



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR APRIL	1
2,000 TO ENJOY HOUSING BENEFIT	7
BETTER PROTECTION FOR WORKERS PROPOSED	9
COMMITTEE CONSIDERS 1992/93 PAY TREND SURVEY FINDINGS	11
CONTROL ON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES TIGHTENED UP	12
INTEGRATED APPROACH TO YOUTH SERVICES URGED	14
TAKE FAMILY SERIOUSLY: SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR	15
NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO EDUCATION INSTITUTE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL	18
DRAINS PROJECT FOR NORTH NT	18
PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL EXTENSION WORK	19
DRAFT KWUN TONG (NORTH) OUTLINE ZONING PLAN PUBLISHED	19
EXTENSION OF HOTLINE SERVICE ON TAX	20
CHANGES TO KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS OUTLINE ZONING PLAN .	21
ROAD WORKS FOR TSENG LAN SHUE VILLAGE	22
EXTENSION OF CAR HOLDING AREA AT MAN KAM TO	22
SUBMARINE OUTFALLS AND CABLES PROPOSED FOR CHEUNG CHAU	23
STAMP SHEETLET RELEASE POSTPONED	24
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	25

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR APRIL

* * * * *

LATEST FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION CONTINUED TO MODERATE IN APRIL.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WAS 7.7% HIGHER IN APRIL 1993 THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE OF 7.8% IN MARCH THIS YEAR, WHICH ALREADY REPRESENTED A MODERATION FROM THE INCREASES OF 10.1% IN JANUARY AND 8.6% IN FEBRUARY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WAS PLEASED WITH THE LATEST CPI FIGURES.

"WITH THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AVERAGING AT 8.5% FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS THIS YEAR, IT DOES SUGGEST THAT OUR FORECAST OF A SINGLE-DIGIT INFLATION RATE FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE IS REALISTIC," HE SAID.

THE CONTINUED MODERATION IN APRIL WAS MAINLY DUE TO LESS RAPID INCREASES IN RENT AND IN THE CHARGES FOR MEALS AT RESTAURANTS AS WELL AS LOWER PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES. THESE HAD MORE THAN OFFSET THE EFFECT OF INCREASE IN BUS FARES IN APRIL.

THE CPI(B) AND THE HANG SENG CPI WERE HIGHER BY 8.5% AND 9.5% RESPECTIVELY IN APRIL THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN MARCH WERE 8.5% AND 9.2%.

THE SLIGHTLY FASTER INCREASE IN THE HANG SENG CPI IN APRIL THAN IN MARCH WAS MAINLY DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF CLOTHING AND INCREASE IN BUS FARES, NOTWITHSTANDING THE LESS RAPID INCREASE IN THE CHARGES OF RESTAURANT MEALS AND THE LOWER VEGETABLE PRICES.

THE COMPOSITE CPI, WHICH WAS COMPILED BASED ON THE COMBINED EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS COVERED BY THE THREE CPIS, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 8.5% IN APRIL OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN MARCH WAS 8.4%.

COMPARING APRIL 1993 WITH APRIL 1992, RELATIVELY SLOWER INCREASES IN PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR FOOD (EXCLUDING MEALS AT RESTAURANTS) (0.8% IN THE CPI(A) AND 1.5% IN THE CPI(B)); DURABLE GOODS (1.8% AND 1.9%); FUEL AND LIGHT (3.2% AND 3.1%); AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS (6.5% AND 6.0%).

AS FOR TRANSPORT, AND CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 8.5% AND 8.0% IN THE CPI(A) AND 8.0% AND 8.3% IN THE CPI(B).

ON THE OTHER HAND, RELATIVELY FASTER INCREASES IN PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR HOUSING (13.2% IN THE CPI(A) AND 14.4% IN THE CPI(B)); SERVICES (10.1% AND 8.9%); ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (9.7% AND 9.1%); AND MEALS AT RESTAURANTS (9.0% IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B)). THESE INCREASES WERE NEVERTHELESS GENERALLY SLOWER IN APRIL THAN IN MARCH.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1993

- 2 -

COMPARING APRIL 1993 WITH MARCH 1993, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED BY 1.1% AND 1.3% RESPECTIVELY. THIS COMPARISON WAS, HOWEVER, AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS.

FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE, ON AVERAGE, HIGHER BY 8.5% AND 9.1% RESPECTIVELY THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1993, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE, ON AVERAGE, HIGHER BY 8.9% AND 9.4% RESPECTIVELY THAN IN THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE INDICES. THE DESEASONALISED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.5% AND 0.6% RESPECTIVELY PER MONTH DURING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1993.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR APRIL 1993, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$12 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS, CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDICES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 805 6403.

DETAILS REGARDING THE HANG SENG CPI ARE CONTAINED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

/Table 1

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for April 1993
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Component	CPI (A)		CPI (B)		Hang Seng CPI		Composite CPI	
	Index for Apr 93	% change over Apr 92	Index for Apr 93	% change over Apr 92	Index for Apr 93	% change over Apr 92	Index for Apr 93	% change over Apr 92
Food	130.6	+5.0	132.3	+6.0	132.3	+7.7	131.6	+5.9
Meals bought away from home	139.5	+9.0	139.3	+9.0	137.2	+10.9	138.9	+9.4
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	121.9	+0.8	122.5	+1.5	124.0	+2.2	122.5	+1.3
Housing	144.8	+13.2	145.8	+14.4	146.7	+14.1	145.8	+13.9
Fuel and light	119.3	+3.2	118.6	+3.1	118.9	+3.5	119.0	+3.2
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	176.5	+9.7	166.7	+9.1	162.3	+8.9	171.0	+9.4
Clothing and footwear	128.4	+8.0	129.9	+8.3	133.7	+9.6	130.8	+8.7
Durable goods	109.3	+1.8	108.9	+1.9	114.3	+4.6	110.6	+2.7
Miscellaneous goods	121.9	+6.5	120.0	+6.0	119.0	+5.6	120.5	+6.1
Transport	132.5	+8.5	131.9	+8.0	132.7	+7.4	132.3	+8.0
Services	138.1	+10.1	134.9	+8.9	129.4	+7.5	134.2	+8.9
All items	133.5	+7.7	133.9	+8.5	134.5	+9.5	133.9	+8.5

The 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on the expenditure patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of urban households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90. The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of urban households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in the same period. The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of urban households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90.

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for January 1991 - April 1993
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>	<u>CPI(B)</u>	<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>	<u>Composite CPI</u>
1991 January	108.3	108.4	108.6	108.4
February	110.3	110.1	110.2	110.2
March	111.9	111.1	110.7	111.3
April	113.9	113.0	112.0	113.1
May	114.0	113.6	113.4	113.7
June	114.6	114.1	113.9	114.2
July	115.4	114.8	113.9	114.8
August	116.0	115.3	114.6	115.4
September	116.8	116.1	115.8	116.3
October	117.2	116.8	117.4	117.1
November	117.7	117.6	118.7	117.9
December	118.1	118.3	118.5	118.3
1992 January	119.7	119.3	119.4	119.5
February	121.8	121.2	121.0	121.4
March	122.5	121.9	121.8	122.1
April	124.0	123.4	122.9	123.5
May	124.0	123.8	124.2	124.0
June	125.3	125.1	125.2	125.2
July	125.5	125.4	125.4	125.4
August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
September	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
1993 January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
February	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
March	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9

/Chart 1

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(A)

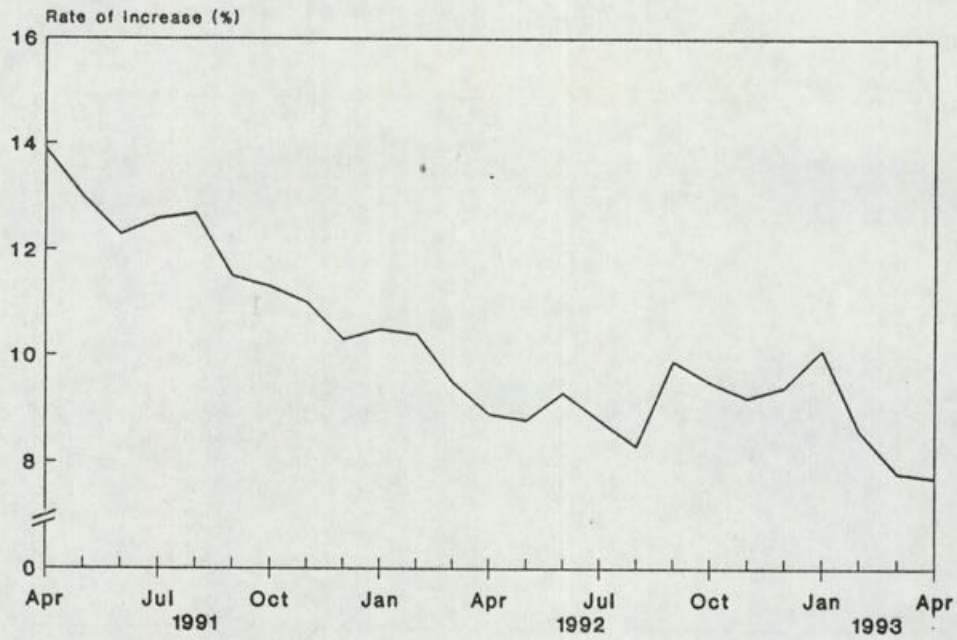
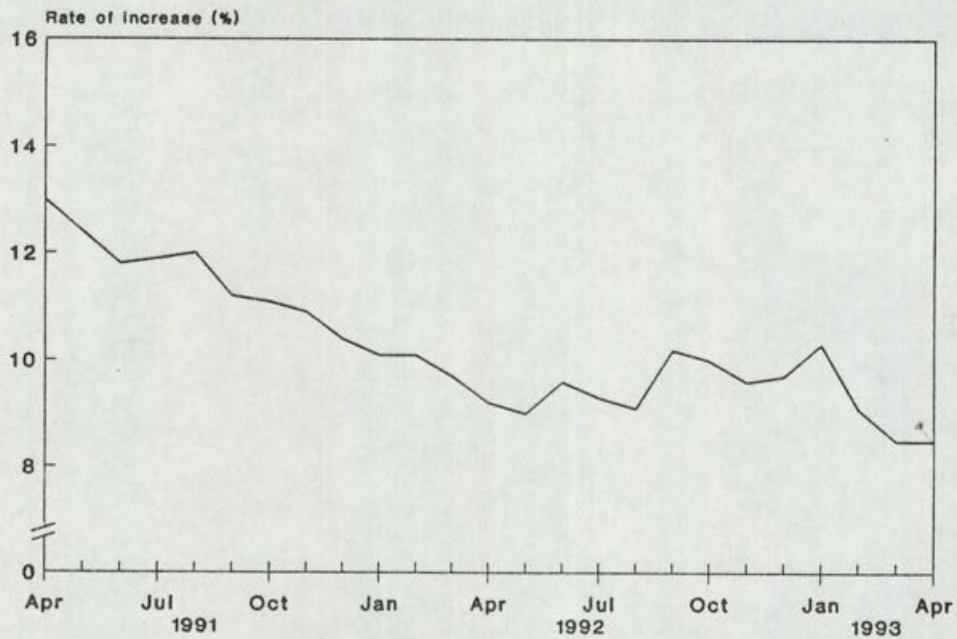


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(B)



/Chart 3

Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase in Hang Seng CPI

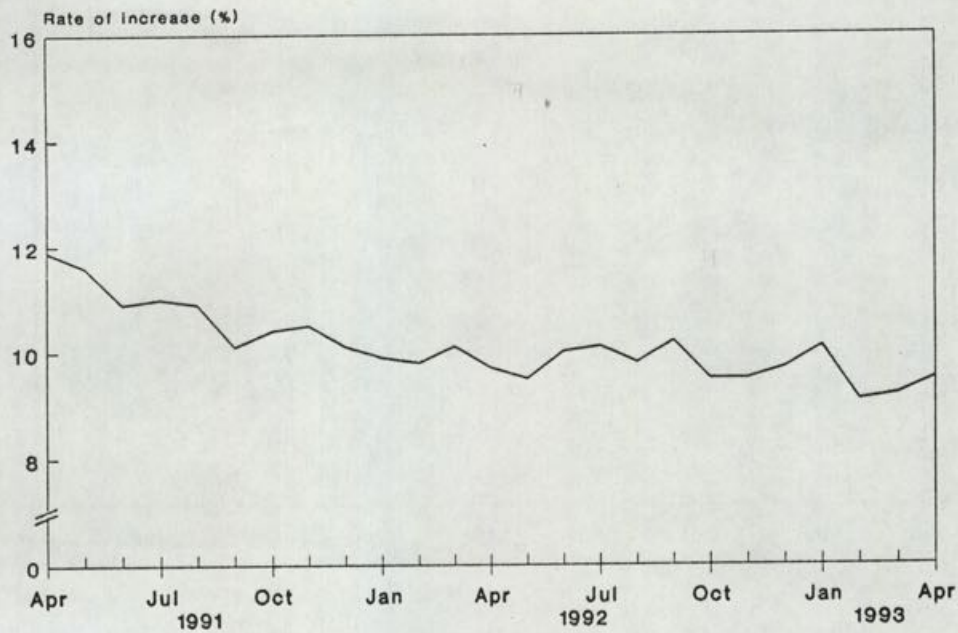
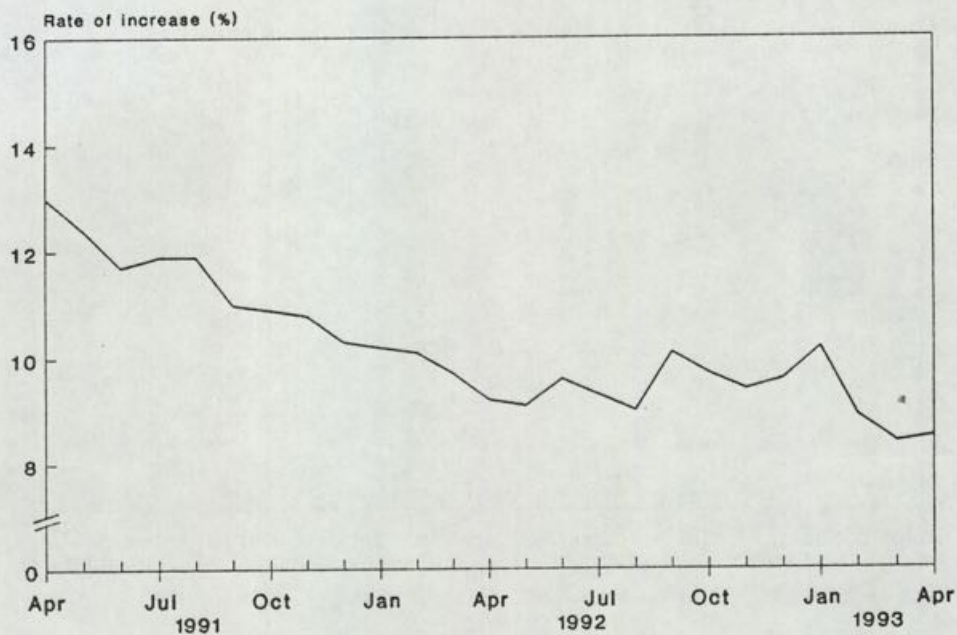


Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase in Composite CPI



2,000 TO ENJOY HOUSING BENEFIT

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF A MORTGAGE INTEREST SUBSIDY SCHEME (MISS) WHICH PROVIDED HOUSING BENEFITS FOR STAFF IN AIDED SCHOOLS AND IN SUBVENTED WELFARE AND HEALTH ORGANISATIONS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1993.

THE SCHEME WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT \$918.3 MILLION IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE WOULD BE INCURRED IN THE FIRST 10 YEARS, INCLUDING \$48.2 MILLION IN THE FIRST FULL YEAR.

MR WONG SAID THE SCHEME WAS THE CULMINATION OF A LONG SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE 1989.

"THIS IS A POSITIVE MEASURE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP EMPLOYEES OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS TO BUY A HOME. I AM GLAD THAT IN ADDITION TO STAFF IN THE EDUCATION FIELD, OTHERS IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO SHARE THIS BENEFIT," HE SAID.

MR WONG FELT THAT THE HOUSING BENEFIT WOULD ENHANCE THE MORALE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND SUBVENTED SECTOR STAFF, AND WOULD PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR PEOPLE TO REMAIN IN SERVICE.

IT WOULD ALSO NARROW THE GAP IN FRINGE BENEFITS BETWEEN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE MISS WILL COVER AIDED AND PER CAPUT GRANT SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS SERVICE UNITS IN SUBVENTED WELFARE AND HEALTH ORGANISATIONS WHICH:

- * DO NOT PROVIDE ANY HOUSING BENEFITS THAT ARE RECOGNISED FOR SUBVENTION PURPOSES; AND
- * RECEIVE A RECURRENT SUBVENTION TO COVER THEIR OPERATING EXPENDITURE. HOWEVER, AIDED NURSERIES WHICH ONLY RECEIVE A FIVE PER CENT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY AND SERVICE UNITS WHICH ARE SUBVENTED ON RENT AND RATES ONLY WILL BE EXCLUDED.

ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES HOLDING SUBVENTED POSTS IN A SCHOOL OR AN ORGANISATION COVERED BY THE SCHEME WILL BE ELIGIBLE IF:

- * THEY ARE PAID THE EQUIVALENT OF MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS) POINT 22 OR ABOVE (\$17,235 OR MORE) AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS CONTINUOUS SERVICE; OR
- * THEY ARE PAID LESS THAN MPS POINT 22 (LESS THAN \$17,235) AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF 20 YEARS CONTINUOUS SERVICE.

FOR TEACHING STAFF, CONTINUOUS SERVICE MEANS CONTINUOUS CONTRIBUTORY SERVICE TO THE SUBSIDISED OR GRANT SCHOOLS PROVIDENT FUNDS.

/"IN EFFECT,

"IN EFFECT, A WORKMAN, A SOCIAL WORKER OR AN ENROLLED NURSE, FOR EXAMPLE, SATISFYING THE CRITERIA WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS BENEFIT TOGETHER WITH THE PRINCIPAL OF AN AIDED SCHOOL ALTHOUGH THE LEVELS OF SUBSIDY WOULD BE DIFFERENT," HE EXPLAINED.

"PARTICIPANTS OF THE MISS WILL RECEIVE A MONTHLY SUBSIDY FOR PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THEIR HOME MORTGAGE LOAN, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- * THE MAXIMUM LOAN ELIGIBLE FOR INTEREST SUBSIDY WILL BE 30 TIMES THEIR BASIC MONTHLY SALARY AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION TO THE SCHEME, OR THEIR ACTUAL OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE LOAN, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS (PARTICIPANTS MAY TAKE OUT A LARGER MORTGAGE LOAN BUT NO SUBSIDY WILL BE PAYABLE ON THE EXCESS AMOUNT);
- * THE LOAN ELIGIBLE FOR INTEREST SUBSIDY WILL BE ASSUMED TO BE REPAYED BY MONTHLY INSTALMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS COUNTING FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY, OR OVER THE ACTUAL REPAYMENT PERIOD OF THE MORTGAGE LOAN, WHICHEVER IS THE SHORTER; AND
- * ONE-THIRD OF THE MONTHLY MORTGAGE INTEREST WILL BE SUBSIDISED, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE OF 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

"THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE THOSE ELIGIBLE FROM TAKING OUT A MORTGAGE LOAN ABOVE THIS LIMIT, BUT THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY SUBSIDISE INTEREST ON THE 30-MONTH SALARY PORTION OF THE MORTGAGE," MR WONG SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE THE MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE IS 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM, A PRINCIPAL ON THE MAXIMUM PAY POINT OF \$54,635 PER MONTH MAY OBTAIN A MAXIMUM INTEREST SUBSIDY OF \$5,463 IN THE FIRST MONTH; A CERTIFICATED MASTER, \$1,889; A CLERK II, \$1,228 AND A WORKMAN II, \$623.

THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST SUBSIDY WOULD BE REDUCED IN EACH SUBSEQUENT MONTH BECAUSE THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF THE MORTGAGE LOAN WOULD BE SMALLER.

ACCORDING TO 1992 STATISTICS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 15,250 IN AIDED SCHOOLS, AND 750 EMPLOYEES IN SUBVENTED WELFARE AND HEALTH ORGANISATIONS.

A QUOTA SYSTEM IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STAFF. THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE ANNUAL QUOTAS - ONE FOR SCHOOLS AND THE OTHER FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH ORGANISATIONS.

NEW QUOTAS WILL BE SET EACH YEAR HAVING REGARD TO THE PREVAILING MARKET MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE AND THE FUNDS AVAILABLE. IN THE FIRST YEAR, ABOUT 2,000 SCHOOL STAFF AND 100 WELFARE AND HEALTH STAFF CAN BE ADMITTED INTO THE MISS.

OVER THE FIRST 10 YEARS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 8,500 PEOPLE OR 53 PER CENT OF THOSE MEETING THE SALARY AND SERVICE CRITERIA IN 1992, WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME.

PRIORITY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE SCHEME WILL BE BASED ON LENGTH OF SERVICE IN EXCESS OF THE MINIMUM QUALIFYING SERVICE. WHERE TWO APPLICANTS HAVE THE SAME LENGTH OF SERVICE IN EXCESS OF THE MINIMUM, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ONE OLDER IN AGE.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MISS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LIVE-IN REQUIREMENT AND RULES REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF DOUBLE HOUSING BENEFITS AS THOSE APPLICABLE TO CIVIL SERVICE HOUSING BENEFIT SCHEMES.

THEY MAY CHANGE PROPERTY UNDER THE MISS, BUT WILL BE REQUIRED TO DISPOSE OF THEIR OLD PROPERTY AND USE THE SALE PROCEEDS TO PURCHASE THE NEW PROPERTY.

THE MISS WILL BE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES WILL HELP TO VERIFY THE ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS IN SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS UNDER THEIR AUSPICES.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE INVITED FROM STAFF AT THE END OF THE MONTH AND THE FIRST BATCH OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE THE FIRST PAYMENT OF INTEREST SUBSIDY IN SEPTEMBER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BETTER PROTECTION FOR WORKERS PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO EMPOWER THE COURT OR MAGISTRATE, UPON CONVICTION, TO ORDER THE EMPLOYER TO PAY COMPENSATION TO HIS DISMISSED EMPLOYEE WHO HAS GIVEN EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IN COURT PROCEEDINGS.

THE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 GAZETTED TODAY, HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION THIS AFTERNOON, AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL FORMED PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO WORKERS.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYER IS PROHIBITED FROM DISMISSING HIS EMPLOYEE ON THE GROUND THAT THE EMPLOYEE HAS GIVEN EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION TO THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE OR BREACHES OF WORK SAFETY REGULATIONS.

AN EMPLOYER WHO CONTRAVENES THE PROVISION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000.

"HOWEVER, AN EMPLOYEE DISMISSED ON THIS GROUND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET COMPENSATION FOR HIS DISMISSAL EVEN THOUGH THE EMPLOYER IS BEING CONVICTED IN COURT," MR CHAN SAID.

"WE HOPE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WILL BENEFIT THE EMPLOYEES," HE ADDED.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE AMENDMENT BILL IS A PROPOSAL TO SPECIFY THAT THE DAYS OF LOCK-OUT, REST DAYS, ANNUAL LEAVE DAYS AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS SHOULD NOT BE RECKONED AS NORMAL WORKING DAYS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD IN RELATION TO A LAYOFF, MR CHAN NOTED.

AT PRESENT, AN EMPLOYEE IS DEEMED TO BE LAID OFF AND ENTITLED TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS ON WHICH WORK IS NOT PROVIDED FOR HIM EXCEEDS EITHER HALF OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NORMAL WORKING DAYS IN A PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, OR ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NORMAL WORKING DAYS IN A PERIOD OF 26 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

"THE PROPOSAL AIMED AT REMOVING THE AMBIGUITY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE DAYS OF LOCK-OUT, REST DAYS, ANNUAL LEAVE DAYS AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS SHOULD COUNT AS NORMAL WORKING DAYS," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO PROPOSED TO SIMPLIFY THE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES OF AN EMPLOYEE WHO INTENDS TO RESIGN AND CLAIM LONG SERVICE PAYMENT ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH.

AT PRESENT, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PRACTISING IN A GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED OR PUBLIC HOSPITAL AS "PERMANENTLY UNFIT" FOR THE TYPE OF WORK HE IS PERFORMING.

"IN ORDER TO MINIMISE DELAY AND DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SUCH MEDICAL CERTIFICATES, WE PROPOSED THAT THESE CERTIFICATES MAY BE ISSUED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WHO IS REGISTERED UNDER THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

"IN THE EVENT THAT THE EMPLOYER IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT, HE MAY, AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, APPOINT ANOTHER REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO REASSESS THE MEDICAL CONDITION OF THE EMPLOYEE.

"IF THE MEDICAL OPINIONS OF THE TWO ASSESSMENTS ARE IN CONFLICT, THE CASES MAY BE REFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, WHO MAY SEEK MEDICAL EXPERTS' ADVICE, FOR DETERMINATION," HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS ANNUAL LEAVE, MR CHAN SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO ALLOW AN EMPLOYER AN OPTION TO SPECIFY ANY PERIOD OF 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS AS THE LEAVE YEAR FOR ALL HIS EMPLOYEES.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO A MAXIMUM OF 14 DAYS OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE FOR A LEAVE YEAR WHICH MEANS ANY PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS STARTING ON THE DAY WHEN AN EMPLOYEE STARTS EMPLOYMENT OR ON ANNIVERSARY OF THAT DAY.

"AS DIFFERENT EMPLOYEES USUALLY HAVE DIFFERENT STARTING DAYS OF THEIR LEAVE YEAR, A GREAT DEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IS IMPOSED ON AN EMPLOYER IN KEEPING TRACK OF ALL HIS EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL LEAVE.

"WE HOPE THAT THE MOVE WILL REDUCE THE BURDEN OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK OF EMPLOYERS IN THE CALCULATION OF ANNUAL LEAVE," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID A PROPOSAL WAS ALSO MADE TO INCLUDE THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IN THE DEFINITION OF "COMMISSIONER" TO ENABLE THEM TO EXERCISE THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER.

UNDER SECTION 4A OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS EMPOWERED TO AUTHORISE IN WRITING A PUBLIC OFFICER TO PERFORM ANY OR ALL OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM.

AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR HAS PERSONALLY TO SIGN EACH AUTHORISATION, INCLUDING PURELY ROUTINE ONES SUCH AS DEPARTMENTAL WARRANT CARDS.

"IF THE PROPOSAL IS PASSED INTO LAW, I AM SURE THAT SENIOR MANAGEMENT TIME COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMMITTEE CONSIDERS 1992/93 PAY TREND SURVEY FINDINGS

* * * * *

THE PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE MET ON WEDNESDAY AND TODAY (FRIDAY) TO CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE 1992/93 PAY TREND SURVEY.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MR ANDREW K W SO, A MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THE SURVEY, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY THE PAY SURVEY AND RESEARCH UNIT, MEASURED PAY TRENDS IN A SELECTED GROUP OF 76 COMPANIES DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 2, 1992 TO APRIL 1, 1993.

IT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT INCREASES RELATING TO COST OF LIVING, GENERAL CHANGES IN MARKET RATES, COMPANY PERFORMANCE, MERIT AND INSCALE INCREMENT.

HAVING REGARD TO THE ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION PROVIDED BY THE UNIT AND THE AGREED CALCULATION CRITERIA, THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT A MINOR AMENDMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE INTERPRETATION OF DATA PROVIDED BY ONE COMPANY FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE 1992/93 PAY TREND INDICATORS.

THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT AFFECT THE OVERALL FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY WHICH INDICATE THAT THE FOLLOWING AVERAGE PAY INCREASES HAVE BEEN AWARDED BY THE SURVEYED COMPANIES:

- * 11.77 PER CENT FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING LESS THAN \$9,305 PER MONTH;
- * 11.90 PER CENT FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING BETWEEN \$9,305 AND \$28,530 PER MONTH;
- * 11.32 PER CENT FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING BETWEEN \$28,531 AND \$57,475 PER MONTH.

- 12 -

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT THESE FIGURES WERE THE RESULT OF A SURVEY OF PAY TRENDS IN PRIVATE COMPANIES.

PAY ADJUSTMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS A SEPARATE MATTER AND THE LEVEL OF THE ADJUSTMENT IS DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE STAFF SIDES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL, THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONTROL ON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES TIGHTENED UP

* * * * *

TWO SETS OF REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO TIGHTEN UP CONTROL OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES IN HONG KONG WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THEY ARE THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (PRODUCTS CONTAINING SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES) (IMPORT BANNING) REGULATION AND THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS) REGULATION.

THE FIRST SET OF REGULATION WILL BE TABLED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME EFFECTIVE ON MAY 27 WHEREAS THE OTHER REGULATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE AT ANOTHER DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS.

"THE IMPORT BANNING REGULATION FULFILLS THE CONTROL REQUIREMENT LAID DOWN IN THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL BY PROHIBITING (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS RELATED TO PERSONAL USE, OR USE IN VESSELS, AIRCRAFT OR VEHICLES ENTERING HONG KONG) THE IMPORTS OF A CONTROLLED PRODUCT FROM A COUNTRY OR PLACE WHICH IS NOT A PARTY TO THE PROTOCOL UNLESS THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONSIDERS THAT THE COUNTRY COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROTOCOL," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID.

PRODUCTS CONTAINING THOSE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES LAID DOWN IN SCHEDULES 1 AND 2 OF THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE, THAT IS, CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, CFC-114 AND CFC-115 AS WELL AS HALONS 1211, 1301 AND 2402, WHICH FALL INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE AFFECTED:

- * MOTOR VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONERS;
- * DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT;
- * AEROSOL PRODUCTS OTHER THAN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS;
- * PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS;
- * INSULATION PANEL, BOARD OR COVER; AND
- * PRE-POLYMERS.

/ANY PERSON

ANY PERSON WHO CONTRAVENES THE REQUIREMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$200,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE OTHER REGULATION, THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS) REGULATION, PROHIBITS THE INTENTIONAL VENTING OF CFC-BASED REFRIGERANTS FROM AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION PLANTS.

THIS WILL ONLY APPLY TO PLANTS CONTAINING A REFRIGERANT CHARGE OF MORE THAN 50 KILOGRAMS (TYPICALLY, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT) AND TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONERS.

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSERVATION OF CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS THROUGH RECOVERING AND RECYCLING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THESE REGULATIONS, ANY PERSON WHO ALLOWS OR CAUSES ANY CONTROLLED REFRIGERANT USED OR INTENDED FOR USE IN REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT WITH REFRIGERANT CONTENT OVER 50 KILOGRAMS OR IN A MOTOR VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONER TO ESCAPE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100,000.

ANY PERSON WHO CARRIES OUT THE SERVICING, REPAIRING OR DECOMMISSIONING OF MOTOR VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONERS SHALL KEEP RECORDS OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE AIR-CONDITIONERS SERVICED OR REPAIRED OR DECOMMISSIONED AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF REFRIGERANT ADDED OR REMOVED EACH MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS.

A PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100,000.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID UNDER THE NEW PHASE-OUT PROGRAMME AGREED AT THE COPENHAGEN MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, THE IMPORT OF CFC'S FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION WILL BE REDUCED BY 75 PER CENT IN 1994 AND WILL BE COMPLETELY PHASED OUT IN 1996.

"IN VIEW OF THIS TIGHT PHASE-OUT SCHEDULE, AIR CONDITIONING PLANT OWNERS USING CFC-BASED REFRIGERANTS SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE FORESEEABLE SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY AND POSSIBLY SHARP PRICE RISE OF THESE REFRIGERANTS."

"FOR SOME EXISTING PLANTS WHICH HAVE TO USE CFC REFRIGERANTS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, OWNERS SHOULD MAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO CONSERVE THE REFRIGERANT BY PREVENTING THE CFC'S FROM ESCAPING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE DURING PLANT OPERATION, OVERHAUL OR MAINTENANCE AND RECYCLE FOR RE-USE," HE SAID.

THE AIR CONTROL GROUP OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ANSWER ANY ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THE PHASING OUT OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES OR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO PIECES OF NEW REGULATIONS.

THEY CAN BE REACHED ON TEL 594 6242 OR 594 6243 OR BY POST ADDRESSED TO THEIR OFFICE ON 33RD FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO YOUTH SERVICES URGED

* * * * *

A WORKING PARTY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE INTEGRATED AND PROVIDED IN A SPECIFIC CATCHMENT AREA BY A TEAM OF SOCIAL WORKERS UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE.

THE SERVICES TO BE INTEGRATED ARE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION.

THE WORKING PARTY HAS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT AN INTEGRATED TEAM SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR A CATCHMENT AREA WITH A YOUTH POPULATION OF 12,000 AND THAT CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES SHOULD BE PLANNED ACCORDING TO YOUTH POPULATION AND NOT GENERAL POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES SHOULD BE MORE TARGET-ORIENTED AND MORE SOCIAL WORK-ORIENTED AND THAT A PILOT COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE SCHEME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR YOUTH AT RISK.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN A DRAFT REPORT BY THE WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES, WHICH WILL BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION NEXT MONTH.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE WORKING PARTY WAS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN MARCH LAST YEAR TO REVIEW THE POLICY, OBJECTIVES AND OPERATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES AND RELATED SERVICES IN VIEW OF THE CHANGING NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND A DECLINING YOUTH POPULATION, THAT IS THOSE AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 24.

IT IS CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH-MAK AND HAS A BROAD MEMBERSHIP WITH BOTH OFFICIALS AND NON-OFFICIALS.

THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY'S STUDY ARE:

- * THE YOUTH POPULATION IN HONG KONG IS DECLINING IN BOTH ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE TERMS;
- * THE SERVICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES NEED TO BE RE-EXAMINED IN VIEW OF CHANGING NEEDS;
- * WITH THE PREVALENCE OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES AND WORKING COUPLES, YOUNG PEOPLE NEED MORE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO DEVELOP INTO HEALTHY AND BALANCED INDIVIDUALS;
- * THE LACK OF PERFORMANCE-BASED EVALUATION HAS RESULTED IN WIDE DISPARITIES IN THE QUALITY OF SERVICES OFFERED; AND
- * THERE IS A NEED FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS YOUTH SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WOULD LAST THREE MONTHS.

"A REPORT WILL BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AFTER CONSULTING THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

"AND THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR POLICY APPROVAL," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAKE FAMILY SERIOUSLY: SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) SET OUT A DETAILED ACTION PLAN TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY, ASSIST PARENTAL AND MARITAL COMMITMENT AND STABILITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND WEST, MR STRACHAN SAID THE PLAN INCLUDED THREE PARTS: PREVENTION, SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY AND SERVICES TO HELP FAMILIES IN TROUBLE.

ON PREVENTION, MR STRACHAN SAID THERE WOULD BE TWO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES, FAMILY ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTRES AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, TO HELP FAMILIES STAY CLEAR OF TROUBLE.

"THESE CENTRES WILL PROVIDE AN INITIAL POINT OF CONTACT WITH SOCIAL WORKERS. SPECIFICALLY THEY WILL PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES IN A GROUP SETTING.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY FAMILIES WHO HAVE PROBLEMS AND TO GIVE THEM MORE SUPPORT.

"FAMILIES WITH GREATER PROBLEMS WILL BE REFERRED TO FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES," HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGO) TOGETHER COULD PROVIDE ABOUT 30 CENTRES, THAT WAS ABOUT TWO IN EACH DISTRICT BY WAY OF REDEPLOYMENT OF STAFF.

"WE WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM 1994 TO HELP THOSE SPECIAL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES OPERATED BY NGO'S FOR DISABLED CHILDREN.

"THESE CENTRES USUALLY OPERATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH EARLY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRES AND PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO PARENTS WITH YOUNG DISABLED CHILDREN," HE ADDED.

ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, MR STRACHAN SAID THROUGH COMMUNITY AND GROUP EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, SOCIAL WORKERS PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE AND IMPART PARENTING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WHICH HELP FAMILY MEMBERS TO GROW INTO CONTRIBUTING AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

"FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS A PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME WHICH AIMS TO OBTAIN FAMILY BREAKDOWN."

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1990, 68 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WERE AWARE OF THE PROGRAMME BUT ONLY FIVE PER CENT OF THE WHOLE POPULATION HAD PARTICIPATED IN ITS ACTIVITIES.

"WE NEED TO EXAMINE HOW TO INTERFACE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WITH FAMILY ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTRES AND WITH THOSE WHO REQUIRE IN-DEPTH FAMILY CASE COUNSELLING," HE ADDED.

TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY, MR STRACHAN PLEDGED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WHO NEEDED SPECIFIC HELP BOTH AT HOME AND WITH CHILDREN CARE.

CITING SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, HE SAID THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT-AIDED PLACES IN CHILD CARE CENTRES FROM 21,190 AT PRESENT TO ALMOST 27,000 IN 1997.

THERE IS ALSO A SEPARATE PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE THREE ADDITIONAL PLACES IN EACH AIDED CHILD CARE CENTRE. THIS NEW, OCCASIONAL CARE PROGRAMME WILL HELP PARENTS WHO NEED TO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN UNDER PROPER SUPERVISION FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

"CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT AT HOME ALONE," HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL START TO SUBVENT THE PROGRAMME THIS YEAR WITH 75 CENTRES PROVIDING 225 PLACES. BY 1997 ALL 235 CHILD CARE CENTRES WILL PROVIDE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE.

"WE ARE ALSO DISCUSSING WITH SOME NGO'S THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFTER-SCHOOL CARE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES.

"THIS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A SMALL FEE, AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER, AND ENSURE THAT CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE TO RETURN HOME ALONE UNTIL THEIR PARENTS HAVE FINISHED THEIR WORK," HE ADDED.

SIXTEEN MORE FAMILY AIDE WORKERS WILL BE PROVIDED THIS YEAR AND A FURTHER 22 OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, COMPARED WITH ONLY FOUR SUCH WORKERS LAST YEAR.

THE DEPARTMENT SUBVENTED A TOTAL OF 72 HOME HELP TEAMS. THIS NUMBER WILL BE INCREASED BY 44 TEAMS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

TO HELP FAMILIES IN TROUBLE, MR STRACHAN HIGHLIGHTED FOUR CONCRETE WAYS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

FIRST, OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO 1997, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN ADDITIONAL 52 CASE WORKERS IN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES.

AT PRESENT EACH SOCIAL WORKER IN A FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE HAS TO LOOK AFTER ABOUT 80 CASES.

"ACHIEVING A CASELOAD OF 1:70 WOULD REQUIRE A FURTHER 90 CASEWORKERS. IF WE ARE TO REDUCE THE CASELOAD TO 1:50 WE WOULD HAVE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SOCIAL WORKERS FROM 436 THIS YEAR TO ABOUT 800 BY 1997.

"IF THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED WE MUST ENSURE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CASES AND THE PROVISION OF A COMPUTER DATABASE SYSTEM," HE SAID.

SECOND, THE DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT TO RECONVENE THE WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE WHICH WILL REVIEW RECENT IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND PROPOSE WHETHER ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE NECESSARY IN THE REPORTING, RECORDING AND HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

THIRD, THE DEPARTMENT HAS AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO MOVE CHILDREN, WHO CANNOT CONTINUE TO LIVE AT HOME WITH THEIR PARENTS FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, FROM LARGE INSTITUTIONS INTO SMALL GROUP HOMES AND FOSTER CARE. EACH HOME WILL LOOK AFTER EIGHT CHILDREN IN A FAMILY-LIKE SETTING.

"THIS YEAR ALONE, WE ESTABLISH 24 NEW SMALL GROUP HOMES AND BY 1994 ONLY A SMALL MINORITY OF CHILDREN WILL BE IN LARGER INSTITUTIONS.

"WE ALSO HAVE FUNDS TO RAPIDLY EXPAND FOSTER CARE. AT PRESENT WE HAVE 320 FOSTER PARENTS AND HOPE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 160 PLACES DURING THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

FINALLY, THE NUMBER OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 13 AT PRESENT TO 34 BY 1997 IN THE DEPARTMENT AND NGO'S, TO HELP WITH CHILD ABUSE, CHILD CUSTODY AND FAMILY TRAGEDIES IN PARTICULAR.

MR STRACHAN STRESSED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED AND SUPPLEMENTED THE FAMILY RATHER THAN SUBSTITUTING FOR FAMILY FUNCTIONING.

"WE RECOGNISE THAT EVEN THE MOST TROUBLED FAMILIES CAN CHANGE WITH HELP THAT MEETS THEM WHERE THEY ARE.

"WE TREAT FAMILIES AS PARTNERS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO THEM. WE RECOGNISE THE DIVERSITY OF FAMILY LIFE.

"THROUGH OUR SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES WE HELP THOSE FAMILIES IN GREATEST ECONOMIC NEED.

"SUCH FAMILIES WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE HIGH PRIORITY THEY RIGHTLY DESERVE FROM A CARING GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE WILL SPEND \$5 BILLION THIS YEAR ON SOCIAL SECURITY TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FAMILY WOULD BE HELD IN HONG KONG TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY NEXT YEAR.

"WE MUST DEMONSTRATE BOTH WITHIN HONG KONG AND TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT WE TAKE THE FAMILY SERIOUSLY," HE ADDED.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1993

- 18 -

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO EDUCATION INSTITUTE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT TWO NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.

THEY ARE PROFESSOR BRIAN COOKE AND MR PETER LEE TING-CHANG.

PROFESSOR COOKE IS THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MR LEE, A DIRECTOR OF LEE HYSAN ESTATE COMPANY LTD, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO REPLACE DR JAMES WONG WHO HAS RESIGNED FROM THE COUNCIL.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR SIMON IP, WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR TO PREPARE FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW UNITARY INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AS AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION UNDER ITS OWN ORDINANCE.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION IS TO GIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC AUTONOMY TO THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IN THE SAME WAY AS ALL THE OTHER POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DRAINS PROJECT FOR NORTH NT
* * * * *

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR 1993/96.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ALL EXISTING PUBLIC SEWERS, STORMWATER DRAINS, PUMPING STATIONS, FLOOD STORAGE PONDS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES, AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF MINOR SEWERS, DRAINS AND DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND PLANTS.

ALL THE WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TAI PO AND THE NORTH DISTRICT, STARTING IN AUGUST.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 11.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MAINLAND NORTH DISTRICT, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1993

- 19 -

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL EXTENSION WORKS

* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR PHASE I EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK, KOWLOON.

THE CONTRACT WORKS INVOLVE EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT AND IMPROVEMENT TO BLOCKS E AND F OF THE HOSPITAL; CONSTRUCTION OF A 14-STOREY EXTENSION BLOCK WITH A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 13,208 SQUARE METRES TOGETHER WITH A LINK BRIDGE CONNECTING TO THE MAIN BLOCK AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STOREY BUILDING SERVICES UNIT.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START AT THE END OF THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MARCH 1995.

ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I GROUP C FOR BUILDING OR LIST II FOR BUILDING AND WITH A PROVEN RECORD OF CARRYING OUT MAJOR BUILDING AND REFURBISHMENT CONTRACTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM CHIEF ARCHITECT 6, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 40TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS NOON ON JUNE 15.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DRAFT KWUN TONG (NORTH) OUTLINE ZONING PLAN PUBLISHED

* * * * *

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED A NEW DRAFT KWUN TONG (NORTH) OUTLINE ZONING PLAN (OZP) NO. S/K14N/1.

THE METROPLAN LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE URBAN FRINGE AND COASTAL AREAS HAS IDENTIFIED ANDERSON ROAD QUARRIES AS AN AREA OF DEGRADED LANDSCAPE TO BE REINSTATED.

AND EARLY REHABILITATION THROUGH QUARRYING OPERATION TO PRODUCE A LANDFORM SUITABLE FOR LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED.

THE PLAN IS PREPARED FOR THIS REHABILITATION SCHEME.

THE OZP'S PLANNING SCHEME AREA COVERS A TOTAL LAND AREA OF ABOUT 172 HECTARES, BOUNDED BY THE RIDGE OF TAI SHEUNG TOK TO THE NORTH AND EAST, AND BY LEE ON ROAD, SHUN ON ROAD AND SAU MAU PING ROAD TO THE SOUTH AND WEST.

THE ZONING OF "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (MINING AND QUARRYING)" ACCOUNTS FOR 87 PER CENT OF THE LAND USE BUDGET WHEREAS "GREEN BELT" ZONING TAKES UP 11 PER CENT OF THE LAND.

/THE REMAINING

THE REMAINING LAND IS ALLOCATED FOR "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" DEVELOPMENT AND MAJOR ROAD RESERVE.

NOTES AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ARE ATTACHED TO THE NEW OZP.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN, CORRESPONDING AMENDMENTS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THREE OTHER STATUTORY PLANS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE.

THEY ARE THE DRAFT TSENG LAN SHUE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLAN NO. DPA/SK-TLS/1, THE DRAFT NGAU TAU KOK AND KOWLOON BAY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/K13/6 AND THE DRAFT KWUN TONG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/K14/4.

THE TSENG LAN SHUE PLAN HAS ALSO BEEN AMENDED BY REZONING AN AREA ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR LUNG WO TSUEN FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C2)" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (PETROL FILLING STATION)".

MEANWHILE, THE KWUN TONG PLAN HAS BEEN AMENDED BY REZONING AN AREA AT PO LAM ROAD AND SAU MAU PING ROAD FROM "OPEN SPACE" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)" FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE. THE NOTES OF THESE PLANS HAVE ALSO BEEN AMENDED.

THE ABOVE PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD. THEY CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICES.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE NEW DRAFT PLAN AND THE AMENDMENTS TO THE THREE PLANS MAY SUBMIT OBJECTIONS IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD BY JULY 21 AND JUNE 11, 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

COPIES OF THE PLANS ARE ON SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND ITS KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE AT 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXTENSION OF HOTLINE SERVICE ON TAX

* * * * *

THERE IS A GROWING DEMAND FOR THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THE BULK ISSUE OF TAX RETURNS LAST MONTH.

TO STEP UP THE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE TELEPHONE SERVICE AFTER OFFICE HOURS UNTIL 7 PM STARTING FROM MONDAY (MAY 24).

THIS WILL CONTINUE UP TO JUNE 30.

THE TELEPHONE ENQUIRY NUMBER IS 594 0888.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHANGES TO KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

* * * * *

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE AMENDMENTS MADE UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE ARE:

- * REZONING "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)" SITES AND A "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" SITE IN SANDS STREET AREA TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C) 1" TO RESTRICT DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT ON THE SITES ABUTTING STEPPED STREETS WITHOUT DIRECT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF FIVE OR THE PLOT RATIO OF THE EXISTING BUILDING(S) AND A MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT OF 12 STOREYS OR THE HEIGHT OF THE EXISTING BUILDING(S);
- * REZONING CHIU YUEN CEMETERY FROM "CEMETERY" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ZONE WITH ANNOTATION OF "CEMETERY" TO COMPLY WITH THE LAND USE ZONES STIPULATED UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE; AND
- * UPDATING THE NOTES TO ACCORD WITH THE CURRENT ADOPTED PRACTICE.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN AND THE SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL JULY 21, AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE HONG KONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE JULY 21.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

ROAD WORKS FOR TSENG LAN SHUE VILLAGE

* * * * *

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS TO CARRY OUT ROAD WORKS AT CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE TSENG LAN SHUE VILLAGE UNDER THE URBAN FRINGE AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE WORKS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF A CAR PARK, ARE PROGRAMMED TO START IN OCTOBER FOR COMPLETION IN SIX MONTHS.

DETAILS OF THE PROJECT ARE PUBLISHED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICE IS ALSO POSTED NEAR THE WORK SITE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE WORKS, TOGETHER WITH DETAILS OF THE PROJECT, IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG; AND
- * THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SAME BUILDING.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS SHOULD SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, BEFORE JULY 20.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXTENSION OF CAR HOLDING AREA AT MAN KAM TO

* * * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS PROPOSING TO CONSTRUCT AN EXTENSION OF THE CHINA-BOUND VEHICLE HOLDING AREA AT THE JUNCTION OF MAN KAM TO ROAD AND LIN MA HANG ROAD.

WITH INCREASING CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC AT MAN KAM TO AND OWING TO THE LIMITED HANDLING CAPACITY AT THE BORDER CONTROL POINT, LONG QUEUES OF WAITING VEHICLES ARE OFTEN FORMED TAILING BACK FROM THE VEHICLE HOLDING AREA ALONG MAN KAM TO ROAD, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, PO SHEK WU ROAD AND EVEN THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD NEAR KWU TUNG.

AFTER THE CHINA-BOUND VEHICLE HOLDING AREA IS ENLARGED, TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG THESE ROADS WILL BE REDUCED.

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

A PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS TOGETHER WITH A SCHEME DESCRIPTION CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, NORTH, SIXTH FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES; OR
- * THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, BY JULY 20.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

SUBMARINE OUTFALLS AND CABLES PROPOSED FOR CHEUNG CHAU

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT SUBMARINE OUTFALLS WITHIN ABOUT 0.7 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED OFF CHEUNG CHAU AS PART OF A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING ROADS AND DRAINS IN CHEUNG CHAU OLD TOWN.

MEANWHILE, TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY ON CHEUNG CHAU, THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED ALSO INTENDS TO LAY AN ADDITIONAL SUBMARINE CABLE WITHIN ABOUT 42.66 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED BETWEEN CHI MA WAN PENINSULA OF LANTAU ISLAND AND TAI SHEK HAU, CHEUNG CHAU.

LAYING OF THE OUTFALLS IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY 1994 FOR COMPLETION AROUND JULY, 1996 WHEREAS LAYING OF THE CABLE IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER 1994 FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

AREAS AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE WORKS ARE DESCRIBED IN NOTICES GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 21, 1993.

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

/THE NOTICES,

- 24 -

THE NOTICES, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PLANS CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITES.

THE PLANS CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND CHEUNG CHAU OR MUI WO SUB-OFFICES OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STAMP SHEETLET RELEASE POSTPONED

* * * * *

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET (NO. 6) PUBLICISING THE HONG KONG '94 STAMP EXHIBITION WOULD NOT BE RELEASED ON MAY 29 BECAUSE OF UNFORESEEN PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

THE STAMP SHEETLET WILL BE RELEASED AT A LATER DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

THE SOUVENIR COVER COMMEMORATING HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN INDOPEX '93 REMAINS ON SALE.

COVERS BEARING SUFFICIENT POSTAGE WILL STILL RECEIVE THE HAND-BACK SERVICE ON MAY 29 WITH THE SPECIAL CHOP TO COMMEMORATE HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN INDOPEX.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO INTEND TO USE THE SOUVENIR COVERS OF INDOPEX '93 THEY HAVE BOUGHT FOR THE HONG KONG '94 DEFINITIVE SHEETLET AND DO NOT WISH TO USE ALTERNATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS MAY CLAIM FOR A FULL REFUND AT ANY POST OFFICE BY MAY 29 BY HANDING BACK THEIR SOUVENIR COVERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1993

- 25 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,420
REVERSAL OF LAF	+730
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-50
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,100
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.2 *-0.1* 21.5.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.80 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.90	3.65
1 MONTH	2.93 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.20	3.82
3 MONTHS	3.01 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.24	4.04
6 MONTHS	3.16 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.25	4.19
12 MONTHS	3.46 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,853 MN

CLOSED 21 MAY 1993

----- 0 -----