



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LABOUR IMPORTATION APPLICATIONS TO START NEXT WEEK

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THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STEERING GROUP ON IMPORTATION OF LABOUR HAS FINALISED THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR TWO SCHEMES UNDER WHICH 2,700 SKILLED WORKERS AND 10,000 EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES CAN BE IMPORTED.

ANNOUNCING DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG SAID APPLICATIONS MAY BE LODGED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION FROM NEXT MONDAY (JULY 16).

"HOWEVER, THE SCHEME TO IMPORT 2,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL NOT COMMENCE YET. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN THE YEAR," HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT THE STEERING GROUP WHICH HE CHAIRS WILL MONITOR CLOSELY THE SCHEMES' IMPLEMENTATION TO ENSURE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION, MR YEUNG ADDED THAT ADEQUATE STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS FROM EXPLOITING IMPORTED WORKERS.

"AS A SAFEGUARD, WE HAVE AMENDED THE STANDARD CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT BY STIPULATING THAT ACCOMMODATION MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER TO CERTAIN STANDARDS AND BY EMPHASISING THAT EMPLOYERS MAY NOT MAKE DEDUCTIONS FROM THE WAGES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, EXCEPT FOR THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOWED UNDER SECTION 32 OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

THE STANDARD CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS WILL ALSO SPECIFY THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER HONG KONG LABOUR LAWS AND WILL COVER AREAS SUCH AS WAGES, HOLIDAYS, MEDICAL BENEFIT AND FREE PASSAGE.

ADDRESSING CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF LOW-WAGE COMPETITION FOR LOCAL WORKERS, MR YEUNG SAID THE PUBLICATION OF MEDIAN WAGES IN RESPECT OF TECHNICIANS, CRAFTSMEN, SUPERVISORS AND EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES WOULD GIVE HONG KONG WORKERS AN ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD COME UNDER NO SUCH THREAT.

"I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT ONLY THOSE APPLICATIONS OFFERING WAGES AT OR ABOVE THE MEDIAN LEVEL WILL BE CONSIDERED.

MOREOVER, BEFORE AN APPLICATION IS PROCESSED, THE EMPLOYER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS FAILED TO RECRUIT LOCALLY AT MARKET WAGES.

"HE CAN EITHER ADVERTISE VACANCIES IN NEWSPAPERS OR REGISTER VACANCIES WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"VALID APPLICATIONS WILL THEN BE CONSIDERED IN AN ORDER OF PRIORITY THAT HAS REGARD TO RECENT VACANCY RATES AND RATES OF WAGE INCREASE.

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"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THOSE INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM THE HIGHEST VACANCY RATES AND SUSTAINING THE HIGHEST GROWTH RATE IN WAGES WOULD BE GIVEN A HIGHER PRIORITY," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT FOR EACH SCHEME, A LIST OF INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES RANKED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES AND THE RATE OF WAGE INCREASE, AND A SECOND LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL JOB TITLES IN EACH INDUSTRY OR SERVICE RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR VACANCY SITUATION HAD BEEN COMPILED. THE LISTS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS.

"THESE LISTS WILL HELP PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED.

"A PAMPHLET, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, DESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTING LABOUR WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO MAKE USE OF THE SCHEMES," HE SAID.

ON THE TIME-SCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, MR YEUNG SAID EMPLOYERS WOULD BE GIVEN SIX WEEKS UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST TO LODGE APPLICATIONS WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, AND IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT A MONTH FOR ALL APPLICATIONS TO BE EXAMINED.

"ONCE AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED, WE WILL NOTIFY THE EMPLOYER, AND ALLOW HIM UP TO THREE MONTHS WITHIN WHICH TO RECRUIT WORKERS AND TO ARRANGE FOR THE WORKERS TO APPLY FOR VISAS.

"VISA APPLICATION WILL TAKE BETWEEN THREE TO FIVE WEEKS, DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF VISAS REQUIRING TO BE PROCESSED.

"IT IS THEREFORE EXPECTED THAT THE FIRST BATCH OF WORKERS TO BE IMPORTED UNDER THE SCHEMES WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF TO COPE WITH THE WORK ARISING FROM THESE SCHEMES.

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DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN AIR QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED THE FIRST DETAILED AIR QUALITY DATA RESULTING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF AIR POLLUTION (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS WHICH CAME INTO FORCE ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EPD, MR FRED TROMP SAID THE IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR QUALITY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD OBSERVED OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAD BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF DRAMATIC.

"IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT WHERE RESIDENTS HAVE LONG SUFFERED HIGH LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION, WE HAVE SEEN LEVELS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE GAS DROP BY OVER 80 PER CENT. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A LOWERING OF LEVELS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE GAS AND GENERAL DUST LEVELS.

"AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN OTHER DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS, SUCH AS KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN HAVE SHOWN SIMILAR IMPROVEMENTS," MR TROMP SAID.

"WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE PUBLIC," MR TROMP EXPLAINED, "IS THAT THE AIR NOT ONLY LOOKS A LOT CLEANER, BUT WILL BE MUCH SAFER TO BREATHE."

"DOCTORS AND CLINICS IN THESE AREAS CAN EXPECT TO SEE A REDUCTION IN THE INCIDENCE OF RESPIRATORY AND LUNG ILLNESSES SUCH AS ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS AND THROAT INFECTIONS."

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS 1990 WHICH WERE GAZETTED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND TOOK EFFECT ON JULY 1, RESTRICT THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF LIQUID FUELS TO 0.5 PER CENT AND THAT OF SOLID FUELS TO 1.0 PER CENT. THERE IS ALSO A VISCOSITY RESTRICTION FOR LIQUID FUEL.

BEFORE THE NEW REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT, MOST FUEL BURNING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG USED A THICK, HEAVY FUEL OIL WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO BURN AND HAS A SULPHUR CONTENT OF AROUND 2.5 PER CENT.

THE NEW, LIGHTER AND CLEANER FUEL IS EASIER TO BURN, AND THE EPD HAS DISCOVERED THAT CHIMNEYS EMITTING BLACK SMOKE, WHICH WAS A COMMON FEATURE OF INDUSTRY IN THE PAST, IS NOW AN EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE.

OTHER VISIBLE EMISSIONS, SUCH AS WHITE AND BLUE HAZES HAVE ALSO ALMOST DISAPPEARED.

EPD WELCOMED THE CO-OPERATION AND EFFORTS MADE BY THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED AND THEIR FUEL SUPPLIERS. INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY EPD OFFICERS HAVE SHOWN THAT ALL FACTORIES VISITED SO FAR (AROUND 20 PER CENT OF ALL FUEL USERS) ARE NOW COMPLYING WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS.

MR TROMP WARNED THAT, IN THE FACE OF AN EVER-GROWING AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG, FURTHER AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS WERE URGENTLY NEEDED IF THE GOVERNMENT'S AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR ALL AIR POLLUTANTS WERE TO BE MET.

"PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WILL BE THE IMPOSITION OF STRINGENT VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROL MEASURES WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL NEXT YEAR. FURTHER CONTROLS ON SOME INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS ARE ALSO NEEDED," HE SAID.

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CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT FOR WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH A CONSULTANCY FIRM ON WORKS RELATED TO THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, WHICH IS A KEY PART OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

THE 330-HECTARE RECLAMATION, EXTENDING ALONG THE WATERFRONT FROM YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER TO LAI CHI KOK, WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR ESSENTIAL TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEING PLANNED ON THE RECLAMATION INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, PORT-RELATED, GOVERNMENT/ INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE USES.

IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO COMPLETE THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE RECLAMATION WORKS WITHIN A PERIOD OF ABOUT FOUR YEARS, THE TECHNIQUES OF RECLAMATION AND SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION AS WELL AS THE DREDGING AND DISPOSAL OF SEA MUD TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES DURING AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION, WILL BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED.

THE CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, DR NIP KAM FAN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED, WOULD INVOLVE THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE 160 HECTARES OF RECLAMATION AND SEAWALL IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, TOGETHER WITH AGREED LOCAL ROADS SYSTEM, DRAINAGE AND LANDSCAPING FOR THE TOTAL AREA OF 330 HECTARES.

THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS WOULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CONSULTANT.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FIRST CONTRACT IN THE AREA TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CONSULTANT WOULD BE LET IN EARLY 1991 WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF RECLAMATION WORKS BY MID-1994.

OF THE 330 HECTARES TO BE RECLAIMED, ABOUT 170 HECTARES FORMING THE SOUTHERN PART WILL BE DESIGNED AND SUPERVISED BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE WORKS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATED SEAWALLS AND DRAINAGE, WILL COMMENCE NEXT MONTH.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION IS ABOUT \$8.3 BILLION.

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\$157M EFFLUENT TUNNEL CONTRACT AWARDED

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A \$157 MILLION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EFFLUENT TUNNEL AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR K.T. KUO, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR, AN ITALIAN FIRM OPERATING LOCALLY.

THE EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$873 MILLION AS THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN TOLO HARBOUR WHERE THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF A PROGRESSIVE INCREASE IN NUTRIENT CONCENTRATION, LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF "RED TIDES".

AT PRESENT, TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT IS DISCHARGED FROM THE SHA TIN AND TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS INTO TOLO HARBOUR. THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE NUTRIENT SOURCES TO THE NEARBY WATERS.

TO REMEDY THE SITUATION, THE EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO TOTALLY REMOVE THIS SOURCE OF NUTRIENT LOAD TO THE HARBOUR BY EXPORTING EFFLUENT FROM THE TWO TREATMENT WORKS TO THE VICTORIA HARBOUR VIA KAI TAK NULLAH FOR DISCHARGE.

THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE INTERCEPTION OF ALL THE FINAL TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM THE TWO TREATMENT WORKS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF PUMPING STATIONS, PIPELINE, SUBMARINE PIPELINE, AND A TUNNEL FOR EXPORTING THE EFFLUENT TO KOWLOON.

THE TUNNEL FOR WHICH THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY IS OF DRIVEN BORE AND CONCRETE LINED TYPE, MEASURING 7.5 KILOMETRE LONG AND 3.2 METRE IN DIAMETER.

IT WILL RUN UNDERNEATH TATE'S CAIRN TO CARRY TREATED EFFLUENT FROM SHA TIN TO DIAMOND HILL AND IS THE FIRST CONTRACT SIGNED FOR STAGE I OF THE SCHEME.

ONE UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE CONTRACT IS THAT TUNNEL EXCAVATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY A TUNNEL BORING MACHINE AND NOT BY THE CONVENTIONAL DRILL AND BLAST METHOD.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SUCH A MECHANISED METHOD OF EXCAVATION HAS BEEN USED ON A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM SOME INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT WORKS, THE NEW TUNNELLING METHOD WOULD AVOID LARGE SCALE USE OF EXPLOSIVES WITH A CONSEQUENT ABSENCE OF ASSOCIATED VIBRATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORKS.

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ALSO, THE USE OF THE TUNNEL BORING MACHINE TOGETHER WITH A PRECAST CONCRETE SEGMENTAL LINING SHOULD SPEED UP WORK AND REDUCE TO TWO YEARS WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TWO-AND-A-HALF YEAR CONSTRUCTION PERIOD USING CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF TUNNELLING.

IT IS SCHEDULED THAT STAGE I WORKS OF THE SCHEME TO SERVE SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN EARLY 1993 WHILE STAGE II WORKS FOR TAI PO ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE IN MID 1994.

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE SCHEME WILL SERVICE THE PLANNED TOTAL POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OF SHA TIN AND TAI PO.

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UK SHIPPERS BRIEFED ON HK REGISTER

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THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR JOHN YAXLEY, YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY TO PRESENT TO THEM THE TERRITORY'S NEW INDEPENDENT SHIPPING REGISTER.

THE HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION) BILL WHICH PRESCRIBES IN LAW THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THE NEW REGISTER WILL OPERATE, MOVED THROUGH ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RECENTLY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"THIS WILL MARK AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE TERRITORY'S EVOLUTION FROM A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY TO A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA WITH WIDE POWERS OF SELF GOVERNMENT," MR YAXLEY SAID.

"BY SPECIFYING AND ENFORCING INTERNATIONALLY BASED STANDARDS OF VESSEL CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND CREWING, WE HAVE PROVIDED A HIGH QUALITY REGISTER.

"THESE STANDARDS ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE IMO (INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION) CONVENTIONS IN PARTICULAR AS REGARDS THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, CERTIFICATION OF CREWS AND PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT," HE ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE NEW REGISTER, CAPTAIN TONY JESTICO OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH HONG KONG-REGISTERED SHIPS FORMED PART OF THE BRITISH REGISTER COULD NOT CONTINUE AFTER JULY 1, 1997.

ACCORDING TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE HONG KONG SAR IS AUTHORISED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND ISSUE RELATED CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION IN THE NAME OF "HONG KONG, CHINA".

/THE SETTING

THE SETTING UP OF AN INDEPENDENT SHIPPING REGISTER WOULD THEREFORE MARK AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AS WELL AS ENHANCE HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A LEADING CENTRE OF SHIPPING AND MARITIME COMMERCE, CAPT JESTICO SAID.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A REGISTER OF GOOD REPUTE WHICH WOULD SPECIFY AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS OF SHIP CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY.

"IN NO SENSE WILL THE NEW REGISTER BE A FLAG OF CONVENIENCE, EITHER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE IMO CONVENTIONS FOR SAFETY AT SEA AND THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE FULLY INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG'S LEGISLATION.

HE SAID SO FAR AS MANNING WAS CONCERNED, THERE WOULD BE NO NATIONALITY OR RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASTER OR ANY MEMBER OF THE CREW.

ON THE FINANCIAL SIDE, CAPT JESTICO SAID THE FEES AND CHARGES WHICH SHIPOWNERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY WOULD BE CALCULATED TO RECOVER COSTS RATHER THAN TO RAISE REVENUE.

304 DETAILS ON TAXATION WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER, HE ADDED.

ALSO ATTENDING THE RECEPTION WERE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S MARINE ADVISER IN LONDON, MR DERRICK HALL, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR JOHN TSE.

THE GUESTS INCLUDED MR D.A. DEARSLEY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING; MR G.A. HAVILLAND OF MESSRS JOHN SWIRE & SONS; MR J.C.S. HORROCKS OF INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING; AND MR M.T. STEELE OF WESCOL INTERNATIONAL MARINE SERVICES.

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FUNDS FOR A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE APPROVED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE.

THE FUNDS ARE IN THE FORM OF A GRANT OF \$250 MILLION AND A LOAN OF \$188 MILLION FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND.

IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE SETTING UP OF A STATUTORY CORPORATION FOR THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND THAT A PRIVATE TREATY GRANT OF ABOUT 5,600 SQUARE METRES OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF TAT CHEE AVENUE AND FA PO STREET SHOULD BE MADE TO THE STATUTORY CORPORATION AT NOMINAL PREMIUM.

/A SPOKESMAN

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID THE SETTING UP OF A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN HONG KONG WOULD ASSIST THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO RESPOND TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY MORE EFFECTIVELY.

"A KEY FUNCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IS TO PROVIDE PURPOSE-BUILT ACCOMMODATION FOR HIGH-TECHNOLOGY DESIGN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCT PROTOTYPING," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND SET UP TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FACILITIES TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN PRODUCT INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADING.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE STATUTORY CORPORATION, KNOWN AS THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CORPORATION, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME.

MEANWHILE, A PROVISIONAL HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED HAS BEEN SET UP TO PERFORM THE NECESSARY FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF HAVING THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE OPERATIONAL IN 1993.

A BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS ALSO BEEN APPOINTED TO OVERSEE THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMPANY.

DR RAYMOND CH'IEN HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, PROFESSOR Y.C. CHENG, MR DAVID GAIRNS, PROFESSOR CHARLES KAO, MR JEFFREY LAM, MR J.P. LEE, DR CHRISTOPHER LEONG, MR C.D. TAM AND MR ALLAN WONG.

THE COMPANY SECRETARY IS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR MAXIMUS LI.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING SHORTLY.

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR COMMISSIONING CONSULTANCY
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED AN ADDITIONAL ADVANCE OF \$760 MILLION FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND TO THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA).

THIS WILL ENABLE THE PAA TO COMMISSION THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN CONSULTANCY TO ESTABLISH A MAJOR WORKS SITE AT CHEK LAP KOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE MAJOR RECLAMATION CONTRACTOR.

THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN CONSULTANCY WILL TAKE 16 MONTHS AND WILL COVER THE PREPARATION OF AN AIRPORT MASTER PLAN, A CIVIL ENGINEERING ASSIGNMENT AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY.

IN ORDER TO AVOID UNDUE DELAY IN STARTING THE MAIN RECLAMATION WORKS FOR THE AIRPORT PLATFORM, THE AVAILABILITY OF A SUITABLE WORKS SITE ON CHEK LAP KOK FROM WHICH THE MAIN CONTRACTOR(S) CAN OPERATE IS A PREREQUISITE.

ALTHOUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORKS AREA WOULD NORMALLY BE A LEAD COMPONENT OF THE MAIN SITE FORMATION CONTRACT, IT IS CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO AWARD A SEPARATE CONTRACT FOR WORKS TO START IN EARLY 1991 IN ORDER THAT THE WORKS SITE IS AVAILABLE IN 1992 FOR USE BY THE MAIN CONTRACTOR(S) WHEN THE AIRPORT SITE FORMATION CONTRACT IS LET.

THE WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT INCLUDE:

- * FORMATION OF ABOUT 25 HECTARES OF FLAT LAND AT THE NORTH OF CHEK LAP KOK, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPORTING FACILITIES;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF A STAGING AREA ON THE MAINLAND COAST NEAR CHEK LAP KOK TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL POINT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DESPATCH OF PLANT AND MATERIALS; AND
- * REPROVISIONING OF AN AIR-TRAFFIC BEACON AND METEOROLOGICAL STATION, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN NORTHEAST CHEK LAP KOK AND WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY NEARBY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

A SITE FOR THE WORKS AREA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF CHEK LAP KOK WHICH MEETS ALL THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT. DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN CONSULTANT TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY WITH THE FUTURE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN.

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OVER 30,000 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
REGISTERED IN FIRST HALF OF 1990

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS, REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE DECREASED BY 6.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF BUT INCREASED BY 3.9 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SECOND HALF OF 1989, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

REPORTING ON HIS DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, MR GLEESON SAID IN ALL 30,158 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE AGREEMENTS DECREASED BY 21.5 PER CENT FROM \$50.44 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY FROM \$39.26 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$39.60 BILLION IN THE CURRENT HALF YEAR.

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, 45,733 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, THE MAJORITY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, COMPARED WITH 47,780 AND 39,896 RESPECTIVELY DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1989, SHOWING A DECREASE OF 4.3 PER CENT AND AN INCREASE OF 14.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS DECREASED BY 7.1 PER CENT FROM \$57.55⁸ BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 BUT INCREASED BY 29.5 PER CENT FROM \$41.284 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$53.447 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 4,372 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, COMPARED WITH 3,135 AND 7,574 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WERE 200 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS 61.8 PER CENT AND 15.6 PER CENT LESS THAN IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS DECREASED BY 38.1 PER CENT FROM \$22.787 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 BUT INCREASED BY 68.2 PER CENT FROM \$8.389 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$14.112 BILLION.

THIRTY-TWO BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 46,451 OTHER MORTGAGES WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, COMPARED WITH 31 AND 51,178 RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AND 29 AND 39,644 RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 ROSE BY 711.2 PER CENT FROM \$0.727 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AND BY 222.4 PER CENT FROM \$1.829 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$5.895 BILLION.

THIS FIGURE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR, AS TO A TOTAL OF \$5.547 BILLION, BY FIVE PARTICULARLY LARGE BUILDING MORTGAGES ONE OF WHICH, ALONE, WAS FOR \$3.3 BILLION.

THE AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DROPPED BY 14.3 PER CENT FROM \$33.426 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 BUT INCREASED BY 9.5 PER CENT FROM \$26.171 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$28.657 BILLION.

THE AMOUNTS ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON THESE MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE AMOUNTS SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, WERE DOWN BY 34.5 PER CENT FROM \$18.791 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AND BY 24.2 PER CENT FROM \$16.239 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 TO \$12.316 BILLION.

SEARCHES IN THE LAND OFFICE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 TOTALLED 736,455, DOWN BY 8.4 PER CENT AND 3.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1989.

THERE WERE 721 SURRENDERS AND RESUMPTIONS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$0.405 BILLION PAID IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPARED WITH 850 AND \$0.347 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AND 1,245 AND \$1.221 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

MR GLEESON SAID THAT OF THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES, SEVEN HAD NOW BEEN TAKEN OVER BY HIS DEPARTMENT. IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE OVER THE REMAINING REGISTRY AT NORTH AT THE END OF JULY 1990.

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, THE SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT REGISTERED A TOTAL OF 144,511 INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING 25,625 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, 36,364 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS, 2,046 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS, 47 BUILDING MORTGAGES, 45,379 OTHER MORTGAGES AND 19,693 MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, RE-ASSIGNMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF CONSIDERATIONS OF \$20.880 BILLION, \$24.249 BILLION, \$3.202 BILLION, \$1.227 BILLION, \$9.902 BILLION AND \$4.168 BILLION RESPECTIVELY.

A TOTAL OF 617 GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES COMPARED WITH 656 AND 724 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1989 RESPECTIVELY.

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- * THE SALE BY CASH TENDER ON JANUARY 3 OF A 11,220-SQUARE METRE SITE (RURAL BUILDING LOT NO. 3) AT PEAK ROAD TO STOOKET LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$328,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.
- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JANUARY 23 OF A 2,941-SQUARE METRE SITE (NEW KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 5971) AT WANG HOI ROAD, KOWLOON BAY TO SOLANA LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$238,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.
- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JANUARY 23 OF A 5,220-SQUARE METRE SITE (HUNG HOM INLAND LOT NO. 545) AT MAN LOK STREET, HUNG HOM TO VIEW SUCCESS INVESTMENTS LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$200,000,000 FOR GODOWN PURPOSES.
- * THE SALE BY LETTER A/B TENDER ON FEBRUARY 2 OF A 27,290-SQUARE METRE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 307) IN AREA 100, MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, SHA TIN TO SHUNG KING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (54.7 PER CENT), EVERCOT ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED (29.2 PER CENT) AND MILLAP COMPANY LIMITED (16.1 PER CENT) AT A PREMIUM OF \$137,837,150 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (INCLUDING A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE BUT EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JUNE 22 OF A 2,900-SQUARE METRE SITE (INLAND LOT NO. 8740) AT HOI CHAK STREET, QUARRY BAY TO DELOSA INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$130,000,000 FOR GODOWN PURPOSES.
- * THE GRANT ON JUNE 26 OF A 7,337-SQUARE METRE UNDERGROUND STRATUM OF LAND (INLAND LOT NO. 8762) AT ADMIRALTY, QUEENSWAY, TO GTM CARPARKS HONG KONG LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$25,400,000 FOR THE PURPOSES OF A FEE-PAYING UNDERGROUND PUBLIC CARPARK.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY ROSE BY 4 PER CENT FROM 1,166,201 IN JUNE 1989 TO 1,213,000 IN DECEMBER 1989 AND AGAIN BY 4.7 PER CENT TO 1,270,158 IN JUNE 1990.

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FIRST QUARTER SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990, ESTIMATED AT \$8,660 MILLION, WAS 12 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1989, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 4 PER CENT LOWER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 WAS \$3,458 MILLION, WHICH WAS 5 PER CENT HIGHER IN VALUE TERMS THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT, BARS, FAST FOOD SHOPS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989. THESE WERE FOLLOWED BY CHINESE RESTAURANTS (8 PER CENT) AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" - COMPRISING HERB TEA SHOPS, CREAMERIES AND OTHER OUTLETS SELLING BEAN CURD JELLY, AND SO ON (5 PER CENT).

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS, FAST FOOD SHOPS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT, 9 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE FOR "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" AND CHINESE RESTAURANTS DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT AND 8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 - AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS - TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THE VALUE OF PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS FELL BY 1 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE FOR "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", FAST FOOD SHOPS AND BARS, DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT, 2 PER CENT AND 8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IN VOLUME TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS, "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD SHOPS AND BARS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT, 1 PER CENT, 4 PER CENT, 5 PER CENT AND 8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AND FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AND FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 556 5240).

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLES 1 AND 2 WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE AND BOXED.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		4th qtr. 1989 (Revised figures)	1st qtr. 1990 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK\$ million)	8 466	8 660
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK\$ million)	3 490	3 458

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 4TH QUARTER 1989 AND 1ST QUARTER 1990

(Quarterly average of October 84 - September 85 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	4th quarter 1989	1st quarter 1990	1st qtr. 1990 compared with 4th qtr. 1989		1st qtr. 1990 compared with 1st qtr. 1989	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	178	183	+6	+3	+13	+8
	Volume	120	120	-1	-1	-10	-8
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	183	187	+4	+2	+36	+24
	Volume	128	123	-5	-4	+8	+7
Fast food shops	Value	236	231	-4	-2	+45	+24
	Volume	175	165	-9	-5	+13	+9
Bars	Value	164	151	-12	-8	+29	+24
	Volume	131	120	-11	-8	+17	+16
Other eating and drinking places	Value	145	144	-1	-1	+6	+5
	Volume	101	100	-1	-1	-7	-7
Entire restaurant sector	Value	182	187	+4	+2	+20	+12
	Volume	126	123	-2	-2	-5	-4

Note: Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

NEW HELICOPTERS FOR RHKAAF

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (FRIDAY) ATTENDED A CEREMONY TO MARK THE BRINGING INTO SERVICE OF THREE NEW HELICOPTERS BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF).

MR ASPREY SAID THE RHKAAF WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING A NEW FLEET OF AIRCRAFT. TWO TWIN-ENGINE BEECH 200 SUPERKING AIR AND FOUR SINGLE-ENGINE SLINGSBY TRAINING AIRCRAFT HAD ALREADY ENTERED SERVICE.

THE THREE EXISTING DAUPHIN HELICOPTERS ARE BEING REPLACED BY THREE SIKORSKY S 76 AIRCRAFT NOW, AND FIVE OTHERS WOULD BE ADDED BY MID-1911.

MR ASPREY SAID THE DAUPHIN HELICOPTERS WERE BEING RETIRED AFTER SERVING HONG KONG WELL FOR 10 YEARS, FLYING 16,500 HOURS, CARRYING OUT 3,600 EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE FLIGHTS, AND CARRYING SOME 60,000 PASSENGERS.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IS ALSO BEING INTRODUCED TO THE RHKAAF, INCLUDING ADVANCED NAVIGATION AND AVIONICS SYSTEMS AND INFRA-RED NIGHT SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS. CONNECTED WITH THIS IS AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE TRAINING OF STAFF, BOTH AIR CREW AND GROUND CREW, TO OPERATE THE NEW EQUIPMENT.

NEW STAFF ARE ALSO BEING RECRUITED AND TRAINED, AND THERE IS A PROGRAMME TO LOCALISE THE RHKAAF'S PILOTS. THE INTENTION WAS TO TRAIN UP TO 30 CADET PILOTS TO OPERATIONAL STANDARD OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

MR ASPREY ALSO SAID NEW ACCOMMODATION WAS BEING PLANNED, WITH TWO NEW FACILITIES AT SEK KONG AND KOWLOON BAY DUE FOR COMPLETION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE RHKAAF IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A FULL-TIME CIVILIAN DISCIPLINED SERVICE. THIS WILL REQUIRE NEW LEGISLATION, A NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND COMPLIANCE WITH NEW LICENSING AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS.

THE NEW ORGANISATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL TASKS INCLUDING A MUCH GREATER SEARCH AND RESCUE ROLE AND A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING AIR SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE AS THEY PROGRESSIVELY TAKE OVER FROM THE ARMY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BORDER PATROL DUTIES.

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NEW RESCUE VESSEL FOR AIRPORT
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AFTER OVER 15 YEARS OF SERVICE THE RESCUE VESSEL AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS TO BE REPLACED.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS JUST ACCEPTED DELIVERY OF A BRAND NEW BRIGHT YELLOW CATAMARAN AFTER 10 MONTHS' CONSTRUCTION IN A LOCAL SHIPYARD.

AT A COST OF \$9 MILLION THE PERFORMANCE OF THE 23 METRE LONG ALUMINIUM CRAFT IS NOT ONLY BETTER THAN THE OLD VESSEL, BUT HAS EXCEEDED THE CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS BY ACHIEVING OVER 27 KNOTS ON TRIALS.

"AT THESE SPEEDS SHE CAN REACT TO AN AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY FROM HER STANDBY BERTH AND REACH ANYWHERE INSIDE LEI YUE MUN IN LESS THAN SEVEN MINUTES," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT FLEET, MR PETER CRISP, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DESIGN CONCEPT, WHICH WAS THE WORK OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S OWN GOVERNMENT NEW CONSTRUCTION SECTION, INVOLVES THE DEPLOYMENT OF INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS FROM THE VESSEL FOR 250 PEOPLE AND ALSO THE CRAFT'S OWN SPECIALLY ARRANGED RESCUE CAPACITY FOR A FURTHER 250 PEOPLE.

THIS COVERS THE FULL PASSENGER LOAD OF TODAY'S BIGGEST JUMBO JETS.

"THE NEW BOAT WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT VERY SOON," MR CRISP SAID.

"I AM SURE THEY WILL TEST HER TO THE LIMITS, BUT I HOPE THERE WILL NEVER BE A NEED TO USE HER CAPABILITIES IN EARNEST," HE ADDED.

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AIRCRAFT CRASH/RESCUE EXERCISE
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AN AIRCRAFT CRASH/RESCUE EXERCISE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN TAI PO TO PROVIDE CONTINUATION TRAINING AND FAMILIARISATION IN AIRCRAFT CRASH/RESCUE TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SUCH OPERATIONS.

THE EXACT TIME OF THE EXERCISE IS BEING WITHHELD IN ORDER TO TEST THE ALERTNESS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN DEALING WITH SIMILAR EMERGENCIES.

TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISE WILL BE STAFF OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL AID SERVICES, AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE EXERCISE WOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM.

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FORMER KCR CLOCK TOWER DECLARED MONUMENT

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THE FORMER KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (KCR) CLOCK TOWER IN TSIM SHA TSUI WAS TODAY (FRIDAY) GAZETTED AS A MONUMENT UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE.

THE HONG KONG SECTION OF THE KCR WAS OPENED IN 1910, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TERMINUS TOGETHER WITH A CLOCK TOWER BEGAN IN APRIL 1913.

THE CLOCK TOWER WAS COMPLETED AS PART OF THE TERMINUS PROJECT IN 1915.

BUILT OF RED BRICKS WITH GRANITE BLOCKS AT THE FOUR CORNERS, THE CLOCK TOWER IS A 44-METRE HIGH STRUCTURE SURMOUNTED BY A SEVEN-METRE ANTENNA ON A SLENDER STEEL SUPPORT.

THE SQUARE TOWER IS TOPPED BY A CONCRETE DOME MOUNTED ON A DRUM-SHAPED BASE. THE COLUMNS OF THE BASE ARE ALTERNATIVELY PIERCED BY DOORS ON FOUR SIDES, EACH LEADING TO A BALCONY WITH A CURVED METAL BALUSTRADE.

INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTRIC TURRET CLOCK AND THE ONE-TON HOUR BELL STARTED IN 1920 AND WAS COMPLETED IN 1921. IT BEGAN FUNCTIONING ON MARCH 22, 1921.

DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION THE CLOCK STOPPED FUNCTIONING. IT WAS RE-ACTIVATED ON OCTOBER 2, 1945.

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING A CLOCK OPERATED BY BATTERIES, FOUR MOTORS, ONE FOR EACH FACE OF THE TOWER, WERE INSTALLED. AS A RESULT, THE TIMES SHOWN ON EACH FACE WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AND THE USE OF THE BELL WAS THEREFORE DISCONTINUED IN 1950.

THE CLOCK TOWER, LOCATED AT A PROMINENT POSITION ON THE TSIM SHA TSUI WATERFRONT, HAS BECOME A FAMILIAR HISTORICAL LANDMARK EASILY RECOGNISED BY BOTH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND OVERSEAS TOURISTS.

FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF THE KCR TERMINUS TO HUNG HOM IN 1975, THE TERMINUS BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CULTURAL CENTRE.

THE CULTURAL CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES IN NOVEMBER 1989. THE CLOCK TOWER HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE PIAZZA OUTSIDE THE CENTRE'S AUDITORIA BLOCK.

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REFURBISHMENT OF SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN STANLEY

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STANLEY AREA.

THE EXISTING SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA HAD BEEN INSPECTED AS PART OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STUDY.

THESE INVESTIGATIONS IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF CERTAIN PIPELINES. THE PROPOSED WORKS ARE DESIGNED TO RETURN THE EXISTING SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS TO A FULLY OPERATIONAL STATE AT A MINIMUM COST.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, COMPRISING CLEANSING, RELINING AND REPAIR OF EXISTING SEWERS AND DRAINS, IS SCHEDULED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE MAJORITY OF THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT FROM EXISTING MANHOLES WITH EXCAVATION FROM ROAD SURFACE BEING KEPT TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.

THE PROJECT IS ALSO PART OF THE STANLEY AREA SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME WHICH WILL PROVIDE SEWERAGE FOR THE TAI TAM REDHILL AND STANLEY AREAS BY 1993 TOGETHER WITH A PLANT TO TREAT AND DISPOSE OF THE SEWAGE COLLECTED.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 10.

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REMINDER ON DISPLAY OF GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICES

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED GOLD AND JEWELLERY SHOPS OPERATORS TO DISPLAY IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE WITHIN THEIR SHOPS THE GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICES LEST THEY SHOULD CONTRAVENE THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE.

THE REMINDER WAS MADE FOLLOWING A TOTAL OF NINE SHOPS WERE FOUND TO HAVE FAILED TO PROPERLY DISPLAY THE GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICE IN A TWO-DAY OPERATION, WHICH ENDED TODAY, BY THE DEPARTMENT'S TRADING STANDARD INVESTIGATION BUREAU TO INSPECT GOLD AND PLATINUM JEWELLERY SHOPS.

THE PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER, MR ANDREW WONG, SAID A TOTAL OF 48 GOLD AND PLATINUM JEWELLERY SHOPS LOCATED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS OF CHEUNG CHAU AND LANTAU WERE INSPECTED.

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"UNDER THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKINGS) (GOLD AND GOLD ALLOY) ORDER 1984 AND THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKINGS) (PLATINUM) ORDER 1988, A SHOP IS REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THE MARKING ORDER NOTICES IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE WITHIN THE SHOP PREMISES WHERE GOLD OR PLATINUM ARTICLES ARE SUPPLIED OR OFFERED FOR SUPPLY IN THE COURSE OF TRADE OR BUSINESS.

"THE GOLD MARKING ORDER NOTICE OR THE PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICE SHOULD INDICATE THAT EVERY ARTICLE OF GOLD, GOLD ALLOY OR PLATINUM THAT IS SUPPLIED OR OFFERED FOR SUPPLY IN THE COURSE OF TRADE, SHOULD BEAR A MARK INDICATING THE FINENESS OF THE GOLD ALLOY OR PLATINUM," MR WONG SAID.

IN AUGUST 30 LAST YEAR, SIMILAR INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED ON 63 GOLD AND PLATINUM JEWELLERY SHOPS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

AS A RESULT, 16 SHOPS WERE FOUND FAILING TO DISPLAY THE REQUIRED NOTICES AND 14 SHOP OWNERS WERE LATER PROSECUTED AND FINED FROM \$750 TO \$5,000.

MR WONG REMINDED TRADERS OF GOLD AND PLATINUM ARTICLES THAT CUSTOMS OFFICERS WOULD FROM TIME TO TIME INSPECT THEIR SHOPS TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAD COMPLIED WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN THE LEGISLATION.

"SIMILAR PROSECUTION ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE SHOP OWNERS WHO ARE FOUND FAILING TO DISPLAY THE REQUIRED NOTICES IN THE PRESENT OPERATION," HE ADDED.

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RATEPAYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON THIRD QUARTER PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS SHOULD BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES FOR RATES FOR THE QUARTER JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1990 WHICH ARE DEMANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATING ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE MAY BRING A RATES DEMAND NOTE OF ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER AND MAKE PAYMENT AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:-

- * THE TREASURY CENTRAL COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING 1ST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, 4TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;

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* THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG
COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 348-352
PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD
AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE AND CANNOT PRODUCE A RATES DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER SHOULD INQUIRE FORTHWITH AT THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON JULY 31, 1990 AND UNLESS SO PAID MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE RATING ORDINANCE.

A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE) WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING 'PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY' IS SHOWN IN THE DEMAND NOTE.

IN THIS CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON JULY 31, 1990. RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATEPAYERS ARE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE AMOUNT PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DATE IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE 'TOTAL AMOUNT DUE' BOX.

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 30 OF THE ORDINANCE.

UNDER SECTIONS 30(1A) AND (2A), HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES (UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT).

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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SUMMER FUN FOR YUEN LONG YOUTHS
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YOUNG PEOPLE IN YUEN LONG WILL HAVE A FUN FILLED SUMMER THIS YEAR AS OVER 170 RECREATIONAL, SPORTING AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THEM, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHOW YIU-WING, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF OTHER PROJECTS TO ENHANCE THE CIVIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT OF YOUNG PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

THE SYP IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, WITH A DONATION OF OVER \$260,000 FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

IT WILL BE KICKED OFF BY A PAINTING COMPETITION AT THE YUEN LONG CHILDREN PLAYGROUND AROUND NOON TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE YUEN LONG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOSEPH LAI; THE CHAIRMAN OF YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, MR TAI KUEN; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SYP, MR PETER LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

A PROGRAMME PAMPHLET IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, AND THE LONG PING COMMUNITY HALL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE YUEN LONG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO BE HELD AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE YUEN LONG CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, HONG LOK ROAD.

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WONG TAI SIN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO START ON SUNDAY

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THE 1990 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY (JULY 15) WITH AN OPENING CEREMONY AND CARNIVAL AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

THE SYP HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 25 TO ENJOY A HAPPY AND MEANINGFUL SUMMER BY TAKING PART IN RECREATIONAL, SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

MORE THAN 600 ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY 41 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE THIS YEAR, AND THE SLOGAN IS "I LOVE SUNSHINE, I LOVE VIGOUR".

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THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1990 AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON SUNDAY WILL BE THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU; REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LOK MAN-PAN; REGIONAL LEISURE MANAGER (KOWLOON EAST) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHAN WING-FONG; AND CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER (ISLAND AND KOWLOON CENTRAL) OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR CHOY KI-WONG.

IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A YOUTH LION DANCE, A MAGIC SHOW, SINGING AND BRASS BAND PERFORMANCES AND A CARNIVAL WITH STALL GAMES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1990 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME OPENING CEREMONY AND CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 15) AT THE OPEN DECK AND PERFORMANCE STAGE OF THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, KOWLOON.

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STUDENT AMBASSADORS VISIT CSD TRAINING INSTITUTE
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FIFTY PARTICIPANTS OF THE STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) AT STANLEY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROVISION OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE STUDENTS FIRST ATTENDED A TALK WHICH OUTLINED THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK, THE OPERATION OF THE PENAL SYSTEM, AND THE VARIOUS CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR OFFENDERS.

THEY THEN TOURED THE INSTITUTE TO SEE THE FACILITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF CSD STAFF, INCLUDING THE TRAINING COURT ROOM, MOCK CELL, INDOOR FIRING RANGE AND GYMNASIUM.

THE STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO FURNISH STUDENTS WHO ARE ABOUT TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES OVERSEAS WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG.

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COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ALL LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES WITH A GROSS WEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING 1.9 TONNES MANUFACTURED IN 1983 OR BEFORE WHICH REQUIRE A NEW LICENCE ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 1 MUST BE INSPECTED AT A DESIGNATED CAR TESTING CENTRE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SUCH VEHICLES SHOULD BE INSPECTED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1 AND A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS OBTAINED PRIOR TO RELICENSING.

"THE CERTIFICATE IS ONLY VALID FOR RELICENSING DURING THE FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUE," HE SAID.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KOWLOON CITY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 15), THE RIGHT-TURN VEHICULAR MOVEMENT FROM SAN MA TAU STREET ONTO LONG YUET STREET IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TEMPORARILY BANNED TO FACILITATE THE URGENT REPAIRING OF A WATERMAIN AT THE JUNCTION OF THESE TWO STREETS.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT SEVERAL SECTIONS OF TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

THE INNER-MOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR MA LIU SHUI FOR A SECTION OF ABOUT 500 METRES WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON SUNDAY (JULY 15) TO 8 PM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20).

THE CENTRE LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR MA LIU SHUI FOR A SECTION OF ABOUT 500 METRES WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 8 PM EACH DAY AND 6 AM NEXT MORNING FROM SUNDAY (JULY 15) TO THURSDAY (JULY 19).

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1990

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TSING YI BRIDGE
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE REGULAR MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED ON SUNDAY (JULY 15), FROM AFTER MIDNIGHT TO 2 AM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE BRIDGE WILL BE RE-OPENED TO GENERAL TRAFFIC AT A TEN-MINUTE INTERVAL AND IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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