



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
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Wednesday, July 17, 1996

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Wednesday) after visiting two penal institutions on Lantau Island:

Governor: I'm pleased that I've been able to spend the afternoon seeing the work of Correctional Services Department at our maximum security prison and at the detention centre. As I think you all know one of the problems that we have and haven't yet been able to tackle satisfactorily is over-crowding in our prisons. We are, I suppose, 30 per cent or may be even more over-crowded. That means that our Correctional Services Department who do such an excellent job, have to work in difficult conditions. It also means that the prisoners themselves live in over-crowded conditions and obviously that makes everybody's job more difficult. We have plans in the pipeline at the moment for providing about 1,300 more places in prisons and detention centre. That will obviously ease the problem in the short term by something like half. But that isn't enough. We do need to locate new sites for prisons and convince the community that this has to be given a sensible priority. It means convincing where appropriate district boards and neighbourhoods that new prison facilities are required. I think the problem we face isn't one of a shortage of capital resources. We certainly have the money in Hong Kong. But we've got to have the will as well. It's not fair to expect our Correctional Services Department to work in these over-crowded conditions or prisoners to live in these over-crowded conditions. So we've got to show that we've got the will in the next few years and build additional facilities so that our criminal justice system can work as effectively as possible.

Question: Governor, there has been a report .. Government officials will quit their present responsibilities and help out with the future Chief Executive to set up the SAR Government. You have responded that...

Governor: I'll tell you what. I'll save you all the trouble of asking questions about this in the future. I am giving you a reply which we can refer to from now on as reply A. There have been reports in the newspapers on an almost weekly basis about what particular arrangements will be put in place when there's a Chief Executive Designate. Now, these stories are extremely interesting because we don't yet have a Chief Executive Designate. I'll answer questions about the co-operation that we intend to offer to a Chief Executive Designate when we've actually got a Chief Executive Designate and until then there is no point at all in me answering these interesting hypothetical speculations. But, the important point which I want to put on the record once again now and which I'll mention again if you ever ask me the same question, is that we do want to give the maximum possible co-operation to the Chief Executive Designate while ensuring that the administration of Hong Kong in the short term is as effective as possible.

Question: What can you expect from Mrs Regina Ip as the first ever female head of the Immigration Department?

Governor: I expect her to be as outstanding and successful in her new job as she's been in her previous job. As you all know, if you talk to people who've worked with the Industry Department, who've talked to industrialists in Hong Kong, they have nothing but praise for Regina, who's been an extremely successful civil servant and she does of course have some experience of the sort of work she'll now be responsible for. She's been very good in promoting Hong Kong's economic and industrial needs and aspirations and I am sure she will be equally good in giving leadership to the Immigration Department.

Question: It's been reported that Regina Ip was approached more than two weeks ago ... before actually resigned. Do you have any comments?

Governor: I know it's the case that the previous director resigned for personal reasons about a fortnight ago and that Regina was approached to ask whether she take the job about a fortnight ago.

Question: After the resignation?

Governor: I don't have anything to add to that or to what the Secretary for the Civil Service has said on a number of occasions.

Question: How do you deal with ... co-operation with China to deal with ...?

Governor: Well, it won't be anything to do with China after 1997. It will be entirely a matter for the Hong Kong SAR. But I am sure that the SAR Government will have as co-operative a relationship with the authorities in China about the return of illegal immigrants as we've had.

Question: Mr Patten, the PLA chief is now visiting Hong Kong and will leave tomorrow. Do you know what can be achieved... this time and do you foresee any meetings with him in the future?

Governor: His trip is a return visit. The Commander British Forces, General Dutton, went to Shenzhen a few weeks ago and this is a reciprocal return visit and I think will be valuable in showing the future commander of the garrison in Hong Kong a little about life here, and giving him the opportunity for instance of seeing some of the defence sites which will be used by the PLA. So I think it's a getting-to-know-Hong Kong visit and I am sure that there will be future opportunities for him to get to know Hong Kong even better and for him to get to know in due course when it is appropriate the civil authorities.

Question: The relations between the two garrisons should be reciprocated in government level. In other word, may be Director Lu... and come to Hong Kong to see how things operate?

Governor: Mr Lu knows what people in Hong Kong thinks because he reads the Hong Kong newspapers and reads the Hong Kong opinion polls. Obviously, General Liu's visit is a helpful one. I'm sure he'll find it constructive and I am sure that he'll find that he's talking to very professional soldiers and airmen and naval personnel on our side and that he'll be impressed by the facilities that will be available here for his own garrison which I am sure he will want to see operating as successfully as the garrison has operated in the last few years.

Question: You've just said that Regina Ip received about her new post about a fortnight ago and also Mr Leung submitted his retirement application a fortnight ago. Do you mean that it could be that Regina Ip received her invitation before Mr Leung applied for retirement?

Governor: No, I don't mean that.

Question: Would you expect Mr Liu to discuss in details with officials from the Security Branch on how to draft the garrison law ...?

Governor: I would expect us to be told in the JLG in due course what proposals on the garrison law Chinese officials have because it will obviously be of concern to people in Hong Kong. Last question.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: You've only got to look at every opinion poll that's done in Hong Kong. You've only got to talk to people in Hong Kong to know that there are some concerns about the future. I don't think there are concerns about the future between now and the 30 June 1997. I think that I'm stating the obvious in saying that there are concerns about what may happen beyond then and it's ridiculous and dishonest to pretend otherwise. What we want to try to do is to give as much reassurances we can before 1997. But obviously the principal reassurance has to come from Chinese officials and from those who advise China in Hong Kong. Some of the things that have happened recently in relation for example to freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, some of those things stand directly from what Chinese officials have said and haven't frankly been tremendously helpful. But I hope we can put all that behind us and see reassurance in the future rather than statements which have the opposite effect.

Question: You said ... until the future Chief Executive appears before we look at the assistance to be given to him. But won't you think that it will be too late when he actually appears?

Governor: No , what I said is I'll be happy to answer questions about the assistance which the Chief Executive Designate is going to have when we've got a Chief Executive Designate and when for example I've been able to discuss the situation with him and my senior officials have been able to discuss the situation with him or her. It doesn't made very much sense discussing the situation every other week or every week through the media before we've even got a Chief Executive Designate.

Question: Mr Patten, do you agree that the consensus reached by the Preparatory Committee on the definition of permanent residents in Hong Kong...?

Governor: Well. I've been a little confused about what is exactly that's been agreed. We've been pressing for expert talks with Chinese officials to clear up some of these questions on right of abode. They matter enormously to people in Hong Kong and of course practical questions are going to be asked of officials, Immigration Department officials at Kai Tak and elsewhere which at present they are not in a position to answer. So I think the best thing to happen so that we can clear up some of the doubts is to have early expert talks again and see if we can find out exactly what's intended because the situation I think is still rather confusing to people.

End

#### Governor visits penal institutions on Lantau

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Wednesday) visited Shek Pik Prison and Sha Tsui Detention Centre to see the operation and management of facilities at a maximum security prison and the rigorous training programmes for young offenders.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, and the Senior Superintendent of Shek Pik Prison, Mr Wai Heung-wing, the Governor called on workshops, the kitchen, the chapel, the prison hospital and inmates' accommodation.

At the reception area of Shek Pik Prison, which came into operation in 1984, the Governor was required to proceed through the security archway, which all visitors must pass on entering the prison.

He was briefed on the management and operations of the 12-year-old prison which came into operation in 1984 and was the last major penal facility to be constructed. At present, it houses about 800 inmates - almost 80 per cent above its certified accommodation of 450.

He was told that with the current overcrowding situation in penal institutions, some inmates had to share single unit cells. However, conditions are not as cramped as in some other institutions because the cells are more spacious than the "older" ones.

During his tour of workshops, Mr Patten was briefed by Principal Industrial Officer, Mr Leung Kam-ning, who is in charge of the industrial set-up at Shek Pik Prison. All prisoners who are certified fit are required to work so as to alleviate boredom which could lead to unrest among inmates.

In the kitchen, the Governor saw inmates preparing meals for prisoners and was impressed by the high hygiene standards in food preparation.

At the prison hospital, he was met by the Senior Medical Officer, Dr Chan Kaw-hwee, who is the resident medical officer of Shek Pik Prison. He also met the Clinical Psychologist, Mr Francis Butt.

The Governor then stopped in at the institution's chapel where he was met by Rev Father Sean Burke who has been a visiting Chaplain to the Correctional Services Department (CSD) institutions since 1975. Mr Patten was informed that religious services and counselling are provided to inmates with different faiths.

At the Sha Tsui Detention Centre, the Governor was briefed by Superintendent Choy Tin-bo on the concept of the "short, sharp, shock" treatment for young offenders who undergo a rigorous regime of physical programming aimed at instilling discipline, courtesy and a sense of well-being.

He was told the young inmates are put through a series of rigid sessions of physical training, foot-drill and grass-cutting.

At the centre hospital, he was met by Medical Officer, Dr Thein Soe-tun. He was briefed on the various medical facilities and programmes for young offenders so as to ensure they are fit to carry out the rigid schedules.

At the end of the visit, Mr Patten dropped in on the visitors' waiting room where he was briefed on improvements made to the area so that callers are better informed of CSD's rehabilitation programme.

End

PLA chief ends visit to British Forces HK tomorrow

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The Commander of the future PLA Garrison of Hong Kong, Major General Liu Zhenwu, ends his three-day visit to the British Forces tomorrow (Thursday).

During his stay in the territory, General Liu called on Commander British Forces, Major General Bryan Dutton, and visited units of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

General Liu will leave Hong Kong tomorrow. He will depart from Fenwick Pier, Wan Chai, by a Royal Air Force Wessex helicopter.

End

Reproductive Technology Bill consultation paper published

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The Provisional Council on Reproductive Technology (PCRT), which was appointed by the Secretary for Health and Welfare last December, has published a consultation paper to seek public views on three major issues arising from the Reproductive Technology (RT) Bill now being drafted.

A PCRT spokesman said today (Wednesday) that since RT was a fast-developing area, new techniques had been developed subsequent to the last two public consultation exercises on recommendations made by the former Committee on Scientifically Assisted Human Reproduction.

"Both the PCRT and Government considered it necessary to gauge the views of the public in drawing up regulatory proposals on the new and sensitive areas of sex selection and the use of fetal ovarian or testicular tissue in infertility treatment and in research," he said.

"Moreover, the draft RT Bill contains detailed provisions on licensing requirements and procedures. As these would have significant implications on existing and potential service providers, we wish especially to solicit their views on the proposed licensing arrangements."

The consultation paper sets out the arguments for and against sex selection achieved by means of RT procedures and the use of fetal ovarian or testicular tissue in infertility treatment or in research. It also provides an outline of the proposed licensing mechanism. Public views on these three major issues are invited.

Members of public could obtain copies of the paper from district offices and the Secretariat of PCRT at second floor, Shun Feng International Centre, 182 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Views should be sent to PCRT before September 15.

"I hope the consultation paper will form the basis for discussion within the community and look forward to receiving considered responses from all sectors before September 15," the spokesman said.

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#### More grants to aid flood victims in China approved

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The Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee approved at its meeting today (Wednesday) four grants totalling \$12 million in aid of the recent floods in China.

Together with the \$3 million granted to Oxfam Hong Kong last Saturday (July 13), the Committee has approved \$15 million for the purpose.

A government spokesman said a grant of \$3 million each was made in response to applications from the Hong Kong Red Cross, Medecins Sans Frontieres, the Salvation Army and World Vision Hong Kong.

"The Committee believes that these grants are an appropriate means to express the concerns of the community towards the flood victims. It also hopes that these grants would arouse more public support for flood relief efforts," he said.

This is the third time grants had been made for floods on a large scale in China. In July last year, the Committee granted \$13.5 million for relief projects run by three organisations when floods hit southern and eastern China.

In June 1994, the Committee also granted \$20 million to three organisations for relief projects in the south and east of China.

To ensure that the grants will be used for the designated purposes, the organisations will be required to submit to the Committee an evaluation report and an audited account on the use of the grant.

The Committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary. Other members are Dr Raymond Ch'ien, Mr Jimmy McGregor, Mr Cheung Hon-chung, Mr Lau Chin-shek, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, and the Secretary for the Treasury.

End

#### Measures to improve workers' safety

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The Commissioner for Labour was empowered to issue suspension and improvement notices in a bid to further enhance workers' safety following the passage of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1996 by the Legislative Council earlier this month.

Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety), Mr Mak Sai-yiu, this (Wednesday) afternoon said a suspension notice might be issued to suspend a hazardous work or process or the use of any dangerous equipment, machinery or substance which posed an imminent risk of serious bodily injury to workers concerned.

He said the notice would be served on the proprietor of an industrial undertaking as soon as practicable but in no case later than 24 hours from the discovery of the risk.

"This is to remove the risks swiftly and to deter hazardous and dangerous work situations.

"However, the proprietor may within 28 days from the date he receives the notice, apply in writing to the Commissioner for Labour for a review of the issue of the notice," he said.

To tackle less serious situations, the Commissioner for Labour was empowered to issue an improvement notice requiring the proprietor or contractor to remedy the contravention within a specified period of time or to refrain from continuing or repeating the contravention.

"The objective of an improvement notice is to encourage the proprietors or contractors to take measures promptly to improve safety at work, thus avoiding prosecutions," said Mr Mak.

"But if the proprietor fails to comply with the terms of an improvement notice, he may be prosecuted both for breaching the notice and for the original offence."

The maximum penalty for contravening a suspension notice is \$500,000 and 12 months' imprisonment, with an additional fine of \$50,000 for every day that the contravention continues.

For those who fail to comply with the terms of an improvement notice without reasonable excuse, they are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months.

End

#### Marine industrial accident investigation completed

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The Marine Department has completed its investigation into the industrial accident in which two workers died and a third one injured while working at a dumb steel flat top barge under repairs in Yau Tong Bay on June 13, a Marine Department spokesman today (Wednesday).

The report has been sent the Coroner and the Education and Manpower Branch.

"The Prosecution Section of the Marine Department is also studying the report," the spokesman said.

"The content of the report and the recommendations will be published after the death inquest."

End

### UK/HK Scholarship Scheme to be phased out

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The UK/HK Scholarship Scheme will be phased out by the end of 1999-2000 academic year and no new scholarships will be awarded from 1996-97 onwards, a government spokesman said today (Wednesday).

However, the existing scholars benefited under the Scheme would continue to be supported until the end of the tenure of their awards.

The Scheme was established jointly by the Hong Kong and the British governments for outstanding Hong Kong students to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom.

Since it came into operation in 1988, over 60 awards had been made to Hong Kong students, on the basis of academic merit and personal qualities, to study in British universities.

"Hong Kong's contribution to the Scheme has been funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club because it is not the government policy to finance scholarships from public funds.

"The contribution from the UK, on a 50:50 basis, is from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Scholarships and Awards Scheme and the Sir Shiu-kin Tang Bequest," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said a decision had been taken to phase out the Scheme because the Jockey Club was only willing to continue its financial commitments on a matching basis until 1997-98.

"On the other hand, the British Government will channel its scholarships for Hong Kong students through the new Hong Kong Chevening Scholarship Scheme starting from 1996-97," said the spokesman.

The Chevening Scholarship Scheme was launched in January as part of a prestigious scheme funded by FCO to enable academic high achievers and future business leaders world-wide to become familiar with the UK and the English language.

Under this larger and more focused Scheme, some 30 scholarships have already been awarded to outstanding Hong Kong students for one-year taught masters degree courses in the UK, and another 10 have been awarded to young professionals for three-month intensive management courses at top UK institutions.

Students interested in obtaining more information about this Scheme may contact the British Council direct.

In addition to the Chevening Scholarships, there are at least nine other UK schemes which offer scholarships or fellowships for Hong Kong students to study or to undertake research in the UK.

In addition, schemes such as the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund Overseas Scholarship and Fellowship Scheme and the Croucher Foundation Scholarship Scheme are available to outstanding students who wish to study either in the UK or other parts of the world.

End

#### New measure to deal with marine littering

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Fisheries-grade staff of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department will be empowered to take out prosecution against marine littering as a further measure to fight the floating refuse problem.

The decision was made by the Governor-in-Council which ordered an amendment to the fourth schedule of the Magistrates Ordinance to include fisheries officers, Senior Fisheries Supervisor, Fisheries Supervisor I, and Fisheries Supervisor II in the list of public officers empowered to issue summonses for marine littering offences.

At present, only certain ranks of officers of Marine Department, Urban Services and Regional Services departments have power to take action against marine littering.

A spokesman for the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch said today (Wednesday): "Fisheries staff are responsible for patrolling the 26 fish culture zones (FCZs) in Hong Kong.

"By empowering them to issue summonses for marine littering offences, they will be able to deal with the floating refuse problem in and around the FCZs more effectively.

"The containment of the floating refuse problem will help reduce its adverse effect on navigation and other marine activities such as water sports and mariculture.

"It will also reduce the marine littering problem in the harbour which is an eyesore not only to local residents, but also visitors from other countries."

End

#### Payroll and wage statistics for first quarter 1996

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Average labour earnings covering all major sectors surveyed, as measured by payroll per person engaged, recorded an increase of 11.1% in nominal terms in the first quarter of 1996 over a year earlier, according to statistics released today (Wednesday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

After discounting changes in consumer prices, the increase was 4.4% in real terms.

All major sectors surveyed recorded increases in average labour earnings, both in nominal terms and in real terms.

Analysed by sector, financing, insurance, real estate and business services recorded the fastest increase in average payroll per person engaged, by 13.3% in nominal terms or 6.4% in real terms in the first quarter of 1996 over a year earlier.

This was followed by the transport, storage and communications sector, by 12.2% in nominal terms or 5.5% in real terms; wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels, by 11.5% in nominal terms or 4.8% in real terms; community, social and personal services, by 8.9% in nominal terms or 2.3% in real terms.

Average labour earnings in the manufacturing sector, rose by 6.4% in nominal terms, but with only a marginal increase in real terms after discounting changes in consumer prices.

The overall wage index covering selected major sectors however showed a less rapid increase than average labour earnings. This index rose by 6.1% in nominal terms in March 1996 over a year earlier. After discounting changes in consumer prices, the index showed only a marginal decrease of 0.6% in real terms.

The relatively faster increase in earnings as compared to wages was due to more overtime pay and the issue of irregular payments in some sectors, which were covered in earnings but not in wages.

This probably signified a higher intensity of manpower utilisation for those in employment. Also, the more moderate wage increase reflected the adjustments to the easing in labour market conditions during the course of last year.

The wage indices for financing, insurance, real estate and business services and personal services showed increases in real terms between March 1995 and March 1996.

On the other hand, the wage indices for the manufacturing sector, wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels and transport services recorded decreases of different magnitudes in real terms.

Year-on-year changes in the indices of payroll per person engaged and wage indices for selected major sectors, in both nominal and real terms, are shown in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Statistics on average payroll per person engaged are compiled at quarterly intervals based on the results of the Labour Earnings Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The wage indices are compiled from the same survey at half-yearly intervals for March and September of the year. The wage indices cover both manual and non-manual workers up to the supervisory level.

Average payroll includes wages as well as all other irregular receipts such as bonuses and overtime payments. Statistics on average payroll tend to show larger quarter-to-quarter changes, affected by the number of hours actually worked and the timing of payment of bonuses and back-pay.

Information on employees' entitlement to various types of fringe benefits other than basic wages was also collected in this round of the survey.

Among supervisory, technical, clerical and miscellaneous non-production workers, 87% of them were entitled to medical benefits of some kind, 45% to provident fund scheme and 8% to housing benefits of some kind.

As for craftsmen and operatives, 86% of them were entitled to medical benefits of some kind, 33% to provident fund scheme and 1% to housing benefits of some kind.

Detailed breakdowns of the above statistics are published in the Quarterly Report of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll Statistics, March 1996 and the Half-yearly Report of Wage Statistics, March 1996.

They will be available shortly at \$44 and \$57 per copy respectively at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and at the Publications Section of Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about statistics on average payroll per person engaged, please contact the department on 2582 5076. As for enquiries on wage statistics, please call 2582 4744.

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Table 1 : Year-on-Year Change in Indices of Payroll Per Person Engaged by Selected Major Sector

Selected Major Sector	% change for 1st Quarter 1996 over 1st Quarter 1995	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Manufacturing	+6.4	*
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	+11.5	+4.8
Transport, Storage and Communications	+12.2	+5.5
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	+13.3	+6.4
Community, Social and Personal Services	+8.9	+2.3
All Sectors @	+11.1	+4.4

Table 2 : Year-on-Year Change in Wage Indices by Selected Major Sector

Selected Major Sector	% change for March 1996 over March 1995	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Manufacturing	+5.6	-1.0
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	+5.5	-1.2
Transport Services #	+6.7	-0.1
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	+7.4	+0.6
Personal Services ##	+8.0	+1.2
All Sectors @	+6.1	-0.6

# Excluding industries related to storage and communications

## Excluding industries related to community and social services

@ Including the electricity and gas sector

\* Less than 0.05

End

Three lots of land to let

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancy of three pieces of government land on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories.

The first lot located in Sai See Street, Kennedy Town, has an area of about 2,610 square metres. It is intended for use as a fee-paying public car park for the parking of goods vehicles excluding container vehicles, tractors and trailers.

The tenancy is for two years, renewable quarterly.

The second lot is located in Area 25, On Lok Tsuen, Fanling. With an area of about 2,204 square metres, the lot is earmarked for the open storage of goods including unregistered motor vehicles and for the parking, repairing, lubricating and maintenance of motor vehicles.

The tenancy is also for two years, renewable quarterly.

Covering an area of about 1,620 square metres, the third lot is located at Liu To Road, Area 10, Tsing Yi. The lot is intended for use as a fee-paying public car park for the parking of goods vehicles excluding container tractors and trailers.

The tenancy is for one year, renewable quarterly.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on August 2.

Tender forms, tender notices and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Kowloon District Lands Office, and the respective district lands offices of Hong Kong West, North, and Kwai Tsing.

Tender plans can also be inspected at these offices.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,936	0930	+21
Closing balance in the account	1,870	1000	+21
Change attributable to :		1100	+21
Money market activity	+29	1200	+21
LAF today	-95	1500	+29
		1600	+29

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.2 \*-0.2\* 17.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.08	2 years	2805	6.30	100.03	6.37
1 month	5.10	3 years	3904	6.30	99.07	6.78
3 months	5.22	5 years	5106	7.23	99.64	7.45
6 months	5.45	7 years	7305	7.60	99.76	7.79
12 months	5.87	5 years	M502	7.30	99.28	7.63

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$28,251 million

Closed July 17, 1996

End