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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY THATCHER SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AT THE GRAND PLAZA HOTEL 1

GOVERNOR AND LADY THATCHER TOUR EASTERN DISTRICT 2

HONG KONG - ONE OF THE BEST POLICED PLACES 3

UN SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO 4

MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURIES RAISED 5

EASY TRAVEL SCHEME (ETS) TO BENEFIT JUVENILE RESIDENTS AND HOLDERS OF *** IDENTIFY CARDS 6

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR FIRE SERVICES 7

FC APPROVES $100 MILLION TO SUPPORT ELITE ATHLETE TRAINING 8

ASSESSMENT OF LAND REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPLY DISCUSSED 8

AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION AT TUNNELS 10

$30 MILLION GRANT TO NEW PERFORMING ART GROUPS WELCOMED 11

HK TO PARTICIPATE IN INT'L EXHIBITIONS 12

/WORKS FOR .....

WORKS FOR DRAINAGE CHANNELS AUTHORISED 12

TTRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED 14

ROAD IMPROVEMENT FOR A TUEN MUN VILLAGE PROPOSED 15

SPORTS BODIES TO MERGE FOR THE BETTER 16

NEW SPORTS ROAD IN HAPPY VALLEY 17

ACCESS ROAD TO WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE 18

FLOOD PREVENTION DRAINS FOR KAM TIN 18

LAND RESUMED FOR WATER WORKS 19

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS 19

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY THATCHER SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA
AT THE GRAND PLAZA HOTEL
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GOVERNOR: AS YOU KNOW, I SPEND ONE AFTERNOON EVERY WEEK VISITING A DISTRICT BOARD BUT IT WAS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE TODAY VISITING THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY THATCHER. LADY THATCHER WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS, AS YOU ALL KNOW, OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHICH GUARANTEES HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE, FREEDOM, PROSPERITY, STABILITY, INTO THE FUTURE, SO IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT PLEASURE WHEN SHE VISITS HONG KONG AND WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HER MANY TIMES IN THE FUTURE.

I ENJOYED BEING ABLE TO GO ROUND THE EASTERN DISTRICT WITH HER TODAY, I ENJOYED BEING ABLE TO SEE ALL THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD IS DOING TO TACKLE SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THEM AND EVEN THOUGH I WON'T BE ACCOMPANIED ON ALL MY FUTURE DISTRICT VISITS BY AS ILLUSTRIOUS A GUEST, I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS PATTERN OF GETTING OUT INTO HONG KONG INTO THE COMMUNITY AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

LADY THATCHER: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE BEEN VERY HAPPY TO ACCOMPANY THE GOVERNOR ROUND A WONDERFUL TOUR OF EASTERN DISTRICT WHERE WE'VE HAD A TERRIFIC WELCOME AND SMILING FACES ON ALL SIDES. I THINK THE POINT THAT IMPRESSED ME ABOVE ALL IS THE GREAT ESTEEM AND AFFECTION IN WHICH THE GOVERNOR IS HELD BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE RAPPORT HE HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED WITH THEM AND THE WAY IN WHICH THEY TRUST HIM. THAT IS A GREAT, TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT FOR HIM AND I WAS VERY HAPPY TO BE WITH HIM AND WITNESS IT FOR MYSELF.

I THINK IN HONG KONG WE HAVE BUILT UP SOMETHING OF GREAT VALUE TO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, WITH SOUND BRITISH ADMINISTRATION, THE GREAT BRITISH RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE INDEPENDENTLY ADMINISTERED, AND A FREE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY AND EXERCISE OF FREEDOM UNDER THE RULE OF LAW. ALL THAT, WITH THE CHINESE CHARACTER, HAVE BUILT UP WHAT HAS BECOME HONG KONG AND ONE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS SOCIETIES IN THE PACIFIC. I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT OTHERS WILL FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE AND UNDERSTAND THAT FREEDOM UNDER A RULE OF LAW IS THE WAY AHEAD FOR BOTH THE DIGNITY AND THE PROSPERITY OF PEOPLES.

NOW, I THINK THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY ON THIS OCCASION. I SHALL COME TO HONG KONG, I HOPE, MANY TIMES BEFORE 1997 AND I SHALL HOPE TO BE HERE ON THE CRUCIAL DAY IN 1997, SO I SHALL BE ABOUT, I HOPE, WITH THE GOVERNOR QUITE A BIT.

QUESTION: THE GOVERNOR HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING VERY HARD ALONGSIDE YOU TODAY, DO YOU SEE HIM AS AN EVENTUAL PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM?

LADY THATCHER: HE WILL BE IN HONG KONG FOR SEVERAL YEARS YET AND THAT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND A GREAT HONOUR, AND TO BRING TO THE CONCLUSION THIS GREAT PERIOD OF HONG KONG HISTORY AND SEE IT CAREFULLY INTO THE NEXT PERIOD WILL BE A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE DONE BY A PERSON OF GREAT TALENT, ABILITY AND POLITICAL SKILL. HE'S TERRIFIC. HAVE YOU GOT THE MESSAGE?

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, YOUR PROPOSALS ARE WELL PRAISED BY LADY THATCHER IN THE INTERVIEW TO OUR DAILY NEWS TODAY. LADY THATCHER, DO YOU THINK THAT THE PATTEN PROPOSALS SHOULD BE THE BASIS OF THE STARTING POINT OF TALKS IN THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS FOR CONSULTATION?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I THINK AS YOU KNOW, THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH I ANNOUNCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS ENDORSED; THEY HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED IN THE COMMUNITY; SO INEVITABLY THEY ARE PART OF OUR THINKING AS WE TAKE PART IN THESE TALKS. A NUMBER OF OTHER PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY AND WE WILL LOOK FORWARD, I HOPE, DURING THE TALKS TO HEARING SOME PROPOSALS FROM OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES AS WELL.

QUESTION: LADY THATCHER, HAVE YOU BEEN INVITED TO BEIJING BY MR ZHOU NAN AND IF SO, ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT? AND WOULD YOU CONSIDER PERHAPS HELPING TO SORT OUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS?

LADY THATCHER: WE GAVE A SMALL PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MY VIST TO MR ZHOU NAN WHOM I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME BECAUSE WE WERE BOTH INVOLVED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. WHAT WE SAID THEN REPRESENTED OUR VIEWS. I HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED SPECIFICALLY TO BEIJING BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT A VISIT WOULD BE WELCOMED THERE WHEN I AM ABLE TO MAKE ONE.

GOVERNOR: THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH INDEED.

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GOVERNOR AND LADY THATCHER TOUR EASTERN DISTRICT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AND THE VISITING BARONESS THATCHER OF KESTEVEN, TOURED EASTERN DISTRICT THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEIR FIRST STOP WAS A KINDERGARTEN IN HING FAT STREET WHERE THEY WATCHED CHILDREN AT PLAY. THE SCHOOL ADOPTS AN ACTIVITY APPROACH THAT ENCOURAGES PUPILS TO LEARN THROUGH GAMES.

LATER THEY WENT TO CITYPLAZA IN TAI KOO SHING BY MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, AND TOURED A DEPARTMENT STORE.

CITYPLAZA IS THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

AT TIN HAU TEMPLE IN SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST, THEY CHATTED WITH LOCAL FISHERMEN.

/THE TEMPLE .....

THE TEMPLE, BUILT IN 1873, IS A SYMBOL SHOWING THE TRADITION OF RELIANCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY ON FISHING AND ON SEA TRADE.

AFTER A TRAM TOUR IN SAI WAN HO, THE PARTY MOVED ON TO KORNHILL WHERE MR PATTEN AND LADY THATCHER PLANTED AN ORCHID TREE IN HONG ON STREET AS A TOKEN TO PROMOTE THE GREENING CAMPAIGN.

BEFORE ENDING THE TOUR, THEY MET WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL PERSONALITIES OVER A TEA RECEPTION.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY THATCHER WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW AND EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY.

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HONG KONG - ONE OF THE BEST POLICED PLACES

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HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD THAT IT IS ONE OF THE BEST POLICED PLACES IN THE WORLD, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TONIGHT (FRIDAY).

ITS CRIME RATES ARE DROPPING AND ARE LOWER EVEN THAN CITIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE AND TOKYO WHICH ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR SAFETY.

SPEAKING AT THE PASSING OUT PARADE OF "WHISKY" COMPANY OF POLICE TACTICAL UNIT (PTU), MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE KNEW THAT THEY COULD RELY UPON THE POLICE FORCE TO KEEP THEIR HOMES, STREETS AND BUSINESSES SAFE.

HE SAID THE REPUTATION OF THE POLICE FOR HIGH STANDARDS, PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT HAD ALREADY REACHED HIM BEFORE HE CAME TO HONG KONG LAST SUMMER.

HE SAID THE OFFICERS IN PTU, APART FROM CARRYING CONSTABULARY DUTIES, HAVE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANNING THE BORDERS AND FOR TACKLING HEAD-ON THREAT TO ITS INTERNAL SECURITY.

THEY WERE HIGHLY TRAINED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO CARRY OUT THESE UNIQUE AND CRUCIAL TASKS, HE SAID.

HE CONGRATULATED THE OFFICERS IN THE "WHISKY" COMPANY FOR COMPLETING THE 12-WEEK HARD AND INTENSIVE TRAINING.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO PRAISED THEM FOR DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD AND WISHED THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

THE "WHISKY" COMPANY, MADE UP OF 170 OFFICERS DRAWN FROM KOWLOON WEST REGION, WILL TAKE OVER THE MANNING OF MAN KAM TO BORDER SECTOR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME TODAY.

AFTER THE FIELD PATROL DETACHMENT DUTIES THE COMPANY WILL MOVE TO KOWLOON WEST ON REGIONAL ATTACHMENT.

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UN SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

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ON APRIL 17 THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 820 IMPOSING FURTHER TIGHTENED SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY A UNITED KINGDOM ORDER IN COUNCIL TO COME INTO FORCE ON MAY 14.

THE ORDER PROVIDES FOR THE IMPOUNDING OF SHIPS, GOODS VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE MAJORITY OWNED OR EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED BY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO OR WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN OPERATED OR USED IN VIOLATION OF RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, AND FOR THE FORFEITURE OF ANY SUCH SHIPS, VEHICLES, AIRCRAFT OR THEIR CARGO WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THOSE RESOLUTIONS.

THE ORDER RESTRICTS THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY BUSINESS CARRIED ON IN SERBIA OR MONTENEGRO.

IT ALSO PROHIBITS THE ENTRY INTO THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF MONTENEGRO OF COMMERCIAL SHIPS WHICH ARE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG AND CERTAIN OTHER COMMERCIAL SHIPS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT FULLY OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ORDER IN COUNCIL.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL & PRESS ENQUIRIES:
DUTY OFFICER,
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES (TEL NO 842 8747)

FLIGHTS & AVIATION RELATED MATTERS
AIR SERVICES DIVISION,
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT (TEL NO 867 4210/11)

MARINE MATTERS:
MARINE DEPARTMENT (TEL NO 852 4408)

FINANCIAL-RELATED MATTERS
FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH (TEL NO 527 3974)

TRADE-RELATED MATTERS
TRADE DEPARTMENT (TEL NO 398 5554)

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MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURIES RAISED
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES RESULTING FROM EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ACCIDENTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO INJURED EMPLOYEES.

THE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY), HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS ANGELA HO, SAID UNDER THE EXISTING EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (ECO), COMPENSATION FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY OR DEATH VARIES WITH THE AGE AND THE MONTHLY EARNINGS OF THE EMPLOYEES CONCERNED.

"THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE IS SUBJECT TO A STATUTORY MAXIMUM, WHICH IS $620,000 AND $540,000 FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY AND DEATH RESPECTIVELY," MRS HO SAID.

"FOLLOWING A RESEARCH ON INJURY CASES INVOLVING PERMANENT INCAPACITY, IT WAS FOUND THAT THE COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENT OF ABOUT 47 PER CENT OF CASES HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED AS A RESULT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM TO THE COMPUTATION OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE.

"THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS FOR THE YOUNGER EMPLOYEES BECAUSE OF THE AGE FACTOR," SHE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO INJURED EMPLOYEES AND RETAIN THE SPIRIT OF LIMITING EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY IN A NO-FAULT COMPENSATION SYSTEM, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE A RATE OF MONTHLY EARNINGS, PROPOSED TO BE SET AT A CEILING OF $15,000, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING COMPENSATION.

"UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COMPENSATION WOULD BE $1.44 MILLION FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY AND $1.26 MILLION FOR DEATH," MRS HO SAID.

"THE CEILING OF $15,000 IS IN LINE WITH THAT USED FOR CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE," SHE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO NEGOTIATE RE-INSURANCE CONTRACTS WITH RE-INSURERS DUE TO THE POTENTIALLY HIGHER PAY-OUT COMPENSATION RATES, IT IS PROPOSED TO CHANGE THE LEVEL OF COMPENSATION FROM JANUARY 1, 1994, IF THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION, MRS HO NOTED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL ALSO INCLUDE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM PROCEDURES AND THE ASSESSMENT OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY.

AT PRESENT, AN INJURED EMPLOYEE OR DEPENDANTS OF A DECEASED EMPLOYEE ARE ALLOWED TO CLAIM COMPENSATION DIRECTLY AGAINST THE EMPLOYER'S INSURER.

/HOWEVER, THE .....

HOWEVER, THE EXISTING PROVISIONS ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AN INJURED EMPLOYEE COULD TAKE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE INSURER WITHOUT FIRST SUING HIS EMPLOYER.

"IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE ECO BE AMENDED SO THAT AN EMPLOYEE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAPFROG HIS EMPLOYER TO SUE THE INSURER DIRECT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES," MRS HO SAID.

"THE AMENDMENT WILL ALSO ENABLE AN EMPLOYEE WHO WISHES TO TAKE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE INSURER TO OBTAIN FROM HIS EMPLOYER INFORMATION RELATING TO THE NAMES OF THE INSURER AND THE INSURED EMPLOYER, THE POLICY NUMBER AND THE EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF INSURANCE.

"IN ADDITION, PROPOSALS WERE ALSO MADE IN THE AMENDMENT BILL TO IMPROVE PART IV OF THE ECO BY CLARIFYING AN INSURER'S LIABILITY UNDER A POLICY OF INSURANCE ISSUED," SHE ADDED.

REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY, MRS HO SAID THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE ECO WILL BE IMPROVED TO BRING IT IN LINE WITH THE STANDARD ADOPTED IN THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

"THESE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE ADJUSTING THE PERCENTAGE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY SPECIFIED FOR SOME INJURIES, EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEDULE TO COVER MORE INJURIES," MRS HO SAID.

"IN ADDITION, A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY WILL BE PROVIDED FOR INJURY TO THE PREFERRED HAND AND THE LOSS OF TWO OR MORE FINGERS," SHE ADDED.

IN RELATION TO THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY, MRS HO NOTED THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, INSTEAD OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO AMEND THE SECOND SCHEDULE ON OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AND MAKE REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUBMISSION OF FORMS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL MATTERS WHICH ARE TECHNICAL IN NATURE.

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EASY TRAVEL SCHEME (ETS) TO BENEFIT JUVENILE RESIDENTS AND HOLDERS OF *** IDENTITY CARDS

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME (ETS) WILL BE EXTENDED TO BENEFIT CHILDREN OF THE AGE OF 11 TO 17 HOLDING HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS (PICS) OR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS (ICS) WITH THE * OR R SYMBOL.

ADULTS HOLDING ICS WITH THE *** SYMBOL WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FURTHER FACILITIES UNDER THE ETS.

"WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 1, 1993, THESE CATEGORIES OF JUVENILE RESIDENTS CAN SIMPLY USE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS WITHOUT PRODUCING THEIR RE-ENTRY PERMITS OR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS FOR JOURNEYS TO AND FROM ALL PLACES INCLUDING CHINA AND MACAU," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT HOLDERS OF ADULT ICS WITH THE *** SYMBOL WHO NOW ENJOY THE ETS FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM CHINA AND MACAU WITHOUT USING THE RE-ENTRY PERMITS ARE, FROM THE SAME DATE, ALSO EXEMPTED FROM PRODUCING THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM OTHER PLACES.

UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT, THOSE WHO HOLD PICS OR ICS WITH THE R SYMBOL WHO ARE AGED 18 OR OVER CAN TRAVEL TO AND FROM ALL PLACES WITHOUT PRODUCING THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EXPLAINED THAT TRAVELLERS (BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN) USING THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS AT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FILL IN ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CARDS.

IN ADDITION, MINORS BELOW THE AGE OF 11 TRAVELLING BY SEA OR LAND ON HONG KONG PASSPORTS, CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY OR RE-ENTRY PERMITS ARE ALSO NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CARDS BUT THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT APPLY TO THESE MINORS WHO TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIRPORT.

"TRAVELLERS NOT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE PROPER AND VALID DOCUMENTS FOR THEIR DESTINATIONS." THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR FIRE SERVICES

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THE YEAR 1993 HAS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FIRE SERVICES FOR IT MARKS ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR PETER CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF SOME 50 GRADUATED STATION OFFICERS AND FIREMEN AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL, MR CHEUNG SAID THE SERVICES HAD UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM ITS BEGINNING IN 1868.

"THE DEPARTMENT NOW HAS AN ESTABLISHMENT OF OVER 8,000 STAFF, A FLEET OF 258 FIRE APPLIANCES AND SEVEN FIRE BOATS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATES TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN FIRE FIGHTING AND FIRE PROTECTION SO AS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WELL AND TO UPHOLD THE HIGH STANDARDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

BEING A MEMBER OF THE SERVICES FOR OVER 30 YEARS, MR CHEUNG SAID HE WAS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN THIS VERY ESSENTIAL SERVICE.

/HE WELCOMED .....

HE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS TO THIS "ELITE BRIGADE" TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY IN MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS MAKING IT AN EVEN BETTER AND SAFER PLACE FOR ALL IN FUTURE.

THE OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A 26-WEEK TRAINING AND WILL BE POSTED TO VARIOUS FIRE STATIONS NEXT WEEK.

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FC APPROVES $100 MILLION TO SUPPORT ELITE ATHLETE TRAINING

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED A ONE-OFF ALLOCATION OF $100 MILLION TO THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME TO TRAIN ELITE ATHLETES FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING COMPETITIONS AND TO DEVELOP SPORTS SCIENCE AND SPORTS MEDICINE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MR DAVID GLEDHILL, WARMLY WELCOMED THE ALLOCATION.

"THE PROVISION OF THIS MONEY IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING SPORTS IN HONG KONG AND IMPROVING HONG KONG'S SPORTING IMAGE INTERNATIONALLY," MR GLEDHILL SAID.

DURING RECENT YEARS, THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN IN THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORTING ARENA HAS IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY.

THE ALLOCATION WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO CAPITALISE ON THE MOMENTUM SO FAR GAINED IN THE AREAS OF ELITE ATHLETE TRAINING, WHICH WILL BE CRUCIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ATHLETES PREPARING FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD, INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND THE ASIAN GAMES IN 1994, THE EAST ASIAN GAMES IN 1995 AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN 1996.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID: "THE MONEY WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES, COACHING, FACILITIES FOR TRAINING, OVERSEAS AND LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS SPORTS SCIENCE AND SPORTS MEDICINE.

"SPORTS WITH GENUINE MEDAL CHANCES WILL ALSO BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT."

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ASSESSMENT OF LAND REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPLY DISCUSSED

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THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC) HAS DISCUSSED THE ASSESSMENT OF LAND REQUIREMENTS AND LAND SUPPLY FOR 1992/93 - 2001/2002.

THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT, MADE BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, AIMS TO IDENTIFY ANY SHORTFALL OR SURPLUS OF LAND FOR PARTICULAR LAND USES OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

/RESULTS OF .....

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE USED AS REFERENCE FOR LAND RESERVATION AND LAND PRODUCTION.

THE STATISTICS IN THE ASSESSMENT ARE INDICATIVE ONLY AND ARE MEANT TO BE USED WITH CAUTION AND FOR BROADBRUSH PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

MEMBERS OF THE LBAC WERE INFORMED THAT THERE WOULD BE SURPLUS IN THE LAND SUPPLY FOR OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL, GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE USES THROUGHOUT THE STUDY PERIOD. SOME OF THE SURPLUS FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND COULD BE REZONED FOR OTHER USES.

THE ASSESSMENT SHOWED A SHORTFALL OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING. THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT ACTIVE CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO RELEASING SOME OF THE SURPLUS IN OTHER LAND USE CATEGORIES TO ADDRESS THIS SHORTFALL.

A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING HAS BEEN FORMED TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE SITES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PURPOSES.

FOR PRIVATE HOUSING, A CUMULATIVE SURPLUS IS EXPECTED WHEN NON-COMMITTED PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE LAND SUPPLY.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE PROJECTED LAND REQUIREMENTS AND LAND SUPPLY IN THE ASSESSMENT WERE BASED ON A NUMBER OF ASSUMPTIONS CONCERNING MARKET CONDITIONS AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO RE-ORGANISE THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT INTO TWO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS IN SUMMER 1993.

THE NEW BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE OVER THE EXISTING FUNCTIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) AND GREATER EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON TACKLING THE SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

THE NEW LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION, LAND SURVEY AND MAPPING, AND GOVERNMENT CONVEYANCING FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY HANDLED BY THE LANDS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE AND THE LEGAL ADVISORY AND CONVEYANCING OFFICE OF THE BLD.

MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED THE PROPOSALS OF THE SEWAGE TUNNEL (STATUTORY EASEMENTS) BILL WHICH WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH TO FACILITATE EASEMENT OF LAND BENEATH GROUND LEVEL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE TUNNELS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE SEWAGE STRATEGY.

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AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION AT TUNNELS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION TO ENABLE AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEMS BE INSTALLED AT GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS AND AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE EASTER HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE AUTOTOLL WILL INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN TUNNEL OPERATION AND REDUCE OPERATING COSTS. IT WILL ENABLE A MOTORIST WHO HAS SUBSCRIBED TO THE SYSTEM TO DRIVE THROUGH AN AUTOTOLL LANE WITHOUT STOPPING FOR PAYMENT OF TOLL.

THE DECISION TO PROVIDE/OR INTRODUCTION OF AUTOTOLL AS A PERMANENT FEATURE WAS MADE FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF A TRIAL SCHEME AT THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL LAST YEAR.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOTOLL SYSTEM AT GOVERNMENT TUNNELS ARE CONTAINED IN THE ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 GAZETTED TODAY.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTIFICATES OF THE TESTING OF AUTOTOLL EQUIPMENT AND CERTIFICATES OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR USE AS EVIDENCE IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MOTORISTS WHO EVADE TOLL PAYMENT.

THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 BILL 1993 GAZETTED TODAY ENABLES PASSAGE TAX TO BE COLLECTED BY MEANS OF AUTOTOLL.

ALSO GAZETTED IS THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WHICH EMPOWERS THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY TO COLLECT TOLLS AND PASSAGE TAX BY AUTOTOLL AND TO ALLOW FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE CERTIFICATES DESCRIBED ABOVE AS EVIDENCE.

THE BILL ALSO RAISES THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL BY-LAWS FROM $1,000 TO $2,000, BRINGING IT IN LINE WITH CORRESPONDING PENALTIES IN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ORDINANCE AND TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL ORDINANCE.

THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 EMPOWER THE RESPECTIVE TUNNEL COMPANIES TO MAKE BY-LAWS ALLOWING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AUTOTOLL.

THE FIVE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 26, 1993.

THE ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) REGULATION 1993 WILL BE MADE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DETAILS OF AUTOTOLL. IT ALSO EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO APPROVE AUTOTOLL SYSTEMS AND TO DESIGNATE AUTOTOLL BOOTHS.

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$30 MILLION GRANT TO NEW PERFORMING ART GROUPS WELCOMED

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID HE WAS VERY GLAD THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO INJECT A ONE-OFF GRANT OF $30 MILLION INTO THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION.

THE GRANT WOULD BE USED TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR NEW PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS, IN HONG KONG, MR SO ADDED.

THE GRANT WILL BE ADMINISTERED AS AN INDEPENDENT FUND, TO BE NAMED "ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND" (ADF), UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND.

IT WILL BE DISBURSED ON THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA).

BOTH THE INCOME FROM THE FUND AND THE CAPITAL SUM COULD BE USED TO SUPPORT ARTS DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDED WORTHY AND DESERVING PROJECTS ARE RECOMMENDED BY CFPA, MR SO SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE CHAIRMAN OF CFPA, PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU, SAID: "I AM MOST PLEASED THAT NEW FUNDS ARE NOW MADE AVAILABLE TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS. I AND MY COLLEAGUES IN THE COUNCIL ARE HAPPY TO INVITE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED WITH THE NEW MONEY."

AS THE ADF IS INTENDED TO HELP NEW AND DEVELOPING ARTS GROUPS, ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUPS INCLUDING THE GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT RECIPIENTS OF CFPA WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

THE CFPA'S ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE PROCESSING OF PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS WILL BE APPLIED IN DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE PERFORMING GROUPS.

THESE PROCEDURES, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT, ARE LAID DOWN IN THE "NOTES TO APPLICANT" FOR CFPA'S GRANT APPLICATION SCHEME.

ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE RELEVANT CFPA DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES.

SHOULD THE APPLICATIONS BE FOUND TO BE WORTHY OF SUPPORT, THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

GRANT APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CFPA SECRETARIAT AT 40TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

EUQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 594 5600.

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HK TO PARTICIPATE IN INT'L EXHIBITIONS

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SIXTH ASIAN INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION "INDOPEX '93" TO BE HELD IN SURABAYA, INDONESIA FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 4 THIS YEAR.

TO MARK HONG KONG POST OFFICE'S PARTICIPATION, A SPECIALLY DESIGNED SOUVENIR COVER WILL BE ISSUED. THE COVER, AT $1 EACH, WILL BE PUT ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE AS FROM MAY 17.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON MAY 29 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL COVERS OR PRIVATELY-MADE COVERS BEARING AN INDICATION OF THE EVENT.

A SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE HAND-BACK SERVICE AND A CACHET WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

MEANWHILE, MR PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST-EVER REGIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION IN HONG KONG WILL BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO 21, 1994 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

TO COMMEMORATE THIS SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE PHILATELIC HISTORY OF HONG KONG, A $10 DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET (NO. 6) WILL BE ISSUED AND PUT ON SALE ON MAY 29 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

A RESTRICTION OF 10 SHEETLETS PER CUSTOMER WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR COVERS AFFIXED WITH THIS STAMP SHEETLET ON MAY 29 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE SOUVENIR COVER TO COMMEMORATE THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE'S PARTICIPATION IN INDOPEX '93 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AS FROM MAY 17 MAY ALSO BE USED TO AFFIX THIS STAMP SHEETLET.

MR PAGLIARI SAID: "THIS $10 STAMP SHEETLET, PORTRAYING HONG KONG'S SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT SKYLINE FROM SHEUNG WAN TO CAUSEWAY BAY, IS VERY ATTRACTIVE IN DESIGN AND SHOULD BE POPULAR AMONG STAMP COLLECTORS."

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WORKS FOR DRAINAGE CHANNELS AUTHORISED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN AUTHORISATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT A FLOODWAY AND CONCRETE NULLAH WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 20.6 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT THE SHAN PUI RIVER IN NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NOTICE FOR THE AUTHORISATION FOR THE WORKS OF THE MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNELS FOR YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN STAGE ONE PHASE ONE PROJECT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

/THE PROJECT .....

THE PROJECT AIMS TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING IN THE LOW-LYING KAM TIN AND YUEN LONG AREAS.

IN THE PAST, THE FISH PONDS IN KAM TIN AND YUEN LONG HAD MITIGATED THE RISK OF FLOODING. IN RECENT YEARS, MANY FISH PONDS HAVE BEEN FILLED TO PROVIDE LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FLOODING HAS INCREASED IN BOTH FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY.

IN REACHING ITS DECISION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, PARTICULARLY, THE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY.

THE PROJECT WILL STRICTLY FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, MONITORING STATIONS WILL BE SET UP AND MANGROVES WILL BE PRESERVED OR REPLANTED.

NO WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN CERTAIN AREAS DURING WINTER WHEN MIGRATING BIRDS ARE FEEDING IN THE AREA.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN AUTHORISATION FOR RE-CONSTRUCTING A FERRY PIER WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,000 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TSING LUNG TAU, TSUEN WAN.

THE PIER, MEASURING ABOUT 95 METRES LONG, WILL BE LOCATED TO THE IMMEDIATE WEST OF THE EXISTING ONE WHICH IS IN A DILAPIDATED CONDITION.

WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN ABOUT AUGUST FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER. THE EXISTING PIER WILL BE DEMOLISHED WHEN THE NEW ONE IS COMPLETED.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE PROJECTS WERE DESCRIBED IN NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECTS MAY SEND TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 14, 1994.

THE NOTICES AND THE RELATED PLANS FOR THE PROJECTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AND AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICE IN YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN.

THE PLANS FOR THE WORKS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

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TTRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENT (TTRA) SCHEME.

APART FROM THREE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPRISES SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, TEACHER EDUCATORS, PARENTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY FIGURES.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING WHO IS CURRENTLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WITHIN SIX MONTHS ON MEASURES TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE OVERALL REVIEW OF THE TTRA SCHEME, ON ACTION TO IMPROVE ITS FRAMEWORK, AND ON A REALISTIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE:

VICE-CHAIRMAN

* MR WONG SIK-WAH, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT);

PRINCIPALS

* MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG, HEADMASTER, PO YAN PRIMARY AM SCHOOL;

* SISTER CHOW YIN-HAR, HEADMISTRESS, PRECIOUS BLOOD PRIMARY AM SCHOOL (WAH FU ESTATE);

* MRS EUNICE WONG LAM YUEN-CHING, PRINCIPAL, ST CLARE'S GIRLS' SCHOOL;

* MR LEUNG SAU-CHI, PRINCIPAL, CHEUNG CHUK SHAN COLLEGE;

TEACHERS

* MR SHUM YIU-KWONG, FDBWA CHOW CHIN YAU AM SCHOOL;

* MS CAROL NG KA-YEE, TTRA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM;

* MR IP KIN-YUEN, KO LUI SECONDARY SCHOOL;

* MS PAULINE CHOW LO-SAI, WELLINGTON COLLEGE, KOWLOON;

TEACHER EDUCATORS

* DR AMY TSUI BIK-MAY, LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG;

* DR WONG HIN-WAH, LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG;

/* MR CHIU .....

* MR CHIU CHI-SHING, SENIOR LECTURER, SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION;

PARENTS

* MR YAU CHUNG-WAN, CHAIRMAN, PTA, BAPTIST LUI MING CHOI PRIMARY SCHOOL;

* MRS LEUNG LEUNG KAM-CHI, CHAIRMAN, PTA, BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL;

OTHERS

* MR MICHAEL TIEN PUK-SUN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, G2000 (APPAREL) LTD;

* MR LAWRENCE LO KONG-KAI, ASSISTANT TO THE EPISCOPAL DELEGATE FOR EDUCATION, CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE;

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

* DR PANG KING-CHEE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; AND

* DR JOHN CLARK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION).

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PUBLIC OPINION, I HAVE DECIDED THAT THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE A NON-GOVERNMENT PERSON AND THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE WIDELY REPRESENTATIVE," MR WONG SAID.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE ANNOUNCED MEMBERSHIP WILL HAVE THIS EFFECT."

TTRA IS A MAJOR AND LONG-TERM CURRICULUM REFORM REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES AND THE COMMITMENT AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

"I AM GLAD THAT THERE HAS BEEN WIDE SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT AND THE SPIRIT OF TTRA. I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE ADVICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WAY AHEAD."

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ROAD IMPROVEMENT FOR A TUEN MUN VILLAGE PROPOSED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING ACCESS ROAD TO TSZ TIN VILLAGE, TUEN MUN.

THE WORK IS ONE OF THE PROPOSED ITEMS UNDER THE URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CONSISTING OF RE-CONSTRUCTING, WIDENING AND REALIGNING THE EXISTING TSZ TIN ROAD; CONSTRUCTING A FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE THE ROAD; CONSTRUCTING A TURNING CIRCLE AT THE END OF THE ROAD; AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS.

/DETAILS OF .....

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

A COPY OF THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA AND THE ROAD TO BE AFFECTED CAN BE SEEN AT:

* CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, SIXTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES AND;

* TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE JULY 13, 1993, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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SPORTS BODIES TO MERGE FOR THE BETTER

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO MERGE THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SDB) AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE (HKSI) IN AN EFFORT TO STREAMLINE THE OPERATIONS OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WHICH WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

AT PRESENT, THE EXISTENCE OF THE SDB AND THE HKSI AS TWO DISTINCT STATUTORY BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN HONG KONG HAS CREATED PROBLEMS OF OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION.

"THE PROPOSED INTEGRATION WILL FOCUS THE SDB AS THE SINGLE OVERALL GOVERNING BODY FOR SPORT," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID.

"THERE WILL BE A CENTRALISED APPROACH TO FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND CLEAR LINES OF REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY, THUS REMOVING OVERLAPPING AREAS AND ACHIEVING BETTER VALUE-FOR-MONEY IN TERMS OF UTILISATION OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SPORTS," HE ADDED.

AFTER THE MERGER, THE HKSI WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO, AND LARGELY DRAWN FROM, THE SDB.

THE INSTITUTE WILL, HOWEVER, RETAIN A SEPARATE IMAGE AND IDENTITY.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHILE THE DETERMINATION OF TARGET SPORTS WOULD REST WITH THE SDB, THE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES AND SPORTS AID PROGRAMMES WOULD BE CONSOLIDATED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HKSI.

THIS WILL MAXIMISE THE USE OF RESOURCES IN ELITE SPORTS TRAINING, HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND ENDORSED BY BOTH THE SDB AND THE HKSI BOARD.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE MERGER WOULD NOT REDUCE THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION & OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG SPORTS ABROAD.

THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 26.

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NEW SPORTS ROAD IN HAPPY VALLEY

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A NEW SPORTS ROAD TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE WHICH WILL BE CLOSED PERMANENTLY TO FACILITATE THE EXTENSION OF THE HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE.

THE NEW SPORTS ROAD, TO BE BUILT NORTH OF THE EXISTING ONE, WILL HAVE A TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC, FOOTPATHS AND A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY CROSSING AT ITS WESTERN END.

ASSOCIATED ROAD WORKS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE HAPPY VALLEY AREA.

IMPROVEMENT WORKS INCLUDE WIDENING OF THE DOWN RAMP OF CANAL ROAD FLYOVER OUTSIDE TIMES SQUARE, ADDITION OF A U-TURN UNDER CANAL ROAD FLYOVER AND WIDENING OF THE RIGHT-TURN APPROACH FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON LEIGHTON ROAD.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT JULY 1994. THE EXISTING SPORTS ROAD WILL NOT BE CLOSED UNTIL THE NEW SPORTS ROAD IS OPEN.

MOST OF THE TREES TO BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS WILL BE PRESERVED BY A SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO TRANSPLANT THEM. THESE INCLUDE TWO OLD BANYAN TREES ALONG SPORTS ROAD. BUT, A STUDY BY BOTANICAL EXPERTS INDICATED THAT A THIRD BANYAN TREE, WHICH WAS DAMAGED BY A STORM, CANNOT SURVIVE A TRANSPLANT.

THE PROPOSED ROAD WORKS HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT MADE UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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ACCESS ROAD TO WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD TO WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID WORKS COMPRISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD LINKING HEUNG YIP ROAD WITH POLICE SCHOOL ROAD; AND THE WIDENING OF A SECTION OF NAM LONG SHAN ROAD AT SOUTH OF HEUNG YIP ROAD AND A SECTION OF HEUNG YIP ROAD NEAR ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND.

THE SECTION OF NAM LONG SHAN ROAD FROM WONG CHUK HANG ROAD TO POLICE SCHOOL ROAD, POLICE SCHOOL ROAD, AND HEUNG YIP ROAD BETWEEN YIP FAT STREET AND OCEAN PARK ROAD WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED.

IN ADDITION, THE EXISTING STORM WATER DRAINS ALONG THE SECTIONS OF THE ROADS WILL ALSO BE UPGRADED.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE NEW ACCESS ROAD IS EXPECTED TO BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC IN NOVEMBER 1994.

DETAILS OF THE TENDER INVITATION WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

TENDERS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED AND ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PUT IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE NOON ON JUNE 4 (FRIDAY). LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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FLOOD-PREVENTION DRAINS FOR KAM TIN

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSTRUCT A CONCRETE NULLAH TO ALLEVIATE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN KAM TIN AREA IN YUEN LONG.

THE NULLAH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 3.86 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT THE KAM TIN RIVER.

THE WORKS FORM PART OF THE PROJECT OF THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNELS FOR YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE WORKS IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SEND A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY JULY 14.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE WORKS SITE.

/THE PLAN .....

THE PLAN IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

THE PLAN CAN BE BOUGHT AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

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LAND RESUMED FOR WATER WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME SOME PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN YAU KOM TAU, TSUEN WAN, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL WATER STORAGE AND TRANSFER FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

THE LAND, COMPRISING THREE LOTS AND PORTIONS OF TWO OTHER LOTS, HAS A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 5,885.41 SQUARE METRES. IT WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THREE MONTHS AFTER THE RESUMPTION NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

WORKS ARE PROGRAMMED TO START IN JULY AND BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 1995.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,450
REVERSAL OF LAF	+700
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+490
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,640

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.3 *-0.1* 14.5.93

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

TERMS	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.00 PCT
1 MONTH	2.97 PCT
3 MONTHS	2.93 PCT
6 MONTHS	3.03 PCT
12 MONTHS	3.19 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
12 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.28	3.20
15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.27	3.36
18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.66	3.51
21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.81	3.70

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,174MN

CLOSED 14 MAY 1993

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