



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLITICS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE: GOVERNOR	1
GOVERNOR TO CHAIR MEETING WITH DISABLED	2
GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS	2
HK AND CHICAGO: GATEWAYS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	4
DENIS CHANG APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE	5
TRANSFER APPLICATION TO LOCAL TERMS CAREFULLY VETTED	5
SEXUAL EQUALITY SURVEY NEXT WEEK	6
AMENDMENTS TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST GAZETTED ...	7
EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993 GAZETTED	8
COMPUTER SYSTEM TO MONITOR PUBLIC WORKS	9
TENDERS INVITED FOR ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION	9
WALLED CITY PARK TO BE BUILT IN APRIL	10
HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR VESSELS PASSING UNDER BRIDGES	11
CHARTER AIMS AT YOUTH'S NEEDS AND RIGHTS: SHA	12
ELECTRICAL CONTRACT FOR CHINA WATER AWARDED	12
MORE RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR ELDERLY NEEDED	13
SUBVENTION FOR PARENTS/RELATIVES RESOURCE CENTRES NEXT YEAR .	14
AMBULANCE SERVICE TO GO PARAMEDIC	14
WONG UK ELECTORS GO TO THE POLLS	15
EXCO MEMBERS UPDATED ON AIRPORT PROJECTS	17

/TAC MEMBERS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

- 1 -

ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLITICS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY SENSIBLE NOT TO ALLOW DISAGREEMENTS OVER POLITICAL MATTERS FROM TIME TO TIME TO AFFECT LIVELIHOOD ISSUES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE, MR PATTEN SAID HE AGREED WITH PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLITICS SEPARATE.

"THAT'S WHAT I REMEMBER HE WAS SAYING THE OTHER DAY TO PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND IT'S ACTUALLY WHAT I SAID TO PRESIDENT CLINTON WHEN I SAW HIM IN MAY," HE SAID.

"AND IT'S, OF COURSE, WHAT A NUMBER OF SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID IN SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIP TO HONG KONG."

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE IN ANYONE'S INTEREST IN CHINA TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.

"WE'LL GO ON WORKING FOR THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG, BOTH IN ECONOMIC TERMS AND IN TERMS OF SAFEGUARDING OUR VALUES," HE ADDED.

"THE TWO, IN OUR JUDGMENT, ARE CLOSELY RELATED."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON REMARKS BY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL, MR LU PING, MR PATTEN SAID:

"OUR OBJECTIVE AS YOU KNOW, OVER THESE YEARS, IS TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SAFEGUARD THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM PROSPERITY AND STABILITY."

HE SAID HONG KONG WANTED TO ENSURE THAT IT COULD MAKE A REALITY OF CONCEPTS LIKE "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG", OF CONCEPTS LIKE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS".

"THAT INVOLVES US IN STANDING FIRM FOR THE RULE OF LAW. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN DO SO IN THE MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS TO LEGCO, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN BRING THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH THE MAXIMUM SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND I VERY MUCH HOPE WITH THE MAXIMUM UNDERSTANDING BY OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES."

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR TO CHAIR MEETING WITH DISABLED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL CHAIR A SUMMIT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DISABLED GROUPS AND EMPLOYERS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROMOTE OPEN EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED.

MR PATTEN MADE KNOWN THE PLAN WHEN HE ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE INTEREST THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN ALREADY BY SOME EMPLOYERS IN PROVIDING JOBS TO THE DISABLED.

AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN ALL EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG WOULD REMEMBER THE ABILITY OF THE DISABLED TO HELP THEM IN THEIR BUSINESS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE STRENGTHENING ITS PUBLIC EDUCATION TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS OF MISCONCEPTION TOWARDS THE DISABLED AND WILL SPEND OVER \$30 MILLION WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS ON THE WORK.

MR PATTEN NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTED THE THE UNITED NATIONS' PROCLAMATION ON FULL PARTICIPATION AND EQUALITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"WE ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP OUR REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE COMING 10 YEARS," HE SAID.

"I DO VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG WILL SIGNAL THE START OF MORE CARING ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE DISABLED AND OF A WARMER WELCOME FOR THEM INTO THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY," MR PATTEN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS

* * * * *

THE FOLLOWING IS THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AND REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TODAY (FRIDAY):

GOVERNOR: I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THIS LAUNCH FOR THE DISABLED WHICH I HOPE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING OUR SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED AND FOR CHANGING COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TO THE DISABLED. AS I ANNOUNCED IN MY SPEECH, I'LL BE HOLDING A FOLLOW-UP SUMMIT ON THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED. WE HELD A SUCCESSFUL ONE LAST DECEMBER AT WHICH THERE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF DISABLED GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND THAT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. WE'LL ALSO BE HOLDING ANOTHER ONE IN FEBRUARY ON THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED THAT WORK SO THAT WE CAN TRY TO DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE THOSE WITH DISABILITIES EVERY OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORKING LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

QUESTION: REGARDING ... BY MR LU PING ... OF THE CHINESE SIDE, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

GOVERNOR: OUR OBJECTIVE AS YOU KNOW, OVER THESE YEARS, IS TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SAFEGUARD THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN MAKE A REALITY OF CONCEPTS LIKE "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG", OF CONCEPTS LIKE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS", AND THAT INVOLVES US IN STANDING FIRM FOR THE RULE OF LAW. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN DO SO IN THE MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. I THINK IT TAKES, OF COURSE, TWO SIDES TO CO-OPERATE AND TWO SIDES TO SHOW SINCERITY.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, AS HONG KONG ... ECONOMIC, DO YOU THINK ...

GOVERNOR: WELL, I VERY MUCH AGREE WITH PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN THAT IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POLITICS SEPARATE AND THAT'S WHAT I REMEMBER HE WAS SAYING THE OTHER DAY TO PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND IT'S ACTUALLY WHAT I SAID TO PRESIDENT CLINTON WHEN I SAW HIM IN MAY. AND IT'S, OF COURSE, WHAT A NUMBER OF SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID IN SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIP TO HONG KONG. IT'S OBVIOUSLY A SENSIBLE WAY TO BEHAVE, NOT TO ALLOW DISAGREEMENTS OVER POLITICAL MATTERS FROM TIME TO TIME TO AFFECT LIVELIHOOD ISSUES. IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE IN ANYONE'S INTEREST IN CHINA TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. WE'LL GO ON WORKING FOR THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG, BOTH IN ECONOMIC TERMS AND IN TERMS OF SAFEGUARDING OUR VALUES. THE TWO, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, ARE CLOSELY RELATED.

QUESTION: (ON PRESS REPORTS ABOUT CHINESE OFFICIALS' REMARKS ON HOME RETURN PERMITS.)

GOVERNOR: I READ REPORTS OF THOSE REMARKS ON WHICH THERE IS AN EDITORIAL IN ONE OF OUR MOST DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPERS THIS MORNING. I AM BOUND TO SAY THAT I WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED AND I'VE ASKED TO SEE A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF WHAT WAS SAID BECAUSE I THINK THAT IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED VERY CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN HONG KONG, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS SAID SPECIFICALLY ABOUT PERMIT, BUT FOR SOME OF THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE REMARK AS WELL. BUT BEFORE COMMENTING IN DETAIL, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID BECAUSE IT MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT.

QUESTION: IS THAT ANYTHING THAT COULD KEEP YOU FROM DECIDING AND BRINGING THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ?

GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN BRING THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH THE MAXIMUM SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND I VERY MUCH HOPE WITH THE MAXIMUM UNDERSTANDING BY OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES.

HK AND CHICAGO: GATEWAYS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

* * * * *

HONG KONG COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED STATES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, CONFIRMED ON THURSDAY (CHICAGO TIME) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG PROVIDES A STABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR HONG KONG-BASED U.S. COMPANIES AT THE SAME TIME AS IT PROCEEDS WITH POLITICAL REFORM.

HIS REMARKS IN A SPEECH TO THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER IN HONG KONG BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THAT HE WILL INTRODUCE THE FIRST STAGE OF AN ELECTORAL REFORM PACKAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 15 INVOLVING THE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND IMMEDIATE ISSUES REGARDING THE 1994/95 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THESE INCLUDE: LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18, ABOLITION OF APPOINTED SEATS FOR DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE-SEAT, SINGLE-VOTE CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE LOCAL BODIES AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG AND CHICAGO HAD MUCH IN COMMON AS THEY BOTH SERVED AS THE CROSSROADS OF THEIR VITALLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC REGIONS.

"CHICAGO HAS LONG BEEN THE GATEWAY TO AMERICA'S HEARTLAND," MR WIGGHAM SAID DURING HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHICAGO, THE THIRD LARGEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BUSINESS CENTRE OF AMERICA'S VAST MID-WESTERN REGION.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR NATION'S FRONTIERS DEPENDED ON CHICAGO'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, ON CHICAGO'S INDUSTRIES, AND ON CHICAGO'S FINANCIAL CENTRES AND STOCK EXCHANGES," HE SAID.

"IN MUCH THE SAME WAY HONG KONG HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACIFIC FRONTIERS," MR WIGGHAM ADDED.

"HONG KONG IS THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD. IT IS HOME TO MORE FOREIGN BANKS THAN ANY OTHER ASIAN CITY EXCEPT TOKYO. IT IS ASIA'S MOST IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR LOAN SYNDICATION, TRADE AND PROJECT FINANCING, AND VENTURE CAPITAL.

"AND AS A RESULT OVER 200 U.S. FIRMS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM SAID IN ADDITION TO SHARED VALUES, THERE ARE OTHER, MORE PRACTICAL, REASONS FOR A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHICAGO AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

"WE DO A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FREE TRADE OF OUR OWN BETWEEN OUR TWO REGIONS," HE SAID.

LAST YEAR \$292 MILLION OF ILLINOIS EXPORTS WERE PURCHASED IN HONG KONG.

ANOTHER \$218 MILLION OF THEIR PRODUCTS WERE EXPORTED TO MAINLAND CHINA, MUCH OF IT PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG.

AS A RESULT, THE CHINA TRADE PROVIDES OVER 12,000 JOBS IN ILLINOIS, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

"IT ALSO EXPOSES YOUR BUSINESSES TO RELATIONSHIPS AND INVESTMENTS IN A MARKET THAT IS GROWING FASTER THAN ANY IN THE WORLD. BECAUSE OUR TWO CITIES SHARE SO MUCH IN COMMON, I BELIEVE THAT THIS REGION WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT GREATLY FROM HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY," HE SAID.

OF THE MORE THAN 1,000 U.S. COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CHINA, MANY ARE FROM ILLINOIS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DENIS CHANG APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR DENIS CHANG, QC, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE SUCCEEDING MS ROSANNA WONG.

MR CHANG IS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. HE HAS BEEN RENDERING EXTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE SINCE 1983. AT PRESENT, MR CHANG IS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW (INLAND REVENUE).

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET MR CHANG IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE IN ROOM 1608, MELBOURNE PLAZA, 33 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSFER APPLICATION TO LOCAL TERMS CAREFULLY VETTED

* * * * *

IN ANSWER TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER FROM OVERSEAS TO LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TONIGHT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALL ALONG BEEN MAINTAINING DIALOGUE WITH THE RELEVANT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF LOCALISATION AND WAS ALWAYS READY TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS WITH THEM THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE INSTITUTED IN THE LONGER TERM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED: "IN THE MEANTIME, APPLICATIONS FROM OVERSEAS OFFICERS FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXAMINED VERY CAREFULLY AGAINST LAID DOWN GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROCESSED IN THE NORMAL WAY."

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEXUAL EQUALITY SURVEY NEXT WEEK

* * * * *

A SURVEY ON THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN IN HONG KONG WILL BE CONDUCTED NEXT WEEK.

THE POLL WILL COVER THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY, WHAT CONSTITUTES EQUALITY AND INEQUALITY, AND MEANS TO PROMOTE AND IMPROVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY.

OTHER AREAS WILL INCLUDE EXPERIENCE OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES AS WELL AS THE BENCHMARK ON DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS THAT MAY LEAD TO INEQUALITY.

THE GENDER RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL UNDERTAKE THE SURVEY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) A RESEARCH TEAM COMPRISING EXPERTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT HAD BEEN SET UP UNDER THE GENDER RESEARCH PROGRAMME.

IT HAS DESIGNED THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE SURVEY AND THE NEXT STEP IS TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS AND ANALYSE THE DATA COLLECTED, HE ADDED.

"THE SURVEY, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, WILL PROVIDE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DATA COLLECTED WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH ON THE CHANGING STATUS OF WOMEN IN HONG KONG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE SURVEY WOULD COVER A RANDOM SAMPLE OF NOT LESS THAN 2,000 MALE AND FEMALE RESPONDENTS AGED 15 AND ABOVE. FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE CONDUCTED.

"THE HOUSEHOLDS RANDOMLY SELECTED FOR OPINIONS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE EXERCISE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PRELIMINARY REPORT WITH FINDINGS ON THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND POSSIBLE MEASURES TO FOSTER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE SEXES IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE BY MARCH, FOLLOWED BY A FINAL REPORT WITH DETAILED ANALYSIS BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

LIVELY DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN IN LATE AUGUST THIS YEAR.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SO FAR MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S GROUPS, EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS AND PRESENTED THE GREEN PAPER TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

HE SAID: "WE HAVE NOTED A LOT OF INTEREST IN THE ISSUES AND NUMEROUS SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO COME FORWARD TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER BEFORE THE CONSULTATION PERIOD EXPIRES AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

"THEIR VIEWS WILL BE REFLECTED FULLY TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR ADVICE ON THE WAY FORWARD," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMENDMENTS TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST GAZETTED

* * * * *

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT UPDATED CONTROLS BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS (COCOM) AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES ON STRATEGIC COMMODITIES WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS WERE CONTAINED IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES) (NO. 2) ORDER 1993.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE 1 OF THE REGULATIONS REFLECTED UPDATED COCOM CONTROLS ON THE MUNITIONS LIST AND ATOMIC ENERGY LIST, AND CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON DUAL-USE GOODS SUCH AS COMPUTERS, SIGNAL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT, DISK DRIVES AND MODEMS ON THE INDUSTRIAL LIST.

BESIDES, ALL THE ITEMS IN THE EXISTING MISCELLANEOUS LIST WILL BE MOVED AND NEW ITEMS ADDED TO THE INDUSTRIAL LIST TO REFLECT CONTROLS ON GOODS OF NON-PROLIFERATION CONCERNS, WHILE THE MISCELLANEOUS LIST WILL BE REPEALED.

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO SCHEDULE 2 WHICH COVERS ARTICLES IN TRANSIT HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE.

NO CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE TO SCHEDULES 3 AND 4 WHICH COVER END-USE CONTROL AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO ARTICLES SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 3 RESPECTIVELY, HE ADDED.

THE AMENDMENT ORDER SHALL BE TABLED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 8 AND BECOME EFFECTIVE AFTER 28 DAYS, IF THE COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTION TO THE ORDER DURING THE PERIOD.

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES ARE SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE.

"THE PURPOSE OF LICENSING IS TO MONITOR AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES TO PREVENT HONG KONG FROM BEING USED AS A CONDUIT FOR THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS AN ARTICLE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULES WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE TO AN UNLIMITED FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS IF CONVICTED.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT ORDER ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE STRATEGIC COMMODITIES SECTION, TRADE DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, TRADE DEPARTMENT TOWER, 700 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK, KOWLOON OR ON TEL 398 5580 OR 398 5572.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO INFORM TRADERS OF DETAILS OF THE AMENDED SCHEDULES BY CIRCULAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993 GAZETTED
* * * * *

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993, WHICH SET OUT PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE AN EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

NOTING THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL HAS RECENTLY BEEN ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID ONE OF THE PROPOSALS WAS TO REMOVE THE CEILING OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES IN THE CALCULATION OF THESE TWO TYPES OF PAYMENT.

AT PRESENT, AN EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT IS CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF TWO-THIRDS OF A MONTH'S WAGES FOR EACH YEAR OF HIS SERVICE.

THE MAXIMUM CEILING OF HIS ENTITLEMENT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF WAGES HE EARNED DURING THE PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF DISMISSAL, OR THE SUM OF \$180,000, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS THE EFFECT OF LIMITING THE RECKONABLE SERVICE OF AN EMPLOYEE TO 18 YEARS," MR CHAN SAID.

AS A MOVE TO ADDRESS THE GRIEVANCES OF LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES FOR BEING UNABLE TO EARN SUCH PAYMENTS BEYOND 18 YEARS OF SERVICE, MR CHAN SAID THE CEILING OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES SHOULD BE REMOVED, BUT THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT OF \$180,000 BE RETAINED.

HE ADDED THAT THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT WOULD BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY.

IN ORDER TO CUSHION FINANCIAL IMPACTS ON EMPLOYERS, IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT ONE-HALF OF AN EMPLOYEE'S SERVICE OVER AND ABOVE 18 YEARS ACCRUED BEFORE THE AMENDMENT COMES INTO OPERATION WILL BE RECOGNISED IN CALCULATING THE PAYMENTS.

IN ANOTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE (EO), MR CHAN SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PROPOSED THAT LATE PAYMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE PAY SHOULD BE AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 UPON CONVICTION.

MR CHAN SAID SECTION 12(1) OF EO PROVIDED THAT A FEMALE EMPLOYEE WHO HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE SAME EMPLOYER UNDER A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 26 WEEKS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO MATERNITY LEAVE.

"HOWEVER, THE LAW IS SILENT ON HOW TO COUNT THE 26 WEEKS ALTHOUGH IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT IT SHOULD BE COUNTED BACKWARDS FROM THE EXPECTED DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE.

"THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE TO AMEND THIS SECTION OF LAW SO AS TO REMOVE THE AMBIGUITY," MR CHAN ADDED.

ON THE PROVISION OF SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO CONTAINED A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A REGISTERED DENTIST AS A VALID DOCUMENT FOR CLAIMING SICKNESS ALLOWANCE BY EMPLOYEES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMPUTER SYSTEM TO MONITOR PUBLIC WORKS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTING UP A COMPUTER-BASED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF SOFTWARE FOR THE SYSTEM WAS SIGNED TODAY (FRIDAY) BETWEEN THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF A UK SOFTWARE SUPPLIER, PANORAMA SOFTWARE, MR ROBERT WEBSTER.

SPEAKING AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY, MR BLAKE SAID: "THE SYSTEM WILL ENABLE US TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS MORE EFFECTIVELY BY PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON A COMMON DATABASE TO MAJOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

"BY MONITORING PROJECTS THROUGH THIS SYSTEM, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DETECT ANY DEVIATION EITHER IN PROGRAMME SCHEDULE OR BUDGET AND TO TAKE EARLY CORRECTIVE ACTION AS AND WHEN NECESSARY," HE SAID.

THE PROTOTYPE SYSTEM WILL LINK UP ABOUT 50 MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE WORKS BRANCH, FINANCE BRANCH, THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS, LANDS DEPARTMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROTOTYPE OF THE SYSTEM WILL BE UP AND RUNNING BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH AND THE FULL SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED PROGRESSIVELY NEXT YEAR.

THE SOFTWARE SUPPLIER WAS SELECTED AFTER AN EXTENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENTS AND A STUDY OF SIMILAR SYSTEMS ADOPTED BY OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS INVITED FOR ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION (TAI LAM TUNNEL AND YUEN LONG APPROACH ROAD) UNDER A BOT (BUILD, OPERATE AND TRANSFER) FRANCHISE ARRANGEMENT.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY LATE L998, AND WILL PROVIDE A NORTH-SOUTH DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY CONNECTING TING KAU AND AU TAU AS THE FINAL SECTION OF ROUTE 3 WHICH WILL EXTEND FROM HONG KONG ISLAND TO YUEN LONG.

THE NEW ROAD WILL RELIEVE CONGESTION ALONG TUEN MUN ROAD AND IMPROVE ROAD LINKS BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE CONTAINER PORT.

UNDER THE BOT ARRANGEMENT, THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE AWARDED A FRANCHISE TO FINANCE, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, COMMISSION, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE TAI LAM TUNNEL AND YUEN LONG APPROACH ROAD WITH THE RIGHT TO COLLECT TOLLS OVER THE PROPOSED 30-YEAR FRANCHISE PERIOD.

TENDERS WILL CLOSE ON APRIL 8 NEXT YEAR. THIS IS TO GIVE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR TENDERERS TO PREPARE THEIR SUBMISSIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROJECT BRIEF.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONDUCT A DETAILED EVALUATION OF ALL BONA FIDE TENDERS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "IT IS EXPECTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH TENDERERS WILL COMMENCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1994 AND A DECISION ON THE TENDER AWARD WILL BE MADE IN LATE 1994."

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 3.8-KILOMETRE TUNNEL UNDER THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK FROM TING KAU IN THE SOUTH TO HO PUI IN THE NORTH AND AN AT-GRADE ROAD OF ABOUT 6.3 KILOMETRES LINKING THE NORTHERN PORTAL OF TAI LAM TUNNEL AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AT AN INTERCHANGE AT AU TAU.

A BOOKLET CONTAINING INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT, TENDERING REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR COLLECTION OF THE PROJECT BRIEF IS OBTAINABLE FROM TRANSPORT BRANCH FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

WALLED CITY PARK TO BE BUILT IN APRIL
* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO INDICATE WHETHER THEY ARE INTERESTED IN TENDERING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY PARK AND ITS ASSOCIATED WORKS.

THE WORKS COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A QING DYNASTY STYLE GARDEN, RESTORATION OF ANTIQUITY BUILDINGS, RECONSTRUCTION OF SPORTING GROUND AND PAVING IN A 31,000-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, CONSTRUCTION AND PROVISION OF HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING ITEMS, BUILDING CONSERVATION WORKS AND BUILDING SERVICES INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY APPROVED SUB-CONTRACTORS.

CONTRACTORS WHO WISH TO BID FOR THE WORKS SHOULD SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS BY REGISTERED POST TO THE CHIEF ARCHITECT/2, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 38TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, BEFORE NOON ON DECEMBER 17.

TENDERS WILL BE INVITED FROM THE APPLICANTS NEXT MONTH SO THAT WORKS CAN START AROUND APRIL FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1995.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR VESSELS PASSING UNDER BRIDGES

* * * * *

NO VESSELS HAVING A MAST, SUPERSTRUCTURE OR CARGO HEIGHT EXCEEDING 17 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL ARE ALLOWED TO PASS UNDER THE TSING YI (SOUTH) AND TSING TSUEN (NORTH) BRIDGES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (PLANNING AND LOCAL SERVICES), MR S Y TSUI SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD ON NOVEMBER 24 ENDORSED SUCH RESTRICTION UNDER THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993.

THE REGULATION DESIGNATES A RESTRICTED AREA IN RAMBLER CHANNEL SO THAT, EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, NO VESSEL HAVING A MAST OR SUPERSTRUCTURE HEIGHT EXCEEDING 17 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL IS ALLOWED:

- * IN THE CASE OF A VESSEL BEING TOWED, TO ENTER, BERTH OR UNBERTH WITHIN THE AREA UNLESS IT IS BEING TOWED BY SUCH NUMBER OF TUGS OR OTHER VESSELS AS MAY REASONABLY BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE VESSEL HAVING REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING THERETO; OR
- * TO APPROACH A BRIDGE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREJUDICE THE SAFETY OF THE BRIDGE.

"THE REGULATION ALSO APPLIES TO VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE RESTRICTED AREAS NEAR THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE WHERE THE HEIGHT RESTRICTION IS 14 METRES ABOVE THE SEA LEVEL," SAID MR TSUI.

IF WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE THIS REGULATION IS CONTRAVENED, THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL AND THE MASTERS OF THE TUGS OR OTHER VESSELS TOWING THE VESSEL COMMIT AN OFFENCE, AND ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS.

"ALSO, IF A VESSEL IS INVOLVED IN A COLLISION WITH ANY BRIDGE WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS, THOSE CONCERNED ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS."

MR TSUI ADDED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, VESSELS WITH PROVEN RECORDS OF REGULAR USE IN THE RECENT PAST OF THE RAMBLER CHANNEL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA (PCWA) HAVING A MAST OR SUPERSTRUCTURE HEIGHT EXCEEDING 17 METRES BUT BELOW 20 METRES MAY APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO NAVIGATE UNDER THE TSING TSUEN (NORTH) BRIDGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAINING ACCESS TO THAT PCWA. SUCH PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED WITH STRICT CONDITIONS AND WILL INITIALLY BE VALID FOR SIX MONTHS.

CHARTER AIMS AT YOUTH'S NEEDS AND RIGHTS: SHA
* * * * *

THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED CHARTER FOR YOUTH AIMS TO FOCUS PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT CHEUNG CHUK SHAN COLLEGE'S ANNUAL SPEECH DAY, HE SAID THE CHARTER WAS ALSO INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THOSE NEEDS AND RIGHTS COULD BE RESPECTED AND REINFORCED.

ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID IT WAS A MULTI-FACETED SUBJECT WHICH WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MANY PARTIES INCLUDING THE SCHOOLS, THE FAMILIES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

HE CALLED ON ALL CONCERNED TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A GOAL THAT WOULD ENABLE THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO ATTAIN A FULL LIFE AND TO REAFFIRM THEIR DIGNITY THROUGH INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

HE SAID: "A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE PROVIDED TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE PERFORM SATISFACTORILY AS STUDENTS, SIBLINGS, SONS/DAUGHTERS, CITIZENS; AND TO INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS."

HE ALSO HOPES THAT THEY CAN FOSTER POSITIVE SOCIAL VALUES AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ELECTRICAL CONTRACT FOR CHINA WATER AWARDED
* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) AWARDED A \$15 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SAI O PUMPING STATION AND THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT SHATIN TREATMENT WORKS.

THE PUMPING STATION IS ONE OF THE MAJOR INSTALLATIONS TO BE BUILT TO CATER FOR THE INCREASED WATER FROM CHINA BEYOND 1994 PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA IN DECEMBER 1989.

UPON COMPLETION, IT WILL SERVE TWO PURPOSES.

- * IT ALLOWS TRANSFER OF WATER FROM PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR TO HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR AT AN INCREASED RATE SO AS TO MAXIMISE THE CAPACITY OF PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR FOR STORAGE OF WATER FROM RAINFALL.
- * IT HELPS TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT FROM PLOVER COVER RESERVOIR TO SHATIN TREATMENT WORKS DURING THE ANNUAL CHINA WATER SHUT DOWN PERIOD.

THE NEW PUMPING STATION WILL CONTAIN EIGHT PUMPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 1,500 MILLION LITRES A DAY.

THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACT INCLUDES THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF POWER SUPPLY SWITCHBOARDS, CONTROL AND INSTRUMENTATION EQUIPMENT, BUILDING SERVICES AND OTHER ACCESSORIES.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT SHATIN TREATMENT WORKS WILL UPRATE THE DRAW-OFF CAPACITY FROM HIGH ISLAND TUNNEL TO THE TREATMENT WORKS TO ABOUT 1,200 MILLION LITRES A DAY.

THE CONTRACT AWARDED TODAY IS THE LAST IN A SERIES AWARDED UNDER A \$2.1 BILLION PROJECT TO EXPAND THE FACILITIES FOR TRANSFERRING CHINA WATER.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CHINA WATER, MR KO CHAN-GOCK, SIGNED THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ANALOGUE TECHNICAL AGENCIES LIMITED.

BINNIE CONSULTANTS LIMITED ARE THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR ELDERLY NEEDED

* * * * *

HONG KONG LACKS RECREATIONAL SERVICES TO SUIT THE SPECIAL HOLIDAY NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HELPING HAND HOLIDAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, MRS PATTEN SAID THE DEMAND FOR THE NEW RECREATIONAL SERVICE WOULD BE ENORMOUS.

"MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE CONFINED THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE YEAR TO RESIDENTIAL HOMES, NEED CONSTANT CARE AT HOME BY THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, OR JUST HAVE DULL AND LONELY LIVES ON THEIR OWN."

SHE SAID THE OPENING OF THE HOLIDAY CENTRE COULD FILL THE GAP.

THE CENTRE ENABLES THE AGED TO TAKE SHORT HOLIDAYS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, AWAY FROM THEIR DAILY ROUTINE AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT; AND ALSO AS A RESULT, ALLOW THEIR CARERS TO BE RELIEVED AND REFRESHED.

"I AM SURE THAT IT WILL PROVIDE LOTS OF FUN, HAPPINESS AND GOOD MEMORIES FOR OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND THEIR COMPANIONS WHO COME HERE FOR A HOLIDAY," SHE SAID.

THE IDEA FOR THIS HOLIDAY CENTRE WAS FIRST CONCEIVED IN 1988 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A HOLIDAY CENTRE WAS TO BE BUILT TO CATER FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE.

A GRANT OF \$80 MILLION FROM THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT WAS APPROVED TO COVER THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THE CENTRE. OPERATING COSTS WILL BE SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

- 14 -

SUBVENTION FOR PARENTS/RELATIVES RESOURCE CENTRES NEXT YEAR

* * * * *

FOR THE FIRST TIME, SUBVENTION WOULD BE PROVIDED TO PARENTS/RELATIVES RESOURCE CENTRES IN 1994/95, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHENG KUNG HUI DIOCESAN WELFARE COUNCIL, MR STRACHAN HOPES THAT THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL BACKUP WOULD ENABLE THE CENTRES TO EXTEND SUPPORT SERVICES TO A WIDER NETWORK OF USERS.

THE CENTRES WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT DISABILITIES AND MENTAL ILLNESS FOR PARENTS' REFERENCE. THEY WILL ALSO ORGANISE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE, AND CARRY OUT PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

SPEAKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG, MR STRACHAN SAID SUPPORT SERVICES WERE OFFERED TO THE NEEDY THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.

"WE PROVIDE INTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL INPUT IN PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO AGE SIX."

AFTER DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SPECIAL EDUCATION, THE MORE INDEPENDENT ONES CAN MOVE ON TO TERTIARY EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING OR OPEN EMPLOYMENT.

OTHERS WILL MOVE ON TO REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES OF A WELFARE AND CARING NATURE.

MR STRACHAN SAID DISABLED ADULTS WERE PLACED IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR TRAINING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ULTIMATE AIM WAS TO MOVE THEM INTO MAINSTREAM EMPLOYMENT.

"HOWEVER, WHEN DISABLED PERSONS BECOME TOO WEAK OR FEEBLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES OR WHEN THEY ARE IN THEIR OLD AGE, LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE WILL BE PROVIDED," HE ADDED.

AFTER THE GOVERNOR PLEDGED SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET ALL KEY TARGETS IN THE REHABILITATION FIELD BY 1997, MANY NEW PROJECTS WERE COMING ON STREAM, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMBULANCE SERVICE TO GO PARAMEDIC

* * * * *

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE A HIGH STANDARD OF PRE-HOSPITAL CARE FOR CASUALTIES, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, SAID.

THE SERVICE HELPS TO BETTER SUSTAIN THEIR LIVES BEFORE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND TO HELP THEM RECOVER QUICKLY, HE ADDED.

/SPEAKING AT

SPEAKING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR 24 EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANTS AT THE AMBULANCE TRAINING SCHOOL TODAY (FRIDAY), MR LAM SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE BIDS IN THE 1994/95 BUDGET FOR THE FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF PARAMEDIC SERVICES NEXT YEAR.

"OUR PLAN IS TO OPERATE 15 PARAMEDIC AMBULANCES NEXT YEAR WHICH WILL BE STATIONED AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"IF OUR PLANS PROCEED SMOOTHLY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR FLEET OF PARAMEDIC AMBULANCES TO 33 BY 1996," HE SAID.

THE GRADUATES COMPRISED TWO AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND 22 AMBULANCEMEN. THEY HAD COMPLETED A SIX-WEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANT LEVEL II COURSE.

MR LAM TOLD THEM THAT WHAT THEY HAD LEARNT WOULD EQUIP THEM TO TAKE ON EQUALLY REWARDING BUT CERTAINLY A MUCH MORE CHALLENGING ROLE IN THEIR PROFESSION.

THEY WILL BE ATTACHED TO HOSPITALS FOR A SHORT PERIOD BEFORE BEING DEPLOYED TO MAN THE AMBULANCES.

THE COURSE WAS RUN BY A TEAM OF CANADIAN INSTRUCTORS FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PARAMEDIC ACADEMY WITH HELP FROM DOCTORS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WONG UK ELECTORS GO TO THE POLLS

* * * * *

VOTERS IN WONG UK WILL GO TO THE POLLS ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 5) TO ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD.

A REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED THE 6,015 ELECTORS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT BY CASTING VOTES AT THE CHI HONG PRIMARY SCHOOL POLLING STATION AT 1 YUEN CHEONG LANE.

ELECTORS WILL HAVE A CHOICE OF THREE CANDIDATES FOR A SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCY. THE CANDIDATES ARE MR LEUNG CHI-WAI, MR VINCENT WONG KENG-CHUEN AND MR WONG YIU-SANG.

THE POLLING STATION WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 7.30 AM AND 10.30 PM.

"VOTERS MUST PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO ESTABLISH THEIR IDENTITY.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT A MUST FOR THEM TO BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS, IT WILL SAVE TIME AND AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAY IF THEY DO SO," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

VOTING IS BY SECRET BALLOT. ELECTORS MAY VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE BY MARKING AN "X" AGAINST THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE ON THE BALLOT PAPER.

IF ELECTORS HAVE ANY PROBLEM, THE PRESIDING OFFICER AT THE POLLING STATION WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

VOTERS MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES BY TELEPHONE ON 827 1122.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDIA MEMBERS TO COVER THE BY-ELECTION:

A PRESS CENTRE WILL BE SET UP TO FACILITATE MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA. THE HOURLY VOTING RATES AND THE ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE ISSUED TO THE NEWS MEDIA THROUGH THE GIS FACSIMILE NETWORK.

PRESS CENTRE

THE PRESS CENTRE LOCATED AT THE GROUND-FLOOR LOBBY OF CHI HONG PRIMARY SCHOOL, 1 YUEN CHEONG LANE, WONG UK, SHA TIN, WILL BE OPEN FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 5).

THERE WILL BE TWO TELEPHONE LINES AND A FACSIMILE MACHINE FOR USE BY REPORTERS. A HOTLINE (648 6808) FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES WILL ALSO BE SET UP DURING THE BY-ELECTION.

VISITS TO POLLING STATION

THERE WILL BE THREE VISITS ON THE ELECTION DAY. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER.

* VISIT BY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, WILL VISIT THE POLLING STATION AT 10.30 AM. SHE IS EXPECTED TO MEET THE MEDIA AROUND 10.50 AM.

* VISIT BY SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN

THE CHAIRMAN OF SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHOI KAN-PUI, WILL VISIT THE STATION AT NOON.

* VISIT BY CHAIRMAN AND A MEMBER OF BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOUNDARY ELECTION COMMISSION, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, AND A MEMBER, PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, WILL ARRIVE AT THE STATION AROUND 10.30 PM.

OPENING OF BALLOT BOXES

ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE BALLOT BOXES AT THE COUNTING STATION AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF CHI HONG PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 10.30 PM AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RESULTS.

EXCO MEMBERS UPDATED ON AIRPORT PROJECTS

* * * * *

A GROUP OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) AND SITES OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS.

THE VISIT WAS THE LATEST IN A SERIES ORGANISED TO SHOW PROMINENT GROUPS THE PROGRESS OF WORK ON THESE PROJECTS.

PREVIOUS GROUPS HAVE INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE PARTY, COMPRISING MS ROSANNA WONG, PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH-MAK AND MR ANDREW LI, WERE FIRST BRIEFED ON THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACP BY THE DIRECTOR OF NAPCO, MR BILLY LAM.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACP WAS MOVING AHEAD ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS AND WAS ACHIEVING GOOD PROGRESS.

CONTRACTS AWARDED SO FAR BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY TOTALLED ABOUT \$46 BILLION AND HAD ALL BEEN AWARDED WITHIN BUDGET.

BY APRIL NEXT YEAR, ABOUT 90 PER CENT BY VALUE OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARDED.

MEMBERS THEN FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO MA WAN TO LOOK AT THE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND ROUTE 3.

THEY THEN WENT BY BOAT TO TSING YI AND WERE BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR H S KWONG, ON THE PROGRESS OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WHICH COMPRISES THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND THE MA WAN VIADUCT.

THEY WERE ALSO TAKEN BY HELICOPTER TO CHEK LAP KOK, VIEWING THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY AND THE TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENT EN ROUTE.

FOLLOWING A TOUR OF THE AIRPORT SITE, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SITE FORMATION WORK BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND SITE STAFF.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAC MEMBERS BRIEFED ON ATC SYSTEM

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) SAW FOR THEMSELVES HOW AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SYSTEM HELPED REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND SAVE JOURNEY TIMES.

DURING A VISIT TO THE HONG KONG AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL (HKATC) CENTRE, MEMBERS WERE SHOWN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ATC TECHNOLOGY AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

INTRODUCING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SYSTEMS TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR LEE SHU-CHEE, SAID ATC OFFERS THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

/IT REDUCES

- * IT REDUCES JOURNEY TIMES, VEHICLE DELAYS AND THE NUMBER OF STOPS AS TRAFFIC SIGNALS;
- * SPECIAL SIGNAL TIME PLANS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO CATER FOR PARTICULAR EVENTS SUCH AS ACCIDENTS OR ROADWORKS;
- * "GREEN WAVE" SIGNAL TIME PLANS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO FIRE ENGINES; AND
- * SIGNAL EQUIPMENT OPERATION CAN BE CLOSELY MONITORED SO THAT FAULTS ARE IDENTIFIED AND PROMPTLY RECTIFIED.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE FIRST ATC SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED IN WEST KOWLOON IN 1977. IT PROVED EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING CONGESTION AND ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN JOURNEY TIME OF ABOUT 30 PER CENT.

SINCE THEN, THE KOWLOON ATC SYSTEM HAS BEEN EXPANDED AND RENEWAL OF THE SYSTEM IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1996.

THE HONG KONG ATC SYSTEM WAS COMPLETED IN 1989. IT INCORPORATES AN ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC RESPONSIVE CONTROL PACKAGE WHICH WILL ENABLE THE SYSTEM TO RESPOND INSTANTANEOUSLY TO CHANGES IN PREVAILING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

THE SYSTEM FOR TSUEN WAN IS NOW BEING INSTALLED AND IS PROGRAMMED FOR COMPLETION IN 1995. THE SYSTEM FOR SHA TIN IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMMISSIONED BY 1997.

MEMBERS WERE GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION ON THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM AND THEN TAKEN ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CENTRE INCLUDING THE COMPUTER ROOM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ARTIFICIAL REEF PLANTED IN PAK SHA O

* * * * *

AN ARTIFICIAL REEF WAS TODAY (FRIDAY) PLANTED AT PAK SHA O IN SAI KUNG UNDER AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) AND UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S SWIRE MARINE LABORATORY.

THE REEF, BUILT WITH 1,000 COAL ASH CEMENT BLOCKS, OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 100 SQUARE METRES AND IS TWO METRES HIGH.

IT IS PLACED AT A SITE WITH A DEPTH OF SEVEN METRES OF WATER AT HIGH TIDE AT PAK SHA O, WHERE ONE OF ITS BAYS -- HOI HA WAN -- HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR HONG KONG'S FIRST MARINE PARK.

AFD'S SENIOR CAPTURE FISHERIES OFFICER, DR PAUL MAK, SAID THE PROJECT AIMED TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ARTIFICIAL REEF AS A FISHERIES RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION DEVICE, AS WELL AS THE FEASIBILITY OF UTILISING FUEL ASH UNDERWATER IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY MANNER.

DR MAK POINTED OUT THAT ARTIFICIAL HABITAT TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN APPLIED IN MANY COUNTRIES WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. AFD THEREFORE DECIDED TO TEST ITS EFFECT IN LOCAL WATERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SWIRE MARINE LABORATORY.

THE STUDIES AND INVESTIGATION WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT WILL COST \$3 MILLION AND IS SUPPORTED AND FUNDED EQUALLY BY THE TERRITORY'S TWO POWER COMPANIES, HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO LTD AND CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO LTD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PAI TAU ROAD WORKS APPROVED
* * * * *

ROAD WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PAI TAU, SHA TIN, TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FOR THE PROPOSED VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION SCHEME IN THE AREA.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE THE WORKS.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING AREA, AN EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ACCESS ROAD FROM THE PARKING AREA TO THE PAI TAU VILLAGE EXTENSION AREA, AND FOOTPATHS, CARRIAGEWAY, STAIRS AND AMENITY AREAS.

PERMANENT ALTERNATIVE ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ACCESS WHICH MAY BE CLOSED IF NECESSARY.

DURING CONSTRUCTION, NECESSARY ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST TO BOOST HERITAGE PRESERVATION
* * * * *

THE COUNCIL OF THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 6) TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION "HERITAGE IN GRAPHICS".

THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WAS SET UP UNDER THE LAW IN LATE 1992 WITH AIMS TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEW BODY FOR HERITAGE PRESERVATION, A TERRITORY-WIDE LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION HAD BEEN ORGANISED TO SELECT A LOGO FOR THE TRUST.

A TOTAL OF 217 ENTRIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE COMPETITION WHICH WERE JUDGED IN TWO STAGES.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

IN ADDITION, OPENING OF THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, WILL ALSO BE ANNOUNCED.

THE TRAIL LINKS UP A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE STRUCTURES WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE, ENABLING THE PUBLIC TO RECAPTURE THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CONVENIENTLY.

PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST, MR EDWARD HO, AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, MR ANGUS MIU.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE WHICH STARTS AT 3 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO YUEN LONG AREAS TO GET TREATED WATER SUPPLY

* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF ABOUT 10 KILOMETRES OF WATER MAINS ALONG DEEP BAY ROAD, NIM WAN ROAD AND THE ACCESS ROAD TO FUNG KONG TSUEN, YUEN LONG, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEADER TANK WITH A CAPACITY OF 500 CUBIC METRES.

THE WORKS FORM A MAJOR PART OF A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ENTITLED "WATER SUPPLY TO SHEUNG PAK NAI AND HA PAK NAI, YUEN LONG" AND PART OF THE RURAL PLANNING IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY PROGRAMME.

THE TWO AREAS WILL GET TREATED WATER SUPPLY WHEN THE WORKS FINISH BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 44TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

TENDERS OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24.

- - - - 0 - - - -

S5 STUDENT AND STUDENT-TEACHERS RECEIVE AWARDS

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRESENTED THE CHARLES AND ELIZABETH FRANKLAND MOORE AWARDS TO A SECONDARY 5 STUDENT AND TWO STUDENT-TEACHERS FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

THEY WERE MR LAM HEI-LING FROM QUEEN'S COLLEGE WHO OBTAINED 10AS AND RANKED FIRST IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION THIS YEAR AND MR DANIEL LEE KIN-YING AND MS LAM PO-YING WHO RECEIVED SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING AT THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG SINO-BRITISH FELLOWSHIP TRUST.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR WONG SAID THE TWO STUDENT-TEACHERS' FUTURE CONTRIBUTION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE LIFE MUCH HAPPIER FOR MANY YOUNG PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

- 21 -

GOVT LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

* * * * *

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN TAI TAM, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE LAND IS LOCATED IN RED HILL ROAD, TAI TAM, HONG KONG AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,080 SQUARE METRES. IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, OFFICE AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL) USE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 14 NEXT YEAR.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLAN IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THESE OFFICES.

TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SITTING-OUT AREA PLANNED FOR MA ON SHAN

* * * * *

A DISTRICT OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT IN CENTRAL MA ON SHAN AS PART OF THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

WORK ON THE TWO-HECTARE OPEN SPACE NEAR YIU ON ESTATE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MARCH NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 12 MONTHS.

THE PROJECT EMBODIES CHILDREN PLAY AREAS, PUBLIC LAVATORIES, TAI CHI PRACTISING AREA, FITNESS TRAILS, SITTING-OUT AREAS AND LANDSCAPED AREAS.

TENDERS FOR THE WORKS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM SHANKLAND COX LIMITED, SUITE 1708, HARCOURT HOUSE, 39 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/22

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

- 22 -

268 VMS RETURN HOME

* * * * *

A GROUP OF 268 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 95 MEN, 75 WOMEN, 50 BOYS AND 48 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 183RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 10,570 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 36,882 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MINIBUS SERVICES EXTEND TO TSZ WAN SHAN SOUTH

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCES THAT THE TWO GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 20 AND 37M WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER TSZ WAN SHAN SOUTH AREA IN THE FORMS OF SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTES ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 5).

FARES ARE \$2.5 FOR ROUTE 20 FROM SAN PO KONG TO TSZ WAN SHAN NORTH, AND FOR THE NEW SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTE TO TSZ WAN SHAN SOUTH.

BOTH ROUTES WILL INTRODUCE SECTION FARES OF \$2.

THE FARES ARE \$1.5 FOR ROUTE 37M FROM WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION TO TSZ WAN SHAN NORTH, AND FOR THE NEW SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTE TO TSZ MAN ESTATE.

ROUTES 20 AND 37M ALSO RUN SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTES FROM WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION TO SAN PO KONG AND TO TSZ LOK ESTATE AT FARES OF \$2 AND \$1.5 RESPECTIVELY. THESE ROUTES WILL SHORTEN THE TRAVELLING TIME.

MORE BUSES WILL BE PUT INTO SERVICE TO RUN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

- 23 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,365
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,635
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+965
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,965
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.9 *+0.1* 3.12.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.42 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.30	3.67
1 MONTH	2.86 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.82	3.92
3 MONTHS	3.02 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.92	4.10
6 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	24 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.85	4.27
12 MONTHS	3.55 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.74	4.72

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 16,346 MN

CLOSED 3 DECEMBER 1993

- - - - 0 - - - -