



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR CONGRATULATES CHINESE YMCA OF HK ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING PRAISES THE CHINESE YMCA OF HONG KONG FOR SETTING AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN CARING.

"IT IS AN EXAMPLE OF GREAT VALUE IN TODAY'S HONG KONG. WE ARE LIVING THROUGH FASCINATING TIMES. THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES BEFORE US ARE EXHILARATING," THE GOVERNOR SAID, WHEN ADDRESSING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IF WE WERE TO MAKE THE BEST OF THEM, WE NEEDED THE KIND OF COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND TO COMMUNITY VALUES WHICH THE ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGED IN ITS MEMBERS.

"FOR IT IS BY RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND BY CARING FOR THE YOUNG AND THE LESS FORTUNATE, THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THEIR PREDECESSORS HAD SERVED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN MANY, MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OVER THE YEARS AND THAT THEY HAD REDIRECTED THEIR EFFORTS WHERE NECESSARY TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY MEMBERS INCLUDED PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION, RUNNING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF YOUTH CENTRES, AND BUILDING A MAJOR NEW EDUCATION CENTRE ON WATERLOO ROAD.

SIR DAVID CONGRATULATED MEMBERS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, ON THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT AND WISHED THEM ALL THE VERY BEST IN THEIR FUTURE SERVICE.

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REHOUSING RESPONSIBILITY GIVEN TOP PRIORITY BY LDC

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THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAS GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ITS REHOUSING RESPONSIBILITY, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CORPORATION'S FIRST REHOUSING PROPERTY IN SAI YING PUN, MR BARNES SAID FROM THE OUTSET, THE CORPORATION APPRECIATED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY ITS REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

"ALL OVER THE WORLD YOU CAN SEE THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE WHOLESAL SHIPPING OUT OF THE EXISTING OWNERS AND TENANTS CLEARED FROM PROPERTIES," HE SAID.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE CORPORATION WAS DOING ITS BEST TO PROVIDE THE MEANS TO REHOUSE THOSE WHO COULD NOT READILY LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES AND PARTICULARLY NEED TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE AREA WHERE THEY HAD LIVED SO LONG, IN PARTICULAR THE OLD AND INCAPACITATED.

"THE REHOUSING PROPERTY WHERE WE STAND AND WHERE WE SHALL BE OPENING FORMALLY SHORTLY BEARS WITNESS TO THIS," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES STRESSED THAT THE CORPORATION HAD RECOGNISED THAT ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE NEEDS OF THOSE INVOLVED WERE BETTER DEALT WITH BY PAYMENTS OF MONEY, THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A RESIDUE OF HOUSEHOLDS FOR WHOM THE PROVISION OF HOUSING WAS THE ONLY PRACTICABLE HELP WHICH COULD BE OFFERED.

"SO THE SCHEME WHICH WE ARE OPENING TODAY IS CRITICAL TO THE CHAIN OF PROJECTS WHICH WILL FOLLOW IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

"AT LEAST SIX PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO START BUILDING WORK IN 1992," HE SAID.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT BACK IN 1985 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS DRAFTING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ORDINANCE, IT HAD RECOGNISED THAT URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS OFFERED A VERY COMPLEX BALANCE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE SCHEME ON THE ONE HAND AND THE INTERESTS OF THE EXISTING RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ON THE OTHER.

"THIS IS WHY WE FELT IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE A FAIRLY COMPLEX SERIES OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CORPORATION TO DEAL WITH ACQUISITION AND CLEARANCE PROBLEMS BEFORE IT SEEKS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

"BUT THE POWER OF INTERVENTION MUST BE THERE, AND IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE CORPORATION'S HISTORY, IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE TO BE USED FROM TIME TO TIME.

"INDEED ONE RESUMPTION HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORISED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES CONGRATULATED THE CORPORATION ON THE PROGRESS IT HAD MADE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS CHAIRMAN, MR HU FA-KUANG, IT HAD DONE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK OF URBAN RENEWAL.

"NATURALLY THE FIRST MAJOR EFFORT WAS PUT INTO PLANNING AS TO WHERE IT COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY CONCENTRATE ITS ENDEAVOURS, AND TO THIS END, IN CO-OPERATION WITH AND WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S OWN PLANNERS, IT HAS PRODUCED A NUMBER OF MAJOR STUDIES HIGHLIGHTING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR URBAN RENEWAL WITHIN COMPREHENSIVE PLANS.

"FROM THESE PLANS A NUMBER OF COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DEFINED, SOME OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED," HE SAID.

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STATEMENT ON VM'S

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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES ABOUT A PRESS REPORT REFERRING TO A CUT OFF DATE FOR THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION STATES THAT ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO ARE SCREENED OUT MUST RETURN TO VIETNAM.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION THAT THE CPA SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN FULL.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. THERE WILL BE NO NEW CUT OFF DATES, AS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR REPEATEDLY IN ALL THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS."

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IMPACT OF AIRPORT PROJECT ON LANTAU ISLAND

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DISCUSSED THE IMPACT THE MASSIVE AIRPORT PROJECT AT CHEK LAP KOK WOULD HAVE ON THE COMMUNITIES ON LANTAU ISLAND.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR TSAO SAID GREAT CHANGES TO TUNG CHUNG AND NORTH LANTAU WERE ANTICIPATED WHEN THOUSANDS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WENT THERE TO BUILD THE AIRPORT, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND A NEW TOWN TO HOUSE 200,000 PEOPLE.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH GREAT CHANGES WERE NOT A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AS THERE HAD BEEN MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AREA SINCE 1950.

THE PAST EXPERIENCE, TOGETHER WITH NEW TECHNIQUES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING OF PROJECTS AT THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION STAGES, WAS BEING APPLIED TO THE NORTH LANTAU DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MOST OF THE EXISTING VILLAGES WOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN PLACE, MR TSAO SAID THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE BUILT ON RECLAIMED LAND OR ON ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL LAND.

"IN THE FEW CASES WHERE CLEARANCE WILL BE NEEDED, VILLAGE RESITE AREAS WILL BE PROVIDED CLOSE TO OTHER VILLAGES SO THAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY CAN REMAIN INTACT," HE SAID.

TO RETAIN THE PRESENT PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE IN THE AREA, MR TSAO STRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO DEVISE CONSTRUCTION METHODS THAT WOULD MINIMISE THE NOISE NUISANCES.

/HE BELIEVED

HE BELIEVED THAT DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA WOULD OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES TO THE PRESENT RESIDENTS THAT HAD NEVER EXISTED BEFORE.

"ALONG WITH SEWERS AND ROADS WILL COME BETTER ACCESS TO HOSPITALS, SUPERMARKETS, AND THE OTHER BENEFITS OF MODERN LIVING," HE ADDED.

FOR TAI O AND SOUTH LANTAU, MR TSAO BELIEVED THAT IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO NORTH LANTAU AND CAREFULLY CONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT, DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, WERE THE MOST LIKELY PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE.

HIGHLIGHTING THE POINTS TO CONSIDER IN PROVIDING FREE ACCESS INTO SOUTH LANTAU, HE SAID A MAIN ROAD FROM NORTH TO SOUTH LANTAU WOULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE.

HE ADDED THAT THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE AREA AS A RECREATIONAL RESORT WOULD RAPIDLY DIMINISH AS THE ENVIRONMENT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE PRESSURES OF PEOPLE, TRAFFIC AND SEWAGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY IMPROVED ACCESS AND THE RESULTANT DEVELOPMENT.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT TO BEAR IN MIND WHEN CONSIDERING ACCESS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH LANTAU IS THE FACT THAT THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING BETWEEN NORTH LANTAU AND THE URBAN AREA IS BEING DESIGNED TO SERVE THE PORT AND THE AIRPORT.

"THE COST OF PROVIDING THIS LINK IS SUBSTANTIAL AND ITS CAPACITY IS INEVITABLY LIMITED. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT MAKES ANY ECONOMIC SENSE TO PROVIDE FREE ACCESS TO SOUTH LANTAU," MR TSAO SAID.

TURNING TO DISCOVERY BAY, MR TSAO SAID IN THE LONG TERM, PORT DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE A MORE DIRECT IMPACT THERE THAN SOUTH LANTAU.

HE NOTED THAT THE POPULATION THERE, MADE UP LARGELY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND MANY JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE AIRPORT AND ITS ASSOCIATED BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY.

BUT, HE SAID, BEFORE THAT HAPPENED, A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BETWEEN LEAVING DISCOVERY BAY AS AN ATTRACTIVE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OR INTEGRATING IT INTO THE NORTH LANTAU DEVELOPMENT AND ABSORBING IT INTO THE METROPOLITAN PLANS BY GIVING IT A ROAD LINK.

"IF THE LATTER COURSE IS CHOSEN, IT WILL BE A STIMULATING CHALLENGE TO SEE IF SUCH A CHANGE CAN BE PLANNED AND MANAGED IN A WAY THAT PRESERVES MOST OF THE QUALITIES OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY.

"BUT THEN, STIMULATING CHALLENGES ARE WHAT THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT IS ALL ABOUT: PROVIDING NEW POTENTIAL FOR BUSINESS, FOR EMPLOYMENT, FOR HOUSING AND FOR URBAN IMPROVEMENT SO AS TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," MR TSAO SAID.

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EXPERT TALKS ON BOUNDARIES OF ADMINISTRATION OF HK AND GUANGDONG
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOUNDARIES OF ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN CANTON ON OCTOBER 3 - 4 BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES.

MR S.E. BRADLEY, DEPUTY POLITICAL ADVISER, WILL LEAD THE HONG KONG TEAM.

THE GUANGDONG TEAM WILL BE LED BY MR ZHANG QINGPING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GUANGDONG FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE.

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REVIEW OF FSD'S WORK
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ASSISTING THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN FORMULATING LEGISLATION REGARDING FIRE SAFETY AT BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AND PRIVATE CLUBS, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REVIEWING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, MR MARCH SAID THE CNTA WAS NOW CONSIDERING NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL BEDSPACE APARTMENTS.

"WHILST THE FSD IS STILL INSPECTING KNOWN LOCATIONS OF THESE APARTMENTS, THE CNTA IS TAKING PARALLEL ACTION TO ACQUIRE ACCOMMODATION TO HOUSE LODGERS IN OVERCROWDED PREMISES.

"SO FAR, A FOUR-STOREY DOMESTIC BUILDING IN WAN CHAI (ITS THREE UPPER FLOORS) HAS BEEN PROPERLY RENOVATED FOR USE AND TWO HOUSING SOCIETY UNITS IN KWUN TONG ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR THE PURPOSE," MR MARCH SAID.

AS REGARDS PRIVATE CLUBS, MR MARCH SAID THE CLUBS (SAFETY OF PREMISES) ORDINANCE WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 5 THIS YEAR.

"SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS ARE NOW UNDER PREPARATION BY THE CNTA FOR SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MONTH.

"THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL, HOPEFULLY, TAKE EFFECT IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE STUDY ON THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE INCIDENT, MR MARCH SAID THE WORKING PARTY HAD COMPLETED A REPORT WHICH WAS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND, IT WAS ANTICIPATED TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS TIME.

/"MEANWHILE, THE

"MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG OXYGEN COMPANY HAS AND IS TAKING ACTIVE MEASURES TO IMPROVE AND TIGHTEN ITS PROCEDURES ON MANUFACTURE, CYLINDER FILLING, LABELLING, QUALITY CONTROL AND DELIVERIES.

"FURTHERMORE, BOTH THE COMPANY AND HOSPITALS (BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) ARE TAKING ACTION TO REPLACE CYLINDER VALVES FOR MEDICAL GAS SUPPLY SYSTEM IN HOSPITALS," MR MARCH SAID.

REGARDING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR MARCH SAID IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE FIRE SERVICES RESPONDED TO 304,074 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE.

AMONG THESE, 17,102 WERE FIRE CALLS, 10,615 WERE SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS, 153,491 WERE EMERGENCY AMBULANCE CALLS AND 122,866 WERE NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE CALLS.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 45 MAJOR FIRES AS COMPARED TO 27 DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. MAJOR FIRES ARE THOSE CLASSED AS NO.3 ALARM MAGNITUDE OR ABOVE.

"THERE WERE 24 FATALITIES AND 316 INJURIES DUE TO FIRES, AND 256 FATALITIES AND 867 INJURIES AT SPECIAL SERVICE INCIDENTS," HE SAID.

"WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURES OF THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1990, THE NUMBER OF FIRE CALLS HAVE INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT, THE SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS INCREASED BY THREE PER CENT AND THE AMBULANCE CALLS DECREASED BY SIX PER CENT.

"FATALITIES AT FIRES HAVE RISEN FROM 17 TO 24 WHICH REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 41 PER CENT."

ON FIRE SERVICES EQUIPMENT, MR MARCH SAID AT PRESENT SIX AMBULANCE MOTORCYCLES AND SIX NORMAL AMBULANCES WERE EQUIPPED WITH DEFIBRILLATORS UNDER A PILOT SCHEME INTRODUCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

"FROM JANUARY 1 TO AUGUST THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 79 PATIENTS RECEIVED 'DEFIBRILLATION' AND 35 OF THEM HAD THEIR HEART BEAT RESTORED BEFORE ARRIVAL AND HANDOVER TO THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AT VARIOUS HOSPITALS.

"IN SPITE OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS A FULL REPORT COVERING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE MEDICAL DOCTOR CONCERNED FOR ANALYSIS.

"WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD FURTHER EXPAND IN THIS AREA DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION," HE SAID.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE \$100 MILLION PROJECT - "SECOND GENERATION MOBILISING SYSTEM" - AT THE FIRE SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTRE AND WATCH A STATIC DISPLAY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT.

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EXPRESSWAY DRIVING RULES FURTHER EXPLAINED

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OVERTAKING ON EXPRESSWAYS IS ALLOWED ONLY ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE VEHICLE AHEAD AND IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO DO SO FROM THE LEFT.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROAD SAFETY AND STANDARDS) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR YEUNG YU-CHEONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT OVERTAKING MEANS A VEHICLE OVERTAKES THE OTHER VEHICLE AHEAD IN THE SAME LANE.

"ONE COMPLETE OVERTAKING INVOLVES CHANGING TO THE NEXT LANE AND THEN PASS THE VEHICLE AHEAD BEFORE REJOINING THE ORIGINAL LANE.

"ON EXPRESSWAYS, MOTORISTS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO DO SO ON THE RIGHT OF THE VEHICLE AHEAD," HE SAID.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO OVERTAKE UNLESS THE NEXT LANE IS CLEAR FAR ENOUGH AND BEHIND TO MAKE SURE THEY WILL NOT CAUSE DANGER TO OTHER VEHICLES AS WELL AS THEMSELVES.

ON THE USE OF THE EXTREME RIGHT LANE OF AN EXPRESSWAY WHERE THERE ARE THREE OR MORE TRAFFIC LANES, MR YEUNG SAID MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES AND BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THIS LANE WHERE THERE IS DIVERGING TRAFFIC ON THE EXPRESSWAY, WHEREAS THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO SO UNDER GENERAL TRAFFIC CONDITION OF AN EXPRESSWAY.

MR YEUNG ALSO REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT VEHICLES SHOULD KEEP TO THE LEFT-HAND LANE OF AN EXPRESSWAY UNLESS WHEN OVERTAKING ANOTHER VEHICLE.

HOWEVER, IF THE LEFT-HAND LANE IS FULL, VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO RUN ON THE CENTRAL LANE UNTIL THERE IS ENOUGH SPACE ON THE LEFT LANE FOR MOVING BACK.

MR YEUNG SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE GENERAL RESPONSE OF MOTORISTS TO THE EXPRESSWAY LEGISLATION.

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HONG KONG TO HOST THE WESTERN PACIFIC MISSION

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HONG KONG IS TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIMENT TO MEASURE ATMOSPHERIC GASES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC WITH A VIEW TO UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCES AND SINKS OF THESE GASES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON OZONE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO OCTOBER 8, AN AIRCRAFT OF THE PACIFIC EXPLORATORY MISSION (PEM) WILL FLY OVER SECTORS OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC TO TAKE MEASUREMENTS OF OZONE, OXIDES OF SULPHUR AND NITROGEN AND OTHER TRACE GASES AS WELL AS PARTICULATE SUBSTANCES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

/THE PEM

THE PEM IS AN ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENT INVOLVING AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF MORE THAN 70 SCIENTISTS AND EMPLOYING A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED DC-8 AIRCRAFT FROM THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) OF USA.

IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIMENT WITH IMPORTANT GROUND-BASED OR AIRCRAFT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MOST PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES. IT IS PART OF THE GLOBAL TROPOSPHERIC EXPERIMENT (GTE) WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AIRBORNE SCIENCE MISSIONS SINCE THE EARLY 80'S.

THE FIELD EXPERIMENT OVER THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, PEM-WEST, BEGAN WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE DC-8 AIRCRAFT FROM ITS BASE IN CALIFORNIA ON SEPTEMBER 16.

THE MISSION HAD GONE THROUGH JAPAN (SEPTEMBER 17-30). THE NEXT STOP AFTER HONG KONG IS GUAM (OCTOBER 9-17). IT WILL CONTINUE TO WAKE ISLAND AND HONOLULU BEFORE RETURNING TO CALIFORNIA.

PREPARATION FOR PEM-WEST IN HONG KONG FIRST BEGAN IN MAY 10-11, 1989 WHEN AN INTERNATIONAL PLANNING MEETING WAS CONVENED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PROFESSOR POON CHUNG-KWONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

FOLLOWING THE AGREED PLAN, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HONG KONG WILL PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNING AND OPERATION OF THE DC-8 FLIGHTS DURING THE WEEK-LONG EXPERIMENT, AND THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WILL FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF THE AIRCRAFT IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG.

DATA COLLECTED BY THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL SCIENTISTS IN GOVERNMENT AND TERTIARY INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE EXPERIMENT, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WILL CONDUCT A SERIES OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS UNDER A SPECIAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME.

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TRADE DEPT ON MEXICAN GOV'T'S IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED IN A FINAL RESOLUTION IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES OF US\$1 PER KILOGRAMME ON IMPORTS OF DENIM (CONTAINING 85 PER CENT OR MORE OF COTTON) FROM HONG KONG WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THE FINAL RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTS FROM THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES 15 HONG KONG COMPANIES, ALL OF WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

THE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING WAS INITIATED BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ON MAY 31 LAST YEAR.

AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN TSANG, SAID: "IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO IMPOSE ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON HONG KONG DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEIR INVESTIGATION ON COMPANIES WHICH RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THESE COMPANIES HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN DUMPING PRACTICES.

"THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE FINAL RESOLUTION IN DETAIL AND DISCUSS WITH THE AFFECTED HONG KONG COMPANIES PRIOR TO DECIDING WHATEVER FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS WOULD BE MADE TO THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

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STATEMENT ON 'TAINTED GRAPES'
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT REPORTS OF PESTICIDE-TAINTED CALIFORNIA GRAPES IN TAIWAN, THE DEPARTMENT HAS STEPPED UP THE EXAMINATION OF GRAPES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

"FIVE DIFFERENT BATCHES OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES HAVE BEEN TESTED AND NO RESIDUES OF THE PESTICIDES CAPTAN, CARBARYL AND CAPTAFOL HAVE BEEN FOUND.

"THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR M.B. ALI, SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY."

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PROPRIETOR FINED FOR UNSAFE WORK PRACTICE
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INDUSTRIAL PROPRIETORS MAY HAVE TO PAY DEARLY FOR FAILURE TO MEET THEIR GENERAL DUTY IN ENSURING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THEIR WORKERS.

THE REMINDER CAME IN THE WAKE OF A RECENT, FIRST-EVER CONVICTION OF AN EMPLOYER PROSECUTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTING HIS GENERAL DUTY FOR SAFETY AT WORK UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (F & IU) ORDINANCE.

IN A FATAL ACCIDENT LAST FEBRUARY, TWO PERSONS WERE HIT AND KILLED BY COLLAPSING TIMBER BATTENS STACKED UP AT THE WING SING TIMBER COMPANY IN SHEUNG SHUI.

AS THE COMPANY'S PROPRIETOR HAD NOT ADOPTED ANY SAFE METHOD IN STACKING TIMBER IN HIS SAWMILL, HE WAS PROSECUTED UNDER THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE F & IU ORDINANCE AND WAS FINED \$20,000 BY A FANLING MAGISTRATE.

/ACCORDING TO

ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS, THE PROPRIETOR OF AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING HAS THE DUTY TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE PLANT AND SYSTEM OF WORK, A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND A SAFE WORKPLACE INCLUDING ALL MEANS OF ACCESS TO AND EGRESS FROM THE WORKPLACE.

HE MUST ALSO ENSURE SAFETY IN THE USE, HANDLING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF ARTICLES AND SUBSTANCES, AND PROVIDE HIS EMPLOYEES WITH ALL NECESSARY SAFETY INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION.

ANY PROPRIETOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS WILFULLY AND WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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PREGNANT EMPLOYEES PROTECTED FROM DISMISSAL
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT A PREGNANT EMPLOYEE WITH NO LESS THAN 12 WEEKS' SERVICE IS PROTECTED BY LAW FROM DISMISSAL AFTER SERVING NOTICE TO HER EMPLOYER OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE.

"TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION, THE EMPLOYEE MUST, HOWEVER, HAVE NO LESS THAN 26 WEEKS' SERVICE WITH THE EMPLOYER WHEN HER MATERNITY LEAVE BEGINS," THE CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER, MR JAMES YEUNG, EXPLAINED.

"ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, A FEMALE EMPLOYEE WHO HAS WORKED FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER UNDER A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT FOR NO FEWER THAN 26 WEEKS IS ENTITLED TO MATERNITY LEAVE WHICH NORMALLY BEGINS FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE EXPECTED DATE OF CONFINEMENT AND ENDS SIX WEEKS AFTER THE ACTUAL DATE OF CONFINEMENT," MR YEUNG ADDED.

HE SAID THE NOTICE SERVED BY THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD STATE THE EXPECTED DATE OF CONFINEMENT AND THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A RELEVANT MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

"HOWEVER, TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY DURING MATERNITY LEAVE, AN EMPLOYEE MUST HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE EMPLOYER FOR NO FEWER THAN 40 WEEKS PRIOR TO TAKING THE LEAVE," MR YEUNG NOTED.

"IN ADDITION, THE EMPLOYEE MUST HAVE NOT MORE THAN TWO SURVIVING CHILDREN AND MUST PRODUCE TO HER EMPLOYER A STATUTORY DECLARATION VERIFYING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SHE HAS," HE SAID.

THE STATUTORY DECLARATION, WHICH IS REQUIRED ONLY FOR SUPPORTING A CLAIM FOR THE PAY, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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"IT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE EMPLOYER TOGETHER WITH THE NOTICE OF TAKING MATERNITY LEAVE OR AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LEAVE," MR YEUNG STRESSED.

MATERNITY LEAVE PAY IS CALCULATED AT A RATE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE EMPLOYEE'S MONTHLY SALARY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, THE RATE SHOULD BE TWO-THIRDS OF THE EMPLOYEE'S AVERAGE DAILY WAGE DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH MAY BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE LEAVE.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE PROVISIONS ON MATERNITY PROTECTION MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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LAND RESUMPTION IN WAN CHAI APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE RESUMPTION OF FOUR BUILDINGS IN WAN CHAI UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

THE PROPERTIES INVOLVED INCLUDE NOS. 7, 14 (EXCLUDING FIRST AND THIRD FLOORS), 16 AND 18 AT LI CHIT STREET, WAN CHAI.

ALTOGETHER, NINE HOUSEHOLDS COMPRISING 25 PERSONS ARE INVOLVED IN THE RESUMPTION.

EARLIER, THE CORPORATION HAS SECURED BY AGREEMENT OWNERSHIP OF TWO PRIVATELY OWNED LOTS IN THE AREA REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROPOSALS.

THE CORPORATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REHOUSING ELIGIBLE DOMESTIC OCCUPIERS AFFECTED BY THE RESUMPTION.

THEY WILL BE GIVEN EX-GRATIA CASH ALLOWANCES IN LIEU OF REHOUSING WHERE ELIGIBLE. DOMESTIC TENANTS NOT ACCEPTING CASH COMPENSATION WILL BE OFFERED REHOUSING AT CONCESSIONARY RENTALS WHERE ELIGIBLE IN PROPERTIES ALREADY PURCHASED BY THE CORPORATION IN HONG KONG OR KOWLOON.

ELDERLY SINGLETONS AND DOUBLETONS WILL BE OFFERED ACCOMMODATION IN ELDERLY CENTRES PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION WHILE NON-ELDERLY SINGLETONS AND DOUBLETONS NOT ACCEPTING CASH COMPENSATION WILL BE OFFERED SPACE IN DORMITORY ACCOMMODATION, ALSO TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION.

OWNERS OF DOMESTIC PROPERTY MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A "HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE" FROM THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY DO NOT OPT FOR REHOUSING OR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FLAT FROM THE CORPORATION AT A CONCESSIONARY PRICE.

UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE, AFFECTED OWNERS AND TENANTS OF PRIVATE LAND MAY MAKE STATUTORY CLAIMS AND, IF THE CLAIMS CANNOT BE SETTLED BY AGREEMENT, MAY APPLY TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR DETERMINATION.

IN RECOMMENDING TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL THE RESUMPTION OF THE PROPERTIES AT LI CHIT STREET, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS IS SATISFIED THAT THE CORPORATION HAS TAKEN ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO OTHERWISE ACQUIRE THESE INTERESTS ON TERMS THAT ARE FAIR AND REASONABLE.

UNDER THE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL, THE CORPORATION WILL CONSTRUCT A 34-STOREY BUILDING ON THE SITE WITH SOME 1,100 SQUARE METRES OF GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE LOWER FOUR FLOORS.

THE UPPER 30 STOREYS WILL BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF 250 SQUARE METRES WILL BE PROVIDED AT GROUND LEVEL WHILE A SECTION OF LI CHIT STREET WITHIN THE SITE WILL BE MADE A PEDESTRIAN AREA.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT AP LEI CHAU PRAYA ROAD. IT MEASURES ABOUT 50 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR A RETAILING SHOP FOR SELLING SHIPBUILDING MATERIALS ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED AT WESTERN PARK ROAD, WESTERN RECLAMATION.

WITH AN AREA ABOUT 5,050 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANTS' GOODS (EXCLUDING VEHICLE PARKING).

THE TENANCY IS UP TO DECEMBER 31, NEXT YEAR AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 18.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, HONG KONG SOUTH OR THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1991

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUILDING MANAGEMENT BY SPARING AN HOUR OR SO TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 4) EVENING.

BEGINNING AT 8 PM, THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT A CONVENIENTLY LOCATED VENUE IN THE DISTRICT -- THE SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE'S LECTURE HALL, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ANNUAL FORUM, NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR AMONG RESIDENTS.

THIS YEAR A NUMBER OF EXPERTS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE SEMINAR. THEY INCLUDE MR FAN SAI-YEE, AN ACCOUNTANT; MR MA KUT-CHUNG, A BUILDING SURVEYOR; AND THE HEAD OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM, MR LEE CHI-SHING.

"THEY WILL SPEAK ON 'FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT', 'ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS' AND 'CASE STUDIES ON BUILDING REPAIRS' RESPECTIVELY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE A SESSION FOR THE AUDIENCE TO SEEK ADVICE AND ANSWERS FROM THE SPEAKERS ON DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

"LOCAL RESIDENTS CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE IF THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING, AND UPGRADING THE VALUE OF, THEIR MULTI-STORY BLOCKS," HE ADDED.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MULTI-STORY BUILDING OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3462.

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122 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM
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A GROUP OF 122 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 56 MEN, 28 WOMEN, 18 BOYS AND 20 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 69TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,945 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 10,241 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	1.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	2.10.91	-26
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+26
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+293*
* LATE O/N ASSISTANCE, TO BE REVERSED ON 3.10.91		
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.0 *-0.1* 2.10.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	2.10.91	1.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	3.86 PCT	3.65 PCT
1 MONTH	3.60 PCT	3.61 PCT
3 MONTHS	3.76 PCT	3.87 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.19 PCT	4.30 PCT
12 MONTHS	4.80 PCT	4.97 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	10,710 MN*	8,120 MN

*RECORD HIGH