



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD BE APPOINTED ON MERIT

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THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SEE CIVIL SERVANTS CONTINUE TO BE APPOINTED ON MERIT AND DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE POLITICISATION OF ONE OF THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES IN THE WORLD, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE POST OFFICE, MR PATTEN SAID HE HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR LU PING, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WHEN HE MET HIM LAST AUTUMN.

"I'VE MENTIONED IT A COUPLE OF TIMES SUBSEQUENTLY IN CORRESPONDENCE. I THINK IT WOULD HELP THE SMOOTH TRANSITION OF HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO SMOOTH THAT PROCESS, WE'LL BE ONLY TOO KEEN TO DO WHICH IS WHY I'VE MADE THOSE POINTS TO DIRECTOR LU PING. BUT I AM SURE THAT WELL IN ADVANCE OF 1997, WE'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS."

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS, MR PATTEN SAID: "I'VE SAID BEFORE AND I REPEAT THAT IF THE TALKS WERE ENDED AND WE WERE MOVING AHEAD WITH OTHER LEGISLATION WE HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE COMMUNITY THE BACKGROUND TO THAT DECISION AND THE BACKGROUND TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED."

"WE ARE IN NO DIFFICULTY, IF AT A CERTAIN POINT IT IS DECIDED ON BOTH SIDES THAT IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT THE WAY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE SHAPED UP, I THINK PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD RECOGNISE THAT WE'VE BEEN FLEXIBLE AND SENSIBLE WITHOUT ABANDONING THE PRINCIPLES WHICH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG RIGHTLY FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT."

CLARIFYING CERTAIN POINTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED OLD AGE RETIREMENT SCHEME, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "FOR MANY OF US, THE PREFERRED OPTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO CONTINUE THE VOLUNTARY APPROACH WITH PEOPLE MAKING PROVISION FOR THEMSELVES.

"THAT'S WHAT 850,000 PEOPLE ALREADY DO BUT THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PRESS US FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.

"IF, WHEN IT'S LOOKED AT THAT THE COMMUNITY ISN'T INTERESTED AND WANTS TO GO BACK TO A VOLUNTARY APPROACH, THEN SO BE IT.

"BUT IF THE COMMUNITY WANTS MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HELPING THE RETIRED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE SUGGESTED IS THE BEST ONE AND IS MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THAT A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND IS THE BETTER WAY FORWARD."

MR PATTEN SAID A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD NOT DEAL WITH PROBLEMS TODAY WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BY INCREASES IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

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"A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD MEAN PEOPLE MAKING LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS, BOTH EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS, THAN WOULD BE THE CASE UNDER THE SORT OF PENSION PLAN THAT WE'VE PROPOSED," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"THEY'LL BE MAKING LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LOWER RETURNS AND THEY WOULDN'T ACTUALLY BE GETTING A PENSION FOR 20, 30, 40 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD.

"SO, A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD REPRESENT A ROTTEN BARGAIN FOR HONG KONG."

IF HONG KONG WAS GOING TO HAVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RETIREMENT PROTECTION, THEN THE SORT OF PENSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUGGESTED WAS THE RIGHT ONE, MR PATTEN REITERATED.

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GOVERNOR PRAISES POSTAL SERVICES
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED THE POST OFFICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE IN HUNG HOM.

IT WAS HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE POST OFFICE SINCE HE ASSUMED THE GOVERNORSHIP 17 MONTHS AGO.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, THE GOVERNOR WAS TAKEN ON A FAMILIARISATION TOUR OF THE DELIVERY AND SORTING SECTIONS OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN CENTRAL.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE IN HUNG HOM, HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATION OF OTHER MAJOR POSTAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING SORTING, DATE STAMPING AND SPEEDPOST SERVICES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE VISIT, MR PATTEN PRAISED THE POST OFFICE FOR DOING A SUPERB JOB FOR BOTH THE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMMUNITIES.

DESCRIBING IT AS ONE OF THE LEADING POST OFFICES IN THE WORLD, HE SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPEEDPOST AND THE WAY THE POST OFFICE WAS SETTING ABOUT IMPLEMENTING ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE.

"ONE CAN TAKE FOR GRANTED THOSE WHO DO A REALLY EXCELLENT JOB, BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR TO REMEMBER WHAT OUTSTANDING WORK THE POST OFFICE DOES, WHAT MARVELLOUS WORK OUR POSTMEN AND POSTWOMEN ARE DOING TO DEAL WITH ALL THE EXTRA LOAD OF WORK THAT THEY HAVE AT CHRISTMAS, THE NEW YEAR AND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR," HE ADDED.

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GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING POST OFFICE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE POST OFFICE ON DECEMBER 20, 1993:-

GOVERNOR: I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT THE POST OFFICE THIS MORNING WHICH DOES SUCH A SUPERB JOB FOR THE COMMUNITY HERE IN HONG KONG AND TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD. SOMETIMES, ONE CAN TAKE FOR GRANTED THOSE WHO DO A REALLY EXCELLENT JOB BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR TO REMEMBER WHAT OUTSTANDING WORK THE POST OFFICE DOES, WHAT MARVELLOUS WORK OUR POSTMEN AND NOW POSTWOMEN ARE DOING TO DEAL WITH ALL THE EXTRA LOAD OF WORK THAT THEY HAVE AT CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR AND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. I'VE BEEN INTERESTED TO SEE HOW MECHANISED THE OPERATION IS, HOW MUCH TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED. I GUESS WE ARE ONE OF THE LEADING POST OFFICES IN THE WORLD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPEEDPOST WHICH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR OUR BUSINESS AND COMMERCE AND THE WAY THE POST OFFICE IS SETTING ABOUT IMPLEMENTING ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES. SO I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE WORKING IN THE POST OFFICE WHO, AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR AND OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR, MAKE LIFE MORE AGREEABLE FOR US BY KEEPING US IN TOUCH WITH BUSINESS PARTNERS, RELATIONS AND FRIENDS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, THE PROPOSED DATES FOR THE 18TH ROUND OF TALKS HAVE ALREADY PASSED, NOW WILL THE BRITISH SIDE BE PROPOSING NEW DATES FOR THE 18TH ROUND?

GOVERNOR: WE'VE HAD A MESSAGE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PEKING REFERRING US TO WHAT THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THE OTHER DAY. BUT I THINK WE WANT A FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR TALKS. I SAID LAST WEEK AND I MEAN IT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK UNTIL THAT MOMENT WHEN WE'RE OBLIGED TO INTRODUCE THE SECOND STAGE OF OUR LEGISLATION OR, I SUPPOSE LITERALLY, YOU COULD CALL IT THE THIRD STAGE BECAUSE THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL WAS IN SOME CASES THE FIRST STAGE. WE THUS HAVE THE SECOND STAGE OF PARTIAL LEGISLATION. WE ARE KEEN TO TALK. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE COULD TALK RATHER THAN JUST LISTEN TO CRITICISM FROM THE OTHER SIDE. I AM SURE THAT IS WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO DO AND I THINK THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING VIEW ON THE PART OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THAT PARTIAL LEGISLATION SHOULDN'T STOP TALKS BUT SHOULD ENABLE TALKS TO GO ON.

QUESTION: SO YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE BRITISH SIDE WON'T PROPOSE A NEW DATE FOR THE 18TH ROUND UNTIL THE

GOVERNOR: NO. I WAS SAYING THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR TALKS AND I AM SURE THAT AT ANY STAGE WHEN THE CHINESE FELT IT'S CONVENIENT, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO PUT PEOPLE ON PLANES TO PEKING. THAT WAS WHAT WE'D DONE FOR 17 ROUNDS AND I AM SURE WE'LL DO IT FOR A FEW ROUNDS MORE. BUT I DON'T THINK ANYBODY THINKS THAT WE CAN MANAGE THE TIME FOR ANOTHER 17 ROUNDS.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE MESSAGE COME TO YOU, WHEN?

GOVERNOR: THE END OF LAST WEEK IN A TELEPHONE CALL.

QUESTION: WHY DO YOUTO SECURE SENIOR OFFICIALS TO CONTINUE SERVING THE SAR GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS WHY YOU SEND A LETTER TO LU PING EARLIER AND HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING BACK?

GOVERNOR: I'VE RAISED IT WITH MR LU PING ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. I RAISED IT FIRST OF ALL ORALLY WITH DIRECTOR LU PING WHEN I MET HIM IN PEKING LAST AUTUMN. I'VE MENTIONED IT A COUPLE OF TIMES SUBSEQUENTLY IN CORRESPONDENCE. I THINK IT WOULD HELP THE SMOOTH TRANSITION OF HONG KONG. WE WANT TO SEE CIVIL SERVANTS CONTINUE TO BE APPOINTED ON MERIT. WE DON'T WANT TO SEE THE POLITICISATION OF ONE OF THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES IN THE WORLD AND ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO SMOOTH THAT PROCESS, WE'LL BE ONLY TOO KEEN TO DO WHICH IS WHY I'VE MADE THOSE POINTS TO DIRECTOR LU PING. BUT I AM SURE THAT WELL IN ADVANCE OF 1997, WE'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHEN YOU ANNOUNCED THE RETIREMENT SCHEME, GOVERNMENT DID NOT SET OUT ABOUT THE DATE TO BE CARRIED OUT. SO, DO YOU THINK OR DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE PLAN IN A RUSH AND DO YOU WANT TO DELAY IT UNTIL 1997?

GOVERNOR: NO, I DON'T WANT TO DELAY IT. I PROMISED IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH IN OCTOBER THAT WE WOULD BE SETTING OUT OUR VIEWS ON THE WAY FORWARD AND BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DONE. BUT, IN DOING THAT WE'VE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THERE IS A LOT MORE WORK, A LOT MORE STUDY WHICH NEEDS TO BE DONE. WE WILL BE COMPLETING THAT AS SOON AS WE POSSIBLY CAN SO THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN MAKE ITS MIND UP. I WANT TO MAKE TWO OR THREE POINTS ABSOLUTELY PLAIN. FOR MANY OF US, THE PREFERRED OPTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO CONTINUE THE VOLUNTARY APPROACH WITH PEOPLE MAKING PROVISION FOR THEMSELVES. THAT'S WHAT 850 000 PEOPLE ALREADY DO BUT THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PRESS US FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH. IF, WHEN IT'S LOOKED AT THAT THE COMMUNITY ISN'T INTERESTED AND WANTS TO GO BACK TO A VOLUNTARY APPROACH, THEN SO BE IT. BUT IF THE COMMUNITY WANTS MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HELPING THE RETIRED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE SUGGESTED IS THE BEST ONE AND IS MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THAT A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND IS THE BETTER WAY FORWARD. A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD NOT DEAL WITH PROBLEMS TODAY. PROBLEMS TODAY WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BY INCREASES IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHICH IS WHAT SOME ADVOCATES OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SAY THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE. A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD MEAN PEOPLE MAKING LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS, BOTH EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS, THAN WOULD BE THE CASE UNDER THE SORT OF PENSION PLAN THAT WE'VE PROPOSED. THEY'LL BE MAKING LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LOWER RETURNS AND THEY WOULDN'T ACTUALLY BE GETTING A PENSION FOR 20, 30, 40 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD. SO, A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD REPRESENT A ROTTEN BARGAIN FOR HONG KONG. IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH, THEN THE SORT OF PENSION THAT WE'VE SUGGESTED IS THE RIGHT ONE. BUT IF THE COMMUNITY DOESN'T WANT THAT THEN, WE WILL HAVE TO STICK WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PHILOSOPHICALLY, MANY PEOPLE WOULD PREFER.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: GOVERNOR YOU GAVE A PRETTY GOOD RUN TO THE FINANCIAL TIME ON THE 17 ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT'S PROBABLY THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTS SO FAR. DON'T YOU THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO RECEIVE A FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING OF THOSE 17 ROUNDS AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT I SAID ANYTHING IN THAT INTERVIEW WHICH I HADN'T SAID ON A NUMBER OF OTHER OCCASIONS. THERE WERE SEVERAL CHINESE OFFICIALS, I THINK INCLUDING DIRECTOR LU PING AND MINISTER JIANG ENZHU, WHO COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH AS WELL AND THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF OTHER SOURCES WHICH THE JOURNALISTS DIDN'T QUESTION HAD USED. I'VE SAID BEFORE AND I REPEAT THAT IF THE TALKS WERE ENDED AND WE WERE MOVING AHEAD WITH OTHER LEGISLATION WE HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE COMMUNITY THE BACKGROUND TO THAT DECISION AND THE BACKGROUND TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WE ARE IN NO DIFFICULTY, IF AT A CERTAIN POINT IT IS DECIDED ON BOTH SIDES THAT IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT THE WAY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE SHAPED UP, I THINK PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD RECOGNISE THAT WE'VE BEEN FLEXIBLE AND SENSIBLE WITHOUT ABANDONING THE PRINCIPLES WHICH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG I THINK RIGHTLY FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT. SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS SINCE WE ARE USED TO LIVING IN AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU ASKING US QUESTIONS. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFICULTY IN BEING AS OPEN AS NECESSARY ABOUT THE 17 ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL SIR ROBIN MCLAREN RETURN TO BEIJING ?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T KNOW. HE'S BEEN RECEIVING TREATMENT. AS YOU KNOW HE HAD AN OPERATION ON HIS BACK. HE WAS IN VERY CONSIDERABLE PAIN DURING CERTAINLY THE LAST FEW ROUNDS OF TALKS AND SITTING ALL DAY IN A HARD BACK CHAIR IN A NEGOTIATING ROOM WASN'T, I THINK, PARTICULARLY GOOD FOR HIS BACK. SO HE WAS IN VERY CONSIDERABLE PAIN. I THINK SOME OF YOU WHO WERE UP IN PEKING COULD PROBABLY DETECT THAT FROM THE WAY HE WALKED AND SOME OF THE OTHER DIFFICULTIES, AS I SEE YOU NODDING. SO THE SOONER SIR ROBIN CAN RETURN TO HIS JOB, I AM SURE THE BETTER. THAT'S WHAT HE WOULD WANT TO DO. HE'S AN EXTREMELY HARDWORKING PUBLIC SERVANT AND I AM SURE HE'LL WANT TO BE BACK IN HARNESS WITH LADY MCLAREN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LAST QUESTION.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, DO YOU THINK HE WILL SEEK AN EARLY RETIREMENT, IS HE GOING TO RETIRE NEXT YEAR?

GOVERNOR: NO, I DON'T. I THINK THAT WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE A RETURN TO FULL HEALTH. HE HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM. HE'S A GREAT FRIEND OF HONG KONG. HE'S WORKED IN HONG KONG AND MUCH OF HIS PUBLIC CAREER HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO HONG KONG AS WELL AS TO BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. AND THE SOONER HE CAN GET BACK INTO HARNESS THE BETTER. HE'S AN EXCELLENT AMBASSADOR, A GREAT EXPERT ON THE BRITISH-CHINA RELATIONSHIP, AND AS I'VE SAID, A SERVANT OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT NEARLY ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE SAYING THAT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND AS WELL AS THE NEW SCHEME, OR ELSE THEY MAY NOT ACCEPT ONLY THE LATTER ONE?

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GOVERNOR: WELL, I'VE ANSWERED THE QUESTION ON THAT AND I'VE POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WOULD BE A ROTTEN BARGAIN FOR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG FOR THE REASONS THAT I MENTIONED IN MY EARLIER ANSWER.

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO NCNA COVERAGE... TO COMMENT THAT THE BRITISH SIDE WANTS TO BUILD THEIR OWN GROUP OF PEOPLE ?

GOVERNOR: I THINK LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO RESPOND TO EVERY PIECE OF PROPAGANDA FROM THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY. THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO IN LIFE WITHOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN THAT. ALL I WOULD SAY IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS NOT PEOPLE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OR PEOPLE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT GOING BEYOND 1997 BUT PEOPLE ELECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG GOING BEYOND 1997. THAT'S NOT EXTENDING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INFLUENCE, IT'S EXTENDING THE INFLUENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND I CAN'T THINK WHY ANYBODY SHOULD BE AGAINST THAT. ANYBODY WHO BELIEVES IN "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS"; ANYBODY WHO BELIEVES IN "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG"; ANYBODY WHO BELIEVES IN THE CONCEPT OF GIVING HONG KONG AS MUCH AUTONOMY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ARGUE AGAINST THE CONCEPT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CHOOSING THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUESTION: ANY CHRISTMAS WISH FOR US, GOVERNOR?

QUESTION: AND HOW ABOUT TAXING IT IS TO SEND 6,000 CHRISTMAS CARDS?

GOVERNOR: A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST - I TAKE IT YOU DON'T MEAN WHICH BOOKS AND CDS I WANT. I'VE ALREADY GIVEN A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE LIST OF THOSE TO MY WIFE AND FAMILY AND I HOPE THAT THEY'LL TAKE THE VERY BROAD HINT THAT I'VE DROP IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. I HOPE THAT IN THE NEW YEAR, WE SEE AN END TO SOME OF THE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS WHICH I THINK THE COMMUNITY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT WITH OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS. I HOPE THAT WE SEE PEOPLE, OFFICIALS IN PEKING, LEARNING TO TRUST HONG KONG, AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. HONG KONG HAS A HUGE AMOUNT TO CONTRIBUTE TO CHINA AS WELL AS MUCH TO GAIN FROM CHINA'S SUCCESS. HONG KONG IS 97% CHINESE AND IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE ORDINARY WORKERS OF HONG KONG SHOULD WANT TO MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF A PEACEFUL TRANSITION AND TO THE SUCCESS OF CHINA AFTER THAT. AND I THINK IT WOULD BE TOP OF MY WISH LIST AND TOP OF EVERYBODY'S WISH LIST IN HONG KONG THAT PEOPLE IN CHINA SHOULD RECOGNISE THAT, SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR OUR SUCCESS IN HONG KONG AND SHOULD TRUST US A BIT MORE THAN THEY DO. I THINK IF THAT HAPPEN WE'LL SEE AN END TO ALL THESE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS AND WE COULD JUST GET ON WITH CONTINUING TO BUILD ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD.

QUESTION: I WAS TOLD THAT YOU'VE SENT OUT 6,000 CHRISTMAS CARDS, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS ENVIRONMENTALLY INCORRECT?

GOVERNOR: IT DEPENDS A LITTLE BIT WHETHER PEOPLE RECYCLE THE ENVELOPS.

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT PLEDGES EFFICIENT AND COURTEOUS SERVICES

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER K S PUN, WHEN ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY).

THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES COVER FOUR MAIN SERVICES - GENERAL INFORMATION ON PLANNING MATTERS, INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT, PROCESSING OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND SERVICES RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON PLANNING MATTERS, TARGETS ARE SET TO ANSWER STRAIGHTFORWARD ENQUIRIES IMMEDIATELY ON THE SPOT OR ON THE PHONE, WHILE MORE COMPLICATED VERBAL ENQUIRIES WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCES WILL BE ANSWERED AT LEAST WITH AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 DAYS, AND FOR COMPLICATED CASES, WITHIN THREE WEEKS.

FOR PUBLIC REPORTS ON ALLEGED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT, SITE INSPECTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE A REPORT IS RECEIVED AND A REPLY WILL BE GIVEN WITHIN FOUR WEEKS.

DR PUN STRESSED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD STRIVE TO PROMPTLY PROCESS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FROM DEVELOPERS.

UPON RECEIVING A PROPOSAL, A WRITTEN REPLY WILL BE GIVEN WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

HOWEVER, A LONGER RESPONSE TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED IF THE PROPOSAL HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, HE NOTED.

"WE WILL FOLLOW THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE IN PREPARING STATUTORY PLANS AND PROCESSING PLANNING APPLICATIONS."

TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE SERVICES, APPLICANTS OR OBJECTORS WILL BE INFORMED IN WRITING OF THE BOARD'S DECISIONS WITHIN SEVEN WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF RELEVANT BOARD MEETINGS.

FOR STRAIGHTFORWARD CASES, VERBAL REPLIES CAN BE GIVEN AFTER THE BOARD MEETINGS UPON REQUEST, HE ADDED.

ON APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENTS TO A STATUTORY PLAN, DR PUN SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD SUBMIT A CASE TO THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

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IN THE CASE OF MINOR AMENDMENTS TO SCHEMES ALREADY APPROVED BY THE BOARD AND IF SUCH AMENDMENTS COULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING UNDER AUTHORITY DELEGATED BY THE BOARD, THE APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED WITHIN ONE MONTH UPON RECEIPT, AND A WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION WILL BE GIVEN WITHIN SEVEN WORKING DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF DECISION.

DR PUN SAID THE TARGET WAS TO ACHIEVE THESE STANDARDS IN 85 PER CENT OF CASES, AND THAT HE WOULD MONITOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND PUBLISH THE RESULTS ANNUALLY.

"WE WELCOME THE PUBLIC TO GIVE COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE WAY IN WHICH OUR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED," HE NOTED.

BILINGUAL LEAFLETS SETTING OUT THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE AT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND ITS DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION RAPIDLY TAKES SHAPE

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THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT IS RAPIDLY TAKING SHAPE.

ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE LAND HAVE SO FAR BEEN FORMED.

TO DATE, A TOTAL OF 19 CONTRACTS REQUIRED FOR THE WORKS HAVE BEEN LET WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT \$7.5 BILLION.

SIX OF THEM HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND 13 ARE UNDERWAY. TWO MORE CONTRACTS ARE DUE TO BE AWARDED NEXT YEAR.

"ALL THE WORKS ARE ON TIME AND PROGRESSING WELL," SAID THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR KEITH AUSTIN, TODAY (MONDAY) DURING A MEDIA VISIT TO THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION (SOUTHERN) WORK SITE.

MR AUSTIN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, ONE OF THE 10 PROJECTS ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, WOULD CREATE ABOUT 340 HECTARES OF LAND ALONG THE WEST KOWLOON WATERFRONT FROM YAU MA TEI TO LAI CHI KOK.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT IS DIVIDED INTO NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PORTIONS, USING CHERRY STREET AS THE WATERSHED.

TO THE SOUTH OF CHERRY STREET, WORKS ARE SPLIT INTO FIVE MAIN CONTRACTS AND ABOUT 65 PER CENT OF WORKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

TO THE NORTH OF CHERRY STREET, ABOUT 55 PER CENT OF THE WORKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

THE NEW YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER BECAME OPERATIONAL IN EARLY OCTOBER LAST YEAR. THE REPROVISIONED YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA STARTED OPERATIONS INSIDE THE NEW SHELTER ALONG WITH LAND ACCESS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

SUFFICIENT RECLAMATION WAS COMPLETED TO ALLOW THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY CONTRACTS TO START IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, BOTH IN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY ON SITE OFFICES, TEMPORARY ACCESS ROADS, PREPARATION OF THE CASTING YARD FOR THE NORTH SECTION OF THE EXPRESSWAY, EARTHWORK, GROUND IMPROVEMENT WORKS AND FOUNDATIONS.

LAND FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING LANDFALL WAS ALSO HANDED OVER IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR TO THE CONTRACTOR, WHO HAS CONSTRUCTED ITS SITE OFFICES AND MOBILISED CONSTRUCTION FORCES AFTER THE COMPLETION OF SITE CLEARANCE.

THE FIRST LAND FOR THE CAUSEWAY TO THE NEW CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET APPEARED ABOVE SEA LEVEL IN DECEMBER 1991.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARKET STARTED SEVERAL MONTHS LATER AND WAS COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, JUST 30 MONTHS FROM ITS INITIAL DESIGN.

"THIS PROBABLY MADE IT THE FASTEST BUILDING OF ITS SIZE AND COMPLEXITY TO HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN HONG KONG," ADDED MR AUSTIN.

ALSO IN SEPTEMBER, THE CHEUNG SHA WAN SHIPYARDS WERE MOVED TO THEIR NEW SITES AFTER 12 MONTHS OF CONSTRUCTION.

JUST A MONTH LATER, THE CHINA RESOURCES COMPANY PIER AND TRANSIT SHED WERE ALSO RELOCATED AND STARTED BUSINESS AT THE NEW SITE NEAR THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEX.

MR AUSTIN POINTED OUT THAT THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT ALSO INCLUDED DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE WORKS, WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN THE WEST KOWLOON HINTERLAND AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN THE AREA.

THREE OUT OF FOUR DRAINAGE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SO FAR, TOGETHER WITH THE FIRST SEWERAGE NETWORK PACKAGE WHICH HAS JUST STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1993, HE SAID.

EVERY EFFORT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO MINIMISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE RECLAMATION WORKS, SAID MR AUSTIN.

THESE INCLUDE THE USE OF QUIET PLANT AND NOISE BARRIERS, THE CONTROL OVER DUST IMPACT BY WATERING EXPOSED SITE AREAS, INCLUDING COVERING WITH BITUMEN SPRAY IN CRITICAL PLACES, AND THE USE OF WHEEL AND VEHICLE WASHING.

"WITH STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT LEGISLATION AND CLOSE SITE SUPERVISION, SUCH MITIGATION MEASURES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE NOISE AND DUST PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK," HE SAID.

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FURTHERMORE, AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICE WAS SET UP IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING AND AUDIT PROGRAMMES FOR ALL PROJECTS IN THE WEST KOWLOON PROJECT AREA.

"WITH THIS NEW OFFICE, ANY UNFORESEEN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS CAN BE EXAMINED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER, AND ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY."

THE OFFICE ALSO RESPONDS AND INVESTIGATES PUBLIC COMPLAINTS, AND ENSURES THROUGH THE PROJECT OFFICES THAT ANY REQUIRED REMEDIAL ACTION IS TAKEN, SAID MR AUSTIN.

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SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR PENG CHAU

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BUILDING WORKS FOR A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ON TAI LEI ISLAND NEAR PENG CHAU WILL BEGIN NEXT TUESDAY (DECEMBER 28).

THE WORKS WILL TAKE 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WILL SERVE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PENG CHAU RURAL HOUSING ESTATE WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN JUNE 1995.

THE \$20.6 MILLION WORKS CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR TSE HON-SUM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, EXCEL ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED.

THE PROJECT, FORMING PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PENG CHAU, ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION NEAR PENG CHAU FERRY PIER, ASSOCIATED TWIN-RISING MAINS AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

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FLAG DAYS IN 1994

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) HAS PERMITTED A TOTAL OF 47 ORGANISATIONS TO HOLD FUND-RAISING FLAG DAYS NEXT YEAR.

THE FLAG DAYS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAYS, STARTING FROM JANUARY 8.

A SWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD CALL THE DEPARTMENT ON A HOTLINE - 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ON TEL 866 8123 IN CASE OF DOUBTS.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO ORGANISERS TO ADOPT MEASURES AGAINST FRAUD.

/"SELLERS SHOULD

"SELLERS SHOULD DISPLAY THE PERMIT OR CARRY COPIES OF THE PERMIT FOR INSPECTION UPON REQUEST IF THEY CHOOSE TO MOVE AROUND TO RAISE FUND," HE ADDED.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ADVISED THEM TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, SETTING OUT THE PLACES AND THE TIME FOR SELLING, AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR FUND-COLLECTION BAGS.

ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND SEEK THEIR HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND, HE SAID.

"THE LAST FLAG DAY THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 22)," HE ADDED.

THE FLAG DAYS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE AS FOLLOW:

DATE		ORGANISATION
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JANUARY	8	HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION
	15	THE MARYKNOLL MEDICAL & WELFARE ASSOCIATION (OUR LADY OF MARYKNOLL HOSPITAL)
	22	UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL (UNITED CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SERVICE)
	29	POK OI HOSPITAL
FEBRUARY	5	THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY KOWLOON
	19	FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (CHARITY) LTD
	26	MONG KOK KAIFONG ASSOCIATION LTD
MARCH	5	HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND
	12	YAN OI TONG LTD
	19	YAN CHAI HOSPITAL
	26	HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN
APRIL	9	NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
	16	BREAKTHROUGH LTD
	23	NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE-ACTION COUNCIL
	30	STEWARDS CO, (HK) LTD
MAY	7	HONG KONG KIDNEY FOUNDATION LTD
	14	SUEN MEI SPEECH & HEARING CENTRE FOR THE DEAF
	21	CHAI WAN BAPTIST CHURCH
	28	SHENG KUNG HUI LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE
JUNE	4	HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION
	25	HONG KONG CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION

JULY	2	HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION LTD
	9	METHODIST CHURCH HONG KONG (METHODIST EPWORTH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE)
	16	HONG KONG RED CROSS
	23	THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION LTD
	30	HONG KONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED
AUGUST	6	CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE
	13	LUTHERAN CHURCH - HONG KONG SYNOD LTD
	20	ARTS WITH THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION HONG KONG
SEPTEMBER	3	HONG KONG COUNCIL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & SERVICES LTD
	10	HONG KONG MARROW MATCH FOUNDATION LTD
	17	THE SALVATION ARMY
	24	THE SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED
OCTOBER	1	TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS
	8	PO LEUNG KUK
	15	COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG
	22	BOYS' & GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
	29	THE CHESHIRE HOME HONG KONG
NOVEMBER	5	THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST & HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION
	12	THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
	19	HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED
	26	THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST OF HONG KONG LTD (HONG KONG OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL)
DECEMBER	3	HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH
	10	SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DISABLED CHILDREN (DUCHESS OF KENT HOSPITAL)
	17	HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL
	24	OXFAM HONG KONG LTD
	31	CHINESE RHENISH CHURCH - HONG KONG SYNOD

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NEW MINIBUS SERVES SHA TIN RESIDENTS

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A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 803 WILL COME INTO SERVICE FOR SHA TIN RESIDENTS FROM 7 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE ROUTE, TRAVELLING BETWEEN LEE ON AND HIN KENG VIA TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD AND CHE KUNG MIU ROAD, WILL BE OPERATIONAL BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY AT 18-MINUTE FREQUENCIES.

THE FARE IS \$5 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 70.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 415.693 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 341.975 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 58.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,569
REVERSAL OF LAF	+2,431
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+110
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	4,110
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.8 *+0.0* 20.12.93	

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.99 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.39	3.54
1 MONTH	3.06 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.01	3.78
3 MONTHS	3.04 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.08	3.98
6 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.00	4.19
12 MONTHS	3.44 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.95	4.65

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,365 MN

CLOSED 20 DECEMBER 1993

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