



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS HONG KONG: SES	1
INCREASING TRADE, FINANCING, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HK	3
CHILD WELFARE HEADS SWAC AGENDA	4
10 QUESTIONS, 6 BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA	6
NEW RESEARCH STUDY ON PLASTICS INDUSTRIES	7
LOCALLY GROWN SUPER-SWEET CORN NOW AVAILABLE	8
\$20M DONATION FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	9
NORTH DISTRICT GETS READY FOR BIG FARM SHOW	10
LRT EXTENSION ON DB JOINT COMMITTEE AGENDA	10
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN YAU MA TEI	11
TEMPORARY PARTIAL LANE CLOSURES OF TUEN MUN ROAD	11
TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF FLYOVER IN KOWLOON CITY	11

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 1 -

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS HONG KONG: SES

* * * * *

HONG KONG LOOKS FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE IT WHAT IT IS TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN NEW YORK TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CORPORATE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE ASIA SOCIETY, MRS CHAN OUTLINED THE FUTURE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS AND HIGHLIGHTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE AND AMERICANS HAVE A NOSE FOR OPPORTUNITIES. IN TERMS OF OUR AIRPORT PROJECT, AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE ALREADY STOLEN A MARCH ON OTHER COMPETITORS BY SECURING THE TWO MAJOR CONSULTANCIES LET SO FAR AND I AM SURE YOU WILL PURSUE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WITH EQUAL VIGOUR," SHE SAID.

SHE EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT HONG KONG OPERATED A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL ITS PROJECTS AND FOR ALL ITS INVESTORS.

"HISTORICALLY WE HAVE GIVEN NO SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS CONCERNS. SELECTION IS BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSALS.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO PUT IN IMAGINATIVE AND COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS," SHE POINTED OUT.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT FOR THE FUTURE AIRPORT, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED THAT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE MAXIMISED AND THE ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT RED TAPE MINIMISED.

"THIS IS WHERE THE ADVANTAGES OF AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY SHOULD COME INTO PLAY," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE AUTHORITY WOULD EMPLOY ITS OWN STAFF, LET ITS OWN CONTRACTS AND BUILD AND OPERATE THE NEW AIRPORT.

"AS EACH COMPONENT PROJECT DEVELOPS, EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR PARTICIPATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE INVITED."

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC CONSULTANCIES INCLUDING THE MASTER PLAN CONSULTANCY AWARDED TO GREINER AND THE APPOINTMENT OF BECHTEL AS PROJECT MANAGER.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE INTEND THERE TO BE INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANCIES FOR THE AIRPORT, THE RAIL LINK TO THE AIRPORT AND THE FIXED CROSSING FROM THE MAINLAND TO LANTAU ISLAND ON WHICH THE NEW AIRPORT WILL BE BUILT," SHE SAID.

IN ADDITION, A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY, INVESTIGATION AND DESIGN STUDIES WOULD REQUIRE BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL EXPERTISE, SHE SAID.

/"THE AIRPORT

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 2 -

"THE AIRPORT, IN PARTICULAR, WILL OFFER VERY CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS OF EQUIPMENT - BOTH FOR CONSTRUCTION AND FOR OPERATION OF THE AIRPORT," SHE ADDED.

AS FOR OVERALL FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT AND RELATED TRANSPORT LINKS, MORE WORK WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO GO TO THE MARKET.

TO GIVE HER AUDIENCE A PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE GROWTH OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT AROUND 2.5 PER CENT LAST YEAR WAS A CYCLICAL DOWNTURN THAT WAS BOUND TO COME SOONER OR LATER.

"WE COULD NOT COPE FOR LONG WITH AN OVERHEATED ECONOMY AND WE ARE NOT ALONE IN EXPERIENCING A SLOWER GROWTH," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY REMAINED BASICALLY SOUND WITH FULL EMPLOYMENT AND RISING WAGES AND THE FUNDAMENTALS WERE RIGHT.

"OUR FISCAL RESERVES ARE STRONG WITH VIRTUALLY NO EXTERNAL DEBT. OUR MONETARY AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS ARE NOW ON A STRONGER FOOTING AND WE HAVE A HEALTHY CURRENCY.

"GEOGRAPHICALLY WE ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AT THE CENTRE OF THE FASTEST GROWING ASIA/PACIFIC RIM AND WE HAVE STRONG LINKS WITH SOUTHERN CHINA," SHE NOTED.

HOWEVER, THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS WAS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD BECOME UNEXTRICABLY INVOLVED WITH THAT OF CHINA'S AND ANYTHING DESIGNED TO PUNISH OR DAMAGE CHINA ECONOMICALLY WOULD INEVITABLY PUNISH OR DAMAGE HONG KONG, MRS CHAN EXPLAINED.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES SAID BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S SIZE AND ITS GREATER DEPENDENCE ON TRADE, THE WITHDRAWAL OF MFN STATUS FROM CHINA WOULD PROPORTIONATELY DAMAGE HONG KONG'S ECONOMY MORE SERIOUSLY THAN IT WOULD THAT OF CHINA.

"IT WOULD DAMAGE U.S. FIRMS OPERATING IN HONG KONG AND, IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE U.S. IS PROBABLY THE LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR IN HONG KONG WITH 900 U.S. FIRMS AND 158 FACTORIES OPERATING THERE," SHE SAID.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, MRS CHAN SAID THE RESUMPTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BY CHINA IN 1997 WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS BUT THE BASIC APPROACH TO THE WAY WE MANAGED OUR AFFAIRS WOULD REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.

/"THE IMMEDIATE

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 3 -

"THE IMMEDIATE TASK FACING US IN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS IS TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND TO PUT IN PLACE A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE THAT MEETS HONG KONG'S UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING THE REALITY OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY AFTER 1997.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEW SOVEREIGN POWER REQUIRES CAREFUL MANAGEMENT. THE ROAD AHEAD WILL NOT BE SMOOTH BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE WE WILL FAIL THE TEST.

"WE HAVE MADE SOME DIFFICULT BUT IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO DEVELOP OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT, PROVIDE FOR MORE AND BETTER SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

"THESE PLANS CARRY ON WELL BEYOND 1997 AND ARE ALL ESSENTIAL TO OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL-BEING.

"COUPLED WITH OUR GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGES AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND FREE TRADE, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG WILL REMAIN A BUSINESS CENTRE OF CHOICE WHERE HUMAN INGENUITY AND ENTERPRISE CAN FLOURISH," MRS CHAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INCREASING TRADE, FINANCING, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HK
* * * * *

HONG KONG'S AMBITIOUS PLAN TO FURTHER DEVELOP ITS PORT, AIRPORT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WILL GIVE RISE TO INCREASING TRADE, FINANCING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THIS TODAY (MONDAY) AT THE OPENING OF THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN OFFICE OF OHIO STATE.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG WELCOMED AMERICAN COMPANIES TO BE ITS PARTNERS IN THIS GREAT UNDERTAKING, INCLUDING OF COURSE OHIO COMPANIES WHICH HAD BEEN ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL IN CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND SERVICES.

"LIKE THE GOVERNMENT OF OHIO, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS MAKING INCREASING EFFORTS TO FACILITATE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED INDUSTRIES, TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND TO PROVIDE MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION TO OUR YOUNGSTERS.

"THERE MUST BE MUCH SCOPE FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO PLACES IN THESE AREAS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN WELCOMED THE OHIO STATE DECISION TO BASE ITS REGIONAL OFFICE IN HONG KONG.

/"WE ARE

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 4 -

"WE ARE SITUATED AT THE HUB OF THIS RAPIDLY GROWING REGION, WHICH IN TURN FORMS PART OF THE LARGER ASIAN PACIFIC REGION, AND WE ARE EQUIPPED WITH EXCELLENT TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION LINKS WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITHIN IT.

"IN PARTICULAR, HONG KONG'S UNIQUE ROLE AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA WILL, I AM SURE, BE OF IMMENSE HELP TO OHIO BUSINESSMEN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR CHAN NOTED THAT THE HORIZONS FOR THE OHIO STATE OFFICE EXTENDED BEYOND HONG KONG INTO THE ENTIRE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION AND HONG KONG PROVIDED THE IDEAL BASE FOR THIS.

"HONG KONG IS ONE OF OHIO'S LARGEST ASIAN EXPORT MARKETS, IT MUST ALSO BE THE MOST OPEN MARKET IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

"OHIO STATE EXPORTS A WIDE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS TO HONG KONG, SUCH AS MACHINERY, CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS AND PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. THESE EXPORTS HAVE BEEN GROWING, AND THERE ARE STILL AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH," HE SAID.

THE OHIO STATE OFFICE, WHICH IS BEING OPENED TO STRENGTHEN TRADE RELATIONS WITH EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, HAS JOINED CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK AS THE THIRD STATE TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

OVER 20 OTHER U.S. STATES OR PORT AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY SET UP SIMILAR OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHILD WELFARE HEADS SWAC AGENDA

* * * * *

THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) TODAY (MONDAY) RECOMMENDED THAT LEGISLATION BE PASSED TO PROHIBIT UNSUITABLE PERSONS FROM SERVING AS CHILD MINDERS. IN ADDITION, THE SWAC ALSO ADVISED THAT SOME FORM OF LEGISLATION BE CONSIDERED TO PROHIBIT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS FROM LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN THE HOME.

SWAC MEMBERS HAD EXAMINED THREE OPTIONS ON THE CONTROL OF CHILD MINDING OUTSIDE OF CHILD CARE CENTRES. THEY INCLUDED:

- A) A VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME;
- B) MANDATORY REGISTRATION; AND
- C) PROHIBITION BY LEGISLATION OF UNSUITABLE PERSONS SERVING AS CHILD MINDERS.

/THEY GENERALLY

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 5 -

THEY GENERALLY FELT THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEASURE APPEARED TO BE A LEGAL PROHIBITION AGAINST "UNSUITABLE" PERSONS MINDING CHILDREN. THEY CONSIDERED THAT SUCH A PROHIBITION IN LAW WOULD REMEDY THE PRESENT SITUATION WHEREBY THOSE CONVICTED OF OFFENCES SUCH AS CHILD ABUSE COULD CONTINUE ACTING AS CHILD MINDERS WITHOUT ANY FORM OF SPECIFIC LEGAL SANCTION AGAINST THEM.

SWAC MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED WHETHER OR NOT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PROHIBIT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS FROM LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN THE HOME.

SOME MEMBERS HELD THE VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME FORM OF LEGISLATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE VIEWS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL BE SOUGHT. MEMBERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED SHOULD STRENGTHEN PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, SWAC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE. THESE PROPOSALS WOULD EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS BY REMOVING OBSOLETE PROVISIONS AND MAKING SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS.

SOME OF THE MAJOR AMENDMENT PROPOSALS INCLUDED:

1. WIDENING OF THE DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE. THE AMENDMENT WOULD BROADEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A CHILD OR JUVENILE WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION AND WOULD THUS GIVE THE JUVENILE COURT WIDER DISCRETION TO HANDLE PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES. THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DSW) MIGHT ONLY INTERVENE ON THE GROUNDS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT IF A PSYCHOLOGICAL OR MEDICAL REPORT ON THE CHILD HAD FIRST BEEN OBTAINED.
2. INCLUSION OF A PROVISION WHEREBY THE DSW OR HIS AUTHORISED OFFICER MIGHT CONDUCT A VISUAL INSPECTION OF A CHILD IN THE HOME, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHECKING FOR OBVIOUS EXTERNAL PHYSICAL INJURIES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE CONCEALED BY CLOTHING, TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE CHILD WAS AT RISK. THIS WOULD AVOID THE LIKELY PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA TO BOTH THE CHILD AND HIS PARENTS UNLESS REMOVAL WERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A PROVISION THAT A FEMALE CHILD COULD ONLY BE INSPECTED BY A FEMALE OFFICER.

/3. IN CASES

3. IN CASES WHERE THE PARENTS WERE UNCO-OPERATIVE, AND WHERE THE CHILD WAS NOT IN IMMINENT DANGER, THERE WOULD BE PROVISION OF A CHILD ASSESSMENT ORDER WHEREBY A MAGISTRATE, DSW OR HIS AUTHORISED OFFICER MIGHT ISSUE AN ORDER TO THE PARENTS REQUIRING THEM TO TAKE THEIR CHILD TO A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, CLINIC OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL UNIT FOR EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT WITHIN A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF DAYS. THIS WOULD ALSO AVOID THE TRAUMA INVOLVED IN UNNECESSARILY REMOVING A CHILD FROM ITS FAMILY. IF THE PARENTS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE ASSESSMENT ORDER, THE DSW WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO REMOVE THE CHILD TO A PLACE OF REFUGE OR TO A HOSPITAL, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT AN EXAMINATION HAD NOT BEEN CONDUCTED.
4. REPEAL OF SECTIONS 30 AND 31 OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH ENABLE THE DSW TO REGISTER OR DECLARE FEMALE MINORS HIS WARDS. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT IN FUTURE THE DSW COULD ONLY ASSUME GUARDIANSHIP OF A CHILD OR JUVENILE THROUGH AN ORDER OF THE COURT.
5. THE ORDINANCE WOULD IN FUTURE APPLY ONLY TO CHILDREN AND JUVENILES UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. AT PRESENT, THE ORDINANCE APPLIES TO CHILDREN AND JUVENILES (UNDER THE AGE OF 18), TO FEMALE INFANTS (A PERSON AGED UNDER 21) AND TO FEMALES OVER THE AGE OF 21.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WERE DRAWN UP AFTER AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD REVIEWED THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE.

IN THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW, THE WORKING GROUP HAD ALSO CONSULTED A NUMBER OF CONCERNED PARTIES -- THE WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE, VARIOUS LAW BODIES AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

10 QUESTIONS, 6 BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 10 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 23).

OF THE SIX BILLS, THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON IT WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THE OTHER FIVE BILLS ARE DUE TO BE GIVEN A SECOND READING AND THEN TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

/THEY ARE

- 7 -

THEY ARE THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, MERCHANT SHIPPING (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) BILL 1989, MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR OIL POLLUTION) BILL 1989 AND TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

IN ADDITION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL SPEAK ON THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1989 TO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW RESEARCH STUDY ON PLASTICS INDUSTRIES

* * * * *

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH AN AMERICAN CONSULTANCY FIRM, ARTHUR D. LITTLE ASIA PACIFIC INC, TO UNDERTAKE A TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY ON HONG KONG'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE AIM OF THE STUDY WAS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND THE DETERMINANTS OF AND THE CONSTRAINTS UPON ITS GROWTH.

"IT WILL ALSO LOOK AT THE ADEQUACY OF MANPOWER TRAINING, CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STUDY WOULD INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMOVING THE CONSTRAINTS UPON THE INDUSTRY'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY, THE CONSULTANT WILL ANALYSE THE MARKET, ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WORLDWIDE AND ASSESS THE CURRENT STATUS OF HONG KONG'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

"THE CONSULTANT WILL ALSO SUGGEST A POSITIONING STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT MEASURES TO HELP THE LOCAL INDUSTRY FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY AND PROFITABLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS REGULAR TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDIES IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES - TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, ELECTRONICS, PLASTICS AND METALS. THE LAST STUDY ON THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WAS CONDUCTED IN 1986.

THE CURRENT STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LOCALLY GROWN SUPER-SWEET CORN NOW AVAILABLE

* * * * *

LOCAL FARMERS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GROWING SUPER-SWEET CORN ON A MARKET SCALE UNDER A PILOT PRODUCTION SCHEME JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) AND THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVES (HKFVMC).

MARKETING OF THE PRODUCE AND LIAISON WITH BUYERS IS BEING LOOKED AFTER BY THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO).

THE PRODUCTION TRIAL FOLLOWS AN AFD DEMONSTRATION IN JANUARY THIS YEAR TO ENCOURAGE HONG KONG FARMERS TO GROW EXOTIC VEGETABLES BY USING THE MASS SEEDLING PRODUCTION TECHNIQUE. BY RAISING THE SWEET CORN SEEDLINGS IN THE GREEN HOUSE, THE GROWING PERIOD IN THE OPEN FIELD CAN BE SHORTENED FROM AROUND 70 DAYS TO 50 DAYS.

"SUPER-SWEET CORN, A NOVEL TYPE OF VEGETABLE RECENTLY DEVELOPED FOR MARKET PRODUCTION MAINLY IN THE U.S., WAS SELECTED FOR THE TRIAL BECAUSE IT WAS THE CROP WHICH ATTRACTED THE MOST ATTENTION FROM UP-MARKET BUYERS DURING THE JANUARY DEMONSTRATION," AFD'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (HORTICULTURE), MR HO KOON-YU, EXPLAINED TODAY (MONDAY).

ANOTHER REASON FOR CHOOSING THE SUPER-SWEET CORN WAS THAT THE CROP WAS EXPECTED TO FETCH A GOOD RETURN FOR GROWERS BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH QUALITY AND THIS WOULD STIMULATE FARMERS' INTEREST IN CULTIVATING EXOTIC VEGETABLE VARIETIES.

THE PRODUCTION TRIAL STARTED AROUND THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR AND 36 FARMERS HAVE SET ASIDE A TOTAL OF THREE HECTARES OF FARM LAND FOR THE PROJECT.

IN THIS PILOT SCHEME, AFD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUPER-SWEET CORN SEEDLINGS TO PARTICIPATING FARMERS AND ADVISING THEM ON THE CULTIVATION TECHNIQUE WHILE THE HKFVMC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING THE PRODUCTION PROGRAMME.

"THE CROPS ARE SCHEDULED TO SPREAD OUT SUPPLY OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT 50 DAYS AND ABOUT 1,000 COBS OF SUPER-SWEET CORN WILL BE HARVESTED DAILY AS FROM THIS WEEK," MR HO SAID.

TO MARKET THE PRODUCE, THE VMO TODAY ORGANISED A TASTING PANEL AND A TRIP TO THE FARMERS' FIELDS IN KAM TIN, YUEN LONG, FOR INTERESTED BUYERS FROM 12 LEADING HOTEL SUPPLIERS, SUPERMARKETS, FAST FOOD CATERERS AND JAPANESE DEPARTMENT STORES.

THE BUYERS WERE GENERALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE SUPER-SWEET CORN ALTHOUGH SOME EXPRESSED WORRY OVER THE STEADY SUPPLY OF THE PRODUCE. SOME PLACED ORDERS WITH THE VMO IMMEDIATELY.

PLAYING A MIDDLE-MAN ROLE BETWEEN FARMERS AND BUYERS, THE VMO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARKETING, PACKAGING, QUALITY CONTROL AS WELL AS DELIVERY OF THE SUPER-SWEET CORN.

ACCORDING TO MR HO, THE ORGANISED PRODUCTION PROGRAMME FOR SUPER-SWEET CORN THIS TIME HAD MADE HISTORY IN HONG KONG'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME EFFORTS ARE MADE TO BALANCE THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF A CROP TO AVOID WASTAGE RESULTING FROM OVER-SUPPLY.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE ORGANISED PRODUCTION PRACTICE CAN STABILISE PRICES AND ENSURE EFFICIENT MARKETING AS WELL AS THE TOP-FRESH QUALITY OF THE PRODUCE," MR HO POINTED OUT.

"ALL PARTIES CONCERNED - INCLUDING FARMERS, PRODUCE DEALERS AND CONSUMERS AT LARGE - WILL STAND TO BENEFIT FROM SUCH A PLANNED AND MARKET-ORIENTED FARMING PRACTICE," HE CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$20M DONATION FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

* * * * *

THE LINK BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SECTORS WAS STRENGTHENED FURTHER WHEN, ON BEHALF OF THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION, MR WILLIAM PURVES, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONGKONG BANK, RECENTLY PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$20 MILLION TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN.

THE CHEQUE WAS A DONATION TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONGKONG BANK LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND WILL SUPPORT LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PROJECTS FOCUSED ON EMPLOYMENT-RELATED LANGUAGE NEEDS; PILOT PROGRAMMES IN SELECTED SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO TEST LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES; AND RESEARCH INTO LANGUAGE NEEDS, LANGUAGE USE AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION.

IT WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING MATERIALS AND RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WILL OFFER SCOPE FOR THE DESIGN AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES.

THE FUND WILL BE MANAGED BY A TRUST SET UP BY THE BANK AND DISBURSED ON THE ADVICE OF THE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THE PROGRAMME WILL COMPRISE CAREFULLY SELECTED PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE OF PRACTICAL VALUE TO LANGUAGE TEACHERS, TEACHER TRAINERS AND EDUCATIONAL PLANNERS AND WHICH WILL FACILITATE A GREATER INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONG WRITERS AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPERS.

BY COVERING EMPLOYMENT-RELATED LANGUAGE NEEDS, THE FUND WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN VARIOUS BUSINESS SECTORS AND FEED INFORMATION BACK INTO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM ON THE LANGUAGE NEEDS OF THE WORKPLACE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NORTH DISTRICT GETS READY FOR BIG FARM SHOW

* * * * *

PREPARATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S FIRST JOINT EXHIBITION OF LIVESTOCK AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ARE WELL UNDERWAY IN THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND.

"FARMERS AND MANUFACTURERS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN WORKING BUSILY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO MAKE THE THREE-DAY SHOW A SUCCESS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SHOW'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"ABOUT 30 FIRMS ARE ERECTING BOOTHS TO DISPLAY THE BEST OF THEIR PRODUCTS. STALLS FOR AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS AND LIVESTOCK PENS ARE ALSO BEING SET UP," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SHOW, SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD FROM SATURDAY (MAY 26) TO MONDAY (MAY 28).

OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF THE SHOW WILL INCLUDE A FOUR-LEGGED ROOSTER AND A 700-CATTY BOAR AND 20 OTHER BOARS TAKING PART IN THE BEST BREEDER COMPETITION FOR PIGS.

IN INDUSTRY, A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN ON LOK TSUEN IN FANLING AND THE PRODUCTION PROCESSES OF SOME LEADING INDUSTRIES IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE DISPLAYED.

THE COMMERCE SECTION WILL TRACE HOW THE TWO TRADITIONAL MARKET TOWNS, LUEN WO HUI IN FANLING AND SHEK WU HUI IN SHEUNG SHUI, HAVE EVOLVED INTO BUSY COMMERCIAL CENTRES.

ADMISSION TO THE SHOW IS FREE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LRT EXTENSION ON DB JOINT COMMITTEE AGENDA

* * * * *

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL BRIEF MEMBERS OF THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LRT SERVICES, ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LRT EXTENSION TO TIN SHUI WAI, AND THE PURCHASE OF 30 LIGHT RAIL CARS, AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS TWO PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE PLATFORM SHELTERS AT THE ON TING STOP AND TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL TICKET VENDING MACHINES AT THE TUEN MUN TERMINUS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER A MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LRT SERVICES TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1990

- 11 -

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN YAU MA TEI

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAGON BOAT RACES IN YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, FROM 8 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 23) TO 5 PM ON MAY 30, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF MAN CHEONG STREET BETWEEN MAN SING STREET AND FERRY STREET IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

MOTORISTS ON MAN CHEONG STREET EASTBOUND ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA MAN SING STREET SOUTHBOUND, MAN YUEN STREET EASTBOUND INTO FERRY STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY PARTIAL LANE CLOSURES OF TUEN MUN ROAD

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 9.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 23) TO 6 AM ON JUNE 4, THE THREE TRAFFIC LANES OF THE TUEN MUN BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD NEAR SIU LAM INTERCHANGE WILL BE PARTIALLY CLOSED IN TURN TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

CLOSURE OF TWO TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 9.30 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY WHILE ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE CLOSURE PERIOD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF FLYOVER IN KOWLOON CITY

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 12.01 AM TO 4 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 23), THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE FLYOVER LINKING PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST WITH PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST (NEAR ST TERESA'S HOSPITAL) IN KOWLOON CITY, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FLYOVER.

- - - - 0 - - - -