



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

GOVERNOR VISITS CHEK LAP KOK AND HARBOUR HYDRAULICS LAB	1
MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS IN HK	2
USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN MANUFACTURING NECESSARY	3
\$2.4 BILLION EARMARKED FOR HIGHWAYS WORKS	4
TAC DISCUSSES TRAM, BUS AND TAXI MATTERS	6
DEBATE ON SECURITIES AMENDMENT BILL TO RESUME	8
1.8M YOUNSTERS TO JOIN SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES	9
FARMERS ON EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR	10
REPLACEMENT TYPHOON SHELTER ON DB AGENDA	11
DB COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS	12
HEARING EXHIBITION FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS	13
EASTERN DISTRICT ENQUIRY COUNTER ADJUSTS OPERATING HOURS	14

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 1 -

GOVERNOR VISITS CHEK LAP KOK AND HARBOUR HYDRAULICS LAB

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE HARBOUR HYDRAULICS LABORATORY IN TUEN MUN.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, AND THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, DR EDWARD BRAND.

AT CHEK LAP KOK THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED LAST OCTOBER.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE.

"THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CHEK LAP KOK SITE AND THE OTHER DETAILED STUDIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THEN HAVE CLEARLY PROVIDED EXCELLENT DATA FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NEW AIRPORT. THIS WILL HELP IN GETTING THE PROGRAMME CARRIED THROUGH ON TIME," HE SAID.

CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF EXPLAINED TO SIR DAVID HOW THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN PLANNED TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST RUNWAY WOULD BE OPERATIONAL IN 1997.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE PROGRAMME FOR THE GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF THE NORTH LANTAU AND THE SURROUNDING SEABED HAS PROVIDED ENGINEERS WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE UNFAMILIAR GEOLOGY OF LANTAU.

THE GOVERNOR THEN INSPECTED THE HARBOUR HYDRAULICS LABORATORY IN TUEN MUN, AND WAS SHOWN THE PHYSICAL MODEL OF THE HARBOUR USED IN THE DETAILED DESIGN OF PROPOSED RECLAMATIONS AND BREAKWATERS.

HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE \$30 MILLION CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PORT DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PLANS.

"WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT FOR HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR SAID. "WE MUST MAKE SURE HONG KONG HAS THE INFRASTRUCTURE IT NEEDS TO REMAIN A MAJOR CENTRE FOR FINANCE, TRADE, MANUFACTURING AND TOURISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

"UP TO NOW WORK ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT HAS LARGELY BEEN CARRIED ON BEHIND THE SCENES.

"THIS WILL SOON CHANGE. PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THESE PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY AND ON SCHEDULE."

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MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS IN HK

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HONG KONG REMAINS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON ITS TRADING AND OTHER BUSINESS LINKS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD AND CONTINUES TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES IN MANY, MANY FIELDS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, MR PETER JOHNSON, SAID YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING AN AUDIENCE OF 450 BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL DINNER IN ORANGE COUNTY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MR JOHNSON SAID THE JAPANESE WERE CURRENTLY INVESTING IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING REAL ESTATE, MANUFACTURING, RETAIL STORES AND LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

"GIVEN A CONTINUATION OF PRESENT TRENDS, THE JAPANESE COULD OVERTAKE THE U.S. AS THE LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN THE TERRITORY'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," MR JOHNSON NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT U.S. INTERESTS, HOWEVER, ALSO REMAINED STRONG.

"U.S. WEST HAS A 25 PER CENT STAKE IN OUR NEW US\$700 MILLION CABLE TV NETWORK, CITICORP IS TAKING A 10 PER CENT STAKE IN A US\$700 MILLION DEVELOPMENT IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA, THE BANK OF AMERICA IS MOVING ITS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO HONG KONG, MOTOROLA IS DEVELOPING A HUGE NEW FACILITY; PLUS A NUMBER OF OTHER, SMALLER DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNDERWAY."

MR JOHNSON CONCEDED THAT DURING THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THE HONG KONG ECONOMY HAD SLOWED DOWN FROM THE HEADY DAYS OF 1986 TO 88.

"DOMESTIC EXPORTS HARDLY GREW IN 1989. RE-EXPORTS WERE UP TO 19 PER CENT AND IMPORTS NINE PER CENT. GDP GROWTH WAS 2.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

"WE EXPECT ABOUT THREE PER CENT THIS YEAR, WITH THE ECONOMY PICKING UP IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SLOWDOWN WAS EXPECTED AND CITED FOUR PRINCIPAL REASONS.

"THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE WHICH, DUE TO OUR COMPLETELY OPEN ECONOMY AND DEPENDENCE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD, TENDS TO INVOLVE A GREATER CONTRAST BETWEEN THE FAT AND THE LEAN YEARS THAN ELSEWHERE," HE SAID.

THE OTHER REASONS CITED WERE THE SLOWDOWN IN THE RATE OF GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS; THE RETRENCHMENT IN CHINA, WHICH WAS ORDAINED IN THE FALL OF 1988, AND IN EFFECT WELL BEFORE THE TROUBLES OF LAST SUMMER; AND INTERNAL FACTORS, SUCH AS A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR.

"THE CURRENT SLOWDOWN IS NOT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT THE RESULT OF THE 'BRAIN DRAIN' ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAVING, OR THE ALLEGED FLIGHT OF CAPITAL, OR OF ANY GENERAL LOSS IN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE," MR JOHNSON SAID.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 3 -

USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN MANUFACTURING NECESSARY

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED MANUFACTURERS TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY, BETTER QUALITY AND PRODUCT INNOVATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY (AMT) CONFERENCE 1990, MR CHAN SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY IN THE FACE OF FIERCE COMPETITION FROM ECONOMIES WITH AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF CHEAPER LABOUR AND THE INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS.

MR CHAN SAID THE DECISION TO UPGRADE A MANUFACTURING PROCESS BY INSTALLING ADVANCED EQUIPMENT WAS A DIFFICULT ONE AND THE INITIAL COSTS MIGHT SEEM DAUNTING.

"BUT IN THE LONG RUN, AN INVESTMENT OF THIS NATURE SHOULD GENERATE BETTER RETURNS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALIVE TO THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH WERE PREVENTING THE WIDER APPLICATION OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY.

IN HELPING THE INDUSTRY TO OVERCOME THESE BARRIERS, THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH THE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS HAD IN RECENT YEARS TAKEN MANY INITIATIVES TO ENABLE MANUFACTURERS TO UPGRADE THEIR OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED CONTENT OF THEIR PRODUCTS.

"TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY," HE SAID, "THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (HKPC) HAS SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED A RANGE OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO SUPPORT AUTOMATION IN THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF ENGINEERING PARTS.

"THESE INCLUDE SERVICES SUCH AS SURFACE MOUNTING, RADIO FREQUENCY AND DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY, CAD/CAM, ADVANCED ENGINEERING DESIGN, SHEET METAL PROCESSING, PRECISION MACHINING AND PHOTO-CHEMICAL MACHINING," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, THE HKPC HAD ESTABLISHED A CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY TO DISSEMINATE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN GARMENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS CONDUCIVE TO GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND MECHANISATION.

"SEPARATELY, A PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IS OPERATING ON THE CAMPUS OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WITH A SET-UP GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND A PRIVATE DONATION FROM AN INDUSTRIALIST.

"IT HAS BEEN SET UP TO ASSIST PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND TO MOVE TOWARDS HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

/REGARDING QUALITY

REGARDING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, MR CHAN SAID A SUSTAINED PROGRAMME WAS UNDERWAY WITH THREE PARTS -- THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES; THE INTRODUCTION OF A VOLUNTARY FACTORY ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION SCHEME, ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS; AND A LONG-TERM TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE CHIEF EXECUTIVES, MANAGERS AND OPERATIVES IN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALITY ASSURANCE CONCEPTS.

IN THE AREA OF PRODUCT AND PROCESS INNOVATION, MR CHAN SAID THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HONG KONG DESIGN AND INNOVATION COMPANY HAD HELPED TO AROUSE MANUFACTURERS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE AND PROFITABILITY OF PRODUCT DESIGN.

HE SAID THE COMPANY WAS FORMING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO DELIVER AN INTEGRATED PRODUCT DESIGN SERVICE.

"MOREOVER, PREPARATORY WORK IS UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AT YAU YAT CHUEN TO FACILITATE THE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF PRODUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY-BASED FIRMS.

"A PROVISIONAL BOARD HAS JUST BEEN FORMED TO OVERSEE THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL BY 1993.

"MEANWHILE, THE CENTRE WILL START A DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE IN 1991 TO MEET MANUFACTURERS' INCREASED DEMAND FOR DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR CHAN'S SPEECH WILL BE BOXED.

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\$2.4 BILLION EARMARKED FOR HIGHWAYS WORKS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S EXPENDITURE OF \$2.4 BILLION THIS YEAR IN DEVELOPING HONG KONG'S ROAD SYSTEM IS A CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT CLEARLY REFLECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING THE MOBILITY OF PEOPLE AND GOODS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MISS MARIA TAM, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXTENSION OF THE GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER, MISS TAM SAID IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPORT POLICY SET OUT IN THE 1990 WHITE PAPER.

/THE COMMITMENT

THE COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A REASONABLE LEVEL OF MOBILITY OF PEOPLE AND GOODS WAS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO MEET THE SOCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, SHE SAID.

MISS TAM NOTED THAT THE FLYOVER EXTENSION FORMED PART OF THE GASCOIGNE ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ONE OF MANY HIGHWAYS PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION THIS YEAR.

THE 430-METRE FLYOVER EXTENSION CONNECTS THE OLD FLYOVER AT JORDAN ROAD AND STRETCHES TO CHATHAM ROAD NORTH.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, SAID THE NEW EXTENSION WOULD INITIALLY CARRY ONE LANE OF TRAFFIC IN EACH DIRECTION ABOVE THE JUNCTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD AND WYLIE ROAD, ENABLING THROUGH TRAFFIC TO AVOID THE BUSY JUNCTION.

ON COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT, TWO ADDITIONAL LANES WOULD BE PROVIDED ON THE FLYOVER TO CONNECT WITH NEW UP AND DOWN RAMPS ON GASCOIGNE ROAD SO THAT GASCOIGNE ROAD TRAFFIC WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO PASS OVER THE JUNCTION, FURTHER EASING CONGESTION IN THE AREA.

THE PROJECT, WHICH WAS STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1987, WOULD BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR AT A COST OF ABOUT \$110 MILLION.

MR KWEI POINTED OUT THAT IN EXTENDING THE ORIGINAL FLYOVER, A PORTION OF IT HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING TRAFFIC LANES BOTH AT ELEVATED AND GROUND LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT WIDENED THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF GASCOIGNE ROAD BY COVERING AN OPEN NULLAH TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY BRIDGE.

DEMOLITION OF THE OLD FLYOVER COULD ONLY COMMENCE AFTER THE TEMPORARY BRIDGE WAS IN USE.

HE SAID THAT THE STRINGENT TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT AND THE LIMITED WORKING SPACES INCREASED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AND PROLONGED THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, BUT POTENTIAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION WAS MINIMISED.

NIGHT WORK WAS OFTEN REQUIRED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD TO ENABLE REMOVAL OF THE BEAMS FROM THE OLD FLYOVER AND DELIVERY AND PLACING OF PRECAST BEAMS FOR THE NEW FLYOVER.

WHILE NIGHT WORK WAS BEING EXECUTED, EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE TO THE NEARBY RESIDENTS, HE ADDED.

IN THIS RESPECT, MISS TAM CALLED ON MOTORISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO BE TOLERANT AND UNDERSTANDING AS LARGE SCALE HIGHWAYS WORKS WOULD INEVITABLY CAUSE CERTAIN DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE.

SHE SAID THE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE COMPLETED PROJECTS WOULD MAKE THE EFFORTS WORTHWHILE.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 6 -

MR KWEI POINTED OUT THAT THE RETAINING WALL CONSTRUCTED BELOW QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL NOT ONLY PROVIDED SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL GROUND-LEVEL TRAFFIC LANE FOR GASCOIGNE ROAD, BUT ALSO WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S NEW APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE AESTHETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTION TO ENSURE HUMAN FACTORS WERE NOT OVERLOOKED IN DEVELOPING PROJECT DESIGNS.

IT IS A 12-METRE-HIGH AND 96-METRE-LONG WALL WITH DECORATIVE CONCRETE FACING PANELS.

TO CREATE SPECIAL INTEREST, A SENIOR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER WITH THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR STANLEY AU, WHO IS ALSO AN ACCOMPLISHED PAINTER, PRODUCED FOUR CHINESE PAINTINGS AS THE BASIS FOR LARGE SCALE PANELS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT THE OVERALL COMPOSITION OF THE WALL FACE.

MR KWEI SAID THE WALL WAS THE PRODUCT OF CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ENGINEERING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINES BY SUCCESSFULLY APPLYING NEW METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A PLEASING FINISH COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDINGS.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR BETTER WAYS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIGHWAYS PROJECTS, HE SAID.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD, MR YIP WAH.

TAC DISCUSSES TRAM, BUS AND TAXI MATTERS

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (THURSDAY) EXAMINED THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS FROM THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS AND THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY (NLB).

THE TAC NOTED THAT THE TRAM FARES HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1983 WHILE THE BUS FARES ON LANTAU WERE LAST RAISED IN JUNE 1987.

IN REVIEWING HONG KONG TRAMWAYS' FINANCIAL POSITION, THE TAC NOTED THAT IF TRAM FARES REMAINED UNCHANGED, FORECAST REVENUE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER OPERATING COSTS FROM 1989-90 ONWARDS.

/FARES ON

FARES ON NLB SERVICES WERE LAST REVISED IN JUNE 1987. AT THAT TIME, THE TAC WAS ADVISED THAT A FARE INCREASE SOUGHT BY NLB WOULD ONLY PERMIT THE COMPANY TO MAKE A PROFIT IN 1987-88 AND 1988-89, AND THAT A FURTHER FARE INCREASE WOULD BE REQUIRED IN 1990-91 TO COVER RISING OPERATING COSTS.

THE PERCENTAGE OF FARE INCREASES AT PRESENT SOUGHT BY NLB IS WELL BELOW THE AGGREGATE INFLATION RATE SINCE THE LAST REVISION. THE FARE RISE IS REQUIRED TO COVER RISING OPERATING COSTS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE COMPANY HAD MANAGED TO KEEP ITS OPERATING COSTS DOWN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THE TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON BOTH THE TRAM AND NLB FARES WILL BE FORWARDED TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXAMINED NLB'S FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME FOR THE FIVE YEARS BETWEEN 1989-90 AND 1993-94.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT AS AT MID-1989, NLB OPERATED SERVICES ON SEVEN ROUTES WITH A FLEET OF 54 VEHICLES.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN PASSENGERS ATTRACTED BY THE BIG STATUE OF BUDDHA, WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1992, A SERIES OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN PLANNED, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF SIX ADDITIONAL BUSES ON ROUTE NO. 2 WHICH OPERATES BETWEEN MUI WO AND NGONG PING.

IN ADDITION, TWO NEW ROUTES -- ROUTE NO. 10 (KEUNG SHAN INTERCHANGE - SHA LO WAN) AND ROUTE NO. 9 (MUI WO FERRY PIER - MUI WO OLD TOWN) -- ARE PLANNED FOR INTRODUCTION IN APRIL 1991 AND JANUARY 1992 RESPECTIVELY.

NLB ALSO PLANS TO ENHANCE THE SERVICES OF ROUTE NO. 1 (MUI WO - TAI O) BY ADDING ONE AIR-CONDITIONED VEHICLE.

THE TAC NOTED THAT NLB PROPOSES TO PURCHASE A TOTAL OF 34 BUSES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, INCLUDING 32 SINGLE DECK BUSES, OF WHICH TWO ARE AIR-CONDITIONED, AND TWO DOUBLE-DECKERS. OF THESE, 25 ARE PLANNED TO REPLACE THOSE DUE FOR SCRAPPING, AND NINE TO MEET SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.

ON DEPOT DEVELOPMENT, A NEW DEPOT OF 4,000 SQUARE METRES, WHICH IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AT MUI WO AT A COST OF \$4.4 MILLION, WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WAS CONSULTED AND CONSIDERED NLB'S ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE.

MEANWHILE, THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER NEW URBAN TAXI LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED IN 1990 AND OF MAINTAINING THE EXISTING NUMBER OF 40 LANTAU TAXI LICENCES FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS.

IT ASSESSED THE NEED FOR ISSUING ADDITIONAL URBAN TAXI LICENCES FOR 1990 WITH REFERENCE TO THE DEMAND FOR TAXI SERVICES, PROFITABILITY OF THE TRADE AND THE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 8 -

RESULTS OF THE ROADSIDE SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN 1989 AND 1990 SHOWED THAT THE LEVEL OF URBAN TAXI SERVICES HAD REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE AND THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE VACANT TAXI HEADWAY AS WELL AS THE AVERAGE PASSENGER WAITING TIME.

HOWEVER, IF NO MORE TAXI LICENCES WERE TO BE ISSUED IN THE COMING TWO YEARS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE LEVEL OF TAXI SERVICE WOULD DETERIORATE PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF HIGH DEMAND.

THEREFORE, THE TAC RECOMMENDED THAT FOR 1990 THERE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 150 LICENCES ISSUED.

IN RESPECT OF LANTAU TAXI LICENCES, SIMILAR ROADSIDE SURVEYS INDICATED THAT THE LEVEL OF LANTAU TAXI SERVICE HAD REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE AND THAT THE DEMAND WAS MAINLY AFFECTED BY RECREATIONAL TRAFFIC ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE LANTAU POPULATION IS EXPECTED IN THE COMING TWO YEARS TO GENERATE ADDITIONAL DEMAND IN WEEKDAYS.

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF TAXI LICENCES ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAC WILL ALSO BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED A PAPER TABLED AT THE MEETING ON THE CMB MANAGEMENT REVIEW. IT NOTED THAT ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CONSULTANTS WERE ACCEPTED BY CMB AND A STEERING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE SCHEDULED TIME TABLE. PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE MADE TO THE COMMITTEE FROM TIME TO TIME.

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DEBATE ON SECURITIES AMENDMENT BILL TO RESUME

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1990 WOULD RESUME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 27).

"SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL WHICH PROPOSES IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REPORTING PROCEDURES, IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE, INTO FORCE LATER THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WOULD GIVE DETAILS IN LEGCO NEXT WEDNESDAY.

THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE IMPOSES DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO THE INTERESTS IN SHARES OF SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS AND THE INTERESTS IN SHARES AND DEBENTURES OF DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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1.8M YOUNGSTERS TO JOIN SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES
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MORE THAN 1.8 MILLION YOUNGSTERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN 12,500-PLUS ACTIVITIES IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) WHICH COMMENCES IN JULY.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE 1990 SYP AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME COMMITTEE, MR PETER S.T. LEE, NOTED THAT EVER SINCE 1969 SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES HAD ATTRACTED LARGE NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS, WHICH HAD GROWN FROM ONE MILLION IN 1986 TO 1.33 MILLION LAST YEAR.

IN LINE WITH THE SYP THEME "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY", THE COMMITTEE HAD ENCOURAGED, THROUGH FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS TO ORGANISE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY, WHILE PROVIDING THEM WITH ENJOYABLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THIS YEAR THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A SCHOLARSHIP FOR AN 18-DAY DIPLOMA COURSE IN THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL.

"THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AWARDED TO THOSE YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN PROMOTING SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES WHILE WORKING AS VOLUNTEERS," MR LEE SAID.

AS FOR THE FUNDING OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES, THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE IS ESTIMATED AT \$26 MILLION WHICH REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (RHKJC) HAS DONATED \$11 MILLION, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICT BOARDS AND PRIVATE INSTITUTES.

"ON BEHALF OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYP ALL THESE YEARS," MR LEE ADDED.

/THE PRINCIPAL

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (HEADQUARTERS) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MRS STELLA HUNG, SAID A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WERE PLANNED BY THE SYP DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME, A VARIETY SHOW ENTITLED "SWINGING SUMMER" WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 30 AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SHOW WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 2,000 YOUNGSTERS.

FEATURING POPULAR SINGERS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS, THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE PRODUCED BY RTHK AND SCREENED ON TVB-JADE ON JULY 22.

OTHER PUBLICITY ITEMS INCLUDE A FOUR-EPIISODE TELEVISION YOUTH PROGRAMME SERIES PRODUCED BY RTHK AND SUPPORTING SHORT SEGMENTS TO BE SLOTTED INTO RADIO PROGRAMMES ON BOTH RTHK AND COMMERCIAL RADIO TO UPDATE LISTENERS ON VARIOUS SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE INFORMATION SECRETARY OF THE RHKJC, MR DAVID YAU, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM RTHK.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS YEAR'S SYP CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

SPEECHES OF MR PETER S.T. LEE, MRS STELLA HUNG AND MR DAVID YAU, AND A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE BOXED.

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FARMERS ON EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR
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A GROUP OF 32 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING VEGETABLE FARMERS, FLOWER GROWERS AND PLANT NURSERY OPERATORS, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (JUNE 23) FOR EUROPE ON A 13-DAY TOUR TO STUDY MODERN TECHNIQUES IN VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GROWING AS WELL AS WHOLESALE MARKETING.

THEY WILL VISIT THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

/SPEAKING AT

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 11 -

SPEAKING AT A BANNER PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) HEADQUARTERS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SAID BY AVAILING THEMSELVES TO THE LATEST FARMING KNOWLEDGE IN THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES, HONG KONG FARMERS COULD ADOPT CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES AND MARKETING PRACTICES WHICH WERE SUITABLE FOR THE TERRITORY.

HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE GROWING OF EXOTIC VEGETABLES BY USING THE MASS SEEDLING PRODUCTION TECHNIQUE WHICH WAS ADOPTED ON RECOMMENDATION BY PREVIOUS STUDY GROUPS.

THE TECHNIQUE HAD SUCCESSFULLY TURNED A NEW LEAF IN HONG KONG'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME FLOWER GROWERS AND PLANT NURSERY OPERATORS TOOK PART IN SUCH KIND OF OVERSEAS STUDY TOURS AND THEIR PARTICIPATION WOULD CERTAINLY HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL FLOWER GROWING INDUSTRY.

HE HOPED THE AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES COULD BRING BACK USEFUL TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND SHARE IT WITH THEIR FELLOW FARMERS.

THE GROUP, ACCOMPANIED BY AFD'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS MR HO KOON-YU AND MR HO MAN-FAN, WILL VISIT FARMS, MARKETS, PLANT NURSERIES, HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTES AND PLACES OF AGRICULTURAL INTEREST DURING THEIR TRIP.

THE STUDY TOUR FOR VEGETABLE FARMERS, THE 13TH SINCE 1977, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AFD, THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

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REPLACEMENT TYPHOON SHELTER ON DB AGENDA
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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YAU MA TEI REPLACEMENT TYPHOON SHELTER AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS WHICH WILL START IN AUGUST.

THE PROJECT, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE PROPOSED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER, SEAWALL, PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA AND OTHER MARINE FACILITIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE VENUE FOR A YU LAN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION.

/OTHER AGENDA

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AND A SUMMARY ON THE REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, TSIM SHA TSUI. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS
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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL CALL FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OVER THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE AT TUEN MUN HOSPITAL'S CASUALTY WARD.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL PROPOSE THE INSTALLATION OF SAFER CLOTHES-HANGING FACILITIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND ASK ABOUT THE DEMOLITION OF THE PAK KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE THE PARCEL DELIVERY SERVICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE PROBLEMS FACED BY SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES IN THE DISTRICT, SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AND NINE APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 13 -

HEARING EXHIBITION FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS

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AN EXHIBITION ON THE "PROTECTION OF HEARING" WILL BE HELD IN WONG TAI SIN ON SATURDAY (JUNE 23).

ORGANISED BY THE ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE BETWEEN 12.30 PM AND 5 PM.

"THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION IS TO MAKE YOUNGSTERS AWARE OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF LOUD MUSIC FROM PORTABLE CASSETTE RADIOS ON THEIR HEARING ABILITY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID.

"VISITORS CAN ALSO HAVE THEIR HEARING TESTED AT THE EXHIBITION FREE OF CHARGE."

THE EXHIBITS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD. THE OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, DR MICHAEL LEE; ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM KWAN; CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, MR NG NGOK-SHING; SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER OF WONG TAI SIN, MR IP PO-KUEN; ASSISTANT DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF WONG TAI SIN AND SAI KUNG, MR LAWRENCE IU; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT.

MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF WILL ENTERTAIN VISITORS WITH MIME AND SONGS AND AN INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE FORMED BY STUDENTS OF ST BONAVENTURE PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL GIVE A PERFORMANCE.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT TSZ WAN SHAN (SOUTH) COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY (JUNE 26) AND AT CHOI WAN COMMERCIAL CENTRE ON SUNDAY, JULY 1.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PROTECTION OF HEARING EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT 12.30 PM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 23) AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, KOWLOON.

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/14

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990

- 14 -

EASTERN DISTRICT ENQUIRY COUNTER ADJUSTS OPERATING HOURS
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THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL STANDARDISE THE DAILY OPERATING HOURS OF ITS PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER AT 880-886 KING'S ROAD, STARTING NEXT MONTH.

THE COUNTER WILL PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH ENQUIRY AND STATUTORY DECLARATION SERVICES FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

AT PRESENT, THE COUNTER OFFERS AN EXTENDED EVENING SERVICE AND SERVES AS A BUREAU FOR THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME FROM 5.30 PM TO 8.30 PM EVERY THURSDAY. THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL CEASE FROM NEXT MONTH.

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