



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1987

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HONG KONG DETERMINED TO ERADICATE DRUGS

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS DECLARED POLICY OF ERADICATING DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM SOCIETY.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TODAY (MONDAY) OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

NOTING THAT THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND DRUG ABUSE WERE GLOBAL ONES AND REQUIRED INTER-REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MAINTAINED CLOSE LINKS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN ANTI-DRUG WORK.

OBSERVING THAT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR ILLICIT DRUGS, SIR DAVID SAID THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN GRADUALLY CONTAINED WITH THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC.

"IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF KNOWN AND ACTIVE ADDICTS HAS REMAINED FAIRLY STABLE AT 0.8 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION AGED 11 AND ABOVE.

"THE NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON OUR CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE HAS FALLEN FROM JUST UNDER 4,000 IN 1983 TO WELL UNDER 3,000 IN 1986: AND IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER DECREASE OF OVER 10 PER CENT," HE SAID.

THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR TREATMENT HAD ALSO INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID NO CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUGS COULD BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY HAD BEEN TO ENLIST THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC.

TO DO THIS, EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES WERE ORGANISED EACH YEAR WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS, DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS THE MASS MEDIA.

THERE WERE ALSO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE YOUTH AGAINST DRUGS SCHEME WHICH ENCOURAGED GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO DESIGN AND PUT INTO EFFECT DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECTS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT; SEMINARS FOR PARENTS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIONS; AND FAMILY CAMPS.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, RESEARCH FINDINGS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE AND GREATLY ASSIST THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD PASS ON TO THE WORLD THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE - "TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES, OUR LIVES AND OUR CHILDREN FROM THE MENACE OF DRUG ABUSE, WE NEED ACTIVE SUPPORT AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION FROM THE WHOLE COMMUNITY."

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON MONITORING POWER COMPANIES ACCEPTED

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THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES HAS ACCEPTED A TOTAL OF 17 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS COMMISSIONED IN AUGUST 1983 TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNMENT'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING THE POWER COMPANIES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

RELEASING THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY SET UP IN OCTOBER 1985 TO CONSIDER THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT FIVE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE CONSULTANTS ARE ALREADY THE PRESENT PRACTICE. THESE WILL CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NORMAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS.

SHE NOTED THAT THE CONSULTANTS, MESSRS ERNST AND WHINNEY (EW), SUBMITTED A REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MARCH 1985 IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE. THE CONSULTANTS HAD SPECIFICALLY REASSURED THE GOVERNMENT THAT ITS MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES WAS BOTH ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE, GIVEN THE EMPHASIS ON ENSURING A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AT A COST THAT WAS COMPARABLE WITH THE COST OF ELECTRICITY IN OTHER PLACES IN THE REGION.

"WHILST THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT CONSTITUTED AN INDEPENDENT ENDORSEMENT OF THE EXISTING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS, EW ALSO OFFERED A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE MONITORING SYSTEM COULD BE IMPROVED. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD NOW PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE OF REASSURANCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A POSITIVE COMMITMENT TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES," MRS CHAN SAID.

/SHE RECALLED

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SHE RECALLED THAT THE DECISION TO APPOINT THE CONSULTANTS WAS TAKEN A FEW YEARS AGO AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF CONCERN FOR INCREASED ELECTRICITY TARIFFS. IN VIEW OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SCOPE FOR AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW TO BE DONE, HOWEVER MUCH THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BELIEVE IN THE ADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS.

AFTER CONDUCTING AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, EW CONCLUDED THAT THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN SUITABLE AND THAT THE CURRENT EVOLUTIONARY STATUS OF THE MONITORING PROCESS WAS A NEEDED AND PROPER RESPONSE TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

ON INDIVIDUAL MONITORING ACTIVITIES, EW CONSIDERED THAT THE ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS HAD BEEN COMPREHENSIVE AND HAD FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENTS; AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMISSIONING OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS HAD ADEQUATELY FULFILLED THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO SYSTEM PLANNING.

"THESE CONCLUSIONS HAVE REASSURED US WHAT IS BEING DONE BY WAY OF MONITORING IS ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE," MRS CHAN SAID. "GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IN A CONTINUING PROCESS TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MONITORING SYSTEM, HAS ALSO LOOKED TO THE CONSULTANTS FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. IN RESPONSE, EW HAVE PUT FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE VARIOUS OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE MONITORING PROCESS.

"IN CONSIDERING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES DEEMED IT IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS ARE COMMENSURATE WITH THE COST OF MAKING THE IMPROVEMENTS."

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT ON THIS BASIS, THE WORKING PARTY HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT, TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE CONSULTANTS' 17 RECOMMENDATIONS COVERING SIX OPERATIONAL ASPECTS INCLUDING MONITORING ORGANISATION, LOAD FORECASTING, FUEL PROCUREMENT, PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, AFFILIATED COMPANY TRANSACTIONS AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY POWER COMPANIES.

/THE WORKING

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THE WORKING PARTY'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE:-

- * THE PRESENT MONITORING ORGANISATION SHOULD BE RETAINED, BUT MORE DETAILED WRITTEN PROCEDURES ON THE EXISTING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE PROMULGATED. THE MONITORING UNITS SHOULD EVALUATE THEIR STAFF REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.
- * THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MONITOR THE LOAD FORECASTS PROVIDED BY THE POWER COMPANIES BY DEVELOPING PARALLEL FORECASTS FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARISON AND/OR CONDUCTING A METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE FORECASTS. THESE FORECASTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT SUITABLE INTERVALS.
- * FOR FUEL PROCUREMENT, POWER COMPANIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON FUEL PROCUREMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REASSURING THE PUBLIC, THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD CONDUCT SPOT CHECKS ON INDIVIDUAL TRANSACTIONS AND ALSO REVIEW THE COMPANIES' FUEL PROCUREMENT POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.
- * CONCURRENTLY, THERE SHOULD BE SIMILAR REVIEWS ON PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WHICH COST \$500,000 OR ABOVE PER CONTRACT. THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD, IN ADDITION, CONDUCT RANDOM CHECKING ON INDIVIDUAL TRANSACTIONS.
- * THE PROVISION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INFORMATION ON THE PRINCIPLES AND BASIS OF CHARGES ON AFFILIATED COMPANY TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE MADE A FORMAL REQUIREMENT. THE POWER COMPANIES SHOULD SEEK THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW ON ANY CHANGE IN THE PRINCIPLES AND BASIS OF CHARGES TOWARDS INTER-COMPANY TRANSACTIONS, AS LAID DOWN IN THE INTER-COMPANY AGREEMENTS. RANDOM CHECKING ON AFFILIATED COMPANY TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. MONITORING OF MAJOR TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING COMPANIES' DIRECTORS SHOULD CONTINUE.
- * ON PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY POWER COMPANIES, THE NEXT REVIEW OF THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENTS IN 1988 SHOULD CONSIDER THE DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTING POLICY FOLLOWED BY THE POWER COMPANIES AS WELL AS THE PARTICULAR ACCOUNTING POLICY ON PROFITS AND LOSSES ON DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS. "FUNCTIONALISATION" OF COSTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADOPTED. ON A POINT OF PRESENTATION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PURSUE WITH THE POWER COMPANIES TO WHAT EXTENT THE CONTENTS AND FORMAT OF THEIR SUBMISSIONS CAN BE STANDARDISED.

/THE CONSULTANTS'

THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE RESPECTIVE MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES; REGULAR REVIEW OF THE LOAD FORECASTS; SUBMISSION OF BREAKDOWNS OF FUEL EXPENDITURE BY THE POWER COMPANIES; "FUNCTIONALISATION" OF COSTS IN THE COMPANIES' ACCOUNTS AND MONITORING OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING COMPANIES' DIRECTORS ARE ALREADY THE PRESENT PRACTICE UNDER THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS. THE REMAINING PROPOSALS WILL BE FORMALLY PUT TO THE POWER COMPANIES WHICH WILL BE ASKED TO MEET THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS.

MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT HAD BEEN PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT WITH THE OMELCO STANDING PANEL ON PUBLIC UTILITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S MONITORING ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED OUT BY FOUR UNITS, NAMELY: THE FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCIAL MONITORING; THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH WHICH MAKES ECONOMIC EVALUATION SUCH AS ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICITY DEMAND; THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDES TECHNICAL INPUT ON THE ENGINEERING ASPECT; AND THE ECONOMIC SERVICES DIVISION OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH WHICH CO-ORDINATES THE OVERALL MONITORING PROCESS.

THE CONSULTANTS SAW NO INHERENT REASON TO MODIFY THE PRESENT MONITORING STRUCTURE.

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SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE INVITES SUBMISSIONS
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THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE AREA OF WORK TO BE COVERED BY THE COMMITTEE ARE BEING INVITED.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, MR IAN HAY DAVISON, SAID: "WE WILL BE WRITING TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE FUTURES EXCHANGE, THE HONG KONG STOCKBROKERS ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS AND THE HONG KONG UNIT TRUSTS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS TO INVITE THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THE AREA OF OUR WORK. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME VIEWS AND COMMENTS FROM OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC."

MR DAVISON STRESSED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW WAS TO EXAMINE CRITICALLY THE RELEVANT STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS TO BUILD A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE AND NOT TO ALLOCATE BLAME OR FIND FAULT FOR PAST EVENTS.

/"ALL SUBMISSIONS

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"ALL SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND CONSIDERED. THEY WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. AFTER ALL THE SUBMISSIONS ARE IN, THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO INVITE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE SUBMISSIONS TO ENLARGE ON THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING OR TO ATTEND BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ORALLY," HE ADDED.

IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE, THE SUBMISSIONS SHOULD REACH THE COMMITTEE BY DECEMBER 25, 1987.

SUBMISSIONS MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, ROOM 148, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, HONG KONG.

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ECVII'S TO BE REPATRIATED BY SEA

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SOME 500 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVII'S) FROM GUANGXI PROVINCE IN CHINA ARE TO BE REPATRIATED BY SEA ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 26).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE FERRY, LO SHAN, HAD BEEN CHARTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO TRANSPORT MORE THAN 1,600 ECVII'S FROM HONG KONG TO BEIHAI IN FOUR SEA JOURNEYS.

THE SEA PASSAGE WAS ANOTHER MEANS OF REPATRIATION TO CHINA FOR THE 7,000 ECVII'S WHO ENTERED THE TERRITORY ILLEGALLY IN JULY AND AUGUST BECAUSE OF UNFOUNDED RUMOURS OF INCREASED RESETTLEMENT FROM HONG KONG. MORE THAN 5,000 OF THE ECVII'S HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED BY LAND TO GUANGDONG.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE SOME 2,300 ECVII'S STILL IN THE TERRITORY. OF THESE, 1,600 HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR REPATRIATION TO GUANGXI. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE REMAINING 700 WILL BE REPATRIATED TO CHINA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

HE ADDED THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR VOYAGES WAS SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM GUANGXI WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FROM THE HOI TAI DETENTION CENTRE IN TUEN MUN TO THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER PIER ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON WHERE THEY WILL BOARD THE LO SHAN. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO REACH BEIHAI EARLY ON NOVEMBER 28 (SATURDAY).

/THROUGHOUT THE

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THROUGHOUT THE VOYAGE, THE LO SHAN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A TUG BOAT FOR SAFETY REASONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE MEDIA AT THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER PIER FROM 6 PM WHEN THE ECVII'S BEGIN BOARDING. SECURITY BRANCH OFFICIALS WILL BE ON HAND TO BRIEF THE MEDIA. THE LO SHAN IS EXPECTED TO DEPART AT 8 PM. FULL DETAILS OF FACILITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER PUBLISHED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1987.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCTOBER 84/SEPTEMBER 85 = 100) FOR OCTOBER 1987 WERE 111.5 AND 111.6 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 6.4 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER OCTOBER 1986.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS AND ENDED OCTOBER 1987, AT 108.1 AND 108.4 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 5 PER CENT 4.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1986.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED OCTOBER 1987, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.7 PER CENT PER MONTH, AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(B), AT 0.6 PER CENT PER MONTH.

DURING OCTOBER, SCHOOL FEES, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT AND CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES INCREASED. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL PRICES OF SALT-WATER FISH DECREASED.

/THE CPI(A)

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1987 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987 AND OCTOBER 1986, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR OCT.87	% CHANGE OVER SEP.87	% CHANGE OVER OCT.86	INDEX FOR OCT.87	% CHANGE OVER SEP.87	% CHANGE OVER OCT.86
FOODSTUFFS	108.7	+0.5	+6.8	109.3	+0.6	+6.9
HOUSING	111.2	+0.1	+4.3	108.5	+0.1	+2.9
FUEL AND LIGHT	92.6	+0.0*	+3.8	93.2	+0.0*	+3.7
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	116.8	-0.1	+6.2	117.2	-0.1	+6.8
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	113.9	+0.6	+4.0	115.6	+0.7	+4.4
DURABLE GOODS	113.1	+0.3	+5.0	112.3	+0.4	+5.1
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	117.8	+0.1	+10.1	117.8	+0.0*	+9.5
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	117.0	+0.6	+9.1	115.9	+0.7	+8.8
SERVICES	120.7	+3.3	+6.4	120.0	+2.9	+6.7
ALL ITEMS	111.5	+0.7	+6.4	111.6	+0.7	+6.0

* LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

/COMPARED WITH

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COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(B).

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT, PORK, FRESH-WATER FISH AND LIVE POULTRY AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASE IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SALT-WATER FISH.

THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FOOTWEAR.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND SCHOOL BUS FARES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 3.3 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 2.9 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER SCHOOL FEES.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

FIGURES IN THIS PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR OCTOBER 1987, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.50 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19/F., WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE MADE TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 115.1 IN OCTOBER 1987, UP BY 0.7 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1987 AND UP BY 7 PER CENT OVER OCTOBER 1986.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-\$24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

IMPORTANCE OF HEARING CONSERVATION STRESSED

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THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN, TODAY (MONDAY) STRESSED THE NEED FOR A WELL-ORGANISED HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAMME TO MAKE WORKERS AWARE OF THE TYPE OF HARM THAT EXCESSIVE NOISE CAN DO TO THEIR HEARING.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST HEAVY NOISE IN FACTORIES, MR YIP WARNED THAT PEOPLE COULD ACTUALLY BECOME DEAF AS A RESULT OF PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO EXCESSIVE NOISE.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH WORKERS KNEW THAT THEY HAD A DUTY TO MAKE FULL USE OF HEARING PROTECTORS, THEY HOWEVER HAD ACQUIRED A HABIT OF KEEPING THE EQUIPMENT HANDY AND WOULD ONLY WEAR THEM DURING INSPECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR BY THE MANAGEMENT.

"I THINK THE ROOT OF THIS PROBLEM IS THAT THERE IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE MAJORITY OF WORKERS ON WHAT THE SO-CALLED 'INVISIBLE HAZARD' CAN DO TO THEIR HEARING," HE SAID.

"SOME EVEN CONCEIVE THE PARADOXICAL CONCEPT THAT LOSS OF HEARING IS ONLY TEMPORARY AND ONCE THEY ARE AWAY FROM THE NOISY ENVIRONMENT, THE ABILITY TO HEAR WILL FULLY COME BACK.

"THUS, HEARING DAMAGE DOES NOT SEEM TO RECEIVE THE SAME DEGREE OF RECOGNITION AS OTHER INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS SUCH AS INJURIES BY DANGEROUS MACHINERY OR PERSONS FALLING FROM HEIGHT."

MR YIP CALLED FOR THE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS TO HELP MAKE THEIR WORKERS UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE HAZARD CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE NOISE AND TO BRIEF AND TRAIN THEM ON THE VARIOUS WAYS OR MEANS TO PROTECT THEIR HEARING.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, EMPLOYERS SHOULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF NOISE IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT OR PROVIDE APPROPRIATE HEARING PROTECTION EQUIPMENT FOR WORKERS.

THE CAMPAIGN, LASTING UNTIL FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 27), AIMS TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE TO FACTORY MANagements AND WORKERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NOISE ABATEMENT IN FACTORIES.

DURING THIS PERIOD, "SAFETY AMBASSADORS" WILL BE VISITING FACTORIES IN KWUN TONG, SAN PO KONG, SHAM SHUI PO, KWAI CHUNG AND TSUEN WAN TO CARRY OUT HEARING CHECKS FOR WORKERS AND TO DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF AND THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

COMMISSIONER INSPECTS WORK ON EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, LOOKED AT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

AT THE SITE OFFICE IN CHA KWO LING, MR HAMMOND WAS BRIEFED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CO. LTD, MR Y. MATSUMOTO, AND THE CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CO. LTD, MR R.J. BLACK.

HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT, A COMMERCIAL VENTURE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CONSORTIUM, WAS DESIGNED TO LINK QUARRY BAY ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND CHA KWO LING IN KOWLOON BY MEANS OF AN IMMERSSED TWIN-TUBE CROSSING INCORPORATING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL (MTR) LINKS. WORK ON THE PROJECT STARTED LAST YEAR AND WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1990.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO A VANTAGE POINT IN CHA KWO LING QUARRY WHERE THEY HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE TUNNEL SITE.

LATER, MR HAMMOND WAS TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE LAM TIN STATION, THE HARD ROCK TUNNEL AND THE CHA KWO LING DRY DOCK, ALL OF WHICH FORMED PART OF THE \$3.4 BILLION PROJECT.

DURING THE TOUR, THE COMMISSIONER ALSO ENQUIRED ABOUT THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE ASPECTS OF THE 1,800 WORKERS ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SIGNBOARD CONTROL

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING A REVIEW OF CONTROLS OVER ADVERTISING SIGNS WILL BE EXPLAINED TO A MEETING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED UNDER THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH TO LOOK INTO VARIOUS MATTERS CONCERNING SIGNBOARDS, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING OBSCENE OR INDECENT SIGNS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE OPENING OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR STAGE III, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 28). THIS STAGE CONSISTS OF TWO SECTIONS BETWEEN CHEUNG MOU STREET AND YUEN CHOW STREET, AND BETWEEN MAPLE STREET AND BUTE STREET.

/THE WEST

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THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR IS A PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD LINKING YAU MA TEI AND LAI CHI KOK.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE BY VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE DEALING WITH OLD BUILDINGS, DRAINAGE PROBLEMS, SPECIAL TRANSPORT MATTERS AND THE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT NELSON STREET MTR ENTRANCE AREA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR PROMOTING SPORTS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 25) MORNING TO DISCUSS THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO ORGANISE A BASEBALL PROMOTION SCHEME. THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IS ABOUT \$10,000.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE ASSOCIATION WILL SELECT PARTICIPANTS TO FORM A BASEBALL TEAM AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED A COURSE.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS OF DB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE SHA TIN ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 25) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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REQUESTS FOR DB FUNDS UNDER STUDY
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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND A REPORT ON THE DISTRICT'S ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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MODERN LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT FOR TUEN MUN HOSPITAL
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MODERN LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED IN TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A \$14 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

WHEN THE LAUNDRY BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN JULY 1989, IT WILL SERVE NOT ONLY THE HOSPITAL ITSELF BUT ALSO CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICTS.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO AWARDED A CONTRACT VALUED AT \$685,000 FOR INSTALLING A LIFT IN THE LAUNDRY.

THE HOSPITAL, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1988, WILL SERVICE THE POPULATION OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AND THE NORTHERN REGIONS OF THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES. IT WILL HAVE 1,656 BEDS AND COST ABOUT \$2 BILLION.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 65 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 380.842 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 374.261 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 63.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUTS IN SHAM SHUI PO, CHAI WAN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SHEK KIP MEI STREET, TAI PO ROAD, PAK TIN STREET, WOH CHAI STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING BERWICK STREET, PEI HO STREET, LOWER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE AND NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY.

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CHAI WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 25) TO 10 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY SO THAT WATER MAINS WORK CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES IN CHAI WAN ROAD BETWEEN LOK MAN ROAD AND SUN YIP STREET, INCLUDING LOK MAN ROAD, HONG MAN STREET, CHEUNG MAN ROAD, KUT SHING STREET, CHEUNG LEE STREET, NING FOO STREET, LEE CHUNG STREET, ON YIP STREET, SUN YIP STREET, SUN HA STREET, WAH HA STREET, SUI MAN ROAD, WAN TSUI ROAD, HING WAH ESTATE, CHAI WAN ROAD, CHAI WAN ESTATE, HENG FA TSUEN AND WAN TSUI ESTATE.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN WAN CHAI

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FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 26), WING FUNG STREET WEST WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE WORKS.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD

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THE SLOW LANE OF TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND HO TUNG LAU WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 0.01 AM AND 6 AM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

THE FAST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND PAK SHEK KOK WILL ALSO BE CLOSED DURING THE SAME PERIOD ON NOVEMBER 27 AND 28.

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