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SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1993

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GOVERNOR ARRIVES AT WASHINGTON

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS ARRIVAL AT DULLES AIRPORT, WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MAY 1, SATURDAY (WASHINGTON TIME) NIGHT:

I MADE A STATEMENT BEFORE I LEFT HONG KONG AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THAT. I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO MY FIRST TRIP TO WASHINGTON AS GOVERNOR. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE MANY FUTURE VISITS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Q: YOU ARE GOING TO SEE THE PRESIDENT ON MONDAY.....

A: I AM GOING TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT PRIMARILY ABOUT TRADE MATTERS AND THE STRONG ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S. AND MFN STATUS.

Q: HOW ABOUT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE POLITICAL REFORMS?

A: I THINK IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT WEEK SOMEBODY DIDN'T ASK ME ABOUT THEM. THEY ARE A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST EVERYWHERE. BUT THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MY VISIT THIS WEEK IS TO TALK ABOUT MFN AND TRADE MATTERS.

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SECRETARY FOR SECURITY VISITS VIETNAM

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, LEFT TODAY (SUNDAY) FOR VIETNAM FOR A SEVEN-DAY VISIT.

MR ASPREY WILL VISIT SOME OF THE AREAS FROM WHERE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ORIGINATED, SUCH AS HO CHI MINH CITY, DONG NAI AND HAIPHONG, A SECURITY BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE WILL LOOK AT SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND OFFICIALS OF THE UNHCR AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME.

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WORK SITE SECURITY BOOKLET PUBLISHED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PRODUCED A BOOKLET TO ADVISE CONTRACTORS ON HOW TO PREVENT LOSS BY THEFT AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AT THEIR CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE BOOKLET, ENTITLED "CONSTRUCTION SITE SECURITY", ALSO AIMS TO INCREASE CONTRACTORS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE TO ELIMINATE SECURITY RISKS AT THEIR WORK SITES.

COMPILED BY THE CRIME PREVENT BUREAU OF THE POLICE AND PUBLISHED BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE BOOKLET ADVISES CONTRACTORS TO APPOINT A SECURITY OFFICER TO OVERSEE ALL ASPECTS OF SITE SECURITY INCLUDING REGULAR CHECKS ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, LIAISON WITH THE POLICE, CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND PROCESSING ANY SUBSEQUENT INSURANCE CLAIMS.

THE BOOKLET CONTAINS A SET OF TIPS TO CONTRACTORS INCLUDING:

- * ADVICE ON CRIME-PREVENTION MEASURES SHOULD BE SOUGHT FROM THE NEAREST POLICE REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION UNIT BEFORE WORK STARTS ON SITE.
- * FENCES AND HOARDINGS ERECTED AT THE BOUNDARY OF A WORK SITE SHOULD BE KEPT IN GOOD REPAIR AND CHECKED REGULARLY.
- * THE NUMBER OF ENTRANCES TO A WORK SITE SHOULD BE AS FEW AS POSSIBLE AND THEY SHOULD BE LOCKED DURING NON-OPERATIONAL HOURS.
- * NOTICES GIVING WARNING OF WATCH OUT FOR DOGS OR PROSECUTION OF TRESPASSERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.
- * A SECURE STOREROOM SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED NEAR THE SITE OFFICE TO STORE VALUABLE GOODS, MATERIALS OR EQUIPMENT.
- * ADDITIONAL WATCHMEN OR GUARDS SHOULD BE HIRED NEAR THE COMPLETION STAGE WHEN EXPENSIVE FITTINGS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKS BRANCH SAID CONTRACTORS WOULD BENEFIT FROM HAVING A GOOD SECURITY AT THEIR WORK SITES. THIS WOULD PREVENT FINANCIAL LOSS AND AVOID DELAYS CAUSED BY REPLACING MATERIALS AND MACHINERY STOLEN OR DAMAGED.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION AND THE GENERAL INSURANCE COUNCIL, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS.

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATOR SHARES SUCCESS RECIPE

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AS THE BACKBONE OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S SOCCER TEAM, LEUNG PING-KWAN HAS DISCOVERED THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS ON THE PITCH - SOLIDARITY PLUS METTLE.

BACK TO WORK AS AN INVESTIGATOR OF IMMIGRATION FRAUDS, HE IS INSPIRED TO APPLY THE SAME FORMULA TO THE JOB.

AND IT WORKS TOO.

LAST YEAR ALONE, HE LED HIS INVESTIGATION SQUAD TO SEIZE 2,840 FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, UP BY 1.7 PER CENT OVER 1991.

MANY OF THESE INVOLVED RESIDENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, CHINA, INDOCHINA AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

THE 55-MEMBER TEAM ALSO TRACKED DOWN NEARLY 5,000 PEOPLE AND PROSECUTED THEM FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE IMMIGRATION LAW LAST YEAR.

"THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ACTIVITIES IS GOOD TEAM SPIRIT," SAID MR LEUNG, HEAD OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATION SUB-DIVISION.

"EVERYONE GETS THEIR TEETH INTO THE JOB. PRUDENCE AND AGGRESSIVENESS ARE A MUST TOO."

"WE HAVE TO GATHER LOTS OF EVIDENCE BEFORE MOUNTING A CRACKDOWN AND INITIATING PROSECUTION. THAT MEANS LONG AND IRREGULAR WORKING HOURS," HE SAID.

BUT HE ALSO COUNTS ON CAREFUL PLANNING AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE POLICE AND OVERSEAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

FOR THREE DECADES, MR LEUNG HAS BEEN PUT TO THE TEST IN DIFFERENT POSTS AT IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS AND STAFF RECRUITMENT OFFICE.

BUT HE SPENT MOST OF THE TIME IN THE INVESTIGATION FIELD, A JOB HE CAME TO LOVE MOST.

"IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING. I LIKE DIGGING OUT CLUES AND HINTS FROM CLUTTERED INFORMATION TO FIGURE OUT THE CASES."

"IT GIVES ME A GREAT SENSE OF SATISFACTION WHEN THE CULPRITS ARE FINALLY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE."

HE INSTANTLY CALLED TO MIND OPERATION REDSKIN, A JOINT PRODUCT OF THE HONG KONG AND CANADIAN AUTHORITIES IN AUGUST 1990.

THE FOUR-DAY RAIDS SUCCESSFULLY SMASHED AN INTERNATIONAL SYNDICATE THAT USED FAKE PASSPORTS TO EXPORT HUNDREDS OF MAINLAND CHINESE TO CANADA VIA HONG KONG.

/THE INVESTIGATION

THE INVESTIGATION EXPERT ALSO SHOWED HIS PACES IN THE COMPUTERISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

IN 1986, THE DEPARTMENT EMBARKED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPUTERISED INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM - THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIIS).

"SIIS CAN HOLD MORE THAN 20,000 RECORDS. IT HELPS US A LOT IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE SYNDICATES' MODUS OPERANDI AND IN PLANNING OF OPERATIONS," HE SAID.

"BEFORE THAT ALL THE DATA AND RECORDS WERE STORED ON FILES AND IN HUMAN BRAINS."

"WHEN OUR COLLEAGUES LEFT FOR GOOD, SOME VALUABLE INFORMATION MIGHT ALSO GO WITH THEM," HE SAID.

ANOTHER HI-TECH TOOL THAT BOOSTS THE CAPABILITY OF THE TEAM IS THE IMMIGRATION RECORDS INFORMATION SYSTEM.

MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS CAN NOW BE ISSUED, MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGE DOCUMENTS.

MR LEUNG WAS ONE OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE SETTING UP OF THE SYSTEM.

FOR THIS REASON, HE WAS SENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY TO ATTEND A COMPUTER AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COURSE IN 1988.

LOOKING BACK OVER HIS CAREER, THE 48-YEAR-OLD MR LEUNG HAS WITNESSED GREAT CHANGES IN THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

"WHEN I JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER IN 1963, IT WAS ONLY A NEW-BORN BABY WITH ABOUT 230 STAFF."

"NOW IT HAS MATURED INTO A SOPHISTICATED ORGANISATION STAFFED WITH MORE THAN 5,500 OFFICERS," HE SAID.

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HK'S TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY: LARGE AND HEALTHY

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, REFUTED A WIDE-SPREAD BELIEF IN THE U.S. THAT HONG KONG'S TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY HAD MOVED LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL INTO CHINA, AND THAT HONG KONG'S NOT INCONSIDERABLE QUOTA FOR THE U.S. WAS LARGELY FILLED, QUITE FRAUDULENTLY BY CHINA-MADE GOODS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH CLAIMS WERE BASED ON MEDIA STORIES ABOUT HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS IN GENERAL MOVING NORTH AND ON A PERFECTLY CORRECT UNDERSTANDING THAT HONG KONG WAGE RATES WERE MUCH HIGHER THAN THOSE IN CHINA.

/"IN REALITY,

"IN REALITY, THERE IS A LARGE AND HEALTHY TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND ITS IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL AUTONOMY THROUGH THE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF TIGHT BUT SENSIBLE DISCIPLINES, KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW," HE SAID.

WHEN ADDRESSING A SYMPOSIUM MARKING THE FOUNDATION OF THE HONG KONG-AMERICA CENTRE RECENTLY, MR JACKSON STATED THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

- * HONG KONG'S PRODUCTIVITY IN TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY IS HIGH AND GETTING HIGHER;
- * THERE IS A LARGE INDUSTRY HERE EMPLOYING ABOUT 240,000 WORKERS;
- * AN INDUSTRY LOCKED INTO HONG KONG BY THE ABSURDITIES OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT BUT WHICH IS SENSIBLY INVESTING IN ADDITIONAL MANUFACTURING CAPACITY ELSEWHERE;
- * THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S TEXTILES CONTROL SYSTEM IS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED OF ANY PLACE EXPORTING TEXTILES AND GARMENTS UNDER QUOTA;
- * MANUFACTURERS WISHING TO REGISTER WITH THE SYSTEM HAVE TO DECLARE THEIR MAXIMUM MANUFACTURING OUTPUT CAPACITY;
- * CAPACITY IS REGULARLY CHECKED AND RANDOM FACTORY INSPECTIONS ARE MADE;
- * TEXTILES AND GARMENTS IMPORTED FROM CHINA ARE OFTEN INSPECTED FOR FALSE LABELLING AND FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS;
- * THERE IS AN INFORMER SCHEME OFFERING UP TO \$20,000 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TEXTILES FRAUD;
- * OVER 300 SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS AGAINST QUOTA FRAUD WERE CONDUCTED LAST YEAR; AND
- * A NEW TEXTILES TRADERS REGISTRATION SCHEME IS BEING INTRODUCED THIS SUMMER, DESIGNED TO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR TRADERS WHILE IMPROVING SURVEILLANCE OF TEXTILES AND GARMENTS TRANSITING HONG KONG.

"MANY U.S. OFFICIALS AND TRADERS UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMITMENT. THE HONG KONG TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM WORKS WELL. WE DO OUR BEST TO CONVINCING OUR REMAINING CRITICS IN AMERICA THAT HONG KONG QUOTA IS USED FOR HONG KONG-MADE GOODS AND THAT WE ARE DETERMINED IT WILL STAY THAT WAY," HE ADDED.

TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS ABOUT HONG KONG, MR JACKSON SAID HONG KONG'S OFFICIALS OR BUSINESS GROUPS WENT TO WASHINGTON THESE DAYS MET WITH A BETTER INFORMED AUDIENCE AWARE OF WHAT HONG KONG STOOD FOR, FAMILIAR WITH SOMETHING OF ITS UNIQUE POSITION, AND GENERALLY WELL-DISPOSED.

SO WHEN THE ISSUE OF CHINA'S MOST-FAVoured-NATION (MFN) STATUS FIRST AROSE FOR SERIOUS DEBATE IN 1990, HONG KONG FOUND ITSELF WITH MANY FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTOOD JUST HOW BADLY THE TERRITORY MIGHT SUFFER ECONOMICALLY IF THE STATUS WERE TO BE REVOKED.

THE FORM OF THAT DEBATE HAD GRADUALLY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, MOST PARTICULARLY WITH THE START OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION THIS JANUARY.

BUT MR JACKSON SAID THE CENTRAL THEME OF HONG KONG'S MESSAGE HAS REMAINED CONSISTENT, SIMPLE AND TELLING.

NAMELY THAT WITHDRAWAL OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS WOULD DEAL A SEVERE BLOW TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AT A CRITICAL TIME IN THIS TERRITORY'S DEVELOPMENT; AND THAT CONSIDERABLE U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE WOULD BE DAMAGED.

HE REASSURED THE AUDIENCE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD SPARE NO EFFORTS TO REPRESENT HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS CLEARLY AND CONVINCINGLY AS IT COULD; AND IN THE PROCESS DRAW ATTENTION TO THE VERY CONSIDERABLE U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS AT STAKE IN THIS GAME.

"IF THERE IS A BENEFIT TO BE OBTAINED FROM THIS PAINFUL ANNUAL EXERCISE OF REVIEWING CHINA'S MFN STATUS, IT IS THAT IT DOES ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES TO THINK MORE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AND WHERE THEIR INTERESTS LIE," MR JACKSON SAID.

HE ALSO SAW THE NEED TO BROADEN THE UNDERSTANDING IN THE U.S. THAT HONG KONG HAD ITS SEPARATE STATUS AS A COMMERCIAL ENTITY.

"WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE ALERT FOR THINGS WHICH MIGHT UNDERMINE PERCEPTIONS OF HONG KONG'S SEPARATENESS. EDITORS MAKING THE MISTAKE OF HEADING AN ARTICLE ABOUT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG WITH THE TITLE "THE VANISHING BORDER" ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE ANXIOUS NOTES FROM HONG KONG TRADE OFFICIAL EMPHASISING THAT THE BORDER IS NOT VANISHING, FAR FROM IT.

"BETWEEN BUSINESSES, OF COURSE, THE RELATIONSHIP IS EXTREMELY CLOSE. BUT AT THE FORMAL LEVEL HONG KONG NOW AND POST-1997 WILL BE LESS ECONOMICALLY INTEGRATED WITH SHENZHEN THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, SCOTLAND IS WITH GREECE TO CHOOSE AN EXTREME EXAMPLE IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

"HONG KONG'S VALUE TO CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY RESTS ON THE ECONOMIC SEPARATENESS PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, INCLUDING A FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY, FREE PORT STATUS, THE WELL-ESTABLISHED RULE OF LAW, AND THE NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S CURRENT SYSTEM AND WHICH REQUIRE THE DELINEATION OF A WELL-CONTROLLED BORDER.

"SUCH A BORDER NEEDS NOT, NOR IN HONG KONG'S CASE DOES IT, IMPEDE CLOSE ECONOMIC LINKS," MR JACKSON SAID.

LASTLY, MR JACKSON SAID WE MUST DO A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO PROMOTE HONG KONG AS A U.S. BUSINESS CENTRE AND BRIDGE TO CHINA.

/"THERE IS

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"THERE IS MUTUAL BENEFIT FOR ALL CONCERNED, BUT THERE IS ADDED URGENCY GIVEN THE CONCERN IN AMERICA ABOUT CHINA'S GROWING TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES HAVE FOUND IT HARD TO GET A TOE-HOLD IN CHINA. HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN CAN OFTEN HELP IN THE PROCESS. THEY KNOW THE CHINA MARKET BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

"THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKTDC) HAS JUST COMPLETED A BRIEF STUDY OF 74 U.S. SUCCESSES IN CHINA OPERATING WITH SUPPORT OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER FROM HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE BEGUN WORK WITH THE HKTDC AND THE U.S. FOREIGN AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE TO PROMOTE THIS ROLE OF HONG KONG AS A BUSINESS BRIDGE INTO CHINA; THE AIM IS TO PUT HONG KONG'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHINA MARKET AT THE DISPOSAL OF U.S. COMPANIES INTERESTED IN SELLING INTO WHAT MUST SURELY BE THE MARKET WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL IN THE WORLD TODAY," MR JACKSON SAID.

"TO THE GOOD U.S. BUSINESSMAN, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COME TO HONG KONG, WORK WITH US OVER THE LONG-TERM PATIENTLY DEVELOPING MARKETS AND BUSINESS, HERE IN HONG KONG, AND THROUGH HONG KONG, IN CHINA AND THE REGION," HE CONCLUDED.

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UK/HK GOVTS JOINT FUNDING SCHEME

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THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY TODAY (SUNDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FOR THE 1993/94 ACADEMIC YEAR IS OPEN TO APPLICATION AS FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG AND UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENTS TO HELP THOSE HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO ARE IN NEED TO PAY THE HIGHER TUITION FEES CHARGED ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IT IS OPEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SUBJECT TO THEIR HAVING RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY OR HAVE HAD THEIR HOME IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COURSE COMMENCEMENT.

THE SCHEME IS MEANS-TESTED AND THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUITION FEES PAYABLE BY AN OVERSEAS STUDENT AND A NOTIONAL BRITISH HOME STUDENT FEE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING STUDENTS' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1993/94, THE NOTIONAL "HOME" FEE WILL BE 737 POUND STERLING.

/financial assistance

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, BUT IF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT EXCEEDS THE JOINT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THEN EACH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S SHARE OF GRANT WOULD BE PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED, WITH THE BALANCE MADE UP BY A LOAN SOLELY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

AN INTEREST ON THE LOAN BORROWED BY APPLICANTS IS CHARGEABLE AT THE RATE OF 2.5 PER CENT PER ANNUM CALCULATED FROM THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT PERIOD.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY AT NINTH FLOOR, NATIONAL MUTUAL CENTRE, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED BY AN INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ONE OF THE COURSES COVERED BY THE SCHEME (PROOF OF CONDITIONAL OFFER WILL BE ACCEPTABLE). TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO 802 1670.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HAND TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY. THE CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE:-

* FOR ON-COURSE STUDENTS : JULY 1, 1993

* FOR NEW STUDENTS : OCTOBER 2, 1993

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED ABOVE MAY BE ACCEPTED BUT WILL BE PROCESSED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOANS ONLY.

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APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER FORESTRY WORK CAMP INVITED

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YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 14 AND 25 WHO WISH TO CAMP IN A BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT THIS SUMMER AND INVOLVE IN COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION WORK CAN NOW APPLY TO JOIN THE 1993 FORESTRY WORK CAMP.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW INVITED FROM SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS FOR THIS YEAR'S WORK CAMP TO BE HELD FROM JULY 5 TO AUGUST 21.

IT IS AN ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE THE KNOWLEDGE AND FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AS WELL AS A CHANCE IN TAKING PART IN COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK HALF-DAY ON COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AND MANGEMENT DAILY. A DAILY ALLOWANCE OF \$28 WILL BE GRANTED TO EACH CAMPER FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DONATION.

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THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OR USE THE FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS DURING THE REST OF THE DAY.

THE AFD WILL PROVIDE CAMPING FACILITIES IN 17 COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ON LANTAU AND HONG KONG ISLAND. THE TOTAL CAPACITY IS 370 PEOPLE.

A TOTAL OF UP TO 3,612 PARTICIPANTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IF ALL THE CAMPS ARE FULLY BOOKED DURING THE PERIOD.

BARRACK ACCOMMODATION WITH SLEEPING, COOKING, DINING AND TOILET FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

THE CAMPS ARE UNDER THE CHARGE OF AT LEAST ONE ADULT LEADER OR TEACHER. THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH GROUP MAY RANGE FROM 18 TO 23.

APPLICANTS CAN APPLY FOR EITHER A THREE-DAY CAMP OR A FIVE-DAY CAMP. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE MAY 17.

INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS OR GROUPS CAN CONTACT AFD'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT ON TEL 733 2121 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT APPLICATION AND CAMPING ARRANGEMENTS.

APPLICATIONS FROM SCHOOLS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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"BE MY TEACHER" DRIVE STARTS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL TOMORROW LAUNCH A "BE MY TEACHER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN TO FULFILL THE OBJECTIVES OF A BETTER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT SET OUT IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID 780 MORE PRIMARY TEACHERS WOULD BE NEEDED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE TO REDUCE THE PRIMARY 1 CLASS SIZE TO 35 THIS SEPTEMBER.

"IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE DEPARTMENT IS MAKING AVAILABLE 30,000 APPLICATION FORMS FOR PEOPLE WITH QUALIFICATIONS RANGING FROM SECONDARY 5 TO TERTIARY GRADUATES TO HELP US HELP OUR CHILDREN BY BEING EITHER FULL OR PART-TIME TEACHERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A TEACHER RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO START A DATABANK WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL TEACHING FORCE TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"ON REQUEST BY SCHOOLS HAVING TEACHING VACANCIES, THE NEW OFFICE LOCATED IN ROOM 1404 ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF THE WU CHUNG HOUSE HEADQUARTERS IN WAN CHAI WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A LIST OF TEACHERS FOR SELECTION," HE SAID.

THE APPLICATION FORMS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE, THE 19 DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AND VIA FAX BY SIMPLY DIALING 891 0088 - THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE.

TO ATTRACT TERTIARY GRADUATES TO JOIN THE TEACHING PROFESSION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED CO-OPERATION FROM FIVE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS - HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, SHUE YAN AND LINGNAN COLLEGES - TO MAKE AVAILABLE PROMINENT LOCATIONS TO PLACE APPLICATION FORM DISPENSERS.

THE "BE MY TEACHER" CAMPAIGN ALSO INCLUDES THE PRODUCTION OF A 10-MINUTE VIDEO, SPECIAL FEATURES, LUNCHEON TALKS AND INVITING SCHOOLS TO SEND THEIR SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS TO TOUR THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE A 'MY TEACHER' ESSAY COMPETITION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SLOGAN SOUGHT FOR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE DRIVE
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE SERIES OF MEASURES TO HELP YOUTHS TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE MEDIA HAVE NOW JOINED THIS CAMPAIGN IN A VENTURE WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION.

THIS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A SLOGAN COMPETITION FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

"WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE REPRODUCED AS BOOKMARKS WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE TELEPHONE HELPLINES OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS FOR EASY REFERENCE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

IN ADDITION TO A TROPHY, EACH WINNER OF THE FOUR SCHOOL SECTORS WILL RECEIVE BOOK COUPONS VALUED FROM \$500 TO \$1,000.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM PRODUCING 1.5 MILLION BOOKMARKS, THERE WILL ALSO BE A ROVING EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING ENTRIES TO FURTHER SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF ADOPTING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

JOIN THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMPETITION AS CO-SPONSORS ARE THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS' UNION, THE HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION, THE INSPECTORATE (EDUCATION DEPARTMENT) ASSOCIATION, STEREO LIMITED AND SING TAO DAILY.

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