



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STATEMENT BY BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

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FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE RT HON DOUGLAS HURD, IN HONG KONG TODAY (THURSDAY):

GOVERNOR: I'D LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, DOUGLAS HURD, TO HONG KONG AGAIN. HE'S ALWAYS AN EXTREMELY WELCOME VISITOR AND WE'RE ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS. IT'S AN IMPORTANT VISIT AND MR HURD IS GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW, BUT I THINK HE'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS NOW.

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: GOOD AFTERNOON. IT'S ALWAYS TO ME VERY EXCITING AND STIMULATING TO COME TO HONG KONG AGAIN. IT'S 40 YEARS SINCE I WAS FIRST HERE AND I'VE NOTICED A CHANGE OR TWO ALONG THE WAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT IS VERY SIMPLE. IT'S ONE YEAR, MORE THAN ONE YEAR, FIFTEEN MONTHS, SINCE I WAS LAST HERE AND THAT WAS A VERY SHORT VISIT. SO MY AIM TODAY AND TOMORROW IS TO BRING MYSELF UP TO DATE. WITH PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK TO THE GOVERNOR AND HIS ADVISERS, TO EXCO, TO LEGCO, TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT VERY MUCH. THERE'S A CROWDED AGENDA AND IT'S PART OF MY JOB, AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY JOB IN LONDON TO HELP THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DO ITS BEST TO STEER HONG KONG THROUGH THE NEXT FEW YEARS. WE CAN ONLY DO THAT IF WE HAVE VERY CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT AT ALL LEVELS AND THAT'S THE REASON FOR MY VISIT.

AS THE GOVERNOR SAID, I'M GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW BUT IF ANYBODY HAS ANY QUESTIONS WHICH CAN'T WAIT, NOW'S THE TIME TO PUT THEM. ANY QUESTIONS?

QUESTION: THE LEGISLATORS ARE COMPLAINING THAT YOU'VE ONLY GIVEN THEM 45 MINUTES FOR A MEETING, YET SOME OF THEM ARE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO DESERVE LONGER. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT CRITICISM?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: I WOULD GET THE SAME CRITICISM IF I GAVE THEM ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES.

GOVERNOR: BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY GIVING THEM AN HOUR NOW.

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: I AM NOW GIVING THEM ONE HOUR, YES I'VE RESPONDED IN THAT WAY.

QUESTION: MR HURD, WHAT CAN YOU GIVE OVER TO MR QIAN IN PRACTICAL TERMS TO RESTORE THE SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: THE QUESTION IS WHAT CAN I OFFER TO MR QIAN QICHEN WHEN I SEE HIM IN NEW YORK THE WEEK AFTER NEXT? WELL, IT'S NOT A MATTER OF OFFERING HIM SOMETHING, IT'S A MATTER OF WHAT IS THE SHARED INTEREST OF BRITAIN AND HONG KONG AND CHINA AND AS I SEE IT THE SHARED INTEREST OF ALL THREE IS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD MOVE AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE MIDDLE OF 1997. NOW IF I FIND THAT THAT IS A SHARED INTEREST TO CHINA TOO, THEN THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF THINGS WHICH FOLLOW FROM THAT WHICH I WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER. I'VE ALWAYS HAD GOOD TALKS WITH HIM. I'VE NEVER HAD ANY DIFFICULTY IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM, THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP I THINK IS A GOOD ONE AND I HOPE WE CAN USE THAT FACT FOR GOOD AGAIN LATER THIS MONTH.

/QUESTION:

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QUESTION: MR HURD, CAN YOU EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIAL OUTCOME FROM YOUR MEETING WITH MR QIAN, JUST LIKE THE MEETING ... THE AIRPORT, CT9 AND JLG'S ONE ?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. WE WILL TRY BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SHARED INTEREST THAT I MENTIONED AND IF THAT CONVICTION THAT IT IS A SHARED INTEREST IS COMMON TO BOTH OF US, THEN OF COURSE WE CAN MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON THE MATTERS WHICH ARE OUTSTANDING. I HOPE THAT WILL BE SO, BUT I CAN'T SAY TODAY WHETHER IT WILL OR NOT.

QUESTION: MR HURD, THE BRITISH BUSINESS SECTOR IS SO ANXIOUS TO SEE THE RESTORATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WILL YOU DO THAT AT ANY PRICE?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY RESTORATION? WE HAVE A FLOURISHING TRADE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. THE FIGURES ARE SATISFACTORY.

QUESTION: MR HURD, ARE YOU GOING TO MEET THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER LATER ON TODAY AND BRING UP ANY IRISH ISSUES?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: NO, THERE IS CONSTANT CONTACT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY PARTICULAR OCCASION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND MYSELF TO MEET. I HAD A LONG TALK INSTEAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DICK SPRING ON IRISH MATTERS LAST SATURDAY NIGHT IN GERMANY. SO I DON'T THINK THAT SUCH A MEETING IS ON HIS TIMETABLE OR MINE.

QUESTION: CHINESE SIDE

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: THE QUESTION IS WHAT CAN WE DO TO GET THE CHINESE SIDE TO REALISE THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AGENDA SHOULD GO FASTER? WELL, I THINK IT'S CLEAR THAT IT SHOULD GO FASTER. THERE IS A BIG VOLUME OF WORK. A LOT OF IT IS NOT CONTROVERSIAL, IT IS NOT POLITICAL, IT IS TECHNICAL AND LEGAL, BUT IT'S A BIG AGENDA AND WE NEED TO GET ON WITH IT. IT COMES BACK TO WHAT I WAS SAYING ABOUT A SHARED INTEREST AND THAT IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE POINTS THAT WE ARE MAKING TO THE CHINESE ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY MEETING WITH QIAN QICHEN.

QUESTION: ?

MR DOUGLAS HURD, FOREIGN SECRETARY: WELL, I HAD GOOD TALKS WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN HANOI, I'VE JUST COME FROM HANOI, AND WE DISCUSSED THAT AND SO FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED THE PROGRAMME CONTINUES. THERE'S BEEN GOOD PROGRESS, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT. THE REMAINDER OF THE TASK, YOU KNOW THE SIZE OF THAT, WE'RE ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH. IT'S GONE WELL, THERE'S BEEN GOOD CO-OPERATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AND I HOPE THAT WILL CONTINUE AND FOLLOWING MY TALKS IN HANOI I THINK IT WILL.

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DB ELECTIONS A MILESTONE IN DEVELOPMENT
OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON ALL VOTERS TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG".

SPEAKING AT A PO LEUNG KUK CHAIRMEN'S LUNCHEON, MR NG SAID THE ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 18), WERE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN ANY OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS THAT HAD BEEN HELD SINCE 1982. DISREGARDING THE 50 SEATS THAT HAVE BEEN RETURNED UNCONTESTED, THIS TIME A RECORD 707 CANDIDATES WILL BE VYING FOR 296 SEATS ON ELECTION DAY.

MR NG SAID THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW-TERM DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE WITH 346 SEATS RETURNED BY DIRECT ELECTIONS, COMPARED WITH 274 SEATS IN 1991.

"THE NUMBER OF VOTERS HAS ALSO INCREASED FROM 1.9 MILLION TO 2.5 MILLION. AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOME 100,000 PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 21 HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS," HE SAID.

MR NG SAID ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE 1994 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WAS THAT THOSE ELECTED WOULD FORM AN ELECTION COMMITTEE, WHO WOULD ELECT 10 PEOPLE FROM OPEN CANDIDATURE TO BECOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 1995.

"THERE SHOULD ALSO BE IMPROVEMENTS IN ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS THIS TIME WITH THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JOB," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE COMMISSION HAD ISSUED A SET OF GUIDELINES ON ELECTION ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE FAIRNESS AND HAD TO DATE HANDLED MORE THAN 800 COMPLAINTS FROM CANDIDATES.

"THE NEW-TERM DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH WILL RECEIVE MORE FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, WILL ALSO PERFORM IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS SUCH AS TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES, DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES," MR NG SAID.

"THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMUNITY HALLS AND BE AUTHORISED TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO DISTRICT BODIES INCLUDING SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION."

NOTING THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR NG SAID IT WAS EVERYBODY'S HOPE THAT THE MATTER COULD FINALLY BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISH OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

HE SAID RESIDENTS' ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

"WE SHOULD FIRST BUILD A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM WHILE ADOPTING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES NOT ACCEPTED

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY):

"WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE APPROACH AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DR MACPHERSON'S REPORT ON PHILOSOPHICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GROUNDS. WE SPELT OUT OUR REASONS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL AND HAVE TODAY PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO WELFARE PANEL IN SUPPORT OF OUR CASE.

"IN OUR VIEW, DR MACPHERSON'S 'BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH' IN DETERMINING 'A MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING' BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF 'RELATIVE POVERTY' IS A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE PHILOSOPHY AND ESTABLISHED POLICY ON THE PROVISION OF WELFARE IN HONG KONG. WE DO NOT ACCEPT HIS APPROACH."

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF HONG KONG'S SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME WAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED WHO WERE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.

"WE DO SO THROUGH THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME WHICH COMPRISES TWO IMPORTANT ELEMENTS: THE STANDARD RATE PLUS A RANGE OF SPECIAL GRANTS," HE SAID.

"THESE COVER SUCH EXPENSES AS RENT, SPECIAL DIETS, MEDICAL, DENTAL AND OPTICAL EXPENSES, TELEPHONE AND WATER CHARGES, OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS AND A WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, INCLUDING SCHOOL FEES, UNIFORMS, BOOKS AND MEALS.

"THIS IS OF COURSE IN ADDITION TO THE FULL RANGE COMMUNITY FACILITIES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THOSE COVERED BY CSSA," HE ADDED.

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HK OFFICER WORKS IN CUSTOMS COUNCIL ON ORIGIN RULES

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A SENIOR OFFICER FROM THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL SOON BE SECONDED TO A PROJECT TEAM OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS TO WORK ON HARMONISATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN FOR GOODS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE PROJECT WAS THE RESULT OF ONE OF THE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE HARMONISATION PROGRAMME OF ORIGIN RULES OTHER THAN THOSE RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF TARIFF PREFERENCES WOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT RULES OF ORIGIN SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE, UNDERSTANDABLE AND PREDICTABLE.

THE WORK WOULD START SOON AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO).

A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL, WITH ITS EXPERT INPUT, WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONISATION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT BY A WTO COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN. THE WORK PROGRAMME WAS TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED THE CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY HONG KONG AS A TECHNICAL ATTACHE TO THE SIX-MEMBER PROJECT TEAM WHICH STARTED PREPARATORY WORK AT THE COUNCIL'S HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS THIS MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CUSTOMS OFFICER TO BE SECONDED WAS MR DAVID TAI YAU-NIM, ACTING PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER WITH 26 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, ALL OF WHICH HAD BEEN RELATED TO TRADE CONTROLS AND COMMERCIAL FRAUD DUTIES.

HE WOULD REPORT TO THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HARMONISATION EXERCISE AND, THROUGH THE PROCESS, ENSURE THAT THE EXERCISE ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVES OF NEUTRALITY, CONSISTENCY AND TRANSPARENCY.

FURTHERMORE, GIVEN THAT HONG KONG HAD STRONGLY ARGUED FOR THE HARMONISATION OF ORIGIN RULES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG TO SHOW CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE EXERCISE BY THE SECONDMENT OF AN EXPERIENCED CUSTOMS OFFICER WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE HONG KONG RULES OF ORIGIN SYSTEM TO SERVE AS ATTACHE ON THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

IT WOULD ALSO BE GOOD FOR HONG KONG'S IMAGE IN THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND WTO.

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HK POPULATION REACHES 6M

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THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE WAS 6,061,400, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 142,400 PERSONS OR 2.4 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH MID-1993 WHEN THE ESTIMATED POPULATION WAS 5,919,000.

BETWEEN MID-1993 AND MID-1994, THERE WERE 72,000 BIRTHS AND 29,600 DEATHS IN HONG KONG. THE BALANCE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS THUS AMOUNTED TO 42,400 AND ACCOUNTED FOR 30 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION GROWTH.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE BALANCE OF TOTAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SHOWED A NET INFLOW OF SOME 100,000 PERSONS.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS WERE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR SHORTER IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

/* GRADE "4"

- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES: ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS. THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA FOR 1993.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 1.9.94)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 15.9.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	3	3
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	1
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	3	2
MIDDLE BAY	2	1
REPULSE BAY	2	2
SHEK O	3	2
SOUTH BAY	2	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	2	2
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	4	3
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	2	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	4	4
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	4	3
BUTTERFLY	3	3

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	3	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	3	2
HAP MUN BAY	2	2
KIU TSUI	2	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	2	2

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	3	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	2	2
KWUN YAM WAN	3	2
TONG FUK	2	2
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	2	2
SILVERMINE BAY	3	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	3	3
TUNG O*	2	2

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	4	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	2
TING KAU	4	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACH.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

CHUNG HOM KOK, MIDDLE BAY, SOUTH BAY, TO TEI WAN AND KIU TSUI "2" TO "1"; HAIRPIN, SHEK O, CHEUNG SHA LOWER, KWUN YAM WAN, SILVERMINE BAY, CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH, CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH AND LIDO FROM "3" TO "2"; STANLEY MAIN, APPROACH AND KADOORIE FROM "4" TO "3".

THE WATER QUALITY AT MANY BEACHES HAS IMPROVED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THIRTY BEACHES FALL WITHIN GRADES 1 OR 2 ON THIS OCCASION, COMPARED WITH ONLY 22 LAST TIME.

/THIS IS

THIS IS BECAUSE OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE WEATHER SINCE THE END OF AUGUST, WITH LESS RAINFALL MEANING LESS POLLUTANTS BEING WASHED OUT FROM THE BEACH HINTERLANDS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER DR M J BROOM ON TEL 835 1234.

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SECOND PUBLIC BRIEFING ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, MRS ANGELA CHEUNG, TODAY (THURSDAY) INVITES PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND THE WORKING GROUP'S SECOND PUBLIC BRIEFING SESSION ON ITS REPORT.

THE SESSION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL, TUEN MUN TOWN HALL, STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

THE FIRST SESSION WAS HELD ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 13) IN SHA TIN.

"THE SHA TIN SESSION WAS STIMULATING AND USEFUL," MRS CHEUNG SAID.

"THOSE PRESENT SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN OUR PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE STUDENTS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT CLARIFICATION ON THE RATIONALES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL TO START TEACHING ENGLISH FORMALLY AT PRIMARY 4, AND HOW IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

"BUT AS A WHOLE, THEY WERE GENERALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATION, WHICH AIMS TO IMPROVE OUR STUDENTS' PROFICIENCY IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE."

MRS CHEUNG SAID: "WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE PROBLEMS THE WORKING GROUP HAD TRIED TO TACKLE, AND THE PROPOSALS MADE IN OUR REPORT. WE POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM THE PROPOSAL TO START TEACHING ENGLISH AT PRIMARY 4, THE REPORT CONTAINED MANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN IMPROVE THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN."

"WE HOPE MORE PEOPLE WILL COME TOMORROW, AND GIVE US THEIR VIEWS ON THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT. THEY ARE OF COURSE WELCOME TO SEND US THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING BEFORE THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS ON OCTOBER 15."

THREE OTHER WORKING GROUP MEMBERS WILL JOIN MRS CHEUNG AT TOMORROW'S SESSION. THEY ARE:

* PROFESSOR ROSIE YOUNG, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION;

/* MR CHO

* MR CHO YU-FUN, WHO IS AN ENGINEER AND CHAIRMAN OF A PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION; AND

* MR CHEUNG CHI-HUNG, PRINCIPAL OF CHOI WAN ST JOSEPH PRIMARY SCHOOL:

THE WORKING GROUP WILL ORGANISE TWO MORE PUBLIC BRIEFING SESSIONS THIS MONTH:

DATE/TIME -----	VENUE -----
SEPTEMBER 23 (FRIDAY) 7.30 - 9.30 PM	THEATRE, SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE 145 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, SHEUNG WAN
SEPTEMBER 28 (WEDNESDAY) 7.30 - 9.30 PM	SCHOOL HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL 152 SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK

COPIES OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT AND A LEAFLET SETTING OUT THE CONTENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION SECRETARIAT ON THE NINTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 810 3031. THE FAX LINE IS 537 4591.

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BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT: A CLEAN AIR ZONE

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) BECAME THE FIRST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT TO DECLARE ITS PREMISES A CLEAN AIR ZONE.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, AND THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, OFFICIATED AT THE DECLARATION.

THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS, MRS HELEN YU, SAID: "THIS MOVE IS THE RESULT OF THE CORPORATE CONSENSUS AMONGST ALL STAFF AFTER DUE CONSULTATION AND A SURVEY ON THE NUMBER OF SMOKERS IN THE DEPARTMENT. WE ALL FEEL THAT COLLEAGUES WHO DO NOT SMOKE SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO PASSIVE OR SECONDARY SMOKING.

"OUR EFFORT ARE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL POLICY TO PROMOTE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT AND CLEAR AIR IN WORK PLACES."

AMONG THOSE ALSO PRESENT ON THE OCCASION WERE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG; CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGCO PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, MR PETER WONG HONG-YUEN; FELLOW PANEL MEMBERS MRS PEGGY LAM AND MR SAMUEL WONG; AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR STAFF RELATIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, MR VICTOR YUNG.

/MR EASON

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MR EASON DESCRIBED THE DECLARATION AS "AN EXCELLENT STEP FORWARD IN ADVANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S GREEN CAUSE AND HEALTH CAUSE."

MR PETER WONG AND DR RONALD LEUNG BOTH HOPED THAT THIS WOULD CATCH ON IN ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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20 VMS RETURN HOME
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A GROUP OF 20 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

COMPRISING 11 MEN, THREE WOMEN, FIVE BOYS AND ONE GIRL, THEY WERE THE 215TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,189 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,802 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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CLOSURE OF SHAM SHUI PO ILLEGAL STRUCTURE
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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IS LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING AT 126-130 PEI HO STREET AND 18B AND 18C UN CHAU STREET.

A NOTICE APPLYING FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 12 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

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

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PUBLIC URGED TO VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 18
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YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER MR BART IRELAND TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON LOCAL RESIDENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON SUNDAY.

ATTENDING A BUS PARADE TO ENCOURAGE VOTER PARTICIPATION ON POLLING DAY, MR IRELAND SAID THE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TERRITORY'S THREE-TIER POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: "THEY ARE EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIVE BODIES AND PROVIDE A COMMUNICATION CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC."

NOTING THAT A TOTAL OF 46 CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTESTING 14 SEATS IN YAU TSIM MONG DISTRICT, MR IRELAND SAID THIS CLEARLY SHOWED THE COMMUNITY'S FAITH IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

MEANWHILE, A BUS WILL TOUR VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES IN THE YAU TSIM MONG DISTRICT TODAY TO URGE VOTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY'S POLLS.

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CLINICS TO CLOSE ON MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
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EVENING GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE WILL BE SUSPENDED ON MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL (SEPTEMBER 20), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THERE WILL BE NO HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE THE NEXT DAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,920	0930	+361
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,060	1000	+338
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+334
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+335	1200	+335
LAF TODAY	-195	1500	+335
		1600	+335
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER	TWI 121.9	*+0.2*	15.9.94

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.03	18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.27	5.77
1 MONTH	4.15	24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	100.01	6.24
3 MONTHS	4.35	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.85	6.63
6 MONTHS	4.65	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.78	6.77
12 MONTHS	5.26	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.38	6.91

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,100 MN

CLOSED 15 SEPTEMBER 1994

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