



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

CONFIDENCE IN BASIC LAW WILL ENSURE PROSPERITY, STABILITY: JACOBS	1
COMMUNITY LEADERS URGED TO RECONCILE VIEWS	3
CURRENT DRAFT PROVIDES GOOD FRAMEWORK	5
HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY VITAL TO HKSAR	6
HK NOT READY FOR FASTER PACE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS	8
ONE VOICE FOR POLITICAL STRUCTURE THAT WORKS	10
OBLIGATION TO IMPLANT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN HK	11
SUCCESSFUL SYSTEMS MUST BE MAINTAINED	13
CALL FOR HK PEOPLE TO PULL TOGETHER	14
MORE IMPORTANT TO GET ECONOMIC PROVISIONS RIGHT	16
PRIDE EXPRESSED IN BELONGING TO HONG KONG	18
PROSPERITY CANNOT LAST WITHOUT DEMOCRACY	19
LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON BASIC LAW DRAFT	20
GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR LONDON TO ATTEND FAC HEARINGS	21
TRANSPORT SECRETARY BRIEFS DB CHAIRMEN ON GREEN PAPER	22
\$126M CONTRACT TO EASE CONGESTION AT MAJOR JUNCTION	22
STUDENTS URGED TO SPREAD JOB SAFETY MESSAGE	23
AFD EXTENDS CONTROL ON IVORY TRADE	25
JUNK BAY NEW TOWN RENAMED TSEUNG KWAN O	26
SINKING OF VESSEL TO BE INVESTIGATED	27
INDUSTRY DEPT SURVEY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT BEGINS	28
PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR MARCH RELEASED	29
POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLIDAYS	34
FSD BEGIN RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN HOUSING ESTATES	34
DRAGON BOAT RACE IN TSUEN WAN RESUMES	35
SURVEY ON LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME	35
HOSPITAL GROUP DIRECTORS CALL ON DSW	36
CLEAN UP OPERATION IN WONG TAI SIN	37
STUDENTS TO SHOW OFF ARTISTIC TALENTS	38
TRANSPORT, PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY SURVEY TO BEGIN ...	38
MEN'S TURN TO GET NEW ID CARDS	39
WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN TWO AREAS	40

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 1 -

CONFIDENCE IN BASIC LAW WILL ENSURE PROSPERITY, STABILITY: JACOBS

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THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING CHINA, THAT THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BASIC LAW SHOULD WIN THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE HERE IN HONG KONG, AND FOREIGN INVESTORS.

"IT IS THROUGH THAT CONFIDENCE THAT THE LONG TERM PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG WILL BE ENSURED," SAID MR JACOBS, NOTING THAT MANY HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAD RAISED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW IN HONG KONG.

CONCLUDING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE BASIC LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY), HE SAID: "THE THOUGHTFUL AND FORWARD-LOOKING SPEECHES MADE DURING THIS DEBATE EXEMPLIFY THE COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT REFLECT THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO ATTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE BASIC LAW."

MR JACOBS SAID THAT THE MOTION WAS A CLEAR INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

HE SAID RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAD PROMPTED INTENSE INTEREST AND CONCERN AMONG THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"THOSE EVENTS HAVE CAUSED SOME PEOPLE TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF THE BASIC LAW AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT WILL GENUINELY GOVERN HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE IN FUTURE.

"BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY HAVE LED TO A RECOGNITION ON THE PART OF MANY, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, THAT THE BASIC LAW IS, IF ANYTHING, OF GREATER THAN EVER SIGNIFICANCE TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE," MR JACOBS SAID.

ECHOING THE REMARK BY THE GOVERNOR THAT WE MUST LOOK BEYOND IMMEDIATE EVENTS, MR JACOBS SAID THE BASIC LAW WOULD PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR HONG KONG FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, LONG AFTER THE RECENT EVENTS HAD TAKEN THEIR PLACE IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.

"AND SO, IT IS RIGHT THAT THIS COUNCIL SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON ITS TERMS. IF THEY DO NOT, THE BASIC LAW MAY NOT IN ITS FINAL FORM TRULY REFLECT THEIR ASPIRATIONS," HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS SAID THE BASIC LAW WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WAS THE LEGAL EXPRESSION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OF THE TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH CHINA ACCEPTED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THAT IT PROVIDED THE CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS BEYOND 1997.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 2 -

"AND IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE, AS STATED IN ARTICLES 28 AND 29 OF THE PRESENT DRAFT, IT WILL PRESERVE THOSE FREEDOMS, WHICH WE CURRENTLY ENJOY AND VALUE SO HIGHLY, AGAINST ANY ARBITRARY EXERCISE OF POWER, SO THAT MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITHIN THE RULE OF THE LAW AS WE KNOW IT," HE ADDED.

THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW WAS, MR JACOBS NOTED, A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

"BUT, AS HAS BEEN EMPHASISED ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS A CO-SIGNATORY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, HAS THE RIGHT AND OBLIGATION TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW FULLY AND FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEREFORE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DRAFTING PROCESS CLOSELY AND HAVE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"AS A RESULT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE BOTH TO REFLECT SUCH VIEWS TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

"IN THEIR TURN, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES RECEPTIVE TO THE MANY VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS BELIEVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN GENERAL AGREEMENT BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE THAT THE SECOND DRAFT BASIC LAW, PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, REPRESENTED A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT ON THE FIRST DRAFT.

"IN PARTICULAR, CHANGES MADE TO THE SECOND DRAFT HAVE, INDEED, GONE A CONSIDERABLE WAY TOWARDS ENSURING THAT THE HKSAR WILL, IN PRACTICE, ENJOY THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PROVIDED FOR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, SO AS TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

"MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF THE FIRST CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

"CONSULTATION ON THE SECOND DRAFT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF REMEDYING THOSE AREAS ON WHICH THERE MAY STILL BE DOUBTS, OR ON WHICH IT HAS NOT YET PROVED POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS," MR JACOBS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT DRAFT BASIC LAW WAS THE PRODUCT OF CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND VERY HARD WORK ON THE PART OF THE DRAFTERS.

"WE HAVE SEEN, IN THE CHANGES ADOPTED IN THE SECOND DRAFT, THE VALUE OF CONSENSUS IN THE COMMUNITY.

"THE MEASURE OF CONSENSUS WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IS OF GREAT CREDIT TO ALL CONCERNED," MR JACOBS NOTED.

/WHEN THE

WHEN THE SECOND DRAFT WAS PUBLISHED, MR JACOBS SAID, THE DRAFTERS SPECIFICALLY DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE FUTURE HKSAR WHERE THERE WERE DIVERGENT VIEWS IN HONG KONG.

"DIFFERING VIEWS ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT STILL REMAIN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND, NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT HAS BEEN A MAJOR THEME OF THE SPEECHES DURING THIS DEBATE," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS PAID TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN HAMMERING OUT A BLUEPRINT FOR WHAT THEY SAW AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE HKSAR BEYOND 1997.

"THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUBORDINATE THEIR PERSONAL WISHES TO THE WIDER GOAL OF ACHIEVING A COMMON VIEW WHICH MAY BE CONVEYED TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS DEMONSTRATES, I BELIEVE, A CLEAR RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO THIS COMMUNITY AND A DEEP SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO ITS FUTURE," HE POINTED OUT.

NOTING THE TERMS OF THE SECOND PART OF TODAY'S MOTION WHICH URGED AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO TAKE "SUCH VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW", MR JACOBS SAID THAT IT WAS A FAIR AND PROPER EXPECTATION.

"FOR ITS PART, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CERTAINLY ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED SO ELOQUENTLY BY MEMBERS YESTERDAY AND TODAY ARE FULLY REFLECTED TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES," THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY CONCLUDED.

THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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COMMUNITY LEADERS URGED TO RECONCILE VIEWS
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COMMUNITY LEADERS IN HONG KONG SHOULD RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENT VIEWS AND COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THE BASIC LAW, THE HON RONALD ARCULLI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION DURING THE SECOND DAY OF DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR ARCULLI POINTED OUT THAT THREE CRITICAL ISSUES WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF SECTION I OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE BASIC LAW.

THE THREE ISSUES WERE: THE TIMETABLE; THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE MAY BE SELECTED BY ELECTION; AND THE DEFINITION OF ELECTION.

MR ARCULLI SAID THAT LEGISLATORS SHOULD NOT CONCERN THEMSELVES NOW WITH THE RIGHTS OR WRONGS OF SUCH AN APPROACH. "OUR TASK IS TO GET ALL SECTORS OF HONG KONG TO SPEAK OUT," HE SAID.

/HE NOTED

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 4 -

HE NOTED THAT MANY POINTS IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW MIGHT BE REGARDED AS NOT BEING ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.

CITING ARTICLE 45 AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS ARTICLE SEEMED CLEAR AND ON THE FACE OF IT, THE CONCEPT SEEMED ACCEPTABLE: IT SAID THAT THE SELECTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE GRADUAL AND ORDERLY WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BEING SELECTED BY GENERAL ELECTION.

"HOWEVER, ON EXAMINATION, IT IS TOO VAGUE AND WHEN ONE LOOKS AT THE ANNEX I OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT THIS PROGRESS IS CLEARLY TOO GRADUAL AND TOO ORDERLY," HE SAID.

SIMILARLY, HE QUERIED WHETHER THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 56 WHICH SIMPLY SAID 'IF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DOES NOT ADOPT A MAJORITY OPINION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HE/SHE SHALL PUT HIS/HER SPECIFIC REASONS ON RECORD', WAS AS "HARMLESS" AS IT LOOKED.

"CLEARLY IT (THE ARTICLE) PERMITS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. SOME MIGHT EVEN SAY IT ENCOURAGES HIM TO DO SO," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO MR ARCULLI'S UNDERSTANDING, THE PRESENT POSITION IN HONG KONG WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THEORETICALLY HE COULD DO SO, THE GOVERNOR NEVER ACTED CONTRARY TO THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

HE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT RELEVANT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE ARTICLE TO REFLECT THE TRUE SITUATION.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE 64 STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR SHALL BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN FOUR RESPECTS - IMPLEMENTING LAWS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND ALREADY IN FORCE; PRESENTING REGULAR REPORTS ON ITS WORK TO THE COUNCIL; ANSWERING QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL; AND OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM THE COUNCIL FOR TAXATION AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

BUT HE SAID, "THE JOINT DECLARATION DOES NOT RESTRICT THIS ACCOUNTABILITY TO THESE FOUR AREAS AND IT THEREFORE APPEARS TO BE A DEPARTURE."

SINCE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HKSAR WAS CRUCIAL, HE FELT STRONGLY THAT CHANGES TO THIS ARTICLE SHOULD BE MADE.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEFORE 1997, MR ARCULLI SUGGESTED THAT THE PACE BE REVIEWED AND HONG KONG'S POSITION RE-EVALUATED.

"IT MAY BE UNREALISTIC TO HOLD TO THE POSITION THAT ONLY 10 BE RETURNED TO THIS COUNCIL BY DIRECT ELECTION IN 1991," HE SAID.

"WE MUST START OUR THINKING PROCESS NOW AND EXAMINE WHAT OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO US SO THAT A DECISION CAN BE TAKEN AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME."

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 5 -

CURRENT DRAFT PROVIDES GOOD FRAMEWORK

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IT IS BOTH UNREALISTIC AND UNNECESSARY TO START THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW ALL OVER AGAIN AS THE CURRENT DRAFT PROVIDES A GOOD FRAMEWORK ON WHICH FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS MUST BE BUILT, THE HON MARTIN BARROW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR BARROW POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW DRAFT ALREADY CONTAINED MANY MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH INCLUDED THE LOWU CONCEPT FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID UNCERTAINTY OVER THE CONTINUITY OF INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONALITIES COULD HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO CONFIDENCE.

IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT THE BASIC LAW WOULD BE ADHERED TO, MR BARROW SAID THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS MUST BE PRESENT IN THE FINAL DRAFT.

THESE ELEMENTS WERE: FIRST, THE CHECKS AND BALANCES ON EXECUTIVE POWER THAT EXISTED IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM, WITH THE RULE OF LAW ADMINISTERED BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY; SECOND, THE CHECKS AND BALANCES THAT FLOWED FROM AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT; AND THIRD, THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES LAID DOWN IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

HE ALSO ADVISED HONG KONG DRAFTERS TO LOOK AGAIN AT THOSE CLAUSES WHICH RELATED TO THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND ENSURED THAT THERE WERE NO AMBIGUITIES.

MR BARROW WELCOMED THE UNANIMOUS POSITION TAKEN BY OMELCO IN PROPOSING A DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE BY THE YEAR 2003 AND ALSO THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY 2003. HE CONSIDERED THAT THESE WERE SENSIBLE PROPOSALS ON WHICH HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE UNITED SUPPORT FROM THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

"IF HONG KONG IS TO REMAIN PROSPEROUS NOT ONLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, BUT ALSO FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHINA, AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS AN OPEN AND INTERNATIONAL CITY IN EVERY RESPECT," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW DRAFT CONTAINED IMPROVEMENTS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE.

"IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING THAT, UNDER ARTICLE 26, ALL PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE SAR SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO STAND FOR ELECTION REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE.

"SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT GOES BEYOND THE RIGHTS GENERALLY ENJOYED BY NON-NATIONALS AROUND THE WORLD, AND IS SYMBOLIC OF THE NEED TO KEEP HONG KONG AS INTERNATIONAL AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO THE RIGHTS OF NON-CHINESE NATIONALS IN CHAPTER 3, MR BARROW SAID IT NEEDED TO BE MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT ANYONE WHO HAD BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS COULD AUTOMATICALLY TAKE HONG KONG AS HIS OR HER PLACE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND CONTINUED IN HIS OR HER CHOSEN PROFESSION OR VOCATION WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES OR REQUIREMENTS.

IN ADDITION, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BASIC LAW SHOULD CLEARLY SPELL OUT THAT PEOPLE OF CHINESE RACE WHO RETURNED TO HONG KONG WITH FOREIGN PASSPORTS WOULD BE TREATED AS FOREIGN NATIONALS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER FOREIGNER HERE AND SO WOULD BE ENTITLED TO CONSULAR PROTECTION.

"THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG, AND ESPECIALLY THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, WILL NO DOUBT PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE BASIC LAW FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND THEY SHOULD SUBMIT VIEWS TO THE DRAFTERS," HE SAID. *

"IN CONSIDERING THESE IMPROVEMENTS, WE SHOULD ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, WHOSE ROLE REMAINS TO ENSURE THAT THE BASIC LAW DOES NOT CONTRAVENE THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE ADDED.

FINALLY, MR BARROW POINTED OUT THAT THE REMARKABLE UNITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE DISPLAYED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS MUST BE HARNESSSED IN THE VITAL WORK ON THE BASIC LAW AND IN ENSURING THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" COULD BE ADHERED TO IN PRACTICE.

HE CALLED ON HONG KONG PEOPLE TO PLAY A ROLE TO SAFEGUARD THIS UNITY, WHICH WAS CLEARLY THE WISH OF THE COMMUNITY.

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HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY VITAL TO HKSAR

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THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITMENT OF GIVING THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (HKSAR) A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WAS THE KEY TO MAINTAINING BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN CONFIDENCE, THE HON PAUL CHENG SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR CHENG WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

HE SAID THAT SUFFICIENT GUARANTEES OF FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD RESULT IN GREATER CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. EMIGRATION WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO FEELINGS OF CONFIDENCE.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT CHINA MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS, OR AT LEAST ON BEHALF OF THE HKSAR, TO BECOME A SIGNATORY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS, MR CHENG SAID THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY RELIED HEAVILY ON AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND LEGAL SYSTEM TO FACILITATE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND IN CASES OF DISPUTE.

HE SAID THERE MUST BE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF COMPETENT JUDGES. THEY MUST NOT BE RESTRICTED BY NATIONALITY AND SHOULD BE PROPERLY COMPENSATED AND CAREFULLY SELECTED SO AS TO ENSURE THE CALIBRE OF THEIR SKILL AND THEIR INTEGRITY.

THE POWER OF INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW MUST REST WITH THE HONG KONG COURTS, AND THE APPLICATION OF THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION IN THE FUTURE HKSAR NEEDED FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND ELABORATION, HE ADDED.

MR CHENG SUGGESTED THAT THE BASIC LAW SHOULD STIPULATE THAT THE HKSAR WOULD PRACTISE AN OPEN IMMIGRATION POLICY.

"PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING RESIDENT VISA, WORK PERMIT AND PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS SHOULD BE KEPT SIMPLE TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS AND INVESTORS," HE SAID.

ON THE PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION OF THE HKSAR, MR CHENG SAID THE SAR GOVERNMENT MUST BE GIVEN THE POWER TO SET ITS OWN BUDGET AND DECIDE ON ITS TAX POLICIES.

HE ADDED THAT THE BASIC LAW SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE HKSAR TO NEGOTIATE TAX TREATIES ON ITS OWN, AND SHOULD STATE THAT TAX TREATIES SIGNED BY CHINA WITH THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE APPLICABLE TO THE HKSAR.

ON PROTECTION FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BASIC LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED TO GUARANTEE THAT THE HKSAR WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENTS.

TURNING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR CHENG SAID THAT IN LINE WITH MAINTAINING HONG KONG AS A TRULY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE IN THE REGION HE FOUND UNNECESSARY THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON FILLING SOME OF THE SENIOR POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH ONLY CHINESE CITIZENS.

"THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE FLEXIBILITY TO EMPLOY THE BEST PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR NATIONALITY OR ETHNIC ORIGIN," HE SAID.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE POLITICS OF CHANGE THAT THEY FAILED TO FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC REALITIES OF HONG KONG'S EMERGING ROLE AS THE FINANCIAL AND SERVICE CENTRE OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 8 -

HK NOT READY FOR FASTER PACE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS

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HONG KONG IS NOT YET READY FOR A FASTER PACE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS, THE HON NELLIE FONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

"I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG'S BEST INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED IF WE PRESERVE THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND WITH IT PRESERVE STABILITY AND FOSTER PROSPERITY," SHE SAID DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

MRS FONG SAID THAT NO MATTER WHAT SOCIAL OR POLITICAL MOVEMENTS OCCURRED IN CHINA AND NO MATTER WHAT INDIVIDUALS IN HONG KONG MIGHT WISH TO DO TO SUPPORT OR OBJECT TO THE MOVEMENT, THE PRESERVATION OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES MUST BE PUT AT THE FOREFRONT.

SHE EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE A DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE THAT TRULY REPRESENTED ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR INTERESTS.

HONG KONG MUST THEREFORE HAVE AN ELECTION PROCESS THAT MADE CERTAIN THAT A GOOD CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WAS REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATURE. THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIRECT ELECTIONS, SHE ADDED.

"IN MY OPINION, THE METHOD THROUGH WHICH THIS AIM OF A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE LEGISLATURE COULD BE ACHIEVED IS THROUGH THE USE OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES," SHE SAID.

MRS FONG SAID SHE DID NOT OPPOSE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT SHE WAS CONVINCED THAT THEY WOULD NOT PRODUCE A FAIR AND TRUE REPRESENTATION OF THE OPINIONS AND THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

"I SAY THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD NOT PRODUCE A TRUE REPRESENTATION AFTER HAVING MADE A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF OUR LAST URBAN COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, BOTH OF WHICH CONTAINED ELEMENTS OF DIRECT ELECTIONS," SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT A DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH PERCENTAGE - BETWEEN 50 AND 80 PER CENT - OF THE SUCCESSFULLY DIRECTLY ELECTED CANDIDATES CAME FROM THREE BACKGROUNDS: LAWYERS, ACADEMICS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

"WHILE I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THESE THREE PROFESSIONS, I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT A LEGISLATURE COMPOSED MAINLY OF THESE PROFESSIONS IS ADEQUATELY REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG'S INTERESTS," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE SAR CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MRS FONG SAID DIRECT ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE EASILY INTRODUCED FOR THE SELECTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

/THE CHIEF

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 9 -

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD BE JUST A SINGLE PERSON. HONG KONG SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO CHOOSE THE WRONG CANDIDATE, SHE NOTED.

"IT IS POINTLESS TO SAY THAT IF WE ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO ELECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THEY ELECT AN UNSUITABLE CANDIDATE, THEN THEY SHOULD SUFFER AS IT WAS THEIR CHOICE.

"WE MUST HAVE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE," SHE SAID.

SHE THEREFORE SUPPORTED THE USE OF A DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED ELECTION COMMITTEE TO SELECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE. THE USE OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WOULD MAXIMISE THE CHANCES OF HAVING THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE BEING SELECTED BECAUSE IT WOULD PERMIT A BETTER EVALUATION OF THE CANDIDATES' QUALITIES.

IF THE FAST PACE OF MOVING TO DIRECT ELECTIONS PREVAILED, THERE WOULD BE NO SAFE WAY BACK AND THERE WOULD BE RISKS THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD NOT HAVE THE QUALITIES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE MUCH BEYOND ELECTION DAY, SHE SAID.

"THE RISKS INVOLVED IN HAVING A LEGISLATURE MADE UP OF LAWYERS, ACADEMICS AND SOCIAL WORKERS AND A CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHO ONLY HAS MASS APPEAL ARE VERY GREAT. IF I SIT BACK AND LET HONG KONG MARCH DOWN THE ROAD TO THIS CHAOTIC ARENA, THEN I AM BEING IRRESPONSIBLE," SHE SAID.

MRS FONG SAID SHE WAS NOT UNDEMOCRATIC. SHE WAS HOWEVER A STRONG PROPONENT OF SUBSTANCE OVER FORM.

THE SLOW BUT STEADY ADVANCE WHICH SHE ADVOCATED MIGHT NOT LOOK ATTRACTIVE IN ITS FORM, BUT IT HAD THE IN-BUILT SAFEGUARDS THAT WOULD ENSURE THE RESULTING SUBSTANCE WAS WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED.

"LET'S MAKE SURE WE GUIDE OUR FUTURES TO WHERE THEY SHOULD GO, RATHER THAN JUST LAUNCHING IT FROM A PAD THAT PEOPLE SAY IS IDEAL FOR US BASED ON EXPERIENCE IN OTHER LANDS," SHE SAID.

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/10

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 10 -

ONE VOICE FOR POLITICAL STRUCTURE THAT WORKS

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NOW WAS THE TIME FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO COME TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES REALISTICALLY AND IN ONE VOICE TO DEMAND A POLITICAL STRUCTURE WHICH WILL WORK AND COMMAND CONFIDENCE, THE HON MIRIAM LAU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

"I AM SURE THAT IF WE ALL SPEAK LOUDLY WITH ONE VOICE, WE WILL BE HEARD," MRS LAU SAID DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

SHE SAID THAT HOWEVER MUCH WE WOULD LIKE THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO BE DEMOCRATIC, HOWEVER ANXIOUS WE WERE TO HAVE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IMPLEMENTED IN HONG KONG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR HEARTS TO RULE OUR HEAD. WE MUST NOT FORGET THE REALITIES SURROUNDING HONG KONG.

"IN MY VIEW, EVOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM MUST TAKE PLACE GRADUALLY AND ORDERLY. ONLY BY SETTING IT AT THIS PACE WILL THERE BE THE LEAST DISRUPTION TO SOCIETY. ONLY BY SETTING IT IN THIS MODE WILL CHINA FIND IT PALATABLE," SHE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IN LIGHT OF THE STRONG DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY BY HONG KONG WHICH HAD RECENTLY COME THROUGH LOUD AND STRONG, IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO POSTPONE DIRECT ELECTIONS BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE FOR TOO LONG A TIME, SHE ADDED.

FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SAR CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SHE SAID THAT THE IDEAL WAS OF COURSE TO HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, BUT IN HER OPINION THE ELECTION COMMITTEE PROPOSAL WAS ALSO ABLE TO MEET THE CRITERIA PROVIDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS ITSELF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED AND BROADLY BASED.

"IN REGARD TO THE LEGISLATURE, FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES HAVE SERVED HONG KONG WELL FOR SOME TIME AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE THROUGH THEM SHOULD CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST A SHORT PERIOD AFTER 1997 IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY MAINTAIN BALANCE, CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN THE HONG KONG SAR," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE, SHE SAID THAT HONG KONG MOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WISH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO BE AN "ORGAN GRINDER'S MONKEY" OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

"WE SHALL TRY TO SEE TO IT THAT HE IS NOT, BUT JUST IN CASE HE TURNS OUT TO BE ONE, WE MUST HAVE IN PLACE THE LEGAL MECHANISM TO PREVENT HIM WIELDING HIS MANY POWERS TO THE DETRIMENT OF HONG KONG'S INTERESTS," SHE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY, SHE NOTED THAT UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

/THE JOINT

THE JOINT DECLARATION DID NOT STATE THAT THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES WERE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE IN ONLY CERTAIN RESPECTS, AND THE ONLY INTERPRETATION THAT COULD BE ATTACHED TO IT WAS FULL ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFT REGARDING ACCOUNTABILITY MUST THEREFORE BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE TRUE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, SHE SUGGESTED.

SHE ALSO EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER ARTICLE 157 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

UNDER THIS ARTICLE, IF THE SAR COURTS NEEDED TO INTERPRET THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW CONCERNING AFFAIRS WHICH WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SAR, THE SAR COURTS WOULD HAVE TO ABDICATE, AND THE POWER WAS RESERVED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR INTERPRETATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS.

IN ORDER THAT CITIZENS OF ANY COUNTRY MAY BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED FROM POSSIBLE ABUSES BY AN ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIAL ORGANS WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THAT COUNTRY MUST BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY, SHE SAID.

"AS SUCH, IT IS MY VIEW THAT ANY RESTRICTION ON THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS MUST BE APPROACHED WITH THE GREATEST OF CAUTION," SHE SAID.

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OBLIGATION TO IMPLANT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN HK
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BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT A DEEPLY ROOTED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IS LAID DOWN BEFORE SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG REVERTS TO CHINA, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, DR LEONG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CHINA AMIDST THE PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT COULD WELL BE MIRRORED INTO HONG KONG WHEN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION CAME INTO BEING.

HE HOPED THAT THE BASIC LAW ON WHICH HONG KONG HAD TO DEPEND FOR ITS FUTURE WOULD NOT BE ONE THAT CHINA DICTATED, NOR ONE THAT PRO-CHINA BODIES WERE TRYING TO PROPAGATE.

"RATHER, IT MUST BE A BASIC LAW THAT CLEARLY ENSHRINES THAT THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL BE GOVERNED BY A TRUE, FULLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM -- LEST THERE WILL BE NO GUARANTEE FOR FREEDOM AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS," HE SAID.

/DR LEONG

DR LEONG CALLED ON HONG KONG PEOPLE TO GATHER TOGETHER TO PRESS FOR A BASIC LAW THAT COULD BE UPHELD. HE ALSO URGED THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES TO SPEED UP THEIR WORK.

TURNING TO THE CONTENTS OF THE SECOND DRAFT, DR LEONG SAID BOTH THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROFESSION THAT HE REPRESENTED HAD COME OUT STRONGLY FOR THE PROPOSAL THAT THE FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BY 1997. HE SAID A CONSENSUS ON THIS SHOULD BE SOUGHT.

HOWEVER, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS NEEDED FURTHER DELIBERATION, HE ADDED.

"FOR WHILST ONE IS RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IF HE IS ELECTED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THROUGH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, HE WOULD BE SERVING TWO 'MASTERS' SHOULD HE BE APPOINTED INTO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BY OUR FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNLESS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS ALSO ELECTED THROUGH A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS," HE SAID.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DR LEONG SAID THERE WERE INADEQUATE PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT.

HE SAID THAT CLARIFICATIONS MUST BE MADE TO ARTICLE 18 WHICH GAVE THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE THE RIGHT TO APPLY "THE RELEVANT NATIONAL LAWS" TO THE HONG KONG SAR WHEN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC DECIDED THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTED, AS WELL AS TO ARTICLE 23 WHICH INDICATED THAT THE HONG KONG SAR SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO ENACT LAWS TO PROHIBIT ANY ACT OF TREASON, SECESSION, SEDITION OR THEFT OF STATE SECRETS.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT SOME FORM OF A BILL OF RIGHTS BE ENACTED IN HONG KONG, AND FOR CHINA TO SHOW ITS SINCERITY BY BECOMING A SIGNATORY TO THE TWO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS CURRENTLY APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

ON THE ACCREDITATION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, DR LEONG SAID THAT AUTONOMY MUST BE GRANTED TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES IN DETERMINING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PRACTISING QUALIFICATIONS.

"IT IS IMPERATIVE THEREFORE THAT IN ARTICLE 141, PARAGRAPH ONE, THE WORD GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DELETED BECAUSE SUCH WOULD PRECLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

FINALLY, DR LEONG NOTED THAT THE PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS BY HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THE LAST TWO SUNDAYS AND OTHER MOVEMENTS SHOWED THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE NOW POLITICALLY MATURE.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT BLUEPRINT FOR 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY 1991 MUST BE INTELLIGENTLY REVIEWED AND ALTERED TO MEET THE RISING WAVE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 13 -

SUCCESSFUL SYSTEMS MUST BE MAINTAINED

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IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE BASIC LAW FOR HONG KONG SHOULD CONTAIN ALL THE LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ITS SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR MCGREGOR SAID THESE PROVISIONS MUST OPERATE WITHIN A POLITICAL FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ALLOW HONG KONG PEOPLE TO RULE HONG KONG EFFECTIVELY AND DEMOCRATICALLY, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, INTERVENTION OR UNDUE INFLUENCE BEING APPLIED BY CHINA AND THEREFORE WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

"THE BASIC LAW MUST ENSURE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ARE FULLY MET AND THAT THE WIDE RANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ENJOYED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED," HE SAID.

ALSO, IT MUST PROVIDE FOR AN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY PARTICIPATED FULLY AND LEGITIMATELY IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT.

"THE PACE OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN HONG KONG MUST BE AS RAPID AS POSSIBLE BUT IT MUST NOT OUTPACE THE ABILITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO TAKE UP THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. IT MUST ALSO SEEK TO MAINTAIN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE," HE SAID.

MR MCGREGOR SAID IT WAS VERY FAR FROM THE TRUTH TO SAY THAT BUSINESSMEN AND BUSINESS GROUPS WERE ARCH-CONSERVATIVE IN THE POLITICAL SENSE, OPPOSING DEMOCRATIC REFORM AND RESISTING ALL EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE.

HE SAID THAT A SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN 1987 BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SHOWED THAT 80 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED WERE IN FAVOUR OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AND HALF OF THOSE WANTED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS IN 1988.

HE MAINTAINED THAT THIS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE REFLECTED THE GENERAL VIEW OF MOST HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND IT WAS VERY SAD THEREFORE THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FELT ITSELF ABLE TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, AND IN PARTICULAR ON THE PROPOSED POLITICAL MODEL, BY MEANS OF A POLL CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL IN THE GOVERNMENT COMPUTER.

HE SAID THAT IF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE BASIC LAW DRAFT WAS EXTENDED, THERE WOULD BE TIME FOR LEGCO OR OMELCO TO SEEK A PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE POLITICAL MODEL WHICH OMELCO WAS FINALISING.

"THE RESULTS OF SUCH A SURVEY COULD NOT BE DENIED OR DENIGRATED HERE OR IN CHINA, PARTICULARLY IF THE SURVEY IS CONDUCTED BY OMELCO OR BY LEGCO WITH FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT," HE SAID.

/HE ALSO

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 14 -

HE ALSO SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA AND IN HONG KONG HAD CONFIRMED HIS LONG-HELD VIEW THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST BE GIVEN WHAT THEY SOUGHT, A DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT ANSWERABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE A DENIAL OF JUSTICE.

COMMENTING THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSISTENTLY SHOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEDE TO THE HONG KONG VIEW ON ALMOST ALL THE SECTIONS OF THE BASIC LAW, MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT IF THE POLITICAL MODEL WOULD ALLOW HONG KONG PEOPLE TO RULE HONG KONG WITHOUT SERIOUS INTERFERENCE FROM CHINA, HONG KONG COULD HAVE A MOST SUCCESSFUL EXISTENCE AS AN SAR WHOSE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE WOULD ENCOURAGE CHINA TO CATCH UP.

SO, IF OMELCO COULD REACH A UNANIMOUS VIEW ON THE POLITICAL MODEL, THIS WOULD BE A GIANT STEP FORWARD, AND AN OMELCO SURVEY ON THE POLITICAL MODEL MIGHT WELL MAKE THE PROPOSALS IRRESISTIBLE; CHINA WOULD THEN BE UNDER VERY STRONG PRESSURE TO ACCEPT IT, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT OMELCO HAD BEEN ABLE TO REACH A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE PACE OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM, AND THAT THIS ENVISAGED A FULLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE BY 2003.

ALSO, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE BY 2003 AND A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES WOULD BE PROPOSED TO ENSURE THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY NEEDED TO CARRY OUT HIS HEAVY DUTIES WHILE HE AND HIS EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

MR MCGREGER SAID THAT OMELCO WAS SHOWING THE WAY AND HE BELIEVED THE OMELCO PROPOSALS WOULD BE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

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CALL FOR HK PEOPLE TO PULL TOGETHER

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NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - RADICALS, LIBERALS, MODERATES AND CONSERVATIVES - TO PULL TOGETHER TO REACH A CONSENSUS AND TO MAKE THE BASIC LAW A SUCCESS, THE HON JAMES TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR TIEN REGRETTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF CERTAIN PROMINENT HONG KONG DRAFTERS WHICH HE TOOK TO BE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS MADE ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT TO EVENTS IN BEIJING.

HE APPEALED TO ALL OTHER DRAFTERS TO HOLD FIRM AND NOT TO DESERT THE SHIP OF STATE AT THIS ANXIOUS MOMENT IN THE HISTORIES OF BOTH CHINA AND HONG KONG.

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR TIEN EMPHASISED THAT IN SEARCHING FOR THE BEST FORM OF CHANGE, PEOPLE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY.

"IF WE IGNORE CONTINUITY, WE CAN RAPIDLY FLOUNDER IN UNTRIED AND UNCHARTERED WATERS. TOO RAPID A MOVE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE CAN BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE," HE SAID.

WHILE HE AGREED THAT HONG KONG WAS DESTINED EVENTUALLY TO EMBRACE A ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE POLITICAL SYSTEM, HE BELIEVED THAT IT MUST PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS GOAL IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.

MR TIEN ENVISAGED A GRADUAL, BUT NOT UNDULY PROTRACTED, MOVE TOWARDS GREATER REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, BASED UPON A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS.

"I RELUCTANTLY SUPPORT THE OMELCO LINE OF THINKING WHICH SAW THE YEAR 2003 AS THE EARLIEST ACCEPTABLE YEAR FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ALL OUR LEGISLATURE BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE," HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT BY 2003 - THE YEAR IN WHICH MEMBERS ELECTED BY THEIR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WOULD BE PHASED OUT ALTOGETHER, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD UPON SOME CONTINUITY, WITH INCUMBENT LEGISLATORS TRANSFERRING BY ELECTION TO THE RANKS OF THE DIRECTLY ELECTED.

MR TIEN SAID THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS, WITH THEIR UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE, NOT ONLY OFFERED THE LEGISLATURE ADVICE AND CONSULTATION ON A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES BUT ALSO ACTED AS A COUNTER-WEIGHT TO THE BUREAUCRATIC MIGHT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IN AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AND EXPERTISE.

"AFTER ALL, THEY WILL HAVE HAD BY THEN SOME EIGHT YEARS (1995-2003) TO SHOW THEIR METTLE. THEY WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH THE DAILY BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL. AS INCUMBENT MEMBERS, THEY WILL BE WELL-KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC.

"SURELY, IT MUST BE FOR THE GOOD OF THIS COUNCIL AND FOR HONG KONG THAT THE ELECTORATE SHOULD SEE THE GOOD SENSE OF RETURNING TRIED, TESTED AND SUCCESSFUL INCUMBENTS," HE REMARKED.

MR TIEN FURTHER FELT THAT NOT ENOUGH WAS SAID IN THE BASIC LAW DRAFT ABOUT THE IMPORTANT IDEA OF HOW TO REMOVE TOMORROW'S RULERS, IF NECESSARY.

"POWER, AFTER ALL CORRUPTS, ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY AS RECENT EVENTS IN BEIJING HAVE SHOWN. LEGISLATORS TOO, ARE SOMETIMES LESS THAN PERFECT.

"I WISH THAT THE BASIC LAW SAID A GOOD DEAL MORE ABOUT THE METHODS OF ACCOUNTABILITY," HE SAID.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT THE SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR REMOVING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLES 52 AND 72(A) WAS EXTREMELY CLUMSY AND LEGISLATORS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A TRULY CATASTROPHIC CONFLICT WITH HIM BEFORE BEING ABLE TO RECOMMEND HIS REMOVAL.

ON THE ECONOMY, MR TIEN NOTED THAT ARTICLE 118 SUGGESTED A WORRYING ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT AND COULD CAUSE CONCERN TO PEOPLE IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS.

"IF WE COULD SEE GOVERNMENT HERE AS A PASSIVE FORCE, VIS-A-VIS BUSINESS, THE IMPLICATION IS THAT PROSPERITY IS HIGHLY LIKELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN ACTIVE GOVERNMENT IS VERY LIKELY TO DISTURB OR EVEN DESTROY THE WORK OF BUSINESS," HE EXPLAINED.

IN CONCLUSION, MR TIEN BELIEVED WHATEVER SHAPE THE BASIC LAW TOOK IT WAS THE ECONOMY WHICH WAS HONG KONG'S SALVATION. AND WITHOUT PROSPERITY, THERE WOULD BE NO STABILITY.

"IF THE ECONOMY IS NOT EFFICIENT, PRODUCING THE PROSPERITY WHICH WE ALL DESIRE, THE CHANCES OF CHINA'S HONOURING THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS ARE VERY REMOTE INDEED," HE SAID.

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MORE IMPORTANT TO GET ECONOMIC PROVISIONS RIGHT
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IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GET THE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW RIGHT THAN THE POLITICAL ASPECTS, THE HON PETER WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE MOTIONDEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR WONG SAID THAT UNLESS HONG KONG KEPT DELIVERING THE ECONOMIC MIRACLES THAT SEEMED TO BE AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE, THERE WOULD BE NO INCENTIVE FOR CHINA TO KEEP ITS SIDE OF THE BARGAIN.

"CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ECONOMIC TERMS IS THE KEY TO OUR WELL-BEING," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THAT THOSE IN THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BLCC), ESPECIALLY THE ONES NOMINATED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS, HAD BEEN TRYING TO DO THEIR BEST TO CARRY OUT THEIR APPOINTED DUTIES, AND THE TASK HAD BEEN AN UPHILL, FRUSTRATING BUT INTERESTING ONE.

AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACCOUNTANTS IN THE BLCC, HE SAID HIS ECONOMY SUB-GROUP HAD COME UP WITH 10 ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY THAT THEY DEEMED WORTHY OF RETENTION AND, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, PUT INTO THE BASIC LAW DRAFT.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 17 -

THE OMISSION WAS THE LIMITATION OF EXPANSION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO PREVENT IT FROM OVERSHADOWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE SAID.

"IT WAS FAR FROM MY INTENTION THAT THESE DESIRABLE POLICIES WOULD BE SPELT OUT IN THE DRAFT SO THEY BECOME JUSTICIABLE.

"IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THE DRAFTERS WOULD WANT TO EMBODY ESOTERIC CONCEPTS SUCH AS BALANCED BUDGETS AND LOW TAX POLICIES INTO A LAW UPON WHICH AGGRIEVED OR MISCHIEVOUS PARTIES CAN LITIGATE," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THAT THEY NOW HAD THE TASK OF PUTTING THE POLICIES INTO THE LAW WITHOUT TURNING IT INTO A STRAIGHT-JACKET WHICH WOULD THROTTLE THE GOVERNING ABILITY OF ANY FUTURE ADMINISTRATION.

ON CONSULTATION, HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A FRUSTRATING TASK, AS THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE'S REMIT HAD NEVER BEEN CLEAR AND FOR SOME TIME THEY WERE NEITHER CONSULTED NOR WERE THEIR VIEWS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

FURTHERMORE, DRAFTING MEMBERS HAD FAILED TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK THOROUGHLY AND THE ACCOUNTANCY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENTS WERE GENERALLY UNINTERESTED AND DID NOT SPEAK UP.

THE RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAD, HOWEVER, BROUGHT ABOUT SOME VERY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR AS THE SILENT MAJORITY WAS CONCERNED, MR WONG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HE CONDUCTED AN OPINION SURVEY OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS MEMBERSHIP AND THE RESPONDENTS IN THE SURVEY SHOWED POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF THRASHING OUT THE BASIC LAW.

IN VIEW OF THIS, MR WONG CALLED ON THE HONG KONG DRAFTERS TO BE MORE DILIGENT IN LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF HONG KONG MANIFESTED THROUGH THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD THE VIEWS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THEM.

"THE DRAFTERS MUST CLEARLY EXPLAIN HOW THE HOPES AND FEARS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE BASIC LAW FOR IT TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTED," HE SAID.

FINALLY, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING A CONSULTATIVE AND POSITIVE MANNER.

"I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT WE WILL REMAIN A HIGHLY DESIRABLE FACTOR IN CHINA'S ECONOMY SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE IN OUR DISTINCT SYSTEM AND LIFESTYLE EVEN BEYOND THE 50 YEARS AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

"THE BASIC LAW WILL GIVE THAT ECONOMIC STATUS ITS LEGAL STANDING. WE MUST NOT GIVE UP THAT STRUGGLE NOW," HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 18 -

PRIDE EXPRESSED IN BELONGING TO HONG KONG
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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT SHE WAS PROUD TO BE A CHINESE AND WAS PROUD TO BELONG TO HONG KONG WHEN ONE MILLION OF ITS PEOPLE CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE BEIJING STUDENTS IN A SENSIBLE AND ORDERLY MANNER.

"FROM WHAT HAS HAPPENED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, EVEN THE MAN ON THE STREET, WILL BE WISE IN THEIR CHOICE OF RULERS," DR IP TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

SHE SAID THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CHINA WAS SAD. BUT IN MANY RESPECTS, SHE WAS GLAD.

"IT HAS GIVEN THOSE OF US, LIKE MYSELF, BORN AFTER THE WAR, SO USED TO FREEDOM AND EDUCATED AND WORKING ONLY WITH REASONABLE PEOPLE, TO HAVE A REAL TASTE OF UNREASONABLENESS AND LACK OF DEMOCRACY," SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID SHE WAS GLAD THAT IT HAD HAPPENED NOW, WHILE HONG KONG PEOPLE STILL HAD A CHANCE TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BASIC LAW TO INCLUDE ALL CONTINGENCIES TO PROTECT HONG KONG PEOPLE AGAINST ALL EVENTUALITIES SUCH AS WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CHINA.

IN BALANCING THE DANGER THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS COULD BRING "FREE LUNCH" TO A LARGER AND LESS WELL-OFF FRACTION OF THE COMMUNITY THEREBY AFFECTING THE ECONOMY, AND THE DANGER THAT INDIRECT ELECTIONS COULD BE MANIPULATED TO CREATE OPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSION TO BENEFIT A FEW, IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT THE FORMER WAS A FAR SMALLER RISK, SHE SAID.

DR IP HOPED THAT OMELCO MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, SUCH AS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW AND ITS AMENDMENT, MARTIAL LAW AND ITS IMPOSITION, NEWS BLACKOUT, DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

WITH A CONSENSUS AND WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY COULD THEN SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND HAVE ONE UNIFIED DEMAND ON THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BASIC LAW, SHE SAID.

SHE SAID IT WOULD BE VITAL TO EXTEND THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATION PROCESS SO THAT A COMPLETE VERSION OF A UNIFIED OMELCO DEMAND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THAT THE CONCEPT OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM TWO ECONOMICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY INDEPENDENT COMMUNITIES, ONE BIGGER AND ONE SMALLER, WHICH BECAUSE OF THEIR LINKAGE BY RACE AND BY PROXIMITY, WERE IN ALLIANCE REGARDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WHERE HONG KONG, BEING THE SMALLER OF THE TWO, ADOPTED THE CHINESE NATIONAL FLAG.

"THE BASIC LAW SHOULD THEREFORE SPELL OUT SUCH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. WE SHOULD DEMAND NOTHING LESS," SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE UNITED AND SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE IN THEIR DEMANDS ON THE BASIC LAW, AND YET THE FINAL VERSION PROMULGATED WAS CONTRARY TO THE UNITED DEMANDS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND EVEN IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE UNITED KINGDOM STILL REFUSED TO GIVE HONG KONG PEOPLE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK, HOW THEN COULD BRITAIN FACE UP TO THE WORLD IN ITS OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG?

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PROSPERITY CANNOT LAST WITHOUT DEMOCRACY

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THE CRY FOR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY," FOR WITHOUT DEMOCRACY THERE COULD BE NO LASTING STABILITY OR DEMOCRACY, THE HON ELSIE TU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MRS TU SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND AFTER THE SLOGAN-SHOUTING WAS OVER, THERE WAS A NEED TO FOLLOW UP WITH EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY.

"I THINK WE NEED TO TEACH IN THE SIMPLEST POSSIBLE LANGUAGE, AND IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE CONTENTS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION SO THAT EVERY PERSON IN HONG KONG WILL BE FULLY AWARE OF ITS COMMITMENTS, AND UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THE BASIC LAW TO FULFIL THOSE COMMITMENTS," SHE SAID.

MRS TU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD WASTE NO TIME IN INTRODUCING INTO THE LAWS OF HONG KONG ALL THE HUMAN RIGHTS SET OUT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN FROM THEIR EARLIEST DAYS THE FULL MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR OTHERS.

"I THINK WE SHOULD IMPRESS UPON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE GREATNESS OF THEIR CHINESE HERITAGE, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF PEOPLE LIKE MR SZETO WAH, WHO IS NOT ONLY DETERMINED TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG AND FACE WHATEVER COMES, BUT, AS HE SAID YESTERDAY, IS WILLING TO DIE FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES," SHE SAID.

MRS TU ADDED THAT SHE WHOULD LIKE TO JOIN MR SZETO IN THE PLEDGE, AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TAKE A STAND IN HONG KONG AND NOT RUN AWAY FROM DIFFICULTIES.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 20 -

LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON BASIC LAW DRAFT

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) PASSED A MOTION CONCERNING THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW AFTER A TWO-DAY DEBATE.

THE MOTION WAS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL CALLS ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON 'THE BASIC LAW OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (DRAFT)' AND URGES THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO TAKE SUCH VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW".

IT WAS MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE.

EIGHTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE TODAY, AND THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THIRTEEN MEMBERS HAD SPOKEN YESTERDAY.

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/21

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 21 -

GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR LONDON TO ATTEND FAC HEARINGS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 5) TO GIVE FORMAL EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR DAVID WILL ATTEND THE FAC HEARINGS ON JUNE 7. THE GOVERNOR LAST GAVE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN LONDON IN MARCH.

DURING HIS STAY IN UK, SIR DAVID WILL OFFICIATE AT AN EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY FOR A DRAGON BOAT RACE ON THE RIVER THAMES, NEAR THE TOWER BRIDGE, ON JUNE 8 TO CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL. IN THE EVENING THE GOVERNOR WILL ATTEND A DRAGON BOAT DINNER HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION.

SIR DAVID WILL LEAVE FOR GENEVA ON JUNE 12 AS A MEMBER OF THE UK-HK DELEGATION LED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES TO BE HELD ON JUNE 13 AND 14.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE JOINED IN LONDON BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR DICK CLIFT, AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, WHO WILL FORM PART OF THE DELEGATION TO GENEVA.

SIR DAVID WILL LEAVE GENEVA ON JUNE 15 AND ARRIVE IN HONG KONG THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR WILL DEPART FOR LONDON BY FLIGHT CX 251 AT 10.55 PM ON MONDAY (JUNE 5).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING SIR DAVID'S DEPARTURE SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT THE ARRIVAL HALL NO LATER THAN 10.10 PM.

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/22

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 22 -

TRANSPORT SECRETARY BRIEFS DB CHAIRMEN ON GREEN PAPER
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, GAVE A BRIEFING TODAY (THURSDAY) ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG TO THE CHAIRMEN OF 19 DISTRICT BOARDS AND TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEES.

THE BRIEFING, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, MARKED THE START OF A FOUR-MONTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

A SERIES OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS BETWEEN A TEAM OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS OFFICIALS AND THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS WILL FOLLOW.

THE GOVERNMENT TEAM, COMPRISING OFFICERS FROM THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, WILL ALSO BRIEF ALL DISTRICT BOARDS ON THE GREEN PAPER AND TAKE NOTE OF THEIR COMMENTS.

DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD WHICH WILL END ON SEPTEMBER 30, WRITTEN COMMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

"GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY", THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, TRANSPORT BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

ORAL COMMENTS CAN ALSO BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 5-8102111. THESE WILL BE RECORDED.

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\$126M CONTRACT TO EASE CONGESTION AT MAJOR JUNCTION
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED A \$126 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/HAMMER HILL ROAD GRADE SEPARATED INTERSECTION IN KOWLOON TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITION IN THE AREA.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANKI KIER LTD., MR J.L. HOLLAND.

THE PROJECT WILL MAINLY INVOLVE BUILDING A FLYOVER OVER LUNG CHEUNG ROAD TO LINK THE EXISTING HAMMER HILL ROAD WITH CHOI HUNG ROAD, TOGETHER WITH A SYSTEM OF PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGES AND A SUBWAY ACROSS THE ROAD JUNCTION.

/IT WILL

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 23 -

IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF AN ELEVATED ROAD NEAR CHOI HUNG ESTATE, LINKING THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS AT DIAMOND HILL WITH THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD INTERCHANGE.

THIS SECTION OF ELEVATED ROAD WILL BE PART OF THE FUTURE ROUTE 6 CONNECTING THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THROUGH THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, WITH TOLO HIGHWAY AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FLYOVER OVER LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL-CONTROLLED LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/HAMMER HILL ROAD JUNCTION, WHICH HAS INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO COPE WITH THE PRESENT AND FUTURE TRAFFIC VOLUME.

THE COMPLETION OF THIS GRADE-SEPARATED JUNCTION WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE AREA.

CONSTRUCTION WILL START THIS MONTH AND THE CRITICAL PORTIONS CONNECTING THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1991 PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE TUNNEL.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LTD. FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

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STUDENTS URGED TO SPREAD JOB SAFETY MESSAGE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (THURSDAY) STRESSED THE NEED TO PROMOTE AMONG EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES A SPIRIT OF SAFETY-MINDEDNESS IN THE WORKPLACE.

SPEAKING AT THE AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE 1988/89 INDUSTRIAL SAFETY STUDENT POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION, MR HAMMOND SAID INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WOULD LEAD TO INJURIES TO WORKERS, DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AND LOSS OF PRODUCTION.

APART FROM CAUSING A LOSS OF SKILLED LABOUR, HE ADDED, ACCIDENTS WOULD ALSO AGGRAVATE THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM.

"TO AVOID TRAGEDIES, WE MUST IMPROVE THE SAFETY AWARENESS OF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

MR HAMMOND NOTED THAT THE POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION WAS AIMED AT INSTILLING IN YOUNG PEOPLE THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AWARENESS.

"THUS WHEN THEY GROW UP AND JOIN THE WORLD OF WORK, THEY WILL NOT ONLY TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, BUT WILL ALSO HELP TO DISSEMINATE THE SAFETY MESSAGE TO THEIR FELLOW WORKERS," HE ADDED.

/ALSO OFFICIATING

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI.

MR LI SAID THAT AS STUDENTS LACKED PRACTICAL WORKING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, THEY WERE MORE ACCIDENT-PRONE THEN OTHER WORKERS.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT EMPLOYERS PROVIDE INDUCTION SAFETY TRAINING TO NEWLY JOINED WORKERS AND SUMMER JOB STUDENTS," HE SAID.

HIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, MR HO SAI-CHU, WHO EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR PRE-VOCATIONAL CIVIC EDUCATION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY FOR STUDENTS AS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

MR HO SAID THE COMPETITION WAS INTENDED TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVER-INCREASING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED EDUCATIONAL RESULTS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT STUDENTS, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION, COULD REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND PUT ACROSS THE MESSAGE TO OTHER PEOPLE," HE SAID.

THE COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

IT WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS - DIVISION A FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS AND DIVISION B FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THE WINNER OF THE GRAND PRIZE IN DIVISION A, MR NG CHI-SHING FROM THE KWUN TONG VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, WAS AWARDED \$6,000. CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$1,000 EACH WERE AWARDED TO 10 OTHER WINNERS IN THE DIVISION.

THE GRAND PRIZE IN DIVISION B WAS WON BY MR LEUNG HING-KEI FROM THE TANG SHIU KIN VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL WHO WON \$3,000. TEN OTHER ENTRANTS WON CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$500 EACH.

THE WORK OF THE TWO GRAND PRIZE WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS POSTERS AND DISPLAYED IN SCHOOLS, FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES TO PUBLICISE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 25 -

AFD EXTENDS CONTROL ON IVORY TRADE

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING RESPONDED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS AFTERNOON BY THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF HK), IN WHICH IT EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED BAN ON IVORY TRADE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FROM EXTINCTION.

THE WWF HK URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REGISTER AND MARK ALL STOCKS OF RAW IVORY AND IVORY CUT PIECES WHICH EXCEED 20 CENTIMETRES IN LENGTH AND ONE KILOGRAM IN WEIGHT.

IT ALSO CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPUTER DATA BASE OF ALL REGISTERED STOCKS AND A GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED WAREHOUSE FOR THE SAFE-KEEPING OF THE REGISTERED STOCKS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR K.C. IU, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARED THE CONCERN THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DECLINE IN THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT POPULATION.

"HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS COMPLIED FULLY WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES), WITH REGARD TO ENDANGERED SPECIES. THIS INCLUDES STRICT CONTROL ON IVORY.

"IN ORDER TO TAKE OUR STRICT CONTROL ONE STEP FURTHER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE REGISTRATION OF EXISTING IVORY STOCKS TO COVER RAW IVORY ACQUIRED BEFORE 1986. THE REGISTRATION WILL INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL MARKING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITES PROCEDURES," HE SAID.

ALL IVORY STOCKS ACQUIRED AFTER 1986 HAD ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED AND MARKED.

MR IU POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO BE LOOKING INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A COMPUTER DATA BASE AS SUGGESTED BY WWF HK.

HE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE IDEA OF A GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED WAREHOUSE FOR KEEPING IVORY STOCKS.

"IT IS NOT CONSIDERED FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES AND THE FACT THAT EXISTING STOCKS ARE PRIVATE PROPERTY, LEGALLY OBTAINED AND LEGALLY HELD," MR IU ADDED.

IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED BAN ON NEW IVORY, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS PUT IN HAND AN URGENT STUDY OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG IF THE CITES CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER DECIDES TO ENDORSE STRICTER CONTROLS ON THE IVORY TRADE.

/"WE HAVE

"WE HAVE ALREADY HELD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TRADE ON THE MATTER. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY," MR IU SAID.

THE CITES AFRICAN ELEPHANT WORKING GROUP WILL MEET IN BOTSWANA IN JULY AND THE CITES BIENNIAL CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN SWITZERLAND IN OCTOBER. HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN BOTH MEETINGS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE CITES AUTHORITY IN WORKING OUT STRICTER AND MORE PRACTICAL CONTROLS ON IVORY TRADE.

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JUNK BAY NEW TOWN RENAMED TSEUNG KWAN O .
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JUNK BAY NEW TOWN WILL NOW BE KNOWN IN ENGLISH AS "TSEUNG KWAN O", THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRISTOPHER MUNN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR MUNN SAID "TSEUNG KWAN O" IS A TRANSLITERATION OF THE CHINESE NAME FOR THE NEW TOWN WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICE OF MAINTAINING CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE TWO LANGUAGES IN NEW PLACE NAMES IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION.

"THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THE CHANGE OF THE PLACE NAME AND APPROVAL WAS GIVEN BY THE GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, THE CHANGE OF THE PLACE NAME HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARDS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY AND NO OBJECTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED," MR MUNN ADDED.

IN ADDITION TO THE CHANGE IN THE ENGLISH NAME FOR THE NEW TOWN, OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES FOR THE PLANNING AREAS IN THE NEW TOWN HAVE ALSO BEEN PROPOSED. THE NAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

(A) TIU KENG LENG

THIS NAME REPLACES THE ENGLISH NAME "RENNIE'S MILL".

(B) TSUI LAM

THIS AREA IS NAMED AFTER THE LARGEST RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA, THE TSUI LAM ESTATE.

(C) PO LAM

THIS AREA IS NAMED AFTER THE MAIN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA, THE PO LAM ESTATE.

/(D) HANG HAU

(D) HANG HAU

THIS INCLUDES THE PRESENT HANG HAU TOWN AND RESITE VILLAGE AND THE NEW RECLAMATION NEARBY.

(E) TSEUNG KWAN O TOWN CENTRE

THIS AREA COMPRISES THE PROPOSED FUTURE TOWN CENTRE AND LARGE-SCALE FACILITIES FOR THE NEW TOWN.

(F) PAK SHING KOK

THIS AREA USED TO BE NAMED "PAK SHIN KOK" OR "PAK SHEK KOK BORROW AREA". TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFUSION WITH ANOTHER "PAK SHEK KOK" IN TAI PO DISTRICT, THIS NEW NAME HAS BEEN ADOPTED.

(G) SIU CHIK SHA

THE EXISTING NAME OF THE AREA.

(H) TAI CHIK SHA

THIS INCLUDES THE PRESENT TIA CHIK SHA AREA AND THE RECLAMATION OF ITS FORESHORE.

THESE PLACE NAMES WILL BE ADOPTED AND USED ON ALL OFFICIAL MAP PUBLICATIONS, NOW THAT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND THE NAMES BEEN POSTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND NO OBJECTIONS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED.

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SINKING OF VESSEL TO BE INVESTIGATED

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, HAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A WOODEN TOWING LAUNCH, THE "WIN WING", FOUNDERED NORTH OF GREEN ISLAND DURING THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON BRENDA ON MAY 19.

MR B.B. RAO AND MR SO PING-CHI, SURVEYORS OF SHIPS, HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE UNDER SECTION 58 OF THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE (CAP. 313), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 28 -

THE TWO OFFICERS WILL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THEIR FINDINGS TO THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE "WIN WING" FOUNDERED NORTH OF GREEN ISLAND AT ABOUT 11 PM ON MAY 19, WHEN THE NO. 3 STRONG WIND SIGNAL WAS HOISTED.

THE BODY OF ONE OF THE TWO CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD WAS FOUND INSIDE THE COMPARTMENT BELOW THE WHEELHOUSE WHEN THE VESSEL WAS SALVAGED ON MAY 23.

THE OTHER CREW MEMBER WAS RESCUED.

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INDUSTRY DEPT SURVEY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT BEGINS

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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS CARRYING OUT ITS ANNUAL SURVEY ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THIS SURVEY IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORT TO UPDATE ITS DATA ON INWARD DIRECT INVESTMENT, IN TERMS OF CAPITAL INJECTED, EMPLOYMENT CREATED, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCED, PRODUCTS INVOLVED AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS.

IT CAN ALSO HELP TO ASSESS THE RELATIVE MERITS OF HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING BASE FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE INFORMATION GATHERED IN THIS SURVEY WAS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO PROMOTE FURTHER INWARD INVESTMENT IN LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WITH EMPHASIS ON BRINGING IN NEW PRODUCTS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES TO HONG KONG.

"AS TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS, FINDINGS OF THIS SURVEY WILL BE USED IN EVALUATING INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES AND ESTABLISHING FACTORIES IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE TARGETS OF THE SURVEY ARE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WHICH CONTAIN INWARD INVESTMENT, INCLUDING THOSE WHOLLY OR PARTLY OWNED BY COMPANIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG, BY LOCAL COMPANIES WHOSE ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANIES ARE OUTSIDE HONG KONG, OR BY PERSONS WHO HOLD OTHER THAN HONG KONG CITIZENSHIP.

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL SEND QUESTIONNAIRES TO THESE TARGET COMPANIES REQUESTING THEM TO HAVE THE QUESTIONNAIRES COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE JUNE 30.

THE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON THOSE WHICH ARE NOT CONTACTED BY JUNE 15 TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S STATISTICIAN, MR ANTHONY MAK, ON 3-7372426, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

/FIELD WORKERS

FIELD WORKERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES TO PROVIDE ANY NECESSARY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AND RESTRICTED FOR ITS OWN USE.

THE SURVEY REPORT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, WILL BE PREPARED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE REPORT ON THE 1988 SURVEY WAS PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON REQUEST.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR MARCH RELEASED
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1989, ESTIMATED AT \$8,593 MILLION, INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1988 WHILST THEIR VOLUME INCREASED BY ONLY 1 PER CENT.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1988, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

THESE PROVISIONAL RESULTS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT OF THE MONTHLY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKEMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT COMMENTED THAT THE SLUGGISH PERFORMANCE OF RETAIL SALES IN BOTH FEBRUARY AND MARCH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SLOWER GROWTH IN RETAIL SALES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 AS A WHOLE, WHICH REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT MODERATION FROM THE GROWTH RATES EXPERIENCED IN THE PREVIOUS FOUR QUARTERS. THUS THERE WERE SIGNS THAT CONSUMER SPENDING WAS MODERATING.

COMPARING MARCH 1989 WITH MARCH 1988, RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO IN MARCH 1989 INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHILST THOSE FOR FUELS ROSE BY 8 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 36 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME. HOWEVER, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, DEPARTMENT STORES SALES INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS AND MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 11 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VALUE BUT BOTH REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS, HOWEVER, DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1988, AND ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS, SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE AND REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VOLUME. FUELS WENT DOWN BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 21 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 57 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 45 PER CENT IN VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 26 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 14 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES WENT UP BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT FELL BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH 1989 DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. FUELS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 22 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHILST THOSE FOR CONSUMER DURABLES DROPPED BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES DROPPED BY 6 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 44 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 45 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1989 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR MARCH 1989.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY 1989 AND MARCH 1989 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL SALES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF MARCH 1989 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1989 AND WITH THOSE FOR MARCH 1988, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT, RESPECTIVELY, THE MOVEMENTS OF THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES FROM SEPTEMBER 1986 TO MARCH 1989 AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEXES AND TREND FOR SEPTEMBER 1986 TO FEBRUARY 1989.

AS SHOWN IN GRAPH 1, THE VALUE INDEX OF TOTAL SALES USUALLY RISE SUBSTANTIALLY IN DECEMBER DUE TO CHRISTMAS AND IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY DUE TO THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, BUT DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE MONTH FOLLOWING THAT IN WHICH THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FALLS.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SALES VALUE INDEX AND TREND HAVE GENERALLY FOLLOWED A SMOOTHER UPWARD COURSE OVER THE YEARS.

THE VOLUME INDEX OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AS DEPICTED IN GRAPH 2, SHOWS A PATTERN OF MOVEMENTS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE VALUE INDEX.

HOWEVER, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SALES VOLUME INDEX AND TREND RISE MORE SLOWLY THAN THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEX AND TREND FOR SALES VALUE, MAINLY DUE TO THE EFFECT OF PRICE INCREASES.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF MARCH 1989 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-8234941).

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for March 1989 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$ 8,593million
for February 1989 (Revised Figure) = HK\$ 8,989million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR FEBRUARY 1989 AND MARCH 1989

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	February	March	March 1989 compared with February 1989		March 1989 compared with March 1988		Jan.-Mar. 1989 compared with Jan.-Mar. 1988	
		1989 (Revised figures)	1989 (Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	160	153	-7	-4	13	9	23	16
	Volume	127	122	-5	-4	1	1	8	7
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	139	133	-6	-4	16	13	14	11
	Volume	110	108	-2	-2	4	3	#	#
Fuels	Value	81	101	20	25	8	8	-2	-2
	Volume	85	104	18	22	4	4	-4	-4
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	195	184	-10	-5	49	36	36	21
	Volume	150	139	-10	-7	25	22	13	9
Consumer durables	Value	175	147	-28	-16	2	1	30	21
	Volume	131	114	-17	-13	-5	-4	14	11
Other consumer goods	Value	170	169	-2	-1	8	5	26	16
	Volume	136	133	-3	-2	-3	-2	12	9
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	169	158	-11	-6	16	11	13	9
	Volume	136	125	-11	-8	#	#	-3	-2
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	374	209	-166	-44	14	7	117	57
	Volume	252	140	-113	-45	#	#	68	45
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	114	128	14	13	-2	-1	4	3
	Volume	94	106	12	13	-7	-6	-3	-3
Department stores	Value	201	191	-9	-5	27	16	47	26
	Volume	156	145	-11	-7	7	5	21	14

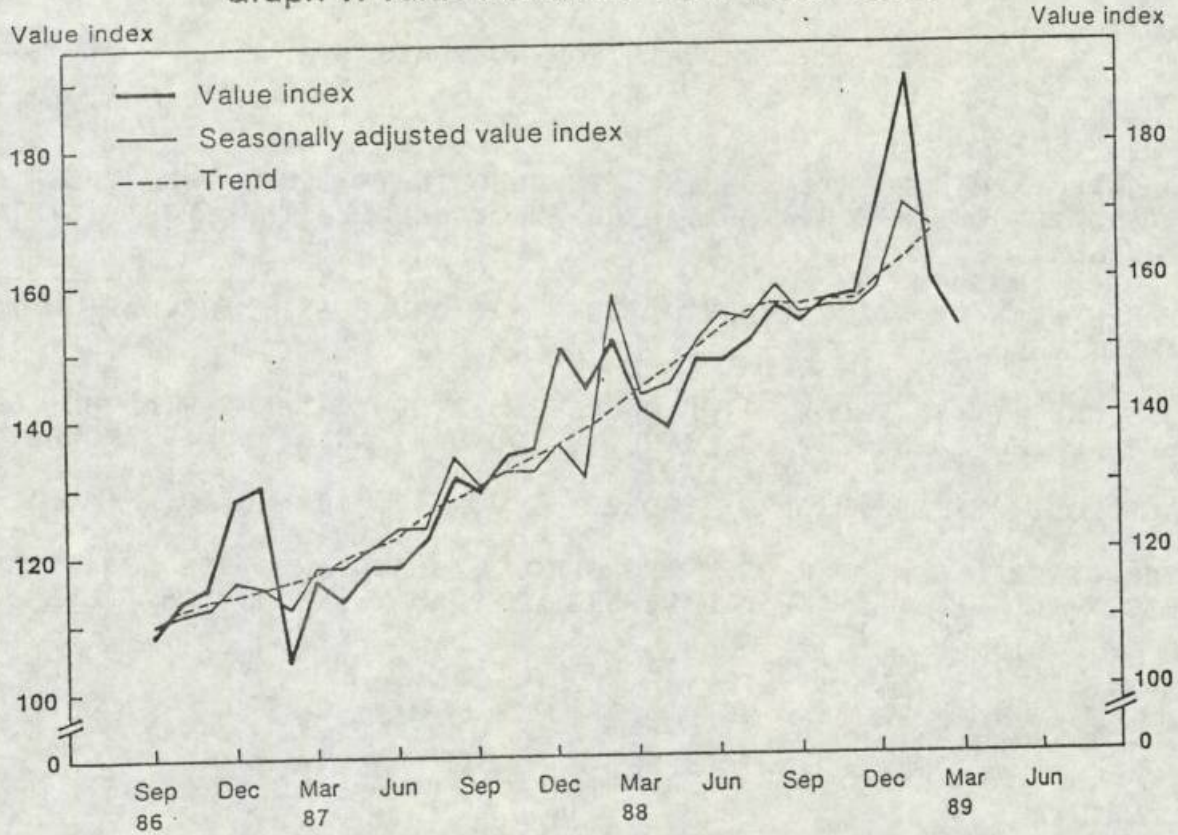
NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

- (a) "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
- (b) "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- (c) "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- (d) "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

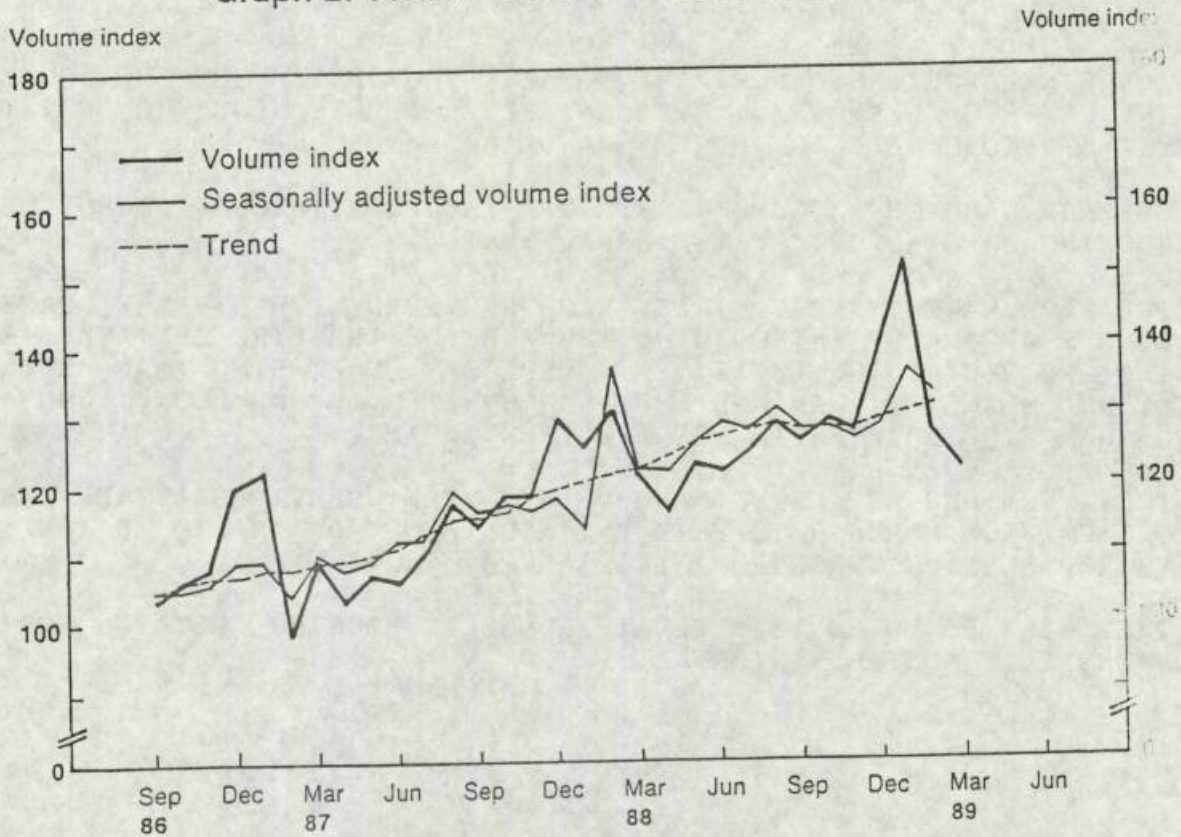
2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

3. "#" denotes a figure within ± 0.5 .

Graph 1: Value Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Graph 2: Volume Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Notes: (1) Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100
 (2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using the X-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 34 -

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLIDAYS

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POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE HOLIDAYS FOR THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL AND THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE POST OFFICE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THERE WILL BE NO DELIVERY ON JUNE 8 (THURSDAY), THE DAY OF THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

ON JUNE 17 (SATURDAY), THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, THERE WILL BE ONE DELIVERY AND NO DELIVERY ON JUNE 18 (SUNDAY) AND JUNE 19 (MONDAY).

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON JUNE 8, 18 AND 19.

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON JUNE 17 (SATURDAY).

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FSD BEGIN RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN HOUSING ESTATES

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SET UP MOBILE RECRUITING CENTRES IN SHOPPING AREAS AT FIVE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TO RECRUIT STATIONS OFFICER, FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN.

THE NEW CAMPAIGN FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT EXERCISE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE FIVE RECRUITING CENTRES, EACH EQUIPPED WITH DISPLAY PANELS WITH COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS INTRODUCING THE WORK OF THE FIRE SERVICES AND JOBS BEING OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WERE SET UP AT HING MAN ESTATE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, OI MAN AND CHOI WAN ESTATES IN KOWLOON, AND FU SHIN AND SHAN KING ESTATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE CENTRES ARE BEING MANNED BY FIRE SERVICES STAFF FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH.

THEY WILL BE MOVED TO FIVE OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ON A ROTATION BASIS AT MONTHLY INTERVAL.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 35 -

DRAGON BOAT RACE IN TSUEN WAN RESUMES

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AFTER A LAPSE OF MORE THAN 15 YEARS, THE DRAGON BOAT RACE IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT WILL RESUME THIS YEAR TO CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

THE RACE, WHICH WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF RECLAMATION WORKS, WILL TAKE PLACE ALONG THE WATERFRONT OFF THE TSUEN WAN RIVIERA GARDENS FROM 8 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 4).

OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU; TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN; REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG; AND THE TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN LAU-FONG.

OVER 40 TEAMS WILL TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITIONS.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE FEDERATION OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF NEW DRAGON BOATS IN THIS YEAR'S RACES, AN EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SHIU, AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 3) AT THE TSUEN WAN RIVIERA GARDENS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DRAGON BOAT RACE TO BEGIN AT 8 AM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 4), AND THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 3) NEAR THE WATERFRONT OF THE TSUEN WAN RIVIERA GARDENS.

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SURVEY ON LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ARE JOINTLY CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 1,000 BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS AND ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES, TRADES AND SERVICE SECTORS.

/QUESTIONNAIRES ARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 36 -

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO THE SELECTED BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS AND ORGANISATIONS TO SEEK THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION :

- (A) TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES;
- (B) NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED BY PROVIDENT FUND, PENSION/RETIREMENT FUND SCHEMES;
- (C) (I) NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES LEAVING EMPLOYMENT IN 1988 BY REASONS;
- (II) AGES AND LENGTH OF SERVICE OF THESE EMPLOYEES;
- (III) NUMBERS OF THESE EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR LONG SERVICE PAYMENT;
- (IV) AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PAID TO THESE EMPLOYEES; AND
- (V) REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING LONG SERVICE PAYMENT.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THE SELECTED BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS AND ORGANISATIONS TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD. THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS HAVE QUERIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SURVEY, THEY MAY CONTACT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234741 OR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 5-8523514.

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HOSPITAL GROUP DIRECTORS CALL ON DSW

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THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, TO DISCUSS THE GROUP'S WELFARE PROJECTS IN THE COMING YEAR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR LAI KWOK-WING, SAID THAT APART FROM MAINTAINING A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE GROUP WOULD FURTHER EXPAND ITS SERVICES.

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR INCLUDED THREE SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY IN SHA TIN, KWUN TONG AND TAI KOK TSUI, A HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN SHAM SHUI PO, TWO CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES IN MONG KOK AND SHA TIN, AND A DAY NURSERY IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

/MR LAW

MR LAW NOTED THAT RESIDENTS IN THE TERRITORY WERE ALREADY BENEFITTING FROM THE HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE GROUP'S CURRENT NETWORK OF 11 OLD PEOPLE'S HOSTELS AND HOMES, TWO SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, ONE MULTI-SERVICES CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, 11 CHILD CARE CENTRES, SIX CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES AND ONE CENTRE OFFERING TEMPORARY CARE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE PLANNED PROJECTS WOULD BE A WELCOME BOOST AND PLEDGED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE GROUP AS IT SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE ITS TARGETS.

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CLEAN UP OPERATION IN WONG TAI SIN

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A BLOCK-TO-BLOCK AND MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS CLEAN UP OPERATION AIMED AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS WILL BE LAUNCHED IN WONG TAI SIN ON SATURDAY (JUNE 3).

A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD AT SHUNG LING STREET TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND, SAN PO KONG AT 11 AM THAT DAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP, MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU; AND THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT/ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE (KOWLOON EAST) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR ANTHONY SIU.

STUDENTS OF THE DISTRICT WILL GIVE A DEMONSTRATION ON CLEAN UP WORK AFTER THE CEREMONY.

THE OPERATION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IS ONE OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES BEING ORGANISED IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BLOCK-TO-BLOCK AND MULTI-STOREY CLEAN UP OPERATION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 3) AT SHUNG LING STREET TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND IN SAN PO KONG.

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STUDENTS TO SHOW OFF ARTISTIC TALENTS

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STUDENTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT WHO WON TOP HONOURS IN THE RECENT INTER-SCHOOL MUSIC, DANCE AND SPEECH COMPETITIONS WILL DISPLAY THEIR TALENTS ON SUNDAY (JUNE 4).

A TWO-HOUR RE-ENACTMENT OF THEIR WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE STAGED AT THE KIANGSU CHEKIANG PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CHING WAN STREET, NORTH POINT, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

THE SHOW WILL INCLUDE CHORAL SINGING, CHINESE DANCE, SOLO AND GROUP SPEAKING, PIANO AND OTHER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES. MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS FROM 10 SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS IN THE DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART.

THE SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

OFFICIATING AT SHOW WILL BE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR HUNG YING-HO; AND SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (HONG KONG EAST), MRS CORINA WONG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SPECIAL SHOW BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 4) IN THE KIANGSU CHEKIANG PRIMARY SCHOOL, 30 CHING WAH STREET, NORTH POINT.

TRANSPORT, PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY SURVEY TO BEGIN

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THE TRANSPORT AND PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BEGIN A SURVEY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE INDUSTRY'S MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ESTABLISHMENTS FROM THE SECTORS OF SEA FREIGHT, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING AGENTS, CARGO HANDLING TERMINALS, TRUCKING, WAREHOUSING AND SHIP MANAGEMENT AND CHARTERING.

SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CALL AT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO ASSIST EMPLOYERS IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

/EMPLOYERS ARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 39 -

EMPLOYERS ARE URGED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE USED IN FORMULATING MANPOWER TRAINING PLANS TO MEET THE INDUSTRY'S NEEDS.

THE SURVEY WILL BE COMPLETED ON JUNE 28. INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

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MEN'S TURN TO GET NEW ID CARDS
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MEN BORN IN 1952 OR BEFORE WILL SOON BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS.

"THOSE BORN IN 1949, 1950, 1951 AND 1952 WILL BE THE FIRST GROUP TO BE CALLED UPON TO COME FORWARD FOR THEIR NEW ID CARDS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE URGED MEN OF THIS AGE GROUP TO WATCH THE MEDIA FOR THE DATES ON WHICH THEY MUST APPLY.

"FULL DETAILS OF THE DIFFERENT PHASES FOR THE ISSUE OF THE NEW ID CARD FOR MEN WILL BE WIDELY PUBLICISED OVER TV, RADIO AND IN NEWSPAPERS IN DUE COURSE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

APPLICANTS NORMALLY NEED TO BRING ALONG THEIR EXISTING ID CARDS IF THEIR CARDS WERE FIRST REGISTERED NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO AND BEAR THE *** SYMBOL.

HOWEVER, IF AN APPLICANT'S IDENTITY CARD WAS FIRST REGISTERED LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO OR DOES NOT HAVE THE *** SYMBOL, HE IS REQUIRED TO FURNISH MORE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT OF HIS RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIS ELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD.

THE DOCUMENT MAY TAKE THE FORM OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT, HONG KONG BIRTH CERTIFICATE, HONG KONG NATURALISATION CERTIFICATE OR HONG KONG REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, ETC.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989

- 40 -

WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN TWO AREAS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 PM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 4) TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE REPAIR WORK FOR WATER MAIN LEAKAGE.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY WONG CHUK YEUNG STREET, KWEI TEI STREET, TSUNG TAU HA ROAD, LOK LO HA AREA, KAU TO AREA AND TAI PO ROAD, BETWEEN LAI PING ROAD AND TAI PO MEI.

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SOUTHEAST KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON MONDAY (JUNE 5) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA, NGAU CHI WAN, PING SHEK, CHOI HUNG, KWUN TONG ROAD, KAI YIP ESTATE, CHOI WAN ESTATE, FUNG SHING STREET, PING TING ROAD AND HAMMER HILL ROAD.

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