



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR LINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY):

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INVITED TO THE CEREMONY OF THE BANK OF CHINA, CELEBRATING THE ISSUE OF NEW NOTES. SINCE YOU ARE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, ARE YOU FEELING BEING NEGLECTED?

GOVERNOR: I'VE GOT A PRETTY BUSY PROGRAMME NEXT WEEK AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW. SO, I DON'T FEEL PARTICULARLY NEGLECTED. IT'S AN IMPORTANT OCCASION FOR THE BANK OF CHINA. THE GOVERNMENT, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INVITED THE BANK OF CHINA TO BECOME A NOTE-ISSUING BANK. I THINK IT'S PART OF THE EXTREMELY GOOD FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS. I THINK THE NEW NOTES THAT THE BANK OF CHINA WILL BE ISSUING ARE EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE. I AM DELIGHTED THAT THEY ARE MANAGING THE NOTE ISSUE SO COMPETENTLY AND I HOPE THAT THE CEREMONY ON MONDAY GOES EXTREMELY WELL AND THAT THE ISSUE OF BANK NOTES GOES VERY WELL TOO.

QUESTION: SOME OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MIGHT BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY?

GOVERNOR: OF COURSE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO ATTEND?

GOVERNOR: OF COURSE, OF COURSE. THIS IS A FREE AND OPEN COMMUNITY AND A NUMBER OF OUR OFFICIALS HAVE, I AM DELIGHTED TO SAY, EXTREMELY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BANK OF CHINA AND THE FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES IN CHINA AND I THINK IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT CEREMONY. I HOPE EVERYBODY WHO GOES TO IT, HAS A SMASHING TIME.

QUESTION: IS IT STILL POSSIBLE THAT YOU MIGHT BE MEETING LU PING?

GOVERNOR: AS I SAID, EVEN I'LL HAVE A BUSY SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK AS HE DOES, I'LL BE PREPARED, AND I AM SURE THAT THOSE WHO HAVE INVITED ME TO FUNCTIONS WILL UNDERSTAND IT, I'LL BE PREPARED TO CHANGE MY SCHEDULE AT ANY TIME IF IT WAS CONVENIENT TO DIRECTOR LU PING BECAUSE I THINK THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT TO SEE US CO-OPERATING. I THINK THEY WANT TO SEE US GETTING ON WITH PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. I THINK THEY WANT TO SEE US WORKING IN THE INTEREST OF THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND I THINK THEY BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL LEADERS IN EVERY COMMUNITY SHOULD PUT DIFFERENCES ON ONE SIDE AND TAKE THE TROUBLE TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND TRY TO WORK TOGETHER. BUT, I'VE EXPRESSED MY POINT OF VIEW AND I AM SORRY THAT DIRECTOR LU PING'S SCHEDULE IS SO BUSY.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK HE IS VIOLATING THE MOU BECAUSE HE HASN'T BEEN MEETING YOU?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IS A QUESTION YOU HAVE TO PUT TO HIM.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, THERE ARE SPECULATIONS AND REPORTINGS SAYING THAT YOUR HEART IS NOT IN HONG KONG BUT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND YOU DO IT QUITE LOW KEY AND YOU ARE RESTRAINED TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT YOUR REFORM PROPOSAL?

GOVERNOR: I AM HOPING, GOD WILLING, TO BE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997. ABOUT EVERY OTHER WEEK, SOME NEW LUDICROUS STORIES COME OUT LIKE THAT ONE AND I'LL GIVE YOU EXACTLY THE SAME REPLY. I'LL BE GIVING IT THE REPLY ON THE JUNE 29, 1997, THE DAY BEFORE I DEPART ON 30TH. I AM COMMITTED TO DOING THE BEST POSSIBLE JOB HERE IN HONG KONG. PART OF DOING THAT JOB INVOLVES ME AS INVOLVED MY PREDECESSORS IN RETURNING TO THE UK FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A YEAR FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS, TO MAKE SPEECHES. I AM GOING BACK IN MAY TO MAKE A SPEECH IN MANCHESTER ABOUT HONG KONG AND MANCHESTER BECAUSE MANCHESTER HAS ONE OF THE LARGEST HONG KONG CHINESE COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. SO, I'LL CONTINUE TO BEHAVE IN THAT WAY. I'LL CONTINUE TO WORK AS HARD AS I CAN FOR THE INTEREST AND LIVELIHOOD OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND I'LL CONTINUE TO GIVE THE SORT OF QUESTIONS YOU'VE JUST GIVEN; THE SORT OF REPLY I'VE JUST GIVEN.

QUESTION: BUT, IS THAT YOUR VISITS BACK TO UNITED KINGDOM IS SO FREQUENT THAT YOU GIVE PEOPLE THAT IMPRESSION THAT YOUR HEART IS NOT IN HONG KONG ?

GOVERNOR: MY VISITS TO THE UK, AS YOU WELL KNOW, ARE ABOUT THE SAME FREQUENCY AS THOSE OF MY PREDECESSORS. IF YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT IT'S NOT SENSIBLE TO GO BACK TO THE UK FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A YEAR FOR MEETINGS, THEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE NATURE OF OUR PRESENT POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE WHOLE THING CARRIES A SYMBOLIC MEANING THAT AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, YOU ARE BEING NEGLECTED ESPECIALLY BY THE CHINESE OFFICIALS? IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN HOW CAN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG AND BRITAIN GO SMOOTHLY IN THESE THREE YEARS?

GOVERNOR: WE ARE PREPARED TO CO-OPERATE AND WORK SMOOTHLY AND I HOPE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE AS WELL. THAT'S OUR ASPIRATION. THAT'S WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPENING. I REPEAT WE WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT, I WILL BE THE GOVERNOR UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 1997, WORKING HARD FOR HONG KONG, MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT HONG KONG, ALLOCATING RESOURCES IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG. THAT'S WHAT WE WILL BE CONTINUING TO DO RIGHT DOWN TO THE WIRE. AND I HOPE THAT BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, WE WILL GET THE SORT OF CO-OPERATION FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS WHICH I THINK EVERYBODY WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

QUESTION: ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT THERE'LL BE CO-OPERATION OVER AVIATION ISSUES? IN YOUR SPEECH, YOU MENTIONED THAT.... ATTENTION TO COOPERATION WITH SOUTHERN CHINA, COULD YOU ELABORATE ON THAT, PLEASE?

GOVERNOR: OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORTS AND THE INCREASED FREQUENCY OF AIR SERVICES IN THE REGION. AND THOSE ARE THE SORT OF THE ISSUES THAT WE HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS SO THAT WE CAN MANAGE THE SYSTEMS IN THIS REGION EFFICIENTLY AND SAFETY.

QUESTION: OBVIOUSLY, THE CHINESE OFFICIALS DIDN'T INTEND TO MEET WITH YOU WHILE THEY STOP OVER IN HONG KONG. DO YOU THINK IT HAD AN IMPLICATION THAT CHINESE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WANT TO CO-OPERATE WITH YOU POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE PUBLIC IN HONG KONG HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THEY WANT TO SEE CHINESE OFFICIALS CO-OPERATING WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THAT'S CERTAINLY WHAT I WANT TO SEE AND I AM SURE THAT WE WILL SEE THAT BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. I HOPE THAT DIRECTOR LU PING, WHEN HE COMES IN THE COMING WEEK WHEN HE ARRIVES IN HONG KONG, WILL BE ABLE TO MEET MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS AND I AM SURE THAT HIS POCKETS WILL BE FULL OF GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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HK - AMERICA'S GATEWAY TO PACIFIC CENTURY

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HONG KONG IN THE 21ST CENTURY WILL MATTER TO CHINA, ASIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN HER LUNCHEON SPEECH TO THE ASIA SOCIETY IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAY (APRIL 29).

IT WILL MATTER TO U.S. BUSINESS AS A PROSPEROUS, OPEN AND EXTERNALLY-ORIENTATED MARKET, AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AND AS A BUSINESS CENTRE FOR EAST ASIA AS A WHOLE, SHE SAID.

"FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WITH A KEEN NOSE FOR OPPORTUNITIES, IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER YOU SHOULD INVEST IN HONG KONG.

"RATHER IT IS A QUESTION OF WHETHER YOU CAN AFFORD NOT TO," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE WAS FOUNDED ON A MULTIPLICITY OF FACTORS.

AN EFFICIENT, OPEN, HONEST AND UNOBTRUSIVE GOVERNMENT; SIMPLE IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES THAT ALLOW EXPATRIATE STAFF TO WORK IN HONG KONG; AND LOW TAX RATES ARE SOME OF THE REASONS FOR ITS SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.

OTHER FACTORS ARE A WELL-ESTABLISHED LEGAL SYSTEM, INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF EDUCATION, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

POINTING OUT THAT ALL THESE FACTORS MUST BE MAINTAINED IF HONG KONG IS TO FLOURISH INTO THE NEXT CENTURY, MRS CHAN SAID THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION COVERED THESE POINTS IN DETAIL.

SHE SAID HER TOP PRIORITY WAS TO HELP MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE TRANSITION TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 AND TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE SHAPE TO CONTINUE SERVING THE COMMUNITY AFTER THE END OF BRITISH RULE.

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TURNING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS, MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ELECTORAL PROPOSALS WERE NOT MEANT TO CHALLENGE THE BASIC LAW IN ANY WAY, BUT MERELY TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTIONS WERE CLEAN.

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS AND MAINTAINING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, SHE SAID.

"THAT IS WHY WE ARE GOING AHEAD WITH OUR ELECTORAL LEGISLATION, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE CHINA'S AGREEMENT," SHE SAID.

"WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA IN OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING OUR ECONOMY AND WELL-BEING CAN GO FORWARD.

"ON A RANGE OF DAY TO DAY ISSUES AFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIFE, WE ALREADY HAVE REGULAR AND VERY GOOD CO-OPERATION WITH OUR COUNTERPARTS IN CHINA," SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE IMPACT OF SHANGHAI'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON HONG KONG, MRS CHAN SAID: "WE SEE SHANGHAI'S POTENTIAL AS AN OPPORTUNITY, NOT A THREAT."

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CHIEF SECRETARY ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID ON THURSDAY (APRIL 28) A KEY MEMBER OF THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SHARED HER VIEW OF THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES IF THE UNITED STATES DID NOT RENEW CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) TRADE STATUS.

"WE HAD A VERY GOOD DISCUSSION AND I THINK WE SHARE A UNANIMITY OF VIEW ABOUT THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF NOT EXTENDING MFN," MRS CHAN SAID OF HER MEETING WITH U.S. COMMERCE SECRETARY RONALD BROWN.

"BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ON THE HUMAN RIGHT ISSUE AND DOMESTIC CONCERNS, AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE CHINESE WILL FEEL ABLE, IN THE FEW REMAINING WEEKS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT HAS TO MAKE A DECISION, TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHT ISSUE," MRS CHAN SAID.

BEFORE TRAVELLING FROM WASHINGTON DC TO CONTINUE HER BUSY PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS IN NEW YORK, MRS CHAN MET WITH NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN GARY ACKERMAN, WHO CHAIRS THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE.

AFTER ARRIVING IN NEW YORK, MRS CHAN WILL ADDRESS A GROUP OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK (APRIL 28).

THE FOLLOWING DAY SHE WILL ADDRESS A COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS BREAKFAST MEETING ON "HONG KONG AND AMERICA: THE ENDURING PARTNERSHIP", THEN ATTEND A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD, AND BRIEF A GROUP OF LEADING U.S. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

AT LUNCHTIME SHE WILL GIVE A KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE ASIA SOCIETY ON "HONG KONG AS AMERICA'S GATEWAY TO THE PACIFIC CENTURY" AND THEN RETURN TO WASHINGTON DC FOR AN EARLY EVENING MEETING WITH VICE-PRESIDENT AL GORE.

IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING MFN RENEWAL FOR CHINA, THE FOCUS OF THE NEW YORK LEG OF MRS CHAN'S VISIT WILL BE ON FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S.

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REPORT ON PRICING AND CONNECTION OF MOBILE PHONE HANDSETS

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THE OFFICE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (OFTA) TODAY (FRIDAY) ISSUED A REPORT ON THE PRICING AND CONNECTION OF MOBILE PHONE HANDSETS.

"THE REPORT IS THE RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS SOME PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE PRICES OF MOBILE PHONE HANDSETS AND THE DIFFICULTY TO CONNECT SELF-PROVIDED HANDSETS TO THE MOBILE PHONE NETWORKS IN HONG KONG," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MR ALEX ARENA, SAID.

THE REPORT SETS OUT THE FOLLOWING MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

- * THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF MOBILE PHONES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG AT A WIDE RANGE OF PRICES;
- * PRICES OF MOBILE PHONES ARE VERY VOLATILE AND HAVE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, TYPICALLY BY 20 PER CENT TO 30 PER CENT AND MUCH MORE FOR CERTAIN MODELS;
- * IT IS NOT STRICTLY RELEVANT TO DRAW COMPARISONS BETWEEN MOBILE PHONE PRICES IN HONG KONG AND OTHER PLACES DUE TO DIFFERENT MARKET AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS AND DIFFERENT RETAIL COST STRUCTURE;
- * MOBILE NETWORK OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO CONNECT HANDSETS PROVIDED BY CUSTOMERS TO THEIR NETWORKS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE HANDSET IS PURCHASED FROM OVERSEAS OR FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THE AUTHORISED DEALERS OF THE NETWORK OPERATORS;
- * OFTA CONSIDERED THAT THE NETWORK OPERATORS HAD BEEN CHARGING TOO HIGH A CONNECTION FEE FOR HANDSETS PROVIDED BY CUSTOMERS AS COMPARED TO THE COSTS OF PROVIDING CONNECTION;
- * AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE NETWORK OPERATORS, THE CONNECTION FEES FOR ALL THE MOBILE NETWORKS HAVE NOW BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT ALL MOBILE OPERATORS HAVE AGREED TO LOWER THEIR CONNECTION FEES SUBSTANTIALLY. THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR ENHANCEMENT OF CONSUMER INTERESTS," MR ARENA SAID.

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"TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE HANDLING OF CONNECTION OF HANDSETS, OFTA WILL FURTHER DISCUSS WITH THE MOBILE OPERATORS ON THE NEED FOR A CUSTOMER CHARTER TO BE PUBLISHED ON THEIR STANDARD OF SERVICE," HE ADDED.

THE REPORT ALSO GIVES ADVICE TO CONSUMERS ON THE CHOICE OF MOBILE PHONE HANDSETS AND REMINDS MOBILE PHONE DEALERS AND IMPORTERS OF THEIR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED IN PERSON OR IN WRITING AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

OFFICE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
29TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE
213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST
WAN CHAI
HONG KONG
ATTENTION: CONTROLLER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
(COMPETITIVE SERVICES)

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ROLE OF ESTATE AGENT DISCUSSED

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THE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RECOMMENDED THAT AN ESTATE AGENT SHOULD PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE BUYER WITH CERTAIN ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPERTY PUT UP FOR SALE THROUGH HIM.

THE INFORMATION SHOULD INCLUDE THAT RELATED TO SALEABLE FLOOR AREA, YEAR OF COMPLETION AND PERMITTED USE OF THE PROPERTY, AND THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE LAND LEASE.

MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE TRADE. THEY NOTED THAT MANY DISPUTES OVER COMMISSION AROSE FROM THE ABSENCE OF A WRITTEN AGREEMENT.

THEY RECOMMENDED THAT AN ESTATE AGENT AND HIS CLIENT SHOULD ENTER INTO A WRITTEN AGENCY AGREEMENT RATHER THAN AN ORAL ONE AS IN MOST CASES AT PRESENT. HOWEVER, THEY DID NOT SUPPORT STANDARDISING COMMISSION RATES.

THEY ALSO AGREED THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY SHOULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN RESOLVING DISPUTES OVER COMMISSIONS AND FEES BETWEEN AN AGENT AND HIS CLIENT.

THEY AGREED THE AUTHORITY SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO SUMMON ESTATE AGENTS AND HOLD HEARING ON ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING BREACH OF STATUTORY RULES AND REGULATIONS.

IT SHOULD ALSO HAVE POWER TO IMPOSE PENALTIES, SUCH AS TO SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENCE.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE RULES TO REGULATE ADVERTISING BY ESTATE AGENTS. THE OBJECTIVES ARE TO AVOID MISREPRESENTATION IN ADVERTISEMENTS.

/MEMBERS ENDORSED

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MEMBERS ENDORSED CERTAIN MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED TO PREVENT MISAPPROPRIATION OF CLIENT'S MONEY BY AN ESTATE AGENT AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY SHOULD CONSIDER PRESCRIBING CERTAIN INDEMNITY REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY ESTATE AGENTS AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN SOME PROFESSIONS.

MEMBERS ALSO AGREED THAT AN INDEPENDENT APPEAL PANEL SHOULD BE SET UP TO DEAL WITH APPEALS AGAINST THE AUTHORITY'S DECISIONS.

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E & M CONTRACT AWARDED FOR LANTAU FIXED CROSSING
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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS TODAY (FRIDAY) ACCEPTED A \$289.2 MILLION TENDER SUBMITTED BY ABB SAE SADELIMI - ABB LIMITED JOINT VENTURE FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING IS A MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME'S TRANSPORT NETWORK LINKING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN ON NORTH LANTAU TO KOWLOON AND CENTRAL HONG KONG.

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT COVER ALL NON-EMBEDDED ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORK FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, WHICH COMPRISES THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT, AN INTERCHANGE WITH ROUTE 3 AND A TOLL PLAZA ON THE TSING YI ISLAND, THE LANTAU TOLL PLAZA AND ROAD APPROACHES ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE WORKS, TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1997, INCLUDE POWER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION, LIGHTING SYSTEMS, PLANT MONITORING AND CONTROL SYSTEMS, FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS, SECURITY FACILITIES, STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO 39, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT \$32 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE SIX MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS VALUED AT \$10.7 BILLION AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE ACP, ALL WITHIN BUDGET, IS ABOUT \$48.3 BILLION.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT LONDON

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON ON SATURDAY (APRIL 30) FOR DUTY VISIT.

HE WILL ALSO BE ATTENDING AN INVESTITURE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE ON MAY 5 TO BE KNIGHTED BY THE QUEEN.

HE WAS MADE KBE IN THE 1994 NEW YEAR HONOURS.

SIR HAMISH WILL BE MEETING THE MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE AND THE TREASURY.

HIS PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, MR EDDIE GEORGE, AND OTHER SENIOR BANK OFFICIALS AND A LUNCH WITH PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN AND FINANCIERS TO BE HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, SIR DAVID FORD.

HE WILL ALSO MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, AND VISIT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON.

SIR HAMISH WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON MAY 6. DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, WILL BE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

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AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CO-OPERATION IS VITAL

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GREATER INTERACTION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES IS NEEDED TO MANAGE THE GROWTH OF AIR MOVEMENTS EFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR LINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT AN AGREEMENT FOR AN EXCHANGE SCHEME WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES RECENTLY.

"IT WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS CO-OPERATION AT THE PRACTICAL LEVEL BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE OF THAT SORT OF CO-OPERATION," MR PATTEN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO DEVELOPING CO-OPERATION WITH SOUTHERN CHINA BECAUSE OF THE PREDICTED GROWTH IN ANNUAL AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS IN THE REGION: 163,000 THIS YEAR; 314,000 IN 1997 AND 676,000 BY 2,010.

/REGARDING THE

REGARDING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEP LAP KOK, MR PATTEN SAID GROUND HANDLING AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS MUST BE DEVELOPED TO ENSURE SAFE OPERATION.

THE AIRLINES THEMSELVES MUST BE MANAGED AND OPERATED EFFICIENTLY, HE ADDED.

HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT THE FEDERATION HAD ALREADY HELD MEETINGS WITH THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY ON THE INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM AND RUNWAY DESIGNS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

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WIDER PROTECTION FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES PROPOSED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO MAKE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (ECO) TO PROVIDE WIDER PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES WHO WERE INJURED AT WORK.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WHICH WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"UNDER THE PROPOSAL, AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT ON THE WAY TO OR FROM HIS PLACE OF WORK WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR ABOVE, OR RED OR BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL, IS ISSUED WOULD BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION," ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MRS ANGELA HO SAID.

"AN EMPLOYEE TRAVELLING TO OR FROM WORK UNDER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITION WOULD BE EXPOSED TO RISKS HIGHER THAN NORMAL, THEREFORE HE SHOULD BE PROTECTED UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES," SHE EXPLAINED.

SHE SAID AT PRESENT, AN EMPLOYEE WHO SUSTAINED INJURY WHEN HE TRAVELLED FROM HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO HIS PLACE OF WORK OR VICE VERSA WAS NOT ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION UNLESS HE WAS TRAVELLING AS A PASSENGER BY MEANS OF TRANSPORT PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO PROPOSED TO MAKE COMPENSABLE AN ACCIDENT HAPPENING TO AN EMPLOYEE WHILE DRIVING OR OPERATING ANY MEANS OF TRANSPORT PROVIDED BY HIS EMPLOYER BETWEEN HIS HOME AND HIS PLACE OF WORK IN CONNECTION WITH HIS EMPLOYMENT," MRS HO SAID.

"SIMILARLY, AN EMPLOYEE WOULD BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENED TO HIM WHILE TRAVELLING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND HIS PLACE OF WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG BY MEANS OF TRANSPORT ARRANGED BY OR AGREED WITH HIS EMPLOYER."

AS REGARDS MEDICAL EXPENSES, IT WAS PROPOSED TO GIVE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR THE POWER TO PROCESS A CLAIM FROM AN EMPLOYEE FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY HIM OR HER OUTSIDE HONG KONG AND TO ASSESS THE AMOUNT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES PAYABLE BY THE EMPLOYER, MRS HO SAID.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF 'MEDICAL EXPENSES' TO INCLUDE THE MEDICAL EXPENSES SO ASSESSED AND OTHER FORMS OF CURATIVE TREATMENT GIVEN BY REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS UNDER THE LAWS OF HONG KONG.

/"IN ADDITION,

"IN ADDITION, IF AN EMPLOYEE IS INJURED WHILE WORKING OUTSIDE HONG KONG AND IS GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG, HIS EMPLOYER IS LIABLE TO PAY FOR THE COST OF PROSTHESIS OR SURGICAL APPLIANCE REQUIRED BY HIM AS A RESULT OF THE INJURY PROVIDED THAT THE PROSTHESES AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES BOARD (PSAB) GIVES ITS APPROVAL," SHE ADDED.

ON THE COST OF ATTENDING TO AN INJURED EMPLOYEE WHO SUFFERS SERIOUS PERMANENT INCAPACITY, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE COURT MIGHT AWARD COMPENSATION TO MEET THE COST OF ATTENTION IF THE EMPLOYEE REQUIRED THE CARE OF ANOTHER PERSON.

"WE ALSO PROPOSED TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING PROVISION BY ALLOWING AN EMPLOYER AND HIS INJURED EMPLOYEE TO AGREE ON THE COMPENSATION FOR THE COST OF ATTENTION AND SUBMIT SUCH AN AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, ON CONDITION THAT THE AMOUNT AGREED SHOULD BE THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM," SHE SAID.

TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES WHOSE PERIOD OF TEMPORARY INCAPACITY OR SICK LEAVE EXTENDS BEYOND THE STATUTORY CEILING OF 24 MONTHS, MRS HO SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD PROPOSED TO PROVIDE THE COURT WITH A DISCRETIONARY POWER TO EXTEND THE MAXIMUM PERIOD IN RESPECT OF WHICH PERIODICAL PAYMENTS ARE PAYABLE BY UP TO 12 MONTHS IN DESERVING CASES.

"WE ALSO PROPOSED AN ADJUSTMENT OF EARNINGS FOR CALCULATING PERIODICAL PAYMENTS AND COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF TEMPORARY INCAPACITY BEYOND 12 MONTHS OR 24 MONTHS AS APPROPRIATE," SHE SAID.

"THE RATE OF EARNING ADJUSTMENT SHALL BE THE AVERAGE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE EARNINGS OF OTHER PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THE EMPLOYER IN SIMILAR EMPLOYMENT, OR WHERE NO OTHER PERSONS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE EMPLOYER IN SIMILAR EMPLOYMENT, THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS OR 24 MONTHS AS APPROPRIATE," MRS HO ADDED.

SHE NOTED THAT OTHER AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED TO CLARIFY CERTAIN EXISTING PROVISIONS AND STREAMLINE PROCEDURES.

"THESE INCLUDE CLARIFICATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AN INJURED EMPLOYEE IS PROTECTED FROM TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND MAKING LESS RESTRICTIVE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PERIODICAL PAYMENTS ARE PAYABLE TO RECIPIENTS WHO INTEND TO LEAVE HONG KONG," MRS HO SAID.

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STANDARD SCALE OF FINES INTRODUCED

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A BILL SETTING OUT A STANDARD SCALE OF FINES WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (ADMENDMENT) BILL 1994 ADJUSTS FINES BELOW \$100,000 SO THAT EACH FINE IS AT ONE OF SIX LEVELS, AND PROPOSES THAT THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR EACH LEVEL SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF AMENDMENT BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO REFLECT THE EFFECT OF INFLATION.

/"THIS WILL

"THIS WILL ENABLE MAXIMUM FINES TO BE ADJUSTED FROM TIME TO TIME BY MEANS OF A SINGLE AMENDMENT, AND WITHOUT THE NEED FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS A BILL," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE HOWEVER NOTED THAT REVISION OF FINES OTHER THAN FOR THE REASON OF INFLATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DONE BY MEANS OF SEPARATE AMENDING LEGISLATION, AND THESE REVISIONS WOULD BE JUSTIFIED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

THE STANDARD SCALE WOULD NOT APPLY TO FINES THAT CURRENTLY EXCEED \$100,000, HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM FINES FOR EACH LEVEL ARE \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000 AND \$100,000.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY HUNDREDS OF PROVISIONS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT OUR LEGISLATION GIVING POWER TO THE COURTS TO IMPOSE FINES, EITHER ALONE OR IN ADDITION TO OTHER SENTENCES, ON CONVICTION.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT, HE SAID EACH PROVISION PRESCRIBING A FINE NEEDS TO BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION.

HE SAID: "AT PRESENT THIS IS A COMPLICATED, TIME-CONSUMING AND WASTEFUL PROCESS; EACH FINE PROVISION HAS TO BE IDENTIFIED, THE DATE OF THE LAST REVISION OF THE FINE ASCERTAINED, THE EXTENT OF INFLATION SINCE THAT DATE CALCULATED, AND AN APPROPRIATE INCREASE DECIDED UPON.

"A LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT HAS THEN TO BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, OR TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, OR TO BOTH.

"BECAUSE THE PROCESS IS SO INEFFICIENT, MANY FINES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED TO REFLECT INFLATION AND THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE FINES HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY ERODED," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SIMILAR PROBLEM WAS TACKLED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1977 BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF STANDARD SCALE OF FINES.

AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON FINES AND TARIFFS WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1991 BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY THE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, AND IT RECOMMENDED THAT A SIMILAR STANDARD SCALE OF FINES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, HE SAID.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY.

MINOR AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO LEGAL SYSTEM PROPOSED
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A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE THAT WERE FOUND TO BE OBSOLETE, IN NEED OF MINOR CORRECTION OR IMPROVEMENT, OR INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS WILL BE REPEALED OR AMENDED IF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 1994 IS ENACTED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT SAID IN 1992 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PROPOSED THAT A BILL BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH "MINOR, TECHNICAL AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL" AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

A GENERAL CIRCULAR WAS SENT TO THE JUDICIARY, BAR ASSOCIATION, LAW SOCIETY, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO SEEK PROPOSALS. MANY SUGGESTIONS WERE RECEIVED, LEADING TO THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN THE PROPOSED BILL.

THE BILL, GAZETTED TODAY, WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 11. IT PROPOSES THE ABOLITION OF ASSESSORS IN THE MAGISTRACY, MARINE MAGISTRATES, AND SPECIAL JURIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PROVISION FOR ASSESSORS TO SIT WITH MAGISTRATES HEARING CRIMINAL CASES WAS INTRODUCED IN 1978, WHICH WAS INTENDED AS A MEASURE WHEREBY LOCAL PERSONS COULD BE APPOINTED TO ASSIST NEWLY APPOINTED EXPATRIATE MAGISTRATES.

BUT THE EXPERIMENT WAS NOT A GREAT SUCCESS, HE SAID.

THE LAST OCCASION UPON WHICH AN ASSESSOR SAT UPON A CRIMINAL TRIAL WAS IN MARCH 1988. MOREOVER, THE NUMBER OF LOCAL MAGISTRATES HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN RECENT YEARS, THUS DIMINISHING THE NEED FOR ASSESSORS.

"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PROVISIONS FOR ASSESSORS IN CRIMINAL TRIALS IN THE MAGISTRACY BE REPEALED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SIMILARLY, HE SAID THERE WAS NO RECORD IN THE LAST 20 YEARS THAT A MARINE MAGISTRATE HAD EXERCISED JURISDICTION.

"AS THE INSTITUTION NO LONGER FULFILLS ANY USEFUL PURPOSE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IT BE ABOLISHED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS REGARDS SPECIAL JURIES COMPRISING PERSONS WITH A PARTICULAR SKILL, EXPERIENCE OR STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LAST OCCASION THAT A SPECIAL JURY WAS SUMMONED WAS FOR A CORONER'S INQUEST IN 1984.

"IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE SPECIAL JURY IS ELITIST AND UNNECESSARY, AND SHOULD BE ABOLISHED," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE INSTITUTION HAD ALREADY BEEN ABOLISHED IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

UNDER EXISTING PROVISIONS, TALLYCLERKS (THOSE WHO TALLY CARGO IN AND OUT OF SHIPS), AUCTIONEERS, MARINE STORES DEALERS AND MARINE HAWKERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN LICENCES TO CARRY ON THEIR TRADES.

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THESE PROVISIONS ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED TO SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE AND SHOULD BE REPEALED.

IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT MAGISTRATES BE EMPOWERED TO IMPOSE HIGHER FINES AND AWARD HIGHER COMPENSATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CURRENT MAXIMUM PENALTY WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED BY MAGISTRATES WHEN TRYING INDICTABLE OFFENCES SUMMARILY IS, FOR A SPECIAL MAGISTRATE, IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS OR A FINE OF \$5,000 AND, FOR A PERMANENT MAGISTRATE, IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS OR A FINE OF \$10,000.

"THESE MAXIMUM FINES WERE LAST ADJUSTED IN 1981. THEY SHOULD BE REVISED TO \$50,000 AND \$100,000 RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION A MAGISTRATE MAY ORDER A CONVICTED PERSON TO PAY TO AN AGGRIEVED PERSON WILL ALSO BE RAISED, FROM \$5,000 TO \$100,000; WHILE THE SUMMARY COMPENSATION A MAGISTRATE MAY AWARD TO A VICTIM OF MALICIOUS PROSECUTION WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$2,000 TO \$10,000.

THE CURRENT AMOUNTS WERE LAST REVISED IN 1972 AND 1981 RESPECTIVELY.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE FOLLOWING SIX PROVISIONS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE SHOULD BE FORMALLY REPEALED:

- * SECTION 28(C), THEFT ORDINANCE EMPOWERS A POLICE OFFICER, RATHER THAN A JUDICIAL OFFICER, TO AUTHORISE A SEARCH OF PREMISES FOR STOLEN GOODS AND TO DO SO WITHOUT THE NEED TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE GROUNDS. THE PROVISION ONLY APPLIES TO PREMISES OCCUPIED OR WHICH HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF HANDLING STOLEN GOODS;
- * SECTION 29(6)(A), THEFT ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR TWO MANDATORY PRESUMPTIONS, "UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVED", TO OPERATE AGAINST A PERSON ACCUSED OF CERTAIN OFFENCES INVOLVING THE DISHONESTY USE OF CHEQUES;
- * SECTION 83XX(3)(A), CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE FORBIDS THE AWARD OF COSTS TO AN APPELLANT WHERE A RETRIAL IS ORDERED. THE COURT OF APPEAL HAS DECLARED THAT THIS PROVISION IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS;
- * SECTION 30, SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, CREATING THE OFFENCE OF BEING A PERSON SUSPECTED OF HAVING OR CONVEYING STOLEN PROPERTY, WAS DECLARED REPEALED BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL BY VIRTUE OF INCONSISTENCY WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS;
- * SECTION 8(D), SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE CREATES AN OFFENCE FOR PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE IN THE NIGHT-TIME WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE OR FAILING TO REPORT SUCH AN ASSEMBLY; AND

* SECTION 4(4), MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT WHERE A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF OPERATING ETC. AN UNLICENSED MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT, HE SHALL IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES BE TREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SENTENCING AS IF IT WAS HIS SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION.

ADDITIONALLY, THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO OTHER LEGISLATION, INCLUDING 28 SEPARATE ORDINANCES AND PIECES OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CORRECTION BECAUSE OF MINOR DRAFTING ERRORS AND OMISSIONS OR AS A RESULT OF AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ORDINANCES.

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REGISTRATION MARKS RESERVED FOR LEGCO VEHICLES

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS TO RESERVE REGISTRATION MARKS WITH THE PREFIX "LC" FOR VEHICLES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMISSION.

THE AMENDMENT IS NECESSITATED BY THE FACT THAT IT IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE TO ASSIGN REGISTRATION MARKS WITH THE "AM" PREFIX TO VEHICLES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT FOLLOWING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THEIR VEHICLES WILL NO LONGER BE GOVERNMENT VEHICLES.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF ISSUING REGISTRATION MARKS WITH PREFIXES OF "UC" AND "RC" TO VEHICLES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL RESPECTIVELY.

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LANTAU PORT DEVELOPMENT RECLAMATION WORKS

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ADVANCE RECLAMATION WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO FORM PART OF THE SITE FOR PHASE I OF THE LANTAU PORT DEVELOPMENT AT PENNY'S BAY, LANTAU ISLAND.

APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE WORKS, THE GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PHASE I OF THE LANTAU PORT DEVELOPMENT INVOLVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 10 ON LANTAU.

THE ADVANCE RECLAMATION WORKS CONTRACT COMPRISES PRIMARILY THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 3,500 METRES OF PITCHED SLOPE RUBBLE SEAWALL AND RECLAMATION OF ABOUT 52 HECTARES OF LAND.

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THE APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN NOON ON MAY 27 TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER/WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCE MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE INVITED IN AUGUST FROM A SELECTED LIST OF CONTRACTORS ESTABLISHED BY THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE.

WORKS ON THE SITE ARE EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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RIVER TRADE TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS ANNOUNCED

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THE SCOPE OF WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PROPOSED RIVER TRADE TERMINAL IN AREA 38, TUEN MUN, WAS DESCRIBED IN A GAZETTE NOTICE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THERE WILL BE DREDGING, RECLAMATION AND SUBMARINE INFRASTRUCTURE REPROVISION AND EXTENSION WORKS WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 370 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

THE WORKS WILL PROVIDE 63.47 HECTARES OF RECLAIMED LAND, ASSOCIATED SEAWALLS AND A 10.75-HECTARE BREAKWATER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL AS WELL AS A SEWAGE OUTFALL REPROVISIONING AND EXTENSION SYSTEM FOR THE ADJOINING PILLAR POINT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

THE PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE IN PHASES, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1999.

THE NOTICE AND RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE WORK SITE, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 29 THIS YEAR.

THE OBJECTION SHOULD DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN CANADA AND HK

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THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TONIGHT (FRIDAY) SAID AN INCREASING PROXIMITY IN RELATIONSHIP AND GROWING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG WERE EVIDENT IN MANY ASPECTS.

SPEAKING AT THE DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE VISITING GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA, MR RAMON HNATYSHYN, AND HIS WIFE, MR LEUNG SAID TRADING BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES HAD GONE UP FOUR TIMES IN A DECADE AND THERE WERE SUCCESSFUL CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN THE PAST.

"FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES, CANADA HAS BEEN RANKED AMONG THE TOP THREE MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS," MR LEUNG SAID.

"CANADA IS ALSO THE MOST POPULAR DESTINATION FOR HONG KONG EMIGRANTS, ATTRACTING SOME 29,000 HONG KONG PEOPLE EVERY YEAR," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF HONG KONG EMIGRANTS RETURNING FROM CANADA.

"THIS LARGE CONTINGENT OF HONG KONG EMIGRANTS AND RETURNEES WILL FORM THE BACKBONE OF AN INVALUABLE HUMAN NETWORK BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF THE PACIFIC, TO THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF US ALL," MR LEUNG SAID.

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NEW FEES UNDER CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND
INDECENT ARTICLES REGULATION

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NEW FEES FOR A NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 2, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TO COVER THE INCREASE IN COSTS, THE FEES SET OUT IN THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES REGULATION WILL BE INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT.

THESE INCLUDE FEES CHARGED FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLES BY THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL (O.A.T.), REVIEW OF ITS INTERIM CLASSIFICATION OF AN ARTICLE AT A FULL HEARING, RE-CONSIDERATION OF ITS CLASSIFICATION, THE INSPECTION, COPYING OR EXTRACTION OF NOTICES AND SEARCH OF THE O.A.T.'S REPOSITORY.

FEES PAYABLE FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLES BY O.A.T. WILL GO UP FROM \$1,760 TO \$1,940.

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT FEES SHOULD IN GENERAL BE SET AT LEVELS SUFFICIENT TO RECOVER FULL COSTS OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES.

"THE FEE ADJUSTMENTS WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE TRADE.

"THE FEES FOR SERVICES DESCRIBED ABOVE WERE LAST REVIEWED IN 1993," HE ADDED.

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SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS
FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993

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IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, 8,357 OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 38.2 MILLION NET REGISTERED TONS (NRT) ARRIVED AT HONG KONG.

THIS INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN THE 'HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1993' PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE FIGURES REFLECT AN INCREASE OF 8% IN NUMBER OF VESSELS AND 10% IN CAPACITY OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE 8,509 OUTGOING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 38.9 MILLION (MN) NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 5% IN NUMBER AND 10% IN CAPACITY OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, INCLUDING SEABORNE IMPORTS AND SEABORNE INWARD TRANSHIPMENT, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 17.5 MN TONNE, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 11% OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, INCLUDING SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) AND SEABORNE OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 7.8 MN TONNE, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 14%.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, 83% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE SEABORNE IMPORTS AND 17% WERE SEABORNE INWARD TRANSHIPMENT, AND 48% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE CONTAINERISED CARGO.

OF THOSE LOADED ONTO OUTGOING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, 66% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) AND 34% WERE SEABORNE OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT, AND 87% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE CONTAINERISED CARGO.

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, THE TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS (INCLUDING SEABORNE IMPORTS AND SEABORNE INWARD TRANSHIPMENT) WERE SINGAPORE (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 16% IN TONNAGE TERMS), JAPAN (14%), CHINA (13%), TAIWAN (12%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (8%).

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THE TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS (INCLUDING SEABORNE EXPORTS AND SEABORNE OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT) WERE CHINA (19%), THE U.S.A. (18%), TAIWAN (9%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (5%) AND JAPAN (4%).

THE TOP FIVE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS IN TONNAGE INCLUDE PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 21%); COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES (12%); IRON AND STEEL (8%); ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (8%); AND MACHINERY (5%).

THE TOP FIVE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES LOADED ONTO OUTGOING OCEAN-GOING VESSELS INCLUDE MACHINERY (11%); OTHER MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (9%); OTHER MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (8%); ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (7%); AND TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (5%).

CHANGES IN THE TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED AND LOADED ANALYSED BY THE TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF LOADING AND DISCHARGE BETWEEN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 ARE SHOWN RESPECTIVELY IN TABLE 2 AND TABLE 3.

SIMILAR STATISTICS FOR CARGO DISCHARGED AND LOADED ANALYSED BY THE TOP TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES ARE SHOWN RESPECTIVELY IN TABLE 4 AND TABLE 5.

STARTING FROM 1993, OCEAN-GOING VESSELS HAVE BEEN REDEFINED AS ALL VESSELS OPERATING BEYOND THE RIVER TRADE LIMITS. IN CALCULATING THE YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGES, SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR 1992 HAVE BEEN RE-COMPILED BASED ON THE NEW DEFINITION.

SHIPPING STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIP MASTERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ARE COMPILED FROM A SAMPLE OF CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS OF SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 ARE CONTAINED IN THE 'HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1993'.

THIS REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT \$44.50 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4887.

Table 1: Summary of shipping and cargo statistics of ocean-going vessels

	4th quarter <u>1993</u>	% change over 4th quarter <u>1992</u>
Incoming ocean-going vessel		
Number	8 357	+8
Capacity (Mn. NRT)	38.2	+10
Cargo discharged (Mn. tonne)	17.5 (48)	+11
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonne)	14.6 (40)	+8
Seaborne inward transhipment (Mn. tonne)	2.9 (91)	+29
Outgoing ocean-going vessel		
Number	8 509	+5
Capacity (Mn. NRT)	38.9	+10
Cargo loaded (Mn. tonne)	7.8 (87)	+14
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonne)	5.2 (81)	+17
(including domestic exports and re-exports)		
Seaborne outward transhipment (Mn. tonne)	2.6 (98)	+8

Notes: (i) Figures in brackets denote the extent of containerization in percentage.

(ii) Starting from 1993, ocean-going vessels have been redefined as all vessels operating beyond the river trade limits. In calculating the year-on-year changes, statistics for 1992 have been recompiled based on the new definition.

/Table 2:

Table 2: Cargo discharged from incoming ocean-going vessels
by the top ten countries of loading

<u>Country of loading</u>	<u>4th quarter 1993</u> ('000 tonne)	<u>% change over 4th quarter 1992</u>
Singapore	2 855	+20
Japan	2 465	+14
China	2 263	+20
Taiwan	2 017	+16
Republic of Korea	1 357	+9
U.S.A.	1 155	-6
Australia	1 118	-3
Republic of South Africa	910	+61
Thailand	369	+37
Indonesia	317	-66

Notes: (i) Cargo discharged includes seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(ii) Starting from 1993, ocean-going vessels have been redefined as all vessels operating beyond the river trade limits. In calculating the year-on-year changes, statistics for 1992 have been recompiled based on the new definition.

/Table 3:

Table 3: Cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean-going vessels
by the top ten countries of discharge

<u>Country of discharge</u>	<u>4th quarter</u> <u>1993</u> ('000 tonne)	<u>% change over</u> <u>4th quarter 1992</u>
China	1 528	+16
U.S.A.	1 439	+5
Taiwan	687	-1
Federal Republic of Germany	359	+19
Japan	346	+3
Singapore	315	+4
Netherlands	312	+24
United Kingdom	260	+33
Philippines	249	+19
Australia	156	+29

Notes: (i) Cargo loaded includes seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.

(ii) Starting from 1993, ocean-going vessels have been redefined as all vessels operating beyond the river trade limits. In calculating the year-on-year changes, statistics for 1992 have been recompiled based on the new definition.

/Table 4:

Table 4: Cargo discharged from incoming ocean-going vessels
by the top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>4th quarter 1993</u> ('000 tonne)	<u>% change over 4th quarter 1992</u>
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	3 620	+16
Coal, coke and briquettes	2 133	-17
Iron and steel	1 457	+33
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 448	+30
Machinery	956	+23
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	868	+37
Paper and paper products	846	+14
Cement and cement clinker	842	+16
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	575	+12
Stone, sand and gravel	567	+88

Notes: (i) Cargo discharged includes seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(ii) Starting from 1993, ocean-going vessels have been redefined as all vessels operating beyond the river trade limits. In calculating the year-on-year changes, statistics for 1992 have been recompiled based on the new definition.

/Table 5:

Table 5: Cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean-going vessels
by the top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>4th quarter</u> <u>1993</u> ('000 tonne)	<u>% change over</u> <u>4th quarter 1992</u>
Machinery	870	+14
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	702	+16
Other manufactured articles	593	+16
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	514	+19
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	411	+16
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	406	+24
Other chemicals and related products	392	+60
Toys	356	+5
Crude animal and vegetable materials	264	-6
Footwear	241	+6

- Notes: (i) Cargo loaded includes seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.
- (ii) Starting from 1993, ocean-going vessels have been redefined as all vessels operating beyond the river trade limits. In calculating the year-on-year changes, statistics for 1992 have been recompiled based on the new definition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1994

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MEMBERS FOR HKIED GOVERNING COUNCIL APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF MR SIMON IP AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED).

IN ADDITION, DR THOMAS LEUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HAY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, AND MR PETER LEE, DIRECTOR OF LEE HYSAN ESTATE CO. LTD. HAVE BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL RESPECTIVELY.

OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE:

MR VINCENT CHENG, SENIOR MANAGER OF HONG KONG BANK;

MR PAUL YU, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KWAN LEE CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.;

PROFESSOR LEE NGOK, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG;

DR LESLIE LO, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG;

PROFESSOR KWONG LEE DOW, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE;

SISTER MARGARET WONG, PRINCIPAL OF ST PAUL'S COVENT SCHOOL;

MR CHAN WING-KWONG, PRINCIPAL OF PO LEUNG KUK LUK HING TOO PRIMARY (AM) SCHOOL;

MRS MAGGIE KOONG, PRINCIPAL OF VICTORIA KINDERGARTEN;

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER OR REPRESENTATIVE;

SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE OR REPRESENTATIVE; AND

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OR REPRESENTATIVE.

DR C K LEUNG AND DR K C PANG WILL JOIN THE COUNCIL AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ONCE THEIR APPOINTMENTS AS DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE HAVE BEEN RATIFIED BY THE NEW COUNCIL.

APART FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS COMMENCING APRIL 25, 1994.

UNDER THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ORDINANCE, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL: NOT MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS TO BE NOMINATED BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE; THREE HKIED STAFF; AND A FULL-TIME STUDENT TO BE APPOINTED WHEN HKIED HAS ENROLLED ITS FIRST STUDENT INTAKE.

/THESE APPOINTMENTS

THESE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION IS BEING ESTABLISHED BY SUBSUMING THE EXISTING FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WITH THE AIM OF UPGRADING TEACHERS EDUCATION AND ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS IN HONG KONG.

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INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL TO HOLD HEARING

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THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL WILL BEGIN ITS MAIN HEARINGS OF THE SUCCESS HOLDINGS CASE ON MONDAY (MAY 2).

THE TRIBUNAL HELD A PRELIMINARY HEARING ON APRIL 25 IN RESPECT OF ITS INQUIRY INTO DEALINGS IN 1992 IN THE SECURITIES OF SUCCESS HOLDINGS LTD (SHL).

IT WAS DECIDED AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING THAT THE TRIBUNAL WOULD START ITS FORMAL HEARING ON MAY 2. SITTINGS WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM.

THE TRIBUNAL ALSO INDICATED THAT EVERY SITTING WOULD BE HELD IN PUBLIC UNLESS THE TRIBUNAL DECIDED THAT IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE THAT A SITTING BE HELD IN PRIVATE.

SITTINGS OF THE TRIBUNAL WILL BE HELD IN COURTROOM NO. 26, 11TH FLOOR, SUPREME COURT BUILDING.

THE TRIBUNAL COMPRISES MR JUSTICE STOCK, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL, AND TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED FOR THE SHL CASE, MR PATRICK YEUNG AND MR DEREK MURPHY.

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TWO NON-INDUSTRIAL SITES FOR AUCTION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN FANLING AND YUEN LONG DESIGNATED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE WILL BE AUCTIONED ON MAY 26 (THURSDAY).

THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE THEATRE OF THE CITY HALL.

THE LOT IN AREA 19, LUEN WO HUI, FANLING, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 20,780 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 64,112 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1998.

THE OTHER LOT, AT FUNG KAM STREET, YUEN LONG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,889 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 19,000 SQUARE METRES BEFORE JUNE 30, 1998.

BOTH LOTS ARE INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING GODOWN.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

SALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THE OFFICES.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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MEMBERSHIP OF LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR ROSIE T T YOUNG AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LANGUAGE FUND WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TOGETHER WITH OTHER EXISTING MEASURES, THE FUND AIMED TO IMPROVE PROFICIENCY IN THE CHINESE, INCLUDING PUTONGHUA, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES.

"BETTER LANGUAGE STANDARDS ARE ESSENTIAL BOTH TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CENTRE AND TO MEET THE NEEDS ARISING FROM OUR GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE CHINESE ECONOMY," HE STATED.

OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE LANGUAGE EXPERTS, EDUCATIONALISTS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND OTHER PROFESSIONS, INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

THEY ARE MR CHAN MING-KWAN, MRS ANGELA CHEUNG WONG WAN-YIU, MR CHUNG PO-YANG, DR JOHN CLARK, MR HO KING-ON, DR RICHARD HO MAN-WUI, DR KEITH JOHNSON, MRS ELIM LAU, MR LEUNG SIU-TONG, MISS SO YAN-LAP, MR SZETO WAH, MRS TAI LAM SAU-MUI, MS SHIRLEY TANG SIU-LING, MR MICHAEL TIEN PUK-SUN, PROF BENJAMIN TSOU KA-YIN, MR PETER WONG HONG-YUEN, MR YU FONG-YING, MR NORMAN YUEN KEE-TONG, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

THE APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR THE PERIOD FROM MAY 1, 1994 TO APRIL 30, 1996.

THE LANGUAGE FUND WILL BE HELD IN TRUST WITH AN INITIAL ALLOCATON OF \$300 MILLION UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION INCORPORATION ORDINANCE.

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IT WILL SERVE AS A VEHICLE TO MOUNT A CONCERTED AND SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE PROFICIENCY IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH BY:

- * INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY AND DRAWING UPON EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, ESPECIALLY FROM LANGUAGE EXPERTS AND EDUCATIONALISTS;
- * ENHANCING EXISTING EFFORTS AND MEETING TEMPORARY SHORTFALLS IN RESOURCES;
- * RESEARCHING INTO PROBLEM AREAS; AND
- * INITIATING NEW APPROACHES.

THE FUND WILL ALSO HELP ADDRESS LANGUAGE ISSUES COMPREHENSIVELY, THAT IS, INCREASING MOTIVATION TO LANGUAGE LEARNING; ENHANCING THE SUPPLY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS; INCREASING THE SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE TEACHING AIDS; AND ADDRESSING PROBLEMS WHICH INHIBIT PROFICIENCY, FOR EXAMPLE, BY INCREASING EXPOSURE AND USAGE IN PUTONGHUA AND SPOKEN ENGLISH, AND WORKING TOWARDS GREATER UNIFORMITY IN THE USE OF WRITTEN CHINESE.

"EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH ESTABLISHED EXPERTISE WILL BE ABLE TO SEEK ALLOCATION FROM THE FUND TO UNDERTAKE PARTICULAR PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES AIMED AT IMPROVING LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE BASIC CRITERIA FOR DISBURSEMENTS WILL BE THE INTRINSIC MERIT OF THE INITIATIVE, ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM IT," HE ADDED.

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REVISION OF JUDICIARY FEES

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THE BILLS OF SALE (FEES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994, WHICH SEEKS TO INCREASE THE FEES COLLECTED BY THE JUDICIARY IN PROVIDING VARIOUS SERVICES UNDER THE BILLS OF SALE ORDINANCE, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE FEES FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES UNDER THE BILLS OF SALE ORDINANCE WERE LAST REVIEWED IN 1992. TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE INCREASE IN THE COSTS OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES SINCE THE LAST REVIEW, THE FEES WILL BE INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 2, 1994," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THE FEE REVISION WAS A ROUTINE ADJUSTMENT AIMED AT RECOVERING THE INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED.

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SPECIAL SEA TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT JOSS HOUSE BAY ON MAY 2 (MONDAY) AND MAY 3 (TUESDAY) TO FACILITATE WORSHIPPERS GOING TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE TO CELEBRATE THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION WILL BE MADE AT THE PIER ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF JOSS HOUSE BAY," THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (EAST REGION), MR KHIN HLA, SAID.

OFFICERS FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND MARINE POLICE WILL BE ON PATROL IN THE AREA TO ASSIST OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL CRAFT TRANSPORTING WORSHIPPERS.

MR HLA URGED THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MARINE SAFETY AND NOT TO OVERLOAD THEIR CRAFT.

"THEY SHOULD EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHER USERS," HE POINTED OUT.

WORSHIPPERS SHOULD TAKE CARE WHEN BOARDING AND ALIGHTING FROM VESSELS, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRIES PLYING BETWEEN JOSS HOUSE BAY AND NORTH POINT ON THE TWO DAYS.

MR HLA ADVISED MASTERS OF ALL OTHER VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE TATHONG CHANNEL OVER THE FESTIVAL PERIOD TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION OWING TO THE NUMEROUS LOCAL CRAFT THAT WOULD BE SAILING THROUGH LEI YUE MUN TO JOSS HOUSE BAY.

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CHANG HWA BANK GRANTED LICENCE
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) CHANG HWA COMMERCIAL BANK, LTD (CHCB) HAD BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

CHCB WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1905 AND INITIALLY HAD ITS HEADQUARTERS IN CHANG HWA, TAIWAN.

IT IS THE SIXTH LARGEST BANK IN TAIWAN AND RANKS 290TH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

THE BANK HAS 119 BRANCHES AND 26 SUB-BRANCHES WITHIN TAIWAN.

THE BANK HAS OVERSEAS BRANCHES IN NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES, AMSTERDAM, TOKYO AND LONDON. IT ALSO MAINTAINS A SUBSIDIARY IN AMSTERDAM.

IN HONG KONG, CHCB HAS BEEN OPERATING A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE SINCE DECEMBER 1991.

THE BANK WISHES TO UPGRADE THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE TO A BRANCH TO PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF BANKING SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN TAIWAN WHO HAVE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH HONG KONG, CHINA AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

THE PROPOSED BRANCH WILL CONCENTRATE ON TRADE FINANCING, REMITTANCE, INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET TRANSACTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET REFLECTED HONG KONG'S CONTINUED IMPORTANCE AND ATTRACTIVENESS AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THE LICENCE FOR CHCB IS THE FIFTH BANKING LICENCE GRANTED IN 1994.

THERE ARE NOW 177 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 145 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

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ROAD JUNCTIONS ON TSING YI TO BE IMPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THREE ROAD JUNCTIONS ALONG TSING YI ROAD WEST TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC GENERATED AFTER THE OPENING OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, WHICH IS PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TSING YI ROAD WEST COMPRISED A DUAL TWO-LANE SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY AND CAPACITY OF THE ROAD WAS LIMITED.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS INVOLVE WIDENING AND ADDITION OF TURNING LANES AT TAM KON SHAN INTERCHANGE; TSING YI ROAD WEST/FUNG SHUE WO ROAD; AND TSING YI ROAD WEST/ROUTE 3 SLIP ROAD.

OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME MAY BE SEEN FREE OF CHARGE AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, NEW AIRPORT SECTION, NEW TERRITORIES OFFICE, 22ND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/KWAI TSING, TENTH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES; AND

* THE DISTRICT OFFICE/KWAI TSING, SECOND FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, SHOULD SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NO LATER THAN JUNE 28 THIS YEAR DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS OR THE USE.

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TERTIARY STUDENTS URGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PARRISH NG, TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON TERTIARY STUDENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

SPEAKING AT A VOTER REGISTRATION FUNCTION AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (HKUST), MR NG APPEALED FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS THE VOTING AGE HAS NOW BEEN LOWERED TO 18.

"THEY WILL THEN BE ABLE TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18 AS WELL AS THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

A SERIES OF VOTER REGISTRATION PROMOTIONS WILL BE CARRIED IN SAI KUNG NEXT MONTH INCLUDING VISITS TO SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES AS WELL AS HOUSEHOLDS.

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ABERDEEN TUNNEL MANAGEMENT TENDERS INVITED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A CONTRACT TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

THE FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT, STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 29 THIS YEAR, WILL COVER AN AUTO-TOLL SYSTEM.

THE INVITATION TO TENDER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS OBTAINABLE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON 41ST FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, UPON THE PRODUCTION OF A COMPANY LETTER.

A RECEIPT SHOWING THE SPECIFIED DEPOSIT AMOUNT WITH THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE ATTACHED TO EACH TENDER.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX AT THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD BEFORE NOON ON MAY 27.

LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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NEW PSC MEMBERS APPOINTED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF DR THOMAS LEUNG KWOK-FAI AND MISS ELEANOR WONG BEI-LEE AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 1.

DR LEUNG IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HAY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS HK LTD.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND THE COUNCIL OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE. HE IS ALSO A PART-TIME MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT.

MISS WONG IS THE DIRECTOR OF ETERNAL GARMENT LTD. SHE HAS SERVED ON A NUMBER OF MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ADVISES THE GOVERNOR ON APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS IN THE MIDDLE AND SENIOR RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

IT IS CHAIRED BY MR A K CHUI. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE MR PHILIP K H WONG, MR P J THOMPSON, MRS ELEANOR LING CHING-MAN, MR D G JEAFFRESON AND MR CHRISTOPHER CHENG WAI-CHEE.

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RS URGES RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TUEN MUN RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN BONSAI SHOW, MISS CHOW POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNITY BUILDING REQUIRED EVERYBODY'S PARTICIPATION.

SHE SAID REGISTERED ELECTORS SHOULD VOTE AT THE THREE-TIER COUNCILS ELECTIONS TO REFLECT THEIR VIEWS AND TO HELP BUILD A HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY.

THE BONSAI EXHIBITION, WHICH IS HELD AT THE CHING CHUNG KOON, FEATURES OVER 300 POTS OF BONSAI. A TWO-TONNE CHINESE INK SLAB, WHICH IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD, IS ALSO ON DISPLAY.

THE SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE CHING CHUNG KOON AND WILL LAST UNTIL MAY 8. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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SECOND SSDS CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED A \$71 MILLION-CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF TEMPORARY SITE OFFICES OF THE STAGE I OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME(SSDS).

THE CONTRACT, WHICH IS THE SECOND ONE AWARDED UNDER THE SCHEME, WAS SIGNED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR TSE HON-SUM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, TAI HING (ENGINEERS AND BUILDERS) LIMITED.

THE SITE OFFICES WILL BE LOCATED ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND, AND AT TSING YI, KWAI CHUNG, TO KWA WAN, KWUN TONG, SHAU KEI WAN, CHAI WAN AND TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE PROVISION OF OTHER SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENT SITE STAFF SUPERVISING THE SCHEME. IT WILL RUN FROM NEXT MONTH UNTIL AUGUST 1998.

STAGE I OF THE SSDS IS TO COLLECT AND TREAT SEWAGE FROM KOWLOON BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TSEUNG KWAN O AND FROM THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

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PROPOSED ROAD WORKS IN TAI PO AND YUEN LONG

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO CARRY OUT ROAD WORKS IN TAI PO FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE FUTURE WATERFRONT PARK AND THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THE ROAD WORKS, WHICH FORM PART OF THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR TAI PO NEW TOWN, ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

THE WORKS INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF:

- * ABOUT 900 METRES OF ROADS BETWEEN YUEN SHIN ROAD AND DAI FAT STREET;
 - * A SMALL TRANSPORT TERMINUS WEST OF THE JUNCTION OF YUEN SHIN ROAD AND TING KOK ROAD;
 - * ABOUT 600 METRES OF A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY LINKING YUEN SHIN ROAD AND DAI FAT STREET AS AN ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE; AND
 - * FOOTPATHS, AMENITY AREAS, CYCLE TRACKS AND DRAINAGE NETWORKS.
- A NOTICE FOR THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEDULE SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE TAI PO DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO PROPOSED, IN CONNECTION WITH THE VILLAGE FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS FOR SHA PO TSUEN IN YUEN LONG, CONSTRUCTING NEW ROADS FOR LOCAL ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE PURPOSES.

SOME EXISTING TRACKS WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED TO FACILITATE THE WORKS BUT PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR OUTFALL TUNNEL WORKS

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING PRE-QUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS FOR A WORKS CONTRACT FOR THE STAGE I OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE CONTRACT COMPRISES DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS OF AN OUTFALL TUNNEL MEASURING 1,800-METRE LONG AND FIVE METRES IN DIAMETER.

IT ALSO INCLUDES ASSOCIATED MARINE DREDGING WORK, DRILLING AND INSTALLATION OF VERTICAL RISER PIPES, CONSTRUCTION OF A 1,200-METRE LONG AND 3.2 METRES IN DIAMETER SEABED PIPELINE, DIFFUSER BLOCKS AND ENTRY CULVERT CONNECTION FROM THE PROPOSED SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

A NOTICE INVITING PRE-QUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ONLY CONTRACTORS WITH SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE IN MARINE CONSTRUCTION AND DRILLING, AND TUNNEL BORING MACHINE TUNNELLING IN HARD ROCK ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM THE PROJECTS CONSULTANT, MONTGOMERY WATSONS HONG KONG LIMITED, 1911 WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS IS NOON ON JUNE 1.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1994

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WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP MEETS

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THE CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HELD ITS FOURTH MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

THE GROUP WAS FORMED IN JULY LAST YEAR TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS CUSTOMERS AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO FURTHER IMPROVE SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR KO CHAN-GOCK, AND WAS ATTENDED BY THREE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, THE BUSINESS MANAGER AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS.

MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE STANDARDS ACHIEVED BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, AND ON THE NEW TARGETS FOR THIS YEAR.

THEY WERE ALSO ADVISED ON ACTIONS TO TAKE IF HIGH WATER BILLS ARE RECEIVED.

THE GROUP ALSO RAISED FOR DISCUSSION A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON THESE TOPICS AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY A DINNER HOSTED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,647	0930	-1,061
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	6,556	1000	-1,011
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-971
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-91	1200	-971
LAF TODAY	+3,000	1500	-971
		1600	-91
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 124.4	*-0.3*	29.4.94

/HONG KONG

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.92	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.14	5.48
1 MONTH	3.30	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	97.85	5.76
3 MONTHS	3.82	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.56	6.25
6 MONTHS	4.27	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.82	6.38
12 MONTHS	4.87	36 MONTHS	3704	6.15	99.44	6.46

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 21,435 MN

CLOSED 29 APRIL 1994

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