJ/SQM; 1.11 MJ/PER SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	87.8 MM; 57.0 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	49 %; 7 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	69 %; 4 % BELOW NORMAL

/MEAN DAILY

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	27.0 DEGREES; 0.9 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	24.6 DEGREES; 0.6 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	22.8 DEGREES; 0.3 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	18.3 DEGREES; 1.5 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	123.3 MM; 28.9 MM BELOW NORMAL

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TWO MOTION DEBATES ON LEGCO AGENDA

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE TWO MOTIONS THIS WEDNESDAY.

THE FIRST MOTION ON ORGAN DONATION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, WHILE THE OTHER MOTION, TO BE MOVED BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN, IS ON FLOODING PROBLEM IN WESTERN AND NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES.

REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD WILL PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT MOTION TO MR TIK'S MOTION.

IN THE MEETING, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL PRESENT THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND THE ACCOUNTS OF HONG KONG FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1993.

THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT NO.21 ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1993 AND THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 19 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS.

THREE OF THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THESE BILLS INCLUDE: BILLS OF LADING AND ANALOGOUS SHIPPING DOCUMENTS BILL, IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993 AND CENSUS AND STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER THREE BILLS WILL BE RESUMED. THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (ACQUISITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

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

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1993

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SHAM SHUI PO WELFARE OFFICES ON MOVE

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE, THE REHABILITATION AND ELDERLY OFFICE AND THE YOUTH OFFICE WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW PREMISES ON THE THIRD FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, NAM CHEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHAM SHUI PO FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 17).

TELEPHONE ENQUIRY NUMBERS FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE REHABILITATION AND ELDERLY OFFICE, AND THE YOUTH OFFICE WILL BE 360 5258, 360 5151 AND 360 5259 RESPECTIVELY.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATERMAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES BOUNDED BY CHEUNG WAH STREET, PO ON ROAD, CHEUNG FAT STREET AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD,

OWING TO CONNECTION WORK ON WATERMAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI, JORDAN AND TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN MONG KOK AND TAI KOK TSUI WILL ALSO BE WEAKENED IN THE SAME PERIOD.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 84.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 497.500 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 431.351 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 73.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,665
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,335
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-239
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,761
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.9 *-0.1* 15.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.61 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.24	3.39
1 MONTH	2.76 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.44	3.59
3 MONTHS	2.89 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.88	3.87
6 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.08	4.02
12 MONTHS	3.35 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.15	4.56

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,232 MN

CLOSED 15 NOVEMBER 1993

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