



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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SWIFT REPATRIATION OF ECVIIS EMPHASISED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, TODAY (FRIDAY) EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF SWIFT REPATRIATION OF EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVIIS) IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUESTS WHICH HAD BEEN PUT TO THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY EARLIER THIS WEEK.

MR BARNES SAID THAT WITH THE CURRENT POPULATION OF ECVIIS NOW APPROACHING 1,000, THE PROBLEMS OF ACCOMMODATION WERE BECOMING ACUTE.

"IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO FALL BACK ON FERRIES TO HOUSE THESE NEW ARRIVALS," HE SAID.

"THESE ARE CROWDED, UNCOMFORTABLE AND LACKING IN AMENITIES AND CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IDEAL, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THEIR EXPOSURE TO COLD, NORTH-EASTERLY WINDS."

MR BARNES SAID DATES HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR THE NEXT BATCH OF ECVIIS TO RETURN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

HE DEPLORED THE PROBLEMS AND EXPENSE WHICH THE PRESENT INFLUX OF ECVIIS WAS CAUSING TO BOTH HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, AND HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE FIRM ACTION BY BOTH SIDES.

THIS MORNING, A BATCH OF 25 ECVIIS COMPRISING THREE FAMILIES AND 16 INDIVIDUALS WERE REPATRIATED TO CHINA THROUGH SHA TAU KOK.

THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAD STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR SIX MONTHS TO 18 MONTHS.

AFTER TODAY'S REPATRIATION, THERE ARE STILL 897 ECVIIS FROM CHINA REMAINING IN HONG KONG, OF WHOM 105 ARRIVED YESTERDAY (THURSDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A YAUMATEI FERRY FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF ECVIIS.

A TOTAL OF 313 ECVIIS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE ONTO THE FERRY "MAN WAH" ANCHORED AT BUOY B7 NEAR STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

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STATUS OF 107 VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS DETERMINED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED ITS SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING THE STATUS OF ANOTHER 107 VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AFTER JUNE 15 THIS YEAR.

OF THE GROUP SCREENED, EIGHT PERSONS IN THREE GROUPS WERE FOUND TO BE REFUGEES AND HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO A REFUGEE CAMP PRIOR TO RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

THE OTHER 99, COMPRISING 20 GROUPS AND 25 INDIVIDUALS, WERE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES. THEY WILL BE HELD IN DETENTION CENTRES PENDING REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM.

"DETERMINATION NOTICES HAVE BEEN SERVED ON THE ASYLUM SEEKERS BY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THOSE PEOPLE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THEIR RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE RESULT UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHT TO LEGAL ADVICE IN PREPARING THEIR OBJECTIONS.

"THE UNHCR WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT LEGAL ADVICE IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SCREENING PROCEDURES WERE BASED ON THE UNHCR PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING REFUGEE STATUS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1951 CONVENTION AND THE 1967 PROTOCOL, AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM VIETNAM.

"STAFF OF THE UNHCR WERE PRESENT DURING SOME OF THE INTERVIEWS AS OBSERVERS," HE SAID.

SO FAR, SCREENING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR 438 ASYLUM SEEKERS. OF THEM, 38 WERE FOUND TO BE REFUGEES WHILE 400 WERE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

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WATERSHED IN DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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HONG KONG IS AT A WATERSHED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY, BUT WE RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE WE ACHIEVE THE FULL RANGE AND QUALITY OF SERVICES WE DESIRE," MR CHAU SAID WHEN ADDRESSING A SEMINAR ON HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT.

HE SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MARKED AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FAR REACHING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

"IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM WHICH WILL TAKE A NUMBER OF YEARS TO COMPLETE AND WHICH WILL EMBRACE ALL ASPECTS OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING OF HOSPITAL SERVICES," HE SAID.

"OUR AIM IS FOR THE NEW HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO COME INTO OPERATION IN APRIL 1990."

IN PREPARATION FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT, MR CHAU SAID THE PRESENT MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD BE SPLIT INTO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WHICH WILL REMAIN A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE, THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE DELIVERY OF A RANGE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES," HE SAID.

"THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WILL, IN DUE COURSE, BE SUBSUMED AS THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WHEN IT COMES INTO EXISTENCE."

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE IDEA OF SETTING UP A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF A CONSULTANCY REPORT.

THIS HAD ADVISED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED UNDER A STATUTORY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT OPERATING OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE OBJECTIVES WERE TO IMPROVE SERVICES IN STEP AND IN A MANNER WHICH ENSURED MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS AT ALL LEVELS, HE ADDED.

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NEW LAB MEMBERS APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF 12 EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR TWO YEARS COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 1989.

A LIST OF THE MEMBERS WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE ELECTED BY REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS ON OCTOBER 22 THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- * MR MOK KA-WING, PETER
- * MS LAM SHUK-YEE
- * MR MONG WAI-MING, WILLIAM
- * MS LI FUNG-YING
- * MR CHAN YUN-CHE

EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE NOMINATED BY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:

- * MR A.R. HAMILTON (EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF HONG KONG)
- * MR A.E. GAZELEY (HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)
- * MR TANG YING-YEN, HENRY (FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES)
- * DR LUI MING-WAH (CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG)
- * MR HO SAI-CHU (CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

APPOINTED MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- * MR CHEUNG WOOD-LUN, REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES
- * MR CHAN SUI-KAU, REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS

EXCEPT FOR MR MOK, MS LAM AND MR MONG, THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR OR THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILL BE THE BOARD'S EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN.

THE NEW BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN MID-JANUARY.

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FINISHING INDUSTRY NEEDS PROPER ACCOMMODATION

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE INFRASTRUCTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, IT WAS NOT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE LOCAL FINISHING INDUSTRY TO UPGRADE OR EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE (HONG KONG SECTION) AT A DINNER PARTY, MR YEUNG ADMITTED THAT THE FINISHING INDUSTRY WAS FACING A HOST OF PROBLEMS.

HE SAID HE REALISED THAT THE FINISHING INDUSTRY WOULD BE WILLING TO INVEST IN ITS EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION, GIVEN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS.

"WE KNOW THAT THESE CONDITIONS ARE, NAMELY, LAND FOR PURPOSE-BUILT FACTORIES, ADEQUATELY SUPPLIED WITH WATER AND EFFLUENT TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES.

"THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION HAS GONE SOME WAY FORWARD TOWARDS MEETING THIS DEMAND BUT ITS OWN RESOURCES ARE CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL HEADWAY IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM," HE SAID.

THE ANSWER, MR YEUNG BELIEVED, LAID IN THE CREATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL ZONE FOR WATER INTENSIVE USERS.

HE SAID THAT PROPOSALS WERE NOW BEING CONSIDERED TO SET ASIDE AREA OF LAND AT TIN SHUI WAI FOR WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL USERS SUCH AS THE FINISHING INDUSTRY.

"THE INTENTION IS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO SUPPLY THIS INDUSTRIAL AREA ADEQUATELY WITH WATER AND EFFLUENT TREATMENT WORKS, AND IF SO AT WHAT COST.

"IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ACCEPTED, A DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

"SUBJECT TO FEASIBILITY BEING ESTABLISHED AND ORDERS OF COST PROVING AFFORDABLE, WE ARE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE FIRST GRANT OF LAND FOR WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL USERS INCLUDING FINISHING MILLS IN LATE 1992 OR EARLY 1993," MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

IF THIS PLAN CAME ABOUT, HE SAID, THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE CREATED NOT ONLY FOR A SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF CERTAIN URBAN DISTRICTS, BUT ALSO FOR INVESTMENT BY THE FINISHING INDUSTRY IN EXPANDING AND UPGRADING ITS CAPACITY.

/MR YEUNG

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MR YEUNG ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE FINISHING INDUSTRY, SAYING THAT IT WAS A VITAL LINKAGE INDUSTRY IN THE TEXTILES AND GARMENT CHAIN.

HE APRECIATED THAT MANUFACTURERS IN THE FINISHING INDUSTRY HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PURCHASES OF COMPUTER-AIDED AND OTHER AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT THAT MADE FOR GREATER ACCURACY IN COLORATION.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST, THE INDUSTRY WILL DO SO VIGOROUSLY," HE SAID.

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THERMOPLASTICS PLANT AT YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

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GE PLASTICS, A COMPONENT OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY IN THE U.S., WILL BUILD A THERMOPLASTICS COMPOUNDING PLANT IN YUEN LONG, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN THIS YEAR WITH COMPLETION OF FACILITY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1990.

THE 1.18-HECTARE PLANT WILL INITIALLY EMPLOY ABOUT 40 PEOPLE AND THE FACILITY THERE WILL HAVE AN INITIAL CAPACITY OF 20,000 METRIC TONS.

THE COMPOUNDING PLANT WILL MANUFACTURE ALL GE PLASTICS THERMOPLASTICS, ESPECIALLY TO CATER FOR MARKETS IN THE PACIFIC RIM.

APPLICATIONS FOR GE PLASTICS MATERIALS INCLUDE AUTOMOBILE COMPONENTS, APPLIANCES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMPUTER PARTS, CASINGS FOR ELECTRICAL WIRING AND WINDOW GLAZING.

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HK WELCOMES BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG, TODAY (FRIDAY) REFUTED ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SHOWING SPECIAL FAVOURS TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN HONG KONG.

MR LEUNG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF HWA YIU COMPANY LIMITED IN TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE SERVICES OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND LAND ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES WERE BOTH AVAILABLE ON IDENTICAL TERMS FOR BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

IN FACT, HE SAID, ABOUT ONE HALF OF ALL THE FACTORIES ON THE ESTATES WERE OWNED AND OPERATED BY LOCAL FIRMS.

THE 60,000-SQUARE-FOOT PLANT OF HWA YIU, A LOCAL INVESTMENT PROJECT, IS SPECIALLY BUILT FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF GALVANISED WELDED STEEL PIPES.

THE FACTORY IS EQUIPPED WITH COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES WHICH INCLUDE A HIGH FREQUENCY WELDING MACHINE AND A LARGE GALVANISING TANK.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT HWA YIU'S INVESTMENT TESTIFIED THAT HONG KONG COULD OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET AS WELL AS FOR EXPORT.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HWA YIU WAS A FINE EXAMPLE OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AND CHINA.

ELABORATING ON THIS POINT, MR LEUNG SAID THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING OF MACHINES IN HWA YIU WERE BY WELL-KNOWN WORKS IN PEKING AND SHANXI PROVINCE.

ENGINEERS FROM INSTITUTIONS IN CHINA HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY IN THE INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE PLANT EQUIPMENT.

"THE EXISTENCE OF HWA YIU WILL NO DOUBT ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR METAL FABRICATION INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING HONG KONG WITH A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF STEEL TUBES - ESPECIALLY TO THE BUILDING MATERIALS TRADE," HE SAID.

"DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS WILL ALSO BE FURTHER REDUCED.

"THE COMMENCEMENT OF HWA YIU AT THIS TIME ALSO COMPLEMENTS PERFECTLY THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG."

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ACTIVITY GUIDELINES FOR DAY NURSERIES PUBLISHED

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A SET OF ACTIVITY GUIDELINES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED FOR CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATORS AND THEIR STAFF WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY DAY NURSERIES.

THE SET WAS COMPILED BY A JOINT SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT/HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WORKING GROUP WHICH COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE TEACHING INSTITUTES.

THE COVENER OF THE WORKING GROUP, MRS MAN-YEE LI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE GUIDELINES SHOULD SERVE AS A VERY USEFUL REFERENCE FOR DAY NURSERIES ON THE CONTENT AND THE TECHNIQUES OF TRAINING THEY PROVIDED SO AS TO BETTER MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"THE GUIDELINES OUTLINE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD, THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHILD CARE PROGRAMMES AND CURRICULUM AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE PLANNED AND DEvised," SHE SAID.

"THERE ARE ALSO RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE ORGANISED TO DEVELOP THE APTITUDES OF A CHILD AND HOW DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES CAN BE CORRELATED WITH EACH OTHER AND ALSO WITH EVERYDAY LIFE OF A CHILD."

THE PUBLICATION COMPLEMENTS THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES IN WHICH THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS FOR THESE CENTRES, SUCH AS THE ENVIRONMENT, FACILITIES, HYGIENE AND SAFETY, ARE CLEARLY STIPULATED.

COPIES OF THE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND A BRIEFING SESSION FOR CO-ORDINATORS, SUPERVISORS AND CHILD CARE WORKERS WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

FEEDBACK FROM THE USERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE REVISIONS OF THE GUIDELINES.

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INCREASE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUS SEATING CAPACITY
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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) ORDINANCE 1988, WHICH ALLOWS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM SEATING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES FROM 14 TO 16, WILL TAKE EFFECT TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT ELIGIBLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES MAY BE MODIFIED, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, TO INCREASE THE SEATING CAPACITY.

WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, A LIGHT BUS MODIFIED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OF THE APPROVED SEATING PLANS ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ITS SEATING CAPACITY ACCEPTED AND REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT PRIOR VEHICLE INSPECTION BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE MODIFIED VEHICLE WILL BE INSPECTED DURING THE NEXT ANNUAL VEHICLE INSPECTION.

"OWNERS OF LIGHT BUSES WHO WISH TO MODIFY THEIR VEHICLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED SEATING PLANS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE VEHICLES ARE MODIFIED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROVED PLAN.

"IF THE SEATING ARRANGEMENT OF A LIGHT BUS IS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE APPROVED SEATING PLAN PRIOR TO ITS NEXT ANNUAL INSPECTION, THE VEHICLE LICENCE OF THE LIGHT BUS WILL BE SUSPENDED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WHEN THE VEHICLE IS PRESENTED FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION, IT WILL BE INSPECTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RELEVANT APPROVED SEATING PLAN.

"THE VEHICLE WILL FAIL THE ANNUAL INSPECTION IF IT IS FOUND NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE SEATING PLAN."

AN OWNER OF A LIGHT BUS WHO WISHES TO MODIFY HIS VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OF THE APPROVED SEATING PLANS HAS TO COMPLETE AND SIGN THE DOCUMENTS: FORM TD 150 (APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF VEHICLE PARTICULARS); AND A DECLARATION THAT THE ALTERATION OF THE VEHICLE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OF THE APPROVED SEATING PLANS.

WHEN RETURNING THE COMPLETED FORM AND THE DECLARATION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES, THE APPLICANTS MUST TAKE ALONG THE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT AND THE LICENCE DISC OF THE RELEVANT LIGHT BUS.

FOR A LIGHT BUS WHICH IS NOT MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROVED SEATING PLAN ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE VEHICLE WILL HAVE TO BE INSPECTED IMMEDIATELY BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE LIGHT BUS WILL HAVE TO PASS THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION BEFORE THE CHANGE OF SEATING CAPACITY IS ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

IN ORDER NOT TO AFFECT THE LEVEL OF SERVICE PROVIDED TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, THE SPOKESMAN URGED OWNERS OF LIGHT BUSES TO SPREAD OUT THE MODIFICATIONS OF THEIR VEHICLES.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDA ON NOISE CONTROL IN OPERATION
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THREE TECHNICAL MEMORANDA ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECENTLY ENACTED NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE HAVE NOW COME INTO OPERATION, A LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THESE MEMORANDA ARE DOCUMENTS SETTING OUT THE PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA BY WHICH THE NOISE CONTROL AUTHORITY WILL BE GUIDED WHEN:

- * CONSIDERING PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK DURING NIGHT-TIME AND ON GENERAL HOLIDAYS;
- * DETERMINING THE PERMITTED HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PERCUSSIVE PILING OPERATIONS DURING DAYTIME; AND
- * ASSESSING NOISE FROM INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

THEY WILL ALSO ENABLE THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIES IN PARTICULAR TO ASSESS IN ADVANCE THE REQUIREMENTS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE.

THE MEMORANDA ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT 17TH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT WHILE TECHNICAL MEMORANDA LAID DOWN A TECHNICAL BASIS, REGULATIONS UNDER THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

SUBJECT TO ENDORSEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES STARTING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT WHEN THESE PROVISIONS ARE IN FORCE, THE PUBLIC WILL BE PROTECTED FROM ANNOYANCES CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE NOISE," HE SAID.

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ADMIRALTY LAW TO BE LOCALISED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE SHORTLY INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE FIRST PIECE OF LEGISLATION UNDER ITS PROGRAMME FOR THE LOCALISATION OF UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION THAT APPLIES TO HONG KONG.

THE LEGISLATION, THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

"AT PRESENT, THE JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT IN HONG KONG IN RELATION TO MARITIME LAW IS DERIVED FROM CERTAIN UNITED KINGDOM ENACTMENTS WHICH APPLY OR HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THESE UNITED KINGDOM ENACTMENTS COULD NOT REMAIN PART OF OUR LAW AFTER 1997.

"IT WILL HENCE BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION WITH SIMILAR EFFECT TO PROVIDE FOR THE JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT OF HONG KONG IN RELATION TO THESE MATTERS, WHICH ARE KNOWN AS ADMIRALTY MATTERS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"THE BILL WILL AMEND THE SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE SO THAT THE CIVIL JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT IN RELATION TO ADMIRALTY MATTERS IS SPECIFIED IN THAT ORDINANCE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED KINGDOM ENACTMENTS FROM WHICH THE HIGH COURT DERIVES ITS PRESENT JURISDICTION WILL BE REPEALED IN SO FAR AS THEY ARE PART OF THE LAW OF HONG KONG.

"EXAMPLES OF ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT PRESCRIBED IN THE BILL ARE JURISDICTION TO HEAR AND DETERMINE CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE RECEIVED BY A SHIP, CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO GOODS CARRIED IN A SHIP, AND CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF ANY AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS IN A SHIP OR TO THE USE OF A SHIP."

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AT THE GROUP'S TENTH MEETING, REACHED A COMMON VIEW ON THE LOCALISATION OF LEGISLATION ON ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION IN HONG KONG.

"THERE IS STILL A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE ON THE LOCALISATION OF LEGISLATION. WE ARE, HOWEVER, MAKING STEADY PROGRESS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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LEI CHENG UK HAN TOMB DECLARED A MONUMENT

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THROUGH EFFORTS OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, THE HAN TOMB IN LEI CHENG UK, WHICH RANKS AS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ANCIENT STRUCTURES IN HONG KONG, WAS TODAY (FRIDAY) GAZETTED AS A MONUMENT.

THIS ANCIENT TOMB WAS DISCOVERED IN 1955 WHEN WORKMEN WERE LEVELLING A HILL SLOPE IN SHAM SHUI PO TO MAKE WAY FOR THE PRESENT LEI CHENG UK ESTATE.

IT IS BUILT OF BRICKS AND CONSISTS OF FOUR CHAMBERS. THE ENTRANCE HALL WAS ARRANGED IN CRUCIFORM WITH A DOMED ROOF OVER THE CENTRE.

WHILE MOST OF THE BRICKS ARE ADORNED WITH STAMPED GEOMETRIC DESIGNS, A FEW ARE FOUND TO BEAR INSCRIPTIONS LIKE DA-JI PAN-YU (GREAT FORTUNE TO PAN-YU) AND PAN-YU DA-ZHI-LI (PEACE TO PAN-YU).

PAN-YU IS THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY TO WHICH THE AREA BELONGED DURING THE HAN DYNASTY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONUMENTS OFFICE SAID A TOTAL OF 58 POTTERY AND BRONZE OBJECTS WERE FOUND INSIDE THE TOMB.

"THE POTTERY OBJECTS INCLUDE FOOD VESSELS, COOKING VESSELS, STORAGE JARS AND MODELS OF HOUSES, WELLS AND GRANARIES."

"THE BRONZES ARE MOSTLY FRAGMENTARY AND CONSIST OF SEVERAL BOWLS, A MIRROR AND A SMALL BELL."

"ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCES SUCH AS THE DESIGN OF THE TOMB AND THE FORMS OF BURIAL OBJECTS STRONGLY SUGGEST A DATE OF EASTERN HAN (25 - 220 A.D.)," HE POINTED OUT.

"AFTER THE EXCAVATION IN 1955, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PRESERVE THE TOMB IN SITU AND A GALLERY AND A SMALL GARDEN WERE BUILT AROUND IT.

"THE TOMB AND MUSEUM WERE FORMALLY OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN JUNE 1957 AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME A BRANCH OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY UNTIL TODAY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, THE CONTENTS OF THE TOMB REFLECTED THE DAILY LIFE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THIS AREA, WHICH ALSO REPRESENTED THE CONTEMPORARY CULTURE OF HONG KONG DURING THE HAN PERIOD.

/"ALTHOUGH HUNDREDS

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"ALTHOUGH HUNDREDS OF SIMILAR HAN TOMBS HAVE BEEN UNEARTHED IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AREA IN THE PAST 20 YEARS, THE LEI CHENG UK TOMB REMAINS THE ONLY HAN TOMB DISCOVERED IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE DECLARATION OF THIS UNIQUE MONUMENT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE PUBLIC-SPIRITED CO-OPERATION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

AFTER THE DECLARATION, THE TOMB WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY WITH SUPERVISION FROM THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE.

LOCATED AT 41 TONKIN STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO, THE LEI CHENG UK BRANCH MUSEUM IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY BOTH MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND BUSES. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DAILY EXCEPT THURSDAYS.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED A PRE-WAR BUILDING AT 269 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, KOWLOON TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE THREE-STORY BUILDING WITH TIMBER UPPER FLOORS AND ROOF ON STONE RUBBLE WALLS WAS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DILAPIDATION.

"SOME OF THE TIMBER FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS ARE DECAYED AND PART OF THE ROOF HAS ALREADY COLLAPSED," HE SAID.

"CRACKS AND OPEN JOINTS WERE FOUND AT THE WALLS AND SIGNS OF UNEVEN SETTLEMENT OF THE REINFORCED CONCRETE VERANDAH WERE ALSO NOTED."

THERE WAS A POTENTIAL DANGER OF FURTHER COLLAPSE OF THE ROOF AND THAT THE DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF THIS BUILDING WAS BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR.

"IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO CLOSE THE BUILDING FOR DEMOLITION," HE ADDED.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON FEBRUARY 16 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED TODAY.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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PRIVATE STREET IN WESTERN TO BE RESUMED
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR KWAI HEUNG STREET IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID, "KWAI HEUNG STREET IS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED AND MAINTAINED AND IS UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP.

"AS A RESULT IT IS GENERALLY NOT IN GOOD REPAIR AND THE STREET IS PARTLY OCCUPIED BY STALLS. THE SITUATION HAS SOMETIMES GIVEN RISE TO CONSIDERABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

"IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO RESUME KWAI HEUNG STREET SO THAT GOVERNMENT CAN REPAIR AND THEREAFTER MAINTAIN THE ROAD AND DRAINS TO A PROPER STANDARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE STREETS CAN THEN BE PROPERLY MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSED WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT INVOLVE THE REPAIR OF THE DEFECTIVE CARRIAGEWAYS, FOOTPATHS AND DRAINS WITHIN THE PRIVATE STREET.

WORK ON THIS PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1989.

NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS AND LAND RESUMPTION CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSALS MUST WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 14, 1989.

SALARIES REVISION OF MAGISTRATES AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS ACCEPTED A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE SALARIES OF MAGISTRATES AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES TO REFLECT THEIR INCREASED LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE SALARIES WILL BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

RANK	EXISTING MONTHLY SALARY	NEW MONTHLY SALARY
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PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE	\$35,150	\$38,450
MAGISTRATE	\$28,070 - \$29,325 \$30,595 - \$31,865 BY THREE ANNUAL INCREMENTS	\$32,750 - \$33,550 \$34,350 - \$35,150 BY THREE ANNUAL INCREMENTS

THE INCREASED LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY OF MAGISTRATES AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES COMES ABOUT PARTLY THROUGH INCREASED PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT, RESULTING IN LONGER AND MORE THOROUGHLY CONTESTED CASES.

FURTHER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NO LONGER TRANSFERS CASES FROM THE MAGISTRATES' COURT TO THE DISTRICT COURT SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE LONG OR BECAUSE DIFFICULT POINTS OF LAW ARE INVOLVED.

MANY CASES WHICH WOULD PREVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE DISTRICT COURT ARE NOW HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, WHO WERE FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1982, HAVE REMOVED THE TRIAL OF MANY SIMPLE MATTERS FROM PERMANENT MAGISTRATES.

THE SALARIES REVISION WILL ALSO PERMIT THE JUDICIARY TO EXERCISE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE POSTING OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS BETWEEN VARIOUS COURTS.

MAGISTRATES AT THE TOP OF THE NEW SALARY SCALE WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE WORK OF CORONER, ADJUDICATOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER, ALL OF WHICH ARE AT SALARY POINT \$35,150.

CORONERS, ADJUDICATORS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS WILL, IN TURN, BE ABLE TO SIT AS MAGISTRATES, AS THE NEEDS OF THE SERVICE REQUIRE, AND BE MORE READILY ELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION TO PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES.

MAGISTRATES AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES WERE, UNTIL RECENTLY, ON SALARY SCALES AT MPS 48-51: \$28,070 - \$31,865 AND DJL 1 (\$35,150) RESPECTIVELY.

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1988, FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE JUDICIAL OFFICERS SALARY SCALE WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING THE SEPARATION OF THE JUDICIARY FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AND TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE.

SALARIES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS ARE NOW IDENTIFIED ONLY IN MONETARY TERMS ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF SALARIES FOR EACH OFFICER IS INITIALLY THE SAME AS ON THE OLD BANDED SCALE.

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APPROVED CHAI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN GAZETTED

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THE APPROVED OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR CHAI WAN WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 634 HECTARES AND DEVELOPMENTS ARE MAINLY ON LAND RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA.

FURTHER RECLAMATION IS NOW TAKING PLACE IN THE SIU SAI WAN AREA AND LAND WILL BE RESERVED FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE USES.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN IS TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY LAND USE PATTERN AND ROAD NETWORKS AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT OF LAND IN THIS AREA.

THE PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 4TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND AT THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE PRICE IS \$10 EACH FOR THE UNCOLOURED VERSION AND \$50 EACH FOR THE COLOURED PRINTED VERSION.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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PRIVATE LOTS TO BE RESUMED FOR RECREATIONAL USE
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TWO PRIVATE LOTS IN YAU MA TEI ARE TO BE RESUMED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

THE LOTS TO BE RESUMED ARE SITUATED AT 187 RECLAMATION STREET AND 800 CANTON ROAD.

COMPRISING A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND A REST GARDEN, THE OPEN SPACE WILL OCCUPY THE LOTS AS WELL AS A TEMPORARY REST GARDEN AND A YOUTH CENTRE ALREADY UNDER THE POSSESSION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN IN MARCH 1990 AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1991.

A NOTICE ON THE RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE OWNERS AND TENANTS OF THE TWO AFFECTED PRIVATE PROPERTIES WILL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS OF THEIR INTERESTS.

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17 COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY BY DIRECTOR OF MARINE
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THE BRAVE AND PUBLIC-SPIRITED ACTIONS OF 17 PEOPLE IN THE RESCUE OF 12 LIVES AT SEA DURING THE PAST YEAR WERE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WERE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

THE RECIPIENTS INCLUDED FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, 10 CREW MEMBERS OF FERRY COMPANIES AND THREE POLICE CONSTABLES.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION, MR HALL EXTENDED HIS WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS OFTEN SAID TO BE A CITY OF SELFISH PEOPLE ONLY INTERESTED IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

/ "THE PRESENCE

"THE PRESENCE OF THESE BRAVE PEOPLE HERE TODAY IS A HEARTENING REMINDER THAT THIS IS UNTRUE.

"EACH ONE HAS RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE A COMPLETE STRANGER FROM THE SEA," MR HALL SAID.

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN CIVIC EDUCATION DAY

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THE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION WILL BE GIVEN A BIG BOOST THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) WHEN THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, PLEDGES HIS SUPPORT TO THE "TO CARE AND TO GIVE" MOVEMENT.

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "TO CARE AND TO GIVE: CIVIC EDUCATION DAY", THE GOVERNOR WILL SHOW HIS SUPPORT BY SIGNING A PLEDGE IN A BIG HEART-SHAPED CARD WHICH WILL BE HUNG ON A "CIVIC EDUCATION TREE" ON DISPLAY AT VICTORIA PARK.

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE GOVERNOR IN PLEDGING THEIR SUPPORT TO THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL CARE AND HELP.

THE CIVIC EDUCATION DAY IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO PROMOTE A GREATER SENSE OF MUTUAL HELP AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY AND TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTION.

THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM ON SUNDAY. A TOTAL OF 17 COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS WILL SET UP STALLS TO INTRODUCE THEIR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO RECRUIT VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

ACTIVITIES APPEALING FOR CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND DONATION OF KIDNEYS, CORNEA, BLOOD, CASH AND NEW TOYS WILL BE LAUNCHED ON THAT DAY. THERE WILL ALSO BE A CONCERT STAGED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO AND A YOUTH DRAWING COMPETITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE "TO CARE AND TO GIVE: CIVIC EDUCATION DAY" TO BE HELD BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT VICTORIA PARK.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY STARTING AT 10.30 AM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE COMMAND POST SET UP AT FOOTBALL PITCH NO. 5 BY 10.15 AM. INFORMATION OFFICERS FROM CNTA WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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GOVERNOR TO OFFICIATE AT FLOAT PARADE CEREMONY
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WILL OFFICIATE AT A TELEVISED CEREMONY ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) MARKING THE ARRIVAL IN CENTRAL OF A KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN FLOAT PARADE WHICH HAD TRAVELLED FROM TSUEN WAN.

THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT AT NOON.

A STARTING CEREMONY FOR THE PARADE WILL BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND AT 9 AM.

OFFICIATING AT THIS WILL BE THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR MA NING-HEI; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR WALTER SULKE; AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, DR PANG HOK-TUEN.

THE PARADE WILL LEAVE THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND AT 9.30 AM AND PASS THROUGH MAIN STREETS IN KOWLOON BEFORE CROSSING TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE PARADE WILL STOP AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT WHERE THE FLOATS WILL BE ON DISPLAY FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM.

THE FUNCTION IS ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENTS AT THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND AND THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

A COACH WILL PICK UP REPORTERS AT CGO CARPARK, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, AND LEAVE FOR TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND AT 7 AM SHARP. THOSE WHO WISH TO USE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE SPORTS GROUND BY 8.45 AM.

AFTER THE STARTING CEREMONY AT TSUEN WAN, TRANSPORT WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO TAKE REPORTERS TO CENTRAL.

REPORTERS WHO PREFER TO USE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT BY 11.30 AM AND SHOW THEIR REPORTER IDENTITY CARDS UPON ENTRY.

A PRESS DESK WILL BE SET UP NEAR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST

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A FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) AFTERNOON TO PROMOTE AWARENESS IN PREVENTING FIRES IN THE DRY SEASON AND WHAT TO DO WHEN A FIRE OCCURS.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, WILL BE HELD ON ALTERNATIVE SUNDAYS IN SEVERAL DENSELY POPULATED AREAS BY ROTATION.

"THE AIMS OF THE EXHIBITION ARE TO AROUSE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND HOW TO REACT IF A FIRE OCCURS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID.

"IF PEOPLE ARE ALERTED AND CAN RESPOND SWIFTLY AS SOON AS A FIRE IS DISCOVERED, CASUALTY CAN BE AVOIDED," HE ADDED.

EXHIBITION PANELS PROVIDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE DISPLAYED TO ELABORATE ON THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN 'WHEN THERE IS A FIRE, SOUND THE ALARM'.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC HOW TO PREVENT COUNTRYSIDE FIRE.

"OFFICERS FROM THE TWO DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MOREOVER, VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL RECEIVE A NEW FIRE PREVENTION LEAFLET AND SOUVENIRS SPONSORED BY THE KWONG ON BANK LTD.

"THE NEXT EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, 1989 AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE IN LOK FU ESTATE," HE ADDED.

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MAJOR ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION TO OPEN ON SUNDAY

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A FIVE-MONTH ROVING EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE "ENJOY LIFE WITHOUT DRUGS" WILL BE LAUNCHED ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES DIVISION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ARRANGED AT THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (HKHA) 20 SHOPPING CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY IN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS.

/THE EXHIBITION,

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THE EXHIBITION, TO BE STAGED ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, AIMS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TO KEEP PEOPLE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT HONG KONG'S ANTI-DRUG WORK.

A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE IN JUNCTION ROAD, WANG TAU HOM ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE HKHA, MISS LEUNG WAI-TUNG, AND A MEMBER OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), MR LEE JARK-PUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

OTHER GUESTS ATTENDING THE CEREMONY INCLUDE THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR TONY REYNALDS, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES), MR SIMON P.H. LI.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN HOUR-LONG ENTERTAINMENT SHOW BY POPULAR ARTISTES.

THE ROVING EXHIBITION, EQUIPPED WITH DISPLAY PANELS AND VIDEO SHOWS, WILL THEN TOUR ROUND THE FOLLOWING SHOPPING CENTRES OVER THE NEXT SIX WEEKENDS:

OI MAN SHOPPING CENTRE, HO MAN TIN (DECEMBER 24 AND 25);

LOK WAH (NORTH) SHOPPING CENTRE, NGAU TAU KOK (DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 1);

CHUK YUEN (SOUTH) SHOPPING CENTRE, WONG TAI SIN (JANUARY 7 AND 8);

LEI CHENG UK SHOPPING CENTRE, SHAM SHUI PO (JANUARY 14 AND 15);

CHEUNG HONG SHOPPING CENTRE, TSING YI (JANUARY 21 AND 22); AND

TAI WOR HAU SHOPPING CENTRE, TSUEN WAN (JANUARY 28 AND 29).

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6 PM DURING THE WEEKEND.

ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY NARCOTICS DIVISION STAFF ON THE SPOT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE ENTERTAINMENT SHOW FOR THE EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, JUNCTION ROAD, WANG TAU HOM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18). THE CEREMONY WILL START AT 2.30 PM AND THE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES WILL LAST UNTIL 4 PM.

A TEA RECEPTION WILL BE ARRANGED AT THE YUNG KONG CHIU CHOW RESTAURANT ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE SHOPPING CENTRE FROM 1 PM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

NARCOTICS DIVISION STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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ANTI-NARCOTICS FUN DAY FOR KWAI TSING RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN AN ANTI-NARCOTICS FUN DAY THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

PROGRAMMES INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY THE TAI TAM MARCHING BAND, LOCAL SCHOOL BANDS, HONG KONG MORRIS DANCING TEAM, KWAI TSING DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS CO-ORDINATION ASSOCIATION, CHAMPION OF THE DISTRICT SINGING COMPETITION AND POPULAR SINGERS.

MEMBERS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES AND YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AS WELL AS FACTORY WORKERS WILL FORM 15 TEAMS IN A TELEMATCH GAME.

THE FUN DAY IS THE FINALE OF A THREE-WEEK ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT SINCE THE END OF NOVEMBER. THE ACTIVITIES HELD INCLUDED AN EXHIBITION, DISCO NIGHT AND VISITS TO RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WITH A BUDGET OF \$300,000, OF WHICH \$100,000 WAS ALLOCATED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE REMAINING \$200,000 DONATED BY PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS FUN DAY WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR SO HOI-PANG, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG KWOK-WAI, DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE WING-TAT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, DR GERALD CHOA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS FUN DAY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND (NEAR KWAI FONG MTR STATION).

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

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TENDERS INVITED FOR IMPROVEMENT TO VAN TRACK
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TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO A VAN TRACK FROM MA WAT TO TUNG KOK WAI IN FANLING. A NOTICE FOR TENDERS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

WORK WILL INCLUDE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF 680 METRES OF VAN TRACK TO PROVIDE A 3.5-METRE WIDE CARRIAGEWAY WITH PASSING PLACES, TURNING AREA AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE.

THE RECONSTRUCTED TRACK WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS FROM SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO TUNG KOK WAI VIA AN EXISTING SERVICE ROAD TO MA WAT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN FEBRUARY, 1989 AND WOULD TAKE SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE WORKS HAD BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE SUPERVISED BY THE WORKS SECTION OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, HE ADDED.

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER PASSES AWAY
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET AT THE DEATH OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, MR HO CHI-PING.

MR HO DIED YESTERDAY, AGED 65.

HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD IN 1977 AND THEN SERVED ON THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD AS AN APPOINTED MEMBER FROM 1981. HE WAS AWARDED A BADGE OF HONOUR IN 1980.

"MR HO WAS ALWAYS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS. HIS DISTINGUISHED AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED," MR SUEN SAID.

MR SUEN ALSO OFFERED HIS CONDOLENCES TO MR HO'S FAMILY.

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FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR RESIDENTS

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CHECK-UPS ON BLOOD PRESSURE, TEETH, EYES AND DIABETES WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE NEW WORLD CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18).

THE FREE SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED DURING A "HEALTH DAY" ORGANISED BY THE TSIM SHA TSUI AREA COMMITTEE AT THE CENTRE FROM 1 PM TO 4 PM THAT DAY.

IN ADDITION, THE FUNCTION WILL FEATURE AN EXHIBITION ON MENTAL HEALTH, AIDS AND CARDIAC HEALTH, AS WELL AS A VIDEO AND SLIDE SHOW ON DIABETES AND BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEMS.

THE FUNCTION WILL BE OPENED AT 10.30 PM BY THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF YAU TSIM, MR ARTHUR YUEN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI AREA COMMITTEE, MR CHIU YU-HEI.

IT IS ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SOCIETY, HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION AND YANG MEMORIAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE WITH SPONSORSHIP BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE "HEALTH DAY" TO BE HELD FROM 10.30 AM TO 4 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT THE NEW WORLD CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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FIGHT CRIME SHOW FOR SAI KUNG RESIDENTS

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SAI KUNG RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO A NIGHT OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT WHEN THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME VARIETY SHOW IS STAGED AT THE SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE VARIETY SHOW WILL START AT 7.30 PM WITH A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN WHICH SOME ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE GIVEN GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS FOR THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN FIGHTING CRIME.

/WINNERS OF

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WINNERS OF ANTI-SHOP THEFT POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES. THE COMPETITION WAS HELD LAST MONTH AND BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART.

OTHER PROGRAMMES OF THE NIGHT ARE SINGING BY FAMOUS ARTISTES AND AN ANTI-TRIAD DRAMA.

SAI KUNG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS BETTY CHING; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR DENIS SHACKLETON; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN AND THE STANDARD BEARER OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, MISS CHAN MAN-YEE WILL ATTEND THE SHOW.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME VARIETY SHOW AND PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL, PO TUNG ROAD, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE SHOW WILL START AT 7.30 PM.

DISTRICT AFFAIRS SEMINAR FOR POK FU LAM RESIDENTS
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THE POK FU LAM AREA COMMITTEE AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ORGANISE A SEMINAR ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 20) SO THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF RESIDENTS' BODIES CAN EXCHANGE VIEWS ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

THE JOINT SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL IN CHI FU FA YUEN, POK FU LAM, BEGINNING AT 8 PM.

IN ADDITION TO A BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE AREA COMMITTEE, THERE WILL BE GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING MATTERS.

THE SEMINAR WILL ALSO FEATURE A VIDEO PRESENTATION PRODUCED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH COVERS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT AND THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE SEMINAR IS THE LAST IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATIONS AND TIES BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND LOCAL RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS.

/REPRESENTATIVES OF

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REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR ALONG WITH OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE SEMINAR WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED RESIDENTS.

THE SOUTHERN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID LEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR.

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SWITCHING ON TO CHRISTMAS

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LIGHTING DECORATIONS CELEBRATING THE COMING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASONS WERE SWITCHED ON IN SHA TIN BY THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE, THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

THE FOCAL POINT OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS FOR SHA TIN IS A FIVE-METRE TALL FOUNTAIN IN THE FORM A CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATED WITH COLOURFUL LIGHT BULBS FLOATING ON SHING MUN RIVER.

A SPECTACULAR PICTURE MEASURING 6.5 METRES BY 100 METRES FEATURING CHRISTMAS STARS AND PEACE DOVES STAGED ON SAN MARTIN BRIDGE IS ANOTHER CENTRE OF ATTRACTION.

OTHER COLOURFUL DECORATIONS, MOSTLY WITH DOVES AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, HELP CREATE THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE ALONG BANYAN BRIDGE, LEK YUEN BRIDGE, SHING MUN RIVER PROMENADES, CHE KUNG MIU ROAD AND IN CENTRAL PARK.

AT THE SAME TIME, LAMP POSTS ALONG MANY STREETS AND BRIDGES ARE DRESSED WITH BUNTINGS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT FESTIVE LIGHTING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE SAID THE LIGHTS WOULD BE ON BETWEEN 5.30 PM AND MIDNIGHT FROM TOMORROW TO JANUARY 5.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY, AND NEW YEAR'S EVE TO JANUARY 3, THE LIGHTS WOULD BE ON TILL 5 AM IN THE NEXT MORNING.

"THIS YEAR'S LIGHTING PROGRAMME IS THE MOST AMBITIOUS AND SPECTACULAR IN SHA TIN SO FAR WITH A BUDGET OF \$512,000, WHICH IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE \$250,000 LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

/IN LINE

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IN LINE WITH THE LIGHTING PROGRAMME, THREE COMPETITIONS WERE ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT FESTIVE LIGHTING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION.

THESE WERE THE FESTIVE LIGHTING SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION, DRAWING AND COLOURING COMPETITION, AS WELL AS THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

THE WINNING SLOGAN, WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN FROM SOME 293 ENTRIES, NOW REPRESENTS THE THEME OF SHA TIN'S FESTIVE LIGHTING PROGRAMME.

MEANWHILE, THE FESTIVE LIGHTING DRAWING AND COLOURING COMPETITION DIVIDED INTO GROUPS FOR PRIMARY ONE TO THREE, PRIMARY FOUR TO SIX, AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL CLOSE IN MID-JANUARY.

THE FESTIVE LIGHTING PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION DIVIDED INTO OPEN AND STUDENT GROUPS WILL CLOSE IN MID-FEBRUARY.

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SPEEDPOST TO JORDAN, ZIMBABWE
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THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO JORDAN AND ZIMBABWE WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 19), THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED.

THIS WILL BRING TO 57 THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE SPEEDPOST NETWORK SERVED FROM HONG KONG.

FOR JORDAN THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO AMMAN. ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE NEXT WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING.

FOR ZIMBABWE, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO HARARE AND BULAWAYO. ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE SECOND WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING.

"CONTRACT" AND "ON DEMAND" SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO BOTH JORDAN AND ZIMBABWE. THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT IS 20 KILOGRAMS AND THE POSTAGE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

	JORDAN	ZIMBABWE
ITEMS WEIGHING UNDER 250 G	\$80	\$115
ITEMS WEIGHING BETWEEN 250 G AND 500 G	\$90	\$160
EACH SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL 500 G	\$25	\$60
PICK-UP SERVICE BY THE POST OFFICE FROM CUSTOMERS' PREMISES	FREE	FREE

/THE SPEEDPOST

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THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO THESE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE GENERALLY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8683868.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 19).

THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KA ON STREET WILL BECOME AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE FOLLOWING TWO SECTIONS OF QUEEN'S ROAD WEST WILL ALSO BE MADE 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS: THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 150 AND 156; AND THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 167 AND 197.

IN ADDITION, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WATER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK FOR CABLE-DUCT LAYING WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF KWAI TSING ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT KWAI TSING ROAD BETWEEN KWAI TSING ROUNDABOUT AND KWAI TAI ROAD WILL BE PARTIALLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY FROM 10 PM TO 5 AM THE NEXT DAY ON DECEMBER 19 TO 21 AND ON JANUARY 9 AND 10.

THE NIGHT CLOSURES ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF FOOTBRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION.

ON DECEMBER 19 AND JANUARY 9, THE TSING YI BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THIS SECTION OF KWAI TSING ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

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ALL VEHICLES HEADING FOR TSING YI, INCLUDING KMB ROUTES 41, 42, 43, 43A, 43C, 43D, 43M, 44 AND 44M AND NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 88, 88B, 88C, 88M AND 88S, WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CONTAINER PORT ROAD AND KWAI TAI ROAD.

ON DECEMBER 20 AND 21 AND JANUARY 10, THE KWAI CHUNG BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF ITS SECTION OF KWAI TSING ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TSING YI BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE SAME ROAD SECTION WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

IN ADDITION, VEHICLES FROM WING SHUN STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI HEI STREET AND KWAI FUK ROAD.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM EDE ROAD TO WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 19) FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

VEHICLES ON EDE ROAD HEADING FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES CAN TRAVEL VIA CORNWALL STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF A NULLAH BRIDGE, MA TIN ROAD IN YUEN LONG BETWEEN KAU YUK ROAD AND UNNAMED NULLAH-BUND ROAD LEADING TO MA TIN TSUEN WILL BE CLOSED DAILY BETWEEN 30 MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT TO 5.30 AM ON DECEMBER 19 AND 20.

VEHICLES ENTERING OR LEAVING THE UNNAMED NULLAH-BUND ROAD LEADING TO MA TIN TSUEN WILL BE DIVERTED VIA MA TIN ROAD AND TAI YUK ROAD WHILE THOSE ON YUEN LONG ON HING STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ON HONG ROAD AND KAU YUK ROAD.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE CENTRE LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND NEAR SUN TIN WAI ESTATE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY BETWEEN 11 PM AND 7 AM THE NEXT DAY FROM DECEMBER 18 TO 20 AND FROM JANUARY 8 TO 10 FOR THE REPAINTING OF A SIGN GANTRY.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

(SUPPLEMENT)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

TELEVISION INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE
GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON,
ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

GOVERNOR GIVES TELEVISION INTERVIEW

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THE FOLLOWING IS A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW GIVEN TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON.

THE INTERVIEWERS WERE CHRIS BALE OF ATV AND BETTY LIU OF TVB, AND THE MODERATOR WAS CHRIS HILTON OF RTHK:

HILTON: THE YEAR IN QUESTION, 1988, HAS BEEN ONE OF INCREASING PROSPERITY AND OPTIMISM FOR HONG KONG BUT THESE ARE BEING TEMPERED BY AS YET UNRESOLVED POLITICAL DEBATE AND ARGUMENT. THE ECONOMY HAS MADE A STEADY RECOVERY FROM THE CRASH OF THE STOCK MARKET LAST OCTOBER. EXPORTS CONTINUE TO GROW. BUT THE SPECTRE OF DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION LOOMS ON THE HORIZON, AND INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE BEEN DOGGED BY A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF SUITABLE LABOUR. THERE HAS BEEN MOUNTING CONCERN DURING THE YEAR AT THE STEADY SEEPAGE AWAY TO COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA OF MANY OF HONG KONG'S BRIGHTEST AND BEST: THE BRAIN DRAIN, A PROBLEM REGARDED SO SERIOUSLY THAT THE SPECIAL THINK TANK ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR TO FORMULATE STRATEGIC PLANS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE WILL HAVE IT AS ONE OF THEIR MAJOR PRIORITIES.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CONTINUE TO DRAG ON, AND HONG KONG'S HARDENED ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEW ARRIVALS HAS AROUSED SOME CRITICISM.

ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, NEW FACES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THE PROCESS OF HAMMERING OUT A CONSTITUTION FOR POST 1997 HONG KONG, THE BASIC LAW, HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. BUT FEARS PERSIST IN SOME QUARTERS THAT HONG KONG'S PROMISED AUTONOMY MAY BE COMPROMISED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

THESE AND MANY MORE ISSUES HAVE BEEN EVERYDAY CONCERNS FOR THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND IN THIS SPECIAL PROGRAMME HE TALKS ABOUT THEM WITH TWO DISTINGUISHED TELEVISION JOURNALISTS, BETTY LIU OF TVB AND CHRIS BALE OF ATV.

BALE: SIR DAVID, 1988 HAS BEEN YOUR FIRST FULL YEAR AS GOVERNOR. LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR, WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: I TEND NOT TO SEE THINGS IN TERMS OF WHAT I PERSONALLY AS A SINGLE PERSON ACHIEVE BUT MORE WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING. I WOULD LOOK ON THIS AS BEING A VERY EVENTFUL YEAR. I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY TRUE OF MOST YEARS IN HONG KONG, THEY ARE EVENTFUL. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE, IT ADDS UP TO A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SERIES OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND A LOT OF THINGS IN WHICH WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD. LET ME JUST PICK OUT SOME OF THOSE.

THE ECONOMY, THAT IS GOING WELL. THE RATE OF INCREASE OF EXPORTS IS NOT AS HIGH AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. THE RATE OF GROWTH WON'T BE AS HIGH AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. THAT IS A GOOD THING. WE WERE OVERHEATING IN THE ECONOMY WITH 13 PER CENT GROWTH IN REAL TERMS AFTER 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. SO THE ECONOMY IS GOING REASONABLY WELL, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PROBLEMS AS CHRIS HILTON WAS MENTIONING JUST NOW.

MAJOR DECISIONS ON THINGS LIKE THE INFRASTRUCTURE: THE DECISION WAS TAKEN THIS YEAR TO GO AHEAD ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL; THE DECISION WAS TAKEN ON THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL. ALL THESE ARE MAJOR LONG-TERM PLANS. OTHER THINGS, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. WE HAD A VERY LONG DEBATE IN 1987, A GREAT DEAL SAID ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. WE HAVE NOW TAKEN A FIRM DECISION FOR A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN 1991 WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS.

WE HAVE TACKLED, FACED AND TACKLED, PROBLEMS LIKE THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE ISSUE. WE HAVEN'T SOLVED IT, BUT WE ARE FACING UP TO IT AND LOOKING FOR WAYS IN WHICH WE SHOULD TRY TO DEAL WITH IT. AND WE HAVE LOOKED AHEAD TO MAJOR PLANS FOR THE LONG-TERM FUTURE IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT LIMIT US TO THAT DATE 1997 BUT LOOKS WELL BEYOND IT; THINKING IN TERMS OF THE DECISION NEXT YEAR ON THE AIRPORT, THE DECISION ON PORT EXPANSION.

SO I WOULD SAY IN GENERAL TERMS A LOT OF PROBLEMS FACED, SOLUTIONS LOOKED FOR, A NUMBER OF THOSE THINGS ALREADY TACKLED, OTHER THINGS TO BE TACKLED NEXT YEAR.

LIU: SIR DAVID, HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS HONG KONG'S POLITICAL CLIMATE AT THIS POINT? WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE LATEST BASIC LAW PROPOSAL, CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE VOICED THEIR CONCERNS ON A NUMBER OF HUNGER STRIKES, AND ABOUT 50,000 PEOPLE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE LEAVING HONG KONG THIS YEAR. ARE THESE DEVELOPMENTS GOOD FOR HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: I WOULDN'T PUT ALL THESE THINGS TOGETHER NECESSARILY. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE IN HONG KONG. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL MORE DEBATE ACTUALLY LAST YEAR.

LET'S TAKE THE BASIC LAW FOR INSTANCE. THE INTERESTING POINT ABOUT THAT, I THOUGHT, WAS THE WAY IN WHICH THE FORMULATION OF THE BASIC LAW HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A VERY OPEN PROCESS. WE HAVE HAD TWO GROUPS OF MAINLAND DRAFTERS COMING DOWN TO HONG KONG, TRYING TO SEEK HONG KONG OPINIONS; A LOT OF OPINIONS PUT FORWARD. PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR A SECOND DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF MOST OF THOSE OPINIONS PUT FORWARD IN HONG KONG, AND I AM TALKING HERE ABOUT THE MAIN TEXT OF THE BASIC LAW, NOT THE ANNEXES ON THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE AFTER 1997. SO, THAT HAS BEEN A MAJOR PART OF WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON.

OF COURSE IN ANY POLITICAL DEBATE YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OR WHO ARE PUTTING FORWARD NEW IDEAS. THERE IS A LOT THAT IS HEALTHY IN THAT. WE ARE A VERY ACTIVE SOCIETY, ONE WHICH TAKES A LOT OF INTEREST NOW IN POLITICAL MATTERS, SO THERE IS A LOT THAT IS HEALTHY IN THAT.

NOW YOUR SECOND PART WAS PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG, AND I DON'T THINK THAT THESE TWO NECESSARILY GO TOGETHER. I HAVE SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT HONG KONG IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE HAVE COME IN AND PEOPLE HAVE MOVED ON. THAT IS SOMETHING TRADITIONAL ABOUT HONG KONG. THE NUMBERS LEAVING HAVE INCREASED RECENTLY. IT CREATES SOME PROBLEMS FOR US AS A SOCIETY. THEY ARE NOT CRISIS-LIKE PROBLEMS, BUT THEY ARE PROBLEMS WE HAVE TO LOOK AT AND SEE IF THERE ARE WAYS THAT WE CAN TACKLE THEM.

I DON'T MYSELF THINK WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE A SUDDEN ENDING OF THAT PROCESS. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE. SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO LOOK FOR AN INSURANCE POLICY BY GOING ABROAD. I HOPE THAT SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO GO ABROAD WILL THEN COME BACK TO HONG KONG TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS FUTURE.

MANY, MANY PEOPLE, BY FAR AND AWAY THE VAST MAJORITY, WILL ALWAYS STAY HERE AND WILL COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, AND WE MUST THINK OF THOSE PEOPLE, TOO.

LIU: THE EARLY 1990'S APPEAR TO BE THE WATERSHED IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997. AS YOU HAVE JUST MENTIONED, THE BASIC LAW WILL BE PROMULGATED, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE EXPECT TO DECIDE THEN WHETHER TO LEAVE OR NOT, AND INVESTORS ARE ALSO ADOPTING A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. NOW WHAT SORT OF CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE NEEDED?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I WOULD PICK YOU UP ON THAT INVESTORS ARE ADOPTING A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE.

LIU: FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT.

GOVERNOR: WELL, NO, LOOK AT THE LONG TERM INVESTMENT. TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL I MENTIONED A MOMENT AGO. THAT IS A VERY LARGE, VERY LONG TERM INVESTMENT. THE SECOND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IS VERY LARGE, VERY LONG TERM. PEOPLE WON'T GET THEIR MONEY BACK UNTIL WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. THE CONTAINER TERMINAL IS THE SAME. SO I DON'T THINK IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT INVESTORS ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. THERE IS A LOT OF INVESTMENT GOING ON.

LIU: WELL, I THINK A LOT IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY ARE CERTAINLY ADOPTING THAT ATTITUDE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE.

GOVERNOR: WELL, IF YOU LOOK AT THE FIGURES FOR LAST YEAR OF RETAINED IMPORTS, OF CAPITAL GOODS, WHICH IS ONE OF THE WAYS OF MEASURING THIS, THEY WERE ACTUALLY AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH LAST YEAR. THEY ARE NOT QUITE SO HIGH THIS YEAR BECAUSE THE RATE OF GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY IS SLOWING DOWN. BUT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG AND I THINK THAT IS THE IMPORTANT POINT. IN FACT IT IS A PLACE WHICH IS MAKING SO MUCH MONEY THAT THERE IS A LOT OF INVESTMENT GOING OVERSEAS, AS PEOPLE BROADEN THE BASE OF THEIR INVESTMENT.

LIU: BUT SURELY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE SOME SORT OF CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR VARIOUS SCENARIOS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

GOVERNOR: WELL, I DON'T THINK IT IS SOMETHING YOU TALK OF IN TERMS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS IF WE ARE DEALING WITH INVESTMENT. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO MAKE SURE THAT INVESTMENT IS ENCOURAGED AND PEOPLE GO ON INVESTING IN THE SAME WAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INVESTING UP TO NOW.

ONE OF THE REASONS I WENT RECENTLY ON A TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS PRECISELY WITH THAT OBJECTIVE, TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FOR THE FUTURE, TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG NOW, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO INVEST IN HONG KONG. THAT IS ONE THING.

ONE OTHER THING THAT I WOULD MENTION IS THAT ALL THESE LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT ARE HUGE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG. THEY WILL HELP, I BELIEVE, TO KEEP THE ECONOMY DYNAMIC AND BUOYANT IN THE 1990'S WHEN YOU MIGHT GET SOME DEGREE OF NERVOUSNESS.

BALE: SIR DAVID, EARLIER THIS YEAR WE HAD A ROW, YOU REMEMBER, OVER FILM CENSORSHIP AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A MOVE TO ALLOW CENSORSHIP OF FILMS IF THEY MIGHT HARM HONG KONG'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WAS GENERALLY TAKEN TO REFER TO CHINA.

THEN LAST WEEK WE HAD SOME DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS BEGINNING A SERIES OF 50 HOUR HUNGER STRIKES AGAINST A BASIC LAW PROPOSAL WHICH THEY DIDN'T LIKE. IT SEEMED A FAIRLY MILD PROTEST, BUT TWO SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS SPOKE AGAINST IT VERY QUICKLY. ONE CALLED IT CONFRONTATIONAL. AND THEN THIS WEEK WE HAVE HAD A PRIEST ON HUNGER STRIKE OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE HONG KONG MAN HELD IN A PRISON IN CHINA, AND INSTEAD OF JUST LETTING HIM GET ON WITH IT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN HIM TO COURT.

I WONDER WHETHER THROUGH 1988 WE HAVE BEGUN TO SEE A PATTERN EMERGING THAT THE DAYS OF FREE SPEECH ARE NUMBERED, AND THAT OPINIONS AND PROTESTS WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO CHINA WILL NOT BE TOLERATED?

GOVERNOR: CATEGORIC NO. WE HAVEN'T. WE HAVE A TRADITION HERE OF PEOPLE SPEAKING FREELY. WE HAVE A TRADITION OF PEOPLE PUBLISHING FREELY WHAT THEY WANT TO SAY. A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF DIVERSE OPINIONS IN THE PRESS, ON THE MEDIA, ON TELEVISION. NO SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE SAYING WHAT THEY WANT TO SAY. NO SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE, IF THEY WISH TO, HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS, HOLDING MEETINGS IN PUBLIC.

THINGS LIKE SOMEBODY HOLDING A HUNGER STRIKE OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, THE ONLY PROBLEM THERE IS IF YOU HAD A TRADITION, IF YOU LIKE, GROWING UP OF PEOPLE ALWAYS DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE THE LEGCO BUILDING, YOU WOULD START TO HINDER THE WORK OF LEGCO. THERE IS NO INTENTION TO TRY TO STOP SOMEBODY EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. THERE IS CERTAINLY NO QUESTION AT ALL OF ANY OF THOSE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BECAUSE IT DOES OR IT DOES NOT AFFECT CHINA.

LIU: TAKING YOUR POINT A STEP FURTHER ON THE ISSUE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991, WOULD YOU EXPECT TO SEE THE EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES?

GOVERNOR: WHEN YOU GET INTO A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS DIRECT ELECTIONS, OR INDEED ANY SORT OF ELECTIONS, AUTOMATICALLY I THINK, AND GRADUALLY, YOU GET GROUPS BUILDING UP. NOW IN HONG KONG THEY WON'T NECESSARILY BE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE SAME AS YOU WOULD HAVE POLITICAL PARTIES ELSEWHERE. THEY MAY START AS GROUPS CENTRING ROUND AN INDIVIDUAL, SORT OF LOYALTY GROUPS TO AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT I THINK IT IS A NATURAL PROCESS THAT YOU WILL GET THOSE GROUPS EMERGING. I AM NOT SURE MYSELF WHETHER THEY WILL BE IDEOLOGICALLY BASED POLITICAL PARTIES AS YOU MIGHT GET THEM IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT GROUPS, YES.

LIU: LAST MONTH YOU WENT TO CHINA. NOW HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH THE CHINESE OFFICIALS, HAVE YOU TOUCHED ON THIS MATTER WHEN YOU WERE THERE?

GOVERNOR: I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT POLITICAL PARTIES, NO.

BALE: SIR DAVID, YOU STRESSED IN YOUR VERY FIRST ANSWER THAT GOVERNING HONG KONG IS NOT A ONE MAN JOB, IT INVOLVES TEAMWORK, BUT THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A LOT OF DISCONTENT IN YOUR TEAM AT THE MOMENT. WE HAVE GOT THE GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS ARE UNHAPPY, SO ARE THE DOCTORS, SO ARE THE NURSES. YOU SEEM TO HAVE SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE JUDICIARY. WE HAVE GOT THE AMBULANCEMEN, THE POLICEMEN, THE CUSTOMS OFFICERS, UNHAPPY WITH THE SALARY SITUATION, AND JUST LAST WEEK THE CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATION DESCRIBING THE PAY NEGOTIATIONS SET-UP AS "CHAOTIC". YOU ARE THE TEAM CAPTAIN. WHY ARE YOUR PEOPLE SO UNHAPPY?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I WOULD SAY FIRST OF ALL I HAVE GOT AN EXTREMELY GOOD TEAM. I THINK THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY FIRST RATE. WE HAVE GOT A VERY GOOD CIVIL SERVICE IN HONG KONG, IT WORKS VERY WELL TO DEAL WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS WE FACE. IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ACTIVE GOVERNMENT. IF YOU COMPARE IT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SERVICES ROUND THE REST OF THE WORLD, OR IF I COMPARE IT WITH OTHER BUREAUCRACIES THAT I HAVE WORKED IN, I THINK THIS IS A FIRST RATE BUREAUCRACY AND I AM PROUD TO BE TEAM LEADER, TO USE YOUR WORDS.

NOW OF COURSE WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS AND MOST ORGANISATIONS TEND TO HAVE PROBLEMS ABOUT PAY IN AN INFLATIONARY SITUATION. WHENEVER YOU TRY TO SORT OUT THOSE PROBLEMS, AS WE HAVE BEEN RECENTLY WITH THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, YOU GET PEOPLE WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH SOME PART OF THE RESULT. SOME PEOPLE ARE SATISFIED. SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T COME OUT OF IT QUITE SO WELL ARE DISSATISFIED, AND NATURALLY ENOUGH THEY EXPRESS THEIR DISSATISFACTION BECAUSE THEY HOPE THAT THE TERMS WILL BE IMPROVED. WHAT I HOPE IS THAT IN DEALING WITH ALL THESE PROBLEMS WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM BY DISCUSSION.

LET ME TAKE FOR INSTANCE THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES. THE PROPOSAL IN THE RENNIE REPORT IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO LOOK AFTER THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES. NOW THAT IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES. IT IS SOMETHING THEY HAVE BEEN WANTING FOR A LONG TIME. THAT WILL BE THE FORUM FOR CONTINUING TO DISCUSS ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES FACE. YOU CAN'T EXPECT IN DEALING WITH PAY THAT PEOPLE WILL SIMPLY SAY, YES WE AGREE WITH THAT DECISION, WE THINK IT IS FIRST RATE, AND EVERYBODY SAYS THAT.

OF COURSE THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS PUT FORWARD BUT THE WAY TO DEAL WITH THEM AND THE WAY I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH, IS BY CONTINUING DISCUSSION AND NOT BY ACTIONS WHICH COULD PUT AT RISK THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC.

LIU: SIR DAVID, HOW MUCH OF A DENT WOULD YOU THINK THE BRAIN DRAIN WOULD CREATE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND ITS LOCALISATION POLICY?

GOVERNOR: THE BRAIN DRAIN AT THE MOMENT IS NOT AFFECTING THE CIVIL SERVICE PERHAPS AS MUCH AS IT IS AFFECTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE CIVIL SERVICE IS ACTUALLY QUITE SMALL AT THE MOMENT. IT IS ABOUT 4-5 PER CENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND THAT IS VERY MUCH LOWER THAN THE RATE OF CHANGE OF JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. SO AT THE MOMENT WE ARE NOT BEING SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE BRAIN DRAIN BY PEOPLE MOVING AWAY.

LIU: WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AHEAD THOUGH?

GOVERNOR: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THE MOMENT. I EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE PEOPLE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE WHO WILL EMIGRATE. I MEAN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS PART OF SOCIETY AND THERE WILL BE PEOPLE MOVING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE, JUST LIKE THERE ARE PEOPLE MOVING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. AT THE MOMENT IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF IT IS GOING TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

YOUR SECOND QUESTION WAS ON LOCALISATION. IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WE HAVE BEEN LOCALISING, AS YOU KNOW, FOR A LONG TIME, AND BEFORE 1997 WE HAVE GOT TO LOCALISE ALL THE TOP JOBS BECAUSE THE TOP JOBS MUST BE HELD BY LOCAL PEOPLE, SO WE WILL DO THAT. BUT THERE WILL STILL BE A ROLE FOR EXPATRIATES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE UP TO 1997, AND WELL BEYOND 1997 BECAUSE THAT IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR I SUSPECT THAT TWO THINGS: ONE, BECAUSE THE ECONOMY IS GROWING SO FAST, AND, TWO, BECAUSE SOME OF THE TALENTED WHITE COLLAR WORKERS ARE LEAVING, THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A GREATER ROLE FOR EXPATRIATES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAN MIGHT HAVE SEEMED LIKELY, LET'S SAY, FIVE YEARS AGO.

BALE: LET'S FOLLOW UP THIS BUSINESS OF EMIGRATION. YOU ADMITTED EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT FORTY TO FIFTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG THIS YEAR, SOME PEOPLE EVEN SUGGEST THE ESTIMATES MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THAT. BUT IT IS TRUE, ISN'T IT, THAT MILLIONS MORE WOULD GO IF ONLY THEY HAD THE MONEY OR THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO GAIN THEM ENTRY TO ANOTHER COUNTRY OVERSEAS, AND SO THAT THE BRAIN DRAIN OR EMIGRATION, CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, IS BASICALLY JUST A SYMPTOM OF A MUCH MORE GENERAL SICKNESS THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DO NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

GOVERNOR: I WOULDN'T PUT IT LIKE THAT MYSELF, AND FIRST OF ALL I WOULDN'T SAY I ADMITTED THAT THERE WOULD BE 45,000 OR FORTY TO FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND. WHAT THAT WAS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATE WE COULD, SO IT WAS A POSITIVE ATTEMPT TO TRY TO PIN DOWN THE FIGURES SO WE WEREN'T DEALING WITH RUMOUR BUT WE WERE DEALING WITH HARD FACT.

THERE PROBABLY ARE MORE PEOPLE WHO THINK ABOUT GOING THAN ACTUALLY GO. IT IS THE SORT OF THING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT, AND PARTICULARLY FROM CERTAIN SECTORS OF SOCIETY THEY TALK ABOUT IT. MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT IT WILL NEVER ACTUALLY GO, JUST AS IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES PEOPLE TALK ABOUT, SAY FROM BRITAIN THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF TALK ABOUT EMIGRATING TO AUSTRALIA IN THE 1950'S AND 1960'S. MOST WHO TALKED DIDN'T ACTUALLY GO.

AND IT WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE IN HONG KONG THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WON'T GO, SO WE MUST THINK OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO STAY HERE; PEOPLE WHO EITHER WOULD LIKE TO GO BUT CAN'T, OR MANY, MANY PEOPLE, THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO HONG KONG, AND WANT TO WORK TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG DOES HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

BALE: SIR DAVID, SOMEBODY WATCHING THIS PROGRAMME MAY FEEL, WELL, YOU WOULD TALK ABOUT COMMITMENT, YOU WOULD TALK ABOUT CONFIDENCE, I MEAN THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAID TO DO, YOU HAVE A BRITISH PASSPORT, YOU WON'T BE HERE IN 1998. BUT THE VIEWER, PERHAPS WORKING IN A MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OR HAVING HIS OWN SMALL BUSINESS, DEALING EVERY DAY WITH COUNTERPARTS IN CHINA, SEEING THE CORRUPTION, SEEING THE INEFFICIENCY, SEEING THE BUREAUCRACY, AND THEN COMPARING THAT WITH WHAT HE SEES IN HONG KONG, CANNOT LOOK TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WITH CONFIDENCE. HE LOOKS FORWARD WITH FEAR OR DESPAIR.

GOVERNOR: WELL, I HOPE IT IS NOT TRUE THAT ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WATCHING THIS PROGRAMME FROM THE PLACES THAT YOU SUGGEST ARE LOOKING FORWARD WITH FEAR OR WITH WORRY.

THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT CHANGE, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND. THAT I SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE. IT IS NOT SIMPLY BY JOB, IT IS MY OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THAT. WE FACE A CERTAIN HISTORICAL MOMENT FOR HONG KONG. MANY PEOPLE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THAT CHOICE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE MADE, THAT THOSE DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE WERE NOT FORCED UPON US. BUT THAT IS THE HISTORICAL SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES.

NOW WE, AND I, MUST TRY TO ENSURE THAT THAT WORKS AS WELL AS IT POSSIBLY CAN FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, BECAUSE THERE WILL, IN 1997, BE FIVE AND A HALF, SIX, MAYBE OVER SIX MILLION PEOPLE LIVING HERE.

WE MUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE PEOPLE, AND WE MUST TRY TO CREATE A SITUATION IN WHICH NOT ONLY CAN THEY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, BUT WHICH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, HONG KONG LOOKING AFTER ITS OWN AFFAIRS, ACTUALLY WORKS.

LIU: SIR DAVID, WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR CONCERNS IN MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY; FOR EXAMPLE THERE IS THE LABOUR SHORTAGE, PROPERTY PRICES, ESPECIALLY COMMERCIAL RENTS, ARE SKY HIGH, AND MIDDLE MANAGEMENT PEOPLE ARE LEAVING, PLUS INFLATION IS BACK. HOW DO YOU THINK THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE WORKED OUT?

GOVERNOR: THE WAY YOU PUT IT MAKES IT SOUND MARVELLOUSLY GLOOMY BUT IF YOU GO ROUND THE REST OF THE WORLD AS I HAVE BEEN DOING RECENTLY AND YOU TALK ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, YOU TALK ABOUT 13 PER CENT REAL GROWTH LAST YEAR, 11 PER CENT REAL GROWTH THE YEAR BEFORE, AN AVERAGE OF 8 PER CENT REAL GROWTH OVER 20 YEARS, THEY ARE ASTONISHED. THIS IS FAR BETTER THAN MOST ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD MANAGE TO ACHIEVE.

NOW OF COURSE WE HAVE GOT PROBLEMS. WE HAVE GOT INFLATION AT THE MOMENT WHICH IS UNCOMFORTABLY HIGH. WE HAVE GOT A LABOUR SHORTAGE WHICH IS LARGELY A PRODUCT OF A BOOMING ECONOMY. WE HAVE GOT PROBLEMS. BUT DON'T LET'S GET OVERWHELMED BY THESE PROBLEMS, AND FORGET THE VERY REAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

LIU: WELL, IN FACT THE PROBLEMS THAT I HAVE MENTIONED WERE ACTUALLY RAISED IN A HONGKONG BANK REPORT ISSUED LAST NIGHT SO I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU ARE A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, SAY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS?

GOVERNOR: THAT REPORT ALSO, WHICH I HAVE ONLY READ IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE FULL TEXT, BUT IT SAID THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR NEXT YEAR LOOKS REASONABLY GOOD AND THAT WAS QUITE ENCOURAGING. NOW OF COURSE INFLATION IS A PROBLEM. LABOUR SHORTAGE IS A PROBLEM. THE WORLD TRADE SITUATION, IF PROTECTIONISM REVIVES ITSELF, IS A PROBLEM. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WILL FACE AND TACKLE THOSE PROBLEMS JUST LIKE WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

BALE: SIR DAVID, YOUR POSITION IN OUR SOCIETY, AND INDEED YOUR SALARY TO SOME EXTENT, PROTECT YOU FROM THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION. IT IS NOT SO EASY FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE, AND THE KMB BUS FARE INCREASE JUST ANNOUNCED IS ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF HOW INFLATION IS AFFECTING ORDINARY PEOPLE. ONE FACTOR BEHIND THAT IS THAT OUR CURRENCY IS LINKED TO A WEAK U.S. DOLLAR. HOW MUCH LONGER IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO MAINTAIN THIS \$7.80 LINK?

GOVERNOR: WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING IT, THAT IS THE FIRST POINT. BUT ON INFLATION, YES OF COURSE INFLATION IS A WORRY FOR PEOPLE, WHATEVER THEIR SALARY LEVEL INFLATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THE WAY IN WHICH YOUR LIFESTYLE OPERATES. IT IS ALSO TRUE, SURELY, THAT WAGES HAVE BEEN GOING UP VERY RAPIDLY IN HONG KONG. NOW THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY GET CAUGHT IN THAT SQUEEZE, BUT FOR MOST PEOPLE WAGES ARE GOING UP AT LEAST AT THE RATE OF INFLATION.

LIU: IS THERE A SOLUTION IN SIGHT, DO YOU THINK, FOR THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM?

GOVERNOR: AN ECONOMY EVENTUALLY SELF-CORRECTS. WHEN THE ECONOMY SLOWS DOWN THEN THE FACT THAT WE ARE SUFFERING FROM A FAIRLY SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF LABOUR AT THE MOMENT WON'T BE SO ACUTE. TWO OTHER THINGS OUGHT TO HAPPEN. ONE IS THAT THERE WILL BE A GREATER DEGREE OF MECHANISATION IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. SECONDLY, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FURTHER MOVEMENT ACROSS THE BORDER INTO CHINA FOR CHEAP LABOUR PRODUCTS. AND THIS CAN BE BENEFICIAL TO THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

IF WE ARE GOING TO SURVIVE AS A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY WITH HIGH RATES OF PAY, AND THAT IS THE SORT OF ECONOMY WE ARE BECOMING, WE HAVE GOT TO MOVE UP-MARKET. MOVING UP-MARKET MEANS YOU HAVE GOT TO MECHANISE BECAUSE YOU HAVE GOT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUR GOODS. SO THIS PROCESS, UNCOMFORTABLE THOUGH IT IS WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH IT, WILL IN THE END BE BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG.

LIU: SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT, FIRST OF ALL, THE ECONOMY MIGHT SLOW DOWN AND THEN YOU ARE SAYING TO THE INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THEY WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT IT OUT AND MAYBE CHANGE IN TIME?

GOVERNOR: I AM SAYING IT IS SLOWING DOWN, THAT THE RATE OF GROWTH HAS SLOWED DOWN THIS YEAR. I COMPARED 13 PER CENT REAL GROWTH LAST YEAR WITH THIS YEAR WHEN THE ESTIMATE AT THE MOMENT IS SIX PER CENT. I NOTICED THE BANK REPORT YOU REFERRED TO SAID, I THINK, SEVEN PER CENT. BUT THAT IS A GREAT DEAL SLOWER AS A RATE OF INCREASE THAN LAST YEAR, SO IT IS SLOWING DOWN, AND I THINK THAT IS PART OF THE NATURAL PROCESS. I AM SAYING TO INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THERE IS A NEED TO MOVE UP-MARKET WHICH THEY ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF AND THEY ARE TAKING ACTION TO DO PRECISELY THAT.

BALE: A THOUSAND YOUNG CHILDREN, SIR DAVID, FACE A PRETTY BLEAK CHRISTMAS BEHIND BARS AT THE SAN YICK CLOSED CENTRE IN TUEN MUN. TWO WEEKS AGO THE MEDIA SHOWED US THE APPALLING HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT EXISTED IN THE CENTRE AND WE SAW THESE PICTURES OF CHILDREN WITH HORRIBLE SKIN SORES AND THERE WAS A HEALTH SURVEY WHICH SHOWED THAT OUT OF 100 CHILDREN, 93 HAD MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND THERE WAS SERIOUS MALNUTRITION AMONGST THE UNDER-5'S OF 18 PER CENT WHICH WAS AN ALARMING FIGURE. SOME OF THE CHILDREN HADN'T BEEN OUTSIDE THE CAMP ONCE AT THAT POINT IN FIVE MONTHS.

NOW THIS WEEK THERE HAS BEEN SOME RELAXATION. THE RULES HAVE BEEN RELAXED. PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO MOVE A BIT MORE FREELY AND, AS IF BY MAGIC, THE FANS AND THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED, THE SHOWERS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED, THE WHOLE PLACE HAS BEEN GIVEN A GOOD CLEAN, AND SOME POT PLANTS APPEARED AT THE DOOR BECAUSE THE OMELCO MEMBERS ARE GOING ROUND. SO MY QUESTION IS SIMPLY THIS, WHY DOES IT TAKE MEDIA PRESSURE AND A VISIT BY OMELCO MEMBERS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT TREATS REFUGEES AS HUMAN BEINGS?

GOVERNOR: WELL, LET'S GO BACK TO THE BASIC PROBLEM WHICH IS THE HUGE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE INTO HONG KONG WHICH IS AN APPALLING PROBLEM TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH IN HUMAN TERMS, FIRST OF ALL. BECAUSE THESE ARE PEOPLE, AFTER ALL, WHO ARE NOT TRYING TO COME TO HONG KONG. NONE OF THEM, OR VERY FEW OF THEM, WANT TO SETTLE IN HONG KONG. THEY ARE TRYING TO GO TO CANADA, UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA. THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE CHANCE INDEED OF EVER GETTING THERE, SO WE HAVE A HUMAN PROBLEM OF HUGE DIMENSIONS.

AND THEN SECONDLY A PRACTICAL PROBLEM FOR HONG KONG, HAVING TO DEAL WITH A SUDDEN INFLUX OF PEOPLE, MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COMING IN IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, TO A PLACE WHICH IS VERY OVERCROWDED AS EVERYBODY HERE KNOWS, WHERE SOME PEOPLE LIVE IN CONDITIONS WHICH ARE FAR FROM IDEAL, VERY CROWDED CONDITIONS IN PARTS OF KOWLOON, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SQUATTER HUTS FOR MANY, MANY YEARS.

SO INTO THAT SITUATION WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COMING FROM OUTSIDE WHO DON'T WISH TO COME TO HONG KONG, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH. THAT IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. SAN YICK BUILDING, WHICH I WENT TO SEE MYSELF, IS FAR FROM IDEAL. IT IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO KEEP PEOPLE OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. IT IS THE RESULT OF HAVING TO TACKLE IN AN EMERGENCY AND FIND A PLACE TO GIVE SHELTER TO PEOPLE SHORT TERM. THE SOONER WE CAN GET THE PEOPLE IN SAN YICK BUILDING INTO A BETTER CAMP, THE BETTER, AND THE HAPPIER I SHALL BE. BUT IT IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM AND YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE IT OVERNIGHT.

MEANWHILE, SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE AND IT DOESN'T SIMPLY REQUIRE OMELCO TO GO AND VISIT IT. THERE HAS BEEN A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR CHILDREN TO GO OUT TO BE EDUCATED, FOR PEOPLE IN THAT PLACE TO GO OUT AND GET RECREATION, AND FOR A GRADUAL LIBERALISATION FOR THAT CAMP, AS WELL AS OTHER CAMPS, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN GET JOBS OUTSIDE AND CAN MOVE OUTSIDE THE CAMPS. IT IS A GRADUAL PROCESS IN WHICH NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE REACTIONS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME.

BALE: AS YOU SUGGESTED, IT IS A LONG STANDING AND VERY SAD PROBLEM AND I THINK MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE TOTALLY FED UP WITH IT, AND FEEL VERY MUCH THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS BEING LEFT TO SORT THIS OUT VERY MUCH ALONE. WHY IS IT THAT YOU, AND INDEED YOUR PREDECESSORS, DESPITE YOUR LINKS IN LONDON, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONVINCE THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO SET A LEAD WHERE RESETTLEMENT IS CONCERNED?

GOVERNOR: CERTAINLY NOT FOR WANT OF TRYING. I HAVE BEEN SAYING TO MINISTERS, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SAY TO BRITISH MINISTERS, THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GREATER BRITISH/U.K. OFFTAKE FROM HONG KONG. BOTH FOR ITS OWN SAKE, WE DO NEED RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DEFINED AS REFUGEES, AND TO GIVE A LEAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE IF THE U.K. IS NOT GIVING A LEAD, DOES NOT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMME, THEN IT IS THAT MUCH HARDER TO PERSUADE THE OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA, THAT THEY, TOO, SHOULD INCREASE THEIR OFFTAKE. SO IT IS SOMETHING WHICH I HAVE BEEN SAYING TO BRITISH MINISTERS ALREADY, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SAY TO BRITISH MINISTERS.

LIU: SIR DAVID, WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO DO WITH THE LRT? THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF PROMISES ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS, AND YET ACCIDENTS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO USE THE SERVICE BECAUSE THE OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAVE BEEN CUT. NOW WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO PEOPLE IN TUEN MUN?

GOVERNOR: WHEN YOU HAVE A NEW SYSTEM OF TRANSPORT LIKE THE LRT, IT ALWAYS TAKES TIME FOR PEOPLE TO GET USED TO IT. IT TAKES TIME FOR DRIVERS TO GET USED TO IT, IT TAKES TIME FOR THE OPERATION ITSELF TO BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE AND TO WORK OUT WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. WE DID FACE QUITE A LOT OF TEETHING PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE SYSTEM HAD TO BE DELAYED WHILE SOME OF THOSE PROBLEMS WERE DEALT WITH.

MY IMPRESSION IS THAT NOW THE SITUATION IS VERY MUCH BETTER. SOME OF THOSE TEETHING PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH. THE PEOPLE OF TUEN MUN, PASSENGERS AND DRIVERS ALIKE, ARE NOW MUCH MORE USED TO THE LRT, AND THAT IS THE SORT OF NATURAL PROCESS YOU WOULD EXPECT. ACCIDENTS, ACCIDENTS ARE TRAGIC BUT ROAD ACCIDENTS, SADLY, HAPPEN THE WHOLE TIME SO WE SHOULDN'T SEPARATE OUT THE LRT AS THOUGH IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ROAD PROBLEMS.

LIU: I UNDERSTAND WE HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION, AND THAT IS WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR?

GOVERNOR: MY PERSONAL PRIORITIES, OR THE PRIORITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

LIU: FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

GOVERNOR: FOR THE GOVERNMENT, I LAID OUT QUITE A LOT TO THOSE PRIORITIES IN MY LEGCO SPEECH. THEY ARE TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE LONG-TERM DECISIONS. ONE OF THE MAIN ONES IS THE AIRPORT. THAT IS A HUGE STRATEGIC DECISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THE PORT IS ANOTHER ONE. WE WILL HAVE TO GO ON DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE. WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE WATCH AND MONITOR THE ECONOMY VERY CAREFULLY SO THAT THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING JUST NOW DON'T BECOME TOO GREAT, THAT WE TACKLE THEM IN TIME. THOSE ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS.

LIU: ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR THAT YOU FAILED TO IN 1988?

GOVERNOR: WELL, IF YOU ASK ME WHAT PERSONALLY I WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE IN 1989, I THINK THE ANSWER WOULD BE, I WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF MY OFFICE EVEN MORE THAN I DO AT THE MOMENT. I FIND THAT GOING AROUND HONG KONG IS SOMETHING WHICH IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT. THERE IS SO MUCH HAPPENING HERE, THAT I WANT NOT JUST TO SEE IT BUT TO GIVE MY OWN SUPPORT TO WHAT IS HAPPENING, AND I FIND IT IMMENSELY ENCOURAGING WHEN I GET A CHANCE TO GO OUT AND SEE WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING IN THIS VERY ENERGETIC AND, I THINK, VERY COMMITTED COMMUNITY, SO I SHOULD LIKE TO BE OUT AND ABOUT EVEN MORE THAN I HAVE MANAGED TO DO IN 1988.

HILTON: IF I CHIP IN THERE, SIR DAVID, WE STILL HAVE A MINUTE OR SO LEFT. YOU ARE A MAN WHO DOES GET OUT AND ABOUT A LOT AND YOU A GREAT LOVER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. COULD I ASK YOU HOW CONFIDENT YOU ARE THAT HONG KONG IS GOING TO REMAIN THE PLEASANT AND GREEN PLACE THAT SO MUCH OF IT IS TODAY?

GOVERNOR: I AM DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT IT DOES. I MEAN, SOME OF THOSE COUNTRY PARKS WHERE YOU AND I HAVE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER AT WEEKENDS ARE SUPERB AND WE HAVE GOT ABOUT, WHAT IS IT, 40 PER CENT OF THE WHOLE TERRITORY IS COUNTRY PARK. WE NEED TO KEEP THAT AS A FORM OF RECREATION, AS A LUNG AS IT WERE FOR THE COMMUNITY, SO WE HAVE TO PRESERVE THAT. AND THEN WE HAVE TO DO MORE THAN THAT, WE HAVE TO IMPROVE WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY GOT AND THIS IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION WHICH I HAVE DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO. THE TIME HAS NOW COME WHEN I BELIEVE THE COMMUNITY WANTS THE ENVIRONMENT TO BE IMPROVED AND THE COMMUNITY IS PREPARED TO SPEND A GREATER PART OF OUR RESOURCES DOING IT. AND THAT EXACTLY FITS IN WITH MY OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DO PRECISELY THE SAME THING.

HILTON: WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR DAVID, FOR COMING ALONG AND TALKING TO US TODAY AND ALSO TO YOUR STALWART INTERVIEWERS, BETTY LIU AND CHRIS BALE. TO THE THREE OF YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.