



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1992

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GOVERNOR OPENS TAI TUNG PUI SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING

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HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD OF ITS GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUSINESS AND FINANCE BUT WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT SOME PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY NEED HELP.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS TAI TUNG PUI SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING IN TUEN MUN.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GROUP HAD FOR MANY YEARS, RECOGNISED THIS NEED AND WITH TYPICAL HONG KONG FLAIR, IT HAD COME UP WITH A NEW CONCEPT BY BUILDING THIS INTEGRATED-SERVICE BUILDING.

THE GOVERNOR SAID FOR THOSE OLD PEOPLE WHOSE FAMILIES COULD NOT LOOK AFTER THEM ON A FULL-TIME BASIS, THIS CENTRE WOULD BE A DAY CENTRE WHERE THEY COULD TAKE THEIR MEALS AND MEET THEIR FRIENDS.

"FOR THOSE WHO ARE TOO FRAIL TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY THEIR FAMILIES, THERE WILL BE A HOME WHERE THEY CAN RECEIVE NURSING CARE AND SUPPORT," LORD WILSON SAID.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, LORD WILSON NOTED THAT THEY COULD GET TOGETHER IN THE CENTRE TO PURSUE HOBBIES, SUCH AS COOKING OR DANCING, TO TAKE CLASSES ON CALLIGRAPHY OR PUTONGHUA, OR JUST TO HAVE A QUIET READ IN THE READING ROOM.

AND FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, THIS WOULD BE A DAY CENTRE AND A HOME WHERE THEY COULD LEARN TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR DAILY LIVES, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WELL-WISHERS FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIAL DONATIONS TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP, THE GOVERNOR SAID SPECIAL THANKS WERE DUE TO THE LATE MADAM TAI LUNG WING-YUEN FOR A MOST GENEROUS DONATION OF \$5 MILLION TO MEET PART OF THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THE PROJECT.

"IN THE YEARS TO COME, ALL THOSE WHO USE THE CENTRE, BE THEY YOUNG OR OLD, WILL BE A CONTINUING VOTE OF THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO GENEROUSLY TO MAKE THIS VENTURE POSSIBLE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN HEALTH AND WELFARE
EXPENDITURE FOR 1992/93

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THE \$22.56 BILLION SOUGHT FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES IN 1992/93 REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF \$4.16 BILLION, OR 23 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S REVISED ESTIMATES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS INCREASED PROVISION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO SUSTAIN THE INITIATIVES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE OVER THE PAST YEARS AND TO INTRODUCE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

"LAST YEAR, WE INTRODUCED MAJOR REFORMS AND INITIATIVES," MRS WONG SAID, "THIS YEAR, WE WILL IMPLEMENT AND DEVELOP THEM."

"AT THE SAME TIME, OF COURSE, WE ARE MINDFUL OF OUR DUTY TO THE PUBLIC TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR OPERATIONS MORE EFFICIENT AND MANAGE RESOURCES BETTER."

MRS WONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WHICH STARTED TODAY TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS FOR 1992/93.

SHE SAID EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED - FROM \$8.2 BILLION IN 1987/88 TO \$18.4 BILLION IN 1991/92.

IN REAL TERMS, THIS REPRESENTS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OR AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 9.2 PER CENT.

DURING THIS TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MAJOR STRIDES FORWARD IN INITIATING REFORMS.

THESE INCLUDED, ON THE SOCIAL WELFARE FRONT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990S AND BEYOND, AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES RECENTLY WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE REHABILITATIVE SERVICES IN THE YEARS TO COME.

ON THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SIDE, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS TAKEN OVER THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS SINCE DECEMBER 1, 1991.

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND ORAL HEALTH CARE HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLETED, RESULTING IN 150 RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE EITHER BEING IMPLEMENTED OR TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

TURNING TO THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, MRS WONG SAID OUT OF THE PROVISION OF \$22.56 BILLION, \$8 BILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON SOCIAL WELFARE.

/LEAVING ASIDE

LEAVING ASIDE THE PROVISION IN ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS, SHE SAID, RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN THIS PROGRAMME AREA IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$6.7 BILLION OR A REAL INCREASE OF 3.6 PER CENT OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1991/92 AND AN INCREASE OF 10.8 PER CENT OVER THE APPROVED ESTIMATE IN THE SAME YEAR.

"IT TESTIFIES TO OUR CONTINUAL EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE NEEDY IN THE COMMUNITY," MRS WONG STRESSED.

THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATE ON SOCIAL WELFARE ALSO INCLUDES \$79.5 MILLION OF "NEW MONEY" - \$44.3 MILLION TO IMPLEMENT 84 NEW PROJECTS AND \$35.2 MILLION TO FUND RECENTLY-INTRODUCED SERVICES ON A FULL YEAR BASIS IN 1992/93.

THE NEW RESOURCES WILL BE USED:

- * TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990S AND BEYOND;
- * TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL SECURITY, INCLUDING THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN CASELOAD AND REVISION OF RATES OF PAYMENT IN LINE WITH INFLATION;
- * TO CONTINUE THE GROWTH IN PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES, THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED; AND
- * TO SUBVENT NON-GOVERNMENTAL WELFARE AGENCIES FOR THE EXPANSION OF SERVICES.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET IS THE CONVERSION OF GRANTS FOR EX-PRISONERS OF WAR AND WAR VETERANS INTO PENSIONS AS OF RIGHT.

A NEW SUBHEAD HAS BEEN CREATED TO MEET PAYMENTS UNDER THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL PENSIONS ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION ON DECEMBER 1, 1991.

TURNING TO THE HEALTH SIDE, THE SECRETARY SAID OUT OF THE \$14.5 BILLION SOUGHT FOR THE HEALTH PROGRAMME, \$11.3 BILLION WAS ESTIMATED TO BE USED ON RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

THIS SHOWS A REAL INCREASE OF 9.4 PER CENT OVER THE 1991/92 REVISED ESTIMATE AND AN INCREASE OF 19.5 PER CENT OVER THE SAME YEAR'S APPROVED ESTIMATE.

THE BULK OF THE PROVISION SOUGHT WILL GO TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) WHICH IS POISED TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS, ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND MAXIMISE THE USE OF RESOURCES FOR BETTER QUALITY PATIENT CARE.

"IT HAS PLANS FOR INTRODUCING MANAGEMENT REFORMS IN EIGHT 'PILOT' HOSPITALS, FOR ESTABLISHING 'CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE' AND FOR IMPROVING THE HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM," MRS WONG SAID.

"THE HA SHOULD GET \$10.265 BILLION IN BLOCK VOTES. THIS WILL ENABLE IT TO GET OFF TO A GOOD START -- BUT CERTAINLY NOT OFF THE HOOK."

FOR 1992/93, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL GET \$1.4 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$30 MILLION OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATE AND \$149 MILLION OVER THE APPROVED ESTIMATE FOR LAST YEAR.

COUPLED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS, THIS AMOUNT WILL ENABLE IT TO IMPROVE PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE SERVICES.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SIGNALS A NEW ERA FOR PREVENTION OF DISEASES AND PARTICIPATORY CARE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.

MRS WONG SAID GOOD GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH HAS KICKED OFF EARLIER THIS MONTH A PILOT SCHEME OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM IN KWUN TONG TO PROVIDE BETTER INTEGRATED PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL; NEW CLINIC SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED; HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION PROGRAMME WILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN; AND FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL CLINIC EQUIPMENT.

AND IN THE COMING YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL FURTHER DEVELOP ITS HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME AND MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM, AND REVAMP THE EXISTING SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF REFORMS FOR BETTER SERVICES TO PATIENTS, AN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WILL BE ESTABLISHED. A \$10 MILLION SETTING-UP GRANT WILL BE SOUGHT IN DUE COURSE.

MRS WONG SAID ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A RANGE OF SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS, PROGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST SMOKING, AND OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

TO SEEK NEW SOURCES AND SPREAD COSTS MORE EQUITABLY, A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM FEE AND WAIVER STRATEGY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

THE PUBLIC WOULD BE CONSULTED ON OPTIONS LATER THIS YEAR, SHE ADDED.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BUDGET ON INCREASE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S FINANCIAL PLANS FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR FOLLOWING HER ATTENDANCE AT A SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE 1992-93 DRAFT ESTIMATES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET WOULD RISE BY 13 PER CENT TO \$4.6 BILLION.

THE SUBVENTED SECTOR WOULD HAVE A SEVEN PER CENT RISE IN SUBVENTIONS TO \$1.5 BILLION, MRS GOODSTADT SAID.

"WE HAVE OBTAINED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE WELFARE FIELD," SHE STRESSED.

THE BIGGEST SPENDING PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES. THESE WILL TAKE ALMOST \$4 BILLION OF THE BUDGET.

"ADDITIONALLY, SCALE RATE REVISION OF 10.74 PER CENT EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE ON MARCH 6 THIS YEAR AND SEPARATE PROVISION OF SOME \$365 MILLION WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THIS PURPOSE," MRS GOODSTADT NOTED.

FAMILY WELFARE REMAINED A MAJOR PRIORITY FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SHE SAID.

"SPENDING ON FAMILY WELFARE WOULD GO UP 14 PER CENT TO REACH \$306 MILLION, INCLUDING \$83 MILLION FOR FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES, AN INCREASE OF SOME \$10 MILLION OVER THAT FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," SHE ADDED.

OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ARE EFFORTS TO HELP PEOPLE WHO GET INTO TROUBLE WITH THE LAW, YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY.

ABOUT \$89 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS.

"WE WILL EXTEND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SCHEME TO COVER THREE MORE MAGISTRACIES NEXT MONTH," SHE DISCLOSED.

ELDERLY SERVICES WILL HAVE A BUDGET OF \$30 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 26 PER CENT OVER THE CURRENT YEAR. THIS MONEY WILL BE SPENT MAINLY ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAMME, ESPECIALLY TO SPEED UP ADMISSION TO HOMES TO MAKE FULLER USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES.

MRS GOODSTADT POINTED OUT THAT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, WITH A SPENDING OF \$83 MILLION, REMAINED OF VERY GREAT CONCERN TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH OUR SERVICES FOR DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS," SHE ADDED.

FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW SHELTERED WORKSHOP-CUM-HOSTEL WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL PLACES.

/SUBVENTIONS ENABLE

SUBVENTIONS ENABLE THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY'S WELFARE. TOTAL EXPENDITURE WILL AMOUNT TO \$1,542 MILLION, AN OVERALL 4.2 PER CENT INCREASE.

THESE AGENCIES WILL TAKE YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEIR TOP SPENDING PRIORITY (\$410 MILLION), CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE ELDERLY (\$378 MILLION), FAMILY WELFARE (\$327 MILLION) AND REHABILITATION (\$324 MILLION).

CITING SOME EXAMPLES IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR, SHE SAID THERE WOULD BE EIGHT NEW CHILDREN CENTRES AND NINE NEW YOUTH CENTRES CATERING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, AN ADDITIONAL 1,400 DAY-NURSEY PLACES, 527 EXTRA PLACES IN ELDERLY HOSTELS AND HOMES, AND AN ADDITIONAL 457 RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR THE DISABLED, 640 SHELTERED WORKSHOP PLACES AND 420 DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE PLACES.

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HK BECOMES 10TH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY
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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PRESENTED TO THE GATT COUNCIL HIS ANNUAL REPORT ENTITLED "OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE TRADING SYSTEM", COVERING DEVELOPMENTS IN 1991.

"IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE FROM THE REPORT THAT IN 1991, HONG KONG MOVED FROM BEING THE 11TH LARGEST EXPORTER TO THE 10TH PLACE. HONG KONG WAS ALSO THE 10TH LARGEST IMPORTER (12TH PLACE IN 1990)," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID.

"HONG KONG, WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD), WAS ONE OF THE SIX LEADING NON-OECD ASIAN ECONOMIES TO REGISTER THE STRONGEST OVERALL TRADE GROWTH.

"WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY THAT TRADE IS NOT A ZERO-SUM GAME AND THAT DYNAMIC EXPORTERS ARE ALSO DYNAMIC IMPORTERS," MR TSANG SAID.

"A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND WILL PROVIDE A BOOST TO THE WORLD ECONOMY WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, IS SHOWING SIGNS OF A MODEST RECOVERY. HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS," HE ADDED.

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JLG XXII

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THE FCO ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM 24-26 MARCH. THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ANTHONY GALSWORTHY. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MR MICHAEL SZE (SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, HONG KONG), MR ALAN PAUL (COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HONG KONG), AND MR WILLIAM EHRMAN (POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG).

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION

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THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION'S 25TH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON ON MARCH 20, 1992. THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE 1992/93 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST MEETING ATTENDED BY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WHO WILL RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

HE WILL BE REPLACED BY HIS SUCCESSOR, MR ANTHONY EASON, WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE LAND COMMISSION WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1992.

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TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP KEY TO PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND CULTURE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND CULTURE IN THE PAST.

THE REMARK WAS MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"I EXPECT THIS PARTNERSHIP TO CONTINUE," MR SO SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE WAS NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR POPULAR MAINSTREAM ACTIVITIES BUT ALSO TO GIVE FULLER SUPPORT AT THE INITIAL STAGES TO EMBRYONIC GROUPS AND NEW TYPES OF ACTIVITY TO NURTURE THEM TO THE POINT WHERE THEY COULD GAIN ADEQUATE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION.

IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH WILL SPEND A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$256.13 MILLION IN THE PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE, AS WELL AS MUSIC PROMOTION THROUGH THE MUSIC OFFICE.

MR SO SAID IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS HAD ALSO DONE A GREAT DEAL TO NURTURE THE ARTS, BY PRESENTING THE PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL PERFORMERS AND ARTISTS, BY GIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL PERFORMING GROUPS AND BY PROVIDING VENUES AND OTHER FACILITIES.

EXPENDITURE BY THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS ON THE PERFORMING ARTS HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

"IN 1987-88, THE URBAN COUNCIL SPENT \$142.89 MILLION ON PROGRAMMING, VENUE MANAGEMENT, FUNDING FOR ITS THREE PERFORMING COMPANIES AS WELL AS SUBVENTIONS FOR THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL FRINGE. THIS WAS INCREASED TO \$311.6 MILLION BY 1991-92," MR SO SAID.

"COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (WHICH DOES NOT SUBVENT OR FUND PERFORMING GROUPS) ARE \$67.11 MILLION AND \$140 MILLION RESPECTIVELY," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP, MR SO SAID DIRECT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FACILITATED THE MOST DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S PREFERENCES.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS' MATCHING GRANT SCHEME ATTRACTED NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS FROM THE BUSINESS SECTOR, THREE TIMES MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

"THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB IS ALSO A MOST GENEROUS BENEFACTOR. WE HAVE THE JOCKEY CLUB TO THANK FOR MANY HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS," MR SO SAID.

DURING THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, THE CLUB WILL BE PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE CHING SHU HIU SCHOLARS' HOSTEL IN PING SHAN.

THE JOCKEY CLUB ALSO PROVIDES SIZEABLE GRANTS EACH YEAR TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

DURING 1991-92, THE JOCKEY CLUB MADE AVAILABLE \$1.5 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECTS THROUGH THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF MUSIC AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. THIS IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO \$2.4 MILLION IN 1992-93.

IN SPORTS, THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD LAST YEAR RECEIVED SPONSORSHIP PLEDGES TALLING ABOUT \$12 MILLION.

MR SO SAID IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT JEOPARDISING THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICE, HIS BRANCH WOULD ALSO BE GEARED TOWARDS RIGOROUS COST EFFECTIVENESS.

"I HAVE SHED 11 POSTS IN THE BRANCH AND LOOK TO REDUCE EXPENDITURE BY \$2 MILLION, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION.

"ON RTHK, EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 8.65 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1991-92, AND IS ESTIMATED TO FALL BY A FURTHER 6.06 PER CENT IN 1992-93.

"THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY RATIONALISATION IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, AND A CONSEQUENT REDUCTION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT FROM 735 PERMANENT POSTS AT MARCH 31 LAST YEAR TO 709 PERMANENT POSTS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR. THESE SAVINGS HAVE HOWEVER BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT AFFECTING THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVIDED," MR SO SAID.

THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR SHOW AN INCREMENT OF NINE POSTS AND \$0.8 MILLION.

"IN SPITE OF TELA'S INCREASED WORKLOAD AS A RESULT OF RECENTLY INTRODUCED AND PROSPECTIVE BROADCAST MEDIA SUCH AS SATELLITE TELEVISION, THE SECOND COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION AND THE PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICE, THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MANPOWER," MR SO ADDED.

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STUDY ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD COMPLETED ITS STUDY ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (HKSDB) AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE (HKSII).

"THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY CLEARLY SHOW THAT THERE ARE MERITS IN BRINGING THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE BOARD CLOSER TOGETHER IN THE WIDER INTEREST OF SPORTS PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG," MR SO SAID.

THE STUDY HAS PROPOSED A FRAMEWORK WHEREBY THE TWO BOARDS COULD WORK IN CLOSER CO-OPERATION THROUGH GREATER SHARING OF MEMBERSHIP, AND POLICY DECISIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN HONG KONG COULD BE TAKEN IN A MORE CONCERTED AND INTEGRATED MANNER.

THIS WOULD ALSO INVOLVE SOME CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THESE TWO BODIES TO BRING ABOUT A MORE STREAMLINED AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT.

THERE MAY, HOWEVER, BE A NEED FOR SOME LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO EFFECT THE NECESSARY CHANGES.

"THE PROPOSALS OF THE STUDY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY BOTH THE HKSDB AND HKSI BOARD. THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH IS NOW WORKING ON THE DETAILS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TWO BOARDS, WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," MR SO ADDED.

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MORE ATTRACTIVE AND EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN FUTURE

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T. H. BARMA, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED MANUFACTURERS NOT TO OVERLOOK THE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS THAT CLEANER, WELL-PLANNED, AND WELL-DESIGNED PRODUCTION FACILITIES BROUGHT TO THE WORK PLACE, THE WORKFORCE AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

SPEAKING AT THE TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY FOR RILEY HOUSE, AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AT KWAI CHUNG, MR BARMA SAID IN THE FUTURE, HONG KONG PEOPLE COULD PERHAPS LOOK FORWARD TO MORE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS THAT WERE ATTRACTIVE AND EFFICIENT, AND IN KEEPING WITH THE TERRITORY'S ROLE AS A FLOURISHING METROPOLIS.

"THIS CAN ONLY ADD TO THE PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR INDUSTRIES, TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR WORKFORCE, AND TO HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG WERE MAKING MORE AND MORE USE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY, AUTOMATION, AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE AND DEMANDING WORLD MARKET.

"AS THE SOPHISTICATION OF BOTH PRODUCT AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES GROWS, SO TOO DO THE REQUIREMENTS OF MANUFACTURERS FOR CLEANER, BETTER PLANNED AND MORE EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL SPACE.

"RILEY HOUSE NOT ONLY FULFILLS THESE REQUIREMENTS: IT ALSO RECOGNISES INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN HONG KONG BY PROVIDING THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO ALLOW FUTURE OCCUPANTS TO MEET MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE TOTAL FLOOR SPACE OF RILEY HOUSE WOULD EXCEED ONE MILLION SQUARE FEET, REPRESENTING A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION TO HONG KONG'S STOCK OF HIGH-QUALITY INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION.

"RILEY HOUSE IS SITUATED IN A LONG-ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT THAT IS ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING ITS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES: THIS IMPRESSIVE NEW BUILDING MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THAT UPGRADING," HE SAID.

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ITDC HOLDS FIRST MEETING

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THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC), THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ON THE AGENDA WERE GUIDELINES FOR A NEW \$200 MILLION SCHEME TO SUPPORT APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDUSTRY.

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL NOW BE WORKED OUT BY THE ITDC'S COMMITTEE ON THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (CARDS) SO THAT THE FIRST APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING CAN BE INVITED THIS SUMMER.

CARDS IS TO BE CHAIRED BY MR CHENG HON-KWAN, DIRECTOR OF H.K. CHENG AND PARTNERS LTD.

ITS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IS MR JAMES KUNG, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF MANAGER OF CHEKIANG FIRST BANK LTD.

THE ITDC ALSO RECEIVED A PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANTS ON A STUDY FOR THE POTENTIAL FOR A CHEMICAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, AND AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS OTHER STUDIES.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL TOOK A FIRST LOOK AT FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR ITS WORK.

AFTER THE MEETING, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID: "THIS WAS A USEFUL FIRST MEETING. THE COUNCIL HAS MAPPED OUT THE BROAD PRINCIPLES FOR THE APPLIED RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. WORK CAN NOW GO FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE."

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN MAY THIS YEAR.

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HK TO BUY HAWK HELICOPTERS

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THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS SIGNED AN AMENDMENT TO A CONTRACT WITH A U.S. AIRCRAFT COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO S-70A BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS TO BE USED FOR PERFORMING POLICE DUTIES.

AT A CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR BILLY LAM; AND THE PRESIDENT OF SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, MR EUGENE BUCKLEY, SIGNED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, AND THE AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG, MR RICHARD WILLIAMS.

THE AMENDMENT EXERCISES THE OPTION TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS CONTAINED IN THE CONTRACT FOR EIGHT S-76 HELICOPTERS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND THE PRESIDENT OF SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT CORPORATION ON APRIL 4, 1989.

/THE AMENDMENT

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THE AMENDMENT, WHICH COVERS THE TWO HELICOPTERS, SPARE PARTS, TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES, IS WORTH US\$23.8 MILLION.

THE TWO HELICOPTERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

THEY WILL BE OPERATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF) AND WILL BE DEPLOYED ON DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE TACTICAL AND POLICE SPECIAL DUTIES UNITS.

THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THESE "BLACK HAWKS" IS TO SUPPORT THE POLICE IN ITS ROLE ON THE BORDER AND IN AN INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION.

THE S-70A HELICOPTER HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR ITS LARGE CARRYING CAPACITY OF 20 MEN, POWER, RUGGED AIRFRAME AND ITS ABILITY TO HOVER WITH A FULL LOAD, ENABLING OFFICERS TO ABSEIL DOWN TO SITE WHERE THE HELICOPTER IS UNABLE TO LAND.

THE RHKAAF HAVE ALREADY OPERATED A FLEET OF EIGHT SIKORSKY S-76 HELICOPTERS DELIVERED IN 1990-91.

FIVE OF THOSE ARE USED FOR GENERAL PURPOSES INCLUDING POLICE AND V.I.P. TRANSPORT, MEDICAL EVACUATION AND OVERLAND EVACUATION.

THE THREE ADDITIONAL S-76 HELICOPTERS ARE SPECIALLY EQUIPPED WITH ADVANCED AVIONICS, INCLUDING AUTOMATIC APPROACH TO HOVER CAPABILITY, NIGHTSUN SEARCHLIGHTS AND FORWARD-LOOKING INFRARED TO CARRY OUT SEARCH-AND-RESCUE MISSIONS AT NIGHT AND IN ADVERSE WEATHER.

"THE BLACK HAWKS HELICOPTERS WILL BE THE PERFECT COMPLIMENT TO THE S-76 FLEET AND WILL PROVIDE THE RHKAAF WITH THE VERSATILITY TO ACCOMPLISH ALL TYPES OF MISSIONS," THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR BILLY LAM, SAID.

"THE TWO S-70A BLACK HAWKS WILL BE FITTED WITH EXTERNAL RESCUE HOISTS TO ENABLE THEM TO BE DEPLOYED ON MAJOR OFFSHORE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS WHEN A MAJOR RESCUE UPLIFT OF SURVIVORS IS REQUIRED," HE ADDED.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A BUILDING IN TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE CLOSED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT THE ROOF OF NO. 12-14 GRANVILLE ROAD.

/NOTICES OF

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 22 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT DRAGON ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,060 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR A COMMERCIAL GARDEN AND SUCH ANCILLIARY USES.

THE SECOND SITE, LOCATED IN AREA 40, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,085 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS BARMARKED FOR GENERAL OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS AND CONTAINERS (INCLUDING LOADING, UNLOADING AND REPAIRING OF CONTAINERS).

BOTH TENANCIES ARE FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON, APRIL 3.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG EAST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, SIXTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.3.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.3.92	-105
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+105
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.5 *-0.1* 18.3.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.39 PCT	20 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.26	6.17
1 MONTH	4.16 PCT	23 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.56	6.41
3 MONTHS	4.16 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.40 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.79 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,454 MN

CLOSED 18 MARCH 1992

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