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TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

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TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

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PRIVY COUNCIL MAKES BRITISH NATIONALITY ORDER

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THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) (SELECTION SCHEME) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1993, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME, WAS MADE BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID HE WELCOMED THE PASSAGE OF THE ORDER.

"APPLICATIONS FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SCHEME WILL BE INVITED EARLY NEXT YEAR. FURTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND THE REVISED POINTS SYSTEM, WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER," HE SAID.

UNDER THE SCHEME INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1990, UP TO 50,000 HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS MAY BE REGISTERED AS BRITISH CITIZENS WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY.

ABOUT 12,000 PLACES REMAINING UNUSED AT THE END OF THE FIRST PHASE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION IN THE FINAL PHASE.

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REVIEW OF GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION

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THE INDEPENDENT PANEL APPOINTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW THE GOVERNOR'S EXEMPTION FROM SALARIES TAX ON HIS OFFICIAL INCOME HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE.

THE FULL REPORT OF THE PANEL'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE PANEL WERE ASKED TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION UNDER THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL TRUSTEES AND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ROYAL TAXATION.

THE PANEL'S MAIN CONCLUSIONS ARE:

- * THE GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION UNDER HONG KONG LAWS IS VERY CLEAR. HIS OFFICIAL EMOLUMENTS ARE STATUTORILY EXEMPTED FROM PAYMENT OF SALARIES TAX.
- * THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER OF APPOINTMENT IS A BINDING DOCUMENT AND THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN SHOULD BE UPHELD.
- * IT WOULD NOT BE VERY MEANINGFUL TO DRAW ANY ANALOGY BETWEEN THE TAX POSITION OF THE QUEEN AND THE GOVERNOR SINCE THEIR TAX POSITIONS ARE DIFFERENT.

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"SINCE THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER OF APPOINTMENT CLEARLY STATES THAT HIS REMUNERATION IS TAX FREE, IT WOULD ONLY BE FAIR AND REASONABLE THAT THIS REMAINS TO BE SO UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TERMINATES," THE REPORT SAYS.

"WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN A CONTRACT MUST STAND. THIS BASIC UNDERSTANDING UNDERLIES ALL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS AND THE PRINCIPLE MUST BE UPHELD."

THE PANEL CONSIDERED A COMPARISON OF THE QUEEN'S TAX POSITION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THAT OF THE GOVERNOR. THEY FOUND THAT THE TAX POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE QUEEN AND CONCLUDED THAT IT IS NOT MEANINGFUL TO DRAW ANALOGY BETWEEN THE TWO.

"WHILE THE QUEEN WAS NOT LIABLE TO PAY ANY INCOME, CAPITAL GAINS OR INHERITANCE TAX IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUBJECT TO ALL FORMS OF TAXATION EXCEPT FOR EXCISE DUTY AND SALARIES TAX ON HIS OFFICIAL EMOLUMENTS AS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG."

"THE ELEMENT THAT THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY WILL BE TAX FREE IS CLEARLY SET OUT IN HIS LETTER OF APPOINTMENT. SUCH A CONTRACTUAL CONDITION IS ABSENT IN THE CASE OF THE QUEEN."

THE PANEL HAS ALSO CONSIDERED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD NONETHELESS PAY SALARIES TAX WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATION AND HAS CONCLUDED:

"THIS WOULD MEAN A REDUCTION IN HIS REMUNERATION PACKAGE. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS SUGGESTION FAIR GIVEN THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS ACCEPTED HIS APPOINTMENT ON THE TERMS OFFERED TO HIM."

NOR DOES THE PANEL SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD PAY SALARIES TAX BUT BE COMPENSATED BY A PAY RISE TO RESTORE HIS NET INCOME:

"THIS WOULD BE AN ARTIFICIAL MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE SAME REMUNERATION PACKAGE WHICH WOULD NOT IN EFFECT RESULT IN ANY MATERIAL DIFFERENCE."

"HAVING REGARD TO THE GOVERNOR'S STATUTORY EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF SALARIES TAX, THE LEGALITY OF HIS LETTER OF APPOINTMENT, AND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TAX POSITIONS OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE QUEEN, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION IS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO," THE REPORT SAYS.

THE INDEPENDENT PANEL WAS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN MAY TO ADVISE ON WHETHER THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE LIABLE TO PAY SALARIES TAX IN HONG KONG.

THE PANEL COMPRISED: SIR SIDNEY GORDON, SIR Q W LEE AND MR ANDREW SO. ALL HAVE HAD DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF DEALING WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ACCEPTED THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION.

THE GOVERNOR HAS TAKEN NO PART IN THE REVIEW AND WAS NOT PRESENT DURING EXCO'S CONSIDERATION OF THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

UK ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR GARRISON

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THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF BRITISH FORCES IN HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

THE PLANS ARE A RESULT OF A CAREFUL REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S NEEDS AND THE CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL FORCES, WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPANDED IN RECENT YEARS.

UNITS OF ALL THREE SERVICES - THE ARMY, THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE - WILL REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL JUNE 1997.

HOWEVER, THE GARRISON WILL CONTINUE TO REDUCE IN STAGES OVER THE PERIOD, AS LOCAL FORCES ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS FORMER OPERATIONAL TASKS.

IN THE LATTER PART OF 1994, THE 1ST BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH WILL RETURN TO THE UK AND THE TWO GURKHA BATTALIONS WILL MERGE TO FORM THE 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES. ONE BATTALION WILL REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL JUNE 1997.

THE STRENGTH OF LOGISTIC AND OTHER SUPPORTING UNITS WILL BE REDUCED IN LINE WITH THAT OF FRONT-LINE UNITS.

THE THREE ROYAL NAVY PATROL CRAFT PRESENTLY IN HONG KONG WILL REMAIN UNTIL JUNE 1997.

ROYAL AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS WILL ALSO REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL 1997, ALTHOUGH THEIR NUMBERS MAY BE REDUCED.

THE PLANS MEAN THAT FOR THE FINAL TWO YEARS OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY, THE GARRISON WILL BE ABOUT 3,000 STRONG.

IT WILL COMPRISE A HEADQUARTERS, AN INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP, LOGISTIC SUPPORT, NAVAL PATROL CRAFT AND ROYAL AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS.

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ORDER MADE FOR PHASED ISSUE OF BNO PASSPORTS

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THE HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1993, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PHASED ISSUE OF BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) (BNO) PASSPORTS, WAS MADE BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

IN ORDER TO ENSURE ALL HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDANT TERRITORIES CITIZENS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE TO TRAVEL ON BRITISH PASSPORTS BEYOND 1997 WILL RECEIVE BNO PASSPORTS BEFORE JULY 1, 1997, THE ORDER IMPOSES LEGAL CUT-OFF DATES FOR BNO PASSPORT APPLICATIONS BY AGE GROUPS.

DETAILS OF THE ORDER AND THE BNO PHASED REGISTRATION PROGRAMME WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON THURSDAY (JULY 22).

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT LONDON

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL TRAVEL TO LONDON ON JULY 27.

MR PATTEN WILL HAVE MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS.

ON JULY 29 HE WILL MEET THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS HURD.

HE WILL AFTERWARDS START HIS ANNUAL LEAVE AND WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON AUGUST 31.

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GOVT IS FIRM ON GUESTHOUSE CONTROL

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO HAVE THE LICENSING CONTROL OF TOURIST GUESTHOUSES IN PLACE BY SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR AS SAFETY OF LODGERS CANNOT BE COMPROMISED, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS LO, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

AT A MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS, MR LO SAID OPERATORS HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION AND 12 MONTHS' NOTIFICATION OF THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR THEIR PREMISES.

"AS THE REQUIRED WORKS USUALLY TAKE NO MORE THAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WE CANNOT AGREE WITH SOME OPERATORS THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS," HE SAID.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY (LA) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ISSUING DIFFERENT GUIDELINES AT DIFFERENT TIMES, HE STRESSED.

THE ONE AND ONLY ONE SET OF SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, WHICH DETAILED THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS FOR A PARTICULAR GUESTHOUSE, WAS CONTAINED IN THE LA'S LETTERS TO INDIVIDUAL OPERATORS IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

AS TO THE BRIEF NOTES ON LICENSING REQUIREMENTS ISSUED IN JUNE 1991, WHICH SOME OPERATORS CITED AS "ANOTHER SET OF LICENSING STANDARDS", MR LO SAID THIS SERVED TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY.

THE OPENING PARAGRAPH OF THE BRIEF NOTES, HE POINTED OUT, EXPLICITLY STATED THAT SUCH NOTES "SHOULD NOT FORM THE BASIS FOR ANY ALTERATION WORKS; PROPOSED WORK TO REFURBISH OR UPGRADE AN EXISTING HOTEL/GUESTHOUSE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE LICENSING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION."

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ON THE LICENSING OF HOTELS, MR LO STRESSED THAT LIKE TOURIST GUESTHOUSES, HOTELS WERE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LICENCE BY SEPTEMBER 1 TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS.

HE ADDED THAT HOTELS WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY CRITERIA UNDER THE LAW.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID MOST OF THE HOTELS WERE PURPOSE-BUILT WITH THEIR FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY STANDARDS IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUTHORITIES AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION.

THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT THE CASE FOR TOURIST GUESTHOUSES, HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT SAFETY OF LODGERS SHOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN THE LICENSING CONTROLS ON TOURIST GUESTHOUSES, MR LO SAID ANY TRAGEDIES IN THESE PREMISES WOULD TARNISH THE TERRITORY'S IMAGE AS A TOURIST CENTRE.

HE REMINDED THE GUESTHOUSE OPERATORS OF THE URGENCY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS COMPLETED BY THE END OF AUGUST AS THE EXEMPTION PERIOD WOULD EXPIRE BY THEN.

THOSE ADOPTING A "WAIT-AND-SEE" ATTITUDE SHOULD NOTE THAT THEY HAVE ONLY ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING CONDITIONS, HE ADDED.

UNDER THE HOTEL AND GUESTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION ORDINANCE ENACTED IN 1991, ANYONE WHO OPERATES A GUESTHOUSE WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION OR A LICENCE COMMITS AN OFFENCE.

THE OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$200,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS, AND TO A FURTHER FINE OF \$20,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

"OPERATORS WHO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING OUT THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF LICENSING AUTHORITY WHOSE STAFF WILL BE PLEASED TO ADVISE," HE SAID.

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HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS FURTHER EXPLAINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, HAS REITERATED THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED CONSULTATION DOCUMENT TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH ARE AIMED AT ACHIEVING EQUITY IN ACCESS TO CARE AND PROVIDING BETTER CHOICE AND BETTER CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

IT IS NOT A PROPOSAL FOR FEE INCREASES, BUT IS ABOUT RATIONALISING THE FEE STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AND OFFERING POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, SHE ADDED.

/MRS WONG

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

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MRS WONG WAS REASSURING A GROUP OF HYPERTENSION PATIENTS DURING HER VISIT TO THE TSING YI TOWN CLINIC THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

NOTING THAT THE PATIENTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE FEE INCREASES TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT, MRS WONG STRESSED: "I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT INITIAL RESPONSE SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS RESISTANCE TO CHANGE.

"THIS IS BASED ON MISCONCEPTION THAT THERE WOULD BE VAST FEE INCREASES.

"HENCE, MY COLLEAGUES AND I COME TO TALK TO YOU PERSONALLY AND TO REASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY COMMITTED TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE BUT ALSO TO STRENGTHEN THE SAFETY NET."

SHE SAID IT REMAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE WAS A PUBLIC RIGHT.

MRS WONG TOLD THE PATIENTS THAT THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT OFFERED AN APPROACH TO EXEMPT, FULLY OR PARTIALLY, THOSE WHO HAD SPECIAL NEEDS, FROM PAYING FEES.

IN THIS RESPECT, SHE SAID, THE POOR, THE OLD, LONG-STAY PATIENTS AND DISABLED PEOPLE SHOULD COME UNDER THE NEW SCHEME IF THE PROPOSALS IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT WERE ACCEPTED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PEGGING OF MEDICAL FEES TO COSTS, THE SECRETARY SAID THE INCONSISTENCIES AND ANOMALIES IN THE EXISTING FEE STRUCTURE NEEDED TO BE RATIONALISED.

THUS, A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF CHARGING AND GIVING WAIVERS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE CONCEPT OF USING OPERATING COST AS A MEANS OF CALCULATION WAS ACCEPTED AND UNDER THE SCENARIO OF, SAY, A 95 PER CENT SUBSIDY AND A 50 PER CENT WAIVER FOR SELECTED GROUPS, THE FEES CHARGED COULD BE \$105 FOR ACUTE/GENERAL HOSPITALS, WHILE THE EXEMPTED FEE LEVEL WOULD BE \$52.50.

FOR INFIRMARIES, FEES WOULD BE \$45.50, WHILE THE EXEMPTED FEE LEVEL WOULD BE \$23.

"IN THE CASE OF INFIRMARIES, IF THIS FORMULA WAS ACCEPTED, THOSE IN NEED WOULD PAY MUCH LESS THAN AT PRESENT," MRS WONG NOTED.

SHE CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO SPEND SOME TIME READING THE DOCUMENT THEMSELVES AND FORWARD THEIR VIEWS TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH.

MRS WONG WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR MARGARET CHAN.

TSING YI TOWN CLINIC IS ONE OF THE 24 GOVERNMENT CLINICS WHICH HAVE LAUNCHED A PILOT SCHEME ON SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR DIABETES MELLITUS AND HYPERTENSION PATIENTS.

/THE AIM

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THE AIM IS TO ENABLE THESE PATIENTS, THROUGH GROUP HEALTH TALKS, TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE AND TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE LEARNED IN THEIR DAILY LIFE SO AS TO ACHIEVE "SELF RELIANCE".

DURING THE VISIT, MRS WONG NOTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE CLINIC ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES.

THESE INCLUDE AIR-CONDITIONED WAITING AREA WITH MORE COMFORTABLE SEATS; PLAY AREA FOR CHILDREN; PROVISION OF DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND WEIGHING SCALE; ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY OF HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS; AND A PATIENT ASSISTANCE COUNTER OFFERING PROMPT INFORMATION AND HELP TO PATIENTS.

CLINIC PROCEDURES HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPROVED TO PLACE A GREATER EMPHASIS ON CONVENIENCE, COMFORT AND CONTINUITY OF CARE.

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CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM OVER SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED URUGUAY ROUND

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID HE WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE GATT WOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED THIS YEAR.

"THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE G-7 IN TOKYO WAS THE BEST NEWS ON THE TRADE FRONT FOR SOME TIME. CLEARLY THEY HAVE NOT RESOLVED ALL THE ISSUES AMONGST THEMSELVES. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, CLEARED THE WAY FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE WIDER MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA."

MR MILLER SAID HE THOUGHT THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WAS AN EARLY RETURN TO NEGOTIATING THE MARKET ACCESS ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE.

"IT IS VITAL THAT ALL PLAYERS ENGAGE RAPIDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY IN NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCING TARIFFS ON GOODS AND COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO NEW OBLIGATIONS IN RESPECT OF SERVICES.

"NEGOTIATING A BALANCED PACKAGE ON THESE SO-CALLED MARKET ACCESS ISSUES WILL TAKE TIME AND ENERGY. THEY SHOULD BE THE FIRST PRIORITY."

MR MILLER CAUTIONED AGAINST RE-OPENING THE DRAFT FINAL ACT PUT FORWARD BY THE GATT DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN DECEMBER 1991.

"THERE IS NOTHING TO GAIN AND EVERYTHING TO LOSE BY TINKERING WITH THE DRAFT FINAL ACT, OR "DUNKEL TEXT" AS IT IS CALLED. THIS WOULD BE QUITE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. ALL THE PLAYERS CAN POINT TO SOMETHING WHICH THEY DON'T LIKE IN THE DRAFT, BUT I AM CONVINCED IT IS THE BEST BASIS FOR ULTIMATE AGREEMENT."

/MR MILLER

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MR MILLER NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK TO TAKE PART IN A MEETING OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

"HONG KONG IS READY TO DO ITS PART IN GETTING THE NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON THE RAILS AND MOVING. I MYSELF WILL BE FLYING TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE, MY COLLEAGUES WILL BE THERE BOTH THIS WEEK AND NEXT TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS ON BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EQUAL COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN LIBERALISING TRADE FROM OUR TRADING PARTNERS," HE SAID.

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 1ST QUARTER OF 1993

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, AMOUNTED TO \$17 BILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, WHICH WAS 5.5% HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE INCREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO MORE ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PUBLIC SITES AND A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION SITES.

COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS DROPPED BY 7.3%. THE DECREASE WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FEWER WORKING DAYS IN THE QUARTER DUE TO THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT PRIVATE SITES TOTALLED \$7.4 BILLION BEING 7.2% LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO.

THE DECREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO A DROP IN THE VALUE OF WORK DONE FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS. COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, THE VALUE ALSO DROPPED BY 10.5%.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT PUBLIC SITES WAS \$4.9 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 18.3% OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF WORKS FOR A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, THE VALUE DROPPED BY 2.5%.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS \$3.3 BILLION, WHICH WAS 13.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 BUT 9% LOWER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

/THE TYPES

THE TYPES OF WORK PERFORMED INCLUDED MINOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION WORKS AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION SITES, COMPRISING MAINLY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FITTING WORKS, TOTALLED \$1.5 BILLION.

THIS WAS 27.8% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 BUT 1.7% LOWER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

ANALYSED BY END-USE, RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL / NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) CONTINUED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE GREATEST PORTION OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, AMOUNTING TO \$4.8 BILLION.

THE VALUE, HOWEVER, DECREASED BY 1.5% AND 8.3% RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

TRANSPORT PROJECTS CONTINUED TO FORM THE SECOND LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK. THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED FOR SUCH PROJECTS WAS \$2.4 BILLION. THIS WAS 75.7% AND 7.0% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 RESPECTIVELY.

THE LARGE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS CONSTITUTED THE THIRD LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED FOR SUCH PROJECTS TOTALLED \$1.7 BILLION, WHICH WAS 25.6% AND 9.3% LOWER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 RESPECTIVELY.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT AT THE SAME TIME.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, COVERS ONLY THOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT TAKES THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, BUT NOT PROJECTS IN WHICH IT TAKES ONLY THE ROLE OF A SUB-CONTRACTOR.

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

MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 1ST QUARTER 1993".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, WANCHAI TOWER, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

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

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TRADE IN SERVICES REFLECTS GROWTH OF HONG KONG
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OVER THE LAST DECADE, HONG KONG HAD BOTH GROWN AND CHANGED TO BE MORE THAN JUST A MANUFACTURER, TRADER AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THE CHANGE WAS DULY REFLECTED IN THE CONTRIBUTION OF SERVICES TO THE ECONOMY.

ALTHOUGH MANUFACTURING HAS CONTINUED TO GROW IN ABSOLUTE TERMS (ABOUT 137 PER CENT OVER THE 10 YEARS UP TO 1991), THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S SHARE OF HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) FELL FROM 23 PER CENT TO 16 PER CENT BETWEEN 1981 AND 1991.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE SERVICE SECTOR SHARE OF GDP HAS RISEN FROM 64 PER CENT TO 73 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES TELL THE SAME STORY. MANUFACTURING PROVIDED 39 PER CENT OF JOBS IN 1981; 10 YEARS LATER IT PROVIDES ONLY 24 PER CENT. THE SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYED 50 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE IN 1981; IT HAS SINCE RISEN TO 66 PER CENT.

"HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE FOR A LARGE PART OF THE REGION. IN DOING SO IT PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE TENDENCY AROUND THE WORLD FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES TO BECOME MORE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED IN SUPER SERVICE CENTRES," MR MILLER SAID.

"HONG KONG SERVES AS THE IDEAL BUSINESS CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL FIRMS LOOKING TO DO BUSINESS IN THE REGION. IT DOES SO BECAUSE ITS LEGAL SYSTEM IS FAIR AND FAMILIAR AND IT OFFERS THE FULL RANGE OF SOPHISTICATED COMMERCIAL SERVICES WHICH THE MODERN BUSINESSMEN DEMAND," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG ALSO SERVES AS A MARKET AND SHOWCASE FOR GOODS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD. ITS WEALTH HAS ALLOWED BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS TO BE MORE OSTENTATIOUS IN EVERYTHING FROM ARCHITECTURE THROUGH BOATS TO CUISINE AND SO ON THROUGH THE ALPHABET."

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF CITY LION'S CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR MILLER SAID HONG KONG HAD ACQUIRED TWO LESS TANGIBLE ASSETS: CONNECTIONS AND EXPERTISE.

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"HONG KONG'S CLOSE FAMILY AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS WITH THE MAINLAND MADE IT ONLY NATURAL THAT ITS ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY CHINA'S NEW OPENNESS," MR MILLER SAID.

"THE SIMPLEST MEASURE OF BOTH THEIR BOLDNESS AND THEIR SUCCESS IS THE FACT THAT THEY NOW EMPLOY SOME THREE MILLION WORKERS IN ENTERPRISES IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE ALONE," HE SAID.

BESIDES, HONG KONG ALSO HAS STRONG EXTERNAL LINKS WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

"THE LINKS FIRST FORGED BY TRADE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED, AS MANY HONG KONG ENTERPRISES HAVE OUT-GROWN THE TERRITORY AND GONE MULTI-NATIONAL.

"IT ALSO HAS THE LINKS WHICH COME WITH OVERSEAS EDUCATION AND THESE ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG WITH UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

"SMALL WONDER THEREFORE THAT BUSINESSMEN IN THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE LOOKED TO THEIR NETWORK OF FRIENDS IN HONG KONG TO HELP THEM OPEN DOORS IN CHINA," MR MILLER SAID.

TURNING TO THE OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSET, EXPERTISE, HE SAID IT WAS MUCH HARDER TO QUANTIFY, BUT IT IS NONETHELESS REAL.

IT COMES IN SEVERAL FORMS.

IT COMES IN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE WHICH CHINA SO BADLY NEEDS TO ENABLE IT TO ADJUST TO MORE MARKET-ORIENTED AND HIGHER-TECH MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

THERE ARE SOME 50,000 HONG KONG TECHNICIANS AND MANAGERS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED INSIDE CHINA.

IT COMES IN THE FORM OF BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES. HONG KONG HAS CARVED A NICHE FOR ITSELF IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE FINANCING FOR ENTERPRISES INVOLVING A MAINLAND COMPONENT.

IT COMES IN THE FORM OF SYSTEMS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES. HONG KONG'S TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS PROVIDE A WORKING MODEL FROM WHICH THE MAINLAND CAN LEARN AS IT GRADUALLY DISMANTLES UNWIELDY STATE-OWNED MONOPOLIES.

IT COMES IN THE FORM OF A SOPHISTICATED FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE. THE MAINLAND IS ABLE TO LEARN FROM THE WAY SUCH SERVICES OPERATE IN HONG KONG IN DESIGNING THEIR OWN SYSTEMS AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE.

FINALLY, IT COMES IN THE FORM OF COMMERCIAL SAVVY. HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE DEAL MAKER FOR MANY FOREIGN ENTERPRISES LOOKING FOR ENTRY INTO THE CHINA MARKET.

NOTING THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD BEEN BUSINESS-LED AND NATURAL DEVELOPMENTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE WAS THAT OF A FACILITATOR, ENSURING THAT NOTHING IMPEDED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY.

GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC PLANS MUST ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAD THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR THE PROVISION OF ALL THE SERVICES MENTIONED, HE SAID.

"THE PORT AND AIRPORT ARE OBVIOUS EXAMPLES, AS ARE ROADS AND RAILWAYS. SO TOO ARE WATER, GAS AND ELECTRICITY AND OF COURSE COMMUNICATIONS. LESS OBVIOUS ARE THE SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE OF EDUCATION AND MODERN SOCIAL SERVICES."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT TRAFFIC THROUGH THE PORT WAS GROWING AT 20 PER CENT A YEAR AND THAT 38 MILLION-PLUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS ARRIVED AND DEPARTED BY AIR AND SEA IN 1992.

"ON THE TRADE FRONT, WE NEED CONSTANTLY TO BE ALERT TO ANY ACTION WHICH THREATENS OUR ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS, OR DISADVANTAGES OUR TRADERS, INCLUDING THE FORMATION OF EXCLUSIVE TRADE BLOCS."

MR MILLER CALLED ON THOSE PRESENT TO IGNORE THE TALK ABOUT REGIONAL FREE TRADE GROUPINGS.

"THEY ARE VERY MUCH A SECOND BEST TO THE MULTILATERAL TRADE SYSTEM UNDER THE GATT, IN WHICH ALL ARE EQUAL AND SHARE EQUALLY IN THE BENEFITS OF TRADE LIBERALISATION."

"THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE "URUGUAY ROUND", IS THE MOST AMBITIOUS EVER ATTEMPTED. IT IS ALSO PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG, IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED SHAPE OF OUR ECONOMY, BECAUSE TRADE IN SERVICES IS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE SAME DISCIPLINES.

"OVER THE COMING MONTHS, MY COLLEAGUES AND I WILL BE STRIVING TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL PACKAGE NOT ONLY REDUCES TARIFFS AND THEREFORE BOOSTS TRADE IN GOODS, BUT ALSO SECURES ACCESS FOR OUR INCREASINGLY ACTIVE SERVICES INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

MR MILLER WILL BE ATTENDING A GATT MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK.

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RESCUE PROJECTS UNEARTH VALUABLE ARTEFACTS

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THROUGH LARGE-SCALE RESCUE EXCAVATIONS SINCE 1990 BY THE ANTIGUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE (AMO), A LARGE QUANTITY OF INTERESTING ARTEFACTS HAVE COME TO LIGHT, ENHANCING PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRE-HISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY OF HONG KONG.

THE REMARK WAS MADE BY SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (TUESDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON RCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT YUNG LONG IN TUEN MUN.

MR SO SAID THE LARGE QUANTITY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS UNEARTHED WERE EXAMPLES OF HOW SUCH ARTEFACTS HELPED ONE UNDERSTAND THE LIFE OF ANCIENT SETTLERS IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN RECENT DECADES HAD LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF MORE THAN 200 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN HONG KONG WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO CONTAIN A WEALTH OF ARTEFACTS AND OTHER EXCITING RELICS, HE SAID.

MR SO STRESSED THAT PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES MUST BE A PRIME CONCERN, NOTING THAT BECAUSE OF THE THRIVING ECONOMY AND UNPRECEDENTED PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, SOME OF THOSE SITES HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO THREATS OF OBLITERATION IN RECENT YEARS.

THE SITUATION WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT WHICH POSED SERIOUS THREATS TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE TERRITORY.

TO REMEDY THE SITUATION, MR SO NOTED THE AMO HAD IMPLEMENTED A VIGOROUS PROGRAMME OF RESCUE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

HE SAID THROUGH LIAISON WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE AMO MONITORED ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO ENSURE THAT SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

IN SOME CASES, INTERVENTION BY THE AMO HAD LED TO REALIGNMENT OF THE ORIGINALLY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY, ENABLING SOME OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO BE PRESERVED INTACT, HE ADDED.

FOR THOSE SITES WHICH COULD NOT AVOID DESTRUCTION, MR SO SAID TIMELY RESCUE EXCAVATIONS MOUNTED BY THE AMO ALONE, OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS, HAD SUCCESSFULLY PRESERVED THE MANY VALUABLE ARTEFACTS UNEARTHED FROM THE SITES.

SINCE 1990, A SERIES OF LARGE-SCALE RESCUE EXCAVATIONS BY THE AMO HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON 17 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, MOSTLY ON CHEK LAP KOK AND NORTH LANTAU AS WELL AS IN TUEN MUN.

MR SO NOTED ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE BY LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS.

THE EXCAVATION AT YUNG LONG HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN FOR SIX MONTHS AND WAS ONLY COMPLETED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

IT WAS FULLY FUNDED BY CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO LTD WHICH PROVIDED CASH DONATION AND OTHER SUPPORTING FACILITIES TOTALLING \$1.1 MILLION.

THE EXCAVATION REVEALED TWO UNDISTURBED CULTURAL DEPOSITS. THE EARLIER ONE DATES BACK TO ABOUT 4000 B.C. WHICH IS THE OLDEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN HONG KONG. THE LATER NEOLITHIC DEPOSIT (ABOUT 2500 BC) IS EXCEPTIONALLY RICH.

THE SITE AT YUNG LONG WAS RATED IN A TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEY AS ONE OF THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN HONG KONG. THE OTHER FOUR BEING LUNG KWU TAN, LUNG KWU SHEUNG TAN, SHAM WAN ON LAMMA ISLAND AND CHEUNG SHA ON LANTAU.

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

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3,200 OFFERED BETTER HOMES LAST YEAR

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MORE THAN 3,200 PEOPLE HAVE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT IMPROVED LAST FINANCIAL YEAR THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A TOTAL OF 1,816 CASES HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN 1992/93.

"THE SCHEME HELPS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM HOUSING NEEDS BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND PERSONAL FACTORS.

"THEY MAY EITHER BE PERSONS WITH POOR HEALTH AND DISABILITIES, OR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE.

"THEY SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE FINANCIAL MEANS LOWER THAN THE INCOME LIMITS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICANTS AND FULFIL OTHER RESIDENCE QUALIFICATIONS LAID DOWN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SOCIAL WORKERS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS MAY IDENTIFY THE CASES DURING THEIR DAILY WORK AND RECOMMEND THEM FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING.

"NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES MAY MAKE DIRECT ENQUIRIES OF OUR DEPARTMENT TOO," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

"COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING IS ONLY ONE OF THE VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO HOUSING PROBLEMS. OTHER ASSISTANCE SUCH AS HOSTEL PLACEMENT AND FINANCIAL GRANTS WOULD BE ARRANGED IF APPROPRIATE," HE STRESSED.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY APPROVED

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THE FIREWORKS VETTING COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED AN APPLICATION FROM THE BANK OF CHINA GROUP TO SPONSOR A 23-MINUTE FIREWORKS DISPLAY DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR NEXT YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THE DISPLAY WILL BE STAGED OVER VICTORIA HARBOUR FROM 8 PM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1994, THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

"IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, THE DISPLAY WILL BE POSTPONED TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1994, WHICH IS THE FOURTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE COMING

THE COMING DISPLAY WILL BE THE 13TH LUNAR NEW YEAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY SPONSORED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR SINCE 1982. AS ON SIMILAR PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE INVITED TO CO-ORGANISE THE EVENT.

"WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE BANK OF CHINA GROUP WILL BE MAKING THIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ANNUAL EVENT TO ENTERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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IMPROVED EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS FOR PRE-1981 PNEUMOCONIOTICS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SEEK FUNDS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY (JULY 23) TO IMPROVE THE EX-GRATIA SCHEME FOR PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO WERE DIAGNOSED TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1981.

THIS IS IN PARALLEL WITH THE IMPROVEMENT TO THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE PROVIDED UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 WHICH CAME INTO FORCE ON JULY 9 THIS YEAR.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 600 PRE-1981 PNEUMOCONIOTICS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS.

AN AMOUNT OF \$175 MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET SUCH PAYMENTS WHICH WILL BE MET PARTLY BY AN UNSPENT BALANCE OF \$30 MILLION UNDER THE SCHEME AND \$145 MILLION TO BE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, INITIALLY SET AT \$3,000 PER MONTH, WOULD BE PAID QUARTERLY TO THE PNEUMOCONIOTICS UNTIL DEATH.

"THE QUARTERLY PAYMENT OF \$9,000, WHICH WILL BE ADJUSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFLATION, WILL BE PAID TO A PNEUMOCONIOTIC IN ADDITION TO THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE TO WHICH HE MAY BE ENTITLED UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

"MOREOVER, FOR THOSE PRE-1981 PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO ARE BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH BENEFIT WILL ALSO NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS IF THEIR SAVINGS DO NOT EXCEED A PERMISSIBLE LEVEL."

AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 WOULD BE GIVEN TO MEET FUNERAL EXPENSES IF A PNEUMOCONIOTIC DIES AS A RESULT OF THE DISEASE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AN ELIGIBLE PNEUMOCONIOTIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT FROM JULY 9, 1993 IF HE MADE AN APPLICATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THAT DATE.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL PROCESS ALL APPLICATIONS WHILE THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD WILL ACT AS A PAYMENT AGENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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CONSULTATION ON LEGAL AID REVIEW IN PROGRESS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING THE LEGAL PROFESSION, OTHER INTERESTED BODIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE FINDINGS OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP WHICH HAS REVIEWED THE LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE WORKING GROUP HAS PROPOSED SOME MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES. ITS FINDINGS ARE SET OUT IN THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON LEGAL AID.

"COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ARE AVAILABLE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AT PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTERS OF ALL DISTRICT OFFICES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OFFER THEIR COMMENTS ON THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP."

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS.

THERE WILL BE A MOTION DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 21) URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL AID.

AS THE VARIOUS OPTIONS OF ENHANCING THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL AID ADMINISTRATION ARE DISCUSSED IN THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON LEGAL AID, THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE LEGCO MEMBERS DURING THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE WILL FORM PART OF THE FEEDBACK ON THAT CONSULTATIVE PAPER.

"OUR AIM IS TO FORMULATE THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER, TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ALL COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AT FIFTH FLOOR, MAIN WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 16.

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TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

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FIRMS FINED FOR BREAKING POLLUTION LAW

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED A LIST OF COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY IN THE COURTS IN JUNE OF BREACHING ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION CURRENTLY ENFORCED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE MONTHLY.

THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS COULD BE VERY TIME-CONSUMING, AS A RESULT THERE WAS SOMETIMES A LENGTHY TIME GAP BETWEEN THE DATE OF THE OFFENCE AND THE CONVICTION DATE.

FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF PROSECUTION CASES AND THE ASSOCIATED FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS IN JUNE:

NAME (COMPANY/ PERSON)	ADDRESS	DATE OF OFFENCE	NATURE OF OFFENCE	FINES(\$)	RECORD OF OFFENCE	COURT
1.CHEUNG WAH INVEST- MENT CO LTD	QUEEN'S RD, CENTRAL	8.10.91- 2.4.92	APCO : UNAUTHORISED INSTALLATION OR ALTERATION OF FURNACES	3,600	1ST	SOUTH KOWLOON
2.CHINA FUJIAN CORP FOR INT. TECHNO- ECONOMIC COOPERATION	GREAT GEORGE ST, CAUSEWAY BAY	9.10.92	DASO : PERMIT DUMPING OF DREDGED MARINE MUD AT SEA OFF- SHORE OF CAPE COLLINSON WITHOUT A LICENCE	1,500	3RD	EASTERN
3.HIP SHING LAUNDRY FTY	WING KEI RD, KWAI CHUNG	19.10.92	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	10,000	1ST	TSUEN WAN
4.SO MA-TING	CHAI WAN RD, CHAI WAN	30.10.92	NCO : USE/CAUSED TO BE USED A PRODUCT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 17(1)	2,000	1ST	EASTERN
5.MOON KEE BEAN CURD FACTORY	PAT HEUNG, YUEN LONG	4.11.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE (WCZ)	15,000	1ST	FANLING

/6. WONG LAM-HING

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6. WONG LAM-HING	YU CHAU ST, SHAM SHUI PO	5.11.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	4,000	1ST	NORTH KOWLOON
7. SAVIC SERVICES LTD	WOODLANDS TERRACE, MID-LEVELS	8.11.92	NCO : CARRY OUT CONSTRUCTION WORK WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT	5,000	1ST	WESTERN
8. CHAN KWAN-LIT, ROBERT	"	8.11.92	NCO : PERMIT CONSTRUCTION WORK WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT	5,000	1ST	"
9. YU WING-WOON, PETER	PING CHE, FANLING	10.11.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WCZ	15,000	3RD	FANLING
10. YEUNG YUK-LIN	LAM TSUEN SAN TSUEN, TAI PO	1.12.92	WDO : CAUSING LIQUID LIVESTOCK WASTE TO DISCHARGE INTO WATERCOURSE	2,500	1ST	SHATIN
11. DELTA TECH DEVELOPMENT LTD	FA YUEN ST, MONG KOK	4.12.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	7,000	2ND	NORTH KOWLOON
12. LISUN BLEACHING & DYEING CO LTD	WAI YIP ST, KWUN TONG	10.12.92	APCO : FAILURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY AIR POLLUTANT	3,000	1ST	KWUN TONG
13. KOON WAH MIRROR FACTORY LTD	YUEN CHAU KOK, SHA TIN	15.12.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL WCZ	50,000	2ND	SHATIN

/14. WONG SUI-YEE

14. WONG SUI- YEE	SAN TONG PO VILLAGE, FANLING	17.12.92	WDO :	4,000	1ST	FANLING
			WILFULLY OBSTRUCTED AN AUTHORISED OFFICER IN THE EXERCISE OF DUTY			
15. WU YEUNG- CHUEN	SHATIN TAU NEW VILLAGE, SHA TIN	17.12.92	WPCO :	20,000	1ST	SHATIN
			DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL WCZ			
16. YU WING- WOON, PETER	PING CHE, FANLING	29.12.92	WPCO :	15,000	4TH	FANLING
			DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WCZ			
17. UNISTRESS CONCRETE PRODUCTS (H.K.) LTD	HO SHEUNG HEUNG, SHEUNG SHUI	5.1.93	WPCO :	5,000	1ST	"
			"			
18. CHOW CHEONG KEE	WING KIN RD, KWAI CHUNG	6.1.93	APCO :	2,000	1ST	TSUEN WAN
			EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION			
19. KWAN HENG WASHING FACTORY LTD	WAH SING ST, KWAI CHUNG	7.1.93	APCO :	3,000	1ST	"
			"			
20. LAM'S IND CO	KUNG YIP ST, KWAI CHUNG	7.1.93	APCO :	7,500	2ND	"
			"			
21. NG CHI- SENG	SING WOO RD, HAPPY VALLEY	7.1.93	NCO :	5,000	1ST	EASTERN
			FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIRE- MENT IN A NOISE ABATE- MENT NOTICE			
22. DAH CHONG HONG LTD	ABERDEEN MAIN RD, ABERDEEN	20.1.93	NCO :	20,000	2ND	EASTERN
			"			
23. GOLD-FLEX ELASTIC LTD	FUI YIU KOK ST, TSUEN WAN	8.2.93	APCO :	8,500	2ND	TSUEN WAN
			EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION			
24. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY	GLOUCESTER RD, CAUSEWAY BAY	9.2.93	APCO :	6,000	2ND	SAN PO KONG
			"			

25. CASTRONG LTD	WING LAP ST, KWAI CHUNG	10.2.93	APCO : "	4,000	1ST	TSUEN WAN
26. LAM YU-LOY	HENNESSY RD, WAN CHAI	11.2.93	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	5,000	1ST	EASTERN
27. MODERN CHINA MANAGEMENT LTD	JAVA RD, NORTH POINT	15.2.93	NCO : "	20,000	2ND	EASTERN
28. SILVER LUCKY LTD	BONHAM STRAND WEST, SHEUNG WAN	16.2.93	NCO : "	10,000	1ST	WESTERN
29. CHEONG WAN INVESTMENT LTD	QUEEN'S RD CENTRAL, CENTRAL	18.2.93	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	10,000	1ST	WESTERN
30. JOIN INCOME INVESTMENT LTD	SHANGHAI ST, YAU MA TEI	23.2.93	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	2,000	1ST	NORTH KOWLOON
31. PIONEER QUARRIES (HK) LTD	LOCKHART RD, WAN CHAI	24.2.93	APCO : CONTRAVENING TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A SPECIFIED PROCESS LICENCE	8,000	1ST	KWUN TONG
32. CHENG SAU-CHING	PAK SHE PRAYA RD, CHEUNG CHAU	26.2.93	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	10,000	1ST	WESTERN
33. THE INCORPORATED OWNERS OF WAH FAI COURT	YING WA TERRACE, CENTRAL	1.3.93	NCO : "	7,500	2ND	"
34. CHEUNG WAH INVESTMENT CO LTD	QUEEN'S RD CENTRAL, CENTRAL	2.3.93	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	6,000	1ST	SAN PO KONG

35.HANG HEUNG CAKE SHOP CO LTD	MAIN RD, YUEN LONG	3.3.93	APCO : "	19,000	7TH	FANLING
36.PO HING LAUNDRY LTD	HUNG TO RD, KWUN TONG	4.3.93	APCO : "	10,000	2ND	KWUN TONG
37.SIU FUNG WEAVING & DYEING FTY LTD	WING KEI RD, KWAI CHUNG	9.3.93	APCO : "	5,500	1ST	TSUEN WAN
38.HO WAH GOURMETS LTD	JOHNSTON RD, WAN CHAI	11.3.93- 15.4.93	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIRE- MENT IN A NOISE ABATE- MENT NOTICE	15,000 (PLUS A DAILY FINE 36 DAYS @ \$500 = \$18,000)	2ND	EASTERN
39.NEW TERRITORY SLAUGHTER HOUSE LTD	TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG	12.3.93	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE	30,000	2ND	FANLING
40.TEXBLOOM LTD	WANG YIP SOUTH ST, YUEN LONG	16.3.93	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	7,000	2ND	FANLING
41.EMPIRE LEADER ENTERPRISES LTD	QUEEN'S RD EAST, WAN CHAI	17.3.93	APCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A COURT ORDER ON PROHIBITING THE USE OF FURNACES, ETC	1,000	1ST	EASTERN
42.YUE WAH RESTAURANT LTD	WATERLOO RD, HO MAN TIN	23.3.93	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	3,000	3RD	SOUTH KOWLOON
43.GUANG LEE PILING ENGINEERING CO LTD	WAI CHING ST, YAU MA TEI	23.3.93	APCO : FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE (GENERAL)	5,000 (PLUS COURT FEE \$3,000)	1ST	TSUEN WAN
44.HO MAN TIN TSUI KING LAU RESTAURANT LTD	WATERLOO RD, HO MAN TIN	23.3.93	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	2,500	1ST	SOUTH KOWLOON

45. JOIN INCOME INVESTMENT LTD	SHANGHAI ST, YAU MA TEI	25.3.93	APCO : "	2,000	2ND	NORTH KOWLOON
46. GUANG LEE PILING ENGINEERING CO LTD	WAI CHING ST, YAU MA TEI	26.3.93	APCO : FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE (GENERAL)	5,000 (PLUS COURT FEE \$3,000)	2ND	TSUEN WAN
47. GUANG LEE PILING ENGINEERING CO LTD	WAI CHING ST, YAU MA TEI	29.3.93	APCO : "	5,000	3RD	"
48. CHOSERISE LTD	SHAU KEI WAN RD, SHAU KEI WAN	29.3.93- 26.4.93	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIRE- MENT IN A NOISE ABATE- MENT NOTICE	25,000 (PLUS A DAILY FINE 29 DAYS @ \$1,000 = \$29,000)	3RD	EASTERN
49. GUANG LEE PILING ENGINEERING CO LTD	WAI CHING ST, YAU MA TEI	2.4.93	APCO : FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE (GENERAL)	5,000	4TH	TSUEN WAN
50. PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO LTD	QUEEN'S RD EAST, WAN CHAI	2.4.93	APCO : "	2,000	1ST	NORTH KOWLOON
51. PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO LTD	"	6.4.93	APCO : "	2,000	2ND	"
52. PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO LTD	"	8.4.93	APCO : "	2,000	3RD	"
53. PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO LTD	"	13.4.93	APCO : "	2,000	4TH	"
54. GUANG LEE PILING ENGINEERING CO LTD	WAI CHING ST, YAU MA TEI	13.4.93	APCO : "	5,000	5TH	TSUEN WAN
55. PAUL Y. CONSTRUCTION CO LTD	QUEEN'S RD EAST, WAN CHAI	15.4.93	APCO : FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE (GENERAL)	2,000	5TH	NORTH KOWLOON

56. GUANG LEE WAI CHING 22.4.93 APCO : " 5,000 6TH TSUEN
PILING ST, WAN
ENGINEERING YAU MA TEI
CO LTD

NOTE :

- APCO : AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE
- NCO : NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE
- WPCO : WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE
- DASO : DUMPING AT SEA ACT 1974 (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES) ORDER 1975
- WDO : WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID CASES (43), (46), (47), (49), (54) AND (56) WERE GENERATED BY A SERIES OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PILING CONTRACTOR, IE GUANG LEE PILING CONSTRUCTION CO LTD.

THE FINES FOR THESE CASES WERE ALL SET AT THEIR RESPECTIVE MAXIMUM (\$5,000) FOR FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE UNDER THE APCO.

THE COURT IMPOSED AN ADDITIONAL COURT COST TOTALLING \$6,000 IN RESPECT OF CASES (43) AND (46) WHEN THEY WERE FIRST BROUGHT BEFORE IT.

PAUL Y CONSTRUCTION CO LTD WAS ALSO PROSECUTED FIVE TIMES (CASE (50) TO (53) AND (55)) AT A FINE OF \$2,000 EACH FOR FAILURE TO ABATE AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE UNDER THE APCO, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

ENQUIRIES ON SPECIFIC CASES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| APCO : | MR FRANKLIN CHUNG | TEL | 594 6200 |
| NCO : | MR STEVEN HO | TEL | 594 6500 |
| WPCO : | CASE 9,10,13,14,15 | | |
| | 16 AND 17 | MR PATRICK LEI | TEL 685 1133 |
| | CASE 5 AND 39 | DR ELLEN CHAN | TEL 417 6133 |
| DASO : | MR EDDIE LUI | TEL | 755 3553 |
| WDO : | MR PATRICK LEI | TEL | 685 1133 |

HOWEVER, ENQUIRIES ON GENERAL ISSUES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDIA RELATIONS SECTION.

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NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICE SETS UP

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICE (ENPO) FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI AREA IS SET UP TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH THE SIGNING OF A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) AND MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LTD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EPD SAID SIMILAR TO WEST KOWLOON WHERE THE FIRST ENPO WAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WAS AN AREA WHERE A NUMBER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUTE 3, THE DUPLICATE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE AND THE PROSPECTIVE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ENGINEERS OF ALL OF THESE PROJECTS WERE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN MONITORING OF THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE WORKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT ANY EFFECTS DO NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM LEVELS AND STANDARDS LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"THE ENPO FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL PROVIDE AN EXTRA LAYER OF PROTECTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE OFFICE IS TO INVESTIGATE THE CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS, HE ADDED.

THE CONSULTANT WILL ADOPT A PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH IN IDENTIFYING THE LIKELY CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND RECOMMEND MITIGATION MEASURES BEFORE THEY ARISE.

THE OFFICE IS REQUIRED TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT LIAISE AND CONSULT THE AFFECTED PARTIES AND CONCERNED GROUPS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA. IT ALSO HELPS TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

THE CONSULTANTS WILL WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE EPD FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$14 MILLION.

THE FIRST ENPO WAS SET UP TO DEAL WITH PROJECTS IN WEST KOWLOON AND HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE AUGUST 1992.

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CLOSURE OF NORTH POINT ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE 13 UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN NORTH POINT SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE ON THE SIDE AND REAR LANES OF 24 JUPITER STREET AND 9-23 SHELL STREET. THEY ARE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES USED MAINLY FOR STORAGE.

- 25 -

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON AUGUST 17 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (TUESDAY).

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

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	20 JUL 93	20 JUL 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q329	H369
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD3,290 MN	HKD2,050 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,000 MN	HKD400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.13 PCT	3.39 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.14 PCT	3.40 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 51 PCT	ABOUT 20 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.16 PCT	3.44 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 26 JUL 1993 -

TENDER DATE	27 JUL 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q330
ISSUE DATE	28 JUL 93
MATURITY DATE	27 OCT 93
TENOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,000 + 200 MN

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TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993

- 26 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,198
REVERSAL OF LAF	+602
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	-800
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-115
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,885
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.7 *+0.1* 20.7.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.46 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.58	3.85
1 MONTH	2.76 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.82	4.02
3 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.85	4.23
6 MONTHS	3.43 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.87	4.45
12 MONTHS	3.75 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 15,916 MN

CLOSED 20 JULY 1993

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