



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE LAW AND ORDER IS MAINTAINED: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE SURE THAT LAW AND ORDER IN HONG KONG IS MAINTAINED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TWO WELFARE AGENCIES IN SHAM SHUI PO, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE DO HAVE A GOOD STANDARD OF LAW AND ORDER IN HONG KONG. THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN A LOT OF DRAMATIC INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE NATURALLY CAUSED CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY."

"WE ARE DETERMINED THAT LAW AND ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED. THE POLICE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO IT; THEY HAVE THE FACILITIES TO DO IT, AND THEY WILL DO IT. AND THEY WILL HAVE, OF COURSE, THE TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT WERE BEING LOOKED AT TO TACKLE CRIME MIGHT BE TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES OR FIND NEW WAYS OF DEALING WITH ORGANISED CRIME.

"BUT THE MAIN POINT IN THIS IS THAT WE MUST NOT ALLOW HONG KONG TO BE A SOCIETY IN WHICH ORGANISED CRIME DOES RE-APPEAR. WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN. I DON'T BELIEVE PERSONALLY THAT IT WILL HAPPEN," HE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE REACTION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TO THE RECENT HANOI AGREEMENT, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE POINT IS THAT AS WE'VE SAID ALL ALONG, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES."

"THE ALTERNATIVE IS THAT THEY SIMPLY REMAIN IN CAMPS HERE FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR, AND I THINK THAT IS INHUMANE. I THINK IT IS QUITE UNFAIR FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED; THE YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ARE INVOLVED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID: "I HOPE THAT THEY WILL REACT SENSIBLY BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVES FOR PEOPLE IN THOSE CAMPS WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES, I EMPHASISE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES, IS EITHER THEY REMAIN IN THOSE CAMPS FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR."

"OR THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM UNDER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE ORGANISED BY UNHCR, MONITORED BY UNHCR AND WITH AID PROVIDED FOR THEIR REHABILITATION. AND I HOPE THAT THEY WILL REALISE THAT THE BEST OPTION, THE BETTER OF THE TWO OPTIONS IS THAT THEY SHOULD RETURN HOME TO VIETNAM," HE ADDED.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE ASYLUM FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES; IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE THE ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH REFUGEES CAN BE RESETTLED, YOU MUST AT THE SAME TIME MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURNING HOME PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES," THE GOVERNOR STRESSED.

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"UNHCR, I BELIEVE, NOW REALISE THAT THE WHOLE THING IS PART OF A COMPLETE PACKAGE. YOU CANNOT SIMPLY DO ONE WITHOUT DOING THE OTHER AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT THE UNHCR REALISE, THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO WORK AT," HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ALLOW OVERSEAS PRC NATIONALS TO COME TO HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE REASON IS THAT WE HAVE A NEED FOR TALENTED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG."

"THAT IS A SOURCE OF VERY TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED ABROAD, WHO ARE CHINESE-SPEAKING; MANY OF THEM MAY BE PUTONGHUA-SPEAKING, SOME OF THEM MAY BE CANTONESE-SPEAKING. THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE WELL ADAPTED TO THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT IN NO POSSIBLE WAY COULD THAT BE SEEN AS SOMETHING LIKE IT WAS DESCRIBED "A TAKEOVER OF HONG KONG". "IT SIMPLY ISN'T THAT. IT IS NOW FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO USE THIS RESOURCE IF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WANTS TO DO IT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY PRESENT INTENTIONS TO EMPLOY THESE PEOPLE. "IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE THE CASE, AS I'VE SEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT YOU WOULD SUDDENLY FIND SOME PEOPLE CATAPULTED INTO SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION. THAT SIMPLY ISN'T THE CASE."

ASKED IF HAVING OVERSEAS PRC NATIONALS WORKING IN HONG KONG WAS THE POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THE BRAIN DRAIN PROBLEM, SIR DAVID SAID: "I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ONE SIMPLE ANSWER TO THE BRAIN DRAIN."

"THERE ARE A WHOLE SERIES OF THINGS THAT WE SHOULD DO AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD DO. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE FOR IT'S PART, IS TO RELAX THE PREVIOUS RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO USE THIS RESOURCE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE: "WE MUST ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY IN HONG KONG; ENCOURAGE HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT HONG KONG AND GOT PASSPORTS TO COME BACK, LOTS OF THINGS."

"BUT THIS IS ONE PART OF IT AND I THINK IT SHOWS THE WAY IN WHICH, AS WE LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS LIKE A BRAIN DRAIN; LIKE AN ECONOMY WHICH IS DEVELOPING SO FAST THAT WE NEED MORE PEOPLE, THAT WE MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN THE WAY WE APPROACH THESE PROBLEMS AND NOT SIMPLY STICK RIGIDLY TO OLD POLICIES WHICH ARE NO LONGER APPROPRIATE," SIR DAVID SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INITIALING OF THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND HIS OUTLOOK TOWARDS THE RUN-UP TO 1997, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE HAVE THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT MAKES VERY CLEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE. WHAT WE ARE WORKING HARD AT IS TO MAKE SURE THOSE ARRANGEMENTS WORK OUT IN PRACTICE, WITH A FULL COMMITMENT TO WHAT'S PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

"LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION INVOLVES AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK. PART OF IT IS GOING ON THIS WEEK IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," HE ADDED.

"I HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE PRACTICAL RESULTS COMING OUT OF THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, BECAUSE THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF PRACTICAL WORK TO DO AND WE ONLY HAVE A FURTHER SIX AND A HALF YEARS TO DO IT IN," SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED TWO SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LADY WILSON AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT.

SIR DAVID SAID AS A COMMUNITY, WE SHOULD DO ALL THAT WE COULD TO HELP THE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

"THE AIM MUST BE TO ENABLE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL. WE SHALL NEED MORE FACILITIES TO MEET OUR TARGETS. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE CAPABLE OF WORKING."

SIR DAVID SAID UNDER THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME, \$331 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, A 25 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

NEXT YEAR, 14 NEW FACILITIES WOULD BE OPENED, INCLUDING FIVE DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES, THREE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND SIX HOSTELS, HE SAID.

SIR DAVID FIRST VISITED THE LAI YIU ADULT TRAINING CENTRE IN LAI YIU ESTATE, KWAI CHUNG.

OPERATED BY THE SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED, THE CENTRE HAS A DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE WITH 100 PLACES AND A HOSTEL WITH 70 PLACES FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB CENTRE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND IN SHEK KIP MEI. THIS MULTI-SERVICE BUILDING INCLUDES A HOME FOR ELDERLY BLIND PEOPLE, A DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE AND HOSTEL FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED BLIND, A REHABILITATION AND TRAINING CENTRE AND OTHER SUPPORT FACILITIES.

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HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SENIOR APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENTS TO THREE KEY POSTS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS POST WILL BE FILLED BY DR ENG-KIONG YEOH, THE CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POST BY MR SIEW-MAN PANG AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL POST BY MR JOHN CHAMBERS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID THE APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

"PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THESE OFFICERS WILL BE TEMPORARY CONSULTANTS TO THE GOVERNMENT," SHE EXPLAINED.

"THEIR IMMEDIATE MISSION WILL BE TO PROCEED WITH DETAILED PREPARATIONS FOR THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE OVER THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM."

DR YEOH, WHO WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT ON OCTOBER 1, WAS BORN IN MALAYSIA IN 1946. HE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WHERE HE OBTAINED HIS DEGREE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

DR YEOH JOINED THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICE IN 1971 AND IS CURRENTLY A CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN AND UNIT HEAD AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL. HE IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS WORK ON HEPATITIS AND AIDS.

MR PANG, WHO WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT ON NOVEMBER 1, IS AGED 40 AND IS ALSO MALAYSIAN-BORN. HE OBTAINED DEGREES IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND MICROBIOLOGY AS WELL AS IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

HE HAS BEEN WORKING IN AUSTRALIA IN VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS AND IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SERVICES OF THE SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY AREA HEALTH SERVICE.

MR CHAMBERS, WHO WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT ON NOVEMBER 12, WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1931 AND IS A CAMBRIDGE GRADUATE.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1955 AND HAS HELD MANY POSTS. MR CHAMBERS HAS BEEN INVOLVED ENTIRELY IN SOCIAL SERVICES WORK DURING THE LATTER PART OF HIS CAREER, WHICH INCLUDED HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN 1984. HE HAS BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SINCE 1988.

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ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN A BLESSING IN DISGUISE: STI
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THE CYCLICAL SLOWDOWN IN THE GENERAL ECONOMIC PICTURE IN HONG KONG FROM THE SECOND HALF OF 1989 HAS BEEN A BLESSING IN DISGUISE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN, WHO WAS SPEAKING ON "THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK OF THE DIAMOND TRADE IN HONG KONG" AT THE ANTWERP DIAMOND EVENING SEMINAR HELD IN A LOCAL HOTEL, EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE IT HAD PROVIDED SOME BREATHING SPACE AGAINST CONTINUING CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS IN THE ECONOMY.

"THE ECONOMY, WITH ITS RENOWNED FLEXIBILITY AND DYNAMISM, ADJUSTED WELL TO THE SITUATION, AND BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR SOME SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT HAD BECOME VISIBLE," HE SAID.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST SOON INTERVENED TO CLOUD THE ECONOMIC HORIZON, NOT ONLY FOR HONG KONG ITSELF BUT ALSO FOR OUR MAIN EXPORT MARKETS ON WHICH WE DEPEND.

"I FOR ONE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG THE GULF CRISIS WILL REMAIN WITH US," HE SAID.

PROTECTIONISM IN HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS WAS ANOTHER VERY REAL PROBLEM WHICH KEPT HAUNTING HONG KONG, AND WHICH KEPT CLOUDING HONG KONG'S TRADE AND THEREFORE ITS ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, MR CHAN SAID.

"THE SITUATION HERE IS SOMEWHAT IRONIC," HE SAID.

"ON THE ONE HAND, FOR MORE THAN THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS, NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING AND LIBERATING WORLD TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE CONTINUED AND EVEN INTENSIFIED PRESSURE ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE COMPETITION THAT FREE TRADE WOULD BRING," HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THESE SAME INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEIR TRADING PARTNERS, SUCH AS HONG KONG, TO OPEN UP THEIR MARKETS, HE SAID.

"BUT THEN, WHEN THEY COME ACROSS A TRULY OPEN MARKET SUCH AS HONG KONG, THEY SAY (OR SEEM BY THEIR ACTION TO SAY), 'WE KNOW YOU ARE ALREADY A FREE MARKET. WE KNOW YOU ARE DIFFERENT. BUT WE ARE STILL GOING TO HIT YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE SO EFFICIENT AND COMPETITIVE THAT WE CANNOT MATCH YOU. AND WE KNOW YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF HITTING BACK AT US'," MR CHAN SAID.

THE URUGUAY ROUND WAS DUE TO COME TO A CONCLUSION THIS DECEMBER AT A FINAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS. THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE ROUND WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF WORLD TRADE, HE SAID.

"I HOPE THAT THE ROUND WILL ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES AND THEREBY ENABLE THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS TO STAND UP FIRMLY AGAINST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES. I KNOW THAT THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG JOINS ME IN THAT HOPE.

"IN THE MEANTIME, GIVEN THE SITUATION I HAVE OUTLINED, AND GIVEN THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IS SO SMALL, OPEN AND EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT INDEED TO MAKE QUANTITATIVE FORECASTS ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR A VERY SHORT TIME AHEAD.

"QUALITATIVELY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS ONE CAN SAY WITH A GOOD DEAL OF CERTAINTY.

"OUR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AS THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY TO CHINA AND AS THE HUB OF THE ENTIRE ASIA PACIFIC REGION WILL NEVER CHANGE.

"OUR DEEP-WATER PORT, OUR EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AND OUR INDUSTRIOUS WORKFORCE WILL BE THERE TO SERVE US FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

"OUR COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE NEXT CENTURY, AND PERHAPS EVEN BEYOND.

"ABOVE ALL, HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND HEAVILY ON TRADE, BE IT IN GOODS OR IN SERVICES, FOR A LIVING," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID IN 1989 OUR TOTAL IMPORTS OF DIAMONDS AMOUNTED TO US\$1,654 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED A GROWTH OF 11.2 PER CENT OVER 1988.

HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF DIAMONDS IN 1989 AMOUNTED TO US\$653 MILLION, 43 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE YEAR BEFORE.

BELGIUM WAS THE TERRITORY'S THIRD LARGEST SUPPLIER OF DIAMONDS, ACCOUNTING FOR 20.6 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL DIAMOND IMPORTS LAST YEAR. INDEED, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS CONSTITUTED AS MUCH AS 56 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL IMPORTS FROM BELGIUM, MAKING IT BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT GROUP, HE SAID.

HONG KONG WAS ALSO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTERS OF JEWELLERY AND RELATED ARTICLES, MANY OF WHICH WERE MOUNTED WITH DIAMONDS. OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THESE ITEMS WERE VALUED AT US\$642 MILLION IN 1989, AN INCREASE OF 11.7 PER CENT OVER 1988.

"SOPHISTICATED DESIGN AND SUPERB CRAFTSMANSHIP HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS," MR CHAN SAID.

"OUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD DIAMOND TRADE IS BUT ONE OF THE MANY FACETS OF HONG KONG'S STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE. BEING ALMOST TOTALLY DEVOID OF NATURAL RESOURCES, HONG KONG, BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, LIVES BY TRADE," HE SAID.

STUDY ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMMISSION A RESEARCH STUDY ON THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY TO ASSESS THE LATEST MARKET TREND, IDENTIFY THE INDUSTRY'S CHARACTERISTICS AND RECOMMEND MEASURES THAT WILL FURTHER FACILITATE ITS DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE STUDY WAS PART OF REGULAR TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDIES COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON MAJOR GROUPS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

"THESE STUDIES AIM TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN UPGRADING THEIR OPERATIONS AND IN ACHIEVING HIGH VALUE-ADDED IN THEIR PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

THE LAST TEXTILES AND CLOTHING STUDY WAS CONDUCTED IN 1986, MR CHAN SAID, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM IT HAD LED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF INDUSTRY, THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE BEING THE NOTABLE EXAMPLE.

IN THE FACE OF QUOTA LIMITATIONS AND ARISING LABOUR COSTS THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S CLOTHING INDUSTRY WOULD DEPEND ON ITS CAPACITY TO PRODUCE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS, TO DIVERSIFY, AND TO PENETRATE NEW MARKETS.

"WITH THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP PRECISELY TO FOSTER QUICK RESPONSE AND IMPROVEMENT OF GARMENT MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS HOPED THAT MANUFACTURERS CAN ACHIEVE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCT INNOVATION," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID THE CENTRE WAS TASKED WITH DEMONSTRATION OF APPROPRIATE PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES AND SYSTEM, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ADAPTATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO SUIT HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT, AND ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS AND COURSES TO DISSEMINATE TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

THE CENTRE OPERATED ON THE BASIS OF PROCESSING GENUINE ORDERS AND ACTUAL PRODUCTION OF GARMENTS WHICH, MR CHAN BELIEVED, WAS THE BEST WAY TO PROVE THE REAL BENEFITS OF ANY TECHNOLOGY OR SYSTEM.

MANUFACTURERS WOULD SEE THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN A REAL ENVIRONMENT; AND SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS MINIMISED THE RISKS FOR THEM TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW SCHEMES ON THEIR OWN AND FACILITATED THE TRANSFER OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID.

"I WOULD URGE GARMENT MANUFACTURERS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES AND TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ADOPTING THE TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS WHICH THE CENTRE HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED," HE ADDED.

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VIEWS OF POST OFFICE STAFF WILL BE CONSIDERED

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POST OFFICE STAFF CAN REST ASSURED THAT THEIR VIEWS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR GRADE AND SALARY STRUCTURE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE CURRENT REVIEW BEING CONDUCTED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE POST OFFICE RECREATION CLUBHOUSE AT CAROLINE HILL, MR WIGGHAM APPEALED TO THE POSTAL STAFF THAT THEY SHOULD REMAIN PATIENT AND RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH MANAGEMENT INSTEAD OF SPECULATING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OR SUGGESTING ANY PROTEST ACTIONS THAT MIGHT INCONVENIENCE THE PUBLIC.

MR WIGGHAM SAID HE HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE CONCERNS RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY POST OFFICE STAFF OVER ISSUES RELATING TO THEIR PAY AND PROMOTION PROSPECTS.

"THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IS CONDUCTING ITS SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE GRADES, INCLUDING THE POSTAL GRADES."

HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF ITS COMPREHENSIVE NATURE AND THE NUMBER OF GRADES INVOLVED, THE REVIEW WOULD INEVITABLY TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE ADDING THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THE REVIEW WAS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THAT THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE HAD BEEN WIDELY REPUTED AS PROVIDING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT POSTAL SERVICES.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE RAPID INCREASE IN POSTAL TRAFFIC AND THE VARIETY OF SERVICES, THE MAJORITY OF LOCAL MAIL IS ABLE TO BE DELIVERED THE DAY AFTER IT IS RECEIVED FOR SORTING.

"SUCH EXCELLENT STANDARD OF SERVICE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS AGE OF FAST GROWTH IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WERE ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

"THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE IN POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEDICATION, DILIGENCE AND LOYALTY OF STAFF.

"ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND EFFICIENT EXECUTION OF DUTIES," HE ADDED.

/MR WIGGHAM

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RENOVATING THE CLUBHOUSE WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS APPRECIATION OF THE POST OFFICE STAFF'S CONTRIBUTION.

"I AM QUITE SURE THAT IT WILL BECOME A POPULAR VENUE FOR STAFF TO RELAX AND RELIEVE FROM THE PRESSURE OF THEIR DAILY WORK," HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM CONGRATULATED THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE ON THE OPENING OF THIS CLUBHOUSE ADDING THAT THE SUCCESSFUL PLANNING OF WHICH WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS AND EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION BETWEEN STAFF AND MANAGEMENT.

ADDRESSING THE CEREMONY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, SAID THAT THE FACILITIES OF THE CLUBHOUSE WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1953 WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED DEMAND FROM STAFF WHICH HAD GROWN FIVEFOLD FROM 640 TO 5,000 IN THE PAST 37 YEARS.

FACILITIES OF THE REFURBISHED CLUBHOUSE INCLUDE TENNIS COURTS, A SOCCER PITCH, A BASKETBALL COURT, A BILLIARD ROOM, A MAHJONG ROOM, ACTIVITY ROOMS, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND BARBECUE PITS.

THE FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO THE 5,000 STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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REVISION OF TRANSPORT FEES AND CHARGES

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FEE INCREASES FOR MISCELLANEOUS TRANSPORT-RELATED LICENCES AND PERMITS FROM FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 28) TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT FEES AND CHARGES WERE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR REAL VALUE IN RELATION TO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS WAS MAINTAINED. THE FEES FOR MISCELLANEOUS TRANSPORT-RELATED LICENCES AND PERMITS HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR FOUR TO SIX YEARS.

"A REVIEW COMPLETED IN MAY THIS YEAR FOUND THAT THE FEES FOR SOME 14 MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES AND PERMITS ARE BELOW THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF PROCESSING THEM AND SHOULD BE INCREASED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FEES FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICULARS IN THE REGISTER, VEHICLE REGISTRATION, INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE, EXCESS PASSENGER PERMIT, CAR CLEANER'S PERMIT, DUPLICATE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE AND DUPLICATE VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT WILL BE INCREASED BY \$5 TO \$30.

FEES FOR A MOVEMENT PERMIT, LONG LOAD/WIDE LOAD PERMIT, PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE, VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT AND GOODS PERMIT WILL BE INCREASED BY \$45 TO \$90.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ANOTHER INCREASE WOULD BE NEEDED AFTER ONE YEAR IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FULL COST RECOVERY FOR PROCESSING THESE PERMITS.

THE ISSUING FEE AND THE ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE FOR LANTAU CLOSED ROAD PERMIT WILL BE INCREASED TO \$360 AND \$240 RESPECTIVELY.

THE FEES WOULD BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER WITH A VIEW TO FULL COST-RECOVERY IN FIVE YEARS' TIME, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE ISSUING FEE AND ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE FOR THIS PERMIT HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1985.

THE ANNUAL "KAITO" FERRY SERVICES LICENCE WILL BE INCREASED TO A NOMINAL LEVEL OF \$100 WHICH ROUGHLY RESTORES THE REAL VALUE OF THIS FEE TO THE 1982 LEVEL WHEN IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED.

"THIS FEE WILL CONTINUE TO BE SET AT A NOMINAL LEVEL IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE 'KAITO' SERVICES IN MEETING THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE OUTLYING ISLANDS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FULL DETAILS OF THE NEW FEES FOR MISCELLANEOUS TRANSPORT-RELATED LICENCES AND PERMITS WILL BE LISTED IN THE GAZETTE TO BE PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY.

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NEW FARE CEILINGS FOR GREEN MINIBUSES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE FARE CEILINGS OF GREEN MINIBUSES (GMB) WITH EFFECT FROM SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30).

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 1,349 GREEN MINIBUSES SERVING A TOTAL OF 184 ROUTES IN THE TERRITORY WITH A GENERAL FARE RANGE OF \$1.30 TO \$4.50 DURING NORMAL SCHEDULED OPERATING HOURS.

IN VIEW OF RISING OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS SINCE THE LAST REVISION IN JUNE 1989, GMB OPERATORS HAD APPLIED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE FARE CEILINGS AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR AN ADJUSTMENT.

"THE NEW FARE SCALE ONLY INDICATES THE MAXIMUM FARE THAT CAN BE CHARGED FOR A GMB SERVICE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE FARES OF GMB WILL BE INCREASED AUTOMATICALLY UPON THE REVISION," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"EACH INDIVIDUAL OPERATOR, IF HE WISHES TO INCREASE THE FARE FOR A SPECIFIC ROUTE OR ROUTES, WILL HAVE TO APPLY TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WITH SUPPORTING DATA AND THE CHARGE FOR EACH ROUTE CAN ONLY BE ALTERED AFTER OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

/THE EXISTING

THE EXISTING FARE SCALE AND THE NEW FARE SCALE FOR GMB ARE AS FOLLOWS:

JOURNEY DISTANCE NOT EXCEEDING (KM)	EXISTING SCALE (\$)	REVISED SCALE (\$)
-----	-----	-----
2	1.30	-
3	1.70	3.00
5	2.50	4.00
7	3.50	5.00
8	4.00	5.50
10	4.50	6.00
11	5.00	6.50
15	5.50	7.00
20	8.00	9.50
30	12.00	12.00
40	15.00	15.00
50	18.00	18.00

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST RELEASED
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THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED WEAK IN AUGUST, WHILE RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE SUBSTANTIALLY OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

RETAINED IMPORTS ALSO SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1990, AT \$21,128 MILLION, WAS \$96 MILLION OR 0.5 PER CENT LESS THAN IN AUGUST 1989. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS, HOWEVER, INCREASED BY \$6,478 MILLION OR 20.4 PER CENT TO \$38,304 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY \$6,382 MILLION OR 12.0 PER CENT OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$59,432 MILLION IN AUGUST 1990.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$7,730 MILLION OR 16.1 PER CENT OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$55,706 MILLION IN AUGUST 1990.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$3,726 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN AUGUST 1990.

THIS COMPARES WITH A SURPLUS OF \$5,074 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 10.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN AUGUST 1989.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1990 WAS \$399,670 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$142,075 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$257,595 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1989, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$30,932 MILLION OR 8.4 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS FALLING BY \$2,310 MILLION OR 1.6 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS RISING BY \$33,242 MILLION OR 14.8 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$28,695 MILLION OR 7.7 PER CENT, TO \$402,018 MILLION. A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$2,348 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1990. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$4,585 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

COMMENTING ON THE AUGUST FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PERFORMANCE OF RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO BE ROBUST. THIS WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE STRONG GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN. A FASTER GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA ALSO CONTRIBUTED.

AS REGARDS RETAINED IMPORTS, A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING THE INCREASE IN JULY. THIS MAY SUGGEST SOME PICK-UP IN DOMESTIC DEMAND.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS STEMMING FROM THE GULF CRISIS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE, BUT PROBABLY NOT IMMEDIATELY. THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES MARKET WILL BE PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL IN THIS REGARD.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1990.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$21,128 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$38,304 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$59,432 MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	\$55,706 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$3,726 MILLION	[IN SURPLUS]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	JUN 90 TO	JUN 89 TO	INCREASE	
	AUG 90	AUG 89	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	60,382	61,284	-902	-1.5
RE-EXPORTS	108,694	93,143	15,551	16.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	169,076	154,427	14,649	9.5
IMPORTS	162,206	146,753	15,453	10.5
TRADE BALANCE	6,870	7,674	-804	

/SAME MONTH

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SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	AUGUST	AUGUST	INCREASE	
	1990	1989	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,128	21,224	-96	-0.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.5%)	(40.0%)		
RE-EXPORTS	38,304	31,826	6,478	20.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	59,432	53,050	6,382	12.0
IMPORTS	55,706	47,976	7,730	16.1
TRADE BALANCE	3,726	5,074	-1,348	

LAST MONTH	AUGUST	JULY	INCREASE	
	1990	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,128	20,409	719	3.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.5%)	(36.1%)		
RE-EXPORTS	38,304	36,194	2,110	5.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	59,432	56,603	2,829	5.0
IMPORTS	55,706	54,479	1,227	2.3
TRADE BALANCE	3,726	2,124	1,602	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-AUG	JAN-AUG	INCREASE	
	1990	1989	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	142,075	144,385	-2,310	-1.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.5%)	(39.2%)		
RE-EXPORTS	257,595	224,353	33,242	14.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	399,670	368,738	30,932	8.4
IMPORTS	402,018	373,323	28,695	7.7
TRADE BALANCE	-2,348	-4,585	2,237	

LAST 12 MONTHS	SEP 89 TO	SEP 88 TO	INCREASE	
	AUG 90	AUG 89	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	221,794	225,627	-3,833	-1.7
RE-EXPORTS	379,647	333,033	46,614	14.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	601,441	558,660	42,781	7.7
IMPORTS	591,477	562,209	29,268	5.2
TRADE BALANCE	9,964	-3,549	13,513	

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

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SURVEY ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS

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SECONDARY 1 TO 3 STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST PRONE TO UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE 1988-89 SURVEY ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS.

"THE FINDINGS INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MORAL EDUCATION RESTS WITH EVERY TEACHER, TEACHERS OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE TEACHING SECONDARY 1 STUDENTS, HAVE A HEAVIER SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN DEALING WITH UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS THAN TEACHERS OF OTHER FORMS AND AGE GROUPS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INCIDENTS REPORTED IN 1988-89 TOTALLED 227,096 AGAINST 211,151 FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY (93 PER CENT) BEING OF THE LESS SERIOUS CATEGORY OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR WHILE ONLY A MINORITY (SEVEN PER CENT) WERE OF THE MORE SERIOUS CATEGORY OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR.

THE SPOKESMAN ATTRIBUTED THE RISE TO INCREASED REPORTING OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR AND THE EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY FROM SCHOOLS.

"A RESPONSE RATE OF NEARLY 100 PER CENT IS INDEED REMARKABLE AND IT INDICATES A CONTINUING STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG BOTH SCHOOL HEADS AND THEIR TEACHING STAFF, AND AN AWARENESS THAT STUDENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS IS AN AREA REQUIRING CONSTANT MONITORING AND STUDY," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS (211,825) IN 1988-89 INCREASED BY EIGHT PER CENT OVER 1987-88.

THE FOUR MORE COMMON CATEGORIES OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR, REPRESENTING ABOUT 72 PER CENT OF ALL SUCH INCIDENTS, WERE (IN DESCENDING ORDER OF FREQUENCY):

- * HABITUAL FAILURE TO HAND IN ASSIGNMENTS/BRING TEXTBOOKS OR STATIONERY TO SCHOOL (77,862);
- * HABITUAL LATENESS (33,991);
- * INSOLENT OR REBELLIOUS BEHAVIOUR (20,971); AND
- * DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES TO ATTRACT ATTENTION (20,579).

DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS, WHICH NUMBERED 15,271 (OUT OF A TOTAL SECONDARY SCHOOL POPULATION OF 442,000 AT SEPTEMBER 1988), REGISTERED A 1.5 PER CENT INCREASE AS COMPARED WITH 1987-88 AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ACTS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN GAMBLING, ALL OTHER CATEGORIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DECREASED WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

/"FOR EXAMPLE

"FOR EXAMPLE, POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS AND INVOLVEMENT IN SEX OFFENCES DROPPED FROM 1,298 (8.6 PER CENT) AND 219 (1.5 PER CENT) IN 1987-88 TO 958 (6.3 PER CENT) AND 136 (0.9 PER CENT) IN THE LATEST FINDINGS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A SLIGHT DROP IN INCIDENTS OF SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES, AND INTIMIDATION SUCH AS BLACKMAIL AT 620 (4.1 PER CENT) AND 770 (FIVE PER CENT) IN THE LATEST FINDINGS, COMPARED TO 637 (4.2 PER CENT) AND 802 (5.3 PER CENT) IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE THREE MORE COMMON CATEGORIES OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, REPRESENTING ABOUT 83 PER CENT OF ALL SUCH INCIDENTS, REMAINED THE SAME AS INDICATED IN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY. THEY WERE (IN DESCENDING ORDER OF FREQUENCY):

- * ACTS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (5,650);
- * STEALING (3,947); AND
- * INVOLVEMENT IN GAMBLING (3,089).

AS IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS, THERE WAS A HIGHER PROPORTION OF SCHOOLBOYS INVOLVED IN UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR THAN GIRLS, WITH THE FORMER RANGING FROM 10.1 PER CENT TO 13.8 PER CENT AND THE LATTER FROM 4.5 PER CENT TO 6.5 PER CENT ONLY.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER STUDENT WAS ALSO SLIGHTLY HIGHER FOR BOYS (FROM 1.8 TO TWO PER CENT) THAN GIRLS (1.6 TO 1.9 PER CENT) AND, AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED, THE RELATIVE PROPORTION OF BOYS AND GIRLS STOOD AT 70 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT.

GIRLS OUTNUMBERED BOYS IN BEING HABITUALLY LATE TO SCHOOL, PLAYING TRUANT AND FOR ACTS OF DISHONESTY SUCH AS CHEATING BUT DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR SUCH AS INSOLENT OR REBELLIOUS BEHAVIOUR, DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES TO ATTRACT ATTENTION AND REGULAR USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE WERE MORE COMMON AMONG BOYS.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ALSO SHOWED THAT:

- * THE MAJORITY OF BOYS AND GIRLS INVOLVED WERE AGED FROM 13 TO 16;
- * THE INVOLVEMENT RATIO FOR STUDENTS AGED 13 TO 15 WAS THE HIGHEST; AND
- * MOST STUDENTS WERE FROM SECONDARY 1 TO 3, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE TOTAL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY, INITIATED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS, WAS THE SEVENTH SINCE 1982.

"THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON THE INCIDENCE OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AMONG STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS AND TO ADVISE ON APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND MEASURES TO COMBAT SUCH BEHAVIOUR," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE A NEED FOR MORE INDIVIDUAL CARE AND GUIDANCE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR JUNIOR FORM STUDENTS AND FOR MORE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO TRY TO PREVENT THE MISBEHAVIOUR FROM DEVELOPING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THAT TO ASSIST THEM IN MAKING THIS PROVISION, TEACHERS SHOULD REFER TO THE GENERAL GUIDELINES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS ON MORAL EDUCATION.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COPIES ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS-ETHICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 511, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY (TEL: 839 2481).

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REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, MEDICAL LAB TECHNOLOGISTS
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APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 1), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BOARD AND THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PROVISIONS REGARDING THE REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE OF THE TWO PROFESSIONS WERE GAZETTED IN JULY FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF THE TWO PROFESSIONS.

THESE NEW REGULATIONS AIM TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO THE PUBLIC BY MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS IN THE PRACTICE OF THESE TWO SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

"OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"AFTER THE RELEVANT SECTIONS IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF THESE TWO PROFESSIONS COME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1 NEXT YEAR, UNREGISTERED PERSONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE IN THE PROFESSIONS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REGISTERS FOR BOTH PROFESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS : PARTS I AND II FOR FULL REGISTRATION AND PART III FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION.

/PERSONS CURRENTLY

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PERSONS CURRENTLY PRACTISING THESE TWO PROFESSIONS BUT WHO HAVE NO RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS OR FORMAL TRAINING WILL NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION.

AT LEAST ONE DIRECTOR OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COMPANY OR A MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY COMPANY MUST BE REGISTERED IN PART I OF THE REGISTER. ALL PERSONS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY SUCH A COMPANY AND ARE PRACTISING THESE PROFESSIONS MUST BE REGISTERED.

FOR FULL REGISTRATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM NEXT MONDAY AND IT IS AN ONGOING EXERCISE.

HOWEVER, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BY JANUARY 31 NEXT YEAR SO AS TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE RELEVANT STATUTORY BOARDS TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE BEFORE AUGUST 1.

AS REGARDS PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THIS BEING A ONE-OFF EXERCISE, APPLICANTS SHOULD HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR AND JUNE 30 NEXT YEAR. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS PERIOD.

"THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION WILL BE DEEMED TO BE REGISTERED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE KNOWN," HE ADDED.

DETAILS ON THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES ARE CONTAINED IN A BOOKLET ON "GUIDE TO APPLICANTS".

STARTING FROM MONDAY, THE BOOKLET TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION FORM WILL BE OBTAINABLE IN PERSON OR BY WRITING TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BOARD AND THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD AT SUNNING PLAZA, 10 HYSAN AVENUE, SIXTH FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THEY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FROM QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL AND TSAN YUK HOSPITAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KOWLOON HOSPITAL, LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN KOWLOON; CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL, FANLING HOSPITAL, KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, ST JOHN HOSPITAL ON CHEUNG CHAU, SIU LAM HOSPITAL, SOUTH LANTAO HOSPITAL AND TUEN MUN HOSPITAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 890 0514.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

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BETTER SEVERANCE PAY PROTECTION DISCUSSED

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, AN EMPLOYEE'S SEVERANCE PAYMENT ENTITLEMENT UPON THE INSOLVENCY OF THE EMPLOYER WILL BE INCREASED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$8,000 AND 50 PER CENT OF ANY AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF \$8,000.

THE BOARD WAS TOLD THAT THE PROPOSED EXTENT OF COVERAGE WAS CONSIDERED REASONABLE AS IT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE LOWER INCOME GROUP OF EMPLOYEES, WHO WERE USUALLY MORE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION, WOULD GET FULL COVERAGE OR A RELATIVELY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF COVERAGE.

TO ENABLE THE FUND TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM THE INCREASED COVERAGE OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT, IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE RATE OF LEVY ON EACH BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$100 TO \$250.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO THEIR VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THE MEETING. THE CHAIRMAN UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THEM BACK TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

MEMBERS ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE OCCUPATIONAL PENSION SCHEMES (COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ETC) BILL 1990.

A REPORT ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 77TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE 1990 WAS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

THE BOARD ALSO ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AS A TRIPARTITE TEAM.

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109 VBP RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 109 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 36 MEN, 32 WOMEN, 25 BOYS AND 16 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 34TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 4,453 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF GENERALE BELGIAN FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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NO MAIL SERVICES ON OCTOBER 4

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THERE WILL BE NO LETTER DELIVERY ON OCTOBER 4, THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ALSO, ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THAT DAY.

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HONG KONG YOUTH PROJECT WINS AWARD

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A HONG KONG YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECT, "GREEN MOVEMENT -- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN", HAS RECENTLY WON A COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SERVICE AWARD FOR 1990.

AT A CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME, PRESENTED A CHEQUE OF 1,000 POUNDS STERLING TO THE WINNING TEAM FROM THE CHEUNG WAH CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS.

MEDALLIONS AND CERTIFICATES WERE ALSO AWARDED TO EACH OF THE 20 TEAM MEMBERS.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR TSAO SAID THE SCHEME WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION TO THE COLLECTIVE ACTION BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN IMPROVING THEIR COMMUNITY, UNDER DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTS.

"THE FACT THAT THE PROJECTS REPRESENTING HONG KONG WERE ABLE TO GAIN RECOGNITION TWICE IN SIX YEARS PROVED THAT OUR YOUTHS ARE RESOURCEFUL IN IDEAS, PRAGMATIC IN PLANNING AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, CARING IN THEIR HEART," HE SAID.

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MR TSAO HOPED TO SEE MORE PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE INITIATED BY MANY MORE YOUTH GROUPS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

"FOR IT IS THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT NEW IDEAS, AND IMPLEMENTING WHAT SEEMS TO BE UNUSUAL TASKS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS, AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, WILL BENEFIT MOST," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE AWARDS FOR 1991, MR TSAO CALLED ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS TO TAKE PART.

THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARD SCHEME WAS STARTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1985 AS AN ENDURING COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

THE SCHEME OFFERS UP TO FIVE AWARDS EACH YEAR, WITH NOT MORE THAN TWO TO BE AWARDED TO ANY COUNTRY IN THE REGION.

IN HONG KONG, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS CO-ORDINATING THE SELECTION OF THE BEST TWO COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO REPRESENT THE TERRITORY.

A PROJECT BY MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL RED CROSS WON THE FIRST AWARD IN 1986 THIS YEAR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN AND A SERVICE PROJECT FOR THE ELDERLY WERE SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE TERRITORY.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID THE NOMINATED PROJECTS SHOULD BE EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK BY A GROUP OF NOT MORE THAN 20 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 24.

THEY SHOULD RESPOND TO THE LOCAL NEEDS AND PROVIDE A MODEL OR INSPIRATION TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, HE ADDED.

NOMINATIONS ARE BEING INVITED THROUGH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OFFICES. THEY SHOULD REACH THE CNTA ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31 NEXT YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SCHEME MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVALS IN YAU TSIM

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TWO CARNIVALS TO CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 2).

THE FIRST ONE IS ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE CONCOURSE OF HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, BEGINNING AT 7 PM.

THE OTHER IS ORGANISED BY A COMMITTEE COMPRISING COMMUNITY LEADERS AND IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST PROPERTY DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, STARTING AT 8 PM.

THERE WILL BE LANTERN EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS, GAME STALLS, LANTERN RIDDLES, FORTUNE-TELLING AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE HANDICRAFTS AT BOTH CARNIVALS.

ADMISSION IS FREE. COUPONS FOR STALL GAMES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE AT 15 MIDDLE ROAD AND ITS SUB-OFFICE AT 40 CARNARVON ROAD.

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