



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

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MUTUAL TRUST NEEDED TO RESOLVE ISSUES: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A GREAT DEAL OF MUTUAL TRUST IS NEEDED IF ANYTHING, LIKE THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT, IS TO BE RESOLVED.

SIR DAVID SAID EFFORTS WERE NEEDED BY US AND THE CHINESE TO ELIMINATE MISTRUST THAT HAD GROWN UP OVER THE YEARS.

"THAT IS IMPORTANT NOT JUST FOR THE AIRPORT, BUT FOR EVERYTHING ELSE WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS," HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT, SIR DAVID: "ON THE AIRPORT ITSELF, I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THOSE ISSUES. I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT AT THE MOMENT, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY ACCURATE PREDICTION."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT "WE COULD GET TO A SITUATION WHERE BOTH SIDES DON'T WANT TO TALK TO EACH OTHER."

"THERE IS A GREAT WILLINGNESS ON BOTH SIDES TO TALK. BUT YOU NEED TO DO MORE THAN TO TALK, YOU NEED TO PRODUCE SOLUTIONS TO THE VARIOUS ISSUES WHICH WE NEED TO DISCUSS," HE SAID.

"SO, IT NEEDS WILLINGNESS TO TALK; IT NEEDS A WILLINGNESS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE OTHER SIDE; IT NEEDS A WILLINGNESS TO REACH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. ALL OF THOSE THINGS.

"AND JUST AT THE MOMENT WE ARE MOVING MORE SLOWLY ON PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THAN I WOULD LIKE TO SEE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US MOVING FASTER TO DEAL WITH THOSE ISSUES," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO AT THE MOMENT IS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE AIRPORT PROJECT AND TO TRY TO GET AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS WE CAN. IF WE CANNOT GET AN AGREEMENT, THEN IT HAS CERTAIN CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SORT OF WORKS THAT WE WANT TO CARRY OUT; CERTAIN THINGS WHICH WE'RE TRYING TO DO AS SOON AS WE CAN," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON RECENT VIOLENT CRIME, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE'VE HAD VERY BAD CASES OF VIOLENT CRIME RECENTLY WHICH, NATURALLY HAVE AROUSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY AND THAT IS VERY UNDERSTANDABLE, EVEN THOUGH IN GENERAL, THIS COMMUNITY IS STILL A VERY PEACEFUL COMMUNITY COMPARED WITH OTHER BIG CITIES IN THE WORLD."

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW, I SUGGEST, IS THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO MAKE SURE THOSE WHO COMMIT CRIMES ARE CAUGHT, AND THAT NEEDS NOT ONLY EFFORTS BY THE POLICE FORCE, IT NEEDS CO-OPERATION FROM THE PUBLIC AS WELL, GIVING SUPPORT TO THE POLICE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG DID HAVE VERY TOUGH LAWS ON WEAPONS, BUT THERE WAS THE PROBLEM OF WEAPONS BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE TERRITORY FROM CHINA.

/"THERE IS

"THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF CO-OPERATION GOING ON BETWEEN OUR POLICE FORCE AND THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU IN GUANGDONG. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT CO-OPERATION CONTINUE BECAUSE IF WE HAVE PROBLEMS AND THEY SPREAD ACROSS THE BORDER, OR IF THEY HAVE PROBLEMS IN GUANGDONG AND THEY SPREAD ACROSS OUR BORDER, IT'S A PROBLEM FOR BOTH OF US," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANT PROBLEM, SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS A VERY WORRYING PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE "WE ARE BACK INTO A SITUATION WHERE THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE COMING HERE ARE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HONG KONG TO COPE WITH."

"THE ANSWER TO THIS IS THE SAME AS THE ANSWER IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER PEOPLE WHO ARE GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE RESETTLED," HE SAID.

"TO DO THAT WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SENDING BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM, PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK AT AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO," HE ADDED.

"I HOPE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD SOON, BETWEEN THE UK, WITH HONG KONG TAKING PART, AND VIETNAM WILL HELP PRODUCE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THAT ISSUE BECAUSE WE DO NEED TO FIND ANSWERS TO THIS PROBLEM," SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVERNOR ATTENDS OLD KAIFONGS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

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MORE THAN 100 ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT HAD A SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR AT THEIR BIRTHDAY PARTY THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

ON HAND TO WISH THEM "A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOOD HEALTH" WAS THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WHO WAS VISITING THE DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE KENNEDY TOWN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

HE CHATTED WITH THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS ABOUT THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW YIN-SUM, ON THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE DISTRICT, SIR DAVID ALSO INSPECTED CONSTRUCTION OF THE HILLSIDE ESCALATOR LINK AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE \$186 MILLION PROJECT BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR WONG WAH-LUN.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE CARITAS CENTRE RUN BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CAINE ROAD WHERE HE MET TRAINEES OF A PRINTING WORKSHOP, TOURED A KINDERGARTEN AND VISITED AN EARLY EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN UNDER SIX.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE BY THE PRESIDENT OF CARITAS HONG KONG, THE REVEREND FATHER FRANCIS LERDA.

THE GOVERNOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS VISIT TO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT TO MEET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO BRIEFED HIM ON DISTRICT ISSUES.

ACCOMPANYING HIM ON THE VISIT WERE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR HERMAN CHO, AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU.

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COMMUNIQUE

NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

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THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS NINETEENTH MEETING IN HONG KONG FROM 11 TO 13 JUNE 1991.

ON THE BASIS OF THE WORK OF EXPERTS THE TWO SIDES HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROTECTING AND PROMOTING INVESTMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND RELEVANT COUNTRIES AND REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A DRAFT MODEL AGREEMENT.

THE GROUP HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HONG KONG'S AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND MADE FURTHER PROGRESS.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE QUESTION OF MAJOR FRANCHISES WHICH WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997.

THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS PUBLIC ORDER AND AGREED THAT EXPERTS SHOULD MEET TO CONTINUE THIS WORK.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN HONG KONG AND AGREED THAT EXPERTS SHOULD MEET TO CONTINUE THIS WORK.

THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, AND AGREED TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DEAL WITH THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF TREATIES RELATING TO CUSTOMS.

THE TWO SIDES HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS WITH RELEVANT COUNTRIES.

THE GROUP AGREED THAT ITS NEXT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN LONDON IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 23 SEPTEMBER 1991.

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HK EXEMPLIFIES POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA

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NO BUSINESS OR ENTERPRISE WISHING TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE THE ASIAN REGION, OF WHICH HONG KONG IS A VITAL PART, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH CONSEILLERS DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR IN PARIS, MR BARMA SAID IN MANY WAYS HONG KONG EXEMPLIFIED THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE THERE AND PLAYED A ROLE WHICH WAS DISPROPORTIONATE TO ITS PHYSICAL SIZE.

HE SAID WHILE ASIA-PACIFIC HAD MANY ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORIES, HONG KONG'S RANGE OF ATTRACTIONS WAS UNIQUE.

"FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A FAIR AND OPEN MARKET POLICY, WE HAVE BUILT AN ECONOMY WHICH FUNCTIONS SMOOTHLY AND HAVE PROVIDED THE ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS BUSINESS TO PROSPER.

"HONG KONG MAY NOT BE THE ONLY PLACE IN ASIA, BUT IT IS THE TRUE MELTING-POT OF THE EAST AND THE WEST.

"IT MUST BE THE PLACE FOR ANY CORPORATION TO HAVE A PRESENCE IF IT WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DYNAMIC ASIAN REGION," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG ENJOYED A STRATEGIC LOCATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF ASIA, RIGHT AT THE DOORSTEP OF CHINA.

NO CAPITAL CITY IN THE REGION WAS MORE THAN A FEW HOURS FLYING TIME AWAY, AND HONG KONG WAS SERVED BY ALMOST EVERY MAJOR AIRLINE IN THE WORLD.

"IN 1990 ALONE, THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN HONG KONG HANDLED ABOUT 15 MILLION TRAVELLERS AND SHIFTED OVER 800,000 TONNES OF AIRFREIGHT," HE SAID.

WITH A DEEPWATER PORT, MR BARMA SAID, SEA TRANSPORT WAS EQUALLY EFFICIENT.

"THE CONTAINER PORT PROVIDES NO LESSER SERVICE AND IS RUNNING NECK AND NECK WITH SINGAPORE AS THE BUSIEST IN THE WORLD.

"THE TOTAL THROUGHPUT LAST YEAR WAS IN EXCESS OF FIVE MILLION TEU'S (20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNIT)," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL CENTRE FOR THE REGION.

BY APRIL THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 214 DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND 166 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 136 WERE INCORPORATED OVERSEAS.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE WAS AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING BOURSES, AND GENERALLY VIEWED AS A RELIABLE BAROMETER OF ASIAN BUSINESS TRENDS BY OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"INSURANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY ARE EQUALLY WELL DEVELOPED, PROVIDING SOPHISTICATED AND IN-DEPTH SERVICES WHICH ARE LACKING IN MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES.

"HONG KONG HAS STRONG INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS WHICH ARE VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED. NOT ONLY CAN INTELLECTUAL OR PHYSICAL COPYRIGHTS BE REGISTERED BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, THEY ARE ALSO PROTECTED," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG WAS NO LONGER JUST ANOTHER PLACE TO INVEST IN OFF-SHORE ASSEMBLY.

"WE COMBINE THE ATTRIBUTES OF ENTREPOT - PARTICULARLY BUT NOT ONLY FOR CHINA - WITH THAT OF HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURER, EFFICIENT FINANCIAL CENTRE AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS HUB.

"WE HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL NERVE CENTRES OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. WE ARE A PLACE NOT SIMPLY TO DO BUSINESS IN, BUT FROM WHICH TO MANAGE BUSINESS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG HAD EVERY INTENTION OF RETAINING THIS ROLE IN THE REGION.

"SO WE ARE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE; INVESTING IN THE HUMAN AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO REMAIN THE REGION'S PRE-EMINENT COMMERCIAL CENTRE," HE SAID.

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ACTION ON U.S. ANTI-DUMPING ORDER ON SWEATERS

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HONG KONG WOULD REFER THE U.S. ANTI-DUMPING ORDER AGAINST HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF MAN-MADE FIBRE SWEATERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECISION TO DO SO HAD BEEN TAKEN AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE MAY 23-24 CONSULTATIONS ON THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID: "UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE CONSULTATIONS ENDED IN DISAGREEMENT.

"IN HONG KONG'S VIEW IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG DID NOT DAMAGE THE U.S. INDUSTRY, AND THE CASE AGAINST HONG KONG SHOULD THEREFORE BE TERMINATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANTI-DUMPING CODE.

"IN OUR VIEW THE FINDING THAT IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG WERE DUMPED ALSO WAS UNFOUNDED.

/"FOR THESE

"FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS WE HAVE DECIDED, ON THE ADVICE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES FOR CONCILIATION."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED TO MEET WITHIN 30 DAYS TO REVIEW THE MATTER.

IF, SUBSEQUENTLY, NO MUTUALLY AGREED SOLUTION WAS REACHED, THE COMMITTEE COULD BE REQUESTED BY EITHER PARTY TO THE DISPUTE TO ESTABLISH A PANEL TO EXAMINE THE MATTER.

SUCH A PANEL WOULD BE EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS FINDINGS WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, WHICH COULD EXTEND FROM THREE TO NINE MONTHS DEPENDING ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CASE, HE SAID.

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MOVE TOWARDS QUALITY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INEVITABLE

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THE MOVE TOWARDS SOUND QUALITY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SUCH AS ISO 9000 IS AN INEVITABLE TREND, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCHING OF A JOINT PROGRAMME CALLED "COMPANY WIDE TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY PROGRAMME ON ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION" ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG Q-MARK COUNCIL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS ENGINEERING.

HE SAID INTEREST IN QUALITY SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION HAD DEVELOPED RAPIDLY ALL OVER THE WORLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

"MANY OVERSEAS AND LOCAL BUYERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES ARE STARTING TO DEMAND THAT THEIR SUPPLIERS MEET THE ISO 9000 STANDARD BY SPECIFIC DATES.

"THIS DEMAND HAS ALSO BEEN REFLECTED LOCALLY IN THE INTEREST SHOWN TOWARDS THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME RUN BY THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID COMPLIANCE WITH ISO 9000 STANDARDS, AND ULTIMATELY CERTIFICATION BY THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY, MEANT A SUBSTANTIAL MONETARY INVESTMENT.

HE SAID THIS INVESTMENT WOULD BE IN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATING COMPANY STAFF, AMENDING MANUFACTURING PROCEDURES, OR EVEN DEVISING A BRAND NEW QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR THE COMPANY.

"FOR COMPANIES WITHOUT IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT, COMPLIANCE WITH ISO 9000 MOST LIKELY MEANS HAVING TO HIRE QUALITY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THE COMPANY'S QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME AND PREPARE THE COMPANY FOR ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION," HE SAID.

/MR WONG

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MR WONG SAID THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCIES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG PRESENTLY WERE MOSTLY OPERATED COMMERCIALY.

"IN ADDITION TO THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ADAPTING INTERNAL MANUFACTURING PROCEDURES, THE FEES THAT CLIENT COMPANIES HAVE TO PAY COULD MAKE THE GOAL OF MOVING TOWARDS THE ISO 9000 STANDARD A REMOTE POSSIBILITY FOR THOSE WITH A TIGHT BUDGET AND SLIM PROFIT MARGIN.

"THEREFORE, A SPECIAL LOW COST CONSULTANCY PROJECT SUCH AS THIS ONE IS TIMELY, AND THE HONG KONG Q-MARK COUNCIL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE THANKED FOR THEIR EFFORTS," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS MUST NOT REMAIN COMPLACENT WITH THEIR PAST AND PRESENT SUCCESS IN LIGHT OF NEW TRENDS AND DEMANDS INTERNATIONALLY.

"TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY PROGRAMMES ARE A VERY GOOD WAY FOR A COMPANY TO FAMILIARISE ITSELF WITH THESE NEW TRENDS AND DEMANDS IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

"HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS MUST MAKE GOOD USE OF OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THIS TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S PRODUCTIVITY, PROFITABILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS," HE SAID.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	12.6.91	380
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	13.6.91	+133
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-133
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 114.8 *+0.2* 13.6.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	12.6.91	13.6.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	7.66 PCT	7.64 PCT
1 MONTH	7.51 PCT	7.51 PCT
3 MONTHS	7.43 PCT	7.47 PCT
6 MONTHS	7.42 PCT	7.46 PCT
12 MONTHS	7.43 PCT	7.45 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	2,306 MN	1,317 MN

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LAST CONTRACT FOR NWNT SEWERAGE SCHEME SIGNED

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR C.K. CHOW, TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A \$260 MILLION CONTRACT WITH A JOINT VENTURE CONTRACTING COMPANY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBMARINE OUTFALL AT URMSTON ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL IS THE LAST COMPONENT TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE \$1 BILLION NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES SEWERAGE SCHEME WHICH IS DESIGNED TO COLLECT AND TREAT THE SEWAGE GENERATED IN THE REGION INCLUDING YUEN LONG AND TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWNS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, SEWAGE GENERATED IN THE REGION WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH A NETWORK OF SEWERS AND CHANNELLED TO A NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT SAN WAI FOR TREATMENT.

THE TREATED EFFLUENT WILL THEN BE CONVEYED THROUGH A NINE-KILOMETRE SEWER TUNNEL UNDERNEATH THE CASTLE PEAK FIRING RANGE FOR DISPOSAL AT DEEP SEA VIA THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

THE 1.8-METRE DIAMETER SUBMARINE OUTFALL WILL EXTEND ABOUT 3.2 KILOMETRES OFF THE COAST OF LUNG KWU SHEUNG TAN, TUEN MUN TO THE DEEP SEA AT URMSTON ROAD.

ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN, THE TREATED EFFLUENT DISCHARGED BY THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL WILL BE MIXED WITH THE SURROUNDING SEA WATER TO EFFECT GOOD DILUTION BEFORE BEING CARRIED NORTHWARDS AWAY FROM HONG KONG BY SEA CURRENTS.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TWO CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPT SURVEYS BEGIN

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THE SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES AND THE SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES FOR 1990 HAVE JUST COMMENCED, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED ANNUALLY AND REPRESENT PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME IN THE DEPARTMENT TO COMPILE STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE AIMS OF THE SURVEYS ARE TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE DATA FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AND FOR ASCERTAINING THEIR COST STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTPUT LEVELS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEYS ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

ABOUT 4,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEYS.

THE SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES COVERS LAND, SEA AND AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES, SUCH AS PUBLIC BUSES, TRAMWAYS, TAXIS, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, TRUCKS, FERRIES, SHIPPING COMPANIES AND AIRLINES.

IT ALSO COVERS SUCH TRANSPORT-RELATED SERVICES AS THOSE PROVIDED BY CARPARKS, TRAVEL AGENTS AND CARGO FORWARDING AGENTS.

THE SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES COVERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- * STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING FACILITIES FOR HIRE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC;
- * POSTAL, TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, MESSAGE DELIVERY AND MESSAGE EXCHANGE SERVICES;
- * ALL FINANCE (EXCEPT LICENSED BANKS, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES; LOAN, MORTGAGE AND DISCOUNT COMPANIES; DEALERS/BROKERS AND EXCHANGES IN STOCKS AND SHARES, COMMODITY FUTURES, GOLD BULLION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE; PAWNSHOPS; MONEY CHANGERS; AND OTHER FINANCIAL UNDERTAKINGS;
- * INSURERS, RE-INSURERS, AGENTS AND BROKERS OF ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE AND INSURANCE-RELATED SERVICES;
- * ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, ADVERTISING, DATA PROCESSING, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY RENTAL, LEGAL, NEWS AGENCY, SECRETARIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES.

INFORMATION SOUGHT IN THE SURVEYS INCLUDES: TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (THAT IS WAGES, SALARIES AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS), OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

THE SURVEYS ARE BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES) ORDER 1984 AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES) ORDER 1984, WHICH WERE MADE UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICES IN THE GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS SAMPLED FOR THE SURVEYS. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31, 1991.

IF REQUIRED, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES. THESE OFFICERS WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEYS WHILST ON DUTY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO THE MANAGERMENTS OF ALL SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES PROMPTLY AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE SURVEYS, SO AS TO FULFIL THEIR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE.

ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION, WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WILL BE RELEASED.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUPPLY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA REQUIRED IN THE SURVEYS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATES WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE RETURNS, IF AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEYS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 802 1262.

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MAY 1991 ONE OF THE DRIEST, WARMEST ON RECORD

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MAY 1991 WAS ONE OF THE DRIEST AND WARMEST ON RECORD, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNT OF 60.9 MILLIMETRES, THE EIGHTH LOWEST EVER, WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THE MAY NORMAL OF 316.7 MILLIMETRES.

THE CONTINUING LACK OF SIGNIFICANT RAIN DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1991 WAS REFLECTED BY THE MEAGRE RAINFALL TOTAL OF 184.0 MILLIMETRES OVER THE PERIOD.

THIS FIGURE REPRESENTED ONLY ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL OF 616.5 MILLIMETRES, AND WAS THE LOWEST SINCE THE RECORD DRY YEAR OF 1963.

THE PERSISTENT FINE AND DRY WEATHER COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WESTWARD EXTENSION OF AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG PACIFIC RIDGE OVER SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,011.6 HPA (HECTOPASCALS) IN HONG KONG WAS A RECORD HIGH FOR THE MONTH OF MAY. INTENSE SOLAR HEATING LED TO THE TEMPERATURE SOARING TO A MAXIMUM OF 33.4 DEGREES ON MAY 28, THE FIFTH HOTTEST MAY DAY EVER.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TWO LATE-SEASON SURGES OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON, THE FIRST 11 DAYS IN MAY WERE ACTUALLY COOLER THAN NORMAL, BELYING THE HOT WEATHER THAT WAS TO COME LATER IN THE MONTH.

THE PASSAGE OF A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE ON THE EVENING OF MAY 1 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OUTBREAKS OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS.

THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH INTERMITTENT LIGHT RAIN THE NEXT DAY AS THE WIND TURNED FROM NORTHERLY TO EASTERLY AND STRENGTHENED.

WINDY CONDITIONS PERSISTED FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AND THE RAIN ALSO BECAME MORE FREQUENT. THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 18.2 DEGREES ON MAY 3 WAS THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH.

AS THE EASTERLIES SUBSIDED, THE WEATHER ON MAY 5 BECAME BRIGHTER. HOWEVER VISIBILITY WAS POOR DUE TO THE MOIST AND MISTY CONDITIONS.

OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS, FOG AFFECTED OFFSHORE WATERS TO THE EAST.

SOME AFTERNOON SHOWERS ON MAY 7 WERE FOLLOWED BY A REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON THAT NIGHT. THIS TIME, THE PASSAGE OF THE ASSOCIATED TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FAILED TO BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL.

THERE WAS ONLY SOME DRIZZLE ON MAY 8.

FRESH EASTERLY WINDS SET IN ON MAY 9, AND THE WEATHER STAYED CLOUDY WITH MORNING DRIZZLE UNTIL MAY-11 WHEN CLOUDS CLEARED, GIVING LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY.

APART FROM SOME OFFSHORE MIST IN THE EARLY MORNING, IT WAS ANOTHER DAY OF SUNSHINE BUT WITH LIGHTER WINDS ON MAY 12.

THE WEATHER TURNED UNSETTLED ON MAY 13 WITH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF CLOUDS AND SHOWERS.

ALTHOUGH THE SHOWERS WERE QUITE FREQUENT, THERE WAS NO PROLONGED HEAVY RAIN. HEAVIER DOWNPOUR LASTED FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON.

SUNNY WEATHER RETURNED FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, ONLY TO BE INTERRUPTED BY A BRIEF STORMY EPISODE LATE IN THE EVENING ON MAY 15 WHEN OUTBREAKS OF SHOWERS ACCOMPANIED BY SQUALLS, THUNDER, AND LIGHTNING SWEEPED THROUGH THE TERRITORY.

THIS PROVED TO BE THE ONLY OCCASION OF RELATIVELY WET WEATHER IN MAY BEFORE A SPELL OF GENERALLY FINE CONDITIONS SET IN FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE MONTH.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE, THE WEATHER REMAINED STABLE FROM MAY 16 TO 21.

THERE WERE SOME BRIEF HEAT SHOWERS WHICH OCCURRED MOSTLY OVER AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. OFFSHORE WATERS TO THE EAST WERE AFFECTED BY MIST PATCHES.

VISIBILITY WAS EVEN POORER IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MAY 21 AS THE OFFSHORE MIST THICKENED INTO FOG.

THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON BECAME ACTIVE ON MAY 22, AND SHOWERY ACTIVITY ALSO INCREASED.

HOWEVER, THE SHOWERS REMAINED LIGHT AND ISOLATED IN NATURE AGAINST A MAINLY FINE SETTING. WINDS WERE RATHER GUSTY AT TIMES, AND GUSTS APPROACHING 60 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE REPORTED INSIDE THE HARBOUR.

AFTER SOME BRIEF SHOWERS IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MAY 26, THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON SUBSIDED DURING THE DAY AND ALONG WITH IT THE SHOWERS.

WITH LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE, THE HEAT CONTINUED TO BUILD UP AND THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 33.4 DEGREES ON MAY 28.

THIS WAS SOON FOLLOWED BY A FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES LATER THAT DAY AND CONSEQUENTLY A SLIGHT DROP IN TEMPERATURES THE NEXT DAY.

DESPITE SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS ON THE MORNING OF MAY 29 AND FURTHER SPORADIC SHOWERS OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS, HOURS OF SUNSHINE CONTINUED TO INCREASE TOWARDS THE END OF MAY AS THE FINE SPELL PREVAILED.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, ONLY ONE TROPICAL CYCLONE, NAMELY TYPHOON WALT, OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

THERE WERE ALTOGETHER FOUR AIRCRAFT DIVERSIONS IN MAY. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FOR MAY 1, 15-16, 27, AND 29. FLOOD WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MAY 15.

THE ONLY SIGNAL HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WAS AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE & TIME OF HOISTING	DATE & TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 2 9.50 PM	MAY 4 3.30 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	201.3 HOURS ; 47.5 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	16.13 MJ/SQ.M. ; 0.01 MJ/SQ.M. ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	60.9 MM ; 255.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

/MEAN AMOUNT

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MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	71 PER CENT ;	THREE PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	81 PER CENT ;	TWO PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	29.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	26.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	24.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	22.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	128.3 MM ;	9.4 MM BELOW NORMAL

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NEW BUS ROUTE TO HELP RELIEVE MTR CONGESTION

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A NEW AIR-CONDITIONED CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTE, NO. 301, IS TO BE OPERATED JOINTLY BY THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES FROM JUNE 19 AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR COMMUTERS TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) TO ANNOUNCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ROUTE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MRS DOROTHY CHAN, SAID THIS IS THE SECOND PHASE OF AN ACTION PLAN TO HELP RELIEVE SOUTHBOUND CONGESTION IN THE MTR.

MRS CHAN SAID THE NEW EXPRESS BUSES WOULD TAKE UP PASSENGERS FROM THE BUS BAY AT THE TOLL PLAZA OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IN KOWLOON TO CENTRAL.

THE BUS FARE IS \$5.50 AND THE JOURNEY TIME TO CENTRAL WILL BE ABOUT 12 MINUTES.

SHE SAID THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENCOURAGE KCR PASSENGERS FROM THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES TO CHANGE FOR BUSES IN HUNG HOM RATHER THAN TO THE MTR AT KOWLOON TONG.

"AT PRESENT, SOME 6,000 PASSENGERS USE THE KOWLOON TONG STATION DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOUR FOR CENTRAL AND OVER 60 PER CENT OF THEM ARE GENERATED FROM THE KCR," MRS CHAN ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KMB, MR CHARLES C.Y. LUI, AND THE CMB'S FINANCE AND PLANNING MANAGER, MR DEREK NICHOLLS.

/THEY EXPLAINED

THEY EXPLAINED THE DETAILS OF THE NEW EXPRESS BUS SERVICE WHICH WILL BE OPERATING FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY BETWEEN 7.45 AM AND 9 AM AT A THREE-MINUTE INTERVAL.

ON KOWLOON SIDE, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE PICK-UP POINT - AT THE SOUTHERNMOST END OF THE BUS BAY AT THE TOLL PLAZA AREA OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

A NEW PASSENGER WAITING AREA HAS JUST BEEN ASSIGNED AND SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE PASSENGERS FROM THE KCR TO THE BUS PICK-UP POINT IMMEDIATELY AS THEY DESCEND THE FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE TOLL BOOTHS.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE BUS WILL DROP OFF PASSENGERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY, WAN CHAI, ADMIRALTY AND CENTRAL.

THE KMB AND THE CMB TOGETHER WILL DEPLOY 14 AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES AND IT CAN CARRY 3,000 PASSENGERS IN ONE PEAK HOUR. THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR.

WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE KCRC, ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NEW SERVICE WILL BE MADE AT THE KCR STATIONS AND ON TRAINS WHILE NOTICES WILL BE PUT UP AT THE KCR STATIONS TO INFORM PASSENGERS OF THE NEW ROUTE.

COMMENDING THE NEW BUS SERVICE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR GORDON K.C. SIU, SAID:

"THIS NEW AND CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE FORM OF LAND TRANSPORT WILL HELP RELIEVE CONGESTION ALONG THE MTR'S NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR."

HE ALSO SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON OTHER NEW SCHEMES WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING THE SUMMER.

ALL THESE EFFORTS REFLECTED GOVERNMENT'S ALL DETERMINATION TO HELP RELIEVE MTR'S PEAK HOUR CONGESTION.

"OUR MOTTO, IN DEVISING THE ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORT, IS THAT IT MUST BE FAST, COMFORTABLE AND CHEAPER WHEN COMPARING TO THE EXISTING MODE," HE ADDED.

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COMMITTEE BRIEFED ON PROPOSALS ON LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL

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MEMBERS OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WERE BRIEFED AT A MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS AIMING AT MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY LIVESTOCK WASTE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LOCAL LIVESTOCK.

/AT TODAY'S

AT TODAY'S MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH AND OTHER CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS EXPLAINED THE DETAILS OF THESE PROPOSALS, INCLUDING A LICENSING SCHEME FOR LIVESTOCK KEEPING AND HIGHER CAPITAL GRANTS FOR FARMERS AFFECTED.

THE CAPITAL GRANTS HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM \$48 TO \$120 PER SQUARE METRE FOR PIG AND CHICKEN FARMS. THE RATES FOR PIGEON AND QUAIL FARMS HAVE ALSO BEEN INCREASED TO \$40 AND \$50 PER SQUARE METRE RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, SAID THE BRIEFING HAD HELPED MEMBERS ACQUIRE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPOSALS SO THAT THEY COULD EXAMINE THEM CAREFULLY AND GIVE THEIR VIEWS DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.

HE ALSO URGED LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

"THE VIEWS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSOLIDATED AND SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE," HE ADDED.

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NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR THE BANKING COMMISSION

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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING (OCB) ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE COMMISSIONING OF A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM.

THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM, COSTING \$25 MILLION, WILL GREATLY ENHANCE AND EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF BANKING AND MONETARY STATISTICS BY THE OCB AND THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS A MEMORY SIZE WHICH IS 60 TIMES AND STORAGE CAPACITY 30 TIMES THAT OF THE FORMER SYSTEM.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO ANALYSE THE DATA OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM QUICKLY TO OBTAIN AN EARLY READING OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS," THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR ALBERT CHEOK SAID.

THE OCB IS MAKING GREATER USE OF OFF-SITE ANALYSIS OF THE INSTITUTIONS' FINANCIAL DATA AS A SUPPLEMENT TO ITS TRADITIONAL ON-SITE EXAMINATIONS.

"ANALYSES OF FINANCIAL DATA, WHICH THIS NEW SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE, WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO MONITOR ASPECTS OF INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS' OPERATIONS AND THEREBY HELP US TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS FOR SUPERVISORY EXAMINATION," HE ADDED.

"AT THE SAME TIME, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, WE HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY FURTHER TO STREAMLINE AND SIMPLIFY STATISTICAL RETURNS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE REPORTING BURDEN ON INSTITUTIONS." MR CHEOK SAID.

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CYC MEMBERS SET GOOD EXAMPLE IN CONSERVING COUNTRY PARKS

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THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) IN THIS YEAR'S COUNTRY PARKS ADOPTION SCHEME FULLY DEMONSTRATES THEIR HIGH SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 1990-91 CYC COUNTRY PARKS ADOPTION SCHEME AT THE NAM CHEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE.

DR LEE POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM KEEPING OUR COUNTRY PARKS CLEANER AND GREENER FOR THE COMMUNITY, THE PARTICIPANTS HAD ALSO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER PARK-USERS TO FOLLOW.

"I HOPE THAT AFTER LEARNING HOW TO PROTECT, IMPROVE AND MAKE GOOD USE OF THE PARK, CYC MEMBERS COULD HELP SPREAD THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION MESSAGE TO THEIR FELLOW CLASSMATES, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS SO THAT MORE WOULD JOIN IN CONSERVING OUR COUNTRY PARKS."

DR LEE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG HARBOUR FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP TO THE SCHEME.

HE ALSO THANKED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS OF ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SAME CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, NOTED THAT SOME 7,800 CYC MEMBERS FROM 49 SCHOOLS HAD JOINED THE SCHEME THIS YEAR AND HAD CARRIED OUT A WIDE VARIETY OF COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT WORK IN 10 COUNTRY PARKS.

HE SAID THE SCHEME PROVIDED CYC MEMBERS A CHANCE TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THEIR MOTTO OF "LEARN, BE CONCERNED AND SERVE".

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY TODAY WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG HARBOUR, MR CHARLES LAM.

DURING THE CEREMONY, CERTIFICATES AND SOUVENIRS WERE PRESENTED TO THE PARTICIPATING CYC SCHOOLS BY THE OFFICIATING GUESTS.

THE GUESTS THEN TOURED AN EXHIBITION SHOWING CYC MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF THIS YEAR'S COUNTRY PARKS ADOPTION SCHEME.

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ID CARD REMINDER FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1916-22

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN IN 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 AND 1922 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE JULY 6.

"TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, WOMEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO REPLACE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

ALL OFFICES CLOSE ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

APPLICANTS MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICES OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG: BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI
TEL. NO. 574 7070

EAST KOWLOON: AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK
TEL. NO. 755 3669

WEST KOWLOON: CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI
TEL. NO. 723 2424

TSUEN WAN: EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET
TEL. NO. 498 0117

SHA TIN: SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR, CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE,
11-17 SHA TIN CENTRE STREET
TEL. NO. 605 9108

YUEN LONG: HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR,
31 HOP YICK ROAD
TEL. NO. 477 1543

TUEN MUN: CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHI LOK FA YUEN
TEL. NO. 458 0646

/SHEUNG SHUI:

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SHEUNG SHUI: TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR,
82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI
TEL. NO. 672 7191

THEY MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE 24-HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE SERVICE BY DIALLING 824 0303 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT DETAILS OF THE DOCUMENTS TO BRING ALONG.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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RHKR RECRUITMENT DRIVE CONTINUES

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIKE TO FACE CHALLENGES AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE VOLUNTEERS BEFORE ITS RECRUITMENT EXERCISE CLOSES AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

THIS YEAR THE REGIMENT IS LOOKING FOR ABOUT 200 MALE RECRUITS AND 25 FEMALE RECRUITS.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED SHOULD BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD, HAVE COMPLETED SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HAVE A REASONABLE KNOWLEDGE OF SPOKEN ENGLISH.

THEY SHOULD ALSO HAVE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT AND SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED THEIR EMPLOYERS' CONSENT FOR JOINING THE FORCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE VOLUNTEERS SAID: "SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING IN BASIC MILITARY SKILLS, INCLUDING DRILLS, HANDLING OF RIFLES AND SUB-MACHINE GUNS, AND USE OF VEHICLES AND ASSAULT BOATS.

"TRAINING IN OPERATING RADIO EQUIPMENT, AND IN MAP READING AND FIRST AID WILL ALSO BE GIVEN.

"THIS NO DOUBT HELPS TO BUILD UP ONE'S PHYSIQUE AS WELL AS TO CULTIVATE A MORE MATURE AND CAPABLE PERSONALITY," HE SAID.

"VOLUNTEERS WILL ALSO GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN SUPERVISORY SKILLS, JUDGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING," HE ADDED.

TRAINING FOR NEW RECRUITS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON FOUR EVENINGS AND ONE WEEKEND PER MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO ATTEND TWO NINE-DAY TRAINING CAMPS BEFORE PASSING OUT.

MOST OF THE TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SCENIC COUNTRY PARKS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/ON COMPLETION

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ON COMPLETION OF BASIC TRAINING THE VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING ON TWO EVENINGS AND ONE WEEKEND A MONTH. THERE ARE TWO CAMP PERIODS, ONE OF WHICH IS SPENT ON MANNING THE HONG KONG-CHINA BORDER.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AT SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE MADE TO THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ON TEL. 576 1371.

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CHILDREN'S DRAMA TO PROMOTE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE

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PARENTS ARE INVITED TO BRING THEIR KIDS TO SHA TIN ON SUNDAY (JUNE 16) TO ENJOY A CHILDREN'S DRAMA WHICH AIMS TO PROMOTE THE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE.

ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG FRINGE CLUB, THE DRAMA WILL BE STAGED AT THE AMPHITHEATRE OF SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK.

ENTITLED "PRINCESS CLEAN VS LITTER MONSTER", THE DRAMA ALSO AIMS TO ENHANCE THE YOUNGER GENERATION'S AWARENESS OF WASTE MINIMISATION AND RE-USE.

THE 40-MINUTE DRAMA WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE "TOGETHER TRY" GROUP OF THE HONG KONG FRINGE CLUB.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN AND FORMER STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DR PANG HOK-TUEN, WILL ATTEND THE SHOW AND OFFICIATE AT A SOUVENIR PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

THE DRAMA WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE AND SOUVENIRS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE AUDIENCE.

THE DRAMA WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9 BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO RAINY WEATHER.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE DRAMA.

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