



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1992

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1992

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MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT RELEASED

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, HAS INSTRUCTED THAT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT ON THE DISTURBANCE AND FIRE AT THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE ON 3/4 FEBRUARY BE MADE PUBLIC TODAY (THURSDAY).

(NOTE TO EDITORS: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS PRESS RELEASE)

"WE ARE TODAY RELEASING MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AS WE UNDERTOOK TO DO AT THE TIME THAT THE INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY WAS ANNOUNCED ON 7 FEBRUARY," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID. "THE FINDINGS WILL BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WHO HAS BEEN CONDUCTING HIS OWN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT SINCE IT OCCURRED ON 3/4 FEBRUARY. IN ADDITION, CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ARE NOW UNDER WAY."

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO EXAMINE MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS VERY CAREFULLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "ON THE 13 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE (NUMBERED 1 - 13) THE PRESENT POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS :-

RECOMMENDATION 1 SEPARATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE

THE COMMUNITIES ARE PRESENTLY ACCOMMODATED IN SEPARATE CAMPS OR SECTIONS, EXCEPT IN VERY SMALL CAMPS WHERE WE AND UNHCR ARE FULLY SATISFIED THAT THERE ARE NO INTER-COMMUNAL RIVALRIES.

RECOMMENDATION 2 VIDEOS FOR THE CAMPS, INFORMATION ABOUT LEGAL AND COURT PROCESSES FOR THOSE FACING PROSECUTION, DELAY IN REMOVAL OF VOLUNTEERS TO SPECIAL CENTRES

VIDEOS PRODUCED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (ON SCREENING) ARE REGULARLY SHOWN IN THE CAMPS. WE ARE CONSIDERING WHETHER FURTHER VIDEO MATERIAL ON CURRENT CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM SHOULD NOW BE PRODUCED. PROVISION OF MORE INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S LEGAL AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES IS AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL WHICH WE WILL EXPLORE WITH UNHCR AND CAMP MANagements. WE DO NOT TRANSFER VOLUNTEERS TO A SEPARATE FACILITY UNTIL FINAL PROCEDURES (MEDICALS, INTERVIEWS, AND FINAL DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS) NEED TO BE COMPLETED.

/RECOMMENDATION 3

RECOMMENDATION 3 EMPLOYMENT

THERE ARE PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO GIVE PEOPLE EMPLOYMENT IN THE CAMPS. OUR MAIN POLICY OBJECTIVE IS TO RETURN ALL NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT POLICY OBJECTIVE WE ARE EXAMINING WHETHER THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE CAN BE BETTER UTILISED.

RECOMMENDATION 4 THINNING OUT OF WHITEHEAD

IT IS DESIRABLE TO THIN OUT ALL THE CAMPS ESPECIALLY WHITEHEAD. BUT WE ALSO NEED TO CLOSE DOWN CAMPS AND THUS RELEASE RESOURCES FOR REDEPLOYMENT TO THE TASKS FOR WHICH THEY WERE INTENDED. IN DOING SO WE TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CONDITIONS AND SECURITY IN THE CENTRES AND REDUCE OVERCROWDING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

RECOMMENDATION 5 ACCELERATE SCREENING

THIS IS IN HAND. IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE WAITING TIME FOR SCREENING FROM OVER TWO YEARS TO 16 MONTHS, WE AIM TO RECRUIT AN ADDITIONAL 112 IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, 67 VIETNAMESE INTERPRETERS AND ONE EXTRA REFUGEE STATUS REVIEW BOARD. OF THESE WE HAVE ALREADY RECRUITED 35 IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, 37 VIETNAMESE INTERPRETERS AND THE ADDITIONAL BOARD.

RECOMMENDATIONS AVAILABILITY OF RESPIRATORS AND RADIOS

6, 7 AND 8

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BEING EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING THE DETENTION CENTRES.

RECOMMENDATION 9 OBSERVATION TOWER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND THE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS ALREADY MADE SINCE MID-1989.

RECOMMENDATION 10 SECTION FENCES, GATES AND LOCKS

THESE HAVE BEEN IMPROVED IN A SERIES OF STAGES BEFORE AND SINCE THE FEBRUARY INCIDENT.

RECOMMENDATIONS PROTECTION OF LIFE OVER PREVENTION OF ESCAPE,
11, 12 AND 13 USE OF CS GAS, AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

ALL ARE BEING EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING THE DETENTION CENTRES.

"WE HAVE CONCLUDED ON LEGAL ADVICE THAT IT WOULD RISK PREJUDICE TO CURRENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IF WE WERE TO PUBLISH THE REPORT IN FULL. WE ARE THEREFORE PUBLISHING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY. THESE ARE THE KEY PARTS OF THE REPORT, AND BOTH CAN BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT RISK OF PREJUDICE TO CURRENT PROCEEDINGS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S
REPORT ON THE SHEK KONG INCIDENT

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FINDINGS

- (1) SECTION C OF SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE, WHERE THE TRAGEDY OCCURRED, WAS EVACUATED, THE INCIDENT CONTAINED, PRIORITY GIVEN TO MAINTAINING THE FENCE AND SEGREGATION BARRIERS AND REINFORCEMENTS AWAITED, AS REQUIRED BY POLICE INTERNAL GUIDELINES.
- (2) IN THE ABSENCE OF TROOP CARRYING HELICOPTERS ON STANDBY THE MOVEMENT OF REINFORCEMENTS COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN MORE RAPID.
- (3) AT 2330 HOURS ON 3RD FEBRUARY, AS PART OF A CONCURRENT OPERATION INVOLVING TWO GROUPS OF 12 AND 17 MEN, RESPECTIVELY (29 IN ALL), THE POLICE WERE PREPARED TO RE-ENTER SECTION C, WHICH THEY HAD LEFT AT 2300 HOURS, TO RESTORE ORDER. DUE TO AN INCURSION FROM SECTION B THEY DID NOT DO SO ALBEIT CS GAS WAS USED. BY 2350 HOURS 60 OFFICERS AND BY 2355 HOURS 70 OFFICERS IN ALL WERE AVAILABLE TO RESTORE ORDER, TO WATCH SECTION B (THE INCURSION FROM WHICH HAD BY THEN BEEN CONTAINED) TO GUARD THE OTHER SEGREGATION BARRIERS AND THE PERIMETER AND TO MAN THE COMMAND POST.
- (4) NO FURTHER CS GAS WAS USED AND NO FURTHER ATTEMPT MADE TO RE-ENTER SECTION C BETWEEN 2342 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 3RD AND 0013 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 4TH BY WHICH TIME THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE OFFICERS HAD RISEN TO 142.

/(5) EVERYONE

- (5) EVERYONE INVOLVED, WHETHER OR NOT CONVERSANT WITH THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE, KNEW THAT AS FROM 2300 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 3RD INMATES OF SECTION C WERE AT GRAVE RISK OF INJURY TO LIFE AND LIMB.
- (6) THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL STOCK OF CS GAS AVAILABLE TO THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT AND IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE ARRIVAL OF PTU PLATOONS WITH FURTHER SUPPLIES WAS IMMINENT. "PTU" MEANS POLICE TACTICAL UNIT.
- (7) AT NO STAGE AFTER 2353 HOURS WAS THE OFFICER IN COMMAND, WHO HAD TO BORROW A RESPIRATOR, AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF OR, IN ANY EVENT, ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CONSTABLES ON THE CONTAINER MENTIONED IN (9) OR VICE VERSA. HAD HE LEARNT OF EITHER OF THE MESSAGES REPORTING FIRE IN A HUT IN SECTION C, WHICH THEY TRANSMITTED BY BEAT RADIO, I AM QUITE SATISFIED THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY HAVE GIVEN THE ORDER TO USE CS GAS AND RE-ENTER SECTION C. AS IT WAS HE TOOK SUCH ACTION ONLY WHEN, AT 0013 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 4TH, HE SAW INMATES OF SECTION C BEING GRIEVOUSLY ASSAULTED IN FRONT OF HIS VERY EYES.
- (8) BETWEEN 2325 HOURS AND 2353 HOURS NO ONE OFFICER WAS EFFECTIVELY IN COMMAND AT SHEK KONG.
- (9) THE ONLY EFFECTIVE OBSERVATION POST, FROM WHICH ALL THAT WAS HAPPENING AT SECTION C COULD READILY BE SEEN, WAS THE TOP OF THE CONTAINER TO WHICH TWO OBSERVERS HAD BEEN POSTED. DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THOSE OBSERVERS AND THE OFFICER IN COMMAND AND HIS IMMEDIATE SUBORDINATES, ITS VALUE WAS GREATLY DIMINISHED.
- (10) IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED AND WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT IT IS APPARENT THAT WHILE THE PROTECTION OF LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS A PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE THE INITIATIVE WAS NOT SWIFTLY SEIZED OR HELD BY THE POLICE. NOR WAS LAW AND ORDER RESTORED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AS REQUIRED BY POLICE INTERNAL GUIDELINES. SIGNS CAPABLE OF INTERPRETATION AS WEAKNESS WERE PERMITTED TO APPEAR. HAD THE POLICE AGAIN FIRED CS GAS AT 2355 HOURS AND RE-ENTERED SECTION C THE TRAGEDY MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN AVERTED. AS IT WAS THE CROWD HAD RE-FORMED AND RE-GROUPED AND THE ATTACK ON HUT 6 BEEN RESUMED AFTER THE FIRING OF CS GAS CEASED AT ABOUT 2342 HOURS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) HAVING REGARD TO THE BEREAVEMENT, INJURY AND CONSEQUENT BITTERNESS AND HATRED WHICH IS THE LEGACY OF THE INCIDENT, VIETNAMESE FROM THE NORTH SHOULD NOT, UNTIL THE CLIMATE HAS IMPROVED, BE HOUSED TOGETHER WITH THOSE FROM THE CENTRE AND SOUTH OF THAT COUNTRY. FURTHER SUB-DIVISION MAY BE CALLED FOR - AS HAS BEEN FOUND NECESSARY AT WHITEHEAD. THIS WAS THE EFFECT OF THE ORDER CONFIRMED BY YOUR EXCELLENCY ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4TH.

- (2) THE FEARS, ANXIETIES AND UNCERTAINTIES EXPERIENCED BY INMATES OF THE CENTRES WOULD BE RELIEVED AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WIDER WORLD, OF HONG KONG AND OF THE CHOICES OPEN TO THEM ENHANCED BY :
- (A) FILMS, WITH SOUNDTRACK IN THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE, GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBING THOSE CHOICES AND SHOWING CURRENT LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM.
- (B) WRITTEN OR ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE CENTRES ABOUT THE CONVICTIONS OF VIETNAMESE IN THE HONG KONG COURTS AND THE SENTENCES IMPOSED.
- [THE "CAMP NEWSPAPER" PRODUCED AT HEI LING CHAU COULD SERVE THIS PURPOSE.]
- (C) DELAYING THE ISOLATION OF VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR REMOVAL FROM FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE EXPECTED DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG.
- (3) IN ALL CENTRES WHERE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARE CONFINED FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW THEM TO ENGAGE IN REMUNERATED PRODUCTIVE WORK. SPACE FOR "FACTORIES" MAY WELL BECOME AVAILABLE IF THE NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL AND THE PROCESS OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION CONTINUES. THE PROVISION OF WORK SHOULD BE THE FIRST PRIORITY AND THE CLOSURE OR ALTERNATIVE USE OF CENTRES THE SECOND.
- (4) IN ANY EVENT A REDUCTION IN THE POPULATION OF WHITEHEAD SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE CLOSURE OF, SAY, ARGYLE.
- (5) SUFFICIENT STAFF SHOULD BE EMPLOYED MARKEDLY TO ACCELERATE THE SCREENING PROCESS.
- (6) ALL POLICE AND CSD OFFICERS LIABLE FOR CALL TO THE SCENE OF DISTURBANCE AT A DETENTION CENTRE, WHATEVER THEIR RANK, SHOULD BE ISSUED WITH RESPIRATORS. OFFICERS LIABLE TO TAKE COMMAND SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH RESPIRATORS SUITABLE FOR USE WITH RADIO TELEPHONES.
- (7) AVAILABLE AT EACH DETENTION CENTRE SHOULD BE :
- (A) SPARE RESPIRATORS INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO SUITABLE FOR USE WITH RADIO TELEPHONES;
- (B) SPARE "BEAT" RADIOS TUNED TO CENTRE CHANNEL;
- (C) SPARE "SABRE" RADIOS TUNED TO APPROPRIATE REGIONAL CHANNEL.

(8) ANY OFFICER ASSUMING COMMAND IN A SITUATION OF DISTURBANCE SHOULD, AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, BE IN POSSESSION OF AN APPROPRIATE RESPIRATOR AND OF "BEAT" AND SABRE RADIOS. HE NEED NOT CARRY A MOBILE TELEPHONE AS WELL.

(9) AN OBSERVATION TOWER OR TOWERS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO COMMAND A VIEW OF THE WHOLE OF EACH CENTRE SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN STERILE AREAS. SUCH TOWER OR TOWERS SHOULD PERMANENTLY BE MANNED BY OFFICERS EQUIPPED WITH "BEAT" RADIOS.

AT ANY EARLY STAGE IN THIS ENQUIRY I CONSIDERED THE UTILITY OF SEARCHLIGHTS OF THE TYPE EMPLOYED ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE MAGAZINE BUT THE PROVISION OF THE ASSURED SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY WHICH THEY REQUIRE WOULD IN ITSELF RENDER THE ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING, AT SHEK KONG AT LEAST, ADEQUATE.

(10) AT ALL CENTRES BARRIER FENCES BETWEEN SECTIONS, GATES AND LOCKS SHOULD BE INSPECTED AND, WHERE NECESSARY, REINFORCED, STRENGTHENED AND REPLACED.

(11) THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND LIMB SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE PREVENTION OF ESCAPE. POLICE AND CSD DIRECTIVES SHOULD MAKE THIS PLAIN.

(12) IN THE EVENT OF A DISTURBANCE GIVING RISE TO A REASONABLE APPREHENSION OF DANGER TO LIFE AND LIMB AND WHEN INSUFFICIENT PERSONNEL ARE AVAILABLE AT ONCE TO QUELL IT, CS GAS SHOULD BE USED WITHOUT HESITATION. ALBEIT THE WHOLE CENTRE MAY BE AFFECTED ITS USE SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL SUFFICIENT MEN HAVE BEEN MUSTERED TO PERMIT RE-ENTRY WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO POLICE OR CSD OFFICERS AS THE CASE MAY BE. ORDER SHOULD THEN BE RESTORED FIRMLY AND WITH DETERMINATION.

(13) THE RULES FOR ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AND BRIEFING AT A CENTRE AFFECTED BY DISTURBANCE SHOULD BE CLARIFIED - PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO OFFICERS OF EQUAL RANK.

I HAVE NO RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE AS REGARDS THE FIRE SERVICES.

NO DOUBT A NUMBER OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, SOME HAVING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, HAVE ALREADY BEEN ANTICIPATED. FURTHER, I ACCEPT THAT THE JUDGMENT OF THE OFFICER IN COMMAND AT THE SCENE OF A DISTURBANCE MUST NOT UNDULY BE FETTERED. HE MUST, HOWEVER, BE CLEAR IN HIS MIND AS TO THE PRIORITIES.

STATEMENT BY S FOR S ON MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT

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COMMENTING ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT BY MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER INTO THE TRAGEDY AT SHEK KONG ON 3/4 FEBRUARY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ALISTAIR ASPREY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTED THE REPORT'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

"THIS INCIDENT WAS A GREAT TRAGEDY AND A VERY SERIOUS CRIME," HE SAID. "FOLLOWING POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, A NUMBER OF PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE OFFENCES OF RIOT AND MURDER. WE ARE EXAMINING IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ALL THE WIDER RECOMMENDATIONS IN JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT. IT IS OUR FIRM RESOLVE THAT WE SHOULD DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT NO SUCH INCIDENT EVER RECURS," HE ADDED.

"THIS UNDERLINES ONCE AGAIN HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THOSE IN CHARGE OF RUNNING THE DETENTION CENTRES TO TAKE CARE OF THE 57,000 VIETNAMESE PEOPLE NOW STUCK IN CAMPS HERE; ESPECIALLY HOW DIFFICULT IS THE TASK OF CAMP MANagements, BOTH THE POLICE AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, WHO HAVE TO SHOULDER THIS BURDEN ON A DAILY BASIS. THE POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES DID A VERY GOOD JOB IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE NIGHT. FINALLY, AND MOST STARKLY, IT UNDERLINES THE DANGERS OF LEAVING PEOPLE STUCK INDEFINITELY IN CAMPS ANYWHERE. THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM CANNOT BE FOUND IN CAMPS, BUT IN RESETTLING GENUINE REFUGEES AND IN GETTING NON-REFUGEES SAFELY BACK TO THEIR OWN HOMES IN VIETNAM," MR ASPREY SAID.

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STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
ON MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT

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RESPONDING TO THE PUBLICATION OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S FINDINGS ON THE TRAGEDY AT SHEK KONG IN EARLY FEBRUARY, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE ACCEPTED JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THIS INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE DETAILED POLICE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH HAVE ALSO BEEN COMPLETED", HE SAID, "BOTH REPORTS BRING OUT THE EXTREMES OF VIOLENCE WHICH CAN OCCUR SUDDENLY AS WELL AS THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THE POLICE MANAGEMENT BEAR AT SHEK KONG AND THE OTHER CAMPS UNDER POLICE AUTHORITY. ALL THOSE INVOLVED DID A COMMENDABLE JOB IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN SEEKING TO ENSURE THAT THOSE IN OUR CHARGE WERE PROPERLY PROTECTED. WE CANNOT RUN THESE CENTRES LIKE PRISONS OR JAILS, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DETAINED IN THE CENTRES ARE NOT CONVICTS. BUT THE REPORTS MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PRIMARY CONCERN MUST ALWAYS BE THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE CENTRES FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL."

"MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWO REPORTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACTED UPON OR ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED. PHYSICAL SECURITY AT SHEK KONG HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED SINCE THE TRAGEDY OCCURRED AND STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENHANCE POLICE COMMAND, COMMUNICATION AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT ARRANGEMENTS. THE AIM OF THE POLICE ENQUIRY HAS BEEN TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT A TRAGEDY SUCH AS THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1992

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STATEMENT OF ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES ON MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT

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ON RECEIPT OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT ON THE SHEK KONG DISTURBANCE AND FIRE, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR JOHN ASHWORTH, CONFIRMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL LOOK CAREFULLY INTO THE FINDINGS OF THE ENQUIRY AND WILL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES, EXAMINE HOW BEST THE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE TAKEN FORWARD.

"FOLLOWING THE SHEK KONG INCIDENT, OUR TOP PRIORITY HAS BEEN TO SATISFY OURSELVES THAT THE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SECURITY SYSTEMS IN CAMPS ARE FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY - AND THEY ARE," SAID MR ASHWORTH.

"MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER HAS MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN HIS REPORT AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL SECURITY INSTALLATIONS AND STREAMLINING THE CONTINGENCY MEASURES IN DETENTION CENTRES. THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN ON BOARD IN CSD CAMPS, AND OUR EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS WILL CONTINUE.

"IN THE LIGHT OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS, WE WILL REVIEW ON A REGULAR BASIS OUR CONTINGENCY PLANS AND THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE RUN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

"THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE REMAINS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS DONE TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE SHEK KONG TRAGEDY," SAID MR ASHWORTH.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR DECREASED BY 28%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 2% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS DECREASED BY 11%. IMPORTS DECREASED BY 8% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES HAVING BEEN DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 1%.

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AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) INCREASED BY 2%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDEXES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IN ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

IN PARTICULAR, TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR ARE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1991, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 8% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19%.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 10%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 1%, WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1%.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1991, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 3% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 23%.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 14%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 15%. OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ALL INCREASED BY 2%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991.

THESE INCLUDED FOOTWEAR (-59%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-54%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-48%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-48%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-45%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-43%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-35%); CLOTHING (-22%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-30%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-25%); AND METAL MANUFACTURES (-15%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 32%.

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991.

THESE INCLUDED TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+6%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+5%); FOOTWEAR (+4%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+4%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+3%); CLOTHING (+3%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+1%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+1%).

HOWEVER, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS; AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP BOTH DECREASED BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 20% IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991.

IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS; AND CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS (OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR).

HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; AND SWINE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 3%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 22% IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR RAW COTTON; SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE; AND SILK FABRICS.

HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; AND YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 9% IN VOLUME IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME DECREASED BY 1% IN JANUARY 1992 OVER JANUARY 1991.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

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HOWEVER, INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR TEXTILE MACHINERY; AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY (OTHER THAN TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY).

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE IMPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS, FOODSTUFFS, AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 3%, 2% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED, WHILE THOSE OF FUELS DECREASED BY 27%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS; CAPITAL GOODS; AND CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 158%, 18% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 43% AND 23% RESPECTIVELY.

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JANUARY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991: FOODSTUFFS (+5%); CONSUMER GOODS (+4%); CAPITAL GOODS (+2%) AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%). HOWEVER, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS DECREASED BY 31%.

STARTING FROM JANUARY 1992, THE THIRD REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC REV. 3) HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN HONG KONG IN PLACE OF THE SECOND REVISION FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF TRADE STATISTICS BY COMMODITY.

TO ACHIEVE COMPARABILITY WITH THE JANUARY 1992 TRADE FIGURES, THE COMMODITY TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1991 HAVE BEEN RE-CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AROUND APRIL 15 AT HK\$6 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG ON TEL. 842 8802, AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 4918.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMPARING JANUARY 1992
WITH JANUARY 1991

COMMODITY GROUP	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-19	3	-22
TEXTILE FABRICS	-53	3	-54
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-42	1	-43
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-45	6	-48
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-48	1	-48
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	-25	*	-25
FOOTWEAR	-57	4	-59
METAL MANUFACTURES	-11	4	-15
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-45	-1	-45
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-36	-1	-35
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	36	3	32
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-27	5	-30
ALL COMMODITIES	-26	2	-28

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

COMPARING JANUARY 1992
WITH JANUARY 1991

END-USE CATEGORY	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-19	2	-20
CONSUMER GOODS	6	3	3
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	-22	*	-22
FUELS	-34	-27	-9
CAPITAL GOODS	*	1	-1
ALL COMMODITIES	-8	1	-8

*LESS THAN 0.5 %

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

COMPARING JANUARY 1992
WITH JANUARY 1991

END-USE CATEGORY	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-40	5	-43
CONSUMER GOODS	9	4	5
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	-23	1	-23
FUELS	79	-31	158
CAPITAL GOODS	21	2	18
ALL COMMODITIES	*	2	-2

* LESS THAN 0.5%

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REGULATION ON SHIPS REGISTRATION FEES

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THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION) (FEES AND CHARGES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992, WHICH CAPS THE FIRST REGISTRATION FEE AT \$100,000 AND THE ANNUAL TONNAGE CHARGE AT \$180,000 FOR SHIPS JOINING THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER, WILL COME INTO EFFECT TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (MULTI-LATERAL POLICY), MR LEE PING-KUEN, SAID: "THE REGULATION IS TO REMOVE A DISINCENTIVE TO REGISTRATION IN HONG KONG OF BIG SHIPS ABOVE 30,000 GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE (GRT), PARTICULARLY THOSE OVER 60,000 GRT.

"THE FIRST REGISTRATION FEE IS CAPPED AT \$100,000 WHICH IS AT ABOUT 30,000 GRT AND THE ANNUAL TONNAGE CHARGE IS CAPPED AT \$180,000 WHICH IS AT ABOUT 70,000 NET REGISTERED TONNAGE.

"THE CAPPING OF REGISTRATION FEE AND ANNUAL TONNAGE CHARGE IS TO BRING THE FEE STRUCTURE MORE INTO LINE WITH OVERSEAS PRACTICES AND TO ENHANCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE HONG KONG REGISTER TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEW BUILDINGS ORDERED BY HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS AS PART OF THEIR CURRENT FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME.

"THESE NEW BUILDINGS INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VERY LARGE CRUDE CARRIERS OF OVER 100,000 GRT AND CAPE-SIZE BULK CARRIERS OF OVER 60,000 GRT WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY THIS YEAR AND NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

THE REGULATION WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MR LEE EMPHASISED THAT THE REGISTRATION FEE AND ANNUAL TONNAGE CHARGE OF THE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WERE COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER RESPECTED SHIPPING REGISTERS IN THE WORLD.

"THE FEES REFLECT THE QUALITY OF REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR SHIPOWNERS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS.

"THE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER IS A QUALITY REGISTER WITH NO COMPROMISE ON SAFETY, POLLUTION PREVENTION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONVENTIONS," MR LEE SAID.

AS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 604 SHIPS ON THE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER, OF WHICH 48 WERE OVER 60,000 GRT AND 89 WERE OVER 30,000 GRT.

THIRTY-FOUR SHIPS OF OVER 30,000 GRT, INCLUDING 15 SHIPS OF OVER 60,000 GRT, HAVE JOINED THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED ON DECEMBER 3, 1990.

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\$67M CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE SCHEME AWARDED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$67 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANLEY SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE SEWAGE SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SEWERS AND PROVIDING PROPER SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTS IN STANLEY AREA AT HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE STANLEY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, STANLEY MAIN PUMPING STATION AND FIVE SUBSIDIARY PUMPING STATIONS PROPOSED UNDER THE SCHEME.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT WILL START THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1994.

THE STANLEY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS A SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT USING EXTENDED AERATION PROCESS AND WILL BE CONSTRUCTED INSIDE A ROCK CAVERN AT A SITE ADJACENT TO STANLEY PRISON.

THIS IS THE FIRST UNDERGROUND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH A DESIGNED CAPACITY OF TREATING A MAXIMUM SEWAGE FLOW OF 34,700 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

THE PLANT WILL BE HOUSED IN FOUR PRINCIPAL CAVERNS, IN LENGTHS UP TO ABOUT 120 METRES LONG WITH THE LARGEST ONE COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO THE CENTRAL MTR STATION.

UNDER THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME, ALL SEWERS GENERATED WITHIN THE CATCHMENT OF STANLEY, CHUNG HOM KOK AND TAI TAM WILL BE COLLECTED INTO THE MAIN PUMPING STATION AND PUMPED TO THE SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT FOR FULL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PRIOR TO DISINFECTION.

THE TREATED EFFLUENT FROM THE TREATMENT PLANT WOULD THEN BE DISCHARGED VIA A 600-MILLIMETRE DIAMETER SUBMARINE OUTFALL ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES LONG OFF TWEED BAY CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN A SEPARATE CONTRACT.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY BY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR FRANKLIN HO, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE CONTRACTOR, JARDINE ENGINEERING CORPORATION LTD.

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PART OF BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE NINE-STORY BUILDING AT 9-13 PITT STREET, YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON TO BE DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR (PGBS) SAID A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER ON MARCH 31 IN RESPECT OF THE FIRST TO EIGHTH FLOORS OF THE BUILDING HAD BEEN POSTED ON FEBRUARY 18.

THIS CAME AFTER STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE FOUND THAT CERTAIN UNAPPROVED ALTERATIONS HAD OCCURRED TO THE COMMON CORRIDORS CONNECTING THE STAIRCASES AND JEOPARDISING THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS IN CASE OF FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCY.

SUBSEQUENTLY, OWNERS OF THE SECOND TO EIGHTH FLOORS CARRIED OUT AND COMPLETED WORKS TO REINSTATE THE ORIGINALLY APPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEANS OF ESCAPE.

HENCE, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY DID NOT PROCEED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER FOR ALL THE FLOORS ABOVE THE GROUND FLOOR AS EARLIER SCHEDULED ON MARCH 31.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE FIRST FLOOR REMAINED IN A DANGEROUS STATE DUE TO THE UNAPPROVED ALTERATIONS TO THE COMMON CORRIDOR WHICH FORMED THE MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM THIS PORTION OF THE BUILDING.

THE PGBS SAID IN THIS CONTEXT, THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE BUILDING SHOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL THE ORIGINALLY APPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEANS OF ESCAPE HAD BEEN REINSTATED.

MEANWHILE, THE OWNERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY REINSTATEMENT WORKS.

THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 28 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

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DANGEROUS OPENINGS ON SITES MUST BE COVERED

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BUILDING CONTRACTORS MUST ENSURE THAT SUITABLE GUARD-RAILS OR COVERINGS ARE PROVIDED AT ALL DANGEROUS FLOOR EDGES OR OPENINGS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES TO PREVENT WORKERS FALLING FROM A HEIGHT.

A BUILDING CONTRACTOR, E MAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD, WAS RECENTLY FINED \$40,000 BY A MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE A FIXED COVERING TO A FLOOR OPENING ON A BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TAI PO.

"UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, EVERY OPENING, CORNER, BREAK, EDGE OR OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES FROM WHICH A PERSON MAY FALL MUST BE PROVIDED WITH SUITABLE GUARD-RAILS OR FIXED COVERINGS," CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR CHAN TAT-KING OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"ANY CONTRACTOR BREAKING THE PROVISIONS WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS," INSPECTOR CHAN NOTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FALL OF PERSONS FROM A HEIGHT WAS A COMMON CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURIES OR DEATH OF WORKERS.

"IN 1991, THE DEPARTMENT SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED 388 EMPLOYERS FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE FENCES OR COVERINGS TO FLOOR EDGES, EXCAVATIONS, OPENINGS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES ON SITE TO PREVENT THE FALL OF PERSONS," HE NOTED.

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AUTHORITY MEETS INTERESTED PARTIES ON TV REVIEW

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY HAS MET THE EXISTING TELEVISION BROADCASTERS AND THE PARTIES INTERESTED IN PROVIDING SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION IN HONG KONG.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, SIR ROGER LOBO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED HAD HELD MEETINGS WITH TVB, ATV, MILLISAT, WHARF CABLE AND STAR TV INDIVIDUALLY TO DISCUSS THEIR SUBMISSIONS ON THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING REVIEW.

"THE MEETINGS WERE VERY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING THE POINTS MADE IN THEIR SUBMISSIONS," SIR ROGER SAID.

THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY HAD ALSO MET AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH THE CONSULTANT, KPMG PEAT MARWICK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LTD, WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN CONDUCTING THE REVIEW.

THE REVIEW SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JUNE WHEN RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE MADE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE LICENSING FRAMEWORK FOR SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INTERFACE BETWEEN WIRELESS TELEVISION, SATELLITE TELEVISION AND SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION AS WELL AS THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING INDUSTRY.

"THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE REVIEW AND WILL CONSIDER THE SUBMISSIONS CAREFULLY," SIR ROGER SAID.

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DB BY-ELECTION ON MAY 24
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A DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MAY 24 (SUNDAY) IN THE PAK TIN CONSTITUENCY OF SHAM SHUI PO.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID A DECLARATION OF VACATION OF OFFICE BY MR CHENG HOK-CHIT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW.

HE SAID NOMINATIONS WOULD BE CALLED BETWEEN APRIL 21 AND MAY 4 AND NOMINATION FORMS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY (APRIL 13) AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO), HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

CANDIDATES MUST BE REGISTERED ELECTORS AND HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE 10 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE NOMINATION.

A CANDIDATE CAN BE A RESIDENT ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG, BUT HIS NOMINATION PAPER MAY ONLY BE SUBSCRIBED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE PAK TIN CONSTITUENCY.

EACH NOMINATION REQUIRES 10 SUBSCRIBERS AND EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY GIVE SUPPORT TO ONLY ONE CANDIDATE.

THE PAK TIN CONSTITUENCY, COMPRISING MAINLY THE PAK TIN ESTATE AND THE TAI WO PING AREA, HAS A REGISTERED ELECTORATE OF 12,514.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BY-ELECTION WOULD BE HELD UNLESS THE SEAT WAS UNCONTESTED.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE REO ON TEL. 827 1122.

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POSTAL SERVICES TO KUWAIT HAVE RESUMED
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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SURFACE MAIL, ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO KUWAIT HAD RESUMED.

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PLANNING SURVEY ON TUEN MUN FACILITIES

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A SURVEY IN SAN HING TSUEN, TUEN MUN TO GAUGE LOCAL RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKEN UNDER A PILOT SCHEME THERE.

APPEALING FOR CO-OPERATION FROM RESIDENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE INFORMATION OBTAINED WOULD HELP THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE PLANNING IN UPGRADING INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS IN THE RURAL AREA.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A PRIVATE MARKET RESEARCH COMPANY FROM THIS MONTH TO JUNE.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATORS AND RESIDENTS IN THE SAN HING TSUEN PILOT SCHEME PROJECTS AREA WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

THEY WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE SURVEY BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE THROUGH THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE.

DURING THE SURVEY, RESEARCH INTERVIEWERS WITH PRE-SET QUESTIONNAIRES WILL VISIT SENIOR DECISION-MAKERS OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE AREA. AN INTERVIEW WILL LAST 20 TO 30 MINUTES.

INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

"ALL INFORMATION GATHERED WILL BE REPORTED IN AGGREGATE ONLY. NO DATA OF INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT OR HOUSEHOLD WOULD BE IDENTIFIED," HE SAID.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT C ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CANAAN BUILDING, 200 TUNG CHAU STREET.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 25 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1992

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SEMINAR ON USE OF COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION FOR DISABLED

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TWO CANADIAN EXPERTS WILL HOLD A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON CURRENT TRENDS AND IDEAS IN THE USE OF COMPUTERS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

THE TWO VISITORS ARE THE PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, MR ROBERT M. BARTLETT, AND THE INNOVATION MANAGER OF THE SAME ORGANISATION, MR JOHN M. DRESCHER.

ATTENDING THE APRIL 15 SEMINAR WILL BE STAFF OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND INSPECTORS AND LECTURERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPUTER EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ORGANISE A WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT - SWITCHES AND ADAPTED KEYBOARD - FOR TEACHERS OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN JUNE.

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EXAM FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

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THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE REGISTERED AS A PART II MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST BUT WHO DO NOT HOLD QUALIFICATIONS REGISTRABLE WITH THE BOARD MAY STILL APPLY TO SIT FOR THE PART II REGISTRATION EXAMINATION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 4.

LATE APPLICATIONS MAY STILL BE CONSIDERED PROVIDED THAT THESE ARE RECEIVED BY THE BOARD SECRETARIAT ON OR BEFORE APRIL 24.

A PRE-REQUISITE FOR ADMISSION TO THIS EXAMINATION IS THAT THE APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED A COURSE RELATED TO MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE RECOGNISED BY THE BOARD.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO FAILED IN THE PART III EXAMINATION FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION HELD ON OCTOBER 31 LAST YEAR ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SIT FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

APPLICATION FORMS AND THE "GUIDE TO APPLICANTS" CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE BOARD SECRETARIAT IN PERSON OR BY WRITTEN REQUEST.

THE ADDRESS OF THE BOARD SECRETARIAT IS MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD, SIXTH FLOOR, SUNNING PLAZA, 10 HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON TEL. 890 0843 AND 890 0514.

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

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	8.4.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.4.92	-213
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+213
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+300 *

* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED ON 10.4.92

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.5 **0.2* 9.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.85 PCT	20 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.56	5.29
1 MONTH	3.82 PCT	23 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.55	5.84
3 MONTHS	3.80 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.92 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.43 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,752 MN

CLOSED 9 APRIL 1992

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