



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1992

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PUBLIC VIEWS ON FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES WELCOMED

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THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES AND IS ALIVE TO PUBLIC VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE BROAD TERMS AND DIRECTIONS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, MR LEUNG SAID THESE VIEWS WOULD BE CAREFULLY AND FULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE REACHING ANY NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH BUS OPERATORS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

MR LEUNG SAID THE TWO-YEAR FRANCHISE EXTENSION SOUGHT BY CHINA MOTOR BUS (CMB) WAS UNDER EXAMINATION.

"THE DEBATE TODAY PROVIDES US WITH VERY USEFUL INDICATORS FOR POLICY FORMULATION. WE HOPE TO CONSULT MORE FULLY BEFORE THE MAIN TERMS ARE FINALISED," HE SAID.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO PRESENT THEIR OPINIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT DIRECT OR TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; OR EXPRESS THEM THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MASS MEDIA."

MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS ESTABLISHED POLICY FOR THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TO BE CONSULTED ON ALL FRANCHISES RELATED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"WHEN SEEKING TAC'S ADVICE ON THE FUTURE OF CMB'S FRANCHISE, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE COMMITTEE IS GIVEN THE FULL RANGE OF PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT FROM TODAY'S DEBATE, IT SEEMED THAT THE MAJORITY VIEW WAS IN FAVOUR OF A FRANCHISE SYSTEM AND DID NOT FAVOUR RADICAL CHANGES SUCH AS DE-REGULATION.

"FOR PUBLIC BUS SERVICES, OUR PRESENT POLICY IS TO STAY WITH THE FRANCHISE SYSTEM. THE ADVANTAGES INCLUDE ECONOMIES OF SCALE, EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION BY GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE ECONOMIC USE OF OUR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, AND A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR OPERATORS TO RAISE CAPITAL AND TO CONTINUE WITH INVESTMENTS NECESSARY FOR MEETING PASSENGER NEEDS WITHOUT PUBLIC SUBSIDY.

"THESE CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF A BALANCED NETWORK UNDER WHICH MORE REMOTE AREAS ARE ALSO WELL SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"WITHOUT THE CROSS-SUBSIDISATION MADE POSSIBLE BY A FRANCHISE SYSTEM, SOCIALLY NEEDED BUT LOSS-INCURRING SERVICES COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT TOTAL DE-REGULATION WAS SIMPLY NOT PRACTICABLE IN HONG KONG.

/"GIVEN OUR .....

"GIVEN OUR SEVERE LAND CONSTRAINTS AND HIGH POPULATION DENSITY, WE CANNOT ALLOW LARGE NUMBERS OF DOUBLE-DECK BUSES TO OPERATE ON BUSY STREETS LIKE RED MINIBUSES WITHOUT CAUSING TRAFFIC CHAOS.

"FURTHERMORE, COMPLETE DE-REGULATION WOULD INEVITABLY ATTRACT ALL OPERATORS TO THE PROFITABLE ROUTES IN THE URBAN CENTRE, WITH NO SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE LOSS-MAKING ROUTES IN MANY OTHER AREAS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID BEFORE ANY NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WAS ENTERED INTO WITH CMB, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO REVIEW WHETHER THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY, AND IF SO, IN WHAT FORM.

"BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND THE INVESTORS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," HE SAID.

ON COMPETITION, MR LEUNG SAID OPPORTUNITIES FOR TENDERING OUT MORE BUS ROUTES WOULD BE PURSUED.

"WE FULLY RECOGNISE THE BENEFITS OF MORE HEALTHY COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT BUS OPERATORS," HE SAID.

MANY RESIDENTIAL COACH ROUTES WERE ADDED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE FIRST FRANCHISED BUS ROUTE AWARDED THROUGH OPEN TENDER STARTED OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER 1991.

"WE CAN SEE SIGNS OF CMB RESPONDING TO THE PRESSURE. IT REINFORCES OUR BELIEF THAT WIDER EXPOSURE TO MARKET FORCES WOULD HAVE MORE SUSTAINED POSITIVE EFFECT ON BUS SERVICES THAN CLOSER GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGING BUS OPERATIONS."

ON SERVICE QUALITY, MR LEUNG SAID THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF FRANCHISED TRANSPORT COMPANIES WERE AT PRESENT THE SUBJECT OF AN ANNUAL DISTRICT BOARD CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

MATTERS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO COMMUTERS ARE COVERED, INCLUDING THE USE OF MORE MODERN AND COMFORTABLE BUSES, IMPROVED ROUTEING AND SERVICE FREQUENCY.

TO MEET THE GROWING ASPIRATIONS FOR MORE DIRECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES HAD BEEN ASKED TO INTRODUCE MORE CONSULTATIVE CHANNELS WHICH ALLOW FACE-TO-FACE AND ACTIVE INTERACTION WITH THEIR CUSTOMERS.

"MOST HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY BUT MORE CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP," HE SAID.

REGARDING AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE CHOICE FOR PASSENGERS. AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES NOW ACCOUNT FOR ONLY ABOUT SIX PER CENT OF CMB'S FLEET.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO MAKE MORE TRANSPARENT THE WAY IN WHICH THE PERFORMANCE OF FRANCHISED COMPANIES WAS APPRAISED IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS.

"CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO RELEASING, FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY, THE RESULTS OF OUR REGULAR APPRAISALS COVERING SERVICE AVAILABILITY, SAFETY, SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

"OTHER CHANGES BEING CONTEMPLATED INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE PENALTY PROVISIONS AGAINST SERVICE DEFICIENCIES," HE SAID.

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CONDITION OF PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS UNDER ANNUAL REVIEW  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY REVIEWS THE CONDITION OF EACH OF ITS BUILDINGS EVERY YEAR IN PREPARING A MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROGRAMME AND THE BUDGET NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT IT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE, MR BARNES SAID THE OVERALL CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS AND THEIR ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE ALSO REGULARLY INSPECTED AND MAINTAINED, SUCH AS LIFTS, WATER SUPPLIES, FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

"IN ADDITION, ESTATE MANAGEMENT OFFICES RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR REPAIRS FROM TENANTS AND OWNERS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS."

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THESE CHECKS AND INSPECTIONS WERE NOT FLAT-TO-FLAT SURVEYS.

IN THE PAST SIX YEARS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD BUILT SOME 228,000 NEW FLATS, AND THE TOTAL STOCK IS NOW 750,000.

"GIVEN THE LARGE SIZE OF THE STOCK, THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS AND STAFF RESOURCES CONSTRAINTS, IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF THE INTERIOR OF EACH AND EVERY FLAT.

"AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IT IS POSSIBLE TO GAUGE THE GENERAL CONDITION OF A BLOCK AND A FLAT IN IT BY EXTERNAL INSPECTION, REPORTS BY TENANTS AS WELL AS RANDOM INSPECTION.

"SO, DEFECTS WITHIN INDIVIDUAL FLATS ARE WELL LOOKED AFTER," HE SAID.

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REVIEW ON HOSPITAL BEDS REQUIREMENT BEING CONDUCTED

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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS CARRYING OUT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS IN HONG KONG FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MR TIK CHI-YUEN, MRS WONG SAID THE REVIEW INVOLVES AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS AND A PRIORITISATION OF THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE COMING DECADE.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE REVIEW MAY RESULT IN CHANGES TO THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

SHE SAID: "ON COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENT THE SCOPE AND PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE PROJECTS IN GOVERNMENT'S HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME."

"THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED IN THE NORMAL WAY AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, DUE CONSULTATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE DECISIONS ARE MADE," SHE ADDED.

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ADEQUATE STAFF TO HANDLE BILL OF RIGHTS WORK

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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WILL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE STAFF WILL BE DEPLOYED TO MEET THE WORKLOAD GENERATED BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO, MR MATHEWS SAID WHILST ALL COUNSEL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE TO DEAL WITH LEGAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS FROM TIME TO TIME, TWO UNITS HAD BEEN SET UP WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY TO HANDLE BILL OF RIGHTS WORK.

THE TWO UNITS, EACH HEADED BY A DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL, ARE IN THE LEGAL POLICY DIVISION AND THE PROSECUTIONS DIVISION. THE UNIT IN THE FORMER IS SUPERVISED BY THE DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL AND THAT IN THE LATTER BY A DEPUTY CROWN PROSECUTOR.

MR MATHEWS SAID ONE SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL WOULD JOIN THE BILL OF RIGHTS UNIT IN THE LEGAL POLICY DIVISION UPON HIS RETURN THIS SUMMER FROM HIS ONE-YEAR SECONDMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA.

"POSITIONS IN THESE TWO UNITS ARE FILLED BY REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING RESOURCES AS ADDITIONAL POSTS HAVE NOT BEEN CREATED FOR THEM IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTABLISHMENT," HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS NOTED THAT POSITIONS IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS UNITS WERE NORMALLY FILLED BY INTERNAL DEPLOYMENT.

"IF VACANCIES ARISE IN THE DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT, THEY WILL BE FILLED BY REGULAR RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL PRACTICE," HE ADDED.

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ENVIRONMENT IMPACT OF AIRPORT DREDGING  
WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF MUD DREDGING AT THE AIRPORT SITE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE UNDER CONTROLLED DREDGING CONDITIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SAMUEL WONG, MR BLAKE SAID THE SITUATION WILL BE MONITORED THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

"THE CHOSEN CONTRACTORS PLANT AND METHODS OF WORKING WILL HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY SPECIFIED AND AGREED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT.

"MODIFICATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL WORKING CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FROM DREDGING IS CONTAINED WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL," HE SAID.

MR BLAKE SAID THE LOCATION OF THE GAZETTED MARINE DUMPING GROUND SOUTH OF CHEUNG CHAU WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS DISTANCE FROM SENSITIVE AREAS AND PROXIMITY TO THE OCEANIC CURRENTS WHICH PASS TO THE IMMEDIATE SOUTH OF HONG KONG.

"THE DUMPING GROUND HAS BEEN USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF MUD FOR MANY YEARS, AND NONE OF THE MUD FROM THE AIRPORT SITE IS CONTAMINATED WITH HEAVY METALS.

"SINCE THE VOLUME AND RATE OF DISPOSAL FROM THE AIRPORT DREDGING WILL EXCEED PREVIOUS DISPOSAL RATES AT THE DUMPING GROUND, THIS ASPECT IS RECEIVING CAREFUL STUDY AND WILL BE MENTIONED AS WORK PROCEEDS," HE SAID.

ON THE COST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL AND REVISED METHODS OF RECLAMATION, MR BLAKE SAID THE CONSULTANTS' ESTIMATE SHOWED THAT RECLAMATION COSTS FOR REMOVING THE MUD OR LEAVING IT IN PLACE WOULD BE SIMILAR.

"THE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE OF THE MUD REMOVAL APPROACH WAS THAT PROGRAMME CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM THE TIME NEEDED FOR THE MUD TO DRAIN AND CONSOLIDATE COULD BE AVOIDED," HE ADDED.

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PUBLIC TO BE CONSULTED ON MARK SIX OUTLETS: SHA

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN ON THE FURTHER EXTENSION OF SALES OUTLETS FOR MARK SIX TICKETS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO A REVIEW OF THE TRIAL SCHEME ON THE SALE OF THESE TICKETS AT HONG KONG TELECOM CSL SHOPS WHEN IT ENDS IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

"IN PREPARATION FOR THIS REVIEW A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO TRY TO ELICIT VIEWS ON THE TRIAL.

"THIS INFORMATION, TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS TO BE SOLICITED FROM DISTRICT BOARDS, WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN REACHING A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE SCHEME," HE SAID.

TURNING TO REPORTS THAT A NEWSPAPER'S INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT TEENAGERS WERE ABLE TO BUY MARK SIX TICKETS AT HONG KONG TELECOM CSL SHOPS, MR SUEN SAID THIS HAD COME AS NO SURPRISE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS APPROVAL WAS GIVEN TO THE TRIAL WAS TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT, THE LOTTERIES BOARD AND THE PUBLIC TO ASSESS THE ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS OF MAKING MARK SIX TICKETS MORE ACCESSIBLE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SALE OF MARK SIX TICKETS SHOULD BE TESTED DURING THIS PERIOD.

AS TO THE NEWSPAPER'S INVESTIGATION, MR SUEN SAID IT CLEARLY WISHED TO TEST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONTROLS OVER SALE OF TICKETS TO TEENAGERS.

"THE RESULTS SHOW THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE SCHEME MAY NEED REVIEW," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, TO BALANCE THE PICTURE, MR SUEN NOTED THAT THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF TEENAGERS, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO BUY THE MARK SIX TICKETS FROM THE CSL SHOPS "DELIBERATELY TO TEST THE CONTROL SYSTEM".

HE SAID THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WHO ACT AS AGENT FOR THE LOTTERIES BOARD, AND HONG KONG TELECOM CSL CO. LTD. HAD STUDIED THE REPORTS VERY CAREFULLY AND HAD REVIEWED EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS TO THE CONTROL OF THE SALE OF MARK SIX TICKETS TO TEENAGERS.

"THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT WITH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS, THESE ARE SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL BUT THE MOST DETERMINED TEENAGERS WILL BE UNABLE TO PURCHASE MARK SIX TICKETS THROUGH CSL SHOPS," MR SUEN SAID.

THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO RESTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAMBLING BUT TO ALLOW CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR EXISTING GAMBLING ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER ILLEGAL GAMBLING.

STATISTICS ON ENTRY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR EMPLOYMENT

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A TOTAL OF 6,068 FOREIGN NATIONALS CAME TO HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, 14,738 FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WERE ADMITTED DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) UNDER NORMAL IMMIGRATION POLICY, FOREIGN NATIONALS CAN COME TO HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED THAT:

- \* THEY POSSESS A SPECIAL SKILL, KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE OF VALUE TO AND NOT READILY AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG;
- \* THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BECOME A BURDEN ON HONG KONG; AND
- \* THEY MEET NORMAL IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, MR ASPREY SAID UNDER THIS POLICY, A TOTAL OF 11,350 PERSONS WERE ADMITTED IN 1989 AND 12,941 IN 1990.

IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF 20,537 FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WERE ADMITTED IN 1989 AND 24,116 IN 1990.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF STATISTICS ON ENTRY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR EMPLOYMENT:

CATEGORIES	1989	1990	1991 (UP TO END OF JUNE)
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	1,916	2,563	1,216
ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL	6,126	6,884	3,190
TEACHERS, PROFESSORS AND MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS	590	599	274
SPORTSMEN, MUSICIANS AND ENTERTAINERS	889	1,010	671
OTHERS	1,829	1,885	717
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,350</b>	<b>12,941</b>	<b>6,068</b>

GOVT TO SET UP SPECIAL BURNS TREATMENT UNITS  
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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SET UP SPECIAL BURNS TREATMENT UNITS AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID THERE ARE ADEQUATE MEDICAL EXPERTISE AND FACILITIES IN THE ACUTE HOSPITALS TO TREAT PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM BURNS.

"NEVERTHELESS, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO BETTER CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THESE PATIENTS BY SETTING UP SPECIAL BURNS TREATMENT UNITS BOTH AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AS A CONTINUATION TO ITS BLOCK-B EXTENSION AND AT UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL IN THE PRESENT HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECT," SHE SAID.

ON THE WELFARE SIDE, MRS WONG SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD REACT PROMPTLY TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING FIRES AND ACCIDENTS, AND SEE WHETHER THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPROACH THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE HOSPITAL OR CLINIC OR AT HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THIS HAD INDEED BEEN THE CASE IN THE RECENT DREDGER EXPLOSION INCIDENT AT HUNG HOM BAY.

"FINANCIAL AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE, COUNSELLING AND OTHER SUPPORTING SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS," MRS WONG ADDED.

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NO SEPARATE LAW REQUIRED FOR PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION  
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THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE DOES NOT REQUIRE THE ENACTMENT OF SEPARATE LEGISLATION PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS SUCH AS RACE, SEX AND RELIGION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW, THE SECRETARY SAID THE RELEVANT ARTICLE OF THE BILL IS CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION THAT HAS BEEN ENACTED IS NOT DISCRIMINATORY IN ITS CONTENTS OR APPLICATION.

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POLICE MANPOWER TO IMPROVE

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THE SHORTFALL OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS IS EXPECTED TO BE REDUCED FURTHER DURING THE COMING YEAR AS RECRUITMENT HAS PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS AND IS NOW WELL IN EXCESS OF WASTAGE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID THE CURRENT SHORTFALL IN JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS IS ABOUT THREE PER CENT.

"THE FORCE REVIEWS REGULARLY ITS USE OF MANPOWER TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE OFFICERS ARE DEPLOYED TO MAINTAIN A SUFFICIENT PRESENCE ON THE STREET AND ON ANTI-CRIME DUTIES," HE SAID.

THE POLICE HAD RECENTLY INCREASED ITS PRESENCE ON THE STREETS, INCLUDING ANTI-CRIME PATROLS.

STOP-AND-SEARCH OPERATIONS AND ANTI-CRIME RAIDS AT BLACKSPOTS HAD ALSO BEEN STEPPED UP.

THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY A NUMBER OF MEASURES, SUCH AS THE REDEPLOYMENT OF TRAINING COMPANIES OF THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT AND EXTENDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW POLICE RECRUITS TO CONSTABULARY DUTIES DURING THEIR FINAL PART OF TRAINING.

OTHER MEASURES INCLUDED THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED IN INDOOR ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES TO PATROL DUTIES, AND INCREASED DEPLOYMENT OF AUXILIARY POLICEMEN.

MR ASPREY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NEED TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS BY THE POLICE WOULD IN ANYWAY AGGRAVATE THE POLICE MANPOWER SITUATION.

HE SAID THE ONLY REAL CONSTRAINT ON POLICE STRENGTH AT THE MOMENT - AND THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS - IS THE CONSTRAINT ON THE NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS.

"THERE IS NO INTENTION THAT WE SHOULD IN ANYWAY SUPPRESS POLICE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING IN THE COMING YEAR," HE SAID.

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PUBLICITY INTENDED FOR EARLY APPLICATION OF BN(O) PASSPORTS

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY PROGRAMME IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO REMIND BDTC PASSPORT HOLDERS OF THE NEED TO APPLY IN GOOD TIME IF THEY WANT BN(O) PASSPORTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WE ARE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A LATE RUSH FOR BN(O) PASSPORTS WHICH, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, MUST BE ISSUED BEFORE JULY 1, 1997.

"WE WISH TO AVOID SUCH A SITUATION, WHICH WOULD PUT A GREAT STRAIN ON THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCES," HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 1,378,264 BDTK PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN THE NINE YEARS SINCE THEY WERE INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 1, 1983.

MEANWHILE, 273,036 BN(O) PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN THE FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS SINCE THEY WERE INTRODUCED ON JULY 1, 1987.

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#### REVIEW GROUP FORMED TO LOOK INTO DRUG TREATMENT CLINICS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS HAS FORMED A REVIEW GROUP TO LOOK INTO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME AND THE NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CLINICS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE REVIEW GROUP WAS FORMED AFTER THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TABLED HIS REPORT TO THE LEGCO ON NOVEMBER 20 LAST YEAR REVIEWING THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME.

THE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW ITS OBJECTIVES AND THE NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CLINICS, SO AS TO ENSURE THEIR OPTIMAL USE.

THE VOLUNTARY OUT-PATIENT METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE MAIN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

THE OTHER TWO ARE:

- \* THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S COMPULSORY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMME, PROVIDED AT DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES FOR DRUG ABUSERS CONVICTED OF OFFENCES PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT;
- \* A VOLUNTARY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMME OPERATED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA).

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF REPORTING AGENCIES, THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE DRUG ABUSERS IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE LAST YEAR WAS 41,650.

/OF THESE .....

OF THESE, SOME SIX PER CENT WERE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE, 25 PER CENT AGED 21 TO 30, 28 PER CENT AGED 31 TO 40, 15 PER CENT AGED 41 TO 50, AND 26 PER CENT 51 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.

AT THE END OF JUNE LAST YEAR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ABUSERS UNDERGOING TREATMENT, COUNSELLING OR OTHER AFTERCARE SERVICES IN THESE THREE PROGRAMMES, WAS 12,695; OF THESE, ABOUT 7,500 OR 60 PER CENT WERE PART OF THE OUT-PATIENT METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME. THE OTHER TWO IN-PATIENT PROGRAMMES CATERED FOR ABOUT 2,500 OR 20 PER CENT EACH.

OTHER SMALLER SCALE PROGRAMMES ARE OPERATED BY 13 OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PROVIDING DETOXIFICATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND AFTERCARE SERVICES.

MR ASPREY SAID ALL OF THESE PROGRAMMES COMBINED CATER FOR AN ESTIMATED 2,600 DRUG ABUSERS.

THE THREE MAJOR PROGRAMMES PROVIDE A DIFFERENT RANGE OF SERVICES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS MUST, THEREFORE, BE MEASURED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

"WE ALSO NEED TO BEAR IN MIND THAT DRUG ADDICTION IS A CHRONIC, RELAPSING CONDITION," THE SECRETARY SAID.

THE METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME IS PRIMARILY A MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME, DESIGNED TO BLOCK THE CRAVING FOR HEROIN, ENABLING THE INDIVIDUAL TO MAINTAIN A RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFESTYLE AND REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF DRUG-RELATED CRIME.

OUT OF THE 10,985 PATIENTS REGISTERED WITH THE PROGRAMME, 8,004 OR 73 PER CENT ATTENDED DAILY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAMME IN 1974, ITS EFFECTIVENESS WAS REGULARLY MONITORED. OTHER LARGER SCALE EVALUATIONS WERE ALSO CARRIED OUT:

- \* A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME IN 1978 RECOMMENDED SEVERAL OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF BOTH DETOXIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES WITHIN EACH CLINIC (THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BE PROVIDED IN SEPARATE CLINICS), STREAMLINING OF THE MANNING SCALES AND IMPROVED MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF EACH PATIENT. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED.
- \* FROM 1980 TO 1985, A DRUG TREATMENT SPECIALIST WAS APPOINTED AS AN ADVISER TO THE THEN DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AND MADE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STREAMLINING THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAMME. THESE WERE ALSO IMPLEMENTED.
- \* A MORE RECENT EVALUATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1990. THIS REAFFIRMED THE ANTI-CRIME FUNCTION OF THE PROGRAMME, AND ALSO ITS IMPORTANCE IN REDUCING INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE AND NEEDLE-SHARING AND, THEREFORE, ITS ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF AIDS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S COMPULSORY IN-PATIENT PROGRAMME IS TO PERSUADE DRUG ABUSERS TO SAY "NO" TO DRUGS. IT PROVIDES DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT AND COUNSELLING FOR A PERIOD OF DETENTION IMPOSED BY THE COURTS AND A ONE-YEAR STATUTORY AFTERCARE PERIOD.

SINCE IT STARTED IN 1969 AND UP TO THE END OF 1990, A TOTAL OF 35,792 MALES AND 1,509 FEMALES COMPLETED TREATMENT.

MORE THAN 70 PER CENT OF THE MALES AND 76 PER CENT OF THE FEMALES DID NOT RELAPSE OR WERE NOT RE-CONVICTED OF ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE DURING THE ONE-YEAR AFTERCARE PERIOD.

"THEREAFTER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT TO ANYONE AND, ACCORDINGLY, NO ACCURATE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE. MANY DO, HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY RELAPSE," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE SARDA TREATMENT PROGRAMME IS VOLUNTARY AND IS SUBJECT TO A LARGE NUMBER OF DROP-OUTS. HOWEVER, MANY SUBSEQUENTLY SEEK RE-ADMISSION AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CASES OF MULTIPLE RE-ADMISSIONS.

"OUT OF 1,006 MALE AND 63 FEMALE CASES IN 1990/91, 14 PER CENT OF THE MALES AND 37 PER CENT OF THE FEMALES REMAINED DRUG-FREE AT THE END OF A VOLUNTARY TWO-YEAR TREATMENT AND AFTERCARE PERIOD," HE ADDED.

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#### EFFORTS MADE TO HELP YOUNGSTERS HANDLE STRESS

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MORE PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE PARENTAL AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND MORE PUBLICITY ON COUNSELLING SERVICES TO PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING ORGANISED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THESE PROGRAMMES ARE TO HELP PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN TO FACE FRUSTRATION AND HANDLE STRESS POSITIVELY.

THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH COUNSELLING SERVICES WOULD BE PUBLICISED THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION OF A LEAFLET ON GOOD PARENTHOOD TO PARENTS OF PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS NEXT MONTH, HE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM ON THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO DEAL WITH SUICIDE CASES COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE, MR CHAN SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING ACTION BETWEEN SCHOOLS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AS THE BULK OF THE AFFECTED AGE GROUP ARE STUDENTS.

"THE SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE COUNSELLING, PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT, AND SMALL GROUP THERAPY," THE SECRETARY SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID SOCIAL WORKERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE INITIAL SUPPORT TO STUDENTS UNDER STRESS.

"ALL STUDENTS KNOWN TO HAVE SUICIDAL TENDENCIES ARE GIVEN PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES BY EDUCATIONAL OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, COUNSELLORS OR MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS.

"SERVER CASES ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT PSYCHIATRISTS OR CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS," MR CHAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHIN THE TIME AVAILABLE TO QUANTIFY THE RESOURCES DEPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED SINCE THE SUPPORT NETWORK IS COMPLEX AND INCLUDES A RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER STAFF IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS AND WITH DIFFERING DEGREES OF INVOLVEMENT.

MR CHAN SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RUNS SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS ON A DISTRICT BASIS ON THE SUBJECT OF HELPING PUPILS COPE WITH STRESS.

A GUIDANCE TEACHERS RESOURCES BOOK CONTAINING SUGGESTED TECHNIQUES IN MANAGING STUDENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS WAS PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED IN NOVEMBER 1991 TO GUIDANCE TEACHERS AND STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE ISSUING IN THE NEAR FUTURE A CIRCULAR TO BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE APPROACH IN THE MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT PROBLEMS, WHICH WILL EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AMONG TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OR IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT INCLUDE THE SUBJECTS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTHS.

COURSES ON STRESS MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION SKILLS ARE ALSO ORGANISED REGULARLY BY THE TRAINING SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO MR CHAN, THE "WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH" RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 IS AIMED AT CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS IN WHICH STUDENT PROBLEMS ARE RESPONDED TO QUICKLY AND IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

HE SAID: "ALTHOUGH THE CAUSES OF SUICIDE ARE USUALLY MULTI-FACETED, A SYMPATHETIC AND POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT PROPOSED BY THE 'WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH' SHOULD ALLEVIATE PRESSURES EXPERIENCED BY STUDENTS.

"TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS, AND TO SET THE CLIMATE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS FOR TRAINERS AND SCHOOL HEADS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE 1990/91 AND 1991/92 SCHOOL YEARS.

HE SAID THE TRAINED PERSONNEL WILL ASSIST SCHOOLS IN LAUNCHING THE "WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH".

THE APPROACH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

MR CHAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE BEST AVAILABLE FIGURES ON ATTEMPTED SUICIDES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE AGED SEVEN TO 21 IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, SHA TIN AND TAI PO, ARE:

	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL
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TUEN MUN	4	6	21	31
YUEN LONG	4	4	6	14
SHA TIN	6	3	12	21
TAI PO	1	0	3	4
				--
				70
				==

OF THESE, TWO WERE FATAL CASES LAST YEAR, ONE IN SHA TIN AND ONE IN TAI PO.

MR CHAN ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY, AND FURTHER REMEDIAL MEASURES, INCLUDING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY, WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS.

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#### REVISED GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL FUND RAISING

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SCHOOL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES MUST OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WITH THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY AS WELL AS THE DISPOSAL OF FUNDS COLLECTED MUST BE CLEARLY STATED IN THE APPLICATION.

THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE MADE EXPLICITLY CLEAR IN THE REVISED GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MR NG MING-YUM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID UNDER THE PRESENT POLICY, SCHOOL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES ARE PERMITTED, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL IN EACH CASE, BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING SCHOOL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REVIEWED IN ORDER TO CLOSE ANY LOOPHOLES FOR ABUSE.

/MR CHAN .....

MR CHAN SAID: "THE DIRECTOR WILL ONLY APPROVE SUCH APPLICATIONS IF, IN HIS VIEW, THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY IS FOR BONA-FIDE SCHOOL PURPOSES OR IS OF A CHARITABLE NATURE."

ADDITIONALLY, MR CHAN SAID, FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES BY SCHOOLS INVOLVING THE COLLECTION OF MONEY IN PUBLIC PLACES ARE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL QUOTA THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION PERMIT ADMINISTERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

"FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT REQUIRE SEPARATE APPROVAL BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT A TOTAL OF 410 APPLICATIONS FOR FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, OF WHICH ONLY THREE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

TURNING TO THE MONITORING MACHINERY, MR CHAN SAID TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE USED FOR THEIR SPECIFIED PURPOSES, THE SCHOOL IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER CONCERNED FOR EXAMINATION WITHIN TWO MONTHS FOLLOWING EACH FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY.

WHERE COLLECTIONS ARE ORGANISED FOR APPROVED SCHOOL PURPOSES, FUNDS SO COLLECTED, AS WELL AS ALL EXPENDITURE, MUST BE PROPERLY REFLECTED IN THE SCHOOL'S ACCOUNTS WHICH ARE EXAMINED BY THE AUDIT SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

IN THE CASE OF FUNDS COLLECTED FOR APPROVED CHARITABLE PURPOSES, OFFICIAL RECEIPTS MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED.

SCHOOLS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THESE RECEIPTS ON THEIR NOTICE BOARDS FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND RETAIN THEM FOR RECORD PURPOSE THEREAFTER.

MR CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL COMPLAINTS IN CONNECTION WITH SCHOOL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. BUT HE WAS AWARE OF A RECENT COMPLAINT LODGED WITH OMELCO AGAINST A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION WHICH HAD BEEN THE BENEFICIARY OF AN APPROVED SCHOOL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY.

"THE ALLEGATION WAS NOT DIRECTED AT THE WAY THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY WAS ORGANISED BUT THE SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE PROCEEDS BY THE CHARITABLE ORGANISATION OVER WHICH NEITHER THE SCHOOL NOR THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY CONTROL," HE SAID.

FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS AT AIRPORT RAILWAY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL CONSULT CONCERNED BODIES, INCLUDING THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, ON THE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS WHEN CONSIDERING THE DETAILED DESIGN OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, MR LEUNG SAID THE AIRPORT RAILWAY COMPRISED THE AIRPORT EXPRESS WHICH IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE AIRPORT TRAFFIC; AND THE LANTAU LINE, A DOMESTIC SERVICE SIMILAR TO EXISTING MTR SERVICES.

"THE AIRPORT EXPRESS WILL HAVE FACILITIES CATERING FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY," HE SAID.

THESE INCLUDED CONVENIENT SAME-LEVEL CONNECTIONS FOR INTERCHANGE WITH OTHER TRANSPORT MODES, SPACE TO BE PROVIDED WITHIN AIRPORT EXPRESS CARRIAGES FOR WHEEL CHAIRS, AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED WHERE RESTROOMS ARE PROVIDED WITHIN STATIONS.

MR LEUNG SAID CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED AND BLIND PEOPLE.

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SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT DURING FESTIVE FIREWORK DISPLAY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A NUMBER OF ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE FIREWORK DISPLAY IN THE COMING LUNAR NEW YEAR TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VESSEL MOVEMENTS AND HENCE REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF MARINE ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, MRS CHAN LISTED OUT A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ON THE DAY OF THE DISPLAY TO CONTROL THE CONGREGATION OF VESSELS:

- \* A CLOSED AREA, WHERE THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY BARGES ARE LOCATED, WILL BE ESTABLISHED. ALL UNAUTHORISED VESSELS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS AREA BETWEEN 2 PM AND 9 PM;
- \* ALL SCHEDULED FERRY SERVICES USING FERRY PIERS BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 7:30 PM TO 9 PM. HONG KONG/MACAU AND HONG KONG/CHINA FERRY SERVICES AND FOREIGN-GOING VESSELS IN VICTORIA HARBOUR WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED OR DIVERTED, AS THE CASE MAY BE, DURING THIS PERIOD;

/\*SMALL VESSELS .....

- \* SMALL VESSELS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHOUT DECKING SUCH AS SAMPANS, WILL BE ADVISED TO STAY AWAY FROM VICTORIA HARBOUR BETWEEN 7 PM AND 9 PM SINCE THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO DETECT AND VULNERABLE TO THE WASH FROM LARGER VESSELS;
- \* LARGE VIEWING VESSELS OPERATED BY THE FERRY COMPANIES WILL BE POSITIONED WELL TO THE EAST OF THE CLOSED AREA TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM OTHER VIEWING VESSELS IN THE CENTRAL HARBOUR; AND
- \* ALL VESSELS NAVIGATING IN VICTORIA HARBOUR BETWEEN 7:45 PM AND 9 PM WILL BE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE A SPEED LIMIT OF 5 KNOTS.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE DISPERSAL THE LARGE NUMBER OF VESSELS GATHERED IN THE HARBOUR AFTER THE FIREWORK DISPLAY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ADVISED ALL MASTERS, OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF VESSELS TO DISEMBARK THEIR PASSENGERS AT LANDINGS AWAY FROM THE CENTRAL HARBOUR AS THE PUBLIC LANDINGS IN THE AREA WILL BE CLOSED FROM 6 PM TO 8:30 PM FOR BETTER CROWD CONTROL ON LAND.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL ALSO BE REMINDED:

- \* OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA, IN PARTICULAR, THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING PROPER LOOK-OUT AND PROCEEDING AT SAFE SPEED;
- \* OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND THE USE OF DISTRESS SIGNALS IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY;
- \* TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSONS ON BOARD ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCATION OF ALL LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES AND HOW TO USE THEM;
- \* TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ON BOARD WEAR LIFEJACKETS AT ALL TIMES;
- \* TO KEEP A LIST OF ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW ON BOARD; AND
- \* TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH THE MAXIMUM CARRYING CAPACITY OF THEIR VESSELS.

"SOME 30 MARINE POLICE, MARINE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT VESSELS WILL SUPERVISE ORDERLY DISPERSAL AND RESPOND RAPIDLY TO ANY UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS," MRS CHAN ADDED.

TWO-HOUR LEGCO DEBATE ON NEW GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT

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A TOTAL OF 21 LEGISLATORS DEBATED FOR TWO HOURS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT GOVERNOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, WHICH REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONVEY THE VIEWS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO UK GOVERNMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT GOVERNOR, WAS FINALLY PASSED.

TWO AMENDED MOTIONS ON THE SUBJECT, MOVED BY THE HON MARTIN LEE AND THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, WERE DEFEATED.

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT ON FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND WAS ALSO PASSED.

SIXTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE TWO-HOUR DEBATE AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT MR MICHAEL LEUNG SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HOSPITAL AUTHORITY) BILL WAS PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENT WHILE CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENT.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1992

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EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES UNTIL APPOINTMENT  
OF NEXT GOVERNOR: GOVERNOR

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, REAFFIRMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION WITH FULL EFFICIENCY WHILE WAITING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNOR.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN LONDON, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS ALWAYS BOUND TO BE UNCERTAINTY WHENEVER THERE WAS A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNORSHIP.

"BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CEASES TO OPERATE.

"AS ISSUES ARISE THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH AND IT'S VERY IMPORTANT INDEED TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SLACKENING OFF OF EFFORT, EITHER BY THE ADMINISTRATION OR BY ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL, WHILE WE WAIT FOR A NEW GOVERNOR," SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR REJECTED CLAIMS THAT THERE WAS A POLITICAL VOID IN HONG KONG.

ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF POLITICAL CHANGE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT EACH TIME AN IMPORTANT STEP WAS TAKEN IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE, IT TOOK TIME FOR THE NEW SYSTEM TO SETTLE DOWN, AND THAT WAS THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WAS A NEED NOW FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO EXPLAINING THINGS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BECAUSE OF THE NEW MEMBERS.

"THEY NOT ONLY DO NOT HAVE THE BACKGROUND, AND THEREFORE NEED THE EXPLANATION, BUT NATURALLY MANY OF THEM WANT TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS. FOR INSTANCE WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IT HAS SOMETIMES BEEN NECESSARY TO TAKE TWO BITES AT IT - TO GO BACK AND GIVE MORE EXPLANATION BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WANTS.

"THERE HAS BEEN NO PROBLEM ABOUT CARRYING OUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. ALL WE HAVE HAD IS MORE WORK, MORE TIME REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT IS CARRIED ON," HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE NEW GOVERNOR SHOULD BE A POLITICAL PERSONALITY RATHER THAN SOMEONE FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS NOT THE BACKGROUND OF THE PERSON THAT MATTERED IT WAS THE CHARACTER OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

"THERE IS NO PARTICULAR MAGIC ABOUT A PUBLIC SERVANT, A CIVIL SERVANT. THERE'S NO PARTICULAR MAGIC ABOUT A POLITICIAN, WHAT MATTERS IS THE QUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL."

/"WHAT YOU .....

"WHAT YOU NEED FOR HONG KONG IS SOMEBODY WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO RUN AND MANAGE THE ADMINISTRATION OF A VERY COMPLEX SOCIETY, A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SCENE - THE 11TH BIGGEST TRADING TERRITORY IN THE WORLD - (SOMEONE) WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO MANAGE A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAINLAND OF CHINA AND HAS A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE VARIOUS ISSUES THAT COME UP IN HONG KONG."

EARLIER TODAY THE GOVERNOR GAVE THE CLOSING SPEECH TO THE HONG KONG BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE AT THE QE II CONFERENCE CENTRE IN LONDON. THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 400 BRITISH BUSINESS LEADERS.

IN THE EVENING, SIR DAVID WILL HAVE AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN MAJOR, AT NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET.

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GOVERNOR MEETS PRIME MINISTER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, HAD A THIRTY-MINUTE INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN MAJOR, AT NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

TALKING TO REPORTERS OUTSIDE NUMBER 10 SIR DAVID DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MR MAJOR.

"IT WAS VERY NICE OF HIM AT THE END OF A LONG DAY FOR HIM TO ASK ME AROUND FOR A DRINK AND A CHAT ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG.

"HE TAKES A VERY CLOSE INTEREST IN HONG KONG AFFAIRS, ALWAYS HAS AND PARTICULARLY SO SINCE HE CAME OUT TO HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER. SO IT WAS GOOD FOR ME AT THE END OF A LONGISH DAY TO HAVE A CHANCE JUST IN A VERY RELAXED WAY TO TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER."

ASKED WHETHER MR MAJOR HAD GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD TAKE IN THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG IN SELECTING THE NEXT GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD NOT GO THROUGH THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATION BECAUSE IT WAS A PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

EARLIER TODAY, THE GOVERNOR SAID IF A MOTION WAS PASSED BY LEGCO THAT THEY WOULD LIKE THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG TO BE REFLECTED TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THEN THIS WOULD BE DONE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

"WE ALWAYS REPORT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS EXPRESSED IN HONG KONG ON IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH ARE GERMANE TO WHATEVER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS DOING," SIR DAVID SAID.

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HK AN IDEAL BASE TO GRASP BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE REGION: GOVERNOR

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD LEADING UK BUSINESSMEN IN LONDON THAT THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH BUSINESS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND HONG KONG IS THE BEST BASE FROM WHICH TO GRASP THEM.

THE GOVERNOR, WHO IS LEADING A HIGH LEVEL HONG KONG DELEGATION TO ADDRESS A BUSINESS CONFERENCE ABOUT THE STRATEGIC ROLE HONG KONG PLAYED IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, SAID THE TERRITORY OFFERED A GREAT MANY ADVANTAGES TO BRITISH BUSINESS.

IT INCLUDED ENGLISH AS THE COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE, AND A SYSTEM OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND LAW WHICH WERE FAMILIAR IN UK AND WHICH WOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997.

SIR DAVID ASSURED THE AUDIENCE THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE CHANGE IN SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD WEAKEN HONG KONG'S TRADING POSITION.

"AFTER 1997 HONG KONG WILL REMAIN AS AUTONOMOUS IN LOOKING AFTER ITS TRADING INTERESTS AS IT IS NOW. IT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ITS OWN FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC VALUE TO CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AND THE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA'S COASTAL PROVINCES WOULD INCREASE THE DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S CAPITAL, SERVICES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS.

"THE ECONOMIC MOMENTUM CREATED BY COOPERATION BETWEEN BUSINESSMEN IN HONG KONG AND SOUTHERN CHINA WILL GO A LONG WAY TO CARRY US THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997," SIR DAVID SAID.

NOTING THAT BRITISH BUSINESS ALREADY HAD A LARGE AND GROWING PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT BRITAIN'S TRADE AND SERVICE EXPORTS TO HONG KONG WERE WORTH WELL OVER 2 BILLION POUNDS A YEAR AND HONG KONG WAS BRITAIN'S SECOND LARGEST MARKET IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AFTER JAPAN.

"THERE ARE OVER 470 BRITISH FIRMS IN HONG KONG, AND A FURTHER 1,000 WHICH HAVE SIGNIFICANT BRITISH INVESTMENT OR MANAGEMENT.

"BRITISH FIRMS HAVE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG WORTH ABOUT 20 BILLION POUNDS - BRITAIN'S LARGEST INVESTMENT IN ASIA," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG BEING A GOOD PLACE FOR BRITISH BUSINESS WAS ALSO HIGHLY COMPETITIVE.

"THOSE WHO SUCCEED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO PUT THEMSELVES UP AGAINST THE REST OF THE WORLD AND COME OUT ON TOP.

"THERE ARE MANY BRITISH FIRMS WHO HAVE SHOWN THEY HAVE THE NECESSARY COMPETITIVE EDGE TO ACHIEVE THIS," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID IN THE COMPETITIVE MARKET OF HONG KONG, THERE WERE MANY OTHER PLAYERS.

"THE AMERICANS AND JAPANESE ALSO HAVE LARGE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG. SO DOES CHINA.

"JAPANESE INVESTMENT CAME INTO THE GAME MUCH LATER THAN BRITISH AND AMERICAN INVESTMENT; BUT IT IS GROWING PARTICULARLY FAST. SO NOBODY WHO COMPETES IN THE HONG KONG MARKET CAN AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WERE INTERESTING BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN EUROPE AS THE LONG-HERALDED PLANS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME WERE PUT IN PLACE.

IN THE LONGER TERM, NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD OPEN UP AS THE CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES OF EASTERN EUROPE EMBRACED THE MARKET AND LIBERATED THE CREATIVE ENERGIES OF 400 MILLION PEOPLE, HE SAID.

"BUT FOR THE NEXT DECADE, AND PROBABLY WELL BEYOND, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WILL OFFER THE MOST EXCITING BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN THE WORLD.

"HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO BENEFIT FROM WHAT THE ECONOMIST RECENTLY CALLED THE MOST RAPID INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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ECONOMIC SUCCESS ENRICHES HK LIVES: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAS ALLOWED ITS PEOPLE TO DEVOTE MORE TIME AND RESOURCES TO ENRICHING THEIR LIVES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN LONDON TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) AT THE HONG KONG GALA EVENING.

WELCOMING GUESTS TO THE GALA EVENING AT THE BARBICAN CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED THE SHOW WHICH CONDENSED A DAY IN THE LIFE OF HONG KONG, WOULD SHOW THE AUDIENCE SOMETHING OF THE DYNAMISM, ENERGY AND CREATIVITY OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST 20 YEARS HONG KONG'S CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC LANDSCAPE HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG ARTS AND FILM FESTIVALS, WHICH HAD A STRONG INTERNATIONAL ELEMENT, WERE NOW POPULAR HIGHLIGHTS IN HONG KONG'S CALENDAR.

"ALMOST EVERY DISTRICT IN THE TERRITORY NOW BOASTS A MODERN VENUE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND WE HAVE OUR OWN ORCHESTRAS, DANCE COMPANIES AND THEATRE GROUPS.

"TWO MONTHS AGO THE NEW HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ARTS WAS OPENED, COMPLETING THE IMPRESSIVE NEW CULTURAL COMPLEX ON OUR HARBOUR WATERFRONT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS ONLY A PART - ALBEIT A VERY IMPORTANT PART - OF THE HONG KONG STORY.

THE TWO CULTURAL EVENINGS COMPRISE AN AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW AND A LIVE FASHION, CULTURAL AND DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA, PRESENTED BY STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT TOMORROW'S GALA EVENING WILL BE HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

GUESTS AT EACH EVENING INCLUDE SOME 800 PROMINENT SOCIAL, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES FROM BOTH UK AND HONG KONG.

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#### EIGHT TONNES OF VEGETABLES DESTROYED

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EIGHT TONNES OF VEGETABLES WERE SEIZED AND DESTROYED BY HEALTH INSPECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN A TWO-DAY OPERATION AT MAN KAM TO BORDER CHECKPOINT ENDING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR M.B. ALI, SAID OF THE 307 SAMPLES TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION OF PESTICIDE, FIVE FAILED THE SCREENING TESTS. THE OWNERS OF THE VEGETABLES VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED THE GOODS FOR DESTRUCTION.

THE SEIZED VEGETABLES INCLUDED CHOI SUM, PAK CHOI AND SPINACH. THEY EITHER DID NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED PESTICIDE DECLARATION FORM OR CAME FROM VEGETABLE FARMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED FOR EXPORT PURPOSES.

THE SHENZHEN AND GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE FINDINGS FOR THEIR NECESSARY ACTION.

DR ALI SAID THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR INVOLVING FOOD POISONING CAUSED BY PESTICIDE-CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES.

THE VICTIMS, FIVE PERSONS FROM TWO FAMILIES, WERE ALL TREATED AND DISCHARGED.

HE APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO WASH AND BLANCH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING.

THEY ARE ADVISED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- \* DO NOT BUY VEGETABLES WITH AN OBVIOUS STRANGE SMELL;
- \* WASH VEGETABLES WELL BEFORE COOKING;
- \* DIP VEGETABLES INTO CLEAN WATER FOR SOME TIME TO ALLOW PESTICIDE TO LEACH OUT;
- \* BLANCH VEGETABLES IN BOILING WATER AND POUR AWAY THE WATER USED FOR BLANCHING AS IT MAY CONTAIN DISSOLVED PESTICIDES; AND
- \* COOK VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

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ADVERTISEMENT PERMITS FOR VEHICLES TO BE DISCONTINUED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT NO NEW ADVERTISEMENT PERMITS FOR VEHICLES USED SOLELY FOR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING SHOULD BE ISSUED AND THAT EXISTING PERMITS SHOULD NOT BE RENEWED ON EXPIRY.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WILL BE NEEDED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS DECISION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE ADVERTISING VEHICLES ARE NOT PERFORMING ANY TRANSPORTATION FUNCTION BUT SIMPLY ADD TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN ALREADY BUSY AREAS.

HE SAID ADVERTISEMENTS CARRIED ON BUSES, TRAMS, TAXIS AND MINI-BUSES SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY ANY NEED FOR MOBILE ADVERTISING.

"HOWEVER, TO ALLOW EXISTING OPERATORS CONCERNED TO HONOUR CONTRACTS WITH THEIR CLIENTS AND TO REDUCE THE HARDSHIP CAUSED BY THIS CHANGE, EXISTING PERMITS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL EXPIRY, BUT THESE SHOULD NOT BE RENEWED THEREAFTER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ABOUT 30 SUCH PERMITS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE AT VARIOUS TIMES BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 1993.

REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE, "THESE COMMITMENTS WILL BE HONOURED BUT APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED THAT PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD ONLY AND WILL NOT BE RENEWED ON EXPIRY," HE SAID.

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WOULD, MEANWHILE, BE EMPOWERED TO ISSUE PERMITS FROM TIME TO TIME FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES TO CATER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OR CHARITABLE EVENTS.

"PENDING ENACTMENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, THE OPERATION OF THE ADVERTISING VEHICLES IN BREACH OF PERMIT CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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#### WEATHER FOR 1991

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LAST YEAR WAS THE 10TH DRIEST YEAR ON RECORD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY (RO) SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

RAINFALL AT THE RO WAS ONLY 1,639.1 MILLIMETRES COMPARED TO A NORMAL OF 2,214.3 MILLIMETRES.

ALL MONTHS BUT JANUARY AND OCTOBER WERE DRIER THAN NORMAL.

LAST YEAR, THERE WERE ALTOGETHER 13 TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. SIX OF THEM REQUIRED THE HOISTING OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS IN HONG KONG.

THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL WAS HOISTED DURING THE APPROACH OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM BRENDAN AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE TYPHOON GORDON IN 1989.

JANUARY 1991 WAS WARMER THAN NORMAL. THE MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 15.4 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE SEVENTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JANUARY.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY AND HUMID. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 28.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 23 PER CENT ABOVE THE JANUARY NORMAL OF 23.4 MILLIMETRES.

FEBRUARY WAS ON THE WHOLE WARMER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL. THE RAIN THAT FELL DURING THE MONTH WAS MOSTLY LIGHT AND PATCHY.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 8.2 MILLIMETRES WAS 83 PER CENT BELOW THE FEBRUARY NORMAL OF 48.0 MILLIMETRES.

MARCH WAS WARMER AND ALSO MORE HUMID. THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 18.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH.

RAIN THAT FELL WAS MOSTLY ASSOCIATED WITH LATE-SEASON SURGES OF THE WINTER MONSOON.

THE FIRST MAJOR DOWNPOUR AND THUNDERSTORM OF THE YEAR OCCURRED ON MARCH 22. HOWEVER, THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 51.5 MILLIMETRES WAS 23 PER CENT BELOW THE MARCH NORMAL OF 66.9 MILLIMETRES.

THE WEATHER IN APRIL WAS SUNNIER AND DRIER. IT WAS THE SEVENTH DRIEST APRIL ON RECORD.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 34.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 79 PER CENT BELOW THE APRIL NORMAL OF 161.1 MILLIMETRES.

MOST OF THE RAIN FELL ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH AND COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO A DISSIPATING TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER WESTERN GUANGDONG.

MAY 1991 WAS ONE OF THE DRIEST AND WARMEST MAY ON RECORD. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 60.9 MILLIMETRES, THE EIGHTH LOWEST EVER, WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THE MAY NORMAL.

THE PERSISTENT FINE AND DRY WEATHER COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WESTWARD EXTENSION OF AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE FROM THE PACIFIC TO SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,011.6 HECTOPASCALS IN HONG KONG WAS A RECORD HIGH FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

INTENSE SOLAR HEATING CAUSED THE TEMPERATURE TO SOAR TO A MAXIMUM OF 33.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ON MAY 28, MAKING IT THE FIFTH HOTTEST DAY EVER IN THE MONTH OF MAY.

JUNE 1991 WAS THE SEVENTH WARMEST JUNE ON RECORD WITH A MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 28.4 DEGREES CELSIUS AND A MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.4 DEGREES CELSIUS.

THOUGH LESS SPECTACULAR, BUT MORE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, WAS ITS NEAR-NORMAL RAINFALL FOLLOWING A SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIT IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 371.7 MILLIMETRES REPRESENTED ABOUT 99 PER CENT OF THE JUNE NORMAL OF 376.0 MILLIMETRES.

ALTHOUGH THREE TROPICAL CYCLONES AFFECTED HONG KONG IN JULY, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 293.6 MILLIMETRES STILL FELL SHORT OF THE JULY NORMAL OF 323.5 MILLIMETRES BY 9 PER CENT.

BETWEEN JULY 23 AND 24, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM BRENDAN PROMPTED THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL.

AT THE END OF THE MONTH, THE TORRENTIAL RAIN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACTIVE SOUTHWEST MONSOON RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE FLOODING IN THE YUEN LONG AREA WHERE THE FLOOD WATER IN SEVERAL VILLAGES EXCEEDED ONE METRE IN DEPTH.

AUGUST WAS CHARACTERISED BY THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON FRED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH AND A SPELL OF LIGHT WIND AND HAZY CONDITIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE MONTH.

FRED NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 FOR NEARLY 34 HOURS. A DERRICK BARGE CAPSIZED IN THE STORMY WEATHER ON AUGUST 15 ABOUT 100 KILOMETRES EAST OF HONG KONG.

OVER 170 OF THE BARGE CREW WERE RESCUED. SIXTEEN PEOPLE WERE FOUND DEAD AND ANOTHER SIX WERE REPORTED MISSING.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 302.3 MILLIMETRES WAS 23 PER CENT BELOW THE AUGUST NORMAL OF 391.4 MILLIMETRES.

SEPTEMBER WAS RELATIVELY WARM AND DRY. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 28.1 DEGREES CELSIUS AND THE MONTHLY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 25.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WERE RESPECTIVELY THE FOURTH AND EIGHTH HIGHEST EVER FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 178.7 MILLIMETRES FELL SHORT OF THE SEPTEMBER NORMAL OF 299.7 MILLIMETRES BY 40 PER CENT.

OVER HALF OF THE MONTH'S RAIN OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 14 IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A FRESH EASTERLY AIRSTREAM.

IN CONTRAST, THE TWO PASSING TROPICAL CYCLONES, JOEL AND NAT, WERE MOST DISAPPOINTING FOR BRINGING RELATIVELY LITTLE RAIN.

IN SPITE OF LONG HOURS OF SUNSHINE AND BELOW-NORMAL HUMIDITY, OCTOBER WAS A MONTH OF ABUNDANT RAIN. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 294.3 MILLIMETRES WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE OCTOBER NORMAL OF 144.8 MILLIMETRES AND WAS THE 10TH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF AN EASTERLY AIRSTREAM ON OCTOBER 14, NEARLY ALL RAIN OF THE MONTH FELL WITHIN THE 4-DAY PERIOD OF OCTOBER 14 TO 17.

SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED OVER THE TERRITORY BUT NO SERIOUS DAMAGE WAS INCURRED.

THE LOWEST RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 21 PER CENT ON OCTOBER 27 AND 28 EQUALLED THE RECORD PREVIOUSLY SET FOR OCTOBER IN 1968 AND 1973.

WEATHER IN NOVEMBER WAS DOMINATED BY A SERIES OF CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONES AND THE ASSOCIATED NORTHEAST MONSOON.

AS A RESULT, THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,019.5 HECTOPASCALS WAS THE EIGHTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

IT WAS ON THE WHOLE COOLER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 2.7 MILLIMETRES WAS A MERE 8 PER CENT OF THE NOVEMBER NORMAL OF 35.1 MILLIMETRES.

IT WAS COMPARATIVELY WARM IN DECEMBER UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF AN EXCEPTIONALLY INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON IN THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 27.

IN THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 28, THE RO RECORDED A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 4.6 DEGREES CELSIUS, WHICH WAS THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED SINCE DECEMBER 1975.

IT WAS ALSO THE SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, WITH A DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 6.1 DEGREES CELSIUS, DECEMBER 28 WAS THE EIGHTH COLDEST DAY ON RECORD AND THE SECOND COLDEST DAY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

ICE AND FROST WERE OBSERVED ON HIGH GROUND ON DECEMBER 28 AND 29.

DURING THE COLD SPELL, DAMAGE TO CROPS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS NOT SERIOUS.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 11.8 MILLIMETRES WAS 57 PER CENT THE DECEMBER NORMAL OF 27.3 MILLIMETRES.

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IMMIGRATION ARREST IIS AND OVERSTAYERS  
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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND 20 TWO-WAY PERMIT VISITORS FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY DURING A 24-HOUR TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION WHICH STARTED AT 9.30 AM YESTERDAY (JANUARY 21).

EIGHTEEN RESIDENTIAL FLATS AND 10 BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING FACTORIES, RESTAURANTS AND FOOD-STALLS WERE VISITED. IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ALSO CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON 225 PERSONS.

THE TWO FEMALE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AGED 18 AND 31, ARE FROM GUANGDONG. THEY WERE ARRESTED INSIDE THE KITCHEN OF A RESTAURANT IN STANLEY. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE SNEAKED INTO HONG KONG A FEW DAYS AGO AND MANAGED TO FIND EMPLOYMENT AS CASUAL WORKERS THERE.

THE GROUP OF 20 TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS COMPRISES 15 FEMALES AND FIVE MEN AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 67. AMONG THEM, EIGHT WERE INTERCEPTED AT PLACES OF WORK AND FOUR OF THEM WERE ALSO FOUND TO HAVE OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG. THEY ADMITTED TO HAVE TAKEN UP UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT.

THE REST OF THE 12 VISITORS ARE OVERSTAYERS AND WERE LOCATED AT A NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS.

FOUR HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY GRANTED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

HE REMINDED THAT VISITORS MUST LEAVE HONG KONG WITHIN THEIR LIMIT OF STAY IMPOSED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. ALSO, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE UP ANY EMPLOYMENT, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THOSE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND UPON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

PEOPLE WHO AID AND ABET OTHERS TO COMMIT THESE OFFENCES ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY.

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SPRING SCROLL TO PROMOTE CHILD CARE PRODUCED  
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A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPEALED TO PARENTS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES, INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN ALONE AT HOME.

"FOR CHILDREN'S SAFETY, THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD PRODUCED SPECIAL SPRING SCROLLS FOR THE IMPENDING CHINESE NEW YEAR TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE.

COPIES OF THE SPRING SCROLL ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS, GROUP WORK UNITS AND ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS EXPANDED ITS OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE, WHICH IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT AIMING AT ELIMINATING THE RISK OF HAVING YOUNG CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

A TOTAL OF 53 NURSERIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY IS TAKING PART IN THE PROJECT, OFFERING 160 PLACES TO CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE SWD HOTLINE: 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON TEL. 578 1892.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY  
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1992

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SPECIAL STAMPS TO BE ISSUED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACCESSION TO THE THRONE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN WILL BE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 11.

THERE WILL BE FIVE DENOMINATIONS: 80 CENTS, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5. THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR DEREK MILLER AND PRINTED BY LEIGH-MARDON PTY. LTD. OF AUSTRALIA.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM JANUARY 30.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES AS FROM JANUARY 30 AT 70 CENTS EACH. ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 27 TO 31. THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$13.8 EACH AT THE FOLLOWING 29 POST OFFICES:

HONG KONG ISLAND

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE  
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
HENNESSY ROAD POST OFFICE  
KING'S ROAD POST OFFICE  
PEAK POST OFFICE  
QUEEN'S ROAD POST OFFICE  
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE  
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON

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AIRPORT POST OFFICE  
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE  
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
KWONG WAH STREET POST OFFICE  
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE  
LOK FU POST OFFICE  
MONGKOK POST OFFICE  
NGAU TAU KOK POST OFFICE  
OI MAN POST OFFICE  
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

/NEW TERRITORIES .....

NEW TERRITORIES

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SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE  
TAI PO POST OFFICE  
TUEN MUN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE  
TSUEN WAN POST OFFICE  
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE  
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON FEBRUARY 11. A SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE PURPOSE.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN YAU TONG, KOWLOON.

THE SITE IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND YAU TONG ROAD.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 6,500 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR STORAGE OF GOODS WHICH MAY INCLUDE DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON ON FEBRUARY 14.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION

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SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

IT WILL AFFECT THE AREA BOUNDED BY FUK WA STREET, CHEUNG WAH STREET, UN CHAU STREET, HING WAH STREET AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND INCLUDING KWONG SHING STREET AND TSAP FAI STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	21.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	22.1.92	-612
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+612
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.1 \*+0.1\* 22.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	5.15 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.47	5.46
1 MONTH	4.33 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.23 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.22 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.60 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,751 MN

CLOSED 22 JANUARY 1992

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