



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE VMS TO GO HOME VOLUNTARILY: GOVERNOR	1
GOVERNOR VISITS TWO ISLANDS .....	2
A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PAY TV .....	3
KEY ROLE OF APPOINTED ACTUARY TO BE REINFORCED .....	5
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BANK TO BE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED .....	7
CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 2ND QUARTER OF 1991 .....	8
55 LEGCO MEMBERS DEBATE POLICY ADDRESS .....	10
NEGLIGENCE BLAMED FOR CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS .....	10
FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN TO START ON SUNDAY .....	11
SPECIAL PRODUCTS TO MARK INT'L STAMP EXHIBITION .....	12
TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL STARTS ON SATURDAY .....	13
ARTS FESTIVAL FOR NORTH DISTRICT .....	14
DIAL-A-RIDE REHABUS SERVICE EXTENDED .....	14
EPD'S NOISE AND AIR CONTROL GROUPS ON MOVE .....	15
WSD'S SAI KUNG ENQUIRY CENTRE CLOSES .....	16
CSD AUTUMN FAIR IN STANLEY .....	16
EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN SAI KUNG .....	17
UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED .....	18
CONVERSION OF POSTAGE LABEL ISSUING MACHINE .....	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	19

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

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GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE VMS TO GO HOME VOLUNTARILY: GOVERNOR  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM.

"THAT MUST BE THE BEST THING, BOTH FOR THEM AND FOR EVERYBODY ELSE," SAID THE GOVERNOR WHEN HE SPOKE TO THE PRESS AFTER VISITING ISLANDS DISTRICT.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WOULD KNOW THAT IF THEY WERE NOT REFUGEES, THEY WERE NOT GOING TO BE RESETTLED, AND THAT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO THE UNITED STATES AS THEY HAD WISHED.

"SO WE MUST TRY AND PERSUADE THEM THAT THEY SHOULD VOLUNTEER TO GO BACK TO THEIR OWN HOMES," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE AN EXACT TIMETABLE FOR THE WHOLE PROCESS OF RETURNING VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, BUT IT WOULD START RELATIVELY SOON WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE DOUBLE BACKERS.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESS WOULD BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS, ADDING: "WE WILL BE DOING IT OPENLY AND THERE WILL BE PRESS FACILITIES."

COMMENTING ON THE CRITICISM REGARDING THE TIMING FOR SENDING BACK THE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I DON'T THINK THIS IS SIMPLY SOMETHING YOU CAN PUT OFF WAITING FOR A BETTER OCCASION; WAITING FOR THINGS TO CHANGE IN VIETNAM.

"BUT, I DO THINK IT'S VERY ENCOURAGING THAT IN INDO-CHINA AS A WHOLE, THINGS ARE CHANGING; THAT THERE IS ECONOMIC REFORM IN VIETNAM; THAT THE UNITED STATES ARE BEGINNING TO TALK ABOUT ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR HOPED THAT THIS WOULD SOON LEAD TO AN ENDING OF THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO, AND THEREFORE TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMY.

"BUT DON'T LET US BELIEVE THAT WE CAN SIMPLY LEAVE PEOPLE IN CAMPS FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR WAITING FOR THAT TO HAPPEN. WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AND TRY TO DEAL WITH IT NOW," HE ADDED.

ON THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, SIR DAVID SAID WE NEED TIME TO REFLECT ON THIS AND WORK OUT THE BEST WAY FORWARD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING WHICH HAD TO BE LOOKED AT VERY CAREFULLY AND IT WAS A VERY COMPLICATED ISSUE.

"I THINK WE NOW NEED TIME, ALL OF US, TO REFLECT ON WHAT THE BEST WAY FORWARD IS; WE ALL WANT TO SET UP A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL HERE AS SOON AS WE CAN; GET IT GOING BEFORE BEFORE 1997; GET PEOPLE ACCUSTOMED TO IT. WE ALSO HAVE TO THINK OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE TO DO AS WELL AS WHAT IS THE MOST DESIRABLE THING TO DO," HE SAID.

/"IT'S NOT .....

"IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE'VE GOT TO DO IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS THOUGH. THE LEGISLATION DOESN'T GET PREPARED; IT DOESN'T GET PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW.

"IT HAS TO BE PUT THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUT THEY ARE STILL WORKING ON DRAFTING THE LEGISLATION. SO THIS IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH IS URGENT, IT IS SOMETHING WHICH WE CAN DO OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHAT WAS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD.

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL HERE, THERE HAS TO BE LEGISLATION THAT HAS TO BE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SO LET US DISCUSS IT WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; SEE WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO TACKLE THIS ISSUE," HE SAID.

ON THE RECENT LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, THE GOVERNOR SAID PEOPLE WERE QUITE NATURALLY CONCERNED WHEN THERE WERE DRAMATIC INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WEAPONS WERE USED.

"WE MUST GET ON TOP OF THOSE PROBLEMS, AND THE POLICE WILL CERTAINLY DO SO AND THEY WILL HAVE THE FULL BACKING OF THE ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

HE SAID WITHOUT IN ANY WAY SEEKING TO DOWNGRADE THE PROBLEM, HONG KONG WAS STILL A VERY SAFE TERRITORY, IN COMPARISON WITH MOST OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD.

"WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE WE KEEP IT AS GOOD AS WE POSSIBLY CAN, AND THE POLICE WILL BE DOING EVERYTHING THEY POSSIBLY CAN TO ACHIEVE THAT," HE SAID.

ON ROBBERY CASES INVOLVING WEAPONS BEING SMUGGLED INTO HONG KONG FROM CHINA, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE POLICE HAD BEEN HAVING TALKS AND WOULD GO ON HAVING TALKS WITH THE SECURITY OFFICIALS IN GUANGDONG.

"AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE'VE GOT TO BUILD UP OVER THE YEARS, WE ARE NOT ISOLATED FROM GUANGDONG; THAT MEANS THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG. WE HAVE SOME COMMON PROBLEMS SO WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THEM TOGETHER," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR VISITS TWO ISLANDS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, VISITED TWO OUTLYING ISLANDS TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR FRED TING, AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID FIRST WENT TO PENG CHAU WHERE HE SAW THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR A NEW RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE ON THE ISLAND.

HE WALKED THROUGH THE MARKET AND VISITED A FAMOUS PORCELAIN SHOP WHERE HE SAW PORCELAIN PAINTERS AT WORK.

HE ALSO VISITED THE TIN HAU TEMPLE, BUILT IN THE 1790'S AND THE LUNG MO TEMPLE WITH ITS FAMOUS "DRAGON MOTHER BED".

SIR DAVID THEN VISITED CHEUNG CHAU, THE MOST DENSELY-POPULATED OUTLYING ISLAND.

HE WALKED THROUGH THE TOWN CENTRE AND CALLED ON THE PAK SHE KAIFONG ASSOCIATION AND AN ADJACENT BAKERY WHICH PREPARES BUNS AND FLOATS FOR THE ANNUAL BUN FESTIVAL HELD ON THE ISLAND.

HE THEN CALLED ON THE WAN HO KAN CENTRE FOR THE AGED WHERE HE CHATTED WITH SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE.

"IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING TO SEE HOW THE OUTLYING ISLANDS ARE DEVELOPING, AND YET ARE STILL MANAGING TO RETAIN THEIR SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE ISLANDS ARE ADAPTING WELL TO CHANGE; BUT WHAT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY REMAINS STRONG," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID CONCLUDED HIS VISIT BY MEETING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A TEA RECEPTION.

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#### A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PAY TV

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE PAY TELEVISION SERVICES SHOULD BE ASSESSED ON THEIR MERITS PURELY FROM A BROADCASTING POINT OF VIEW.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR SO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT THE FINAL STAGE OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LICENSING FRAMEWORK FOR PAY TV.

"OUR CURRENT THINKING IS NOT TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF THE FUTURE PAY TV SYSTEM TO PROVIDE A SECOND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

"ANY DESIRE ON THEIR PART TO EXTEND THEIR SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER FACILITIES, SUCH AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY.

"THAT IS TO SAY PROVIDERS OF PAY TV SHOULD CONSIDER THE VIABILITY OF THEIR SYSTEM ENTIRELY FROM A BROADCASTING ANGLE," HE SAID.

/MR SO .....

MR SO SAID IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST CABLE TV EXERCISE AND THE ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE FORM OF DELIVERY TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED.

"WHILST WE BELIEVE THAT CABLE IS STILL THE IDEAL MEDIUM FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF PAY TV, THE HIGH COST OF INSTALLATION AND THE LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED TO PENETRATE HOMES DO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DRAWBACKS.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY HAVE OFFERED CHEAPER AND QUICKER OPTIONS.

"THESE TECHNOLOGIES ARE MMDS (MULTI-CHANNEL MULTI-POINT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) AND SMATV (SATELLITE MASTER ANTENNA TELEVISION)," HE SAID.

MR SO BELIEVED THAT IN THE FIELD OF DELIVERY TECHNOLOGY, MARKET FORCES SHOULD PREVAIL, AND THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SPECIFY A CABLE SYSTEM.

ANOTHER AREA OF CONSIDERATION UNDER THE CURRENT REVIEW WAS THE COVERAGE AND NUMBER OF PAY TV SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

"WE ARE INCLINED TO FAVOUR THE SINGLE TERRITORY-WIDE SERVICE AREA APPROACH, BUT IT IS STILL FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER WE SHOULD GRANT ONE LICENCE OR OPEN THE MARKET TO COMPETITION.

"WITH CHEAPER DELIVERY TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND FASTER PENETRATION TO HOUSEHOLDS, AND SOME 1.5 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS TO SERVE, THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR MORE THAN ONE OPERATOR IN THE MARKET," HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PAY TV LICENSING FRAMEWORK INCLUDING PROGRAMMING, CHANNEL NUMBERS, LEVEL OF SUBSCRIPTION, SCALE AND TYPES OF ADVERTISING TO BE ALLOWED, LICENCE FEES AND CROSS-MEDIA OWNERSHIP WERE BEING FINALISED.

"WE ARE FINALISING WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE A FAIR AND VIABLE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE INVESTMENTS IN THIS FORM OF BROADCASTING AND WOULD PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CHOICE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

"OUR AIM IS TO INVITE PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PAY TV SERVICES IN HONG KONG EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND TO GRANT LICENCES TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BY THE SUMMER OF 1992," HE SAID.

MR SO SAID PAY TV, TOGETHER WITH THE TWO EXISTING FORMS OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING, WOULD HAVE THEIR ROLE TO PLAY IN PROVIDING MORE INFORMATION AND BETTER QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT TO THE HONG KONG TV VIEWING PUBLIC.

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"THE TERRESTRIAL TV BROADCASTERS, NAMELY TVB AND ATV, WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MASS ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMES THAT APPEAL TO A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, WHILE SATELLITE AND PAY TV WILL BRING IN PROGRAMMES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD OR OF A MINORITY NATURE, TO CATER TO SPECIAL INTEREST AND TASTE.

"AS EACH FORM OF TV BROADCASTING IS DRAWING ITS REVENUE FROM DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT SOURCES, THERE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT RETURNS TO MAKE THEIR OPERATION VIABLE.

"OUR OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE FOR A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ENABLE ALL THREE FORMS OF TV BROADCASTERS TO CO-EXIST IN A HEALTHY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT," MR SO ADDED.

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#### KEY ROLE OF APPOINTED ACTUARY TO BE REINFORCED

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THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY IS CURRENTLY TAKING MEASURES TO REINFORCE THE KEY ROLE OF THE APPOINTED ACTUARY AS PART OF THE EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL FROM THE POINTS OF VIEW OF BOTH THE CUSTOMER AND THE SUPPLIER, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, MR DEREK SULLIVAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LIFE OFFICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, MR SULLIVAN, WHO IS ALSO THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, SAID THE KEY FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S SUPERVISORY SYSTEM WAS THE REQUIREMENT FOR A LIFE INSURER TO APPOINT AN APPROVED ACTUARY, THE APPOINTED ACTUARY (AA).

THE AA HAS AN ONGOING RESPONSIBILITY TO ADVISE, EXAMINE AND COUNSEL AN INSURER ON ITS CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATION.

"UNDER THE AA SYSTEM, GREATER FLEXIBILITY OF SUPERVISION IS POSSIBLE THAN THAT AVAILABLE UNDER A SYSTEM WHERE ALL MATTERS, INCLUDING RESERVES AND POLICY CONDITION, ARE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATION," MR SULLIVAN SAID.

THE AA, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE INSURER, BECOMES ON APPOINTMENT A STATUTORY PERSON WITH STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADDITION TO ANY RESPONSIBILITIES HE MAY HAVE TO HIS PROFESSION AND IN PARTICULAR HIS PROFESSIONAL BODY.

"THE BOTTOM LINE IN TERMS OF THE AA'S RESPONSIBILITIES IS OF COURSE ENSURING THAT THE ONGOING COUNSELLING AND ADVICE GIVEN TO THE INSURER IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT INSURER'S CONTINUED FINANCIAL HEALTH," MR SULLIVAN SAID.

ON THE MEASURES IN REINFORCING THE AA'S KEY ROLE, MR SULLIVAN SAID CURRENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY AND THE ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG SHOULD RESULT IN THE ASSOCIATION PRODUCING FIRM GUIDELINES TO ACTUARIES ON THE AA'S ROLE.

/"THESE GUIDELINES .....

"THESE GUIDELINES WILL SET OUT CLEARLY WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE AA IN HIS STATUTORY CAPACITY. SUCH GUIDELINES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE MARKETS AND SHOULD BE PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

"THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WILL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S GUIDELINES, BE ISSUING GUIDANCE NOTES TO LIFE INSURERS CLARIFYING ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THERE MIGHT BE ON THE PART OF SUCH INSURERS REGARDING THE KEY ROLE OF THE AA IN THE INSURER'S OPERATION.

"TO FURTHER REINFORCE THE AA'S POSITION THERE WILL BE AMENDMENTS TO THE INSURANCE LEGISLATIONS ENABLING AND REQUIRING THE AA TO CONTACT AND REPORT DIRECT TO THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCE," MR SULLIVAN SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ALL THESE MEASURES WERE CONCERNED WITH ENSURING THAT THE INSURER WAS AT ALL TIMES ABLE TO MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES AND THE REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF POLICY HOLDERS.

TURNING TO THE QUALITY OF CUSTOMER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE INSURERS, MR SULLIVAN SAID INSURANCE CONSUMERS WOULD BE LOOKING FOR MORE FROM AN INSURER THAN SIMPLY ITS ABILITY TO MEET CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES.

"AS A REGULATOR I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE THAT QUALITY OF CUSTOMER SERVICE AND A CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENT IN SUCH SERVICE IS SEEN AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF ANY PRODUCT PACKAGE AND BECOMES IN HONG KONG AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT FOR AN INSURER'S SURVIVAL IN THE MARKETPLACE," HE SAID.

MR SULLIVAN POINTED OUT THAT A MAJOR AREA OF INTEREST FOR THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WAS THE QUALITY OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, WHICH IN HONG KONG MEANT LIFE INSURANCE AGENTS.

"IT IS, I THINK, ESSENTIAL FOR THE LONG TERM PROSPERITY OF ANY LIFE INSURANCE MARKET THAT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPRESENTS A REAL PRODUCT VALUE-ADDED TO THE CUSTOMER - NOT SIMPLY A VALUE-TRANSFER.

"THIS VALUE-ADDED CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPERLY RECRUITED, PROPERLY TRAINED AND PROPERLY MANAGED FIELD FORCE OF INSURANCE AGENTS WHOSE QUALITY IS SUCH AS TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE INDUSTRY AND WHOSE END RESULT IS A SATISFIED CUSTOMER.

"QUALITY OF PRODUCT AND SERVICES, AS OPPOSED TO UNDERLYING FINANCIAL SECURITY OF THE INSURERS, IS AN AREA WHERE, SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE IN MY FORMAL LIFE AS A MEMBER OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, IT CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS TO GIVE AN EXCUSE FOR ENTRY TO THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

/"SUCH ENTRY, .....

"SUCH ENTRY, IF ALLOWED, COULD RESULT IN A WHOLE RANGE OF DETAILED REGULATORY PRESCRIPTIONS REGARDING PRODUCT AND MARKETING, WHICH DETAILED REGULATIONS COULD PROVE INSENSITIVE IN THE PARTICULAR, AND SOPORIFIC OVERALL," HE SAID.

MR SULLIVAN SAID IN HONG KONG THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY WAS INTENT ON DEVELOPING A SELF-REGULATORY PROGRAMME FOR THE OVERALL CONTROL OF THE QUALITY, AND THE QUALITY OF ACTIVITIES, OF ITS AGENCY FIELD FORCE WHICH WOULD HAVE THE RESULT OF MAKING ANY ATTEMPT BY THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO FIND ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AS A REGULATOR IN THIS PARTICULAR FIELD ENTIRELY UNSUCCESSFUL.

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PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BANK TO BE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY PNC INTERNATIONAL FINANCE (ASIA) LTD AND THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (THE BANKS) AGAINST DAO HENG BANK ("DHB") PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS HANG LUNG BANK ("HLB") IN HONG KONG TO RECOVER LOSSES INCURRED IN LOANS TO DOLLAR CREDIT AND FINANCING LTD ("DOLLAR CREDIT") AS A RESULT OF AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY BETWEEN HLB AND DOLLAR CREDIT BEFORE GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER HLB IN 1983.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF HLB IN SEPTEMBER 1989, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INCORPORATED HAS GIVEN AN INDEMNITY AGAINST ANY ACTUAL LOSSES OR COSTS INCURRED BY DHB (PREVIOUSLY HLB) AS A RESULT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

PURSUANT TO THIS INDEMNITY, THE GOVERNMENT IS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ACTION WITH THE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF DHB (PREVIOUSLY HLB). IT IS INTENDED THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CLARIFIED THAT THIS WAS NOT A NEW CLAIM. "A SIMILAR CLAIM WAS FILED IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER 1990," HE SAID.

"THE CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY THE NEW YORK COURT AND THE BANKS HAVE FILED A NOTICE OF APPEAL."

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 31 LAST YEAR IN RELATION TO THE NEW YORK ACTION WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED IS REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR EASE OF REFERENCE:

"THE GOVERNMENT WAS ADVISED THAT PROCEEDINGS HAD BEEN ISSUED BY PNC INTERNATIONAL FINANCE (ASIA) LTD AND THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA AGAINST THE HANG LUNG BANK ("HLB") (NOW KNOWN AS DAO HENG BANK) IN THE USA TO RECOVER LOSSES INCURRED IN LOANS TO DOLLAR CREDIT AND FINANCING LTD ("DOLLAR CREDIT") AS A RESULT OF AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY BETWEEN HLB AND DOLLAR CREDIT BEFORE GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER HLB IN 1983.

/"IN CONNECTION .....

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"PURSUANT TO THIS INDEMNITY, GOVERNMENT IS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ACTION WITH THE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF HLB (NOW DAO HENG BANK). IT IS INTENDED THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED."

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 2ND QUARTER OF 1991

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 AMOUNTED TO \$15,813 MILLION, WHICH WAS 6.0% HIGHER THAN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, IT INCREASED BY 1.0%.

MAIN CONTRACTORS MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS. GENERAL CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE. SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN SPECIALISED JOB AREAS SUCH AS CONCRETING, SCAFFOLDING, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING AND GAS WORK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT PART OF THE INCREASE OF 6.0% IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE COST INCREASES, THERE WAS PROBABLY A DECREASE IN THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE INDEX OF GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WAS 240.0, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FOR 1982 BEING TAKEN AS 100.

THE CORRESPONDING INDEXES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 WERE 237.6 AND 226.5 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, \$14,667 MILLION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS.

THIS WAS 0.5% AND 6.5% RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

/ON THE .....

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS WAS \$1,146 MILLION, WHICH WAS 8.4% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT REMAINED THE SAME AS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, \$7,924 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PRIVATE SECTOR CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THIS WAS HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 BY 4.5% AND 14.2% RESPECTIVELY.

SOME \$3,824 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PUBLIC SECTOR (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION) CONSTRUCTION SITES, REPRESENTING DECREASES OF 1.8% AND 2.0% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

THE REMAINING \$2,919 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT MINOR WORK LOCATIONS, AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

THIS WAS 6.4% AND 0.5% RESPECTIVELY LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

WHEN ANALYSED BY END-USE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WAS \$4,786 MILLION.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 2.5% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT A DECREASE OF 0.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WAS \$2,162 MILLION, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 2.1% AND 13.3% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WAS \$1,505 MILLION, WHICH WAS 3.9% AND 1.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) REFERS TO THE OUTPUT OF THOSE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY TAKE THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY PLAY THE ROLE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS.

HOWEVER, SUB-CONTRACTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR WHOM THEY WORKED.

MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 2ND QUARTER 1991".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER I, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3265.

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#### 55 LEGCO MEMBERS DEBATE POLICY ADDRESS

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A TOTAL OF 55 LEGISLATORS SPOKE IN THE TWO-DAY DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BEGINNING YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

TWENTY-SIX LEGISLATORS SPOKE YESTERDAY AND 29 TODAY ON THE MOTION MOVED BY THE SENIOR LEGCO MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, WHICH READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL THANKS THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADDRESS".

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL REPLY TO THE POINTS RAISED WHEN THE DEBATE RESUMES NEXT WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 6).

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#### NEGLIGENCE BLAMED FOR CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

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THE NEGLIGENCE OF CHEMICAL RISKS AMONG PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES.

OTHER CAUSES INCLUDED THE LACK OF GOOD VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN WORKPLACES AND UNSOUND SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

ADDRESSING SOME 300 PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT - SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR WONG CHING-KWOK SAID: "MANY CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES ARE DANGEROUS AND MAY AFFECT USERS' HEALTH."

/"THERE ARE .....

"THERE ARE 231 CLASSIFIED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES COMMONLY USED AND HANDLED IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND THEY ARE EITHER TOXIC, HARMFUL, CORROSIVE, IRRITANT, EXPLOSIVE, OXIDISING OR FLAMMABLE," MR WONG SAID.

TO ENSURE WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK, MR WONG SAID THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE CAME INTO OPERATION LAST DECEMBER TO IMPOSE GENERAL DUTIES ON BOTH PROPRIETORS AND EMPLOYEES FOR WORK SAFETY.

"PROPRIETORS ARE REQUIRED TO CLEARLY AND CORRECTLY LABEL EVERY CONTAINER OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THEY SHOULD ALSO ADOPT OTHER MEASURES, SUCH AS PROVIDING ADEQUATE INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING AS WELL AS A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OR EQUIPMENT TO WORKERS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYEES HAVE A DUTY TO CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS AND OTHER WORKERS BY FOLLOWING SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS AND WEARING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OR EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

"ON ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT DRAWS UP LEGISLATION AND MOUNTS PUBLICITY TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY," HE WENT ON.

MR WONG SAID THIS TRIPARTITE CO-OPERATION IS AN EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK WITH WHICH INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COULD BE ACHIEVED.

THE SYMPOSIUM WAS OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF TEXTILE BLEACHERS, DYERS, PRINTERS AND FINISHERS LIMITED, MR KWAN KON-WAH AND CHEMICALS DIRECTOR OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, MR CLARENCE ENG.

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#### FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN TO START ON SUNDAY

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THE 1991/92 FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 3) AT THE EDINBURGH PLACE IN CENTRAL.

ORGANISED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, THE FUNCTION IS TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF A SERIES OF PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR ON THE THEME OF "DISPOSE OF CIGARETTE ENDS SAFETY".

A VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING LION DANCE, PIPERS BAND PERFORMANCE, FIRE-FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION, DRAMA, STATIC DISPLAY AND VIDEO SHOW WILL BE STAGED FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM ON THE DAY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO BOARD A FIRE BOAT TO BE BERTHED AT THE QUEEN'S PIER. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT VARIOUS TYPES OF FIRE ENGINES PARKED AT THE VENUE.

/THE DIRECTOR .....

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

- 12 -

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, WILL PERFORM THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY FOR THE LION DANCE AROUND 2.15 PM.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR LAU SIN-PANG; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (HK & KLN) OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR C.C. WAN; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION) OF EDUCATION, CHAN KWOK-HEI; SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (TENANT'S SERVICES AND PROMOTIONS) OF HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR LAI IP-CHEUNG; AND DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR MAK HUNG-KAE.

SOUVENIRS AND BOOKLETS CONVEYING FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE TO THE PUBLIC ON SPOT.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1991/92 FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHING CEREMONY AT 2 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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SPECIAL PRODUCTS TO MARK INT'L STAMP EXHIBITION  
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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE WILL PARTICIPATE IN PHILANIPPON'91.

THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 16 TO 24 IN TOKYO.

TO MARK THE OCCASION A \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET (NO. 2) AND A SOUVENIR COVER AT \$0.7 WILL BE PLACED ON SALE.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON NOVEMBER 16 WITH A SPECIAL PICTORIAL DATESTAMP ON ANY OFFICIAL OR PRIVATELY MADE SOUVENIR COVER COMMEMORATING HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EXHIBITION.

IN ADDITION, A CACHET WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR GENERAL CANCELLATION PURPOSES.

THE ABOVE PRODUCTS AND HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PHILATELIC COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN OFFICES:

AIRPORT POST OFFICE

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE

/GENERAL POST .....

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

- 13 -

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE  
PEAK POST OFFICE  
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

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TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL STARTS ON SATURDAY  
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THE 13TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL BEGIN WITH A JOINT PERFORMANCE BY THE JIANGSU MARTIAL ART TEAM AND THE HONG KONG MARTIAL ART ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2).

ABOUT 50 MARTIAL ART ATHLETES WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS IN THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND. THE PERFORMANCE WILL START AT 8 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WILL BE THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR FRED TING.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH-LONG TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL INCLUDES PERFORMANCES BY THE SICHUAN HARD QIGONG AND SKILL CALLISTHENICS TEAM, FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER, ARCHERY, WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL MATCHES AND A GO-KART RACE.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS AND PROGRAMME LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE. ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE ON TEL. 492 5096.

THE 13TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FEDERATION OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE TSUEN WAN POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE AND SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE COST OF THE FESTIVAL IS ESTIMATED AT \$1.3 MILLION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GRAND OPENING OF THE 13TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL AND THE JOINT MARTIAL ARTS PERFORMANCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2) AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

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ARTS FESTIVAL FOR NORTH DISTRICT

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THE FIRST NORTH DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2 AND 10.

THE FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD TO PROMOTE ART ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NINE-DAY FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE A FOLK ARTS BAZZAR, AN EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS, A SEMINAR ON CHINESE CULTURE, A CANTONESE OPERA SHOW, A PERFORMANCE BY THE LOWU ARTS TROUPE, A YOUTH DRAWING COMPETITION AND A VISIT TO A HORTICULTURE EXHIBITION.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY EVENING. GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG; THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG; THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR HUI CHI-WAI AND THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR PANG HANG-YIN.

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MOST OF THESE ACTIVITIES. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 671 4813 OR 673 8306.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2) AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL AT 7.30 PM.

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DIAL-A-RIDE REHABUS SERVICE EXTENDED

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THE FULL-DAY DIAL-A-RIDE REHABUS SERVICE FOR THE DISABLED OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION (HKSR) WILL BE EXTENDED FOR 12 MONTHS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO OCTOBER 31 NEXT YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXTENSION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A DONATION OF \$1 MILLION BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE PILOT SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED A YEAR AGO THROUGH A SUBVENTION BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

IT HAD PROVEN TO BE A SUCCESS AS IT HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS AND ENHANCED THE OBJECTIVE OF INTEGRATING THEM INTO THE COMMUNITY.

FOUR 12-SEATED REHABUSES ARE PRESENTLY DEPLOYED FROM HKSR'S EXISTING FLEET TO OPERATE THE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM IN TWO SHIFTS DAILY.

DEPENDING ON DEMAND, THE LEVEL OF SERVICE MAY BE FURTHER STEPPED UP.

THE CHARGING RATES FOR EACH JOURNEY ARE \$1.5 PER KILOMETRE PLUS \$30 PER HOURS FOR GROUP FARES (THREE OR MORE DISABLED PERSONS), AND \$1 PER KILOMETRE PLUS \$20 PER HOUR FOR INDIVIDUAL FARES (ONE OR TWO DISABLED PERSONS).

HKSR IS CURRENTLY OPERATING 34 SCHEDULED ROUTES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT SERVICES TO DISABLED PERSONS WHO NEED TO TRAVEL TO THEIR PLACE OF WORK, STUDY OR RECREATION.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS FOR THE DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE MAY BE MADE TO HKSR ON TEL. 817 8154 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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EPD'S NOISE AND AIR CONTROL GROUPS ON MOVE  
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THE NOISE AND AIR CONTROL GROUPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) WILL MOVE TO THE WEST WING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN ICE HOUSE STREET FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 4).

THE NOISE CONTROL GROUP, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING CONSTRUCTION NOISE PERMITS, WILL BE LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

FROM MONDAY, ALL APPLICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION NOISE PERMITS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE GROUP AT ITS NEW ADDRESS EITHER BY HAND OR BY POST. APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION BOOKLETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THERE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO LODGE AN APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OR REQUIREMENT RELATING TO A CONSTRUCTION NOISE PERMIT FOR CARRYING OUT PERCUSSIVE PILING, OR THE SERVICE OF A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE, SHOULD OBTAIN THE RELEVANT FORM FROM THE NEW ADDRESS. THEY NEED TO RETURN A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE NOISE CONTROL GROUP.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE ENQUIRY DESK OF THE NOISE CONTROL GROUP IS 810 2811.

THE AIR CONTROL GROUP, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF AIR CONTROL LEGISLATION, WILL BE LOCATED ON THE 13TH FLOOR.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHIMNEY/FURNACES INSTALLATION AND SPECIFIED PROCESS LICENCE APPLICATION UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE GROUP'S NEW ADDRESS.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFC'S) AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS UNDER THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE SHOULD ALSO BE DIRECTED TO THE AIR CONTROL GROUP AT NEW ADDRESS. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 810 2910.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

- 16 -

WSD'S SAI KUNG ENQUIRY CENTRE CLOSES

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE IN SAI KUNG WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 4) IN VIEW OF THE EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL OF UTILISATION OF ITS SERVICES.

THE CENTRE, AT SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG MARKET, STARTED OPERATION IN APRIL 1986.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, IN VIEW OF THE LOW PATRONAGE, THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE WAS REDUCED TO MONDAYS ONLY ON A TRIAL BASIS.

AT THAT TIME, THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CENTRE WERE PUBLICISED THROUGH THE PRESS AND CONSUMERS HAD BEEN FURTHER REMINDED BY NOTICES DISPATCHED WITH WATER BILLS.

DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, THE LEVEL OF UTILISATION REMAINED EXTREMELY LOW AND THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED OPERATION.

AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE CENTRE, SAI KUNG RESIDENTS MAY CONTINUE TO OBTAIN COMMON WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT APPLICATION FORMS (CHANGE OF CONSUMERSHIP, APPLICATION FOR WATER SUPPLY, AND SO ON) AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE OF CONSUMERSHIP, INSTALLATION OF WATER METER AND SEPARATE METERING, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY BE FORWARDED BY POST.

CONSUMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE WATER AUTHORITY'S TELEPHONE ENQUIRY UNIT (TEL. NO. 824 5000) IF THEY HAVE ANY QUERIES IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ACCOUNTS.

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CSD AUTUMN FAIR IN STANLEY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT THERE WILL BE A BARGAIN SALE AT THE AUTUMN FAIR ORGANISED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) IN STANLEY ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2).

A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS, INCLUDING STUFFED TOYS, HANDICRAFT, RATTAN AND WOODEN FURNITURE, WILL BE ON SALE AT THE FAIR.

THE PRODUCTS ARE MADE BY INMATES OF VARIOUS PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN THEIR SPARE TIME.

/"THE FAIR .....

"THE FAIR IS AN ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND IS AN ESTABLISHED PART OF OUR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE FAIR AND OVER \$500,000 WERE RAISED LAST YEAR.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 11 AM AND 5 PM AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD NEXT TO STANLEY PRISON. ADMISSION IS FREE.

AS PARKING PLACES ARE LIMITED, VISITORS ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THEY CAN TAKE BUS NOS. 6 OR 260 (FROM CENTRAL), NO. 73 (FROM WAH FU ESTATE), NO. 63 (FROM NORTH POINT) OR NO. 14 (FROM SAI WAN HO).

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN SAI KUNG

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AN EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN SAI KUNG WILL BE HELD AT THE WATERFRONT OF SAI KUNG TOWN ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 1 AND 2).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, THE EXHIBITION WILL NOT ONLY FOCUS ON SAI KUNG'S HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, BUT WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT THE MORE ATTRACTIVE AND IDYLIC FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.

AN OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT NOON ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2) AT THE EXHIBITION VENUE.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PARRISH NG; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, MR EUGENE SULLIVAN.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991

- 18 -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A BUILDING IN NORTH POINT, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE LOCATED ON THE FLAT ROOF OF 19TH FLOOR, NAM TIN BUILDING, AT 275 KING'S ROAD.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON NOVEMBER 28 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE AUTHORITY ALSO SEEKS TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ABOVE THE STAIRCASE LEADING TO THE BASEMENT FROM BOWRINGTON ROAD TO YAU KWONG BUILDING, AT 418-430 HENNESSY ROAD AND 9 CANAL ROAD WEST IN WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 6 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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CONVERSION OF POSTAGE LABEL ISSUING MACHINE

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL ISSUING (FRAMA) MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A 10-KEY CONFIGURATION ON NOVEMBER 6.

FOLLOWING THE CONVERSION, CUSTOMERS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF CHOOSING FIFTY DENOMINATIONS FROM 10 CENTS TO \$5, AT 10 CENTS INTERVALS, INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT FOUR PRE-SET VALUES.

CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FORM OF POSTAGE LABELS BEARING THE VALUES OF \$1, 50 CENTS AND 10 CENTS.

MR WONG ADDED THAT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, PRE-PACKAGED SETS OF FRAMA LABELS BEARING THE NUMERAL '01' AND DENOMINATIONS FROM 10 CENTS TO \$2.30 AND \$2.40 TO \$5 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 6 AT \$27.60 AND \$99.90 PER PACKAGE RESPECTIVELY.

TO MARK THE OCCASION A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE TO PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING A "FIRST DAY" INDICATION.

/IN SPITE .....

- 19 -

IN SPITE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF PRE-PACKAGED LABELS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT PHILATELISTS WILL STILL PREFER TO BUY FRAMA LABELS BEARING THE VALUES THEY LIKE DIRECTLY FROM THE MACHINE ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

IN ORDER TO ALLOW MORE CUSTOMERS TO USE THE MACHINE, A RESTRICTION OF \$5 PER TRANSACTION FOR EACH CUSTOMER QUEUING IN FRONT OF THE MACHINE WILL BE IMPOSED ON NOVEMBER 6.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	30.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	31.10.91	-126
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+126
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.7 *-0.1* 31.10.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	31.10.91	30.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	3.93 PCT	4.06 PCT
1 MONTH	3.97 PCT	4.09 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.25 PCT	4.35 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.52 PCT	4.65 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.38 PCT	5.46 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	7,570 MN	8,432 MN

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