



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1990

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PEOPLE WITH INITIATIVE, DEDICATION AND SENSE OF COMMITMENT NEEDED
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HONG KONG WILL NEED MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WITH INITIATIVE, DEDICATION, AND A SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO BE ITS FUTURE LEADERS AS THE TERRITORY MOVES INTO THE FUTURE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE GOLD AWARD PRESENTATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME HELD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SIR DAVID CONGRATULATED THE 33 AWARD WINNERS THIS YEAR FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE VERY ARDUOUS PROGRAMME.

"THIS IS NO EASY TASK," SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT IN DOING THIS THE AWARD WINNERS HAD SHOWN THEY HAD INITIATIVE, DEDICATION, AND A SENSE OF COMMITMENT.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED TO SEE THE QUALITIES THE GOLD AWARD WINNERS HAD DISPLAYED IN WINNING THE GOLD AWARDS MAKING THEM FUTURE LEADERS IN POLITICS, BUSINESS, THE ARTS AND EDUCATION.

"WHEREVER WE NEED LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT YOU HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES. GO ON BUILDING ON THOSE QUALITIES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT THE AWARD SCHEME HAD EXPANDED STEADILY NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG, BUT ALSO INTERNATIONALLY.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT LAST YEAR, THE AWARD SCHEME GATHERED YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES IN HONG KONG.

"NEXT YEAR, THE AWARD COUNCIL WILL HOST THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD INTERNATIONAL AWARD FORUM WITH DELEGATES FROM 49 COUNTRIES.

"THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME HONG KONG HAS HOSTED THE FORUM. IT IS AN HONOUR FOR HONG KONG AND A GREAT CREDIT TO OUR AWARD COUNCIL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO ORGANISE THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

"IT WILL BE A SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR OWN YOUNG PEOPLE TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE AWARD SCHEME RELIED HEAVILY ON THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS.

HE PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION TO 11 DESERVING VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED MUCH TIME AND EFFORT TO THE SCHEME'S DEVELOPMENT.

SIR DAVID ALSO THANKED THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE AWARD SCHEME, MR J.P. LEE, FOR HIS HARD WORK IN THE PAST 12 YEARS.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT TOKYO, SEOUL

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON SUNDAY (JUNE 24) FOR A VISIT TO TOKYO AND SEOUL.

THIS IS PART OF A PROGRAMME OF OVERSEAS VISITS BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DESIGNED TO BUILD UP UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

DURING HIS VISIT, SIR PIERS WILL CALL ON SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND CONSTRUCTION CIRCLES IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO BRIEF THEM ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

HIS PROGRAMME IN TOKYO INCLUDES MEETING WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR I. ISHII; PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR FUKUSHIRO NUKAGA; DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ROAD BUREAU, MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, MR HIROSHI MITANI; AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE KEIDANREN, MR NUKAZAWA.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR SEOUL ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 27) EVENING, SIR PIERS WILL ADDRESS A RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR AT TOKAI UNIVERSITY.

IN SEOUL, HE WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE KOREAN FEDERATION OF BANKS AND THE OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION.

SIR PIERS WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY, JUNE 30.

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HONG KONG TO SET UP NEW SHIPPING REGISTER

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THE SETTING UP OF AN INDEPENDENT HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WILL GREATLY ENHANCE HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A LEADING CENTRE OF SHIPPING AND MARITIME COMMERCE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR HUI SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WOULD ALSO MARK AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS FORMED PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM REGISTER COULD NOT CONTINUE BEYOND JULY 1, 1997, MR HUI SAID.

A PROVISION IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AUTHORISED THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND ISSUE RELATED CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION IN THE NAME OF "HONG KONG, CHINA", HE SAID.

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"IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROVISION AND TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IT IS ESTABLISHED WELL BEFORE 1997," HE ADDED.

THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF PLANNING FOR THE REGISTER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT ITS PROVISIONS SHOULD REFLECT THE NEEDS OF THOSE SEEKING TO REGISTER THEIR SHIPS ON IT AND OF THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE, CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND TRAINING OF SHIPS' CREWS, MR HUI SAID.

IN 1987, THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED A STEERING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER KEY SECTORS OF THE MARITIME COMMUNITY INCLUDING BANKERS, LAWYERS, INSURERS, SEAFARERS UNIONS AND THE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TO ADVISE ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF THE REGISTER, HE NOTED.

MR HUI POINTED OUT THAT IN APPROACHING ITS TASK THE STEERING GROUP WAS ASKED TO KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- (A) THAT PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR A GENUINE LINK BETWEEN THE SHIPS ON THE REGISTER AND HONG KONG;
- (B) THAT HIGH STANDARDS OF MARINE SAFETY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED;
- (C) THAT EQUIPMENT USED ON BOARD SHIPS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS;
- (D) THAT THE REGISTER SHOULD BE SELF FINANCING; AND
- (E) THAT IT SHOULD BE RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT - WITH HONG KONG MAINTAINING A STRONG MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES THE STEERING GROUP HAD PRODUCED DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE REGISTER, MR HUI SAID.

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN ADOPTED AS THE BASIS FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION) BILL 1990 TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JULY, HE SAID.

MR HUI SAID THAT THE NEW REGISTER WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO SHIPOWNERS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGISTER OF GOOD REPUTE WHICH WOULD SPECIFY AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS OF VESSEL CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY.

"IN NO SENSE WOULD THE FUTURE HONG KONG REGISTER BE A 'FLAG OF CONVENIENCE'," MR HUI SAID, ADDING THAT LEGISLATION HAD BEEN DRAFTED TO REFLECT THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN ALL RESPECTS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, HONG KONG IS A PARTY TO ALL THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATIONS CONVENTIONS ON VESSEL SAFETY AND SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THESE CONVENTIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY INCORPORATED," HE SAID.

TO MAKE THE REGISTER ATTRACTIVE TO SHIPOWNERS, HONG KONG'S REGISTER WOULD BE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS RATHER THAN ON THE UK STANDARDS WHICH WERE IN SOME CASES MORE RESTRICTIVE, MR HUI SAID.

"IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER FOR SHIPOWNERS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS. THE REGISTER WILL ALSO INCORPORATE PROVISIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF FOREIGN SEAFARERS WHO ARE ASSESSED TO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF THE REGISTER, MR HUI SAID IT WAS THE INTENTION THAT THE FEES AND CHARGES WHICH SHIPOWNERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY WOULD BE CALCULATED TO RECOVER COSTS EVENTUALLY RATHER THAN RAISE REVENUE.

"WE BELIEVE THE FUTURE HONG KONG REGISTER WILL BE VERY COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER REGISTERS, THUS, OFFERING SHIPOWNERS AND SHIP MANAGERS A COMBINED FEE AND OPERATING COST PACKAGE WHICH IS ATTRACTIVE COMMERCIALY AS WELL AS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OPERATING STANDARD," HE SAID.

THE BILL WHICH AIMS AT GIVING THE FUTURE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER LEGAL STATUS WILL BE GAZETTED NEXT FRIDAY (JUNE 29). IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE BILL WILL BE ENACTED IN TIME TO ENABLE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGISTER BY THE END OF 1990.

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BILL SEEKS TO REPEAL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ORDINANCE

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THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ORDINANCE WHICH GIVES THE COURTS POWER TO HAND DOWN SENTENCES OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS TO BE REPEALED UNDER A BILL PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ALSO PUBLISHED WERE REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO ABOLISH CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN DETENTION CENTRES, TRAINING CENTRES AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IN AUGUST 1989 THAT ALL JUDICIAL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

"THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (REPEAL) BILL 1990 GIVES EFFECT TO THIS DECISION AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 11, 1990," HE SAID.

"THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SEPARATELY CONDUCTED REVIEWS ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN DETENTION CENTRES AND TRAINING CENTRES.

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"THE REVIEW HAS CONCLUDED THAT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN THESE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, AND THAT THERE ARE OTHER MEASURES WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE A BETTER REHABILITATIVE EFFECT.

"THE DETENTION CENTRE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 AND THE TRAINING CENTRE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 GIVE EFFECT TO THIS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO CONDUCTED A REVIEW ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN REFORMATORY SCHOOLS, AND CONCLUDED THAT IT SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

"THE REFORMATORY SCHOOL (AMENDMENT) RULES 1990 SEEKS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS," HE SAID.

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BILL SEEKS TO REPEAL PROVISIONS OF HANG LUNG BANK ORDINANCE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING A BILL TO REPEAL PROVISIONS OF THE HANG LUNG BANK (ACQUISITION) ORDINANCE AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION MADE UNDER IT WHICH HAVE BECOME UNNECESSARY OR INAPPROPRIATE FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE HANG LUNG BANK BY GOVERNMENT.

THE HANG LUNG BANK (ACQUISITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 11.

THE BILL PROPOSES ALSO TO REPEAL PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH ARE SPENT OR RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE BANK BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"HANG LUNG BANK IS NO LONGER A GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANK. WE NEED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO PUT IT BACK ON THE SAME FOOTING AS OTHER BANKS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HANG LUNG BANK WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1983 AND SOLD IN THE LATTER PART OF LAST YEAR.

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REVISED SCHEDULE FOR PETROLEUM WHARVES, CONTAINER TERMINALS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED A REVISED SCHEDULE OF PETROLEUM WHARVES WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR THE BERTHING TO TYPE II AND TYPE III VESSELS, AS WELL AS CONTAINER TERMINALS WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR THE BERTHING OF TYPE I AND TYPE III VESSELS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISED SCHEDULE, EFFECTIVE FROM TODAY, WAS MADE UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS (SHIPPING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

"IT REPLACES THE EXISTING FIRST SCHEDULE AND THIRD SCHEDULE ON PETROLEUM WHARVES AND CONTAINER TERMINALS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

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SALE OF THREE LAND LOTS FETCHES \$357 MILLION

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THE SALE OF THREE GOVERNMENT LAND LOTS TODAY (FRIDAY) FETCHED A TOTAL OF \$357 MILLION AT THE FIRST AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT LAND BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

TOPPING THE LIST WAS A 8,400 SQUARE METRE LOT IN AREA 2A, TUEN MUN, FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN, PURPOSES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$150 MILLION AND THE LOT WAS BOUGHT BY LODSIN CONSULTANTS LIMITED FOR \$201 MILLION.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE PLOT RATIO IS 9.5/5 AND MAXIMUM SITE COVERAGE IS 66.6 PER CENT. A BUILDING OR BUILDINGS HAVE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 48 MONTHS.

A LOT LOCATED IN AREA 29B, FANLING, WAS SOLD FOR \$26 MILLION TO EARNLINK INVESTMENT LIMITED. BIDDING OPENED AT \$17 MILLION.

IT MEASURES ABOUT 4,841 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 2,324 SQUARE METRES BY JUNE 30, 1993.

ALSO AUCTIONED WAS A 2,900 SQUARE METRE GODOWN SITE LOCATED IN HOI CHAK STREET, QUARRY BAY.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$90 MILLION AND THE LOT WAS BOUGHT BY DELOSA INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$130 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,530 SQUARE METRES HAS TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30, 1994.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROGER NISSIM, WHO CONDUCTED THE AUCTION, SAID THE SALE PRICES OF THE LOTS WERE ALL WELL WITHIN EXPECTATIONS.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

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OFFICIAL RECEIVER SELLS HK BRANCH OF 'NEM' INSURANCE CO. LTD
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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF NATIONAL EMPLOYERS MUTUAL GENERAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LTD, A UK COMPANY, TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED HE HAD SOLD THE HONG KONG BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY AS A GOING CONCERN TO NATIONAL EMPLOYERS GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD, WHICH HAD AGREED TO ASSUME ALL LIABILITIES UNDER THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE, AND TAKE OVER ALL THE ASSETS OF THE BRANCH.

THE SALE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE HIGH COURT.

THE NEW COMPANY IS INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG WITH A PAID UP SHARE CAPITAL OF HK\$21 MILLION, AND IS A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF NATIONAL EMPLOYERS GENERAL INSURANCE CO. PTE. LIMITED, A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN SINGAPORE WITH A PAID UP CAPITAL OF S\$20 MILLION (APPROXIMATELY HK\$83 MILLION).

THE NEW COMPANY HAD ALSO AGREED TO EMPLOY ALL THE STAFF OF THE FORMER BRANCH IN HONG KONG.

MR GLEESON SAID THAT THE SALE WAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE HONG KONG POLICY HOLDERS AND OTHER CREDITORS WHO WOULD, AS A RESULT, REMAIN FULLY PROTECTED.

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FINDINGS OF STUDY ON FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY ANNOUNCED
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A RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY ON FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY HAS SHOWN THAT HUMAN ACTIVITIES, APART FROM NATURAL CAUSES, HAVE IN RECENT YEARS INCREASINGLY AGGRAVATED THE FLOODING PROBLEM IN THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES.

THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR DONALD MUDD, SAID THIS TODAY (FRIDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD TO ANNOUNCE THE FINDINGS OF THE PHASE I STUDY ON TERRITORIAL LAND DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY.

MR MUDD SAID EXAMPLES OF THESE HUMAN ACTIVITIES INCLUDED LAND USE CHANGES IN THE FLOOD PLAINS, SUCH AS FILLING UP OF FISH PONDS AND FARM LAND FOR OPEN STORAGE, RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN FLOOD WATER RUN-OFF AND DEPLETION OF FLOOD STORAGE AREA.

HE QUOTED THE FINDINGS AS SAYING THAT BETWEEN 1982 AND 1988 ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE FLOOD PLAINS AND FISH PONDS HAD BEEN LOST TO SUCH SPONTANEOUS DEVELOPMENTS.

THERE WAS A CONTINUING RISING TREND OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS BRING FOUND AROUND THE URBAN FRINGES AND ALONG THE TRANSPORT CORRIDORS, HE NOTED.

/MR MUDD

MR MUDD ALSO CITED BLOCKAGE OF THE NATURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM BY REFUSE, AGRICULTURAL WASTE, INDISCRIMINATE LAND FILLING AND LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AS OTHER HUMAN FACTORS INVOLVED.

THE PHASE I STUDY ON TERRITORIAL LAND DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER 1988 IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING PROBLEM COMPREHENSIVELY.

IN THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES, THE MAJORITY OF FLOOD-PRONE AREAS ARE LOCATED IN TWO DRAINAGE BASINS - THE KAM TIN BASIN AND THE INDUS BASIN.

THE STUDY RECOMMENDED THAT MANAGEMENT OF THE DRAINAGE BASINS SHOULD BE EFFECTED BY THE USE OF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS WHICH WOULD COMPRISE A FRAMEWORK TO PROCEED WITH STRUCTURAL MEASURES (SUCH AS RIVER TRAINING) AND NON-STRUCTURAL MEASURES.

THE LATTER ARE MAINLY MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES SUCH AS DRAINAGE APPROVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL, FLOOD WARNING, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY PLANNING.

TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF FLOODING IN NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST REGIONS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE STUDY RECOMMENDED THAT EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CHANNELS, RIVER IMPROVEMENT AND FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS BE CARRIED OUT.

THE COST OF THESE WORKS WOULD AMOUNT TO \$4,260 MILLION.

OF THIS AMOUNT, ABOUT \$2,560 MILLION WOULD BE FOR:

- * PREPARATION OF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS;
- * EXECUTION OF URBAN DRAINAGE REHABILITATION STUDIES;
- * IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED PRIORITY STRUCTURAL MEASURES IN NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES;
- * EXECUTION OF NON-STRUCTURAL MEASURES SUCH AS SELECTED FLOOD PROOFING, FLOOD WARNING, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY PLANNING; AND
- * EXECUTION OF INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR UNIFYING DRAINAGE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE STUDY ALSO ENDORSED THE FULL RIVER TRAINING MEASURES FOR THE KAM TIN BASIN, ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND ESTIMATED TO COST \$1,590 MILLION, WHILE ANOTHER \$110 MILLION WOULD BE FOR FLOOD PROTECTION BY VILLAGE POLDER SCHEMES IN THE INDUS BASIN.

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"IT IS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY WORKS IN STAGES SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS," MR MUDD SAID.

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OVERALL JURISDICTION FOR MAIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE A HIGH SERVICE LEVEL. AT PRESENT, THE RESPONSIBILITY IS SHARED AMONG A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ON THE NEED FOR NEW LEGISLATION, THE STUDY SUGGESTED THAT ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE POWER UNDER A PROPOSED DRAINAGE ORDINANCE WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF WATERCOURSES WITHIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS.

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PADS RELATED PROJECT TO BEGIN IN THREE MONTHS

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PORT WORKS CONTRACTORS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN ANOTHER PROJECT RELATED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS).

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE DREDGING OF YAU MA TEI ANCHORAGE AND KELLETT BANK.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT COMPRISES TWO MAJOR PORTIONS OF WORK. THE FIRST PORTION INVOLVES DREDGING WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 245 HECTARES OF SEABED AT YAU MA TEI ANCHORAGE TO PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT MARINE ACCESS FOR USERS ALONG THE COASTLINE OF CHEUNG SHA WAN.

THE SECOND PORTION INVOLVES DREDGING WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 275 HECTARES OF SEABED AT KELLETT BANK TO PROVIDE A SITE FOR NINE MOORING BUOYS.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 13.

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\$258M CONTRACT FOR GOVT BUILDING IN TSUEN WAN

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED A CONTRACT VALUED AT \$258 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSUEN WAN CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES COMPLEX.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 26-STORY OFFICE TOWER AND A FOUR-STORY LIBRARY BLOCK FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TOP OF A COMMON FOUR-STORY PODIUM.

THE PODIUM FLOORS WILL BE OCCUPIED BY HIGHLY PATRONISED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS POST OFFICE, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE 3,320 SQUARE METRE SITE WILL PROVIDE SOME 18,000 SQUARE METRES OF NET FLOOR AREA FOR OFFICES AND 3,000 SQUARE METRES FOR THE LIBRARY.

IT IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF SAI LAU KOK ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD. AS IT IS CLOSE TO THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND THE NAM FUNG CENTRE BUS TERMINUS, THE SITE IS CONSIDERED IDEAL FOR A GOVERNMENT COMPLEX.

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE AN ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY TO LINK UP WITH ADJACENT BUILDINGS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR JOSE LEI, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1992.

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FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO COMMISSION A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS TO LIMIT ENERGY LOSS THROUGH BUILDING FABRICS.

A NOTICE TO INVITE INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE STUDY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE, IS TO BE FUNDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND ADMINISTERED BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

INTERESTED CONSULTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO DRAFT A CODE OF PRACTICE AND PRODUCE A REPORT ASSESSING THE IMPLICATION OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF COST/TIME/DESIGN AND SO ON.

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A CODE OF PRACTICE AND APPROPRIATE BUILDING REGULATIONS MAY BE INTRODUCED FOLLOWING THE STUDY TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE BUILDING DESIGNS CAN BE ENERGY EFFICIENT AS WELL AS AESTHETICALLY PLEASANT.

INITIAL PROPOSALS ARE BEING INVITED FROM CONSULTANT FIRMS WHICH SHOULD RETURN THEIR PACKAGES ON OR BEFORE JULY 20 TO THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CONTRACTS SECTION, AT ROOM 811, 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE DEPARTMENT MAY CALL FOR A DETAILED PROPOSAL AFTER SHORT-LISTING SUITABLE FIRMS FROM THE INITIAL PROPOSALS RECEIVED.

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RS SPEAKS ON HONG KONG-JAPAN LINKS

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THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN WILL STRENGTHEN FURTHER AS THE TERRITORY APPROACHES A NEW ERA FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TO A GROUP OF VISITING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN TODAY (FRIDAY).

"HONG KONG, BEING AN INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS, TREASURES CLOSE TIES WITH OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ITS NEIGHBOURS, LIKE JAPAN.

"FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE TIES WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS HELPING HONG KONG TO FURTHER PROSPER AND TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AS A REGIONAL HUB," HE SAID.

MR LAN TOLD HIS VISITORS - HEADED BY MR TAKASHI UEHARA OF THE LONG-TERM CREDIT BANK OF JAPAN - THAT THE EXISTING LINK BETWEEN THE TERRITORY AND JAPAN WAS ALREADY STRONG.

"THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE GROWING ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN OVER THE YEARS. AS A RESULT, THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY HAS GROWN RAPIDLY FROM ABOUT 7,000 IN 1980 TO SOME 12,000 NOW.

"APART FROM PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN, THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE GENERAL WELL-BEING OF THE TERRITORY.

"THEY HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY BUILDING AND CHARITABLE WORK, SUCH AS TAKING PART IN THE WALKS-FOR-MILLION OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND HOLDING CHARITABLE CONCERTS," HE NOTED.

MR LAN SAID EACH JAPANESE FAMILY IN HONG KONG WAS AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL LINK, CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO PLACES.

/"ALSO HELPING

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"ALSO HELPING CEMENT THE LINK ARE THE OVER ONE MILLION JAPANESE TOURISTS WHO VISIT THE TERRITORY EACH YEAR.

"THE CONTACTS ARISING FROM THEIR VISITS ARE QUITE EXTENSIVE AND ENORMOUS, HELPING OUR JAPANESE FRIENDS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIQUENESS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG, AND THE RESILIENCE OF ITS PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

ON THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP, MR LAN SAID NINE OF JAPAN'S TOP 10 BANKS HAD OFFICES IN HONG KONG, THERE WERE 15 JAPANESE DEPARTMENT STORES AND JAPANESE FIRMS HAD HELPED BUILD SEVERAL MAJOR HIGHWAYS.

"WE WELCOME JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN TAKING A LONG-TERM VIEW FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG. WE'VE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SOME VERY SIGNIFICANT JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS," HE SAID.

MR LAN SAID HONG KONG ALSO WELCOMED OVERSEAS BUSINESSES TO TAKE PART IN ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT.

"HONG KONG IS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT A NUMBER OF JAPANESE FIRMS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN THE PROJECTS," HE ADDED.

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IMPORTANT YEAR FOR IMPROVING FSD CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
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THIS YEAR IS PROVING TO BE AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR STAFF OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL SECRETARY, MR PETER FINLAY, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR FINLAY WAS SPEAKING TO SEVEN FIRE STATION OFFICERS AND 40 FIREMEN, WHO HAD COMPLETED 26 WEEKS OF TRAINING, AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAT HEUNG.

"WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED A REDUCTION IN (WEEKLY) HOURS OF WORK FOR FIREMEN, FROM 60 TO 54 AND ARE AT PRESENT LOOKING INTO OTHER DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES WHICH MAY BENEFIT FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN," HE SAID.

MR FINLAY SAID THE GRADUATING STAFF SHOULD BE PROUD SINCE THEY HAD PROVED THEMSELVES FIT AND ABLE TO BECOME PART OF ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED DISCIPLINED SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE GRADUATES WOULD SUCCEED IN THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSION WHICH WAS A DEMANDING BUT MOST SATISFYING ONE, AND WHICH WAS INVALUABLE TO HONG KONG.

/"I BELIEVE

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"I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION IN YOUR CHOICE OF CAREER. YOU HAVE JOINED A PROUD SERVICE, ONE WHICH IS JUSTIFIABLY SO, AND I TRUST THAT YOU WILL ENHANCE IT BY YOUR PERFORMANCE AND ATTITUDE," MR FINLAY SAID.

AFTER REVIEWING THE PARADE, MR FINLAY PRESENTED BEST RECRUIT AWARDS TO STATION OFFICER KO TAK-ON AND FIREMAN LAM KWOK-LEUNG.

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FIVE NEW DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES TO BECOME OPERATIONAL NEXT YEAR
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FIVE NEW DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES (DAC'S) WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL LATE NEXT YEAR, PROVIDING 350 NEW PLACES, OF WHICH 250 WILL BE RESIDENTIAL PLACES, FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

THIS WAS STATED AT A MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY) BETWEEN THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALAN WONG, AND MEMBERS OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID SHE PERSONALLY RECOGNISED THE BURDEN WHICH CONFRONTED THESE FAMILIES.

"I FEEL PARTICULARLY INVOLVED BECAUSE OF MY LONG CAREER IN THIS FIELD," SHE SAID.

SHE TOLD MEMBERS OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WOULD NOT PICK AND CHOOSE CASES AND WOULD INCREASE MANPOWER TO COPE WITH DIFFERENT CASES.

"THERE IS A NEED FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION FROM SOCIAL WORKERS IN THIS RESPECT."

MR WONG SAID IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASE OF PLACES, THE SWD HAD ENDORSED A SET OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE STAFFING FOR HOSTELS FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SO THAT A HIGHER LEVEL OF PERSONAL AND NURSING CARE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

"THE PROPOSED CARE AND ATTENTION SERVICE AND ITS STAFFING STANDARD WILL BE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION IN THE COMING REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON SERVICES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

"SHOULD THIS MODE OF SERVICE BE ACCEPTED AND ENDORSED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND BE ESTABLISHED AS THE POLICY, IT COULD IMMEDIATELY BE IMPLEMENTED," HE ADDED.

/EARLIER, MRS

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EARLIER, MRS GOODSTADT POINTED OUT THAT SERVICES FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS ONLY STARTED IN THE LATE 70'S IN HONG KONG. HOWEVER, IMPROVEMENTS BOTH IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY HAD BEEN MADE IN THE PAST DECADE.

IN ADDITION TO DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THERE ARE NOW 11 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PROVIDING RELATED SERVICES TO SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

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CASH ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED PAYMENT OF \$22,871 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO 12 VICTIMS INJURED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON JUNE 4.

A TOTAL OF 29 PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT WHEN FOUR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES COLLIDED AT POK FU LAM ROAD NEAR VICTORIA ROAD.

THE TAVA SECTION IS NOW PROCESSING FIVE OTHER APPLICATIONS. SIX APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED AND ANOTHER SIX WERE WITHDRAWN.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE OTHER DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME. BUT, IN ANY CASE, THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID WOULD NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION AWARDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT MAKING APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SCHEME MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION AT 15 WATSON ROAD, VICTORIA CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY, OR BY TELEPHONING 570 2410.

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CALL TO HEED WORK SAFETY ON GONDOLAS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING GONDOLAS AT WORK SITES.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE FOLLOWING A SERIOUS ACCIDENT YESTERDAY IN WHICH TWO WORKERS WERE KILLED AFTER FALLING FROM A COLLAPSED GONDOLA AT A BUILDING SITE IN QUEENSWAY. THE ACCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT.

"TRAGEDIES OF THIS KIND CAN BE AVOIDED IF ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO PREVENT SUCH ACCIDENTS, THE SPOKESMAN ASKED CONTRACTORS TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING SAFETY MEASURES:

THE GONDOLA USED SHOULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH PROPER RAILINGS;

IT MUST BE THOROUGHLY TESTED BY A COMPETENT EXAMINER BEFORE USE, AND INSPECTED AFTERWARDS, AT REGULAR INTERVALS;

THERE MUST BE SECURE ROOF ANCHORAGE FOR HANGING THE GONDOLA AND THE DRIVING UNIT MUST BE OF SAFE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION;

IT SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A SAFE DEVICE TO GUARD AGAINST FAST DESCENT;

ALL CONTROLS ON THE GONDOLA, THE NUMBER OF RIDERS PERMITTED AND SAFE WORKING LOAD SHOULD BE CLEARLY SPECIFIED AND MARKED; AND

WORKERS CONCERNED SHOULD BE WELL-BRIEFED ON THE SAFE AND PROPER OPERATION OF THE GONDOLA.

IN ADDITION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID WORKERS ON THE GONDOLA ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR PROPER SAFETY BELTS WHICH SHOULD BE ANCHORED TO A SECURE ANCHORAGE OR AN INDEPENDENT LIFE LINE.

"IT IS THE DUTY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE SUCH SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND TO ENSURE THAT IT IS PROPERLY USED BY THE WORKERS," HE STRESSED.

SAFETY MEASURES ON THE USE OF GONDOLAS AND OTHER LIFTING APPLIANCES ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS WHO BREACH THE PROVISIONS ARE LIABLE TO MAXIMUM FINES OF \$50,000 AND \$30,000 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1989, BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS HAVE A GENERAL DUTY TO MAINTAIN SAFETY AT WORK.

PROPRIETORS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE THE DUTY TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE WORK SYSTEM TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

"BLATANT OFFENDERS MAY BE FINED UP TO \$30,000 AND IMPRISONED FOR SIX MONTHS IF CONVICTED UNDER THE ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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PROPOSED CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF LUARD ROAD

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A SECTION OF LUARD ROAD IN WAN CHAI IS TO BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING TEMPORARY ONE.

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

THE PROPOSED CLOSURE IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED WHEN CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINT STARTS.

A FOOTPATH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE PERMANENT REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AND THE SOUTHOEN PLAYGROUND SPECTATOR STAND.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, CENTRAL; THE HONG KONG WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 21 THIS YEAR.

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NEW POST OFFICE OPENS AT HENG ON ESTATE

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A NEW POST OFFICE, LOCATED AT SHOP NO. 232, LEVEL 2 OF HENG ON COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN HENG ON ESTATE, MA ON SHAN, OPENED FOR BUSINESS AT NOON TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS POST OFFICE PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES.

/ITS BUSINESS

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ITS BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM AND 2 PM TO 5 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 641 6374.

OFFICIATING AT THE HENG ON POST OFFICE'S OPENING CEREMONY THIS MORNING WERE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, AND SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG.

WITH THE OPENING OF THIS NEW OFFICE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG IS NOW 116.

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FIRING PRACTICE IN JULY

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 14 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE	TIME
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JULY 3 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 4 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 5 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 6 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 10 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 11 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 13 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 17 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 19 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 20 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 23 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JULY 25 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 6 PM
JULY 26 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 6 PM
JULY 27 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 6 PM

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NEW IDENTITY CARDS FOR MEN BORN IN 1917 OR EARLIER

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MEN BORN IN 1917 OR EARLIER WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM JULY 2 TO AUGUST 11.

"MEN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUP CAN CALL AT ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES DURING THIS PERIOD," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 2, THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS HOURS OF TWO OF THE ISSUE OFFICES.

FROM THAT DAY, THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE HONG KONG AND WEST KOWLOON NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY. THIS WILL MAKE THE HOURS OF OPERATION THE SAME AS AT THE OTHER SIX ISSUE OFFICES.

ALL OFFICES ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

APPLICANTS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

- HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI
TEL. NO. 574 7070
- EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK
TEL. NO. 755 3669
- WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI
TEL. NO. 723 2424
- TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET
TEL. NO. 498 0117
- SHA TIN : SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR, CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE,
11-17 SHA TIN CENTRE STREET
TEL. NO. 605 9108
- YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD
TEL. NO. 477 1543
- TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHI LOK FA YUEN
TEL. NO. 458 0646
- SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR,
82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI
TEL. NO. 672 7191

APPLICANTS MAY MAKE USE OF THE 24-HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE SERVICE BY DIALLING 824 0303 TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED.

"AS THE APPLICANTS IN THE COMING PHASE ARE OVER 70 YEARS OLD, SOME MAY, DUE TO HEALTH REASONS, FIND IT INCONVENIENT TO GO TO THE ISSUE OFFICES AND WISH TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE REGISTRATION FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS.

"THEY MAY APPLY IN WRITING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS REGULATIONS.

"FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION OFFICE ON 824 6111," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AGED APPLICANTS LIVING ON HONG KONG SIDE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN USING ESCALATORS AT THE HONG KONG NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE AT BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, MAY TELEPHONE 574 7070 TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS REPLACED AT THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE -- HONG KONG OFFICE, ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER II, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, WHERE LIFT SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENT, AN APPLICANT NEEDS TO GIVE HIS NAME, IDENTITY CARD NUMBER AND YEAR OF BIRTH TO IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF.

HE REMINDED MEN BORN IN 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 OR 1922 WHO HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR THEIR NEW IDENTITY CARDS TO COME FORWARD WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY AS THERE IS ONLY ONE MORE WEEK LEFT BEFORE THE CURRENT PHASE CLOSES ON JUNE 30.

FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000.

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

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OVERSTAYERS AND II'S FROM CHINA ARRESTED

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS HELD A LARGE-SCALE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT OPERATION IN NORTH POINT AREA YESTERDAY (THURSDAY), AND CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON 160 PERSONS AT 31 PLACES.

DURING THE OPERATION, FIVE OVERSTAYERS AND TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WERE APPREHENDED.

THE FIVE FEMALE OVERSTAYERS, AGED FROM 20 TO 59, ARE NATIVES OF FUKIEN. THEY ARE TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS AND HAVE OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS TO SEVEN MONTHS.

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THE TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, A WOMAN AGED 34 AND A MAN AGED 30, ARE ALSO NATIVES OF FUKIEN AND CLAIMED TO HAVE SNEAKED INTO HONG KONG IN MAY AND JUNE THIS YEAR. TWO HONG KONG RESIDENTS, WHO ARE RELATIVES OF THE TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, ARE ASSISTING WITH INVESTIGATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

HE STRESSED THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BREACHED THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

PERSONS WHO AID AND ABET PEOPLE TO COMMIT THESE OFFENCES ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TSING YI BRIDGE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SUNDAY (JUNE 24) TO FACILITATE STRUCTURAL MONITORING WORK.

THE PERIOD OF CLOSURE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS, FROM 12.01 AM TO 2 AM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM.

DURING THE CLOSURES, THE BRIDGE WILL BE RE-OPENED TO GENERAL TRAFFIC AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS AND IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD BETWEEN YAN CHING STREET AND HO PONG STREET IS CLOSED FROM TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR ABOUT A WEEK TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS AS NECESSITATED BY A WATERMAIN BURST.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, TRAFFIC ON NORTHBOUND TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD HEADING FOR ROAD D2N, INCLUDING NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 43 AND LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT FEEDER BUS ROUTE 559, WILL BE DIVERTED VIA YAN CHING STREET AND HO PONG STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NORTHBOUND BUS STOP ON TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD OUTSIDE TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND FOR ROUTE 559 WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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