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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL FIGURES FOR DECEMBER	1
COUNCIL SET UP TO MANAGE AIDS TRUST FUND	5
TWO BANK LICENCES GRANTED	6
JUDICIAL OFFICERS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL GAZETTED	7
OPERATION TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	7
BREAKTHROUGH IN BUILDING SAFETY CONCEPT	8
WAN CHAI BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS	9
SOCIAL WORKERS READY TO HELP NEEDY	10
RECREATION CLUB FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF	11
SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS PROJECT ON LANTAU	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS..	12

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1993

- 1 -

EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL FIGURES FOR DECEMBER

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CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT FIGURES SHOWED CONTINUED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

MEANWHILE, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED FURTHER.

THE FALL IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUING STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA.

VACANCIES IN MOST OF THE SERVICE SECTORS RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES IN DECEMBER 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES FELL FURTHER.

IN THE MONTH, EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO SHOW FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS STILL AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THESE SECTORS. THE REAL INCREASE WAS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THERE WERE 565,100 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1992, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 10.2% FROM DECEMBER 1991.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 914,800 IN DECEMBER 1992, WAS 4.9% HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1991.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 314,500, WAS UP BY 6.3%.

EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT 59,500, WAS 0.3% HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1991.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1992 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH COMPARISONS WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1991 AND SEPTEMBER 1992, ARE:

/PERSONS ENGAGED

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY -----	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	DEC 91 -----	SEPT 92 -----	DEC 92 -----	DEC 92 OVER DEC 91 -----	DEC 92 OVER SEPT 92 -----
MANUFACTURING	629,200	571,200	565,100	-10.2	-1.1
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	59,300	63,400	59,500	+ 0.3	-6.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	871,900	906,900	914,800	+ 4.9	+0.9
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	295,900	307,500	314,500	+6.3	+2.3

THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN DECEMBER 1992 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY ON THE RETAIL TRADE EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS.

THE TWO SURVEYS MENTIONED ABOVE ALSO PROVIDE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY DATA TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1991 AND SEPTEMBER 1992 ARE:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	DEC 91	SEPT 92	DEC 92	DEC 92 OVER DEC 91	DEC 92 OVER SEPT 92
MANUFACTURING	22,980	19,150	17,690	-23.0	- 7.6
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	560	550	480	-14.1	-11.9
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	30,230	32,130	33,550	+11.0	+ 4.4
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	8,180	9,060	8,830	+ 7.9	- 2.6

VACANCIES IN MOST MAJOR SERVICE SECTORS CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN DECEMBER 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES INCREASED BY 11.0% AND 7.9% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, VACANCIES FELL BY 23.0% AND 14.1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE DECEMBER 1992 NOMINAL INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS AND THE CORRESPONDING REAL INDICES (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES) ARE:

/NOMINAL INDEX

NOMINAL INDEX OF
PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED
(MARCH 1991 = 100) PERCENTAGE CHANGE

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	DEC 91	DEC 92	DEC 92 OVER DEC 91
----- MANUFACTURING	116.6	145.1	+24.4
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	129.2	143.2	+10.8
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	132.7	148.2	+11.7

REAL INDEX OF
PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED
(MARCH 1991 =100) PERCENTAGE CHANGE

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	DEC 91	DEC 92	DEC 92 OVER DEC 91
----- MANUFACTURING	110.4	125.6	+13.8
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	122.3	124.0	+ 1.4
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	125.7	128.3	+ 2.1

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1991 AND DECEMBER 1992, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS, AS MEASURED BY PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS.

AN INCREASE OF 24.4% WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE ISSUANCE OF BONUS SHORTLY BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH WAS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR BUT IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 10.8%.

FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 11.7%.

AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN DECEMBER 1991 AND DECEMBER 1992, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1992, AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN DECEMBER 1991, INCREASED BY 13.8% FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, 1.4% FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND 2.1% FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, DECEMBER 1992 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, DECEMBER 1992.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$14 A COPY AND \$9 A COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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COUNCIL SET UP TO MANAGE AIDS TRUST FUND

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED A COUNCIL TO ADVISE ON THE MANAGEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF A SPECIAL TRUST FUND ON AIDS.

THIS FOLLOWS THE APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON OF A SUM OF \$350 MILLION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND UNDER WHICH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INCORPORATED WILL BE THE TRUSTEE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE AIDS TRUST FUND IS PROFESSOR DAVID TODD, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE MS ANNA WU HUNG-YUK, A LAWYER AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR; PROFESSOR NELSON CHOW WING-SUN, PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; DR JAMES KUNG ZIANG-MIEN, A BANKER; A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY.

THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL TRUST FUND FOR AIDS WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST MONTH.

"THIS MANIFESTS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING SPEEDY ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH SAID.

THE \$350 MILLION WILL BE USED:

/* TO PROVIDE

- * TO PROVIDE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO HAEMOPHILIACS AND OTHERS INFECTED WITH HIV (HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS) THROUGH THE TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG PRIOR TO AUGUST 1985;
- * TO AUGMENT EXISTING MEDICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS; AND
- * TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE COMBAT AGAINST AIDS AND TO FURTHER EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DISEASE.

"THE COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NEXT TUESDAY (APRIL 20) TO DRAW UP THE CRITERIA AND MODUS OPERANDI FOR DISBURSEMENT. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE MEETING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FIRST COMPASSIONATE PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE BY JUNE," HE ADDED.

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TWO BANK LICENCES GRANTED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT WARDLEY LIMITED AND JARDINE FLEMING AND COMPANY LIMITED HAD EACH BEEN GRANTED A FULL BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS.

"WARDLEY AND JARDINE FLEMING WERE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG IN MAY 1972 AND JANUARY 1970 RESPECTIVELY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BOTH OF THE COMPANIES WERE PREVIOUSLY OPERATING AS RESTRICTED LICENSED BANKS. THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FULLY MEET THE EXISTING CRITERIA FOR THE GRANT OF A BANKING LICENCE."

HE SAID THE LICENCES FOR WARDLEY AND JARDINE FLEMING WERE THE FIRST TWO BANKING LICENCES GRANTED THIS YEAR.

THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG TO 166.

"THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS IN EXPANDING THEIR BUSINESS IN THE TERRITORY IS A REFLECTION OF HONG KONG'S ATTRACTION AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE," HE ADDED.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1993

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JUDICIAL OFFICERS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL GAZETTED

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THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO REPLACE EXISTING PROCEDURES IN THE COLONIAL REGULATIONS FOR DISCIPLINE OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS OTHER THAN JUDGES, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

JUDICIAL OFFICERS COVERED BY THE BILL INCLUDE THE REGISTRAR, DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT, MAGISTRATES, PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, MEMBERS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, ADJUDICATORS OF THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL AND CORONERS.

"THESE JUDICIAL OFFICERS, ALONG WITH OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS, ARE AT PRESENT SUBJECT TO THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES IN THE COLONIAL REGULATIONS. A JUDICIAL OFFICER MAY BE REMOVED FOR MISCONDUCT FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THE PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

HE SAID TO UNDERLINE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE JUDICIAL OFFICERS, IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT SEPARATE PROVISIONS FOR THEIR DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL SHOULD BE EMBODIED IN LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE, RATHER THAN IN THE COLONIAL REGULATIONS.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 28.

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OPERATION TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TWO-DAY OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 130 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE 124 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

THE OTHER SIX PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 14) AND ENDED AT 5 AM YESTERDAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 9,982 PERSONS AND 1,292 VEHICLES WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,211 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 7,003 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

FOURTEEN ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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BREAKTHROUGH IN BUILDING SAFETY CONCEPT

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THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ENDEAVOUR IN EDUCATING PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY TO MAINTAIN THEIR BUILDINGS, THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, MR DARWIN CHEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID THE BREAKTHROUGH WAS SHOWN IN THE WAY THE PUBLIC RESPONDED TO ALL THE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS MOUNTED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, MR CHEN SAID DURING THE 18-MONTH "OPERATION APPENDAGES" AGAINST ILLEGAL EXTERNAL STRUCTURES IN 30 TARGETED BUILDINGS WHICH ENDED LAST YEAR, 97.5 PER CENT OF THE 3,825 ORDERS ISSUED FOR THE REMOVAL OF 5,825 APPENDAGES WERE COMPLIED WITH.

THIS EXERCISE WAS SUCH A SUCCESS THAT IT WAS THEN EXTENDED UNDER THE NAME "OPERATION CATHERINE WHEEL", HE SAID.

IN THE OPERATION, ADVISORY LETTERS INSTEAD OF STATUTORY ORDERS WERE ISSUED TO OWNERS OF BUILDINGS IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS, URGING THEM TO REMOVE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

"THE OPERATION WAS AGAIN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. OUT OF THE 6,800 ADVISORY LETTERS ISSUED, 55 PER CENT OF THEM RESULTED IN VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE.

"THIS HAS SAVED US BOTH TIME AND RESOURCES IN MAKING OWNERSHIP CHECKS AND SERVING STATUTORY ORDERS," HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID A SIMILAR OPERATION, CODE-NAMED "ROLLING STONE", WOULD BE LAUNCHED NEXT MONTH.

TURNING TO THE NEWLY AMENDED LEGISLATION THAT EMPOWERS THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE PROPERTY OWNERS TO APPOINT AN AUTHORISED PERSON TO INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED DEFECTIVE BUILDINGS, MR CHEN SAID A PILOT SCHEME USING THESE NEW POWERS WAS UNDER WAY IN SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL AREAS, NAMELY TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG, YAU TONG AND KWUN TONG.

"THIS NEW LEGISLATION WAS FOUND NECESSARY BECAUSE IT MAY WELL BE TOO LATE TO TAKE ACTION IF DEFECTS ARE DISCOVERED AT A VERY LATE STAGE, AND THE DETERIORATION MAY CAUSE REAL DANGER TO BOTH OCCUPANTS AND PASSERS-BY," HE SAID.

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WAN CHAI BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED A SIX-STOREY BUILDING AT 139 THOMSON ROAD IN WAN CHAI TO BE DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SAID THE REINFORCED CONCRETE FRAMED BUILDING WAS SERVED BY A SINGLE STAIRCASE.

IT HAS A COCKLOFT FOR STORAGE PURPOSES WITH THE APPROVED ACCESS FROM THE GROUND FLOOR SHOP.

RECENT INSPECTION, MADE UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPLAINT, HAS REVEALED THAT AN UNAUTHORISED OPENING HAD BEEN FORMED IN THE STAIRCASE ENCLOSURE WALL AT COCKLOFT LEVEL.

IT HAS RESULTED IN A SEVEN-STOREY SINGLE STAIRCASE BUILDING IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE "CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE".

THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS OF THE UPPER FLOORS HAS BEEN AFFECTED.

THE APPROVED STAIRCASE TO THE COCKLOFT HAS ALSO BEEN REMOVED AND THE COCKLOFT IS NOW BEING USED FOR OFFICE PURPOSES.

AS THE UNAUTHORISED OPENING IS POSING AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO THE OCCUPANTS OF THE UPPER FLOORS, THE BUILDING HAS THEREFORE BEEN RENDERED DANGEROUS, AND SHOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL REINSTATEMENT WORKS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.

/THE OWNER

THE OWNER HAS BEEN ORDERED TO COMPLETE THE REINSTATEMENT WORKS BEFORE JUNE 11 THIS YEAR, OTHERWISE AN APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER WILL BE MADE BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 16 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

SOCIAL WORKERS READY TO HELP NEEDY

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WHENEVER THERE ARE ACCIDENTS COSTING LIVES OR BRINGING HARDSHIP TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, THE COMMUNITY CAN BE SURE THAT SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ALWAYS AROUND TO OFFER HELP AND SUPPORT, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

COMMENDING A GROUP OF FRONTLINE CASEWORKERS DEALING WITH EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, HE SAID THEIR WORK HAD PROVED INVALUABLE TO THE CLIENTS INVOLVED.

MR STRACHAN SAID SUCH WORK OFTEN WENT UNNOTICED IN THE COMMUNITY.

"WHETHER THESE INCIDENTS RESULT FROM MAJOR DISASTERS, VIOLENT CRIMES, INDUSTRIAL OR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THE QUICK RESPONSE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FROM CASEWORKERS WILL HELP THOSE IN NEED," HE SAID.

HE SAID SOCIAL WORKERS FROM FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES, MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK UNITS AND SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS ALIKE SHOWED THEIR PROFESSIONALISM BY INSTANTLY REACHING OUT TO THE NEEDY FAMILIES ONCE THEY LEARNT OF ANY MISHAP CASES.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OPERATES A NETWORK OF 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES WHILE THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL WELFARE SECTOR OPERATES A FURTHER 23 SUCH CENTRES WHICH ARE SUBVENTED TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING AND OTHER FORMS OF SERVICE.

THERE ARE 105 MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK UNITS IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS UNDER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY THERE ARE 32 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS TO SERVE THE NEEDY.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT FRONTLINE CASEWORKERS WOULD VISIT THE FAMILIES TO FURTHER IDENTIFY THEIR NEEDS.

THE PAYMENT OF BURIAL GRANT, IF REQUIRED, WOULD BE MADE IN JUST A MATTER OF DAYS TO HELP EASE THEIR FINANCIAL BURDEN, HE ADDED.

"SOCIAL WORKERS WILL ALSO ARRANGE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR OTHER FORMS OF CASH ASSISTANCE AND COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING IF IT IS NEEDED," HE SAID.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERS THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES PROMPT FINANCIAL HELP TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS.

"THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT ALSO OFFERS HELP AND COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES," MR STRACHAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT EMERGENCY RELIEF, IN THE FORM OF CASH GRANTS, FOOD AND DAILY NECESSITIES, WAS PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS.

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RECREATION CLUB FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RECREATION CLUB FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S RANK-AND-FILE STAFF AT BUTTERFLY VALLEY, LAI CHI KOK.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,380 SQUARE METRES, THE CLUB WILL INCLUDE A SWIMMING POOL AND A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING THAT HOUSES VARIOUS LEISURE FACILITIES LIKE A TENNIS COURT, SQUASH COURTS, SAUNA ROOMS, KARAOKE ROOMS AND A LIBRARY.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE FOR COMPLETION IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON MAY 7.

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SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS PROJECT ON LANTAU

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A TENDERER PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES AND WORKS ON NORTH LANTAU.

THE WORKS COMPRISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION IN TUNG CHUNG AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY TREATMENT AT SIU HO WAN ON NORTH LANTAU.

PUMPING STATIONS, SCREENING FACILITIES, ASSOCIATED PIPELINES, CHAMBERS, ROADS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS WILL BE BUILT.

THE CONTRACT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PUMPING AND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND ALL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES.

A NOTICE ABOUT THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THOSE ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST ONE IN GROUP C CONFIRMED FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS AND WATERWORKS OR ON LIST TWO CONFIRMED FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS AND WATERWORKS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FROM MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LTD, 12TH FLOOR, SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, 30 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE IS NOON ON JUNE 30.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MID-1994 AND TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,070
REVERSAL OF LAF	+80
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+650
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,800

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.4 *+0.0* 16.4.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.77 PCT	13 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.44	3.21
1 MONTH	2.78 PCT	16 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.32	3.38
3 MONTHS	2.82 PCT	19 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.72	3.52
6 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	22 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.85	3.73
12 MONTHS	3.25 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,864 MN

CLOSED 16 APRIL 1993

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