



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1992

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GOVERNOR REACHES OUT TO PEOPLE

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) REACHED OUT TO THE GRASSROOTS PEOPLE AND SAW FOR HIMSELF THEIR PROBLEMS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, MR PATTEN WAS GREETED DURING HIS VISIT BY AMUSED AND DELIGHTFUL PEDESTRIANS, SHOPKEEPERS AND HAWKERS.

THE GOVERNOR STARTED OFF BY WALKING THROUGH A NARROW BACKLANE AT MARBLE ROAD IN NORTH POINT.

ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, SOME DOMESTIC, WERE BUILT ON GAS MAINS AND FLANKED THE PASSAGEWAY, POSING CONSTANT FIRE HAZARD AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO SAW HOW THE DRY-GOODS HAWKERS IN MARBLE ROAD DO THEIR BUSINESS.

MR PATTEN THEN WENT TO KOWLOON CITY WHERE HE SAW A NUMBER OF STREET-SLEEPERS AND THEIR MAKE-SHIFT SHANTIES UNDER THE VARIOUS FLYOVERS.

HE ALSO SAW SOME ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ATTACHED TO THE BUILDINGS IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY TO KWA WAN ROAD, MA TAU KOK ROAD, THE WATERFRONT AND THE GAS WORKS. THESE ENVIRONMENTAL WARTS ARE A THREAT TO BUILDING SAFETY.

THE GOVERNOR WAS THEN BRIEFED ON THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL "RESERVATION" OF METERED PARKING SPACES IN THE DISTRICT.

HE WAS TOLD THAT METERED PARKING SPACES WERE BLOCKED BY ITEMS SUCH AS BASKETS AND GOODS RESERVED FOR SOME BUSINESSES IN THE LOCALITY.

HE ALSO SAW THE ILLEGAL HAWKING PROBLEM ALONG MA TAU KOK ROAD AND NGA TSIN LONG ROAD AND INSPECTED THE URBAN COUNCIL KOWLOON CITY MARKET COMPLEX.

MR PATTEN THEN WENT TO UN CHAU STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO TO SEE THE PROSTITUTION PROBLEM THERE.

AFTERWARDS, HE ARRIVED AT A "CAGE-HOME" (BEDSPACE APARTMENT) IN KWEILIN STREET WHERE HE WAS TOLD BY SOME OF THE 40 'CAGEMEN' THERE THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE GOVERNOR CONCLUDED HIS VISIT BY TOURING CHUNG KING MANSION TO SEE OVER-CROWDED GUEST HOUSES AND PROBLEMS CAUSED BY POOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE MANSION HOUSES MORE THAN 150 GUESTHOUSES, A NUMBER OF CLUBS AND SHOPS.

TODAY'S TOUR IS ONE OF THE GOVERNOR'S REGULAR VISITS TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

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GOVERNOR TO MEET POLITICAL GROUPS IN JANUARY

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL HOLD A THIRD ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH SIX POLITICAL GROUPS DURING JANUARY.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNOR FOUND THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS VERY VALUABLE AND HE WOULD WELCOME A THIRD ROUND IN JANUARY BEFORE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROPOSALS ARE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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GOVERNOR MEETS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) HELD HIS THIRD MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS. EIGHTEEN CHAIRMEN ATTENDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE FOUND THE MEETING VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HE UNDERTOOK TO REFLECT ON THEIR VIEWS CONCERNING APPOINTED MEMBERS AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

MR PATTEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WELCOMES THE DEBATE WHICH IS NOW UNDER WAY ON HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS.

HE SAID THE AIM MUST BE TO DEVISE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS WHICH MEET THE CRITERIA OF OPENNESS, FAIRNESS AND ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND TO THIS END, HE IS HAPPY TO DISCUSS HIS OWN OR OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPOSALS.

IN DUE COURSE, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL THEN BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WHAT WILL EMERGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS NOT WHO MAKES THE PROPOSALS BUT WHETHER THEY WOULD LEAD TO OPEN AND FAIR ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY."

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GREEN PAPER ON MEDICAL CHARGES IN THE PIPELINE

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY BE CONSULTING THE PUBLIC WITH A GREEN PAPER CONTAINING PROPOSALS FOR AN IMPROVED FEES AND WAIVER SYSTEM FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY PUBLIC HOSPITALS, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS HELEN YU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST, MRS YU SAID AN IMPROVED FEES AND WAIVER SYSTEM WOULD BE EQUITABLE IN TREATMENT AND FINANCING AND WOULD ENSURE THAT SERVICES WERE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND GENERALLY AFFORDABLE.

THE SYSTEM WILL CONTAIN ESCALATING HEALTH CARE COSTS, PROVIDE HIGHER QUALITY CARE AND BETTER CHOICE TO PATIENTS, AND BE SIMPLE TO ADMINISTER.

MRS YU ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE NEW SERVICES AND ADOPT NEW APPROACHES FOR A NUMBER OF SPECIAL TARGET GROUPS. THESE INCLUDE:

- * A HEALTH SERVICE FOR ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS;
- * A SPECIALIST ORAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR PATIENT GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;
- * A PILOT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR WORKERS;
- * A GERIATRIC DAY CARE CENTRE FOR ELDERLY PERSONS; AND
- * A PSYCHOGERIATRIC SERVICE FOR ELDERLY MENTAL PATIENTS.

"WE AIM TO DEVELOP A CULTURE OF SERVICE, TO BE EVEN MORE PATIENT ORIENTED," SAID MRS YU.

"THIS WILL SEE REDUCED WAITING TIME FOR CONSULTATION AT CLINICS AND QUICKER TREATMENT AT ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND THERE WILL BE BETTER MEDICAL RECORD-KEEPING," SHE ADDED.

MRS YU ALSO OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S TASK TO ACHIEVE "HEALTH FOR ALL IN THE YEAR 2000".

IN NUMERICAL TERMS, IT WILL PROVIDE 4,200 ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS, OPEN 13 NEW CLINICS AND EXPAND 11 EXISTING CLINICS, ESTABLISH SEVEN HEALTH CENTRES FOR SOME 700,000 ELDERLY PERSONS AND THREE WELL-WOMAN CLINICS FOR WOMEN ESPECIALLY SOME 320,000 IN MENOPAUSAL PRIME.

THE OVERCROWDING AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL WILL ALSO BE RELIEVED WHILE PSYCHIATRIC BEDS IN OTHER HOSPITALS INCREASED BY OVER 20 PER CENT OVERALL BY 1997, MRS YU ADDED.

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WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY SCHEME AUTHORISED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) THE AUTHORISATION OF THE SCHEME TO BUILD THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S DECISION THAT OBJECTIONS TO THE SCHEME SHOULD NOT BE UPHELD.

THIS WILL TAKE THE ROAD PROJECT A FURTHER STEP FORWARD AND FUNDS WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN DUE COURSE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPRESSWAY.

THE DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY WILL BE BUILT ON NEW RECLAIMED LAND IN WEST KOWLOON TO PROVIDE A FAST ROAD LINK BETWEEN MEI FOO SUN CHUEN AND THE FUTURE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

IT WILL BE BUILT WITH QUIET ROAD SURFACE MATERIAL AND ROADSIDE BARRIERS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC NOISE.

AS AN ADDITIONAL NOISE MITIGATION MEASURE, THE EXPRESSWAY WILL SET BACK FROM MEI FOO SUN CHUEN, NAM CHEONG ESTATE, FERRY STREET AND MAN CHEONG STREET.

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SPECIAL STAMPS HERALD COCK YEAR

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WOULD BE ISSUED ON JANURAY 7 ON THE THEME OF "YEAR OF THE COCK".

THIS IS THE SEVENTH IN THE CURRENT SERIES OF LUNAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES RELEASED BY THE POST OFFICE SINCE THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT IN 1987.

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS - 80 CENTS, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5.

A SOUVENIR SHEET INCORPORATING THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED.

A STAMP BOOKLET CONTAINING SIX EACH OF THE 80 CENTS AND \$2.30 STAMPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$18.60 EACH.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR KAN TAI-KEUNG AND PRINTED BY JOH. ENSCHEDE OF THE NETHERLANDS.

THEY WILL BE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE FROM DECEMBER 28.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, FROM DECEMBER 28 AT \$1 EACH.

/ADVANCE ORDERS

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ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS AND SOUVENIR SHEET COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM DECEMBER 28 TO 31.

THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE. THERE IS ALSO A RESTRICTION OF 10 SERVICED SOUVENIR SHEET COVERS PER ORDER.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE, EACH CUSTOMER IS ENTITLED TO TWO STAMP BOOKLETS, 10 SOUVENIR SHEETS AND FIVE SHEETS OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK AT \$12.90 EACH WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES:

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

CUSTOMERS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THESE SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS ARE ADVISED TO PLACE ADVANCE ORDERS.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON JANUARY 7 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

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RESIDENTS ALERTED TO FOOD-BORNE DISEASES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ADOPT PROPER FOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES WHEN TUCKING INTO HOTPOTS IN WINTER, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR MAHOMMED BIN ALI, SAID.

MAKING THE APPEAL, DR ALI ALERTED RESIDENTS TO POISONING CAUSED BY FOOD-BORNE DISEASES AND HEPATITIS A.

"RESTAURANT STAFF SHOULD ALWAYS OBSERVE HYGIENE PRACTICES IN PREPARING FOOD FOR HOTPOTS," HE SAID.

"CUSTOMERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE FOOD IS ADEQUATELY COOKED BEFORE CONSUMPTION."

RESIDENTS SHOULD ALSO TAKE EXTRA CARE WHILE PREPARING HOTPOTS AT HOME.

DR ALI SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

/FOR SHELLFISH

FOR SHELLFISH

- * USE ONLY WHOLESOME AND PREFERABLY LIVE ONES;
- * REMOVE THE DIRT WITH A BRUSH AND RINSE SHELLFISH THOROUGHLY IN CLEAN WATER;
- * DISCARD THE INTESTINES AND OTHER DUBIOUS OR INEDIBLE PARTS SUCH AS SHELLS;
- * COOK THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION; AND
- * KEEP UNDER REFRIGERATION IF NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION.

FOR VEGETABLES

- * DO NOT PATRONISE ILLEGAL HAWKERS;
- * DO NOT BUY THOSE WITH A STRANGE SMELL;
- * TEAR OFF AND DISCARD THE VEGETABLE LEAVES AT THE PERIPHERY;
- * WASH WELL AND DIP IN CLEAN WATER FOR ONE HOUR; AND
- * COOK THOROUGHLY.

"WHOLESOME RAW MATERIALS, PROPER WASHING AND HANDLING, AND THOROUGH COOKING ARE THE BEST MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES. THESE HYGIENE PRACTICES SHOULD BE ADOPTED AT ALL TIMES," DR ALI SAID.

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OPERATION TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
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A TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS RECENTLY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 125 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 14 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE OTHER 111 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

/"OUR LATEST

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 8,422 PERSONS AND 1,979 VEHICLES WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,696 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 10,533 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

TWENTY-THREE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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CALL TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AT CHRISTMAS

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHEN JOURNEYING TO SEE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTS.

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR CHRIS WAN, SAID THIS COULD HELP EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN AREAS WITH DECORATIVE LIGHTS.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, LARGE CROWDS ARE EXPECTED TO GATHER IN CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI TO ENJOY THE FESTIVE LIGHTS, HE SAID.

"PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT MOST PEOPLE GO OUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND THAT TSIM SHA TSUI ATTRACTED BY FAR THE BIGGEST CROWD.

/"FOR SAFETY'S

"FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE GOING OUT WITH OLD PEOPLE AND CHILDREN, TO EXERCISE CARE AND RESTRAINT IN CONGESTED AREAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE."

MR WAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT MOST LIGHTS WOULD BE ON DISPLAY FOR A LONG TIME AND FOR THIS REASON THEY NEED NOT JOIN IN THE CROWDS ON THAT NIGHT.

"ONE CAN ENJOY THEM MORE LEISURELY ON OTHER DAYS," HE ADDED.

MR WAN POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM THE ATTRACTIONS IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND CENTRAL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS SHOWS AND CARNIVALS WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

THOSE INTERESTED MAY APPROACH LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES FOR DETAILS.

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VEHICLE MARKS UP FOR AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 19) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 40 VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

FA3218	FA168	FA149	FA1333
CJ7728	*DX2	*FF1	CC1600
FA2800	FA978	BY143	FA490
*FF3366	FA1138	FA426	*AA1234
FA368	*DD888	*FF39	FA1820
BB863	FA813	CR357	FA1888
FA118	FA6732	FA321	FA6829
*1728	*3888	*DP222	*FF232
FA1997	FA1683	FA1803	FA1386
FA831	EZ8325	FA386	FA8480

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED, WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 185TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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WEATHER OF NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER WAS A MONTH WITH ACTIVE NORTHEAST MONSOON, AS REFLECTED BY THE SECOND HIGHEST NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,020.1 HECTOPASCALS.

THE DOMINANCE OF THE CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONE MAINTAINED A SUPPLY OF DRY AND COOL AIR TO THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

AS A RESULT, THE MONTH'S WEATHER WAS CHARACTERISED BY SUNNY AND CLEAR SKIES. THE MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT OF 31 PER CENT WAS THE FOURTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR NOVEMBER.

WITH ONLY THREE DAYS OF RAIN IN THE MONTH, RAINFALL AMOUNT WAS WELL BELOW NORMAL. THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF 10.1 MILLIMETRES WAS ONLY ABOUT 29 PER CENT OF THE NOVEMBER NORMAL OF 35.1 MILLIMETRES.

IN FACT, SINCE THE DRY SPELL BEGAN IN AUGUST, THE FOUR-MONTH RAINFALL TOTAL OF 201.8 MILLIMETRES FROM AUGUST TO NOVEMBER THIS YEAR WAS A RECORD LOW, BEATING THE PAST RECORD OF 263.0 MILLIMETRES IN 1966 BY A SIGNIFICANT MARGIN OF OVER 60 MILLIMETRES.

HOWEVER, WHEN RAINFALL FROM THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS WAS INCLUDED, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF 2,612.4 MILLIMETRES SO FAR IN 1992 WAS STILL 19 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 2,187.0 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

EASTERLY WINDS STRENGTHENED ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 1.

FANNED BY THE STRONG WINDS, TWO HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED IN TSUEN WAN AND LANTAU ISLAND.

FINE WEATHER PREVAILED DURING THIS SURGE OF THE MONSOON, RESULTING IN ONLY A SLIGHT DROP IN TEMPERATURES.

AS THE WINDS MODERATED, TEMPERATURES SOON RECOVERED AND CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 26.4 DEGREES ON NOVEMBER 5.

EVEN THOUGH THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED AGAIN ON NOVEMBER 7, FINE AND MILD WEATHER PERSISTED, UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST MAJOR NORTHERLY SURGE THIS WINTER ON NOVEMBER 8.

THE ONSET OF THE SURGE WAS PRECEDED BY AN OUTBREAK OF RAIN THAT AFTERNOON.

/TEMPERATURES STARTED

TEMPERATURES STARTED TO FALL DURING THE EVENING AND NEAR GALE FORCE WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED OFFSHORE BY THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 9.

MAXIMUM GUSTS REPORTED WERE 94 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AT CHEUNG CHAU.

ROUGH SEA CONDITIONS CAUSED A FREIGHTER TO RUN AGROUND AT TUNG LUNG CHAU. THE ONSLAUGHT OF COOL AIR REACHED ITS CLIMAX ON NOVEMBER 10 WHEN TEMPERATURES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY PLUNGED TO THE MONTH'S LOWEST OF 13.1 DEGREES.

SOME AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REMAINED ON THE COLD SIDE FOR SEVERAL MORNINGS AS THE CLEAR NIGHT SKIES ENHANCED NIGHTTIME COOLING.

MEANWHILE, HILL FIRES WERE RAMPANT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS A RESULT OF THE FINE AND VERY DRY WEATHER.

THE LOWEST RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 19 PER CENT WAS RECORDED ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 10 AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

ABOUT 70 CASES OF HILL FIRE WERE REPORTED ON NOVEMBER 9 AND 10.

WINDS WERE MODERATE AND TEMPERATURES WERE GENERALLY ON THE RISE BEFORE THE WEATHER DETERIORATED ON NOVEMBER 14.

FRESHENING EASTERLIES THAT MORNING COMBINED WITH AMPLE MOISTURE BROUGHT BY THE UPPER-AIR WINDS RESULTED IN A WET AND MISERABLE WEEKEND. RAIN WAS CONTINUOUS AND PERSISTENT FROM MORNING TILL EVENING.

THE RAIN BECAME LIGHT AND PATCHY ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 15, AND THE SKY BRIGHTENED LATER THAT DAY.

THE REST OF THE MONTH WAS RAIN-FREE AND WAS DOMINATED BY FINE WEATHER.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WERE EPISODES OF VERY DRY CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM TWO BURSTS OF THE WINTER MONSOON.

THE FIRST SURGE ARRIVED WITH A COLD FRONT ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20. NORTHERLY WINDS BECAME STRONG THAT DAY AND TEMPERATURES DROPPED BY ABOUT 7 DEGREES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 19 AND 21.

WITH THE MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY DIPPING BELOW 60 PER CENT, HILL FIRES PROLIFERATED. NEARLY 100 CASES WERE REPORTED FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO 22.

ANOTHER REPLENISHMENT OF DRY AND COOL AIR OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 25 AS NORTHEASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED.

WINDS SUBSEQUENTLY VEERED EASTERLY THE NEXT DAY AND BECAME STRONG OFFSHORE. THE COOLING EFFECT WAS WEAKER FOR THIS REPLENISHMENT WITH TEMPERATURES FALLING BY 3 TO 4 DEGREES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DRYING EFFECT WAS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED AS THE MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY DROPPED TO 43 PER CENT ON NOVEMBER 26.

HOWEVER, MOST OF THE HILL FIRES OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 28 AND 29 WHEN OVER 30 CASES WERE REPORTED OVER THE TWO-DAY PERIOD.

THE ATMOSPHERE MOISTENED UP AS WARMER MARITIME AIR AFFECTED THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

THERE WERE FIVE TROPICAL CYCLONES IN NOVEMBER, OF WHICH FOUR SPENT THEIR ENTIRE DURATION OVER THE WATERS OF THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC.

THE REMAINING ONE WAS FORREST WHICH ENTERED THE GULF OF THAILAND AND SUBSEQUENTLY REACHED TYPHOON INTENSITY OVER THE BAY OF BENGAL.

FORREST WAS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE DETERIORATION OF THE OTHERWISE FINE WEATHER IN HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 14 AND 15.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN NOVEMBER

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE & TIME	
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	NOV 1, 1700	- NOV 2, 1515
	NOV 8, 1730	- NOV 10, 0945
	NOV 16, 2300	- NOV 17, 0455
	NOV 19, 2315	- NOV 21, 0500
	NOV 26, 2240	- NOV 27, 0745
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	YELLOW	
	NOV 8, 0600	- NOV 8, 1450
	NOV 14, 0615	- NOV 14, 0955
	NOV 22, 0600	- NOV 26, 0615
	NOV 27, 0600	- NOV 29, 0600
	NOV 30, 0610	- DEC 1, 0600
	RED	
	NOV 2, 0600	- NOV 2, 1800
	NOV 9, 0615	- NOV 12, 0600
	NOV 13, 0600	- NOV 14, 0615
NOV 20, 0615	- NOV 22, 0600	
NOV 26, 0615	- NOV 27, 0600	
NOV 29, 0600	- NOV 30, 0610	

/TABLE 1.2

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TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - NOVEMBER

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	234.4 HOURS ; 52.9 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.19 MJ/SQM ; 0.80 MJ/SQM ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	10.1 MM ; 25.0 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	31 % ; 22 % LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	64 % ; 5 % LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	23.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.0 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	20.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.0 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	18.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.0 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	12.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 2.3 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	109.8 MM ; 19.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON FOR KWAI TSING RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS OF KWAI TSING WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY ILLUMINATIONS IN THEIR HOME DISTRICT FOR THE FIRST TIME AT NIGHTFALL TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COLOURED LIGHTS WILL THEN BE TURNED ON FOR SEVEN WEEKS TO ENHANCE THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

LARGE LIGHT BULBS WILL BE PUT UP OPPOSITE THE KWAI HING MTR STATION, AT THE KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AND THE TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT.

THE FUNDING FOR THE LIGHTS, ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$600,000, WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

/THE FIRST

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THE FIRST KWAI TSING SEASON'S LIGHTING FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FORMED UNDER THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF THE FESTIVAL AT 6.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE METREPIAZZA, THIRD FLOOR, METROPLAZA, KWAI FONG.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS AGNES ALLCOCK, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR LEUNG KWONG-CHEONG.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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EDUCATION BOARD MEMBERS VISIT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SIX MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TODAY (THURSDAY) TOOK A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF THE TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENT (TTRA) INITIATIVE AT A PRIMARY SCHOOL.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR TSUI SEE-MING, THE PARTY VISITED KEI WAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SAI WAN HO WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA AND IS ONE OF THE 20 PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT JOINED THE TTRA IN SEPTEMBER.

THE VISIT ALSO ENABLED MEMBERS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCHEME AND TO FIND OUT THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE SCHOOLS.

THE GROUP, LED BY THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, COMPRISED MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MRS MINNIE LAI WEI KIT-LIN, MISS SO YAN-LAP, MR CHAN KIN-HUNG AND MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK.

THEY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL AND BRIEFED ON THE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME BY THE AM-SESSION HEADTEACHER, MS NANCY CHUNG LEUNG-SZE.

DURING THE VISIT, IDEAS, EXPERIENCE AND VIEWS ON THE TTRA SCHEME WERE EXCHANGED.

THE PARTY ALSO TOURED THE SCHOOL PREMISES AND VISITED FOUR PRIMARY 4 CLASSES WITH ENGLISH, CHINESE AND MATHEMATICS LESSONS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE INITIATIVE.

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FLAG DAY ARRANGEMENT

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THE LAST FLAG DAY FOR THE YEAR WILL BE HELD THIS SATURDAY (DECEMBER 19) AND 51 ORGANISATIONS WILL HOLD FLAG DAYS TO RAISE FUNDS IN THE COMING YEAR, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"WHILE THE FIRST FLAG DAY FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE ON JANUARY 2, FOUR ORGANISATIONS WILL HOLD FLAG DAYS ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBVENTIONS AND LOTTERIES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES BY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO APPEALED TO ORGANISERS TO ADOPT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST FRAUD.

THEY WERE ADVISED TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, SETTING OUT THE PLACES AND THE TIME FOR SELLING, AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

"FLAG-DAY ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF FLAGS OR COLLECTION BAGS, AND SEEK HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND," HE SAID.

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EVENING CLINIC SERVICE TO BE SUSPENDED ON MONDAY

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO EVENING GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 21) WHICH IS THE WINTER SOLSTICE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-500
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,000

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.1 *-0.1* 17.12.1992

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.23 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.53	5.08
1 MONTH	3.75 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.38	5.28
3 MONTHS	4.01 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.41	5.45
6 MONTHS	4.10 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.42	5.58
12 MONTHS	4.71 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 1,590 MN

CLOSED 17 DECEMBER 1992

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