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MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1993

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GOVERNOR ADVISES YOUTH NOT TO START SMOKING

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (MONDAY) ADVISED HONG KONG'S SMOKERS TO GIVE UP SMOKING AND NON-SMOKERS NOT TO START SMOKING AT ALL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR HEALTH.

SPEAKING AT THE ANTI-SMOKING YOUTH RALLY AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, THE GOVERNOR SAID GIVING UP SMOKING WAS VERY DIFFICULT, THOUGH NECESSARY.

"THE EASIEST THING TO DO IS NOT TO START SMOKING IN THE FIRST PLACE," HE SAID.

"SO, I HOPE THAT THIS RALLY WILL ENSURE THAT SOME OF THOSE WHO SMOKE NOW WILL GIVE UP THE HABIT.

"BUT, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THAT MOST OF YOU HERE WON'T START SMOKING AT ALL."

TODAY'S YOUTH RALLY WAS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO SPREAD TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THE MESSAGE OF "HEALTHY YOUTH DON'T SMOKE".

ECHOING THE THEME OF THE EVENT, MR PATTEN GAVE A PIECE OF HIS ADVICE TO THE 1,000-STRONG YOUNG PARTICIPANTS.

"MY MESSAGE TO YOU IS A VERY SIMPLE ONE. SAVE MONEY AND SAVE YOUR HEALTH AND DON'T SMOKE," HE ADDED.

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NEWS REPORT ON EXCO MEMBERS REFUTED

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IN RESPONSE TO AN ARTICLE IN A LOCAL CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER TODAY (MONDAY) ALLEGING THAT THREE NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WERE "ACTIVELY CONSIDERING RESIGNING FROM THE COUNCIL", DR RAYMOND CH'IEN AND MR ANDREW LI ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE REPORT IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF RESIGNING FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL."

MR C H TUNG, THE THIRD MEMBER NAMED IN THE NEWSPAPER, IS CURRENTLY OUT OF HONG KONG AND CANNOT BE CONTACTED.

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HK URGES FOR EARLY URUGUAY ROUND CONCLUSION

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HONG KONG IS AMONG THE 37 GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE JUST ISSUED A MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE EEC COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, URGING THEM TO ACCORD THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO BRING THE URUGUAY ROUND TO AN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"WE WELCOME THIS MOVE IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE URUGUAY ROUND. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO PROMOTE A SUCCESSFUL AND BALANCED CONCLUSION," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID.

"A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WILL BOOST THE WORLD ECONOMY AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. BOTH ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

"THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE KEY MAJOR PLAYERS AND THE HOPE IS THAT THEY WILL EXERT THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL AND LEADERSHIP TO MOVE THE PROCESS FORWARD TO A CONCLUSION," HE ADDED.

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COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCES

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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES ON THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCES UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT ONLY ONE PER CENT OF ALL RECIPIENTS UNDER THE NEW SCHEME WOULD BE GETTING ONLY THE BASIC RATE WITHOUT ANY EXTRA PAYMENT.

"THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE OUT OF A TOTAL OF 100,000 WHO WILL BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

"THESE ARE MAINLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESS NEEDS SUCH AS THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO PAY RENTS.

"IT IS THEREFORE NOT MEANINGFUL TO CONCENTRATE ON THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCE FOR THIS SMALL GROUP," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AVERAGE MONTHLY ASSISTANCE FOR A SINGLE PERSON UNDER THE NEW SCHEME WOULD BE \$2,000 A MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT.

"THIS INCLUDES A STANDARD RATE PLUS A COMBINATION OF OTHER ALLOWANCES SUCH AS RENT ALLOWANCE, SCHOOL-RELATED ALLOWANCE, TRAVELLING EXPENSES ALLOWANCE AND EXTRA DIET ALLOWANCE.

/"THIS \$2,000

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"THIS \$2,000 A MONTH ALLOWANCE IS THE AVERAGE FOR A SINGLE PERSON. ABOUT 37 PER CENT OF THIS GROUP WILL BE GETTING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$3,000 A MONTH, WHILE ABOUT FIVE PER CENT WILL BE GETTING MORE THAN \$3,000 A MONTH," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS OF PAYMENT APPLY TO FAMILY CASES UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

"THE AVERAGE PAYMENT FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR WILL BE \$5,880 A MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 22 PER CENT.

"OF THIS GROUP, ABOUT 35 PER CENT WILL BE GETTING BETWEEN \$6,000 AND \$8,000 A MONTH, WHILE ABOUT TWO PER CENT WILL GET MORE THAN \$8,000 A MONTH," HE SAID.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE NEW SCHEME WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

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NEW PLANS TO BENEFIT WORKERS

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NEW PLANS ARE NOW IN HAND TO OFFER BETTER PROTECTION TO WORKERS PENDING FINANCE COMMITTEE'S FUNDING APPROVAL TO AN EX-GRATIA SCHEME FOR PNEUMOCONIOTICS AND A LOAN SCHEME FOR VICTIMS OF WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE \$100 MILLION TO FUND EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO SUFFERERS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS DIAGNOSED BEFORE JANUARY 1981," MRS FOK SAID.

"UNDER THE PROPOSED SCHEME, EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS WILL BE PAID TO ALL PNEUMOCONIOTICS OF PRE-1981 CASES, ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 600, ON A QUARTERLY BASIS UNTIL DEATH.

"INITIALLY, THE RATE IS SET AT \$1,800 PER MONTH AND WILL BE INFLATION-ADJUSTED ANNUALLY," SHE SAID.

MRS FOK STRESSED THAT THE SCHEME WAS NOT A FORM OF COMPENSATION.

IT IS DISTINCT FROM THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE WHICH IS FUNDED BY A LEVY ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES.

SHE SAID THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD RECEIVED EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS ON AN ONE-OFF BASIS AMOUNTING TO \$40.7 MILLION.

"OVER THE YEARS, MANY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR LUMP SUM PAYMENTS," SHE SAID.

/"THESE WORKERS,

"THESE WORKERS, THOUGH NOT ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM COMPENSATION UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION ON JANUARY 1, 1981, DESERVE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY," SHE ADDED.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER FORM OF ASSISTANCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM SEVERE INCAPACITY.

"UNDER THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, A PERSON WHO IS ELIGIBLE MAY CLAIM A DISABILITY ALLOWANCE OR A HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE," MRS FOK SAID.

"THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT WOULD BE PAYABLE ON TOP OF SUCH ALLOWANCES," SHE ADDED.

REGARDING A GRANT OF \$10 MILLION AS PROPOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MRS FOK SAID A NEW FUND WOULD BE SET UP TO PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO EMPLOYEES INJURED AT WORK AND TO THE DEPENDANTS OF EMPLOYEES WHO DIE AS A RESULT OF WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS.

"UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, EMPLOYEES WHO ARE INJURED AT WORK OR DIE AS A RESULT OF WORK ACCIDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FROM THE EMPLOYERS," SHE SAID.

"VERY OFTEN, THIS GROUP OF VICTIMS OF WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS MAY FACE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WHILE THEY ARE WAITING FOR PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

"THE PROPOSED LOAN SCHEME IS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM HARDSHIP FOR THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE," MRS FOK ADDED.

DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SAID FINANCIAL PROVISIONS SOUGHT FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR WAS \$293.6 MILLION.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 16 PER CENT OVER THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR OR 0.8 PER CENT OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

THE PROVISIONS SOUGHT FOR NEXT YEAR REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 17 POSTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT FROM 1,329 TO 1,346.

"THE ADDITIONAL POSTS ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE OF WORKLOAD IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY," MRS FOK SAID.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED A WORK SIMPLIFICATION SCHEME TO MAKE ITS PROCEDURES MUCH SIMPLER AND MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER NOTED.

SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD AMENDED THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE TO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR MINOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION CASES.

"DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS UP TO DECEMBER 1992, MORE THAN 7,800 MINOR INJURY CASES WERE SETTLED IN THIS WAY AND IT HAS SAVED THE WORKERS THE NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF TO VISIT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT," SHE SAID.

"BY SETTING OUT CLEAR OBJECTIVES, BY DEPLOYING RESOURCES FLEXIBLY TO COPE WITH AREAS OF PRIORITY OR TO INITIATE NEW PROGRAMMES, BY USING MORE COST-EFFECTIVE WORK SYSTEMS, AND BY MAXIMISING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES AND PROVIDE GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY," MRS FOK SAID.

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PROGRAMME TO BOOST MANPOWER OF SOCIAL WORKERS
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC), AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY), ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO RUN ANOTHER "BLISTER" PROGRAMME TO RAISE THE DIPLOMA STUDENT INTAKES BY 200 IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

BRIEFING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THE UPDATED MANPOWER PROJECTIONS ON THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE COMING YEARS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SOCIAL SECURITY), MR ALEXANDER FUNG, SAID THE MOVE WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF DIPLOMA GRADUATE SOCIAL WORKERS.

ACCORDING TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER PLANNING SYSTEM REPORT NO. 5 RELEASED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE WILL BE A SHORTFALL OF 152 WORKERS BY MARCH 1993 AND 190 THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

"THE SHORTFALL IS EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE TO A CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 447 BY THE END OF 1996/97.

"THE PERSISTENT SHORTAGE OF DIPLOMA GRADUATE SOCIAL WORKERS IS MORE WORRYING AS THERE WILL BE A LARGE DEMAND FOR DIPLOMA GRADUATES TO MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS ARISING FROM SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW UNITS," MR FUNG SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AND MANPOWER PLANNING, THUS, PROPOSED INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DIPLOMA PLACES IN TRAINING INSTITUTES THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

- * THE TRAINING INSTITUTES TO REDIRECT THEIR RESOURCES TO EXPAND THEIR DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES;
- * TO INTRODUCE A "BLISTER" PROGRAMME TO INCREASE THE DIPLOMA STUDENT INTAKES BY 200 IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND
- * TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A SOCIAL WORK SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMME IN TRAINING INSTITUTES.

THE SWAC MEMBERS, WHILE GIVING A GREENLIGHT TO THE MEASURES, NOTED THAT A "BLISTER" PROGRAMME HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN 1989/90 TO INCREASE THE STUDENT INTAKES OF BOTH THE DEGREE AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES.

ON SUPPLY OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE GRADUATES, MR FUNG SAID: "AN OVERALL SURPLUS IS ANTICIPATED IN 1994/95 AND THEREAFTER, AND A CUMULATIVE SURPLUS OF 268 DEGREE GRADUATES IS FORECAST FOR THE YEAR 1996/97."

THE SURPLUS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO EXPAND DEGREE PLACES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION, HE EXPLAINED.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENT MEASURES ON STEEP ROADS COMPLETED

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ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED ON 39 STEEP ROADS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO ENHANCE THEIR SAFETY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND COVERED SOME 100 STEEP ROADS WITH A GRADIENT STEEPER THAN 1 : 10 THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

ITS PURPOSE WAS TO CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE CONDITIONS OF THE STEEP ROADS WITH EMPHASIS ON SAFETY ASPECTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE USE OF SUCH ROADS BY HEAVY VEHICLES INCLUDING BUSES, THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING (HONG KONG) DIVISION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR WILLIAM LIEW, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE REVIEW EXAMINED SEVERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES INCLUDING ROAD SURFACE TREATMENT, CRASH BARRIERS, GUARD RAILINGS AND TRAFFIC SIGNS.

IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THESE SAFETY MEASURES WERE ADEQUATE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ROAD SURFACE TREATMENT IMPROVED THE SKID RESISTANCE OF ROAD SURFACE TO REDUCE THE STOPPING DISTANCE OF VEHICLES.

CRASH BARRIERS ARE INSTALLED AT BENDS TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM OVER-SHOOTING IF SKIDDING OCCURS.

GUARD-RAILINGS PREVENT ILLEGAL PARKING OF VEHICLES ON STEEP ROADS. TRAFFIC SIGNS INFORM MOTORISTS OF THE GRADIENT OF THE SLOPE AND ADVISE THEM TO ENGAGE LOW GEAR.

OF THE ROADS SURVEYED, MEASURES WERE RECOMMENDED FOR 39 STEEP ROADS, OF WHICH 15 ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, NINE IN KOWLOON AND 15 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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"IT MUST BE EMPHASISED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION OF ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES FOR THESE 39 ROADS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THESE ROADS ARE UNSAFE, BUT RATHER TO MAKE THEM SAFER STILL," MR LIEW STRESSED.

"THE RECOMMENDED MEASURES ON THESE ROADS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED EXCEPT FOR A FEW WHERE THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN A MONTH," HE SAID.

MR LIEW ALSO REMINDED MOTORISTS TO ENGAGE LOW GEAR WHEN DRIVING ON STEEP ROADS.

"IT IS GOOD DRIVING PRACTICE TO USE THE SAME GEAR WHETHER GOING UP-HILL OR DOWN-HILL ON THE SAME STRETCH OF ROAD," HE SAID.

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PUBLIC SUPPORT TO WELFARE SERVICES ESSENTIAL
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PUBLIC SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, IN PARTICULAR SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR STRACHAN MADE THE REMARKS WHEN PRESENTING CHEQUES, ON BEHALF OF DR HUI WAI-HAAN, TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWO WELFARE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS RECEIVES \$6 MILLION WHILE ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT \$5.4 MILLION FOR THE SETTING UP OF TWO AGED HOMES.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE GENEROUS DONATION OF A CAPITAL OF \$10 MILLION BY DR HUI, AN ACADEMIC AND RETIRED RESEARCHER, IN JUNE 1990 WAS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT TO SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

"DR HUI'S LIFE HAS BEEN AN EXEMPLARY ACT OF SELFLESS GIVING. DURING HER WORKING LIFE, SHE DEVOTED HERSELF TO THE EDUCATION OF HER STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ON BEHALF OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SERVICE, MR STRACHAN THANKED DR HUI FOR HER BENEVOLENCE.

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OFFICERS ON ATTACHMENT TO UK IMMIGRATION SERVICE

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FOUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM IN LATE MARCH FOR A SIX-WEEK ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

THEY ARE ACTING SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MS HO CHING-YEE, MESSRS CHAN SHIU-KEUNG AND LEUNG WAI-KWONG, AND ACTING IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR FUNG KAI-YEE.

THE GROUP WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE HANDLING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

AT A BRIEFING BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG, POINTED OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GIVING ITS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

HE SAID OWING TO THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF IMMIGRATION WORK, MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WERE REQUIRED TO BE VIGILANT AND ALERT TOWARDS CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

MR LEUNG SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ATTACHMENT WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OFFICERS TO WIDEN THEIR HORIZON AND TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS JOIN SEMINAR

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS ATTENDED A SEMINAR THAT WAS ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH THIS (MONDAY) MORNING TO HELP THEM ADAPT TO LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MRS ALICE LAI, SAID THE SEMINAR AIMED TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO BETTER PLAN FOR AND MANAGE THE TRANSITION, TO RAISE AWARENESS AND TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ALL MATTERS THAT HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

BY HELPING RETIRING OFFICERS TO DEFINE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES AND TAKE ACTION IN GOOD TIME, IT IS HOPED TO HELP THEM CONFRONT ANY LATENT FEAR AND APPREHENSION AND DEVELOP A POSITIVE AND HEALTHY ATTITUDE TOWARDS RETIREMENT, MRS LAI SAID.

"THE SEMINAR WILL ALSO PROVIDE A FORUM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND FEELINGS BETWEEN RETIRING COLLEAGUES AND EXPERTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS AND TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS," SHE SAID.

/THE TWO-DAY

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THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR PROVIDES INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON PRE-RETIREMENT PREPARATION, NUTRITION, HEALTH, FINANCE, HOW TO START A BUSINESS, OPEN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

TWO SIMILAR SEMINARS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OFFICERS WILL BE CONDUCTED BEFORE MARCH 23.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL PUBLICLY EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1993/94 AT THREE SPECIAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD FROM WEDNESDAY (MARCH 17) TO FRIDAY (MARCH 19).

THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS WILL TAKE THE SAME FORMAT AS LAST YEAR WITH THE SESSIONS EXTENDED TO THREE DAYS TO PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR QUESTIONS.

EACH BRANCH SECRETARY WILL ATTEND WITH HIS KEY CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND MAKE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON POLICIES IN THEIR PROGRAMME AREAS, THEIR PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THEM.

MEMBERS WILL THEN RAISE QUESTIONS ON POINTS MADE DURING THE PRESENTATION AND THE DRAFT EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES GENERALLY.

EACH MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.15 AM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. FOLLOWING IS THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SPECIAL MEETINGS:

SESSION NO.	DATE/TIME	POLICY SECRETARY INVOLVED
	MARCH 17 (WEDNESDAY)	
1.	9.15 AM - 10.15 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
2.	10.20 AM - 11.20 AM	SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE
3.	11.25 AM - 12.55 PM	SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT
	(12.55 PM - 2.15 PM)	LUNCH BREAK)
4.	2.15 PM - 4.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER
	(4.15 PM - 4.30 PM)	TEA BREAK)
5.	4.30 PM - 6.30 PM	SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

/MARCH 18

MARCH 18 (THURSDAY)

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|-----|---------------------|--|
| 6. | 9.15 AM - 10.25 AM | SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY |
| 7. | 10.30 AM - 11.40 AM | SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS |
| 8. | 11.45 AM - 12.45 PM | SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY |
| | (12.45 PM - 2.15 PM | LUNCH BREAK) |
| 9. | 2.15 AM - 3.45 PM | SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES |
| | (3.45 PM - 4 PM | TEA BREAK) |
| 10. | 4 PM - 5.30 PM | SECRETARY FOR WORKS |
| 11. | 5.35 PM - 6.30 PM | DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL
AID AND DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
SERVICES) |

MARCH 19 (FRIDAY)

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|-----|---------------------|---|
| 12. | 9.15 AM - 10.15 AM | SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS |
| 13. | 10.20 AM - 11.20 AM | SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
AFFAIRS |
| 14. | 11.25 AM - 12.45 PM | SECRETARY FOR PLANNING,
ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS |
| | (12.45 PM - 2.15 PM | LUNCH BREAK) |
| 15. | 2.15 PM - 4.15 PM | SECRETARY FOR SECURITY |
| | (4.15 PM - 4.30 PM | TEA BREAK) |
| 16. | 4.30 PM - 6 PM | REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CHAMBERS
MANAGER |
| 17. | 6 PM - 6.40 PM | COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
COMPLAINTS
COMMISSIONER, INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING
DIRECTOR OF AUDIT |

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS MAY
MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN YAU MA TEI
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY SHANGHAI STREET, KANSU STREET, BATTERY STREET AND NING PO STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 52.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 306.446 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 194.986 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 33.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	950
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,200
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-660
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,490
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.2 *+0.0* 15.3.1993	

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.36 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.25	3.56
1 MONTH	2.79 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.03	3.66
3 MONTHS	2.95 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.34	3.82
6 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.38	4.04
12 MONTHS	3.43 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,035MN

CLOSED 15 MARCH 1993

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