



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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REPORT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT REFUTED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) DISMISSED A CLAIM PUBLISHED THIS MORNING IN A HONG KONG NEWSPAPER THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN MAJOR, HAS OFFERED FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO CHINA IN A BID TO SECURE AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN HIS MESSAGE TO PREMIER LI PENG, MR MAJOR PROPOSED THAT THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG MOVE INTO A MORE INTENSIVE PHASE.

"THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT OFFERED NEW CONCESSIONS. THIS REPORT FROM PEKING IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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APEC MESSAGE ON URUGUAY ROUND URGED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, CALLED FOR A STRONG MESSAGE ON COMPLETING THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE GATT.

SPEAKING AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEATTLE, HE SAID: "IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT APEC SEND A STRONG COLLECTIVE MESSAGE URGING AN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE ROUND."

"COMMITMENT BY GATT MEMBERS OF APEC TO SUBSTANTIVELY IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS OFFERS WOULD GREATLY STRENGTHEN THIS MESSAGE. LET US CHALLENGE OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO DO SO AS WELL."

MR CHAU SAID A STRONG COMMITMENT IN OTHER AREAS WAS ALSO NEEDED. HE HIGHLIGHTED TRADE IN SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GATT INSTITUTION AND RULES.

"OFFERS ON SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL SERVICES, NEED TO BE IMPROVED," MR CHAU SAID.

"THIS WOULD GIVE THE NEW SERVICES AGREEMENT REAL CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF BUSINESSMEN. AND THERE MUST BE NO EXEMPTION FOR TAXATION MEASURES. TO ALLOW ONE WOULD TOTALLY UNDERMINE THE VALUE OF THE AGREEMENT."

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG ATTACHED HIGHEST PRIORITY TO STRENGTHENING THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM.

"THE POST-URUGUAY ROUND GATT MUST BE A STRONG AND RESPECTED INSTITUTION, WITH GREATER STATURE THAN BEFORE.

"IT MUST HAVE AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM WHOSE DECISIONS ARE RESPECTED BY ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES. AND ITS RULES AND DISCIPLINES MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND CLARIFIED, NOT LENGTHENED AND MADE MORE AMBIGUOUS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF ANTI-DUMPING," HE SAID.

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HK WELCOMES VISION OF OPEN TRADE

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HONG KONG WELCOMES THE BOLD VISION OF OPEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION SET OUT IN THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP REPORT TO ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) MINISTERS.

SPEAKING AT THE APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEATTLE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID: "HONG KONG ENDORSES THE GOAL OF FREE TRADE AND OPEN INVESTMENT. YOU WOULD HARDLY EXPECT US TO DO OTHERWISE. HONG KONG KNOWS THAT FREE TRADE AND AN OPEN ECONOMY ARE GOOD FOR YOU."

MR CHAU ALSO WELCOMED THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE GATT SYSTEM. "HONG KONG IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT, AT THIS CRITICAL TIME, THE VALUE OF THE OPEN MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM TO GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS REAFFIRMED."

HE OBSERVED THAT GETTING TO THE GOAL OF OPEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE REGION REQUIRED CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF VARIOUS OPTIONS, AND HE OUTLINED WHAT HONG KONG SAW AS THE THREE FOCAL POINTS IN THE COMING DEBATE.

"FIRST, IN LIBERALISING TRADE IN THE REGION UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM, WITH MOST FAVOURED NATION GLOBALLY APPLIED, DO WE GO FOR A FORMAL, STRUCTURED APPROACH, OR DO WE RELY ON ENCOURAGING PROGRESSIVE BUT AUTONOMOUS ACTION? HONG KONG FAVOURS THE LATTER.

"SECOND, IN SEEKING TO EASE THE TENSIONS SOMETIMES ARISING FROM GLOBAL COMPETITION THROUGH TRADE, HOW CAN WE BUILD ON EXISTING INSTITUTIONS IN A WAY WHICH ENSURES THAT ALL COMPLY EQUALLY WITH MULTILATERAL RULES AND THAT DISPUTES ARE NOT AGGRAVATED BY UNILATERAL ACTION?

"THIRD, AS MARKET FORCES DRIVE US TOWARDS GREATER REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN A GLOBALISED ECONOMY, ARE WE SATISFIED THAT THE CONVENTIONAL MODELS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY ARE STILL RELEVANT?"

MR CHAU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING BUSINESS AND ACADEMICS IN DISCUSSION OF THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP'S REPORT.

"I URGE THAT THE REPORT BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED WIDELY AMONG THE REGION'S BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE DEBATE. THIS IS VITAL TO OUR CARRYING THESE CONSTITUENCIES WITH US."

FINALLY, MR CHAU EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR ACTION. "THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP HAVE DONE THEIR JOB: THEY HAVE OFFERED US A VISION. LET US GET ON WITH THE JOB OF TURNING THAT FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT VISION INTO REALITY."

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FRENCH APPLAUD HK FASHIONS

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THE CREATIONS OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S YOUNG DESIGNERS HAVE MADE THEIR MARK ON THE FRENCH FASHION SCENE FOLLOWING A MAJOR SHOWING IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD'S FASHION INDUSTRY - PARIS.

LE GRAND HOTEL WAS THE SETTING FOR THE EXCITING AND EYE-CATCHING SHOW ORGANISED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AS PART OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S EUROPEAN PROMOTION.

THE NINE HONG KONG DESIGNERS WHO SHOWED THEIR CREATIONS RECEIVED WIDESPREAD PRAISE FROM FRENCH FASHION WRITERS WHO ATTENDED A SPECIAL PREVIEW EARLIER ON THURSDAY.

THIRTY MODELS, INCLUDING 10 FROM HONG KONG, TOOK TO THE CATWALK IN A DISPLAY THAT PROVIDED A CREATIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE FASHION SHOWS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

THE HONG KONG FASHION SHOW WAS THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN PARIS SINCE THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ARRANGED A SIMILAR EVENT IN 1990.

SPEAKING DURING A GALA DINNER JUST BEFORE THE FASHION SHOW, THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT CLOTHING SOURCING CENTRE IN ASIA.

AS TO THE POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE INDUSTRY, MRS CHAN SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HONG KONG'S OWN BRAND NAMES. "TO ORIGINATE THE PRODUCTS RATHER THAN SIMPLY PRODUCING TO THE ORDERS OF OTHERS."

"IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY THAT MEANS ESTABLISHING OUR OWN HONG KONG LABELS, BASED ON THE UNDOUBTED DESIGN SKILLS OF OUR OWN HOMEGROWN TALENT. AND JUDGING BY TONIGHT'S FASHION PRESENTATION, WE ARE ALREADY WELL ON THE WAY TO DOING THIS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE INFLUENCE THAT HONG KONG'S FASHIONS WERE HAVING ON YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE BORDER IN CHINA.

"THE FASHIONS THAT ARE POPULAR IN HONG KONG ARE RE-APPEARING IN SOUTHERN CHINA WITH AN EVER-DECREASING TIME LAG," SHE ADDED.

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PREPARATION OF NEW VALUATION LISTS

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION ON NOVEMBER 13 TO PREPARE NEW VALUATION LISTS IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NEW LISTS ARE FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS AND HIS DESIGNATION OF JULY 1, 1993 AS THE REFERENCE DATE FOR ASCERTAINING THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN THE NEW VALUATION LISTS WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 1994 WILL BE VALUED BY REFERENCE TO THE RENTAL VALUES AT JULY 1, 1993.

THE PRESENT RATEABLE VALUES TOOK EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 1991 AND ARE BASED ON THE RENTAL VALUES AT JULY 1, 1990.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DIRECTION, STAFF OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN PREPARING VALUATIONS FOR ALL RATEABLE PROPERTIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE VALUATION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

RATEPAYERS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES WHEN THEY RECEIVE THE SECOND QUARTER 1994 RATE DEMANDS IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL 1994.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO INSPECT THE VALUATION LISTS IN APRIL AND MAY 1994 WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE PROPOSALS OBJECTING TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES.

THE VALUATION LISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TREASURY AND AT DISTRICT OFFICES.

REFERRING TO THE LIKELY INCREASES IN RATEABLE VALUES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THESE WILL VARY BECAUSE RENTAL VALUES, ON WHICH RATEABLE VALUES ARE BASED, HAVE INCREASED BY DIFFERENT AMOUNTS SINCE JULY 1990, DEPENDING ON THE CLASS OF PROPERTY AND ALSO ON CHANGES IN TRANSPORT FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER FACTORS.

OVERALL THE INCREASE IS LIKELY TO BE AROUND 30 PER CENT BUT CERTAIN PROPERTIES WILL EXPERIENCE HIGHER INCREASE DUE TO CORRESPONDINGLY HIGHER INCREASES IN THEIR RENTAL VALUES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED RATEPAYERS THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS 1993/94 BUDGET SPEECH UNDERTOOK TO PROPOSE A "CAP" ON RATES INCREASE IN 1994/95 TO ALLOW TIME FOR THOSE WITH PARTICULARLY HIGH INCREASES TO ADJUST TO THE NEW LEVELS OF CHARGE.

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EDUCATION COMMISSION STUDIES WILL LEAD TO
"NEW THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION QUALITY"

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IS AIMING TO DEVELOP A "VISIONARY YET PRACTICAL STRATEGY FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS" IN EDUCATION, AND THE THREE STUDIES IT IS NOW CONDUCTING PROMISE TO RESULT IN SOME "PATH-BREAKING NEW THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION QUALITY".

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A SPEECH AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH TODAY (FRIDAY). MR LEUNG IS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR LEUNG DENIED THAT THE COMMISSION OPERATED IN A "SECRETIVE" MANNER.

"THE COMMISSION CONDUCTS ITS DISCUSSIONS OUT OF THE PUBLIC ARENA, NOT BECAUSE THE ISSUES ARE INHERENTLY SECRETIVE, BUT SO THAT MEMBERS CAN EXPLORE AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IN AN UNFETTERED MANNER," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION'S CHAIRMAN ALWAYS BRIEFED THE PRESS AFTER EACH MEETING, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PUBLIC BROADLY INFORMED ON THE COMMISSION'S CURRENT WORK.

"ONCE THE COMMISSION HAS FORMULATED ITS VIEWS AND PROPOSALS, THESE ARE ISSUED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION," HE SAID.

"THE COMMISSION THEN CONSIDERS PUBLIC COMMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PROCEDURES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE COMMISSION CAN BE DESCRIBED AS OPERATING IN A 'SECRETIVE' MANNER."

ON THE COMMISSION'S CURRENT PROGRAMME OF WORK, MR LEUNG SAID THE STUDIES OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS, LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, AND THE RESOURCING OF SCHOOLS WERE NOT IN ANY SENSE "MARGINAL OR MERELY TECHNICAL".

"THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION IS THIS: IN AN EDUCATION SYSTEM WITH A THOUSAND SCHOOLS, 50,000 TEACHERS AND ALMOST A MILLION STUDENTS, CAN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BE PROMOTED EFFECTIVELY BY CENTRALISED DECISION-MAKING, CENTRALISED CONTROLS, AND CENTRALISED QUALITY-ASSURANCE MECHANISMS?" MR LEUNG ASKED.

"OR DOES IT MAKE MORE SENSE TO THINK IN TERMS OF A FRAMEWORK WHICH MOTIVATES AND ENABLES EVERY SCHOOL AND EVERY TEACHER TO TAKE DECISIONS ABOUT, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICE THEY DELIVER?"

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT EDUCATION SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD WERE MOVING AWAY FROM CENTRALISED WAYS TO PROMOTE QUALITY EDUCATION.

"THE CENTRALISED APPROACH HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNISED AS INEFFECTIVE," HE SAID.

THERE IS A MOVEMENT INSTEAD TOWARDS SYSTEMS IN WHICH SCHOOLS HAVE GREATER DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY, WITHIN A FRAMEWORK WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, MAKES THEM ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR OWN COMMUNITY FOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR SERVICES; AND ON THE OTHER HAND ENABLES THEM TO OBTAIN THE KINDS OF SUPPORT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATION.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD ALREADY TAKEN THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK OF SCHOOL-BASED QUALITY ASSURANCE WITH THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, THE STATEMENT OF AIMS FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION, AND THE NEW FRAMEWORKS FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHER EDUCATION ARISING FROM EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORTS 4 AND 5.

"THE THREE STUDIES NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION CAN PROVIDE US WITH A MAP FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS A TRULY EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE THEN DESCRIBED THE BASIC AIMS OF THE THREE STUDIES. "THE STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AIMS TO DEFINE THE CONCEPTS OF 'STANDARDS' AND 'QUALITY' IN EDUCATION; TO IDENTIFY OUR CURRENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING AND PROMOTING QUALITY; AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO ENSURE THAT, IN EVERY SECTOR OF EDUCATION, THESE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES ARE ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE.

"THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY SEEKS TO IDENTIFY WHAT FACTORS HELP, AND WHAT FACTORS HINDER, THE ACQUISITION BY STUDENTS OF THE LEVEL OF LANGUAGE SKILLS HONG KONG NEEDS.

"THIS WILL HELP US TO DEFINE MORE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE SKILLS OF OUR STUDENTS - STRATEGIES WHICH MAY WELL LEAD TO FUNDAMENTAL NEW THINKING ABOUT THE CURRICULUM, AND ABOUT SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING.

"THE STUDY OF SCHOOL FUNDING ADDRESSES THE QUESTION: WHERE SHOULD DECISIONS ABOUT THE USE OF A SCHOOL'S RESOURCES BE MADE? SHOULD THE CENTRE DECIDE, BY MEANS OF DETAILED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS, WHICH OFTEN SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS THAN PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES? OR SHOULD THE SCHOOL DECIDE, SINCE IT IS MORE LIKELY TO UNDERSTAND ITS OWN ACTUAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES?"

MR LEUNG ALSO CONFIRMED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THESE THREE STUDIES, THE SUBJECT OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WAS ALSO ON THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

DURING HIS TALK, MR LEUNG OUTLINED WHY THE COMMISSION WAS SET UP IN 1984, AND WHAT IT HAD ACHIEVED. HE NOTED THAT OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS IT HAD PRODUCED SIX MAJOR PUBLICATIONS (REPORTS 1 TO 5, AND THE STATEMENT OF AIMS) ON COMPLEX AND OFTEN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

"WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS - TOTALLING MORE THAN 330 SEPARATE ITEMS - HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IMPLEMENTED," HE SAID.

"WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, THE COMMISSION HAS SERVED HONG KONG WELL. HONG KONG STILL NEEDS THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION IS CONTINUING TO PURSUE A TIMELY AND IMPORTANT PROGRAMME OF WORK," MR LEUNG ADDED.

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CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE CAMPAIGN ON CONSTRUCTION SITES TO REMIND EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE NEED FOR CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT OF SITE SAFETY IN A BID TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

"DURING THE TWO-PHASE CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE, AND BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, FACTORY INSPECTORS MADE A TOTAL OF 796 INSPECTIONS TO 366 CONSTRUCTION SITES INCLUDING 17 CAISSON SITES," LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THESE INSPECTIONS WERE MADE IN ADDITION TO THE DAY-TO-DAY INSPECTIONS BECAUSE EXPERIENCE FROM PREVIOUS SIMILAR EXERCISES HAS PROVED THAT THE OPERATION IS VERY EFFECTIVE PARTICULARLY IN THE HOT AND RAINY SEASON," HE SAID.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE CAMPAIGN, FACTORY INSPECTORS CONCENTRATED ON HIGH-RISK AREAS SUCH AS CAISSONS AND PLACES THAT MIGHT CAUSE FALLS OF PERSONS.

"WE ALSO CHECKED ON THE SAFE USE OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEARS AND THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS SAFETY BELTS AND HELMETS.

"AS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SAFETY OF SCAFFOLDS IS ONE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE'S MAIN TARGETS THIS YEAR, FACTORY INSPECTORS EXERCISED GREAT VIGILANCE ON OFFENCES RELATING TO UNSAFE AND SUB-STANDARD SCAFFOLDS.

"APART FROM THE HIGH-RISK AREAS, ATTENTION WAS PAID ON THE HOUSEKEEPING ON THE SITES, THE IMPROVEMENT OF WHICH WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT IN AVOIDING ACCIDENTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID FACTORY INSPECTORS HAD GIVEN SAFETY ADVICE TO 254 SUB-CONTRACTORS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS TAKEN OUT AGAINST 185 SITES FOR SERIOUS BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS.

A TOTAL OF 354 SUMMONSES, INCLUDING 12 SUMMONSES AGAINST 10 CAISSON SITES, WERE ISSUED.

AMONG THE SUMMONSES, 227 WERE OFFENCES RELATED TO FALL FROM A HEIGHT, 50 RELATED TO THE SAFE USE OF MACHINERY INCLUDING WOODWORKING MACHINES, LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEARS, AND 10 ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY.

ANOTHER 40 SUMMONSES WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST CONTRACTORS FOR FAILING TO ENSURE WORKERS WEAR SAFETY HELMETS, 20 SUMMONSES FOR FAILING TO ENSURE WORKERS WEAR EYE-PROTECTORS, FOUR FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE EYE-PROTECTORS TO WORKERS AND ONE ON SAFE HOUSEKEEPING.

"THERE ARE ALSO TWO SUMMONSES AGAINST WORKERS FOR NOT WEARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR," HE SAID.

UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF WORKERS BY PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE WORKING PLACE, THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR REITERATED.

HE ADDED THAT WORKERS MUST ALSO CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS AND USE THE REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO AVOID BEING INJURED.

"OUR INSPECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION AND WILL MOUNT MORE OPERATIONS, IF NECESSARY, TO SEE TO IT THE SAFETY LAW IS BEING OBSERVED," HE SAID.

"UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS WHO CHOOSE TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW WILL BE PROSECUTED," HE SAID.

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TWO CONSORTIA TO SHARE GRANT FOR
PRIMARY EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMMES

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TWO CONSORTIA OF LOCAL TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WILL SHARE A \$10 MILLION GRANT TO DEVELOP DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR SERVING PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

ONE CONSORTIUM IS LED BY THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AND INCLUDES THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE OTHER CONSORTIUM IS HEADED BY THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE AND INCLUDES THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

AT A CEREMONY TODAY (FRIDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, PRESENTED CHEQUES FOR \$5 MILLION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO CONSORTIA.

THE GRANT WAS RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5, AS A WAY TO SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE-SCALE DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR SERVING TEACHERS.

THE TWO CONSORTIA SUBMITTED THEIR BIDS TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN JULY THIS YEAR. HE SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED THE BIDS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS (ACTEQ) FOR ADVICE.

"AFTER A THOROUGH AND IMPARTIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE TWO BIDS, ACTEQ REACHED THE VIEW THAT BOTH THE PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMMES WOULD BE ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY APPROPRIATE FOR LOCAL SERVING PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND WERE OF GOOD QUALITY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRANCH SAID.

"AS THE TWO PROGRAMMES WILL OFFER DISTINCT APPROACHES AND CONTENT AND THE CONSORTIA WILL OPERATE CREDIT TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS, SERVING PRIMARY TEACHERS WILL THEREFORE HAVE A GENUINE CHOICE OF DEGREE PROGRAMMES."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THOSE WHO COMPLETED FOUNDATION COURSES IN ONE PROGRAMME COULD, IF THEY WISH, COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE UNDER THE OTHER PROGRAMME.

THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS AND FOR THE PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEM IN GENERAL, HE ADDED.

THE TWO CONSORTIA AIM TO OFFER THEIR FIRST COURSES NEXT YEAR AND TO DEVELOP FURTHER COURSES IN TIME TO MEET DEMAND.

THEY ALSO ENVISAGE COLLABORATION WITH THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, ONCE IT IS ESTABLISHED NEXT YEAR.

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COURT USERS COMMITTEE KICKS OFF

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THE CIVIL COURT USERS COMMITTEE -- ONE OF THE THREE COURT USERS COMMITTEES RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, AS PART OF THE INITIATIVES TO STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIARY -- HELD ITS FIRST MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AFTER THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR JUSTICE BOKHARY OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, SAID THE MEETING HAD A USEFUL AND GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD AND ON HOW THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BEST FULFIL ITS FUNCTION.

"AT OUR FIRST MEETING, WE DID FOUR MAIN THINGS. FIRST, WE DEvised A WORKING METHOD. SECONDLY, WE CONSIDERED OUR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES. THIRDLY, WE IDENTIFIED SOME OF THE TOPICS MOST IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. FOURTHLY, WE DISCUSSED THREE OF THOSE TOPICS: LISTING; WAITING TIMES; AND PRE-TRIAL REVIEWS.

"WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF OUR TASK. BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN HONG KONG."

APART FROM THE CIVIL COURT USERS COMMITTEE, THE OTHER TWO COMMITTEES ARE THE CRIMINAL COURT USERS COMMITTEE AND THE TRIBUNAL COURT USERS COMMITTEE.

THE FORMER IS CHAIRED BY MR JUSTICE POWER OF THE COURT OF APPEAL AND THE LATTER BY MR GERARD MUTTRIE, THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

ALL THREE COMMITTEES ARE TASKED TO ADVISE THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO USERS OF THE COURTS.

THESE INCLUDE COURT PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES, COURT ADMINISTRATION, THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES IN COURT BUILDINGS.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ARE DRAWN FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION, RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE JUDICIARY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO DO NOT BELONG TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL COURT USERS COMMITTEE ARE MR GEOFFREY MA, QC OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION; MR TIMOTHY PARKES OF THE LAW SOCIETY; JUDGE WILSON OF THE DISTRICT COURT; MR PATRICK HAMLIN, DEPUTY CROWN SOLICITOR; MR MICHAEL TURNBULL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID; AND MR LEE JARK-PUI.

THE CRIMINAL COURT USERS COMMITTEE AND THE TRIBUNAL COURT USERS COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING SHORTLY.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SERVING THE COMMUNITY SCHEME TOOK ANOTHER STEP FORWARD WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF 11 REPRESENTATIVES FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF THE COMMUNITY AS MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE.

APPOINTED TO SERVE IN THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR TWO YEARS ARE THREE PARENTS, TWO STUDENTS, AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES EACH FROM SCHOOLS, THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC.

UNDER ITS CHARTER, THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON SERVICES PROVIDED, CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SERVICES, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE BOARD HAS APPOINTED THREE OF ITS MEMBERS - MR HERMAN HU SHAO-MING, MS SANSAN CHING AND MRS GRACE HUI - TO JOIN THE LIAISON GROUP, WITH MR HU AS CHAIRMAN.

OTHER MEMBERS ARE:

PARENTS: MS HO KWAI-TSING, MS CHRISTINA CHENG AND MS LAM MIU-HAN.

STUDENTS: MR KHAN HUSSAIN ALI AND MISS MELODY WONG

TEACHERS: MR FAN TAK AND MR FUNG SUI TAK

SCHOOLS: MS CHENG YUK-PING AND MS HO LAI-WAH

PUBLIC: MRS CHAN CHUNG YEE-MEI AND MS NORA YAU

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NEXT FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 26).

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BREWIN TRUST FUND ORDINANCE TO BE AMENDED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND THE BREWIN TRUST FUND ORDINANCE TO FORMALISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE TO MAKE BLOCK ALLOCATIONS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

THE PROPOSALS WERE CONTAINED IN THE BREWIN TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSALS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE ALLOCATED FUNDS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS FOR THEM TO DISBURSE TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS.

THE FUND, ESTABLISHED IN THE 1950'S TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, HAS EXPANDED ITS SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S TO WORKMEN INCAPACITATED AT WORK AND TO INDIVIDUALS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE BY DELETING THE WORD CHINESE TO ENABLE THE FUND TO BENEFIT ALL ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

THE PROPOSED BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

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THREE LOTS OF LAND PUT UP FOR AUCTION

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THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION ON DECEMBER 15, THE GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED OFF LUNG PING ROAD, KOWLOON. WITH AN AREA OF 43,520 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 49,140 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1997.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF LO PENG STREET AND PO PENG STREET, PENG CHAU, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF 1,945 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWNS, HOTELS AND OFFICES) USE.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 4,900 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996.

THE REMAINING LOT IN TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES, COVERS AN AREA OF 1,681 SQUARE METRES FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN USE.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 3,026 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

SALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THE OFFICES.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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ORDERS-ON-HAND OF MANUFACTURERS IN SEPTEMBER

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THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS DECREASED SLIGHTLY BY 1% IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR OVER A YEAR EARLIER, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS THAT MANUFACTURERS WILL REQUIRE TO COMPLETE THE ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ORDERS IN THE TEXTILES AND THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES DECREASED MODERATELY BY 8% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

ORDERS POSITION SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, APPRECIABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BY 8% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, ORDERS FOR ALL THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

ORDERS POSITION IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY DECREASED MODERATELY BY 5% OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH. DECREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, BY 1% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE. A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1% WAS RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE MONTHLY SURVEY OF ORDERS-ON-HAND COVERS A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERED ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MIGHT NOT BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS SECTOR.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1993 AT \$5.50 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 805 6441.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND:

/INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY	AS AT THE END OF	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	SEPTEMBER 1993	AUGUST 1993	SEPTEMBER 1992
	(MONTHS)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	4.37	*	-1
WEARING APPAREL	4.49	-1	-5
TEXTILES	1.95	-2	-8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.75	-5	+8
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.54	*	*
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.94	+1	+5
OTHERS	3.80	*	-4

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5%

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REVIEW ARTICLE ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

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THE SEPTEMBER 1993 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ANALYSING THE PERFORMANCE AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN 16 MAJOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG FROM 1981 TO 1991.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID CHANGES IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DURING THE PERIOD HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT.

IN THE EARLY YEARS, LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WERE INCREASINGLY SUBJECT TO THE PRESSURE OF TIGHT LABOUR MARKET, RISING PRODUCTION COSTS AND KEEN COMPETITION FROM OTHER NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS.

"ONE STEP TAKEN BY MANUFACTURERS TO CONTAIN PRODUCTION COSTS AND IMPROVE EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS WAS TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY BY MEANS OF INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ADOPTION OF AN OPEN DOOR POLICY BY MAINLAND CHINA HAD OPENED UP OPPORTUNITIES," HE SAID.

INCREASINGLY, LOCAL MANUFACTURERS RELOCATED THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES ACROSS THE BORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOWER LABOUR AND LAND COSTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANALYSIS WAS MADE WITH REFERENCE TO DATA COLLECTED IN THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

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BUS ROUTE TO SERVE PICNICKERS

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THE NEW TERRITORIES AIR-CONDITIONED RECREATION ROUTE 291R PLYING BETWEEN TAI AU MUN AND TAI HANG TUN WILL BE RE-INTRODUCED FROM SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 21). THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE SERVICE WAS TO COPE WITH DEMANDS FROM VISITORS TO THE CLEARWATER BAY COUNTRY PARK IN THE POPULAR PICNICKING SEASON.

THE BUS ROUTE TRAVELLING VIA CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD WILL BE OPERATIONAL FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AT 15 TO 45-MINUTE FREQUENCIES.

THE FARE IS \$2.30 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

HOWEVER, THE SERVICE MAY BE SUSPENDED AT SHORT NOTICE IN POOR WEATHER.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR BLAKE GARDEN WORKS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR BLAKE GARDEN IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

AN OFFICE BUILDING WITH A ROOF GARDEN WILL BE BUILT. A STANDARD PUBLIC TOILET WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER IN THE SAME YEAR.

A NOTICE ABOUT THE PROJECT IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY). TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON DECEMBER 10.

ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST 1 IN GROUP B OR C FOR BUILDING WORKS MAY TENDER FOR THE PROJECT.

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

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317 RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 317 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER A VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 93 MEN, 92 WOMEN, 66 BOYS AND 66 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 177TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 9,498 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 35,810 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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WORKS TO IMPROVE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR TENDERING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHASE I OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - A SECTION FROM BUTTERFLY VALLEY TO NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE WORKS MAINLY COMPRISE THE WIDENING OF THE EXISTING CHING CHEUNG ROAD FROM A DUAL TWO-LANE TO A DUAL THREE-LANE ROAD FOR THE SECTION BETWEEN BUTTERFLY VALLEY AND TAI PO ROAD, CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFF LINE LINK BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD, CORNWALL STREET/NAM CHEONG STREET JUNCTION AND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE, LANDSCAPING AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS.

DETAILS OF THE PREQUALIFICATION INVITATION ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

CONTRACTORS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE SHOULD WRITE TO THE PROJECT MANAGER, PHH/ARUP CONSULTANTS, 301 ASIAN HOUSE, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG FOR DETAILS.

COMPLETED PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSION SHOULD BE RETURNED AS DIRECTED NO LATER THAN NOON ON DECEMBER 17.

FOLLOWING THE EXERCISE, TENDERS FROM THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS WILL BE INVITED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO START IN MID-1994 AND WILL BE COMPLETED AROUND SEPTEMBER 1997.

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MING YUEN WESTERN STREET TO BE REPAIRED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR PART OF MING YUEN WESTERN STREET IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

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

THE ROAD IS IN POOR CONDITION, GIVING RISE TO CONSIDERABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS. THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE STREET TO A PROPER STANDARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START BY MAY 1995.

A NOTICE ABOUT THE PROPOSED WORKS HAS BEEN GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 29 TAI ON STREET, GROUND FLOOR, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG, AND
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG EAST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 18 NEXT YEAR.

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CLOSURE OF KWAI CHUNG ILLEGAL STRUCTURE SOUGHT

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN A BUILDING IN KWAI CHUNG, SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IS AN EXTENSION OF A COCKLOFT OVER A SHOP ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF KWAI FAT BUILDING, 98-112 SHEK YAM ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON MARCH 18, 1994 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1993

- 17 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,416
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,584
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-280
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,720
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.7 *+0.5* 19.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.42 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.14	3.48
1 MONTH	2.74 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.34	3.67
3 MONTHS	2.91 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.78	3.94
6 MONTHS	3.08 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.88	4.14
12 MONTHS	3.45 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.71	4.73
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 27,764MN						
CLOSED 19 NOVEMBER 1993						

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