



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN AFTER VISITING SHA TIN DISTRICT ON APRIL 13, 1994:-

GOVERNOR : GOOD AFTERNOON. I'VE HAD SEVERAL PREVIOUS VISITS TO SHA TIN. MY FIRST VISIT TO SHA TIN WAS ON MY FIRST FULL DAY IN HONG KONG AS GOVERNOR. I'M PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME BACK AGAIN AND I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY FURTHER VISITS.

JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT I'D LIKE TO SAY. WHEN I SAW NEWSPAPER REPORTS THIS MORNING OF LAST WEEK'S EVENTS IN WHITEHEAD CAMP, I ASKED FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE FACTS, PARTICULARLY OF THE NUMBER OF TEAR GAS SHELLS THAT WE USED AND OF THE INJURIES THAT WERE CAUSED AS A RESULT OF THE EXERCISE AND THE SECURITY OPERATION WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT. AS A RESULT OF THAT AND OUR INSISTENCE THAT THERE SHOULD BE FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL THE FACTS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, A PRESS CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD I THINK LITERALLY AS I'M TALKING TO YOU AT WHICH ALL THE EVIDENCE AND ALL THE INFORMATION THAT'S BEEN COLLECTED AS A RESULT OF MY DEMAND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REVIEW WILL BE SET OUT. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN, NOT ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT, NOT ONLY TO THE PRESS, BUT TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, SO WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER ANY FURTHER ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN AND SO WE CAN CONSIDER HOW WE HANDLE CASES LIKE THIS IN THE BEST WAY IN THE FUTURE. SO ALL THAT INFORMATION, ALL THE INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN COLLECTED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION WHATSOEVER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE OF ANY COVER-UP OF THE SORT OF EVENTS WHICH HAPPENED AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES. SO THERE'S A PRESS CONFERENCE AS I SAY BEING HELD RIGHT AT THE MOMENT.

ONE OTHER THING I'D LIKE TO SAY. LATER ON THIS AFTERNOON, THE REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IS BEING PUBLISHED IN LONDON AND COPIES ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE HERE. IT IS NOT AS YOU KNOW A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT. IT'S THE RESULT OF A THOROUGH REVIEW BY A CROSS PARTY COMMITTEE OF EXPERT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THEY TOOK EVIDENCE FROM PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. THEY TOOK EVIDENCE FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS. THEY TOOK EVIDENCE FROM BRITISH OFFICIALS. THEY TOOK EVIDENCE FROM LAWYERS AND THEY TOOK EVIDENCE FROM MANY EXPERTS. THEIR REPORT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A VERY USEFUL DOCUMENT FOR ALL OF US TO STUDY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE REPORT GIVES SOLID AND COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH THAT WE HAVE TAKEN IN HONG KONG ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND IT HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE WILL WANT TO STUDY VERY CAREFULLY AND I'M SURE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL WANT TO CONSIDER THEM AS WELL. BUT IT IS OBVIOUSLY GOOD NEWS THAT SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH WE'VE TAKEN IS AS SOLID IN BRITAIN AS IT IS IN HONG KONG. I'M SURE THAT THAT WILL BE A CONSIDERATION WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL WANT TO BEAR IN MIND AS THEY CONSIDER THE LAST PART OF OUR LEGISLATION IN THE COMING WEEKS.

SO I REPEAT AGAIN ON WHITEHEAD THAT ALL THE INFORMATION MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE COMMUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHATEVER, REPEAT WHATEVER, THAT INFORMATION TELLS US.

/QUESTION:

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QUESTION : WHAT ABOUT THE MALAYSIAN ARM SALE SCANDAL ? DO YOU THINK
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GOVERNOR : WHAT MALAYSIAN ARM SALE SCANDAL ?

QUESTION : THE BRITISH....

GOVERNOR : THE MINISTER WHO TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FROM ME HAS GIVEN EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE. I VERY MUCH AGREE WITH EVERYTHING SHE SAID. I'M SURE IF THEY WANTED TO HAVE ME GIVE EVIDENCE, THEY'D ASK ME.

QUESTION : THE FAC REPORT GIVES SUPPORT TO SET UP A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THAT ? DO YOU SUPPORT IT ?

GOVERNOR : WE'LL WANT TO CONSIDER THAT PROPOSAL. IT'S A PROPOSAL AS YOU KNOW WHICH HAS BEEN MADE BY A NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS AS A DRAFT BILL WHICH ANNA WU IS AT PRESENT RECEIVING COMMENTS ON. SO WE'LL WANT TO CONSIDER THAT PROPOSAL VERY CAREFULLY. I THINK THERE ARE OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE ALSO MAKING THAT PROPOSAL. CLEARLY, THE INTRODUCTION OF BILL OF RIGHTS IN HONG KONG WAS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. I THINK THAT WHAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED IS THAT NEEDS GREATER INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO CONSIDER.

QUESTION : WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE ?

GOVERNOR : THE BEST WAY OF PRESERVING HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE IS BY STANDING UP WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SO FOR THE JOINT DECLARATION WHICH WAS A HISTORIC DOCUMENT, A TREATY LODGED AT THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH GUARANTEES HONG KONG'S FREEDOMS AND VALUES AND WAY OF LIFE 50 YEARS AFTER 1994. THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WILL BE MAKING A VERY LONG SPEECH ON THAT SUBJECT AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY TOMORROW.

QUESTION : COULD THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG IN THE LONG TERM ?

GOVERNOR : AS I'VE SAID JUST NOW, WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT PROPOSAL WHICH IS BEING PUT BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE AMONG OTHERS. BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW ANYBODY COULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE BILL OF RIGHTS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVENESS, IF THAT WAS REGARDED AS THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF SETTING UP A COMMISSION.

QUESTION: IS THE GOVERNMENT STANDING AT A WAY BACKWARD ON THE ISSUE OF NEW TERRITORIES LAND (EXEMPTION) BILL OR IS THE GOVERNMENT CHANGING ITS POSITION?

/GOVERNOR:

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GOVERNOR: NO, WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING, LIKE THE SENSIBLE GOVERNMENT IT IS, IS TRYING TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE VILLAGERS, AND ALL THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO OUR DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON THE POSITION OF WOMEN AND THE COMMUNITY IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS, SAYING THAT WE SHOULD CHANGE THE POSITION ON THE INHERITANCE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. SO WE ARE LOOKING AT THE MOMENT TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION. IT IS NOT A QUESTION IN THE PRESENT BILL OF TAKING AWAY THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENT BILL AS YOU KNOW, WAS TO DEAL WITH THE WORRIES THAT 340,000 PEOPLE IN THE URBAN AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE EXPERIENCING AS A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE TRADITIONAL INHERITANCE LAWS MIGHT AFFECT THEM. THE POSITION OF WOMEN IS ALSO AN ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION, AND GIVEN THAT 90% OF THOSE WHO REACTED TO OUR DISCUSSION PAPER TOOK THE VIEW THAT WOMEN'S POSITION SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT AS WELL. BUT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD THE BRIDGE, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS REALLY BEING DISCUSSED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BECAUSE I THINK SOME OF THE ANXIETIES ARE MISPLACED AND ARE BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS INTENDED.

QUESTION: ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT THE PREVIOUS POSITION IS UNREASONABLE?

GOVERNOR: WHAT I AM IMPLYING IS THAT AS THE 90% OF 1,100, 1,200 RESPONDENTS TO OUR GREEN PAPER SAID THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN RELATION TO INHERITANCE DOES IN OUR JUDGEMENT HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, JUDGING BY PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES AND THE POLLS AND SO ON, I DON'T THINK THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO THINK THAT THE POSITION CAN BE SIMPLY UNCHANGED. BUT WE DO WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN THOSE CHANGES IN A WAY WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD BY THE VILLAGERS, WHICH THEY RECOGNISE DOESN'T THREATEN ANY OF THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS OR TRADITIONAL CONCERNS.

QUESTION: THE FAC SUGGESTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GO ALONE ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES, IS THERE ANY DIFFICULTIES FOR YOU TO DO THAT?

GOVERNOR: NOT AT ALL. WE'VE PUT THREE PIECES OF LEGISLATION NOW TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. TWO HAVE BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE THIRD ONE IS AT PRESENT BEING CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THEY PASS THAT ONE TOO.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR YOU'VE SAID THAT THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE A COVER-UP NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. HAS THERE BEEN A COVER-UP SO FAR, AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT?

/GOVERNOR:

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GOVERNOR: NO, I THINK THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION THAT WAS PROVIDED EARLIER WAS QUITE SIMPLY WRONG. THE REASONS FOR THAT, I AM SURE ARE BEING EXPLORED EVEN IF WE SPEAK AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IN GOVERNMENT IS THAT WHEN IT LOOKS AS THOUGH INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IS INCORRECT, THEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOU REVIEW THE SITUATION AND YOU MAKE ABSOLUTELY PLAIN THAT ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. THIS IS AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH A FREE PRESS - THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE ARE STANDING UP FOR AND MUST CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR IN HONG KONG. AND IF OCCASIONALLY, AS A RESULT OF THAT, GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO ADMIT THEY MADE MISTAKES, THEN SO BE IT.

QUESTION: THE FAC REPORT SAYS THAT IT SUPPORTS YOUR APPROACH TOWARDS THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG. IT ALSO SAYS THAT IT COULD NOT PREVENT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FROM CHANGING THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE AFTER 1997, SO DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR POLITICAL REFORM WILL STILL GO BEYOND 1997 ?

GOVERNOR: AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANYONE SHOULD CHANGE THE PROPOSALS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO PUT IN PLACE AFTER 1997. THAT IS NOT TO DENY CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1997, NOR TO DENY THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD DO THINGS AFTER 1997, WHICH WOULD NOT, IN MY JUDGEMENT OR THE COMMUNITY'S JUDGEMENT, BE IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. BUT I REPEAT IN OUR VIEW THERE IS NO REASON WHY CHINESE OFFICIALS SHOULD MAKE THOSE CHANGES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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SOLID SUPPORT FOR HK APPROACH : GOVERNOR

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IT IS GOOD NEWS THAT SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS AS SOLID IN BRITAIN AS IT IS IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER VISITING SHA TIN DISTRICT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE REPORT BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GAVE SOLID AND COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN IN HONG KONG ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE REPORT WAS THE RESULT OF A THOROUGH REVIEW BY A CROSS PARTY COMMITTEE OF EXPERT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO HAD TAKEN EVIDENCE FROM PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, CHINESE AND BRITISH OFFICIALS, LAWYERS AND MANY EXPERTS.

"THEIR REPORT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A VERY USEFUL DOCUMENT FOR ALL OF US TO STUDY," HE SAID.

"IT HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE WILL WANT TO STUDY VERY CAREFULLY AND I'M SURE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL WANT TO CONSIDER THEM AS WELL."

/ON PRESS

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ON PRESS REPORTS OF LAST WEEK'S EVENTS IN WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN, NOT ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT, NOT ONLY TO THE PRESS, BUT TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, SO WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER ANY FURTHER ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN AND SO WE CAN CONSIDER HOW WE HANDLE CASES LIKE THIS IN THE BEST WAY IN THE FUTURE.

"SO ALL THAT INFORMATION, ALL THE INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN COLLECTED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

"THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION WHATSOEVER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE OF ANY COVER-UP OF THE SORT OF EVENTS WHICH HAPPENED AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES."

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GOVERNOR VISITS SHA TIN

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, VISITED SHA TIN DISTRICT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

HE TOURED THE SHA TIN PUBLIC SCHOOL - A SPECIAL INSTITUTION CATERING FOR MILDLY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

MR PATTEN THEN WENT TO TAI WAI - THE OLDEST VILLAGE IN SHA TIN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INHABITED SINCE 1574.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF YIU ON PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE BEFORE HE MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A RECEPTION.

MR PATTEN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW; THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID BROWNING; AND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOY KAN-PUI.

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STATEMENT ON WHITEHEAD OPERATION

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FOLLOWING IS A PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, ON THE OPERATION IN SECTION 7 OF WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE ON APRIL 7:

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 7, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WERE ASKED TO REMOVE APPROXIMATELY 1,500 PEOPLE FROM SECTION 7 OF WHITEHEAD, TO THE CAMP AT HIGH ISLAND. THIS WAS A VERY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX OPERATION.

IN CARRYING OUT THIS OPERATION, ONE OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS WAS THE SAFETY OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN SECTION 7 AND THE STAFF INVOLVED.

/WE HAVE

WE HAVE ISSUED TWO STATEMENTS ON THIS OPERATION; ONE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 7, AND THE OTHER YESTERDAY. WE BELIEVED THESE STATEMENTS TO BE CORRECT AT THE TIME THEY WERE MADE. HOWEVER, DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF OUR FIGURES AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IMMEDIATELY CARRIED OUT A REVIEW.

THERE HAS BEEN NO COVER UP; ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED, WE IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO CHECK WITH THE BRITISH RED CROSS WHO PROVIDED MOST OF THE DATA. THIS REVIEW REVEALED THAT, CONTRARY TO OUR ASSUMPTION, PEOPLE CONTINUED TO REPORT INJURIES TO THE BRITISH RED CROSS IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE OPERATION; OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY WAS, THEREFORE, INCORRECT.

WE NOW KNOW THAT 16 WERE TREATED AT WHITEHEAD BEFORE THEY WERE MOVED TO HIGH ISLAND OF WHOM ONE WAS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL FROM WHITEHEAD; SIX, WHO WERE TRANSFERRED TO CHI MA WAN, SOUGHT TREATMENT THERE. AS OF THIS MORNING, A TOTAL OF 213 PEOPLE HAD SOUGHT MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM THE BRITISH RED CROSS AT HIGH ISLAND, OF WHOM TWO WERE DETAINED IN HOSPITAL. A HANDFUL OF THESE PEOPLE SOUGHT TREATMENT ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. TODAY, ONLY TWO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL.

THERE HAVE BEEN SIX COMPLAINTS OF ASSAULT, WHICH ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE. TODAY, THE BRITISH RED CROSS INFORMED US THAT 10 OF THE 213 TREATED BY THEM AT HIGH ISLAND HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED OF ASSAULT; THESE WILL ALSO BE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION.

WE ACCEPT THAT OUR SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION WAS DEFICIENT. WE HAVE TAKEN IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RECTIFY IT.

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HIGH COURT AND DISTRICT JUDGES APPOINTED

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THE JUDICIARY ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A DISTRICT JUDGE, MR YAM YEE-KWAN, DAVID, HAD BEEN APPOINTED A HIGH COURT JUDGE, AND A PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE, MR DAVID MICHAEL BLANCHARD GILL, HAD BEEN APPOINTED A DISTRICT JUDGE.

BOTH APPOINTMENTS TOOK EFFECT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

JUDGE YAM WAS BORN IN CANTON IN OCTOBER 1948. HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE NEW METHOD COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WHERE HE OBTAINED A BSC IN 1971 AND AN LLB IN 1975.

AFTER FURTHER STUDY AT THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION, HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR BY MIDDLE TEMPLE IN ENGLAND IN 1976. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE WAS CALLED TO THE HONG KONG BAR AND IN 1986 ADMITTED AS A SOLICITOR AND BARRISTER IN VICTORIA.

JUDGE YAM THEN ENTERED PRIVATE PRACTICE IN HONG KONG WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT JUDGE IN OCTOBER 1987. JUDGE YAM HAD SAT AS A DEPUTY HIGH COURT JUDGE FOR LONG PERIODS SINCE JANUARY LAST YEAR.

/HE IS

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HE IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.

MR GILL WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1943 AND EDUCATED IN NEW ZEALAND WHERE HE ATTENDED AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY, OBTAINING HIS DEGREE IN 1966.

HE WAS ADMITTED AS BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND IN 1967. HE ENTERED PRIVATE PRACTICE IN 1968 AND JOINED THE HONG KONG JUDICIARY AS A MAGISTRATE IN 1985.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE IN 1990 AND HAD SAT AS A DEPUTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FOR LONG PERIODS SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER 1992.

MR GILL IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

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WATER SAFE FOR DRINKING

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IN RESPONSE TO RECENT PRESS REPORT, THAT DRINKING WATER IN HONG KONG CONTAINED HELICOBACTER PYLORI, A WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE WATER SUPPLIED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS TREATED BY COAGULATION, SEDIMENTATION, CORRECTION OF ACIDITY, FLUORIDATION AND ADDITION OF CHLORINE FOR DISINFECTION.

"THE TREATED WATER IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARD SET BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) CHEMICALLY AND BACTERIOLOGICALLY. SAMPLES OF WATER ARE TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS REGULARLY FROM TREATMENT WORKS, SERVICE RESERVOIRS AND CONSUMERS' TAPS." IN 1992/93, ALL WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM TREATMENT WORKS AND SERVICE RESERVOIRS WERE 100 PER CENT FREE FROM E COLI; 99.98 PER CENT OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM CONSUMERS' TAPS WERE FREE FROM E COLI.

"HENCE, THE CHANCE THAT CONSUMERS' WATER CERTAINS THAT PARTICULAR BACTERIA IS EXTREMELY REMOTE. THE WATER SUPPLIED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS HENCE SAFE FOR DRINKING."

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1994 RELEASED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

MAINLY AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, BOTH RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FELL MODERATELY IN FEBRUARY OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE.

/THE VALUE

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THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAIN DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL OF THE MAIN DESTINATIONS: CANADA (-17%), CHINA (-14%), JAPAN (-11%), THE NETHERLANDS (-8.5%), GERMANY (-5.4%), TAIWAN (-4.6%), MALAYSIA (-4.5%), THE UNITED STATES (-3.8%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-1.2%) AND SINGAPORE (-1.1%).

TAKING ALL DESTINATIONS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994, AT \$28,815 MILLION, DECREASED BY 8.1% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ALL PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$606 MILLION OR 21%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$479 MILLION OR 25%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$312 MILLION OR 13%); TEXTILES (BY \$303 MILLION OR 13%); CLOTHING (BY \$159 MILLION OR 1.7%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$140 MILLION OR 4.2%) AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING MAINLY OF JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$34 MILLION OR 1.3%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1994 WAS \$79,305 MILLION, DECREASING BY 4.3% OVER THAT IN FEBRUARY 1993.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAIN SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1994 WITH FEBRUARY 1993, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA (+18%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+4.8%), ITALY (+3.7%) AND SINGAPORE (+3.6%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM OTHER MAIN SUPPLIERS: TAIWAN (-16%), JAPAN (-15%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (-6.9%), THE UNITED STATES (-3.7%), GERMANY (-2.8%) AND CHINA (-1.2%).

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST OF THE MAIN SUPPLIERS INCREASED: MALAYSIA (+35%), ITALY (+23%), CHINA (+15%), SINGAPORE (+13%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+12%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+10%), TAIWAN (+3.8%), GERMANY (+2.9%) AND THE UNITED STATES (+2.9%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN DECREASED BY 2.0%.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994 WAS \$159,682 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 9.2% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$4,206 MILLION OR 38%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,715 MILLION OR 11%); CLOTHING (BY \$1,488 MILLION OR 13%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$1,124 MILLION OR 25%); TEXTILES (BY \$1,116 MILLION OR 8.7%) AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$684 MILLION OR 10%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$1,017 MILLION OR 14%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR FEBRUARY 1994 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY MAY.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/ TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE FEBRUARY 1994 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1994 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$86 A COPY AROUND APRIL 22.

THE REPORT CAN BE BOUGHT AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	18,745	- 16.2	41,033	+ 12.7
UNITED STATES	11,949	+ 5.9	26,118	+ 19.4
JAPAN	3,525	+ 16.1	7,352	+ 25.9
GERMANY	3,174	+ 5.7	6,750	+ 15.2
UNITED KINGDOM	1,887	+ 20.7	3,973	+ 30.3
TAIWAN	1,594	- 18.2	3,135	- 9.0
SINGAPORE	1,248	- 9.4	2,751	+ 11.6
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,157	- 8.9	2,277	+ 9.0
NETHERLANDS	1,000	+ 17.5	2,066	+ 20.2
FRANCE	987	+ 5.0	2,057	+ 9.5

/TABEL 2 :

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,019	+ 19.9	14,663	+ 17.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,599	- 0.9	13,920	+ 8.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,590	+ 11.6	12,532	+ 48.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,979	- 1.4	10,498	+ 17.8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,361	- 16.8	9,504	+ 6.1
FOOTWEAR	4,029	+ 8.5	8,502	+ 18.8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,753	- 1.3	5,309	+ 19.4
ROAD VEHICLES	2,473	- 18.4	5,273	+ 8.0
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,253	*	4,909	+ 19.1
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,964	+ 25.3	4,334	+ 22.1

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.05%

/TABEL 3 :

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	3,236	- 38.5	7,374	- 14.4
UNITED STATES	3,417	- 9.9	7,350	- 3.8
GERMANY	920	- 2.7	1,876	- 5.4
SINGAPORE	826	- 7.5	1,694	- 1.1
UNITED KINGDOM	723	+ 1.7	1,462	- 1.2
JAPAN	651	- 24.4	1,365	- 11.2
TAIWAN	381	- 22.5	881	- 4.6
NETHERLANDS	329	- 3.8	681	- 8.5
CANADA	313	- 16.4	614	- 17.1
MALAYSIA	172	- 31.3	406	- 4.5

/TABLE 4 :

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,369	+ 4.9	9,242	- 1.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,594	- 12.7	3,151	- 4.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,199	- 20.3	2,577	- 1.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,062	- 36.1	2,295	- 20.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	997	- 31.0	2,096	- 13.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	873	- 30.3	1,984	- 13.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	609	- 51.0	1,448	- 24.8
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	318	- 20.9	643	- 5.8
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	266	- 0.4	474	- 3.2
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	216	- 22.1	459	- 5.4

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	26,952	- 1.2	59,707	+ 15.2
JAPAN	13,032	- 15.0	24,617	- 2.0
TAIWAN	6,304	- 15.7	13,372	+ 3.8
UNITED STATES	6,214	- 3.7	11,683	+ 2.9
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,610	- 6.9	7,336	+ 10.0
SINGAPORE	3,775	+ 3.6	7,150	+ 12.6
GERMANY	2,094	- 2.8	3,777	+ 2.9
UNITED KINGDOM	1,878	+ 4.8	3,472	+ 12.1
MALAYSIA	1,377	+ 18.1	2,811	+ 35.2
ITALY	1,399	+ 3.7	2,751	+ 22.6

/TABLE 6 :

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 94 OVER FEB 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 94 OVER JAN-FEB 93 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	8,710	+ 0.6	17,228	+ 11.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	6,818	+ 7.2	15,341	+ 37.8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,837	- 10.0	13,951	+ 8.7
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,306	+ 9.2	13,246	+ 12.7
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	5,014	- 10.1	10,530	+ 6.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,835	- 0.6	7,219	+ 10.5
FOOTWEAR	3,429	+ 7.5	7,152	+ 16.8
ROAD VEHICLES	4,104	- 8.3	6,495	- 13.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,608	- 10.3	5,680	+ 9.7
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	2,917	+ 4.2	5,594	+ 25.1

MARCH AIR QUALITY REPORT

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR LAST MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS FROM MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG. THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) WHICH COMPRISE ALL SIZES OF DUST PARTICLES, AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE THE RESPIRABLE FRACTION OF THE DUST.

ALL THESE POLLUTANTS CAN AFFECT RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION.

IN MARCH, THERE WERE NO EXCEEDANCES OF THE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES AT ANY OF THE THREE STATIONS AND LEVELS OF POLLUTANTS WERE RELATIVELY CONSTANT THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. AS USUAL, POLLUTANT LEVELS WERE HIGHER AT THE STREET LEVEL SITE OF MONG KOK THAN AT THE OTHER TWO ROOF-TOP SITES.

NITROGEN DIOXIDE LEVELS WERE HIGH AT MONG KOK FOR MOST OF THE MONTH. THE 24-HOUR AVERAGE WAS ABOVE 100UG/M³, TWO-THIRDS OF THE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUE, FOR 25 OUT OF THE 31 DAYS IN THE MONTH. ON MARCH 3, AMBIENT LEVELS EQUALLED THE LIMIT.

THESE HIGH DAILY VALUES PRODUCED A MONTHLY AVERAGE NO₂ CONCENTRATION THAT WAS THREE TIMES THE LEVEL RECORDED IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE LEVELS AT THE SITE WERE TWICE THE 1993 LEVEL BUT DUST LEVELS WERE ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER.

ROADWORKS NEAR THE SITE HAVE BEEN FINISHED AND THERE IS NOW AN INCREASED FLOW OF TRAFFIC. EXHAUST EMISSIONS FROM THIS EXTRA TRAFFIC ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE OBSERVED INCREASES.

AVERAGE DUST LEVELS AT CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG WERE 30-50 PER CENT GREATER THAN LAST YEAR. THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE RAINFALL WAS 50 PER CENT LESS THAN IN MARCH 1993.

/HENCE, THERE

HENCE, THERE HAS BEEN LESS WASHING OUT OF DUST FROM THE AIR BY FALLING RAIN DROPS AND MORE SURFACE DUST HAS BEEN AVAILABLE FOR BEING BLOWN INTO THE AIR.

THE GASES AND PARTICLES DESCRIBED ORIGINATE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. SO₂ IS MOSTLY PRODUCED WHEN FUELS THAT CONTAIN SULPHUR ARE BURNED.

NO₂ IS FORMED DURING COMBUSTION BY THE COMBINATION OF NITROGEN AND OXYGEN.

HOWEVER THE MAJORITY OF IT IS FORMED IN THE ATMOSPHERE BY THE OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO), ALSO A PRODUCT OF COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUSTS ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF NITRIC OXIDE AND NO₂ IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY.

THESE EXHAUSTS ARE ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER RESPIRABLE PARTICLES.

OTHER SOURCES OF PARTICLES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNANCES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND THE SOIL.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WHILST THE WEATHER AND CLIMATE ALWAYS AFFECT THE CONCENTRATIONS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR, THE ONLY SURE WAY OF REDUCING THE LEVELS IS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THE MAN-MADE SOURCES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS AIR QUALITY REPORT AND OTHER AIR QUALITY ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR RAYMOND LEUNG ON TEL 594 6401.

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EMPLOYMENT IMPORTANT FOR THE DISABLED

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EMPLOYMENT IS THE BEST WAY FOR THE DISABLED TO INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE EXPANSION OF HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND'S HEALTH MASSAGE AND TREATMENT CENTRE FOR THE BLIND IN SHAM SHUI PO, MRS FOK SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD WORKED VERY HARD IN EXPANDING THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DISABLED THROUGH ITS SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE AND THE RESULT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING.

"TAKE 1993 AS AN ILLUSTRATION, 1,340 DISABLED SECURED OPEN EMPLOYMENT JOBS THROUGH THE SERVICE," SHE SAID.

/"THEY INCLUDED

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"THEY INCLUDED 48 VISUALLY IMPAIRED WHO WERE PLACED IN JOBS SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS, TRANSLATORS, ACCOUNTS CLERKS, RECEPTIONISTS AND MASSEURS.

"THIS REFLECTED THAT THE DISABLED COULD PERFORM EQUALLY WELL IF THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH THE APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES," SHE ADDED.

MRS FOK NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS, IN FACT, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

SHE SAID THE FIRST SUMMIT MEETING ON OPEN EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS, CHAIRED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HELD IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO WIDEN THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER ALSO PRAISED THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND IN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENHANCING THE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE BLIND.

"THE EXPANSION OF THE HEALTH MASSAGE AND TREATMENT CENTRE MARKED THE CREATION OF NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED," MRS FOK SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT TODAY'S CEREMONY HAD ANOTHER SPECIAL MEANING.

"THE MESSAGE TRAINING PROFESSION IN HONG KONG IS DEVELOPED JOINTLY BY EFFORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS IN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

"THE CHINA DISABLED PERSONS' FEDERATION IS INSTRUMENTAL IN PROVIDING THE TEACHING RESOURCES FOR THE FIRST ACUPRESSURE AND MASSAGE TRAINING CLASSES FOR THE BLIND IN 1989.

"BLIND MESSAGE HAS BEEN MUCH BETTER ACCEPTED AFTER THE FIRST GROUP OF LOCALLY TRAINED MASSEURS STARTED THE PROFESSION IN HONG KONG.

"THIS IS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW CHINA AND HONG KONG CAN BOTH ENHANCE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DISABLED.

"I WISH WE CAN HAVE MORE SUCH COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE," SHE ADDED.

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TEACHERS LEARN MORE ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION

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MORE THAN 200 TEACHERS, MOSTLY IN THE BIOLOGY DISCIPLINE, ARE EXPECTED TO GET A MORE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES AFTER ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON THE SUBJECT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SEMINAR WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM.

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AN AFD SPOKESMAN SAID THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR WAS TO ENHANCE TEACHERS' AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING ON THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "IT IS HOPED THAT STUDENTS WOULD PLAY A MORE CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE TERRITORY'S ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION EFFORTS AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY THEIR TEACHERS ON THE SUBJECT."

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AFD AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN PARTICULAR, HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY CARRYING OUT THE ENFORCEMENT WORK IN RELATION TO THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, CAP. 187.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES WITH A VIEW TO MAKING HONG KONG A TERRITORY WHICH STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES).

AT TODAY'S SEMINAR, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (HONG KONG), MR DAVID MELVILLE, AND A SENIOR LECTURER OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR PAUL BUT, SPOKE ON THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS AND PLANTS RESPECTIVELY. AFD'S CONSERVATION OFFICER DR SO PING-MAN GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE TERRITORY.

OTHER ITEMS IN THE PACKAGE INCLUDED THE BROADCAST OF A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST (TVAPI), THE DISPLAY OF POSTERS AT KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATIONS, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF STICKERS TO MEDICINAL RETAIL SHOPS REMINDING THEM NOT TO SELL ENDANGERED ITEMS.

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 15) IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED PERSONS.

"ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION (SPD), THE EXHIBITION FORMS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED AND CLARIFYING PUBLIC MISCONCEPTIONS TOWARDS THEM," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT) MRS JENNIE CHOR SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE EXHIBITION WILL INCLUDE VIDEO SHOWS AND THE DISPLAY OF 18 EXHIBITION BOARDS INTRODUCING THE VARIOUS DISABILITIES, THE WORK DISABLED EMPLOYEES ARE PERFORMING AND THE FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE DISABLED AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS BEING OFFERED BY THE SPD.

/AN ENQUIRY

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AN ENQUIRY COUNTER WILL BE SET UP AT THE VENUE TO ANSWER PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS INTRODUCING THE WORK OF THE SPD.

"FOR THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO WISH TO RECRUIT DISABLED WORKERS, THEY CAN GIVE DETAILS OF THEIR VACANCIES TO THE STAFF ON-THE-SPOT," MRS CHOR SAID.

"DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS CAN ALSO REGISTER AT THE COUNTER," SHE SAID.

"SPD'S STAFF WILL ARRANGE INTERVIEWS FOR BOTH PARTIES AFTERWARDS," SHE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, TO BE HELD IN THE MAIN CONCOURSE, VENUE B, NEW WORLD CENTRE, 20 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON APRIL 15, 16 AND 17.

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YUEN LONG LOT TO LET

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LOT IN YUEN LONG.

THE 4,205-SQUARE-METRE LOT, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI YUK ROAD AND MA TIN ROAD, IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR 18 MONTHS, AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 29.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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REMOVAL OF WEST KOWLOON OFFICE

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ITS WEST KOWLOON OFFICE, CURRENTLY SITUATED AT GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR, SUMMIT INSURANCE BUILDING, 789 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, WILL BE CLOSED ON COMPLETION OF ITS SERVICE IN THE AFTERNOON OF SATURDAY (APRIL 16) AND MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

MEZZANINE FLOOR, YAUMATEI CARPARK BUILDING,
250 SHANGHAI STREET,
KOWLOON.

/THE NEW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1994

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THE NEW OFFICE WILL COMMENCE SERVICE NEXT MONDAY (APRIL 18)
AND THE OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	9 AM TO 12.45 NOON
	2 PM TO 4.30 PM
SATURDAY	9 PM TO 12.30 NOON
SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	CLOSED

FOR ENQUIRY, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111, A
SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,455	0930	+349
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,755	1000	+349
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+340
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+340	1200	+340
LAF TODAY	-40	1500	+340
		1600	+340

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.4 *+0.0* 13.4.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.72	17 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.78	4.85
1 MONTH	2.97	20 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.64	5.10
3 MONTHS	3.54	23 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.46	5.35
6 MONTHS	3.85	31 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.25	5.89
12 MONTHS	4.38	34 MONTHS	3701	4.60	96.52	6.06

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 25,004 MN

CLOSED 13 APRIL 1994

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