



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR WANTS CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE	1
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO "STOP ORDERS" PROCEDURES	2
BILL TO HELP CUSTOMS HANDLE SEIZED GOODS	3
BILL TO TIDY UP HEALTH-RELATED ORDINANCES	3
THIRD QUARTER BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED	5
FOREIGN BANKS SHOW CONTINUING INTEREST IN HK MARKET	8
CHINESE OFFICIALS TO VISIT HK	8
AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMENDED	9
SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS AND WASTES URGED	10
RECLAMATION FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY RESERVE AT TSING CHAU WAN ...	11
FIRE SERVICES AIMS FOR IMPROVEMENT	12
FIVE STAMP ISSUES IN 1993	13
CLOSURE OF SAU LAI STREET IN SAU MAU PING	14
RESUMPTION AND REPAIR OF PATERSON STREET	15
REPLACEMENT OF PIPELINE IN HO CHUNG	15
RECLAMATION AND DREDGING IN TUEN MUN FOR STEELMILL	16
TTRA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS	17
TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL BEGINS TOMORROW IN WONG TAI SIN	18
SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLES IN MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS	19
ACROBATICS FINALE FOR WAN CHAI FESTIVAL	20
265 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME TODAY	20
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	21

GOVERNOR WANTS CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID ON THURSDAY (VANCOUVER TIME) THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE A "CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE" WITH PEKING BASED ON THE CRITERIA WHICH HE HAD LAID DOWN FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

HE SAID OFFICIALS IN PEKING "WHOLLY ACCEPT" THE CRITERIA. "THOSE YARDSTICKS ARE THAT THE ELECTIONS' ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE FAIR, SHOULD BE OPEN, AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

MR PATTEN TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT VANCOUVER HOTEL BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO OTTAWA FOR THE SECOND LEG OF HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT IN CANADA.

"THE ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID, "INCLUDES ACCEPTABILITY TO THE LEGISLATURE WHICH REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HAD PUT FORWARD HIS IDEAS ON THE 1995 ELECTIONS AS "PROPOSALS". "THEY WEREN'T SET IN CONCRETE AND I WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS, AND SEE DISCUSSED IN HONG KONG OTHER PROPOSALS AT THE END OF THE DAY."

"I STILL THINK THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE HELPFUL FOR PEOPLE TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS RATHER THAN JUST PUT FORWARD BLANKET CRITICISMS," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE SAID THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG "DESERVES TO BE ADDRESSED CONSTRUCTIVELY" -- "THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF PROPOSALS RATHER THAN THE EXCHANGE OF ADJECTIVES."

"WHAT I AM CONCERNED TO DO IS TO HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITHIN THE CRITERIA THAT I HAVE MENTIONED EARLIER," THE GOVERNOR SAID, "AND I THINK DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION IS THE BEST WAY OF PROCEEDING RATHER THAN ANY OTHER WAY."

"SO FAR THE ONLY PROPOSALS THAT ARE ON THE TABLE ARE THE ONES THAT I HAVE PUT ON THE TABLE, BUT IF OTHERS WANT TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS, I THINK THAT WILL BE WIDELY WELCOMED," HE SAID.

"HOW CAN YOU HAVE A DISCUSSION UNLESS THERE ARE PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE?"

"I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY OF SECURING POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN HONG KONG OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS TO RESIST EVERY MODEST AMBITION OF AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS, WELL EDUCATED PEOPLE, FOR A SLIGHTLY GREATER SHARE IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE," MR PATTEN CONCLUDED.

EARLIER IN THE DAY THE GOVERNOR MET THE PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE HON MICHAEL HARCOURT, AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE LINKS BETWEEN VANCOUVER AND HONG KONG, AND THE VIEWS THAT HE HAD PUT FORWARD ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE ALSO TOURED VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN, SUN YAT SEN GARDENS AND THE CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE, AND MET CHINESE COMMUNITY LEADERS AND A VISITING PO LEUNG KUK DELEGATION.

THE GOVERNOR AND HIS PARTY LEFT VANCOUVER FOR OTTAWA ABOARD A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT "CHALLENGER" AIRCRAFT ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HE IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE RT HON BRIAN MULRONEY, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, ON FRIDAY MORNING.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO "STOP ORDERS" PROCEDURES

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.5) BILL 1992 WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO ENSURE THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE (BOR) IS NOT INFRINGED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH A STOP ORDER CAN BE ISSUED TO PROHIBIT A PERSON WHO HAS NOT PAID ALL THE TAX ASSESSED UPON HIM FROM LEAVING HONG KONG," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE MAY ISSUE A CERTIFICATE TO A DISTRICT JUDGE IN RESPECT OF ANYONE HE BELIEVES IS LIKELY TO LEAVE HONG KONG WITHOUT PAYING ALL THE TAX ASSESSED UPON HIM.

THE DISTRICT JUDGE MUST THEN ISSUE THE "STOP ORDER" TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO PREVENT THE PERSON FROM LEAVING HONG KONG. HE HAS NO DISCRETION IN THIS MATTER.

UNDER THE BILL, THE COMMISSIONER WILL ISSUE THE "STOP ORDERS" DIRECTLY TO THE TAXPAYER.

THE TAXPAYER WILL HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME BOTH THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE ORDER TO BE REVOKED AND THE RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE BILL IS DESIGNED TO MINIMISE THE POSSIBILITY OF BOR-RELATED CHALLENGES TO THE "STOP ORDER" PROVISIONS OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE IN COURT.

AT THE SAME TIME IT STILL PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTING REVENUE BY DISCOURAGING TAXPAYERS FROM ABSCONDING FROM HONG KONG WITHOUT PAYING ALL TAX WHICH HAS BEEN ASSESSED UPON THEM, HE ADDED.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 25.

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BILL TO HELP CUSTOMS HANDLE SEIZED GOODS

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A BILL SEEKING TO REMOVE OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES FACING THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE FORFEITURE OF SEIZED GOODS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER TO DISPOSE OF SEIZED ARTICLES WHICH ARE PERISHABLE OR DIFFICULT TO STORE BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

"THIS WILL PRODUCE SAVINGS IN STORAGE SPACE AND COST," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO BROADENS THE CATEGORIES OF PERSON WHO CAN MAKE A CLAIM TO THE COMMISSIONER OR TO THE MAGISTRATE IN FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

"THIS WILL ENABLE ANYONE WITH A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE SEIZED GOODS TO COME FORWARD TO CLAIM THE GOODS," HE SAID.

IT NOW TAKES ON AVERAGE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO CONCLUDE CRIMINAL AND FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

THE AMENDMENTS WILL SHORTEN THIS PERIOD BY UP TO SIX MONTHS IN CERTAIN CASES.

"THE BILL WILL PRODUCE SAVINGS IN STAFF TIME AND STORAGE SPACE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE FAIRNESS OF THE SYSTEM TO THE PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 25.

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BILL TO TIDY UP HEALTH-RELATED ORDINANCES

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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO TIDY UP THE PROVISIONS IN VARIOUS HEALTH-RELATED ORDINANCES WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ENTITLED THE EXEMPTIONS FROM REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF POWERS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1992, IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS WHICH ARE CONSEQUENTIAL UPON THE SETTING UP OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

"THESE AMENDMENTS SEEK TO CONFORM WITH THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF EXEMPTING PUBLIC MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS FROM REGISTRATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS IS TO DELETE ALL REFERENCES TO A MEDICAL COMMITTEE FROM THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS ORDINANCE, AS THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS.

TO RELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM LESS IMPORTANT MATTERS, THE POWER OF MAKING REGULATIONS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE OR ROUTINE NATURE IN THREE OF THE ORDINANCES WILL ALSO BE TRANSFERRED TO EITHER THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE OR THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH.

THE BILL FURTHER PROPOSES TO REVISE THE LEVELS OF PENALTY IN THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE AND THE ANTIBIOTICS ORDINANCE.

THE LEVELS OF PENALTY UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1972 WHILE THOSE UNDER THE ANTIBIOTICS ORDINANCE SINCE 1986.

"TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION INFLATION OVER ALL THESE YEARS, THESE HAVE TO BE UPDATED TO ACHIEVE SUFFICIENT DETERRENT EFFECTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSED BILL, ANY PERSON WHO IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE WILL BE LIABLE TO AN IMPRISONMENT OF 12 MONTHS AND A FINE OF \$30,000, COMPARED WITH 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000 AS AT PRESENT.

THE FURTHER FINE OF \$1,000 FOR EVERY DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES SUBSEQUENT TO CONVICTION IS REPEALED.

AS TO THE SPECIFIC OFFENCE OF SELLING PART I (FIRST SCHEDULE) POISONS WITHOUT PROPER ENTRY IN A POISONS BOOK OR TO PERSON WHO IS NOT "FIT AND PROPER", THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS RAISED FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000.

SIMILARLY, PENALTY LEVELS UNDER THE ANTIBIOTICS ORDINANCE ARE ADJUSTED UPWARD.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS BY THOSE PERMITTED TO POSSESS OR CONTROL ANTIBIOTIC SUBSTANCES IS RAISED TO \$5,000.

THE SAME APPLIES TO THE OFFENCE OF INTERFERING WITH A PUBLIC OFFICER'S EXERCISE OF POWERS IN INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS A MAXIMUM OF 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT REMAINS, THE CEILING OF THE FINE FOR CONTRAVENTION CONCERNING THE SALE, SUPPLY AND POSSESSION OF ANTIBIOTIC SUBSTANCES IN GENERAL IS NOW \$30,000.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD PROCEDURES ARE ALSO MADE.

RATHER THAN APPOINTING A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE EVEN IN THE CASE OF A MINOR MISDEMEANOUR, THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD CAN EXERT ITS DISCRETIONARY POWER AS TO WHETHER SUCH A COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP.

THE ISSUE OF A WARNING LETTER IS ADOPTED AS AN ALTERNATE FORM OF PUNISHMENT FOR AN AUTHORISED SELLER OF POISONS AFTER ANY DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY.

THE DATES FOR THE VARIOUS FORMS OF PUNISHMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM EITHER AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE TIME LIMITED FOR AN APPEAL OR AFTER THE APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT IS DETERMINED OR WITHDRAWN.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 25.

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THIRD QUARTER BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER THIS YEAR, MAINLY BECAUSE OF A SEASONAL INCREASE IN ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS SALES.

LOOKING AHEAD, THEY EXPECT A SLIGHT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE MOST CITED BUSINESS PROBLEM BY MANUFACTURERS. SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND HIGH WAGE RATES WERE ALSO WIDELY REPORTED. MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPECT THESE PROBLEMS TO REMAIN IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND FAIRLY THE SAME CAPACITY UTILISATION AS WAS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, THESE MANUFACTURERS EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH RESPECTS IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER, AS THEY WOULD LIKELY MAKE USE OF THE QUOTA IN HAND BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

NEVERTHELESS, PRICE COMPETITION FROM SOUTHERN CHINA AND SOUTH EASTERN ASIAN COUNTRIES WOULD STILL BE KEEN.

WHILE THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT ORDERS AND KEEN PRICE COMPETITION WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY, MANUFACTURERS IN THE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED A MARGINALLY IMPROVED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND EXPECT THE SITUATION TO REMAIN THE SAME IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER, THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPECT A FURTHER SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH RESPECTS IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

WHILE KEEN PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE MOSTLY QUOTED PROBLEM, THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASING CONCERN OVER THE RISING LOCAL LABOUR COST AMONG THE MANUFACTURERS.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION FOR THE PRINTING INDUSTRY CONTINUED TO IMPROVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER, REFLECTING A CONTINUED BOOMING OF THE INDUSTRY.

THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED AN EXPECTED SEASONAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER IS NORMALLY QUIETER THAN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, MANUFACTURERS IN THE INDUSTRY GENERALLY EXPECT THAT THE IMPROVED SITUATION WILL REMAIN IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRY, THERE WAS A BETTER THAN EXPECTED IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION.

NEVERTHELESS, MANUFACTURERS IN THIS INDUSTRY WERE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTIES IN EXCHANGE RATES, IN THE LIGHT OF THE LARGE FLUCTUATIONS RECENTLY SEEN IN THE EXCHANGE RATES OF SOME MAJOR EUROPEAN CURRENCIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION REMAINED THE SAME IN THE THIRD QUARTER, WHILE THE UTILISATION OF CAPACITY IMPROVED SLIGHTLY.

LOOKING AHEAD, A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER IS EXPECTED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE CONCERN AMONG CONSTRUCTORS OVER LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION AND THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET.

AS REGARDS THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER AND A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER IS EXPECTED.

THIS IS MAINLY RELATED TO THE SEASONAL INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE YEAR.

KEEN PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH RENTALS REMAINED THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEM FOR THE TRADES, AND HIGH RENTALS FOR PREMISES CONTINUED TO BE ALSO WIDELY REPORTED BY RETAILERS.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION FOR RESTAURANT OPERATORS IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER AS BUSINESS STARTED TO PICK UP FROM A LOW SEASON IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE FURTHER DURING A HIGH SEASON OF THE FOURTH QUARTER. HIGH STAFF TURNOVER REMAINED THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEM FOR RESTAURANT OPERATORS.

HOTEL OPERATORS GENERALLY CLAIMED A DETERIORATION IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER, DESPITE A FAIRLY STABLE HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE.

NEVERTHELESS, SOME IMPROVEMENT IS EXPECTED FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER WHICH IS USUALLY A HIGH SEASON FOR TOURISM.

MOREOVER, THE EASING OFF OF THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AND SHORTAGE OF STAFF IS ALSO A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION FOR THE BANKING INDUSTRY REMAINED FAIRLY THE SAME AS IT WAS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, AND THE SAME SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

PRICE COMPETITION EMERGED AS THE TOP BUSINESS PROBLEM. ANOTHER PROBLEM REPORTED BY THE BANKS WAS THE RECENT FLUCTUATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE RATES OF CERTAIN MAJOR EUROPEAN CURRENCIES, THOUGH THE BANKS GENERALLY EXPECT THIS PROBLEM TO EASE OFF SOMEWHAT IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY.

THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, THIRD QUARTER 1992".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE GROUP.

THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDED WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY BUY COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$9 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3223.

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FOREIGN BANKS SHOW CONTINUING INTEREST IN HK MARKET

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT BANCO ESPANOL DE CREDITO, S.A. (BANESTO) HAD BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

BANESTO IS THE THIRD LARGEST BANK IN SPAIN AND RANKS 59TH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF THE BANKING LICENCE, THE BANK OPERATED A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN HONG KONG.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE WILL BE UPGRADED TO A BRANCH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET REFLECTED HONG KONG'S CONTINUED IMPORTANCE AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THE LICENCE FOR BANESTO IS THE FOURTH BANKING LICENCE GRANTED THIS YEAR.

THERE ARE NOW 163 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 133 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

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CHINESE OFFICIALS TO VISIT HK

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, A GROUP OF EIGHT CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM NOVEMBER 18 TO 27.

THE DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY MR WANG GUI SHENG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA).

IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE MEMBERS FROM THE MFA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF TIANJIN MUNICIPALITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY, AND GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE.

/THE VISIT

THE VISIT IS ONE IN A SERIES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THE AIM IS TO GIVE THE CHINESE OFFICIALS A FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT WORKS AND THE WAY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

THE OFFICIALS WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS, AS WELL AS POLICIES ON HOUSING, EDUCATION, IMMIGRATION, TRANSPORT, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

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AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMENDED

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TONIGHT (FRIDAY) PRAISED THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) FOR MAKING A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORMAL TIMES AND IN EMERGENCIES.

"YOU GIVE UP YOUR FREE TIME TO HELP. YOU DO SO WILLINGLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND YOU SET A FINE EXAMPLE TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT AN AMS OFFICERS' MESS DINNER, SIR DAVID SAID AMS WAS LOOKING FORWARD WITH THE REVIEW OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUXILIARY SERVICES.

"BUT WHATEVER ELSE THE REVIEW COMES UP WITH I HAVE NO DOUBT IT WILL CONTINUE TO SEE A CONTINUING AND IMPORTANT ROLE FROM THE AMS."

EARLIER, THE COMMISSIONER OF AMS, DR S H LEE, SAID A REVIEW SHOULD BE MADE ON THE AUXILIARY SERVICES' ROLE DURING EMERGENCIES, ACTIVITIES IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTIVE WORK TO COPE WITH THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1950.

"OVER ALL THESE YEARS MANY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE NATURE OF EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS AND THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF THE AMS," DR LEE SAID.

DR LEE ADDED THAT APART FROM PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROVIDING FIRST AID SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC AT COUNTRY PARKS, BEACHES AND OTHER PUBLIC FUNCTIONS, AMS ALSO HELPED IN THE OPERATION OF METHADONE CLINICS, LIFE GUARD DUTIES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES.

"THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE IN THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS DETENTION CENTRES IS ANOTHER MAJOR COMMITMENT OF THE AMS," DR LEE SAID.

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MEANWHILE, THE COMMISSIONER THANKED ALL AMS VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION, EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THEIR CARING ATTITUDE HAS AGAIN BEEN EXEMPLIFIED RECENTLY IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGAN DONATION CAMPAIGN WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS," DR LEE SAID.

HE SAID A NEW RADIO COMMUNICATION NETWORK COVERING 80 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WAS SET UP DURING THE YEAR TO MODERNISE THE AMS FACILITIES AND TO MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT AND HIGH QUALITY SERVICE.

THIS WAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY THE OPENING OF THE NEW AMS HEADQUARTERS LAST YEAR WHICH PROVIDED THE MUCH-NEEDED TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE AMS.

DR LEE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ALL AMS VOLUNTEERS WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH LOYALTY, DEDICATION AND DEVOTION.

"IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WE LOOK FORWARD TO FULFILLING OUR ROLES IN PROVIDING MEDICAL CIVIL DEFENCE COVERAGE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

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SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS AND WASTES URGED

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MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND USERS OF CHEMICALS, AND MANAGERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH ARE URGED TO DEVISE AND ADOPT A WASTE SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TO PROTECT WORKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST HAZARDS ARISING FROM CHEMICALS AND THEIR WASTES.

SPEAKING AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT - SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE VICTORIA HOTEL, LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR KWAN PING-KWUN SAID LOCAL INDUSTRY PRODUCED A LARGE QUANTITY OF POLLUTANTS, INCLUDING CHEMICAL WASTES, EVERY YEAR.

MR KWAN SAID THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS SPELL OUT THE DUTIES OF OWNERS AND WORKERS IN THE HANDLING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

"THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS ALSO REQUIRE PROPRIETORS TO MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, OWNERS MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION FOR WORKERS ON POTENTIAL CHEMICAL HAZARDS, HE SAID.

MR KWAN POINTED OUT THAT TO REDUCE RISKS ARISING FROM THE HANDLING OF CHEMICAL WASTES, A "WASTE SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME" SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK.

/"THIS INCLUDES

"THIS INCLUDES SETTING UP A COMMITTEE, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE TOP MANAGEMENT, TO FORMULATE FUTURE WORK PLANS," HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ASSESS THE SOURCES AND TYPES OF CHEMICAL WASTES, THEIR HARMFULNESS AND POSSIBILITY OF RE-CYCLING, AND SHOULD DEVISE METHODS OF EFFECTIVE HANDLING, HE SAID.

"CAREFUL PLANNING AND SUPERVISION, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT, PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES, ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL," HE ADDED.

THE SYMPOSIUM, ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND SPONSORED BY SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, AIMED TO AROUSE BOTH THE MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS' ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY HANDLING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND THEIR WASTES SAFELY.

IT WAS OFFICIATED BY THE DIRECTOR (CHEMICALS) OF THE SHELL COMPANIES OF CHINA AND HONG KONG DR PEER BECKER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE ON SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT MR KWAN KON-WAH, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL MEMBER MR CHEUNG LUN, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MRS KATHERINE FOK.

THE SYMPOSIUM ATTRACTED ABOUT 250 MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND USERS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AS WELL AS MANAGERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

EXPERTS WERE ALSO INVITED TO TALK ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HANDLING CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL WASTES.

THEY INCLUDED MR HUI KEI-CHUNG, PRODUCT MANAGER (SOLVENTS) OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED, WHO TALKED ON HAZARDOUS PROPERTIES AND SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS.

MEANWHILE, SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER (PROTECTION) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT MR KWOK JING-KEUNG TALKED ON FIRE HAZARDS OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND RELATED LEGISLATION.

IN ADDITION, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR LUI TIT-LOK GAVE A SPEECH ON SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICAL WASTE AND THE RELEVANT LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.

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RECLAMATION FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY RESERVE AT TSING CHAU WAN
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION WORKS WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT TWO HECTARES OF SEA-BED OFF TSING CHAU WAN, LANTAU TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE FORMATION OF A RESERVE FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THE WORK WILL START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER 1995.

/THE EXTENT

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTICE, THAT IS, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 12, NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AND PURCHASED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STORY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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FIRE SERVICES AIMS FOR IMPROVEMENT

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SOON PUBLISH ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE WHICH SPELS OUT THE PRESENT STANDARD AND TARGETED IMPROVEMENT OF ITS MAJOR SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE IN THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAT HEUNG TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, SAID THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR MANAGED TO MEET 82.3 PER CENT OF THE CALLS RELATING TO FIRES IN BUILDINGS WITHIN THE GRADED RESPONSE TIMES.

HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE IMPROVED TO 85 PER CENT IN 1992/93.

"THE GRADED RESPONSE TIMES FOR FIRE CALLS TO BUILDINGS ARE SIX MINUTES IN BUILT-UP AREAS AND NINE TO 23 MINUTES IN THE MORE REMOTE AREAS AND ARE SET ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT PROVISION OF RESOURCES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, FIRE STATIONS, APPLIANCES AND STAFFING," MR LAM SAID.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATES THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET.

THE FIRE SERVICES IS ONE OF THE FIRST SEVEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'SERVING THE COMMUNITY SCHEME' WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH LAST MONTH.

MR LAM SAID NEXT YEAR WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FIRE SERVICES WHICH WOULD MARK ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

/THE DEPARTMENT,

THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, HAD DEVELOPED FROM THE MODEST BEGINNING - WITH MANUAL CARTS AND WATER BUCKETS - TO THE SOPHISTICATED ELITE FORCE EQUIPPED WITH ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS TODAY.

A SERIES OF EVENTS WOULD BE ORGANISED FOR THIS MEMORABLE YEAR.

MR LAM URGED THE GRADUATES TO DO THEIR PART TO CELEBRATE THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THEIR PREDECESSORS IN DEVELOPING SUCH A FINE FIRE SERVICES.

MEANWHILE, HE REMINDED THEM THEY WOULD FACE VERY CHALLENGING DUTIES WHEN POSTED OUT TO FIRE STATIONS NEXT WEEK, BUT ADVISED THEM TO BE RESOLUTE AND BELIEVE IN THE JOB THEY DO.

"YOUR SATISFACTION WILL BE THE HIGH ESTEEM IN WHICH THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES IS HELD BY THE COMMUNITY WHICH IT SERVES," HE ADDED.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 12 STATION OFFICERS, 51 FIREMEN AND SEVEN FIRE OFFICERS FROM BRUNEI WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED A 26-WEEK BASIC TRAINING.

THE DIRECTOR ALSO PRAISED THE BRUNEI OFFICERS FOR THEIR REMARKABLE SUCCESS, BEARING IN MIND THAT THEY HAD TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO LEARNING IN A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT.

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FIVE STAMP ISSUES IN 1993

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE PROGRAMME FOR NEXT YEAR.

THE FIVE ISSUES ARE:

JANUARY 7 - YEAR OF THE COCK

THE SET OF STAMPS COMPRISES FOUR DENOMINATIONS. A SOUVENIR SHEET AND A STAMP BOOKLET WILL ALSO BE ISSUED.

THE YEAR OF THE COCK ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABELS WILL BE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 10. THE LABEL PAPER BEARS SOME LEAF DESIGN IN THE BACKGROUND.

APRIL 14 - CHINESE STRING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

THERE ARE FOUR DENOMINATIONS IN THE SET. EACH STAMP FEATURES A CHINESE STRING MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COMMONLY IN USE.

- 14 -

JUNE 2 - 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION
OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

THE SET OF FOUR STAMPS IS TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S CORONATION. IT WILL FEATURE CHANGES TO HONG KONG'S HARBOUR VIEW OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS.

SEPTEMBER 8 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE SET OF FOUR STAMPS FEATURES THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG.

NOVEMBER 17 - HONG KONG GOLD FISH

THE SET OF FOUR STAMPS DEPICTS SOME GOLD FISH SPECIES COMMONLY BRED IN HONG KONG. A SOUVENIR SHEET WILL ALSO BE RELEASED.

FURTHER DETAILS OF EACH STAMP ISSUE WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE ISSUE DATE.

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CLOSURE OF SAU LAI STREET IN SAU MAU PING
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY SAU LAI STREET AND PART OF TAK WO STREET IN SAU MAU PING.

THE PROPOSED WORKS WILL PROVIDE SPACE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC BLOCKS AND LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE. WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, YAU MA TEI; AND
- * KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAU MAU PING SUB-OFFICE, UNITS NOS.6 AND 7, BLOCK 28, SAU MAU PING ESTATE, KWUN TONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 12 NEXT YEAR.

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RESUMPTION AND REPAIR OF PATERSON STREET

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR PART OF PATERSON STREET IN WAN CHAI.

THE SECTION OF PATERSON STREET IS UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIPS AND IS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED.

THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE DEFECTIVE CARRIAGEWAYS AND FOOTWAYS AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY 1994.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS AND LAND RESUMPTION CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND
- * WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 12, NEXT YEAR.

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REPLACEMENT OF PIPELINE IN HO CHUNG

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DEMOLISH A 372-METRE-LONG PIPELINE AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW ONE OF THE SAME LENGTH AT THE FORESHORE AND SEABED AT HO CHUNG, SAI KUNG FOR INTERCEPTING SEWAGE DISCHARGED TO HO CHUNG RIVER.

THE WORK WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY 1993 AND BE COMPLETED BY ABOUT JUNE NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTICE, THAT IS, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 12 NEXT YEAR.

/THE NOTICE,

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AND PURCHASED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, TSEUNG KWAN O SUB-OFFICE, AT UNIT 121-122, GROUND FLOOR, PO NING HOUSE, PO LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O, SAI KUNG.

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RECLAMATION AND DREDGING IN TUEN MUN FOR STEELMILL
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AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO A PRIVATE COMPANY TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION AND DREDGING WORKS WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 19.32 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED IN AREA 38, TUEN MUN TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STEELMILL.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION HAS NOW BEEN INCREASED TO 5.54 FROM 4.99 HECTARES AS PROPOSED IN THE PREVIOUS SCHEME WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 17 THIS YEAR.

THE PIER AND THE TEMPORARY SEAWALL WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WHILE DREDGING WILL STILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE SAME AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AS PROPOSED IN THE PREVIOUS SCHEME.

THE WORK WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE NEXT YEAR.

ANYONE WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED MAY DELIVER A WRITTEN CLAIM TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS FOR COMPENSATION WITHIN A YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE AUTHORISATION NOTICE.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AND PURCHASED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1992

- 17 -

TTRA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS

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COMMENTS ON THE TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENT (TTRA) INITIATIVE WILL BE SOUGHT FROM PARENTS OF PRIMARY 4 STUDENTS NOW STUDYING AT THE 20 GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE THE TTRA IS BEING INTRODUCED AS A PILOT SCHEME.

THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WILL BE SENT TO PARENTS EARLY NEXT YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WE HAD IN FACT SOUGHT COMMENTS FROM THEIR CHILDREN IN THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PERIOD AND WE ARE NOW COMPILING THE FINDINGS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE WILL BE A FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THESE STUDENTS NEXT JUNE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THE PILOT SCHEME BEFORE UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION AT ALL PRIMARY 4 CLASSES IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

MONITORING INCLUDED A MEETING HELD TODAY FOR THE PRINCIPALS OF THE 20 PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING WHICH COMMENTS AND EXPERIENCES WERE EXCHANGED.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, MR CHU SAU-KUEN.

"INSPECTORATE OFFICERS OF THE THREE BASIC SUBJECTS - CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS - ALSO REPORTED ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH TEACHERS TRYING OUT THE SCHEME," HE SAID.

THE PRINCIPALS WERE TOLD THAT WHILE SOME TEACHERS HAD DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TEACHING CONCEPTS AND THE TIMETABLE, OTHERS FOUND THE SCHEME ENABLED THEIR STUDENTS TO BE MORE PARTICIPATIVE IN DISCUSSIONS AND IN EXPRESSING OPINIONS.

"WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED TO EDUCATE PARENTS ON TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS OF HOMEWORK AND STUDY WHICH WILL BE REPLACED BY INTERACTIVE PROJECTS AND RESEARCH," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, CITING DICTATION AS AN EXAMPLE WHICH COULD BE REPLACED BY HOLDING CLASSROOM QUIZZES INSTEAD OF WRITING OUT PASSAGE.

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- 18 -

TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL BEGINS TOMORROW IN WONG TAI SIN

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EIGHTEEN RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON OFFER TO WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS DURING A TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL STARTING FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE 1992 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL, ORGANISED AT A COST OF ABOUT \$2 MILLION, WILL RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 29.

THERE WILL BE CARNIVALS, OPERAS, A HOME SAFETY SEMINAR, SPORTS, A SOCIAL DANCE COMPETITION, HEALTH TALKS AND A SERIES OF ELDERLY ACTIVITIES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, DR LI SZE-BAY, SAID THE ACTIVITIES WERE DESIGNED TO BROADEN RESIDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING.

THE FESTIVAL WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH A STAR-STUDED VARIETY SHOW AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL TOMORROW EVENING. THE SHOW WILL BE PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO 1 FROM 8 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE EVENT WILL BE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG; THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALDAN KWOK; AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KAM-MAN.

IN ADDITION, WINNING ENTRIES IN A PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION ON HAPPY FAMILY RELATIONS AND THE SELECTED WORKS OF PHOTOGRAPHER MR WALTER POON WILL BE ON SHOW AT AN EXHIBITION HELD AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE MOVED TO NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE ON SUNDAY AND WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM UNTIL NOVEMBER 28.

THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL IS BEING CO-ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT'S AREA COMMITTEES, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND A NUMBER OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY CUM VARIETY SHOW BEGINNING AT 7 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1992

- 19 -

SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLES IN MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

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THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS TWO SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLES ENTITLED "ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN" AND "1992 FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET SURVEY".

THE FIRST ARTICLE PROVIDES A USEFUL, CONCISE ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE PERIOD 1986 TO 1991.

THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND THEIR RELATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE STUDIED IN THE ARTICLE.

MOREOVER, READERS CAN OBTAIN A GOOD IDEA OF INDUSTRIES THAT ARE MAINLY EXPORT-ORIENTED.

THE ABOVE ANALYSIS IS BASED ON A RE-GROUPING OF EXPORT STATISTICS ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THE COMMODITIES ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED.

THE SECOND ARTICLE GIVES A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET CONDUCTED BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH IN APRIL 1992.

IT INCLUDES ANALYSES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS BY CURRENCY COMPOSITION, COUNTERPARTY AND TYPE OF TRANSACTION AS WELL AS COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF THE SURVEY IN 1989.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$48 PER COPY.

PURCHASES CAN BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1992

- 20 -

ACROBATICS FINALE FOR WAN CHAI FESTIVAL

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THE FIVE-WEEK WAN CHAI FESTIVAL WILL CLOSE WITH AN ACROBATICS AND MARTIAL ARTS PERFORMANCE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) NIGHT AT THE WAN CHAI SOUTHERN STADIUM.

IT WILL FEATURE THE HONG KONG WUSHU UNION AND THE CHINESE RAILWAY ACROBATIC TROUPE FROM BEIJING.

DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PHILIP CHOK; WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; AND POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LEE MING-KWAI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY AT 7.30 PM.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD WITH ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE AREA COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, 18 EVENTS HAVE BEEN STAGED AT A COST OF OVER \$1.6 MILLION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY CUM ACROBATICS AND MARTIAL ARTS PERFORMANCES AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT SOUTHERN STADIUM, 111 JOHNSTON ROAD, WAN CHAI.

A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WILL BEGIN AT 7 PM.

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265 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME TODAY

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A GROUP OF 265 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 87 MEN, 65 WOMEN, 52 BOYS AND 61 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 133RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 10,636 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 24,616 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1992

- 21 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+370
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,870
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.7 *-0.1* 13.11.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.85 PCT	12 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.54	3.69
1 MONTH	3.08 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.87	3.99
3 MONTHS	3.32 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.88	4.24
6 MONTHS	3.44 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.89	4.49
12 MONTHS	3.76 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,197MN

CLOSED 13 NOVEMBER 1992

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