



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS FOR QUESTION TIME WITH GOVERNOR	1
STI COMMENTS ON SENATE'S MFN VOTE	2
RELAXATION OF RENT CONTROL WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT : SURVEY	2
BLITZ ON UNATTENDED DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES	4
TWO MORE AIDS CASES CONFIRMED	5
\$10B TO BE SPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS THIS YEAR	5
NEW TYPHOON SHELTER TO OPEN IN YAU MA TEI	6
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOY SAFETY BILL	7
RETAIL SALES VALUE IN JULY ON INCREASE	8
FESTIVAL HK LAUNCHED IN CALGARY	11
U.S. EXPERT TO ADVISE ON STUDENT PROBLEMS	12
SIXTH LAUNCH ADDED TO IMMIGRATION FLEET	13
TENDERS INVITED FOR CHA KWO LING RECLAMATION PROJECT	13
UC COMPLEX FOR SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS	14
TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO BE UPGARDED	14
CONTRACTORS INVITED TO SEEK PREQUALIFICATION FOR WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY WORKS	15
KIU YAM STREET TO GET FACE-LIFT	15
TAM LANE TO BE RESUMED AND REPAIRED	16
COUNTRY PARK VISITORS URGED TO PREVENT HILL FIRES	16
INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES SHOULD BE PROPERLY STORED	17
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PRAISED FOR AFTERCARE SERVICES	18
207 YOUNGSTERS WIN DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS	19
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	20

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 1 -

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS FOR QUESTION TIME WITH GOVERNOR

* * * * *

OWING TO OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO THE TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS -- "QUESTION TIME WITH THE GOVERNOR" -- TWO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 13 AND 16 AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AND THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI RESPECTIVELY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ATTEND THE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS CAN OBTAIN FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FROM 10 AM NEXT WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 7).

THE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING URBTX OUTLETS:

- * CITY HALL
- * HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE
- * HONG KONG COLISEUM
- * HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS
- * HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE
- * QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM
- * SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE
- * SAI WAN HO CIVIC CENTRE
- * NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE
- * TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL
- * SHA TIN TOWN HALL
- * TUEN MUN TOWN HALL
- * TOM LEE MUSIC COMPANY (CAMERON LANE BRANCH, MAN YEE BUILDING BRANCH, TAIKOO SHING BRANCH, CAUSEWAY BAY BRANCH, SHA TIN BRANCH AND TSUEN WAN BRANCH)

THE TICKETS, LIMITED TO TWO PER PERSON, WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE GOVERNOR ON HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 7. INTERPRETATION FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

THE FIRST OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL ON OCTOBER 13 (TUESDAY) FROM 5.45 PM TO 7.15 PM.

THE OTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON OCTOBER 16 (FRIDAY) FROM 5.45 PM TO 7.15 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 2 -

STI COMMENTS ON SENATE'S MFN VOTE

* * * * *

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, WELCOMED THE NEWS EARLY THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING THAT THE U. S. PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) CONDITIONALITY BILL HAD BEEN SUSTAINED IN THE SENATE.

"THE VOTE FELL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIRED TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO. THE BILL IS DEAD," MISS YUE SAID.

UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE MATTER. THE PRESIDENT HAS TO RENEW MFN TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA EVERY YEAR UNDER PRESENT U.S. LAW. HE HAS TO DO SO BY JUNE 3 EVERY YEAR.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE TO THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS JUST HOW DAMAGING WITHDRAWAL OR CONDITIONING OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS WOULD BE TO HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE BILL ATTACHING CONDITIONS TO THE RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS HAS BEEN SUSTAINED.

THE U.S. SENATE VOTE ON THURSDAY WAS 59 TO 40. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED BY 345 TO 74 TO OVERRIDE THE VETO ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 30).

- - - - 0 - - - -

RELAXATION OF RENT CONTROL WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT: SURVEY

* * * * *

THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR BARRY WOODROFFE, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID EVEN INCLUDING PRE-WAR PREMISES, ONLY ABOUT 50,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 150,000 PEOPLE WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PHASING OUT OF RENT CONTROL.

A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY HIS DEPARTMENT REVEALED THAT ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS HAD ONE OR MORE PERSONS IN THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE AGE GROUP OF 15 - 59 AND ONLY EIGHT PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WERE OCCUPIED BY PEOPLE AGED OVER 70.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH, MR WOODROFFE SAID THE FIGURES OF AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS AND PEOPLE WERE WELL BELOW SOME OF THE PUBLISHED CLAIMS OF CERTAIN INTEREST GROUPS.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT PROJECTIONS BY THE INTEREST GROUPS OF FUTURE HARDSHIP FOR MANY OF THE AFFECTED TENANTS ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED.

"THE AVERAGE RENT NOW BEING PAID BY FOR WHOLE FLATS IS \$3,300 PER MONTH WHICH IS ABOUT 63 PER CENT OF THE MARKET RENT," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE POOREST SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY - THOSE RENTING BED SPACES OR SINGLE ROOMS, MR WOODROFFE SAID THE SURVEY INDICATED THAT THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 2,100 BED SPACES AND 10,000 SINGLE ROOMS CURRENTLY PROTECTED BY PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE.

MR WOODROFFE ADDED THAT 86 PER CENT OF THE AFFECTED BED SPACES HAD RENTS UNDER \$400 AND 70 PER CENT OF SINGLE ROOMS LET FOR LESS THAN \$1,000 A MONTH.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE DECONTROL PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON TENANTS OF THESE SUB-DIVIDED PREMISES IN 1993.

IN 1994, THEY WOULD ONLY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL RENT PAYMENTS OF ABOUT \$35 PER BED SPACE AND \$74 PER SINGLE ROOM WHICH WOULD BE ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF THE OCCUPANT'S INCOME.

"IF THIS CAUSES HARDSHIP, TENANTS CAN APPLY FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS."

IF A SINGLE PERSON WHOSE INCOME WAS SO LOW THAT HE COULD NOT AFFORD THE RENT, THAT TENANT WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN UP TO \$743 A MONTH IN ADDITION TO BASIC PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CURRENT CONTROLLED RENTS OF WHOLE FLATS AT \$3,300 A MONTH REPRESENTED ABOUT 23 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND THAT THE RATIO FOR SUB-DIVIDED PREMISES WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER - IN PARTICULAR FOR BED SPACES WHERE IT WAS ONLY SEVEN PER CENT.

AS REGARDS PRE-WAR PREMISES, HE SAID GOVERNMENT PROPOSED A SIMILAR SERIES OF GRADUAL INCREASES TO BRING THE RENTALS UP TO MARKET LEVELS.

CURRENTLY, THE CONTROLLED RENTS FOR THESE ARE 48 TIMES THE PRE-WAR RENT - AN AVERAGE OF \$1,675 A MONTH OR 59 PER CENT OF MARKET RENTS.

"THE INCREASE FACTOR HAS BEEN ADJUSTED ANNUALLY OVER SEVERAL YEARS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE BILL PROPOSED A FURTHER THREE SUCH INCREASES.

"HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER THE PERMITTED INCREASES, CERTAIN OF THE PERMITTED RENTS WILL STILL BE VERY LOW SO IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE A MINIMUM RENT PROVISION INTO PART I OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS WOULD MEAN THAT INITIALLY LANDLORDS CAN CHARGE AT LEAST 60 PER CENT OF MARKET RENTS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 4 -

"THE CHANGES TO THE LANDLORD AND TENANT LAWS PROPOSED IN THE BILL WILL, WE FEEL, HELP TO BRING EQUITY TO THE CURRENT SITUATION."

HE SAID THE PROPOSED PHASED INCREASES TO THE CONTROLLED RENTS BROUGHT THEM GRADUALLY UP TO THE MARKET LEVEL, ENABLING PARTS I AND II CONTROLS TO EXPIRE AND BE REPLACED WITH PART IV WHICH BASICALLY GAVE TENANTS SECURITY OF TENURE AT THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

"THIS WILL SIMPLIFY THE CURRENT SITUATION WHERE, CONFUSINGLY, THREE DIFFERENT SETS OF RULES APPLY TO DOMESTIC TENANCIES.

"THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR TENANTS WHERE PREMISES ARE REQUIRED BY LANDLORDS FOR REDEVELOPMENT."

MR WOODROFFE SAID FURTHER DELAY COULD COST AFFECTED TENANTS DEARLY AS THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WOULD ROUGHLY DOUBLE THE CURRENT STATUTORY COMPENSATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BLITZ ON UNATTENDED DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES

* * * *

FIRE OFFICERS LAST (THURSDAY) NIGHT RAIDED SEVERAL PLACES IN YAU MA TEI AND TUEN MUN TO CHECK UNATTENDED VEHICLES CARRYING CATEGORY 5 DANGEROUS GOODS SUCH AS KEROSENE, DIESEL AND PETROL.

DURING THE OPERATION, THEY FOUND EIGHT UNATTENDED VEHICLES LOADED WITH KEROSENE IN DRUMS OR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDERS ON THE STREETS.

IN ALL CASES, THE OFFICERS MANAGED TO LOCATE THE DRIVERS OF THE VEHICLES AFTER SOME TIME.

CASES CONNECTED WITH LPG WERE REFERRED TO THE GAS STANDARD OFFICE.

THE DRIVERS OF THE VEHICLES CARRYING CATEGORY 5 DANGEROUS GOODS WERE ASKED TO REMOVE THE VEHICLES AND THE GOODS TO FIRE STATIONS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE PENDING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST OFFENDERS.

DESCRIBING THE OPERATION AS ROUTINE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE SPOT CHECKS ON THESE VEHICLES AND TAKE PROSECUTION ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE BREACHED THE DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES LICENSING CONDITIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED RESIDENTS TO CALL THE DEPARTMENT ON HOTLINE 723 8787 IF THEY SAW VEHICLES LOADED WITH CATEGORY 5 DANGEROUS GOODS BEING LEFT UNATTENDED ON THE STREETS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 5 -

TWO MORE AIDS CASES CONFIRMED

* * * * *

TWO MORE CASES OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) WERE CONFIRMED AND ANOTHER SIX PERSONS INCLUDING TWO WOMEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST IN AUGUST, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TWO PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED AIDS PATIENTS DIED IN THE SAME MONTH.

THIS BRINGS TO 310 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV INFECTED IN HONG KONG WITH 68 CONFIRMED AIDS CASES.

SO FAR, 43 PATIENTS HAVE DIED AND 25 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 310 HIV INFECTED, 61 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, 210 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, SIX WERE DRUG ABUSERS AND THREE ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY SCREENING TEST WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 30, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 245,735 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO AUGUST, 1,125,709 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 26 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$10B TO BE SPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS THIS YEAR

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND MORE THAN \$10 BILLION THIS YEAR ON THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ON TOP OF THE EXPENDITURE ON THE NEW AIRPORT RELATED PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, AT THE TRAINEES AND APPRENTICE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY'S TRAINING SCHEME THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

MR BLAKE SAID NEW ROADS, BETTER SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE, COMMUNITY SPACE WITH SHARED FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND MANY OTHER PROJECTS COULD BE FOUND IN THE MORE THAN 1,000 ITEMS ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

/"THE GOVERNMENT

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND MUCH MORE PUBLIC MONEY ON HOUSING AND THE RELATED NEW TOWNS INFRASTRUCTURE ALONE, THAN IT IS TO SPEND ON AIRPORT RELATED PROJECTS," HE ADDED.

MR BLAKE NOTED THAT THE VERY HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF THE WORK FORCE WAS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES IN HONG KONG.

"TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO RELY UPON AN ADEQUATE HIGH QUALITY SOURCE OF WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE TRAINING OF ITS TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PROVIDING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES AND TECHNICIANS IN CERTAIN FIELDS OF THE INDUSTRY.

"WE ARE ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGING CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING TO THEIR EMPLOYEES, AN ENDEAVOUR WHICH IS ALSO BENEFICIAL TO CONTRACTORS THEMSELVES, BY MEANS OF LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES."

"SO FAR, THE RESULT IS ENCOURAGING. LAST YEAR ABOUT 400 CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES WERE TRAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND SOME 10,000 WERE TRAINED BY VARIOUS INDUSTRIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," MR BLAKE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW TYPHOON SHELTER TO OPEN IN YAU MA TEI

* * * * *

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER WILL BE COMMISSIONED FOR PUBLIC USE NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 6).

THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (WESTERN REGION) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR LO KWOK-TAI, TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID: "ALL VESSELS MOORED AT THE EXISTING YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER ARE REQUIRED TO MOVE OUT ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 14, EXCEPTIONS ARE VESSELS OPERATING AT THE YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA (PCWA) AND THOSE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE."

"THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SPECIAL LAUNCH PATROLS TO ASSIST OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF VESSELS TO MOVE INTO THE NEW TYPHOON SHELTER STARTING NEXT TUESDAY," HE SAID.

MR LO EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT, THE PRESENT YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER WOULD BE RECLAIMED FOR VARIOUS AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT.

THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE EXISTING SHELTER WILL BE CLOSED ON OCTOBER 15 WHEN MARINE WORKS START.

/VESSELS SAILING

VESSELS SAILING TO THE YAU MA TEI PCWA SHOULD USE THE NORTH ENTRANCE WHERE A 150-METRE-WIDE FAIRWAY, MARKED WITH QUICK YELLOW FLASHING LIGHT BUOYS, HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

LOCATED IMMEDIATELY TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING TYPHOON SHELTER, THE NEW SHELTER HAS A WATER AREA OF ABOUT 70 HECTARES AND IS PROTECTED BY RECLAMATION AND BREAKWATER ARMS.

TWO ENTRANCES ARE PROVIDED AND THERE WILL BE 25 MOORING DOLPHINS.

A MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE ON THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER AND THE CLOSING OF THE EXISTING YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER WILL BE ISSUED TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

COPIES OF THE NOTICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOY SAFETY BILL

* * * *

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO STUDY THE TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY BILL ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL AT A MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS SEEK TO:

- * INCLUDE EN71 AND ASTM STANDARDS AS ALTERNATIVE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR TOYS IN ADDITION TO THE ICTI STANDARD;
- * ENSURE THAT THE PACKAGING OF TOYS IS INCLUDED IN THE BILL;
- * ENABLE A COURT TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO A TESTING CERTIFICATE SHOWING COMPLIANCE WITH THE SAFETY STANDARDS WHEN A DEFENCE OF DUE DILIGENCE IS USED BY A TOY SUPPLIER IN PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM; AND
- * ENSURE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS TO BE MADE FOR TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS UNDER CLAUSE 35 WILL NOT DEROGATE FROM ANY OF THE STANDARDS ALREADY PRESCRIBED IN THE BILL.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE ADOPTION OF A MULTIPLE-STANDARD-REGIME WILL MAXIMISE THE CHOICE OF TOYS TO BE SUPPLIED TO CHILDREN IN HONG KONG," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY FOR TOY SUPPLIERS WITHOUT UNDERMINING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN."

THE AMENDMENTS WILL ALSO REMOVE UNCERTAINTY IN THE PRESENT WORDING OF THE BILL AS TO WHETHER THE PACKAGING OF TOYS IS TO BE INCLUDED.

/"THERE ARE

"THERE ARE SIMILAR SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS IN THE ICTI, ASTM AND EN71 STANDARDS FOR THE PACKAGING OF TOYS. THE AMENDMENTS WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL BE APPLIED TO TOYS SUPPLIED IN HONG KONG," HE EXPLAINED.

A NEW PROVISION WILL BE ADDED TO CLAUSE 25 REGARDING DEFENCE OF DUE DILIGENCE.

"WE AGREE WITH THE AD HOC GROUP THAT THIS WILL SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE TOY SUPPLIERS THAT IT WILL BE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST TO OBTAIN SUCH TESTING CERTIFICATES BEFORE SUPPLYING THEIR PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"WE APPRECIATE THE AD HOC GROUP'S CONCERN ABOUT THE MAKING OF REGULATION ON ADDITIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS UNDER CLAUSE 35 OF THE BILL," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT IF THESE STANDARDS ARE TO BE MADE, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE MORE STRINGENT THAN THE EXISTING STANDARDS.

"WE HOPE TO INTRODUCE THESE AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 4, 1992 UPON RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RETAIL SALES VALUE IN JULY ON INCREASE

* * * *

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JULY, ESTIMATED AT \$13.6 BILLION, INCREASED BY 15% OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE REFLECTED A CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND TOURISTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 10% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GROWTH IN CONSUMER SPENDING ON MOTOR VEHICLES, CLOTHING, JEWELLERY AND WATCHES.

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED A LARGE YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE, BY 28% IN VALUE AND 22% IN VOLUME. SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 20% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS ROSE BY 17% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME. THE LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS DUE TO THE FALL IN THE PRICES OF JEWELLERY ITEMS.

MORE MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES, BY 12% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME; AND FOR SALES OF FUELS, BY 13% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

TABLE 1 TOTAL RETAIL SALES

1992 (Revised figures) July 1992
1991 (Revised figures) July 1991

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES IN SUPERMARKETS RECORDED A SLIGHT DECREASE IN VOLUME BY 1%, DESPITE AN INCREASE IN VALUE BY 7%. SALES IN OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS CONTINUED TO DROP, BY 2% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 19% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH JUNE, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JULY INCREASED BY 4% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE JULY FIGURES IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE OF THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JUNE AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR JULY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN JUNE AND JULY FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF JULY 1992 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1992 AND JULY 1991, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR ARE ALSO GIVEN.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for July 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$13,589.8 million
for June 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$13,094.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR JUNE 1992 AND JULY 1992

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	June	July	July 1992 compared with June 1992		July 1992 compared with July 1991		Jan-Jul 1992 compared with Jan-Jul 1991	
		1992	1992	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)						
	Value	139.4	144.7	+5.3	+3.8	+18.6	+14.8	+21.6	+19.1
	Volume	122.1	127.6	+5.5	+4.5	+11.4	+9.8	+13.8	+13.0
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	113.4	114.8	+1.4	+1.2	-2.9	-2.4	+5.2	+4.8
	Volume	93.4	96.1	+2.7	+2.9	-6.4	-6.2	-3.6	-3.6
Supermarkets	Value	133.9	129.2	-4.7	-3.5	+8.4	+6.9	+12.3	+10.8
	Volume	109.7	105.2	-4.5	-4.1	-1.2	-1.1	+2.1	+2.1
Fuels	Value	135.5	141.7	+6.1	+4.5	+16.5	+13.2	+8.9	+7.4
	Volume	104.5	108.4	+3.9	+3.7	+5.6	+5.5	+0.4	+0.4
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	147.4	155.4	+8.0	+5.4	+25.6	+19.7	+27.3	+23.2
	Volume	119.6	129.2	+9.6	+8.0	+10.1	+8.5	+13.7	+12.5
Consumer durable goods *	Value	175.2	164.9	-10.3	-5.9	+20.8	+14.4	+41.3	+35.9
	Volume	157.2	148.8	-8.4	-5.3	+14.4	+10.7	+32.7	+30.1
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	201.8	187.8	-14.0	-6.9	+41.2	+28.1	+76.3	+70.4
	Volume	170.4	159.2	-11.3	-6.6	+28.4	+21.7	+59.0	+59.8
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	155.9	148.2	-7.6	-4.9	+6.0	+4.2	+15.9	+13.3
	Volume	147.6	141.3	-6.3	-4.3	+4.3	+3.2	+13.6	+11.7
Department stores	Value	119.4	133.0	+13.6	+11.4	+14.2	+12.0	+17.2	+16.0
	Volume	98.9	113.1	+14.1	+14.3	+2.4	+2.2	+6.6	+6.5
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	141.7	144.5	+2.8	+2.0	+20.8	+16.8	+23.9	+21.9
	Volume	148.6	151.0	+2.3	+1.6	+28.3	+23.0	+29.8	+27.9
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	133.0	162.6	+29.6	+22.3	+41.1	+33.9	+19.3	+16.3
	Volume	114.6	140.8	+26.1	+22.8	+28.1	+25.0	+7.7	+6.8

NOTE : * This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 11 -

FESTIVAL HK LAUNCHED IN CALGARY

* * * * *

A TRADITIONAL "DRAGON AWAKENING" CEREMONY LAUNCHED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF BUSINESS, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN CALGARY ON THURSDAY AS PART OF THE FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92.

CALGARY JOINS TORONTO, MONTREAL, OTTAWA AND VANCOUVER IN HOSTING THE LARGEST EVER OVERSEAS PROMOTION STAGED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

MORE THAN 17 FESTIVAL EVENTS INCLUDING A TRADE SHOW, A DRAGON BOAT RACE AND A CHINA TOWN CARNIVAL ARE BEING HELD IN CALGARY THIS MONTH, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS, AND LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY IN CALGARY'S CONVENTION CENTRE WERE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN; SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO; ALBERTA'S MINISTER OF HEALTH NANCY BETKOWSKI AND MAYOR AL DUERR OF THE CITY OF CALGARY.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MAYOR AL DUERR SAID THE FESTIVAL WOULD STRENGTHEN THE HONG KONG-CANADA RELATIONSHIP THROUGH BUILDING UP A DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE TWO CULTURES AND LIFESTYLE.

"I AM SURE THAT THE FESTIVAL WILL CREATE A BOND WITH HONG KONG THAT WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND PROSPER IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

ANOTHER OFFICIATING GUEST MINISTER BETKOWSKI SAID THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL "BRIDGE ACROSS THE PACIFIC" WAS BOTH TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE AND THAT THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL BROUGHT BY THE FESTIVAL WOULD HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON CALGARY AND THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

"WHILE THE EYES OF THE DRAGONS WERE OPENED AT THE CEREMONY, THE EYES OF THE CANADIANS WILL BE OPENED BY THE FESTIVAL TO THE BEAUTY, VITALITY AND SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE," THE MINISTER SAID.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, MR CHAN DECLARED FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92 IN CALGARY OFFICIALLY OPENED.

LATER IN THE EVENING, A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES WAS DEMONSTRATED BY A BIG TURNOUT OF MORE THAN 450 LOCAL DIGNITARIES, BUSINESS PEOPLE AS WELL AS SENIOR FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT A GALA DINNER.

THE DINNER ENDED WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE, WHICH WON LONG AND LOUD APPLAUSES FROM THE AUDIENCE.

THE PERFORMING GROUP COMPRISES 14 TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

- 12 -

U.S. EXPERT TO ADVISE ON STUDENT PROBLEMS

* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED A MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION EXPERT FROM THE U.S. TO GIVE ADVICE ON WAYS TO HANDLE STUDENT PROBLEMS.

THE EXPERT, MISS DIANE RYERSON, WOULD ARRIVE LATER THIS MONTH TO CONDUCT SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS FOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ON HOW TO HANDLE STUDENT PROBLEMS.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, HOPED THAT THIS WOULD HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRAGIC INCIDENTS INVOLVING STUDENTS.

SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION, MR WONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE CONCEPT OF THE WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO GUIDANCE.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE WHOLE SCHOOL, WHETHER PRIMARY OR SECONDARY, THEIR TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS WILL BE MOTIVATED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS WOULD CREATE A MORE CARING AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS, ENABLE EARLY SOLVING OF THE PROBLEMS AND PROMOTE HOME-SCHOOL CO-OPERATION.

"I BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH WILL USEFULLY COMPLEMENT THE SERIES OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROMOTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST YEAR FOLLOWING THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN OVER THE INCREASE IN STUDENT SUICIDE ATTEMPTS," MR WONG ADDED.

AS A FURTHER MEASURE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ORGANISE A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS ON THE WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH, HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG CONTEST OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION WAS SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THIS ANNUAL COMPETITION, WHICH HAS BEGUN SINCE 1913, ATTRACTED 156 STUDENTS FROM 21 SCHOOLS THIS YEAR.

MR WONG SAID THE RESPONSE CLEARLY REFLECTED THE ENTHUSIASM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP IDEAS OF THEIR OWN, TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS AND TO EXERCISE THEIR LITERARY SKILLS IN ENGLISH WHICH WAS A SECOND LANGUAGE TO MOST OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

WINNERS WERE AWARDED BOOK PRIZES RANGING FROM \$200 TO \$1,350.

THE HIGHEST AWARD - THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG AWARD - WENT TO MISS MARY HO WING FONG OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE. APART FROM HER \$1,350 BOOK PRIZE, SHE EARNED A ROUND TRIP TO KUALA LUMPUR.

ALSO PRESENTING PRIZES TO THE WINNERS WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR HARRY GARLICK AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG, DR VERNER BICKLEY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 13 -

SIXTH LAUNCH ADDED TO IMMIGRATION FLEET

* * * * *

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONED ITS SIXTH LAUNCH TODAY (FRIDAY) AT JOSS HOUSE BAY.

SPEAKING AT THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG MING-YIN, SAID THE NEW LAUNCH WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO MEETING THE DEMAND DUE TO INCREASED TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG, CHINA AND MACAU.

IT WOULD ALSO HELP CONTAIN THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BY SEA, HE ADDED.

DURING THE CEREMONY, MR LEUNG PAID TRADITIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE GODDESS OF THE SEA AT THE TIN HAU TEMPLE.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR JOHN YEUNG HIN-CHUNG AND HIS SENIOR OFFICERS.

THE LAUNCH THEN CAST OFF AND SALUTED THE GODDESS OF "TIN HAU" BY COMPLETING THREE FIGURES-OF-EIGHT IN THE WATERS OF JOSS HOUSE BAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS INVITED FOR CHA KWO LING RECLAMATION PROJECT

* * * * *

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL AND FOR RECLAMATION AT CHA KWO LING, ADJACENT TO THE FORMER OIL DEPOT.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 720-METRE-LONG VERTICAL SEAWALL AND THE RECLAMATION OF ABOUT FOUR HECTARES OF LAND, WHICH WILL PRIMARILY BE USED AS A PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA (PCWA).

THE WORKS FORM PART OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS TO COPE WITH INCREASING TRAFFIC DEMAND.

THE RECLAMATION WORK CAN PROVIDE LAND FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE PRESENT KOWLOON BAY PCWA TO MAKE WAY FOR AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS.

REPROVISIONING ARE IN TWO PHASES. THE FIRST PHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED ALREADY.

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT FORM THE SECOND PHASE AND ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 23.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PORT WORKS DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 14 -

UC COMPLEX FOR SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS

* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIX-STOREY URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX ON A SITE BOUNDED BY KWEILIN STREET, KI LUNG STREET, PEI HO STREET AND TAI NAN STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO.

UPON COMPLETION, THE COMPLEX WILL HOUSE A MARKET WITH OVER 200 STALLS, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE WITH 20 STALLS, A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT, UNIFORM STORES, OFFICES, AN INDOOR GAMES HALL, A SPORTS CENTRE, NINE SQUASH COURTS, TWO BASKETBALL COURTS AND A COFFEE CORNER.

WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START NEXT JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1994.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON OCTOBER 23.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO BE UPGRADED

* * * * *

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACT TO UPGRADE AND REFURBISH THE TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE FOLLOWING LISTS OF APPROVED SUPPLIERS OF MATERIALS AND SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS WERE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY:

- * SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT AND SCREENING PLANTS, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD); AND
- * MANUFACTURE AND ERECTION OF MECHANICAL PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT, GROUP II (EMSD).

THE CONTRACT COMPRISES DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND DEFECTS LIABILITY OF THE PROCESS AND ALL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, STAGES ONE AND TWO UPGRADING AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT.

PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CONTRACT SECTION OF EMSD IN ROOM 811, 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE INVITATION NOTICE IS GAZETTED TODAY.

THE CLOSING DATE IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 6. FOLLOWING THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE, TENDERS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS WILL BE INVITED IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 15 -

CONTRACTORS INVITED TO SEEK PREQUALIFICATION
FOR WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY WORKS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM CONTRACTORS TO PREQUALIFY FOR TENDERING FOR THE NORTH AND SOUTH CONTRACTS OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY TO BE BUILT ON THE NEW WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

INVITATION NOTICES ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

WORKS FOR THE NORTH CONTRACT COMPRISE MAINLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2.7-KILOMETRE DUAL THREE-LANE HIGHWAY BETWEEN TAI KOK TSUI AND MEI FOO SUN CHUEN WHERE AN INTERCHANGE WILL BE BUILT.

IT ALSO INCLUDES ASSOCIATED ROAD AND RAILWAY FORMATION WORKS AND FOOTBRIDGES.

WORKS FOR THE SOUTH CONTRACT INVOLVE MAINLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1.5-KILOMETRE DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY TOGETHER WITH AN INTERCHANGE AT YAU MA TEI AND ASSOCIATED ROAD WORKS, DRAINAGE CULVERTS AND FOOTBRIDGES.

CONTRACTORS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION.

APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 FOR THE NORTH CONTRACT AND BY NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 FOR THE SOUTH CONTRACT.

PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS WILL BE INVITED TO TENDER FOR BOTH CONTRACTS IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

KIU YAM STREET TO GET FACE-LIFT

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AUTHORISED THE RESUMPTION AND REPAIR OF KIU YAM STREET AND A NEARBY SCAVENGING LANE IN SHAM SHUI PO.

THE STREET AND THE LANE ARE NOW UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND IS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED.

THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THEM FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT.

THE PROPOSED WORKS INVOLVED THE REPAIR OF THE DEFECTIVE FOOTPATHS, CARRIAGEWAYS AND DRAINS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 16 -

TAM LANE TO BE RESUMED AND REPAIRED

* * * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR TAM LANE IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

TAM LANE IS UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND IS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED.

THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE LANE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JULY 1994.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS AND LAND RESUMPTION CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG; AND AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COUNTRY PARK VISITORS URGED TO PREVENT HILL FIRES

* * * * *

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED COUNTRYSIDE VISITORS TO TAKE EXTRA CARE IN THE COMING DRY SEASON TO PREVENT HILL FIRES.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR CHAN PING-KWONG, AS HE LAUNCHED A COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION DRIVE DURING A PRESS VISIT TO THE TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE.

"THE COUNTRYSIDE IS FOR US TO ENJOY. WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PROTECT IT," MR CHAN SAID.

IN THE LAST DRY SEASON, THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRE CREW MEMBERS ATTENDED 107 HILL FIRES IN OR NEAR COUNTRY PARKS. THE FIRES DAMAGED OVER 158,000 TREES COVERING 1,094 HECTARES OF LAND.

IN THE PREVIOUS SEASON, 187 HILL FIRES WERE ATTENDED.

MR CHAN ATTRIBUTED THE DROP TO THE WET WEATHER AND INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FIRE PREVENTION.

/THE JOINT

THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL AID SERVICES AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE ALSO HELPED PREVENT THE SPREADING OF HILL FIRES.

CALLING ON COUNTRYSIDE VISITORS TO GUARD AGAINST FIRES, MR CHAN SAID TREES AND UNDERGROWTH COULD EASILY CATCH FIRE WHICH MIGHT SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL.

"HILL FIRES NOT ONLY DAMAGE THE VEGETATION, BUT ALSO LANDSCAPE QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND SOIL STABILITY," HE ADDED.

HE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- * COUNTRY PARK VISITORS SHOULD LIGHT FIRES ONLY IN DESIGNATED BARBECUE PITS;
- * SMOKERS SHOULD NOT DISCARD BURNING CIGARETTE ENDS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE;
- * VILLAGERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN BURNING WEEDS AND RUBBISH ON FARMLAND NEAR HILL SIDES; AND
- * GRAVE WORSHIPPERS SHOULD LIGHT JOSS PAPER IN CONTAINERS AND SHOULD NEVER LEAVE BURNING JOSS STICKS AND PAPER UNATTENDED.

MR CHAN ALSO REMINDED GRAVE WORSHIPPERS TO OBSERVE THE MEASURES DURING THE FORTHCOMING CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL.

"ANY PERSON WHO IGNORES THESE RULES MAY CAUSE A HILL FIRE AND DAMAGE OUR VALUABLE COUNTRYSIDE. THE OFFENDER IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

DURING THE ANNUAL COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION DRIVE, THE MESSAGE WILL GET THROUGH TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA, POSTERS AND LEAFLETS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES SHOULD BE PROPERLY STORED

* * * * *

FACTORY PROPRIETORS ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED TO TAKE EVERY MEASURE TO ENSURE PROPER STORAGE OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES USED IN INDUSTRY.

"INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES EXCEEDING 35 LITRES SHOULD BE KEPT IN DANGEROUS GOODS STORES APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES," CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID.

"IF THE INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES DO NOT EXCEED 35 LITRES, THEY SHOULD BE STORED IN SUITABLE CLOSED CONTAINERS KEPT IN STRONG INCOMBUSTIBLE CABINETS OR CUPBOARDS AWAY FROM HEAT," MR CHAN ADDED.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ANY CASE CONTAINERS OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES SHOULD BE PROPERLY LABELLED WHILE THE WORKERS SHOULD BE TRAINED ON THE BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT WORK, INCLUDING FIRE CONTROL.

THERE HAVE BEEN CASES IN WHICH TOILETS AND CORNERS IN FACTORY BUILDINGS ARE USED FOR STORAGE OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS CYLINDERS AND LARGE CANS OF INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS, SUCH AS THINNERS AND KEROSENE.

"THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRACTICE AS IT WILL LEAD TO EXPLOSION BECAUSE OF CARELESS SMOKING OR USE OF UNPROTECTED NAKED FLAME IN THE TOILET," MR CHAN SAID.

"IN ANY CASE, TOILETS AND COMMON AREAS IN FACTORY BUILDINGS MUST NOT BE USED FOR STORAGE PURPOSE," HE STRESSED.

"WE WILL PROSECUTE PROPRIETORS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SAFE STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES," HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCES IS A FINE OF \$30,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PRAISED FOR AFTERCARE SERVICES
* * * * *

A FORMER OMELCO MEMBER, SIR OSWALD CHEUNG, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRAISED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN ITS AFTERCARE SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE FOR 73 ASSISTANT OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, SIR OSWALD SAID STATISTICS INDICATED THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF SUPERVISEES HAD REMAINED FREE FROM CRIME DURING THEIR SUPERVISION PERIOD.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY PURSUING THE EXTENSION OF AFTERCARE SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF ADULT PRISONERS SO AS TO PROVIDE EX-OFFENDERS WITH AN APPROPRIATE FORM OF CONTROL AND HELP AS THEY REINTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY.

SIR OSWALD TOLD THOSE ON PARADE THAT A CAREER WITH THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS BY NO MEANS AN EASY ONE.

"OVERCROWDING IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS CAUSED BY THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAS BEEN, AND WILL REMAIN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS DAILY ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS.

"ALREADY WE HAVE SEEN AN UPSURGE IN THE CRIME RATE OVER THE PAST YEARS AND AN INCREASING CRIMINAL SOPHISTICATION IN OFFENDERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE RUTHLESS," HE SAID.

- 19 -

THE NUMBER OF HIGH-RISK PRISONERS HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW LOOKING AT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES TO CATER FOR THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF PRISONERS.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, SIR OSWALD NOTED THAT THIS HEAVY BURDEN HAD PLACED EXTRA STRAIN ON THE ALREADY STRETCHED RESOURCES.

THE DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO SHOULDER ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY ABSORBING VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS FROM SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE WHICH IS CURRENTLY RUN BY THE POLICE.

"IN DOING SO, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS CAN BE RELEASED AND REDEPLOYED TO LOOK AFTER PUBLIC ORDER ON THE STREETS," SIR OSWALD SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

207 YOUNGSTERS WIN DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON 207 DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARDEES TO MAKE PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE GOLD AWARDS.

SPEAKING AT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 54TH SILVER AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY, HE SAID THE AWARD SCHEME HAD DEVELOPED A WIDE VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE AND CREATIVITY AS WELL AS TO CHALLENGE THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PROWESS.

THE ACTIVITIES ALSO FOSTER A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INSTIL IN THEM THE SPIRIT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

AT THE CEREMONY, 56 VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED COMMENDATION LETTERS FOR HELPING OUT WITH THE SCHEME.

MR SUEN URGED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEME SO THAT MORE YOUNGSTERS COULD BENEFIT.

SINCE IT WAS INTRODUCED IN 1961, 20 YOUTH ORGANISATIONS HAVE JOINED THE SCHEME AS OPERATING AUTHORITIES TO HELP ITS PROMOTION WORK.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAD GROWN TO SOME 41,000 LAST YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

- 20 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+980
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,480

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 109.7 *-0.2* 2.10.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.22 PCT	14 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.40	3.16
1 MONTH	2.28 PCT	17 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.93	3.31
3 MONTHS	2.38 PCT	20 MONTHS	2405	5.502	102.98	3.62
6 MONTHS	2.50 PCT	23 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.07	3.81
12 MONTHS	2.97 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,090 MN

CLOSED 2 OCTOBER 1992

----- 0 -----