



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT'S MAJOR PROJECTS FIRMLY ON COURSE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON PROJECTS FIRMLY IN PLACE OVER THE NEXT 10 TO 15 YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TONIGHT (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE LU PAN FESTIVAL DINNER ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION, MR BARNES CALLED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CO-OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY.

"I BELIEVE WE HAVE BETWEEN US A GOOD RECORD IN THIS RESPECT IN A TRULY 'CONSTRUCTIVE' RELATIONSHIP --- AS A BASIS ON WHICH TO DEVELOP," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THERE HAD BEEN REAL PROGRESS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY ON CONTRACTUAL AND OTHER MATTERS DURING THE PAST YEAR. LOOKING AHEAD OVER THE NEXT 10 TO 15 YEARS, MR BARNES SAW A HIGH AND STABLE LEVEL OF PUBLIC SECTOR DEMAND.

"THIS WILL REQUIRE US ALL TO CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY AND EFFICIENCY OF YOUR INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS THIS YEAR OF TAKING STRATEGIC PLANNING DECISIONS ON MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG ENTERED THE 21ST CENTURY WITH THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED.

"IT IS NOT JUST TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, BUT TO ENHANCE BOTH," HE ADDED.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- (1) THE MUCH DEBATED NEED TO DEVELOP THE AIRPORT, WITH A REAL POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETE RELOCATION, ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE THIS YEAR.
- (2) THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT, FOR CONTAINER, CONVENTIONAL AND RIVER TRADE.
- (3) THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SUCH AS ROAD AND RAIL LINKS, WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THOSE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PORT AND AIRPORT BACK UP FACILITIES.
- (4) OTHER MAJOR TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY.

OVER \$38 BILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AND THE TOTAL COST OF HIGHWAY PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR FIRMLY COMMITTED, IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$23 BILLION.

/(5) MEASURES OUTLINED

- (5) MEASURES OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION IN HONG KONG, WHICH REQUIRE ABOUT \$12 BILLION TO BE SPENT ON CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE FACILITIES OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WITH A FURTHER \$5 BILLION FOR LANDFILLS AND TRANSFER STATIONS.
- (6) THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING TARGET, INCLUDING PUBLIC RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, WHICH HAS A PRODUCTION TARGET OF 552,650 FLATS BETWEEN 1988-89 AND 2000-01.
- (7) THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING LED NEW TOWNS, NOTABLY NOW THE SECOND GENERATION TOWNS IN JUNK BAY (TSEUNG KWAN O) AND TIN SHUI WAI.
- (8) OTHER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE UP-GRADING OF OUR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMANDS OF INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT GENERALLY.
- (9) MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE EXISTING METRO AREA TO CREATE LAND FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT AND TO PROVIDE SPACE TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF OLDER URBAN DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING PROSPECTIVE MAJOR RECLAMATIONS IN WEST KOWLOON, CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI AND GREEN ISLAND.
- (10) THE NEED TO MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO UP-GRADE THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE STANDARD OF SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS THROUGH THE RURAL PLANNING IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY, INVOLVING A PROGRAMME OF WORKS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS ESTIMATED AT \$4 BILLION.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT IN 1988-89, THE GOVERNMENT SPENT \$7.7 BILLION ON PUBLIC WORKS, AND THE INTENDED EXPENDITURE FOR 1989-90 EXPRESSED IN THE SAME 1988 PRICES WAS \$9.3 BILLION.

"SO THERE IS A REAL INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT OVER THE VALUE OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TOTALLED ABOUT \$22.5 BILLION.

IN ADDITION, NEW PROJECTS ESTIMATED TO COST OVER \$40 BILLION HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS NEEDED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, MR BARNES SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO THANKED THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE MEDIATION PROCEDURES AND RULES.

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OMELCO STATEMENT ON DEBATE IN COMMONS
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FOLLOWING IS A PRESS STATEMENT BY THE OMELCO SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON NATIONALITY TODAY (FRIDAY) IN RELATION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS' DEBATE ON HONG KONG:

"WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE SERIOUSNESS AND THE BREADTH OF THE DEBATE.

"THE MAJORITY OF THE SPEAKERS ACKNOWLEDGED THE FACT THAT THERE IS A CONFIDENCE CRISIS IN HONG KONG AND THAT BRITAIN HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION. QUITE A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS AGREED THAT SOME FORMS OF ASSURANCE FOR A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE OUGHT TO BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE SOUGHT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY. WE WOULD WELCOME BRITAIN'S INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA.

"WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT WHEN IT COMES TO THE QUESTION OF RIGHT OF ABODE, NEITHER THE HMG NOR THE OPPOSITION SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED THEIR POSITION. AMONG THE 24 SPEAKERS, ONLY FIVE SUPPORTED FULLY OUR CASE, AND FOUR WERE PARTIALLY SUPPORTIVE.

"WE ARE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT DESPITE THE UNDER-SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT THE CONFIDENCE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WAS RECEIVING HMG'S PRIORITY CONSIDERATION, AND DESPITE THE UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE SENIOR MEMBER OF EXCO, DAME LYDIA DUNN DURING HER LAST VISIT TO LONDON THAT A STATEMENT CONCERNING ACTIONS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE WOULD BE MADE REASONABLY SOON, SUCH A STATEMENT WAS NOT FORTHCOMING IN THE DEBATE. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT HMG MEANS WHAT SHE SAYS AND IS ACTIVELY WORKING ON IT AS A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY.

"ON THE ISSUE OF THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION IN HONG KONG, WE AGREE THAT IT SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR HONG KONG TO DECIDE. WE ARE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT HMG WILL ENSURE THAT THE BASIC LAW CONFORMS WITH BOTH THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"WE FEEL THAT OUR COLLEAGUES IN LONDON HAVE FULFILLED THEIR MISSION IN EXPLAINING HONG KONG'S CASE AND PUTTING FORWARD THE COMMUNITY'S VIEWS ON THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LATTER'S UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS, AS REFLECTED IN THE DEBATE, HAS BEEN ENHANCED AS A RESULT OF MEETINGS WITH THE OMELCO DELEGATION.

"AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, AND WE SAY IT AGAIN, WE CANNOT EXPECT ATTITUDES TO CHANGE OVERNIGHT. IT IS A LONG EXERCISE, AND OUR EFFORTS MUST BE SUSTAINED.

/"THE LACK

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"THE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DEBATE WILL NOT DETER US FROM CONTINUING TO PRESS HONG KONG'S CASE FOR THE RESTORATION OF RIGHT OF ABODE. THE ISSUE IS SO IMPORTANT AND INVOLVES SUCH A MAJOR PRINCIPLE THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE IT UP EASILY. WE WILL, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, PRESS FOR THE EARLY RELEASE OF THE STATEMENT AS PROMISED EARLIER BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND AS REITERATED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY DURING THE DEBATE.

"THE OMELCO OFFICE IN LONDON WILL BE MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT CLOSELY."

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CONTRACT SIGNING OF WAN CHAI TOWER III

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THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR JOSE LEI, TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED A \$498 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 49-STORY OFFICE BUILDING AT HARBOUR ROAD IN WAN CHAI.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WAN CHAI TOWER III WILL BEGIN BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AND TAKE 32 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE CONTRACT IS THE LARGEST AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR.

THIS TOWER IS THE THIRD AND THE LAST PHASE OF A GOVERNMENT COMPLEX AT A SITE BOUNDED BY HARBOUR ROAD TO THE NORTH AND GLOUCESTER ROAD TO THE SOUTH.

THE COMPLEX CONSISTS OF THREE MAJOR BUILDINGS, THAT IS, TOWER I, II AND III.

TOWER III WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO PHASES. PHASE I, WHICH WILL INVOLVE PUTTING UP 27 FLOORS FROM THE GROUND, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 25 MONTHS. THE REMAINING FLOORS WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER SEVEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN OFFERS OFFICE AREAS ALL COLUMN FREE, THUS ALLOWING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN THE ALLOCATION AND PLANNING OF INTERIOR OFFICE SPACE.

TO ALLOW FOR COMPUTERISATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN FUTURE, FOUR FLOORS WILL BE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR COMPUTER INSTALLATIONS.

ON COMPLETION, A TOTAL OF 108,000 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE FIRST FIVE FLOORS OF THE BUILDING WILL BE LINKED BY 10 ESCALATORS.

/THE THREE

THE THREE BUILDINGS OF THE COMPLEX ARE SET IN A TRIANGULAR ARRANGEMENT TO MINIMISE VISUAL OBSTRUCTION TO ONE ANOTHER.

TOWER II AND III ADOPT THE SAME DESIGN LAYOUT BECAUSE BOTH TOWERS ARE USED TO ACCOMMODATE GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THIS IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE SAME ELEVATION TREATMENT OF THE TWO BUILDINGS.

THE DESIGN OF TOWER I IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT IS ESSENTIALLY A MAGISTRACY BUILDING WITH COURT ROOMS.

TOWER I WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1987. TOWER II IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY JUNE NEXT YEAR.

THE HARBOUR ROAD DEVELOPMENT FORMS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICES BUILDING PROGRAMME TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON LEASED PRIVATELY-DEVELOPED OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

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FIGURES ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RELEASED

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A TOTAL OF 32,326 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS WERE REGISTERED WITH THE URBAN LAND OFFICE DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A REDUCTION OF 0.7 PER CENT AND 4.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE AGREEMENTS WAS \$50.44 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 47.4 PER CENT FROM \$34.22 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND 10.2 PER CENT FROM \$45.77 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988.

RELEASING THE FIGURES TODAY, MR GLEESON SAID THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE AGREEMENTS WERE FOR FLATS IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN MAY THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 37,784 PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WERE REGISTERED, WHICH WAS AN ALL TIME HIGH RECORD.

THE FIGURE FOR JUNE DROPPED TO 29,159 BUT WAS STILL GENERALLY IN LINE WITH OTHER MONTHLY FIGURES FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1989, HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS REGISTERED DECREASED FROM 5,046 IN MAY TO 3,251 IN JUNE.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989, 47,780 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, THE MAJORITY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, COMPARED WITH 40,645 AND 49,841 RESPECTIVELY DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988, SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 17.6 PER CENT AND A DECREASE OF 4.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS INCREASED BY 84.6 PER CENT FROM \$31.186 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND BY 20.1 PER CENT FROM \$47.911 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 TO \$57.558 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 3,135 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, COMPARED WITH 2,393 AND 2,025 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WERE 523 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS 55.2 PER CENT MORE BUT 20.2 PER CENT LESS RESPECTIVELY THAN IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS INCREASED BY 143.1 PER CENT FROM \$9.375 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 BUT DECREASED BY 1.1 PER CENT FROM \$23.036 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 TO \$22.787 BILLION.

THIRTY-ONE BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 51,178 OTHER MORTGAGES WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989, COMPARED WITH 29 AND 44,242 RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND 26 AND 53,181 RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 ROSE BY 156.7 PER CENT FROM \$0.283 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND BY 45.2 PER CENT FROM \$0.500 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 TO \$0.727 BILLION.

THE AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES, HOWEVER, DROPPED BY 2.6 PER CENT FROM \$34.311 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND BY 15.9 PER CENT FROM \$39.723 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 TO \$33.426 BILLION.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, WERE UP BY 52.4 PER CENT FROM \$12.333 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND BY 15.1 PER CENT FROM \$16.323 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 TO \$18.791 BILLION.

SEARCHES IN THE LAND OFFICE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TOTALLED 803,891, UP BY 1 PER CENT BUT DOWN BY 7.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988.

THERE WERE 850 SURRENDERS AND RESUMPTIONS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$0.347 BILLION PAID IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPARED WITH 561 AND \$0.353 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AND 748 AND \$0.361 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

MR GLEESON SAID THAT OF THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES, SEVEN HAD NOW BEEN TAKEN OVER BY HIS DEPARTMENT. IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE OVER THE REMAINING REGISTRY AT NORTH IN MAY 1990.

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989, THE SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT REGISTERED A TOTAL OF 120,146 INSTRUMENTS.

THESE INCLUDED 18,992 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, 29,582 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS, 2,743 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS, 23 BUILDING MORTGAGES, 33,662 OTHER MORTGAGES AND 20,691 MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, RE-ASSIGNMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSIDERATIONS WAS \$14.852 BILLION, \$16.818 BILLION, \$9.119 BILLION, \$0.446 BILLION, \$9.000 BILLION AND \$5.597 BILLION RESPECTIVELY.

A TOTAL OF 656 GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES COMPARED WITH 514 AND 611 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL PREMIUM FROM ALL TYPES OF GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS, IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AMOUNTED TO \$8.036 BILLION COMPARED WITH \$7.669 BILLION AND \$4.595 BILLION RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1988.

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) THE SALE BY CASH TENDER UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP (PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION) SCHEME ON JANUARY 12 OF A 2.24-HECTARE SITE (JUNK BAY TOWN LOT NO. 11) AT JUNK BAY AREA 28 TO HENING INVESTMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$106,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.
- (2) THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON JANUARY 25 OF A 7,230-SQUARE METRE SITE (INLAND LOT NO. 8643) AT HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI TO CHEER CITY PROPERTIES LIMITED AND PROTASAN LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$3.35 BILLION FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (INCLUDING HOTEL AND/OR SERVICE APARTMENT BUT EXCLUDING GODOWN AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL) PURPOSES.
- (3) THE GRANT ON FEBRUARY 2 OF A 1.192-HECTARE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 316) AT AREA 7 TOWN CENTRE, SHA TIN TO OVERTURE COMPANY LIMITED BY WAY OF EXCHANGE AT A PREMIUM OF \$89,800,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.
- (4) THE GRANT ON FEBRUARY 13 OF A 58.7-HECTARE SITE (LOT NO. 846 IN DD 227) AT TAI PO TSAI, SAI KUNG TO THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT A NOMINAL PREMIUM FOR THE PURPOSES OF A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY AND OTHER ANCILLARY PURPOSES.

/(5) THE SALE

- (5) THE SALE BY CASH TENDER ON MARCH 6 OF A 757.2-SQUARE METRE SITE (INLAND LOT NO. 8694) AT GARDEN ROAD TO KAMOTON LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$153,800,000 FOR THE PURPOSES OF RETAIL SHOPS, A SUPERMARKET AND A PUBLIC CAR PARK.
- (6) THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MARCH 28 OF A 2.215-HECTARE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 66) AT AREA 22, TAI PO TO ALWAYS SUCCESS DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$700,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY ROSE BY 4.7 PER CENT FROM 1,065,978 IN JUNE 1988 TO 1,116,209 IN DECEMBER 1988 AND AGAIN BY 4.5 PER CENT TO 1,166,201 IN JUNE 1989.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MARCH - MAY 1989

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IN THE PERIOD MARCH - MAY 1989, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WERE HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1988 - FEBRUARY 1989, REFLECTING THAT THE LABOUR MARKET HAS EASED marginally IN THE MORE RECENT PERIOD.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1989 WAS 1.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.2 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989 AND 1.7 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE DECREASE OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN MARCH - MAY 1989 WAS ESTIMATED AT 40,300, COMPARED WITH 33,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989 AND 47,700 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1989 WAS 0.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989 AND 0.8 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

/THE ESTIMATED

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR MARCH - MAY 1989 WAS 25,800, COMPARED WITH 17,200 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989 AND 22,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1989 WAS 1.4 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.8 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND SEPTEMBER 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL NAMED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MR DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, WILL SUCCEED MR GORDON SIU AS POSTMASTER GENERAL IN SEPTEMBER.

MR SIU'S APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, VICE MR JAMES SO, WAS ANNOUNCED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MR WONG AND MR SIU ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MR DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, JP

AGED 47. MR WONG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (1977-80), POLICE CIVIL SECRETARY (1981-83), DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) (1984-88) AND BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN JANUARY 1988.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN DECEMBER 1988.

MR GORDON SIU KWING-CHUE, JP

AGED 43. MR SIU JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1968. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (1977-79), PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (1980-82), DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (STAFF MANAGEMENT) (1982-85), SECRETARY GENERAL, OMELCO (1985-88) AND BECAME POSTMASTER GENERAL IN MARCH 1988.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN DECEMBER 1988.

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CHANGES TO COMPANIES ORDINANCE RECOMMENDED
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A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WERE CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM COVERING SUBJECTS CONSIDERED DURING 1988.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED CHANGES TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE ON REGISTRATION OF CHARGES, MORTGAGES ON SHIPS AND PROCEDURES FOR STRIKING A DEFUNCT COMPANY OFF THE REGISTER, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID THAT A PROPOSED REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR NEW COMPANY NAMES WAS ALSO PUT FORWARD BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

"DURING THE YEAR, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) BILL BEFORE IT WAS PASSED INTO LAW.

"A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC) REPORT WHICH AFFECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WERE ALSO EXAMINED," HE SAID.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF CHARGES, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL (RG) WAS REQUIRED TO SATISFY HIMSELF THAT ALL THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO HIM WERE REASONABLE EVIDENCE OF PAYMENT OR SATISFACTION OF DEBT OR OF THE RELEASE OF PART OF THE SECURITY PROPERTY FROM THE CHARGE.

"THE EFFECT OF THE EXISTING PROVISION IS TO REQUIRE THE RG TO EXAMINE THE RELEVANT REASSIGNMENTS, DEEDS OF DISCHARGE, INSTRUMENTS OF RELEASE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO HIM AS EVIDENCE.

"THE STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THIS SECTION OF THE LAW BE AMENDED TO RELIEVE THE RG FROM HAVING TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE INSTRUMENT OF SATISFACTION EMPLOYED IN EACH CASE IS EFFECTIVE; AND REQUIRE HIM ONLY TO SATISFY HIMSELF THAT A STATUTORY DECLARATION VERIFYING THE FULFILMENT OF THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENT IS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM," HE ADDED.

ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE INVOLVES MORTGAGES ON SHIPS.

"IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO REPLACE A REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER A MORTGAGE ON A SHIP WITH A REQUIREMENT ONLY TO FILE A NOTIFICATION OF THE MORTGAGE WITH THE COMPANIES REGISTRY," HE SAID.

"THIS IS INTENDED TO AVOID THE NEED TO REGISTER A MORTGAGE IN BOTH THE COMPANIES REGISTRY AND THE PROPOSED NEW SHIPPING REGISTRY."

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ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF DEFAULT IN FILING ANNUAL RETURNS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT SECTION 291 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO PERMIT THE RG TO START AUTOMATICALLY THE PROCEDURE FOR STRIKING A COMPANY OFF THE REGISTER AS SOON AS THE DELAY IN FILING ANNUAL RETURNS WENT BEYOND A CERTAIN LIMIT.

OUTLINING THE RECOMMENDATION INVOLVING THE COMPANY NAME REGISTRATION SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRESENT REGISTRATION PROCESS WHICH IN ESSENCE REQUIRED THE RG TO EXERCISE A DISCRETION TO DECIDE WHETHER A NEW COMPANY NAME BEING REGISTERED WAS CONFUSINGLY SIMILAR TO AN EXISTING COMPANY NAME WAS CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY.

"THE STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM BE REPLACED BY A SYSTEM AKIN TO THAT CURRENTLY ADOPTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. UNDER THE UNITED KINGDOM SYSTEM, A NAME IS REGISTRABLE PROVIDED THAT IT IS NOT IDENTICAL TO AN EXISTING ONE.

"HOWEVER, IN THE CASE WHERE A COMPANY NAME THUS REGISTERED IS CONSIDERED TOO SIMILAR TO ANOTHER PRE-EXISTING NAME, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY MAY, WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE REGISTRATION, REQUIRE THE NEWLY REGISTERED COMPANY TO CHANGE ITS NAME DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD," HE EXPLAINED.

"IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT, LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW SYSTEM ARE ALREADY UNDER PREPARATION. URGENT ACTION IS ALSO BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEARCH GOVERNMENT'S RECORDS OF COMPANY NAMES BEFORE THE NEW SYSTEM IS PUT IN PLACE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TURNING TO THE SFC BILL, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ALL THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN ITS DISCUSSION OF THE BILL WERE MET THROUGH AMENDMENTS TO ITS PROVISIONS DURING THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE BILL'S PREPARATION.

"IN ADDITION, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ALSO EXAMINED A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SRC REPORT WHICH AFFECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"THESE INCLUDE THE REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTUSES, THE REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL BY A COMPANY FOR DIRECTORS TO DISPOSE OF THE COMPANY'S FIXED ASSETS AND THE PURCHASE BY A COMPANY OF ITS OWN SHARES.

"ON THE REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTUSES, THE STANDING COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE THAT ONLY ONE BODY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VETTING AND APPROVAL OF PROSPECTUSES AND RECOMMENDS THAT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, THE EXACT NATURE OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE SFC IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STOCK EXCHANGE," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

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AS FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL BY A COMPANY FOR DIRECTORS TO DISPOSE OF THE COMPANY'S FIXED ASSETS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE FELT THIS SHOULD PREFERABLY BE REGULATED BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE THROUGH ITS LISTING RULES RATHER THAN BY STATUTE.

IT AGREED THAT ONCE THE PROPOSED NEW RULES WERE FINALISED, THE NEED FOR AMENDMENT OR DELETION OF SECTION 155A WOULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERED.

"THE SUBJECT OF THE PURCHASE BY A COMPANY OF ITS OWN SHARES WAS FIRST TOUCHED UPON BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN ITS THIRD REPORT COVERING SUBJECTS CONSIDERED IN 1986.

"AT THAT TIME, IT RECOMMENDED THAT ONLY UNLISTED COMPANIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN SHARES AND THAT THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING LISTED COMPANIES TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN SHARES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AGAIN AFTER SATISFACTORY LEGISLATION HAD BEEN ENACTED DEALING WITH (A) DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SHAREHOLDINGS IN LISTED COMPANIES, (B) INSIDER DEALING, (C) DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS, AND (D) FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF DIRECTORS," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"REGARDING ITEM (A), THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE 1988 WAS ENACTED IN JULY 1988 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR, ONCE THE SFC HAS THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO ENFORCE ITS PROVISIONS.

"ON ITEM (B), PROPOSALS TO INCREASE SANCTIONS UNDER THE TRIBUNAL SYSTEM HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) BILL WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 12, 1989.

"LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR ITEMS (C) AND (D) ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION LATER IN THE YEAR," HE SAID.

"ON THE PURCHASE BY A COMPANY OF ITS OWN SHARES, THE REPORT NOTED THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE WAS KEEPING IN MIND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SUBJECT IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY THE FACT THAT THE SHARES OF A NUMBER OF LISTED COMPANIES WERE, AT THE TIME THE REPORT WAS WRITTEN, AT A DISCOUNT TO THEIR NET ASSET VALUES."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE HAD IN FACT RESUMED CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT DURING 1989.

APART FROM THESE TOPICS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS THE AUDIT OF COMPANY ACCOUNTS, RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS TO INSPECT COMPANY'S BOOKS OF ACCOUNT, PROVISIONS RELATING TO LOANS TO OFFICERS OF AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE INTERPRETATION OF PART XI OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES IS STILL CONTINUING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"MEMBERS OF

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"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, COMMERCIAL DIVISION, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 21ST FLOOR, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE FIFTH REPORT ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER II, 24TH FLOOR, 18 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20, 1989," HE ADDED.

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REVISION OF FEES FOR EDUCATION COURSES
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FEES FOR SECONDARY 4 TO 7 IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND FOR TEACHER TRAINING AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE 1989-90 AND 1990-91 SCHOOL YEARS WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NEW FEES FOR SECONDARY 4 TO 7 ARE FOR THE FOURTH AND FIFTH YEARS OF A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME TO PHASE IN FEE INCREASES TO RESTORE TO REAL VALUE OF THE FEES ANNOUNCED IN THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION TO AVOID ANY UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PARENTS.

THE REVISION FOR THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTABLISHED POLICY THAT STUDENTS SHOULD BEAR A REASONABLE SHARE OF THE COST AS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR.

FOR SECONDARY 4 AND 5, THE FEE, WHICH IS PAYABLE IN 10 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS PER YEAR, WILL INCREASE BY \$25 TO \$130 A MONTH AS FROM SEPTEMBER. IT WILL RISE FURTHER BY \$30 TO \$160 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 1990.

THE FEES FOR SECONDARY 6 AND 7 WILL INCREASE BY \$30 TO \$170 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 1989. IT WILL RISE FURTHER BY \$45 TO \$215 FROM SEPTEMBER 1990.

FOR FULL-TIME COURSES IN THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, THE FEE WILL INCREASE BY \$30 TO \$170 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 1989 AND THEN BY \$65 TO \$235 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 1990.

FEE ASSISTANCE FOR BOUGHT PLACES FROM SECONDARY 4 TO 7 IN NON-PROFIT-MAKING PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND LINGNAN COLLEGE WILL BE REVISED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REVISED STANDARD FEES.

/A SPOKESMAN

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID NEEDY STUDENTS COULD CONTINUE TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME.

UNDER THE SCHEME, UP TO 45 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FEE INCOME FROM SECONDARY 4 AND 5 AND 50 PER CENT FROM SECONDARY 6 AND 7 MAY BE REMITTED.

AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY RECEIVE BETWEEN HALF AND FULL FEE REMISSION DEPENDING ON HIS FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF INTEREST-FREE LOANS AND MAINTENANCE GRANTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN 1989-90.

STUDENT LOANS MADE TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION STUDENTS IN 1990-91 AND LATER WILL BE SUBJECT TO INTEREST, AS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR.

NEW FEES FOR ADULT EDUCATION COURSES AND OTHER COURSES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE SCHOOL YEARS 1989-90 AND 1990-91 WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

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SCS BRIEFED ON TRADE DEPARTMENT'S INCREASED WORKLOAD
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THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERALL INCREASE IN THE WORKLOAD OF TRADE DEPARTMENT STAFF PARALLEL TO THE GROWTH OF BUSINESS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS OVERSEAS.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, WAS TOLD THIS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DEPARTMENT'S EEC (TEXTILES CONTROL) BRANCH, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE HONG KONG/EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TEXTILE AGREEMENT, LAST YEAR PROCESSED SOME 450,000 TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES AND OVER 50,000 OTHER DOCUMENTS. IT ALSO ADMINISTERED THE QUOTA ACCOUNTING OF 28,000 HOLDINGS BELONGING TO 8,000 QUOTA HOLDERS.

AT THE SYSTEMS AND COMMON SERVICE BRANCH, WHERE THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AND ISSUES VARIOUS APPLICATIONS FOR QUOTA AND NON-QUOTA TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES, MR GREWAL HEARD THAT OVER THREE MILLION APPLICATIONS WERE HANDLED IN 1988.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE CERTIFICATION BRANCH, WHICH ISSUES CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, PROCESSED AND APPROVED OVER 516,400 SUCH DOCUMENTS. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE 786,000 CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN ISSUED BY THE FIVE GOVERNMENT APPROVED CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS.

/MR GREWAL

MR GREWAL WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF.

HE LATER MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRADE OFFICERS GRADE ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF WELFARE AND CAREER PROSPECTS.

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CLINIC HELPERS COURSE FOR VBP
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THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) IS ORGANISING A SERIES OF CLINIC HELPERS TRAINING COURSES FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AT VARIOUS DETENTION CENTRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR AMS SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSES IS TWO-FOLD.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THOSE TRAINED WILL BE ASSIGNED TO CLINICS IN THEIR OWN CENTRES WHERE THEY WILL WORK UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION OF CLINIC STAFF, THUS EASING THE STRAIN ON THE AMS," HE SAID.

"THE SCHEME ALSO AIMS TO ENABLE VBP TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON HYGIENE AND TO SPEND THEIR TIME MORE MEANINGFULLY."

THE FIRST COURSE, IN WHICH 20 VBP AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE TOOK PART, HAS JUST BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

A SIMILAR COURSE WILL START AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DETENTION CENTRE ON MONDAY TO BE FOLLOWED BY COURSES AT OTHER VBP DETENTION CENTRES.

AT PRESENT ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF AMS ARE DEPLOYED DAILY TO VARIOUS SICK BAYS AND CLINICS INSIDE VBP DETENTION CENTRES OR REFUGEE CENTRES TO AUGMENT THE REGULAR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VBP ARRIVING IN HONG KONG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, HAS PUT A STRAIN ON AMS'S MANPOWER RESOURCES.

THE COURSES WERE ORGANISED AFTER A RECENT VISIT TO THE LO WU AND WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRES BY THE AMS COMMISSIONER, DR S.H. LEE.

DURING THE VISIT, DR LEE SAW FOR HIMSELF THE MEDICAL COVERAGE PROVIDED BY AMS TO VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, AND CHATTED WITH AMS MEMBERS WHO PROVIDE TRAINED ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE REGULAR MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE HIGH MORALE OF AMS MEMBERS AND THE WAY THEY GO ABOUT THEIR DUTIES, WHICH ARE OFTEN CARRIED OUT UNDER TRYING CONDITION.

/THE PRIMARY

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THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES, WITH A STRENGTH OF OVER 5,000 VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, IS TO AUGMENT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES.

IN NORMAL TIMES, THEY PROVIDE FIRST AID COVERAGE FOR PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND AT COUNTRY PARKS AT WEEKENDS; AND ACT AS LIFE GUARDS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BEACHES DURING PEAK SEASON.

IN ADDITION, THEY ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ADMINISTERING METHADONE MAINTENANCE CLINICS.

DR LEE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO EMPLOYERS AND FIRMS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR RELEASING THEIR STAFF TO TAKE PART IN SUCH A MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE.

WITHOUT THEIR CO-OPERATION, HE ADDED, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

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RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989 GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED THAT THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE LAW APPLICABLE TO TRUSTS BE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG.

THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) PROVIDES THAT THE CONVENTION SHOULD HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW IN HONG KONG.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT SAID THAT IN 1984, THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW ADOPTED THE CONVENTION OF THE LAW APPLICABLE TO TRUSTS AND ON THEIR RECOGNITION.

THE CONVENTION WAS SIGNED, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION, BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN JANUARY, 1986.

THE UNITED KINGDOM INTENDS TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION AND HAS ASKED WHETHER HONG KONG WISHES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RATIFICATION.

BUT BEFORE HONG KONG CAN BE INCLUDED, PROVISION MUST BE MADE FOR THE CONVENTION TO HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW HERE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION IS TO ESTABLISH COMMON PRINCIPLES BETWEEN STATES ON THE LAW OF TRUSTS AND TO DEAL WITH IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR RECOGNITION.

WHILE THE CONCEPT OF A TRUST IS RECOGNISED AND ACCEPTED IN HONG KONG IT IS NOT RECOGNISED IN MANY COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT HAVE A CIVIL LAW SYSTEM, WHERE IT IS NOT ACCEPTED THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL MAY HOLD ASSETS ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER.

/"IN ORDER

"IN ORDER TO AVOID THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE UNITED KINGDOM PROMOTED THE NEGOTIATION TOWARDS THE CONVENTION, WHICH INTRODUCES THE CONCEPT OF A TRUST INTO JURISDICTIONS WHERE IT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ACCEPTED AND PROVIDES RULES FOR DETERMINING THE LAW WHICH GOVERNS SUCH A TRUST AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED.

"IF THE CONVENTION IS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG, IT WILL NOT AFFECT HONG KONG DOMESTIC LAW, BUT TRUSTS ESTABLISHED HERE AND TO WHICH HONG KONG LAW APPLIES WILL RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF RECOGNITION IN CONVENTION COUNTRIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TRADE MARK REGISTRATION FEES REVISED

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FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS WILL BE REVISED FROM AUGUST 14 THIS YEAR.

THE REVISED FEES, IN SCHEDULE I TO THE TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989, WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISION TOOK ACCOUNT OF INFLATION AND THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES INVOLVED IN REGISTERING TRADE MARKS.

THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1985.

THE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO AMEND MOST OF THE FORMS USED IN TRADE MARKS PROCEEDINGS, SO THAT IN FUTURE FEE AMENDMENT EXERCISES IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO USE NEW FORMS.

TO FACILITATE THE PROCESSING OF TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS, A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED FROM JANUARY THIS YEAR.

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CHINESE MUSICIANS ARRIVE TO JOIN MUSIC CAMP

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TWO RENOWNED CHINESE MUSICIANS FROM PEKING ARRIVED TODAY (FRIDAY) TO JOIN THE 1989 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO JULY 29.

THEY ARE CONDUCTOR OF THE CHINA VANGUARD FOLK ORCHESTRA, MR WANG HUIRAN; AND THE PRINCIPAL RUAN PLAYER OF THE CHINESE FILM STUDIO ORCHESTRA, MR ZHAO GUILIN.

/TWO OTHER

TWO OTHER CHINESE MUSICIANS - A DIZI VIRTUOSO OF THE PEKING CENTRAL FOLK ORCHESTRA, MR WANG TIECHUI, AND AN ERHU PERFORMER, MR CHEN YAOXING - TOGETHER WITH FOUR OTHER OVERSEAS MUSICIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE TO BE THE CAMP'S GUEST CONDUCTORS AND INSTRUCTORS.

THE FOUR OVERSEAS MUSICIANS ARE MR JOHN CURRO AND MR RUSSELL HAMMOND FROM AUSTRALIA, MR DETLEF HAHN FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND MR TIMOTHY LANDAUER FROM THE UNITED STATES.

DURING THE CAMP PERIOD, THEY WILL CONDUCT MASTERCLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS.

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INSOLVENCY FUND EXTENDED TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENTS
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THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1989, WHICH EXTENDS THE SCOPE OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENTS, COMES INTO EFFECT TODAY (FRIDAY).

A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT BEFORE THE EXTENSION, THE FUND COVERED ONLY FOUR MONTHS' ARREARS OF WAGES UP TO \$8,000 AND SEVEN DAYS' WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE UP TO \$2,000.

"WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW, EMPLOYEES OF INSOLVENT EMPLOYERS CAN ALSO APPLY TO THE FUND FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$4,000," HE SAID.

"APPLICATIONS FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS AFTER TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT."

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT WAGES SHOULD BE PAID WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE LAST DAY OF THE WAGE PERIOD.

FURTHERMORE, IF EMPLOYERS DO NOT REASONABLY BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD PAY WAGES, THEY MUST NOT ENTER INTO, RENEW OR CONTINUE A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT BUT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO TERMINATE AN EXISTING CONTRACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS.

"ANY EMPLOYER WHO WILFULLY CONTRAVENES THESE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

"EMPLOYEES WHO ARE OWED WAGES BY THEIR EMPLOYERS SHOULD ALSO APPROACH THE LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE WITHOUT DELAY."

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MORE ROAD, SERVICING WORKS FOR NEW TOWN

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR ANOTHER PROJECT AS PART OF THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT MAINLY COVERS SITE FORMATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS IN AREAS 18, 19 AND 21 TO THE NORTH OF LUEN WO MARKET AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF DISTRIBUTOR ROADS D3 AND L8.

THE PROPOSED WORKS INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOME 1,200 METRES OF DISTRIBUTOR ROADS AND 1,400 METRES OF LOCAL ROADS AS WELL AS ANCILLARY FACILITIES SUCH AS FOOT PATHS, CYCLE TRACKS, ROADSIDE AMENITIES, EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ACCESSES AND A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS.

THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS WILL COMPRISE A TEMPORARY BUS TERMINUS, A GREEN MINIBUS/PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS, A TAXI STAND AND A VEHICLE SET DOWN AREA.

IN ADDITION, THE CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE WORKS FOR THE PROVISION OF DRAINAGE NETWORKS; THE IMPROVEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SOME EXISTING ROADS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

WORKS ON THE PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 18.

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TRAINING IN CHILD CARE WORK ESSENTIAL

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VARIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTES ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO BOTH THE QUANTITY AND THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE TRAINING COURSES SO AS TO ENABLE THE TRAINEES TO PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF A CHILD CARE COURSE AT THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, MR LAW NOTED THAT TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS WAS ESSENTIAL AND NEEDED TO BE UPDATED CONSTANTLY TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE SERVICE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 2,400 OF THE SOME 2,800 CHILD CARE WORKERS IN HONG KONG HAD HAD BASIC TRAINING.

APART FROM THAT, MR LAW SAID, HIS DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO INVITED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR STAFF OF CHILDREN'S HOMES, WORKERS SERVING DISABLED CHILDREN AND SUPERVISORS OF CHILD CARE CENTRES.

/THE DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF STARTED FROM 1962 TO PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS, MR LAW SAID, ADDING THAT ITS LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE OFTEN HOSTED VARIOUS TALKS AND SEMINARS TO HELP RAISE THE QUALITY OF THE WORKERS.

MR LAW SAID THERE WERE NOW 299 CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG, PROVIDING 31,000 PLACES AND 16 MORE CENTRES WOULD BE SET UP EVERY YEAR TO PROVIDE 1,600 ADDITIONAL PLACES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

"WE HAVE COMPLETED THE PRELIMINARY REVIEW ON THE PROVISION OF CRECHES AND ARE CURRENTLY CONSULTING THE VIEWS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

"FURTHER TO OUR PLANS TO PROVIDE SEVERAL HUNDRED ADDITIONAL INTEGRATED AND SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE PLACES IN THE COMING YEARS, WE WILL ALSO EXPLORE SOME FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS EXTENDING THE OPERATING HOURS OF CHILD CARE CENTRES AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY CARE SERVICES TO MEET ACTUAL DEMANDS," HE SAID.

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AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE, WILL PRESENT AWARDS FOR EIGHT OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE 1989 OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT AWARD COMPETITION WAS COMPLETED RECENTLY WITH SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

A CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRE HAS WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ORGANISING A COMMUNITY PROJECT PROMOTING CIVIC-MINDEDNESS.

THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS AND THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG HAVE WON THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES RESPECTIVELY.

THE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED CASH PRIZES RANGING FROM \$2,000 TO \$8,000 FOR USE IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION. ALL THE WINNING PROJECTS WILL BE EXHIBITED DURING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE SHEK O ROOM OF THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1989

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GOVT OFFICE BUILDING, AMBULANCE DEPOT IN HO MAN TIN

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WORK WILL START IN OCTOBER ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 14-STOREY OFFICE BUILDING AND AMBULANCE DEPOT IN HO MAN TIN.

THE SITE IS AT THE JUNCTION OF CHUNG HAU STREET AND CARMEL VILLAGE STREET.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE NOW BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 22,300 SQUARE METRES.

SOME 42 PARKING SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND MEZZANINE LEVEL.

A STANDARD FOUR-BAY AMBULANCE DEPOT IS INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN.

ALLOCATION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION HAS YET TO BE FINALISED BUT A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 12,000 SQUARE METRES IS ALLOCATED FOR GOVERNMENT LABORATORY USE.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN DECEMBER 1991.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOON ON AUGUST 4.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT PHOTO EXHIBITION

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY (JULY 16) IN THE SHUN TAK CENTRE, CENTRAL.

THE EXHIBITION, COMPRISING OVER 70 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ON COMMON MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, WILL RUN UNTIL JULY 22 (SATURDAY).

IT IS AIMED AT MAKING LOCAL RESIDENTS MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL DISTRICT AND THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN DISTRICT, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

/THE DISTRICT

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1989

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THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR AMBROSE LAU; AND A DIRECTOR OF HONG YIP SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED, MR KWONG CHUN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM ON SUNDAY AT THE EXHIBITION HALL, THIRD FLOOR, SHUN TAK CENTRE, CENTRAL.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN TO KWA WAN TO BE DEMOLISHED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF AN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORK ON THE ROOFTOP OF NO. 1 WAN HING STREET IN TO KWA WAN, SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDING IS ORDINANCE IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND JANUARY THIS YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 18 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURE TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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TEMPORARY RE-ROUTEING OF BROADWOOD ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE EXISTING RE-ROUTEING OF BROADWOOD ROAD BETWEEN VENTRIS ROAD AND LINK ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, TO ONE-WAY UPHILL WILL CONTINUE IN FORCE UNTIL MID-AUGUST.

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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1989

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RATEPAYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON THIRD QUARTER PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS SHOULD BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES FOR RATES FOR THE QUARTER JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1989 WHICH ARE DEMANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATING ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE MAY BRING A RATES DEMAND NOTE OF ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER AND MAKE PAYMENT AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE TREASURY CENTRAL COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON; AND
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE AND CANNOT PRODUCE A RATES DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON JULY 31, 1989 AND UNLESS SO PAID MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE RATING ORDINANCE.

A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE) WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST, OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING "PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY" IS SHOWN IN THE DEMAND NOTE.

IN THIS CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON JULY 31, 1989. RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATEPAYERS ARE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE AMOUNT PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DATE IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE "TOTAL AMOUNT DUE" BOX.

/RATES ARE

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 30 OF THE ORDINANCE.

UNDER SECTION 30 (1A) AND (2A), HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES (UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT).

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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IMPROVEMENT TO WO YI HOP ROAD JUNCTIONS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE JUNCTION OF WO YI HOP ROAD WITH NGONG HOM ROAD AND LEI SHU ROAD, KOWLOON.

A NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

"AT PRESENT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE RELIES ON THE TWO ROAD JUNCTIONS WITH WO YIP HOP ROAD," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT TRAFFIC FLOW ALONG WO YI HOP ROAD WILL INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY UPON COMPLETION OF ROUTE 5 BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN.

"IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE JUNCTIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PROPER INGRESS TO AND EGRESS FROM THE ESTATE," HE SAID.

THE WORKS WILL INVOLVE THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS AT THESE TWO JUNCTIONS TO FACILITATE TURNING MOVEMENTS, AND THE WIDENING OF WO YI HOP ROAD TO PROVIDE TURNING LANES.

THE WORKS WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND TAKE SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT DURING THE ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS, MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO MAINTAIN TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ALONG WO YI HOP ROAD AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE ESTATE.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WOULD BE DISPLAYED TO GUIDE AND SAFEGUARD ROAD USERS, HE SAID.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL ALSO SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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