



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HK SIGNIFIES CONFIDENCE

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THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG SIGNIFIES THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ENTITLED "JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IN THE 1990'S" CO-ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FOUNDATION AND THE CENTRE FOR ASIAN PACIFIC STUDIES OF LINGNAN COLLEGE, MR WONG SAID JAPAN HAD ALL ALONG BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT TO HONG KONG, AS BORNE OUT BY THE FINDINGS OF ANNUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SURVEY, THE CUMULATIVE VALUE OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AT THE END OF 1989 STOOD AT \$8,642 MILLION, REPRESENTING 29.1 PER CENT OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, JAPAN IS A CLOSE SECOND TO THE USA, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 31 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID JAPAN'S CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT IN 1989, AT \$4,002 MILLION, WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT RECORDED IN 1986.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD ITS PERCENTAGE SHARE OF OVERALL TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT GAINED 8.6 POINTS, AND THE GROSS ADDITION TO FIXED ASSETS MADE BY JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS WAS \$624 MILLION, THE SECOND LARGEST ADDITION IN A YEAR AFTER THE RECORD HIGH OF \$1,026 MILLION IN 1988.

"AT THIS CURRENT RATE OF INVESTMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT JAPAN MIGHT REPLACE THE UNITED STATES AS THE LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES BEFORE TOO LONG," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD IDENTIFIED 180 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG WHICH INVOLVED JAPANESE INVESTMENT.

OF THESE 180 COMPANIES, 100 (56 PER CENT) ARE WHOLLY-OWNED BY JAPANESE INTERESTS, NINE (FIVE PER CENT) ARE JOINT-VENTURES WITHOUT A LOCAL INTEREST AND 71 (39 PER CENT) ARE JOINT-VENTURES INVOLVING LOCAL INTERESTS.

THEY TOGETHER EMPLOY MORE THAN 26,000 STAFF, REPRESENTING SOME 3.6 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE.

THE INDUSTRIES WHICH ATTRACTED THE MOST JAPANESE INVESTMENT INCLUDE ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

/JAPAN ALSO

JAPAN ALSO LEADS OTHER OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN ALL THESE FIELDS, EXCEPT THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, IN WHICH JAPAN IS RANKED SECOND AFTER THE UNITED STATES.

MR WONG SAID DURING 1989 THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ASSISTED 10 JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS TO SET UP NEW PLANTS IN HONG KONG, AND HELPED THREE MANUFACTURERS EXPAND THEIR PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

IN 1990 THE DEPARTMENT ASSISTED IN FOUR NEW JAPANESE PROJECTS, AS WELL AS IN THE EXPANSION OF FIVE JAPANESE FACTORIES IN HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, OVER THE LAST 24 MONTHS, THE DEPARTMENT HAD ASSISTED SOME 20 MANUFACTURERS IN SETTING UP OFFICES IN HONG KONG FOR SALES OR PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES.

SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE NOTABLE PROJECTS INCLUDED PACIFIC TUBE CORP LTD (GALVANISED STEEL TUBE), NEC TECHNOLOGIES HONG KONG LTD (MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT HEADQUARTERS FOR COMPUTER PERIPHERALS) AND RICOH CO. LTD (PROCUREMENT OFFICE FOR PHOTOCOPIER PARTS AND COMPONENTS).

MEANWHILE, THERE WERE SOME 60 ACTIVE PROJECTS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS, MR WONG SAID.

"WE SHALL SOON SEE FRUITION OF TWO JAPANESE MANUFACTURING PROJECTS - THE DYEING AND FINISHING PROJECT OF ASANO DYEING CO. (HK) LTD AND THE COPPER FOIL PLANT OF NIKKO GOULD.

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EXPANSION PROJECTS NEAR THE STAGE OF COMPLETION, ALL OF WHICH ARE FIRM EVIDENCE OF SUSTAINED JAPANESE INVESTMENT INTEREST," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH BUSINESS WOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AND PROSPER.

"THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IS ALREADY PROOF THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND NICHE AREAS AND DO PROFITABLE BUSINESS THERE," HE SAID.

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HONG KONG PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN INT'L FIGHT AGAINST DRUG MONEY
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HONG KONG IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ATTACK THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE WORLD-WIDE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR DAVID WEEKS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA, MR WEEKS SAID THIS WAS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION AFTER HONG KONG BECAME AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT SINCE LAST DECEMBER IN THE WORK OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED BY THE G7 GROUP OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN 1989.

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HIS SPEECH COINCIDED WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE DECADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (1991 - 2000) PROCLAIMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AT ITS 17TH SPECIAL SESSION IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

HE SAID: "AT THE HEART OF THE EVIL OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CRIMINALS TO MAKE HUGE PROFITS.

"MEASURES TO STOP DRUG TRAFFICKERS FROM BEING ABLE TO RETAIN AND USE THE PROCEEDS OF THEIR CRIMES MUST THEREFORE FORM AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY CONCERTED ANTI-DRUGS STRATEGY.

"THE AIMS OF SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE DETERRENT, BY MAKING DRUG TRAFFICKING LESS PROFITABLE; PREVENTIVE, BY STOPPING THE REINVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS IN FURTHER DRUG TRAFFICKING OR IN OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES; AND INVESTIGATIVE, BY ENABLING INVESTIGATORS TO FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL TO THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE BUSINESS, AND MAKING IT EASIER TO IDENTIFY AND THEN DISMANTLE CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS."

MR WEEKS CONTINUED: "INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IS VITAL IF SUCH MEASURES ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AGAINST THE MAJOR TRAFFICKERS, WHO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF MODERN COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS TECHNIQUES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONCEAL THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS AND TO PUT THEM BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW."

HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES COULD SECURE THE RECOVERY OF THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE FOUND.

"IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR THERE TO BE ADEQUATE MECHANISMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN AND PROVIDE FOR EACH OTHER INFORMATION TO ESTABLISH THE MOVEMENT OF ILLICIT PROCEEDS, AND EVIDENCE TO HELP BRING THOSE CONCERNED TO JUSTICE.

"THE FULLEST POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED URGENTLY, AS THE TRADE IN ILLICIT DRUGS CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS AND BECOME MORE INTERNATIONAL AND SOPHISTICATED IN NATURE," HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO, THE HONG KONG OFFICIALS HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OVERSEAS JURISDICTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD SO FAR NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING IN RESPECT OF NINE OVERSEAS JURISDICTIONS: CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM JURISDICTIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, JERSEY, GUERNSEY AND THE ISLE OF MAN.

"THESE JURISDICTIONS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE, THUS ENABLING US TO GIVE EFFECT IN HONG KONG TO CONFISCATION ORDERS MADE BY THEIR COURTS, AND OTHER RELATED PROCEEDINGS.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE ANXIOUS TO EXTEND THIS NETWORK OF AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS WITH COMPATIBLE ASSET FORFEITURE LEGISLATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES," HE STRESSED.

MR WEEKS ADDED THAT THE CREATION OF A SPECIALIST UNIT IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WHICH UNDERTOOK ALL LEGAL WORK RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, HAD LED TO THE ASSEMBLY OF A BODY OF LEGAL AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF DRUG TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE.

"THIS OFFICE, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE PROSECUTIONS DIVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, ALSO ACTS AS THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY FOR HONG KONG IN THE PROCESSING OF ALL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO OUR VARIOUS ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS," HE SAID.

MOREOVER, MR WEEKS SAID HONG KONG ALSO TOOK VERY ACTIVE PART IN A WIDE RANGE OF MULTI-LATERAL ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES, AND HAD STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LINKS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME.

"IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT - COMBATTING THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG-TRAFFICKER - THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAVE CLOSE LINKS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN CHINA AND ELSEWHERE IN ASIA, THE USA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AS INTERPOL AND THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL.

"THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, RUNS THE ASIA/PACIFIC OFFICE OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL, PROVIDING A VITAL CROSS-FLOW OF INTELLIGENCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ON THE LATEST TRENDS IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND MONEY LAUNDERING TECHNIQUES.

"A POST OF COUNSELLOR FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS IS MAINTAINED AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK TO LIAISE WITH THE THAI LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, REGIONAL UNITED NATIONS AND INTERPOL OFFICES, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN ANTI-NARCOTICS COMMUNITY IN BANGKOK.

"OUR COUNSELLOR, A CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, ALSO MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF NEIGHBOURING SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

WHILE TALKING ABOUT DEMAND REDUCTION WHICH COVERS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATION, GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS EQUALLY AND PROBABLY MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.

HE SAID: "IT IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO STOP, OR AT LEAST REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO, THROUGH IGNORANCE, CURIOSITY OR WHATEVER, FALL VICTIM TO DRUGS EVERY YEAR, THAT WE EDUCATE THEM PROPERLY IN THE INEVITABLE RESULTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE - AND HERE I CONSCIOUSLY INCLUDE THE ABUSE OF LICIT SUBSTANCES LIKE ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO, ALONG WITH THE MISUSE OF THE ILLEGAL AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT WE NORMALLY THINK OF IN THIS CONTEXT."

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TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO INSIDER DEALING LAW PROPOSED
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A SHORT BILL WILL BE GAZETTED ON THURSDAY PROPOSING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) ORDINANCE.

THE BILL SEEKS TO CLARIFY THE DUTY OF OFFICERS OF A CORPORATION IN RELATION TO INSIDER DEALING BY THE CORPORATION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"AS THEY NOW STAND, SECTIONS 13, 16 AND 24 OF THE ORDINANCE, TAKEN TOGETHER, IMPOSE A BLANKET REQUIREMENT THAT COMPANIES' OFFICERS MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR COMPANIES DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY 'INSIDER DEALING'. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE ORDINANCE MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN 'INSIDER DEALER' AND 'INSIDER DEALING', A DIFFICULTY ARISES," HE EXPLAINED.

"TO BE AN 'INSIDER DEALER' IS, IN EVERY CASE, CULPABLE. BUT A PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN CONDUCT WHICH IS, BY DEFINITION, 'INSIDER DEALING' MAY, IF EXCUSED BY SECTION 10, NOT BE CULPABLE.

"THUS, AS PRESENTLY WORDED, THE PROVISIONS REQUIRE COMPANIES' OFFICERS TO PREVENT CONDUCT WHICH MAY, IF COVERED BY THE SECTION 10 EXEMPTIONS, NOT BE CULPABLE. THAT DOES NOT REFLECT THE INTENTION BEHIND THE LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN OFFICER IN TECHNICAL BREACH OF HIS DUTY WOULD IN REALITY RUN A RISK OF HAVING AN ORDER MADE BY THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL AGAINST HIM," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE DO ACCEPT THAT THE TERMS OF ANY STATUTORY DUTY SHOULD BE STATED UNAMBIGUOUSLY. OTHERWISE, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR COMPANIES' OFFICERS TO BE CERTAIN ABOUT THEIR DUTIES."

THE BILL PROPOSES THEREFORE TO AMEND SECTIONS 13 AND 24 TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE OFFICER'S DUTY IS TO PREVENT THE CORPORATION FROM PERPETRATING ANY ACT 'WHICH MIGHT CAUSE IT TO BE IDENTIFIED BY THE TRIBUNAL AS AN INSIDER DEALER'.

THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 1.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY PUBLISHED
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1991. THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84 - SEP. 85 = 100) FOR FEBRUARY 1991, AT 152.7 AND 151.9 RESPECTIVELY, WERE BOTH 11.9% HIGHER THAN IN FEBRUARY 1990.

THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE IN DECEMBER 1990 AND JANUARY 1991 WERE 11.3% AND 10.8% RESPECTIVELY FOR CPI(A) AND 11.1% AND 10.8% RESPECTIVELY FOR CPI(B).

THE FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN THE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1991 WERE PREDOMINANTLY DUE TO SIGNIFICANT PRICE INCREASES FOR SOME ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE WAS A RELATIVELY LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, AS THE CHINESE NEW YEAR IN 1990 TOOK PLACE IN JANUARY.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1991, AT 144.6 AND 144.1 RESPECTIVELY, WERE BOTH 10.1% HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1990.

TAKING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TOGETHER BOTH THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED BY 11.3% OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1990.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS, WHICH HAS THE LARGEST WEIGHTING IN THE INDEX, INCREASED BY 11.6% IN CPI(A) AND BY 12.0% IN CPI(B). FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN CPI(A) IN FEBRUARY 1991 WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES (16.2%), SERVICES (15.3%), FUEL AND LIGHT (15.1%), ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO FOR HOME CONSUMPTION (13.8%) AND HOUSING (13.2%).

THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE FOR THE SAME COMPONENTS IN THE CPI(B) WERE 16.9%, 14.4%, 14.5%, 14.2% AND 12.2% RESPECTIVELY. THESE SIX COMPONENTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 91% OF THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AND 89% OF THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(B).

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 2.0% AND THE CPI(B), BY 1.8%, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF FRESH FOOD ITEMS AND HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, AND HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 1991, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 1.0% PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50% AND 30%, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

/CHANGES IN

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1991 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1991 AND FEBRUARY 1990, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)
CPI(A) CPI(B)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR FEB. 91	% CHANGE OVER JAN. 91	% CHANGE OVER FEB. 90	INDEX FOR FEB. 91	% CHANGE OVER JAN. 91	% CHANGE OVER FEB. 90
FOODSTUFFS	155.7	+3.5	+11.6	157.9	+3.3	+12.0
HOUSING	143.2	+0.8	+13.2	136.7	+1.0	+12.2
FUEL AND LIGHT	116.1	-0.6	+15.1	115.3	-0.5	+14.5
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	164.4	+0.1	+13.8	165.9	+0.1	+14.2
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	146.7	-1.4	+7.1	149.2	-1.6	+8.0
DURABLE GOODS	129.2	+0.1	+5.2	127.7	+0.1	+5.1
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	147.8	+1.1	+7.5	147.3	+1.6	+7.4
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	163.3	+0.8	+16.2	163.5	+0.7	+16.9
SERVICES	176.6	+1.8	+15.3	175.0	+2.1	+14.4
ALL ITEMS	152.7	+2.0	+11.9	151.9	+1.8	+11.9

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 3.5% IN CPI(A) AND BY 3.3% IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT, SALT-WATER FISH, PORK, FRESH-WATER FISH, LIVE POULTRY, FRESH VEGETABLES, SHRIMPS AND CRABS AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, AND IN THE CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 0.8% IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.0% IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT DECREASED BY 0.6% IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.5% IN CPI(B) DUE TO THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT DECREASE IN THE PRICES OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AND KEROSENE AS WELL AS THE DOWNWARD FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT FOR TOWNGAS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY 1.4% IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.6% IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF LOWER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 1.1% IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.6% IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF FRESH FLOWERS AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASE IN THE PRICES OF GENUINE JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 0.8% IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.7% IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER FARES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR AND AN INCREASE IN AIR FARES.

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THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 1.8% IN CPI(A) AND BY 2.1% IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING AND PACKAGE TOURS AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR FEBRUARY 1991, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$7 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 805 6403.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 161.9 IN FEBRUARY 1991, UP BY 1.6% OVER JANUARY 1991 AND BY 12.8% OVER FEBRUARY 1990.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-\$24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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TAC BRIEFED ON CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS DURING MTR BREAKDOWN
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS BRIEFED TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS OF ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES DURING THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ON MARCH 11.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE MTRC IS CONDUCTING A FULL INTERNAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT AND IS EXPECTED TO FURNISH ITS REPORTS TO THE ADMINISTRATION UPON ITS COMPLETION.

THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT UPON NOTIFICATION OF THE INCIDENT AT 8 AM ON MARCH 11, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY ALERTED THE MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SERVICES.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES, THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION AS WELL AS THE TWO FERRY COMPANIES.

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THESE TRANSPORT OPERATORS, ABOUT 69,000 ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS WERE CARRIED DURING THE MORNING.

/THE TAC

THE TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TOTALLY EFFECTIVE TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION AS THE MAJOR DISRUPTION STARTED AT 7.40 AM DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS WHEN THE CAPACITY OF AVAILABLE BUSES AND FERRIES COULD NOT BY ANY MEANS ADDRESS THE SHEER VOLUME OF PASSENGERS DISPLACED BY THE MTR.

MOREOVER, MOST OF THE BUS AND FERRY FLEET HAD ALREADY DEPARTED THE DEPOTS/PIERS BY 7.40 AM AND SWIFT REDIRECTION OF BUSES TO THE AFFECTED MTR STATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE GIVEN THE HEAVY PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC.

THE TAC WAS TOLD THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE LIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

THE REVIEW RECOMMENDED, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE PROVISION OF PORTABLE TELEPHONES TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S DUTY OFFICERS TO FACILITATE A MORE EFFECTIVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION.

IN ADDITION, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN EMERGENCY TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION UNITS AND TO NOMINATE STAFF WITH SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EMERGENCIES.

THE REVIEW ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PERIODIC DRILLS BE CARRIED OUT TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EACH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATOR'S COMMUNICATION AND EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATION SYSTEM.

MEANWHILE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL WORK WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO STREAMLINE EXISTING EMERGENCY TRANSPORT PROCEDURES TO AVOID AMBIGUITIES AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC IS FULLY INFORMED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR STATUTORY DECLARATIONS

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM APRIL 2 FOR THE STATUTORY DECLARATION SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

STARTING FROM THAT DAY, THE CNTA WILL ONLY ADMINISTER STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS FOR "PRIVATE USE".

ALSO FROM THE SAME DAY, INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING THEIR OWN STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS FOR "OFFICIAL USE".

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD GO TO THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED DIRECT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF OFFICIAL STATUTORY DECLARATIONS.

"STATUTORY DECLARATIONS FOR OFFICIAL USE MEANS THOSE DOCUMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHILE NON-OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ARE THOSE REQUIRED BY NON-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES SUCH AS FOR EMPLOYMENT, EMIGRATION, EDUCATIONAL EXAMINATIONS AND CLAIMS OF LOSS OF DOCUMENT," A CNTA SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

AS FOR THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, HE SAID THEY AROSE FROM A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE OPERATED BY THE CNTA AND THE INCREASING NUMBER AND VARIETY OF OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS BEING ADMINISTERED AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESC'S).

AS A RESULT, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW AND REDUCE THEIR STATUTORY DECLARATION REQUIREMENTS AND TO ADMINISTER THE DECLARATIONS THEMSELVES FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE CNTA PESC'S AND CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SYSTEM (TEL. NO. 835 1501) WOULD HELP TO REFER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF OFFICIAL STATUTORY DECLARATIONS.

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FURTHER EXPANSION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE PLACES NECESSARY

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FURTHER EXPANSION WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL CARE PLACES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS IN SUBVENTED HOMES UP TO SOME 20,000 BY THE END OF THE DECADE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' CHAN HAN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CARTLAND POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPANSION WAS NECESSARILY TO KEEP PACE WITH THE GROWING ELDERLY POPULATION, WHICH WOULD CLOSE TO ONE MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000.

THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990S AND BEYOND PROPOSES THE PROVISION FOR AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 PLACES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED AND CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES BY 1995-96.

"WHILST IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL CARE PLACES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ONLY A COMPARATIVELY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE ELDERLY OVER 60, ABOUT THREE PER CENT, WILL ACTUALLY NEED RESIDENTIAL CARE OF ONE TYPE OR ANOTHER," MR CARTLAND SAID.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF ELDERLY PEOPLE CAN EXPECT TO REMAIN FIT AND ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY WITH THE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES.

THE SERVICES COMPRISED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND A FULL RANGE OF DIRECT SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELLING, HOME HELP AND RESPITE SERVICE, WHICH AIMED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND RELIEF TO THE FAMILIES CONCERNED AND TO GIVE DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO ELDERLY SINGLETONS, HE EXPLAINED.

/"IN PROVIDING

"IN PROVIDING THE WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES NEEDED FOR THE ELDERLY, THE GOVERNMENT WORKS HAND-IN-HAND WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS PUBLIC-SPIRITED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GROUP FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION IN PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES TO DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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FOUR WITHDRAWALS FOR UC/RC ELECTIONS

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FOUR WITHDRAWALS WERE RECEIVED TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL (UC) AND REGIONAL COUNCIL (RC) ELECTIONS IN MAY.

THESE WITHDRAWALS RESULTED IN THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES VYING FOR THE ELECTIONS REDUCING FROM 65 TO 61. THIRTY-SEVEN WERE FOR UC ELECTIONS AND 24 FOR THE RC ELECTIONS.

THE WITHDRAWALS WERE RECEIVED FROM:

PAK SUM, STEVEN (WONG TAI SIN NORTH)
 YEUNG CHIU-MING (WONG TAI SIN SOUTH)
 YEUNG SHUCK-CHUEN (TUEN MUN EAST)
 WONG KIN-HONG (TUEN MUN WEST)

CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTESTING IN 27 SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCIES - 15 IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND 12 IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA - ON THE ELECTION DAY ON MAY 5.

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS:

URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
-----	-----
1. CENTRAL AND WESTERN	2
2. WAN CHAI	2
3. NORTH POINT	3
4. SHAU KEI WAN	3
5. SOUTHERN	3
6. KOWLOON CITY WEST	2
7. KOWLOON CITY EAST	3
8. KWUN TONG WEST	3
9. KWUN TONG EAST	2
10. MONG KOK	3
11. SHAM SHUI PO EAST	2
12. SHAM SHUI PO WEST	2
13. WONG TAI SIN SOUTH	2
14. WONG TAI SIN NORTH	1
15. YAU TSIM	4

SUB-TOTAL:	37

/REGIONAL COUNCIL

REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1. ISLANDS	2
2. NORTH	1
3. SAI KUNG	2
4. SHA TIN EAST	3
5. SHA TIN WEST	2
6. TAI PO	2
7. TSUEN WAN	2
8. TUEN MUN EAST	2
9. TUEN MUN WEST	2
10. YUEN LONG	2
11. KWAI CHUNG EAST	2
12. KWAI CHUNG WEST AND TSING YI	2

	SUB-TOTAL: 24

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NEW MEDICAL CLINIC OPENS IN YUEN LONG
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THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN YUEN LONG WILL BE IMPROVED FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE MADAM YUNG FUNG SHEE HEALTH CENTRE TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE NEW CLINIC, LOCATED AT SAI CHING STREET IN YUEN LONG, IS NAMED AFTER THE LATE MADAM YUNG FUNG SHEE, IN APPRECIATION OF THE \$32.5 MILLION DONATION BY THE YUNG FUNG SHEE MEMORIAL CENTRE TRUST FUND FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR AND HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT, SAID THE MODERN HEALTH CENTRE MARKED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION IN IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

MR LAU PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT TO THE PILOT DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM (DHS) WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LATER IN THE YEAR.

HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT (GOPD) OF THE HEALTH CENTRE, INCLUDING THE MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM, THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM AND HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC DISEASES.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID THE MADAM YUNG FUNG SHEE HEALTH CENTRE WOULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FUTURE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN YUEN LONG.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS TO DEVELOP THE DHS IN A BID TO ENSURE A MORE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

"UNDER THE DHS," DR LEE SAID, "ALL THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES WITHIN A DISTRICT WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO A NETWORK AND PLANNED ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION."

HE STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MAKING THE DHS A SUCCESS.

"THE MOTTO OF THE DEPARTMENT IS PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH," DR LEE SAID.

"THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, THE HOSPITALS AND OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SERVICES AND STANDARDS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY."

REFERRING TO THE CENTRE'S GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT, THE DIRECTOR SAID IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S FIFTH GOAL TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORDS.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF SELF-CARE AND HEALTHY LIFE STYLE IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES WOULD HAVE A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH, AND THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ALL ILLNESSES.

"THESE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, NOW ONLY PROVIDED FOR PATIENTS WITH HYPERTENSION AND DIABETES, WILL BE EXTENDED TO PATIENTS WITH OTHER CHRONIC ILLNESSES IN THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN.

THE MADAM YUNG FUNG SHEE HEALTH CENTRE IS A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING. IT PROVIDES GENERAL OUT-PATIENT, FAMILY HEALTH, COMMUNITY NURSING, DENTAL AND OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES.

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SHEUNG SHUI FIRE STATION OPENS

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RESIDENTS OF SHEUNG SHUI WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) ASSURED OF BETTER PROTECTION AND SERVICES DURING FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCIES FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE SHEUNG SHUI FIRE STATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRE STATION AT JOCKEY CLUB ROAD (NEAR TSUI LAI GARDEN), THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR PETER CHEUNG, SAID: "IN ORDER TO KEEP PACE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA, A NEW STATION WAS COMPLETED LAST JUNE TO REPLACE THE OLD STATION TO PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE FIRE SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

"SHEUNG SHUI, WHICH USED TO BE A RURAL AREA IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, HAS BECOME A FLOURISHING NEW TOWN WITH NUMEROUS HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AND A SHARP INCREASE IN POPULATION.

"TODAY, IT COMPRISES ONE MARKET TOWN, THREE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THREE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ESTATES, ONE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AND 20 INDIGENOUS VILLAGES," MR CHEUNG SAID.

THE POPULATION OF SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE APPROACHING 100,000 WHEN SEVERAL LARGE PRIVATE ESTATES ARE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR.

MR CHEUNG SAID AS THERE WAS A VAST EXPANSE OF WOODLANDS IN THE AREA, HILLFIRES WERE COMMON IN WINTER.

"THE COMMISSIONING OF THIS NEW FIRE STATION HAS NOT ONLY MET THE PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS AND NEEDS IN THE 90'S, BUT HAS ALSO MARKED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHEUNG SHUI," HE SAID.

THE \$10.4 MILLION, FOUR-STOREY NEW FIRE STATION OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 2,016 SQUARE METRES, AND PROVIDES A LARGE SPACE FOR ACCOMMODATING SEVERAL MODERN FIRE APPLIANCES.

THE DRILL GROUND ALSO PROVIDES AMPLE SPACE FOR THE FIRE BRIDGAGES TO TAKE FIRE DRILLS DAILY TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFICIENCY.

LAST YEAR THE FIRE SERVICES RESPONDED TO 414 FIRE CALLS IN SHEUNG SHUI, THREE OF WHICH WERE NO. 3 ALARM FIRES; AND THE NUMBER OF CALLS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS RESCUING PEOPLE WHO WERE INJURED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS OR TRAPPED IN LIFTS, WAS 181.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, ALSO ATTENDED TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY.

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BUS FRANCHISE PARTICULARS TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL INVITE TENDERS AROUND MID-APRIL FOR THE FRANCHISE TO OPERATE A NEW BUS SERVICE PLYING BETWEEN CENTRAL DISTRICT AND MACDONNELL ROAD, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

AN ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL BE SET UP TO EVALUATE THE BUS ROUTE TENDERS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT TENDERERS WILL BE EXPECTED TO COMPETE ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE AND THE LEVEL AND STANDARD OF SERVICE PROPOSED.

BASED ON A SET OF ESTABLISHED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR MAKING A DECISION TO AWARD THE FRANCHISE TO THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER, HE ADDED.

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TENDER NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHORTLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR TO CHANGE THE CURRENT BUS FRANCHISE ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW FOR COMPETITIVE TENDERING.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FUNDS TO ORGANISE RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

THE ACTIVITIES SHOULD ENABLE THOSE AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 25 TO ACQUIRE SOME EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE WHILE HAVING FUN DURING THE TWO-MONTH VACATION.

A SUM OF \$431,200 WAS GRANTED LAST YEAR FOR LOCAL BODIES IN THE DISTRICT TO ORGANISE ABOUT 260 ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES, CAMPING AND SPORTS TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, SAI WAN HO.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARY OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, BEFORE APRIL 15.

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62 VMS RETURN TODAY

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A GROUP OF 62 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 24 MEN, 13 WOMEN, 15 BOYS AND 10 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 52TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BOUGHT TO 6,925 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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ONE MORE NOMINATION RECEIVED FOR SHUN LEE BY-ELECTION

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ONE NOMINATION FOR THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SHUN LEE CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION ON APRIL 21 WAS RECEIVED TODAY (TUESDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS TO FIVE.

THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE WHOSE NOMINATION FORM WAS RECEIVED TODAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
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HAU CHI-CHIU	M	36	ROOM ATTENDENT	344 1140 OR 111 0088 A/C 7888

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