



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991

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GOVT TO RELEASE FULL DETAILS ON AIRPORT PROJECT
IF UNDERSTANDING IS REACHED WITH CHINA
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT IF AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE AIRPORT PROJECT COULD BE REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TELL THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG EXACTLY WHAT IT CONTAINS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN HE WOUND UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE MOVED BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT MR MCGREGOR'S MOTION REFERRED TO LATEST PROPOSALS BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE SITING, DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF A NEW AIRPORT FOR HONG KONG.

THE PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE CHINESE SIDE, SIR DAVID SAID, WAS THE PADS PROJECT, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WERE WELL KNOWN TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT HONG KONG NEEDS A NEW, COST-EFFECTIVE AIRPORT AND EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THIS," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID AS WITH MOST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED THE DETAILS SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

"THIS IS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT, IF AT EACH STAGE, THE DIFFERENCES STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WERE TO BE PUBLICISED, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE THE PROSPECT OF REACHING A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT," HE EXPLAINED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MINDFUL OF MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE MATTER AND HE REASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE PUBLIC THE FULL CONTENTS OF ANY AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE AIRPORT PROJECT.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY HEALTH REQUIRES INVOLVEMENT OF EVERYONE
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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000", INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE IS NEEDED.

WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG NOTED THAT AMONGST THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAD AROUSED MOST CONCERN AND CONTROVERSY WAS ABOUT FEES AND CHARGES.

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"THIS, I THINK, IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS FEE-CHARGING POLICY ON HEALTH SERVICES HAD CONSISTENTLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THIS CARDINAL PRINCIPLE.

"THE FACT IS : MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN GENERAL ARE VERY HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BY PUBLIC FUNDS AND MANY OF OUR PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE SERVICES ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE," SHE SAID.

CITING A FEW EXAMPLES, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE, VACCINATION, IMMUNISATION, ATTENDANCE AT TB AND CHEST CLINICS, SOCIAL HYGIENE SERVICES, HEALTH EDUCATION WERE FREE AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES WERE CHARGED AT ONLY \$1 PER VISIT.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO WAVER IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND TO PREVENT DISEASE," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE SERVICES APART, THE WORKING PARTY CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO REVIEW POLICY FOR FEE-CHARGING IN GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES.

"CLEARLY, THIS ISSUE MUST BE EXAMINED WITH GREAT CARE," SHE SAID.

TO TAKE THIS FURTHER, MRS WONG SAID SHE INTENDED TO INITIATE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE POLICY ON FEES AND CHARGES ACROSS HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

ON THE CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSAL FOR COLLABORATION AND INTERFACE BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, MRS WONG NOTED THAT SOME HAD INTERPRETED THIS AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HIVE OFF ITS SERVICES OR TO SHED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

"NOT SO! THE CALL IS FOR MORE INVOLVEMENT OF PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

"THE INVOLVEMENT IS COLLABORATIVE. THIS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WILL BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. THE ASSURANCE OF GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT AND THE CALL FOR COLLABORATION ARE COMPATIBLE AND NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

"MORE OF THE ONE DOES NOT MEAN LESS OF THE OTHER! CLOSER CO-OPERATION MEANS A RECOGNITION OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, NOT OF SHEDDING OF RESPONSIBILITY," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY, MRS WONG NOTED THAT SOME QUESTIONED THE PROLIFERATION OF YET ANOTHER BODY OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, MANY WORRIED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATION WHILE OTHERS SIMPLY WORRIED.

"A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THIS IS CLEARLY CALLED FOR," SHE SAID.

ON THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH REPORT, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT SOME 40,000 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED, INCLUDING A SYNOPSIS ON DENTAL SERVICES, TELEVISION AND RADIO API'S HAD INVITED COMMENTS.

"BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH, ALL DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED, WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS APART, WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS AND COMMENTS VIA MANY CHANNELS INCLUDING COMMENTS FROM THE PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

"SO WE HAVE HAD COMMENTS FROM ACROSS-THE-BOARD AND WE HAVE HAD A CROSS SECTION OF VIEWS EXPRESSED TO US.

MRS WONG SAID IT CAME AS A SURPRISE THAT SOME MEMBERS HAD ACTUALLY ASKED FOR THE CONSULTATION PERIOD TO BE EXTENDED.

"FOR HONG KONG HAS BEEN LAGGING BEHIND FOR MANY YEARS. FOR ONCE WE ARE POISED TO GO FORWARD, AND YET WE ARE ASKED TO DRAG OUR FEET. WE HAVE WAITED LONG, PERHAPS A BIT TOO LONG, FOR PRACTICABLE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE OUR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND SERVICES.

MRS WONG SAID WHILST SHE HAD AN OPEN MIND OVER THE APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION PERIOD, HOWEVER, SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO SUBSTITUTE LETHARGY FOR STRATEGY, OR TO MISTAKE PROTRACTED CONSULTATION FOR THOROUGH DELIBERATION.

"NOW IS TIME FOR ACTION. NOT RUSHING, NOT FUSSING, NOT HURRIEDLY, BUT STEADILY, STEP-BY-STEP," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG CLARIFIED THAT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WAS PARTICIPATORY CARE, A SYSTEM WHICH REQUIRED THE INVOLVEMENT OF EVERYBODY, NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, THE POLITICIANS, SOCIAL WORKERS, EDUCATORS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, FAMILIES AND ABOVE ALL EACH AND EVERYONE OF US.

"IT IS NOT SIMPLY FREE SERVICES DELIVERED FROM THE TOP DOWN. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, WITH ITS STRONG EMPHASIS ON DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION, IS INSEPARABLE FROM SELF-CARE, GOOD AND HEALTHY LIFE STYLE, FAMILY SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG TOLD MEMBERS THAT THEY MIGHT BE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH REPORT, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES HAD COME IN FROM A LOT OF PLACES, FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND OVERSEAS EXPERTS.

"HONG KONG HAS IN FACT BEEN PRAISED FOR ITS VISION AND ITS COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE," MRS WONG SAID.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1990-91) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED IN RESPECT OF PARTICULAR HEADS OF EXPENDITURE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER POWERS DELEGATED BY IT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1990-91) BILL 1991, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1990-91 HAD BEEN FINALISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES.

HE SAID THE EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO 64 HEADS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 75 HEADS WAS IN EXCESS OF THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE HEADS BY THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1990.

HE ADDED THIS WAS BECAUSE SUFFICIENT OFFSETTING SAVINGS COULD NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE HEADS CONCERNED.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 9 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE STATED THAT "IF AT THE CLOSE OF ACCOUNT FOR ANY FINANCIAL YEAR IT IS FOUND THAT EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO ANY HEAD IS IN EXCESS OF THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR THAT HEAD BY AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, THE EXCESS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL WHICH SHALL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO WHICH THE EXCESS EXPENDITURE RELATES".

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECTION, THE EXCESS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BILL.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE TOTAL NET SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED IN RESPECT OF THE 64 HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WAS \$6,118.5 MILLION.

"THIS EXCESS IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1990 PAY ADJUSTMENT, THE RESTRUCTURING OF DIRECTORATE SALARY SCALES, THE SECOND AND THIRD REPORTS OF NON-DIRECTORATE SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN RESPECT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE (\$3,224.9 MILLION) AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS (\$2,163.8 MILLION)," HE SAID.

OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS INCLUDED THE PAYMENT OF THE REVISED HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE AND THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HOME PURCHASE SCHEME AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW HOME FINANCING SCHEME (\$366.3 MILLION) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY ON AUGUST 1 LAST YEAR (\$349.3 MILLION), HE ADDED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE COST OF THE 1990 PAY ADJUSTMENT AND SALARY RESTRUCTURING HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED IN THE 1990-91 ESTIMATES UNDER THE "ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS" SUBHEAD.

"SAVINGS WERE ALSO MADE IN OTHER SUBHEADS THROUGH CONTINUED TIGHT CONTROL OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURE," HE SAID, WHILE THANKING THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO RESTRAINT.

SIR PIERS NOTED: "BECAUSE OF THESE SAVINGS AND THE PROVISION MADE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS, TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR IS WITHIN THE SUM APPROPRIATED IN THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1990."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE Tabled
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) Tabled IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE 1990-91 FINANCIAL YEAR.

SIR PIERS SAID DURING THE PERIOD, SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$6,672.9 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

"THIS INCLUDED \$4,966.6 MILLION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1990 PAY ADJUSTMENT, THE RESTRUCTURING OF DIRECTORATE SALARY SCALES, THE SECOND AND THIRD REPORTS OF NON-DIRECTORATE SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN RESPECT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID OF THE \$6,672.9 MILLION, \$6,282.9 MILLION WAS OFFSET BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS, WHILE THE REMAINING \$390 MILLION WAS NET SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION.

HE ADDED THAT APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$31.8 MILLION DURING THE PERIOD, AND NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$895 MILLION WERE ALSO APPROVED.

MEANWHILE, A NET DECREASE OF 206 POSTS WAS APPROVED IN THE SAME PERIOD.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

THE LATTER HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(8)(A) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

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INFLATION ONLY ONE FACTOR IN FRAMING BUDGET
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THE FINANCE BRANCH CONSTANTLY REMINDS DEPARTMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND SEEK COST SAVINGS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NELLIE FONG, SIR PIERS SAID TOP DOWN REVIEWS AND VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR MUCH OF THE PAST DECADE.

HE SAID IN HIS 1991-92 BUDGET EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE HAD GIVEN SOME DETAILS OF A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL COST OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID INFLATION WAS ONLY ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FRAMING BUDGETARY PROPOSALS.

"ANY BUDGET SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO THE OVERALL FISCAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DAY," SIR PIERS SAID, ADDING THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK TO COMMIT HIS SUCCESSOR TO ANY SPECIFIC BUDGETARY POLICIES OR INITIATIVES.

"NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET IS FOR HIM, NOT FOR ME," SIR PIERS SAID.

HOWEVER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD WISH TO KEEP A FIRM CONTROL ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

SIR PIERS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HIS LAST FIVE BUDGETS HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN BASED ON THE STRATEGY OF RUNNING A BUDGET SURPLUS, AN ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE STRATEGY IN TIMES OF RISING INFLATION.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, MEMBERS MIGHT ALSO RECOLLECT THAT IN HIS LAST BUDGET HE INDICATED THE INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A PROGRAMME OF GOVERNMENT BORROWING, AGAIN AN APPROPRIATE MEASURE IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF REDUCING INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

ON APPEAL TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO FREEZE FEES AND CHARGES FOR NINE MONTHS, SIR PIERS SAID MEMBERS WOULD BE AWARE THAT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE AUTONOMOUS IN THEIR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

"THEY ARE MORE RELIANT ON FEE INCOME THAN IS THE GOVERNMENT IN MEETING THEIR EXPENDITURE NEEDS," HE SAID.

"IT WOULD, IN MY VIEW, BE MORE MEANINGFUL, AS AN ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURE, TO CONSIDER WAYS OF REDUCING EXPENDITURE GROWTH."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD LITTLE ROOM TO MANOEUVRE GIVEN THE NEED TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE GROWING POPULATION IN THE NEW TOWNS.

HE SAID HE WAS SURE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FULLY RECOGNISED THE NEED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.

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"THE URBAN COUNCIL, TO ITS CREDIT, HAS UNDERTAKEN NOT TO INCREASE THE EXISTING STRENGTH OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS," SIR PIERS SAID.

"ANY FREEZE IN THE LEVELS OF FEES AND CHARGES SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO DECIDE," HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SEEK WAYS TO INCREASE THEIR EFFICIENCY AND TO MAINTAIN FEES AND CHARGES AT THEIR EXISTING LEVELS, SIR PIERS REPEATED WHAT HE HAD SAID IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON MAY 29: "THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH ITS RESTRAINT IS POINTING THE WAY. BUT IF WE ARE TO ATTACK INFLATION SUCCESSFULLY, THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE MUST PLAY ITS PART."

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WORKING GROUP ON URBAN TREES FORMED

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A GOVERNMENT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON URBAN TREES HAS BEEN FORMED, AND IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE MORE DETAILED STANDARDS FOR TREE PROVISION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GROUP WAS FORMED AFTER THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED IN TREE PLANTING DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM RECENTLY AND AGREED THAT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY WOULD HELP THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PLANT MORE TREES, PARTICULARLY WHERE THERE WAS COMPETITION FOR PAVEMENT SPACE WHICH WAS IN ALMOST ALL THE OLDER AREAS, HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT ABOUT TREE PLANTING IN STREETS WAS VERY SIMPLE.

THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES STATED THAT "WHEREVER POSSIBLE FOOTWAYS, MEDIAN STRIPS AND ROADSIDE AREAS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PLANTING", HE SAID.

"SIMPLE AND LIMITED IT MAY BE, BUT IT AND THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND SOME DISTRICT BOARDS, HAVE ENSURED THAT WE DO IN FACT HAVE TREES IN MOST FOOTWAYS, MEDIAN STRIPS AND ROADSIDE AREAS WHERE THEY ARE POSSIBLE AND IN WAN CHAI IN SOME PLACES WHERE THEY ARE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE," MR BARNES SAID.

HE SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD NEVER QUIBBLED ABOUT ANY FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR TREE AND AMENITY PLANTING. THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TOO PROVIDED GENEROUSLY FOR TREES ALL OVER THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

"WE MAY HAVE STARTED SYSTEMATIC PROVISION OF TREES LATER THAN SINGAPORE AND OUR STREETS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MORE CROWDED THAN THEY ARE THERE, BUT WE ARE STILL DOING PRETTY WELL," MR BARNES SAID.

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PHYSICAL FITNESS RECEIVES PROPER ATTENTION IN HONG KONG

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT PHYSICAL FITNESS DID RECEIVE PROPER ATTENTION IN HONG KONG.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ALBERT LAM, SAID A VARIED AND SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMME OF COURSES AND ACTIVITIES WAS ORGANISED BY THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL FITNESS, RANGING FROM MULTI-GYM FITNESS COURSE, TAI CHI, AEROBIC DANCE, JUDO, ROLLER SKATING, TO CANOEING, FENCING, ATHLETIC TRAINING AND MANY OTHERS.

PHYSICAL FITNESS FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOME FIRST-CLASS GYMNASIA UNDER PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION, WERE ALSO READILY AVAILABLE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN INDOOR GAMES HALLS, INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES AND SPORTS CENTRES OPERATED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, HE ADDED.

MR LAM WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ON WHETHER CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO INTRODUCING A PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCHEME FOR ADULTS IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID RECOMMENDATION FOR SUCH A SCHEME WAS MADE IN AUGUST 1989 BY THE THEN COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT BUT CONSIDERATION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN DEFERRED PENDING THE FORMULATION OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY BY THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL RECREATION IN HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD HAD NOW PRODUCED A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ACTION FOR THE PERIOD 1991-95 WITH THE MAIN EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, THE NURTURING AND TRAINING OF YOUNG ATHLETES, AND THE STRENGTHENING OF MAJOR SPORTS ORGANISATIONS.

"IN THE LIGHT OF THIS PLAN, AND GIVEN THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE, THERE IS NO PLAN IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO INTRODUCE A PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCHEME GENERALLY FOR ADULTS ON THE LINES SUGGESTED BY DR IP," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS CIVIL SERVANTS, MR LAM SAID PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS WERE CONDUCTED FOR STAFF OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES REGULARLY AND ANNUALLY TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE FIT TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES.

"SIMILAR TESTS DO NOT APPLY TO CIVILIAN GRADES FOR WHOM PHYSICAL STAMINA IS NOT A PRIMARY JOB REQUIREMENT.

"HOWEVER, CIVIL SERVANTS MAY ARRANGE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS ON A NEED BASIS," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991

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STATUTORY PROTECTION ADEQUATE FOR EMPLOYEES WHO REPORTED
EMPLOYER'S BREACH OF LEGISLATION

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THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE PRESENT STATUTORY PROTECTION TO BE ADEQUATE FOR ENSURING THAT EMPLOYEES WILL NOT BE DISMISSED FOR REPORTING THE EMPLOYER'S BREACH OF LEGISLATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON JOHN CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR CHAN SAID UNDER SECTION 72B OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, IT WAS AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO TERMINATE, OR THREATEN TO TERMINATE, THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY OF HIS EMPLOYEES FOR GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT OR GIVING INFORMATION TO A PUBLIC OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

"THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE IS A FINE OF \$20,000," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, SECTION 6 OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE PROVIDED SIMILAR PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES IN RESPECT OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THAT ORDINANCE.

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE PRESENT STATUTORY PROTECTION IN THIS AREA TO BE ADEQUATE, EXCEPT THAT THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO SANCTION FOR BREACHING SECTION 6 OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE A PENALTY ALONG THE SAME LINES AS SECTION 72B OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND HOPED TO BRING THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION TO THE COUNCIL DURING THE NEXT SESSION.

AS FOR COMPLAINTS FROM EMPLOYEES THAT THEY HAD BEEN DISMISSED IN RETALIATION FOR REPORTING THE EMPLOYER'S BREACH OF LEGISLATION, MR CHAN SAID THESE WERE RARE.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECORDED ONLY ONE SUCH COMPLAINT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

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LANTAU FIXED CROSSING - A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF PADS

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THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING (LFC), COMPRISING THE TSING MA BRIDGE AND THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE PADS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAM WAI-KEUNG, SIR DAVID SAID THE LFC SERVED AS THE INITIAL LINK TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OF TUNG CHUNG AS WELL AS SERVING THE FUTURE PORT PENINSULA AT NORTH-EAST LANTAU.

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"IT IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE LFC IS BUILT IN TIME TO MEET THESE NEEDS," SIR DAVID SAID.

MR LAM WAS ASKING WHETHER IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT THE TSING MA BRIDGE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CHEK LAP KOK NEW AIRPORT PROJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

WITH REGARD TO OTHER PARTS OF MR LAM'S QUESTION ON ROUTE 3 AND THE THIRD CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK FOR THOSE SECTIONS OF ROUTE 3 SERVING THE NEW AIRPORT, INCLUDING THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WERE IN PROGRESS AND WOULD CONTINUE.

SIR DAVID SAID ROUTE 3 STRETCHING FROM THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE BORDER HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY AS THE MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH ROUTE FOR THE TERRITORY WHICH SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY THE LATE 1990'S TO CATER FOR THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH OF TRAFFIC.

"IT IS DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS: WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI SECTIONS AND THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION.

"TO SERVE THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI SECTIONS WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED JUST BEFORE AIRPORT OPENING DATE, LEAVING THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY COMPLETED IN THE LATE 90'S DEPENDING ON FORECAST TRAFFIC DEMAND," SIR DAVID SAID.

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STANDARD SPORTS GROUND BEING PLANNED FOR MUI WO

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A STANDARD SPORTS GROUND IN MUI WO IS UNDER PLANNING BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ALBERT LAM, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAM WAI-KEUNG, MR LAM SAID PART OF THE LAND FOR THE 2.5 HECTARE SITE HAD TO BE RESUMED AND SITE FORMATION WAS NECESSARY BEFORE CONSTRUCTION COULD START.

"DUE TO COMPETING PRIORITIES, SITE FORMATION FOR THE SPORTS GROUND IS SCHEDULED TO START IN 1995, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1996 SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

"CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPORTS GROUND WOULD PROBABLY START IN 1997 AND BE COMPLETED IN 1998-99," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991

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CO-OPERATION OF VIETNAMESE GOVT NEEDED TO TACKLE VM PROBLEM

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BOTH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS ARE ENDEAVOURING TO FIND WAYS TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA) TO RETURN TO VIETNAM THOSE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO HAVE BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CPA REQUIRED THE AGREEMENT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS VERY CLEAR FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT OVER MORE THAN TWO YEARS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE PARTIES TO THE CPA, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT," HE NOTED.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES TO THE CPA.

"THERE IS NO DEROGATION FROM THE AUTONOMY AND INTEGRITY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

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THIRTEEN LEGISLATORS SPOKE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MOTION DEBATE

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A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON LAU WAH-SUM ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

THIRTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE MOTION DEBATE, WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MR LAU'S MOTION READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG TO MEET THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S TARGET OF 'HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000', AND URGES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EARLY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THOSE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, HAVING REGARD TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ON JULY 31, 1991."

TWO AMENDMENT MOTIONS WHICH WERE PUT FORTH RESPECTIVELY BY THE HON RONALD CHOW AND THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG WERE DEFEATED.

/MEANWHILE,.10

MEANWHILE, 10 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON "THE POSSIBILITY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS, DETAILS OF THE LATEST PROPOSALS BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE SITING, DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING OF A NEW AIRPORT FOR HONG KONG" RAISED BY THE HON J. D. MCGREGOR.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, NINE BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL. OF THEM, THE PRIVATE BILLS BILL 1991, COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

THE OTHER SIX BILLS, NAMELY THE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WERE PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1990-91) BILL 1991 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

LANTAU THE BEST OVERALL SITE FOR PADS

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THE GOVERNMENT STILL MAINTAINS THAT THE PROPOSED PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH LANTAU UNDER PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS) REPRESENTS THE BEST OVERALL PACKAGE TO SUIT THE LONG TERM STRATEGIC NEEDS OF HONG KONG AND THE PEARL DELTA REGION AS A WHOLE.

SITING THE NEW AIRPORT AT EITHER TOLO HARBOUR OR CLEAR WATER BAY WILL NECESSITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO SEPARATE, AND EXPENSIVE, SETS OF SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PORT AND AIRPORT. SUCH UNDUE DUPLICATION OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT IS CLEARLY NOT IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ISSUED AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE STUDY GROUP ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (SGID) ON "ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR HONG KONG'S REPLACEMENT AIRPORT - A PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY" SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT EARLIER ON, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT TOLO HARBOUR AND CLEAR WATER BAY ARE SUITABLE FOR SITING THE NEW AIRPORT.

WHILST IT FULLY APPRECIATES THAT THE STUDY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH GOOD INTENTION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF RESOURCES, EXPERTISE AND TIME AVAILABLE TO THE SGID, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE REPORT LACKING IN DETAILED TECHNICAL ANALYSES IN RESPECT OF AERONAUTICS, TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, AND SO ON, WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO ENABLE A SCIENTIFIC AND SENSIBLE COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT TO BE MADE ON THE REPORT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "FROM THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POINT OF VIEW, SITING THE AIRPORT AT EITHER TOLO HARBOUR OR CLEAR WATER BAY IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO FUTURE PORT DEVELOPMENT.

"ONE OF THE BASIC PLANNING PRINCIPLES EMBRACED IN PADS HAS BEEN THAT THE PLANNING FOR PORT AND THAT FOR AIRPORT SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATE EACH OTHER.

"ON THE PORT SIDE, FOLLOWING THE COMMISSIONING OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 AND CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND SOUTHEAST TSING YI RESPECTIVELY, THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF CONTAINER PORT FACILITIES IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE 1990'S AND BEYOND WOULD MAINLY BE PROVIDED FOR ON THE PROPOSED PORT PENINSULA ON NORTH LANTAU," HE SAID.

SITING THE NEW AIRPORT ON CHEK LAP KOK, APART FROM THE VARIOUS ADVANTAGES FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, WOULD ACHIEVE JOINT USAGE OF THE EXPENSIVE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION OF BOTH THE PORT AND AIRPORT, AND ENHANCE THE VIABILITY OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM AND THE PORT AND AIRPORT SCHEMES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT EVEN IF KAI TAK AIRPORT WAS NOT RELOCATED, A NUMBER OF INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS SUCH AS A BRIDGE TO LANTAU ISLAND WOULD STILL NEED TO BE BUILT FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S PORT FACILITIES.

THE PACKAGE OF DEVELOPMENT UNDER PADS ALSO OFFERS THE GREATEST SCOPE FOR INTEGRATION WITH THE PLANNED AND EXISTING TRANSPORT SYSTEM BY CONNECTION WITH THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND ROUTE 3, WHICH ARE ALL REQUIRED FOR ALLEVIATING THE CONGESTION ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR AND MEETING THE INCREASING CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC DEMAND INDEPENDENT OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH LANTAU.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS WESTWARD DEVELOPMENT OF PORT AND AIRPORT HAS ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE ADOPTED PLANNING POLICY OF PRESERVING THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE TERRITORY FOR RECREATIONAL AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES, AS WELL AS FACILITATING THE PEARL RIVER TRADE ON THE WEST.

"EVEN JUDGING ON A STAND-ALONE BASIS, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY SCEPTICAL ABOUT WHETHER TOLO HARBOUR OR CLEAR WATER BAY IS AN IDEAL SITE FOR RELOCATING THE AIRPORT.

"THE METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED BY THE SGID FOR COSTING THE TWO RESPECTIVE OPTIONS IS FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED BECAUSE THE ENGINEERING COSTS HAVE BEEN GROSSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED, AND THE COSTS REQUIRED FOR AN EFFICIENT TRANSPORT NETWORK AND ENVIRONMENTAL TREATMENT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY NEGLECTED.

"THE COSTS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPING A SEPARATE TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR THE PORT HAVE ALSO NOT BEEN ADDRESSED."

SOME IMPORTANT SITE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE SET OUT BELOW:

I. TOLO HARBOUR

- * BECAUSE OF TERRAIN OBSTRUCTIONS, WHICH PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING THE STANDARD "OBSTACLE CLEARANCE" CRITERIA LAID DOWN BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS TO THE WEST ARE ENVISAGED;
- * VERY LITTLE ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE SITE. NOISE IMPACT, PARTICULARLY ON A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF SHA TIN, HAS BEEN GROSSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED IN THE REPORT AS A RESULT OF THE APPLICATION OF WRONG CRITERIA;
- * A HUGE BODY OF DEAD WATER WOULD BE TRAPPED IN TOLO HARBOUR FOLLOWING THE RECLAMATION WORKS FOR THE AIRPORT SITE RESULTING IN SEVERE DRAINAGE AND WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. THE COSTS FOR THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL TREATMENT WORKS WOULD BE COLOSSAL;

/* NO TRAFFIC

- * NO TRAFFIC STUDY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO BACK UP THE RECOMMENDED TRANSPORT LINKS TO THE AIRPORT, WHICH INVOLVES SOLELY THE CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSION LINKS TO THE EXISTING MTR/KCR AND HIGHWAY SYSTEMS.

IT IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT THE TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE AIRPORT COULD BE ADEQUATELY MET BY PLUGGING IT INTO THE PRESENT RAILWAY AND HIGHWAY NETWORKS WHICH HAVE ALREADY REACHED THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES.

SHOULD A DEDICATED NETWORK OF RAIL AND HIGHWAYS BE BUILT TO LINK THE TOLO HARBOUR SITE TO THE URBAN AREA, THE ORDER OF COSTS WOULD PROBABLY BE IN EXCESS OF THAT PROPOSED UNDER THE CHEK LAP KOK OPTION.

II. CLEAR WATER BAY

- * SIMILAR, IF NOT MORE SEVERE, NOISE PROBLEM IS FOUND IN THE CLEAR WATER BAY SITE. THE NOISE IMPACT OF THE AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY THAT ARISING FROM AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF TOWARDS THE WEST, WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO JUNK BAY NEW TOWN, KWUN TONG AND HONG KONG ISLAND EAST, RESULTING IN A SITUATION WHICH WOULD LIKELY BE AS BAD AS THAT WITH THE CURRENT KAI TAK AIRPORT;
- * ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING, THE LOCATION OF AN AIRPORT AT CLEAR WATER BAY WOULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THIS SCENIC PART OF THE TERRITORY, AND GOES AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PLAN OF CONSERVING THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR RECREATIONAL USES;
- * AGAIN, THE PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT BY SIMPLY EXTENDING THE JUNK BAY MTR LINE (THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH IS NOT YET PROGRAMMED) AND CONSTRUCTING A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY TO THE JUNK BAY TUNNEL WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET THE AIRPORT TRAFFIC DEMAND.

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STATEMENT ON VM'S

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TALKS IN GENEVA ON VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS:

"REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UK AND VIETNAMESE MISSIONS AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MET YESTERDAY (JULY 2) IN GENEVA, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UNHCR AND IOM (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION) PRESENT AS OBSERVERS.

/"THE UK/HONG KONG

"THE UK/HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINED BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONALLY MANAGED CENTRES IN VIETNAM, CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE CPA.

"THERE WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE CONTEXT OF CONSULTATION ENVISAGED IN PARAGRAPHS 17 AND 18 OF THE DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE.

"THE REPRESENTATIVES AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER EARLY DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA."

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EXPANSION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS THROUGH THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME.

"THIS WILL ENABLE A SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER NUMBER OF PEOPLE CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS TO BENEFIT FROM LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION UNDER THE RECENTLY ENACTED BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENCES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME JOINTLY OPERATED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND BAR ASSOCIATION WILL INTRODUCE A NEW COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SCHEME BASED ON THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS CHARGED WITH ANY OF NINE SPECIFIED OFFENCES.

UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "INTERESTS OF JUSTICE" PRINCIPLE REFERRED TO IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

THE CURRENT DUTY LAWYER SCHEME WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1979 AND IS SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IT PROVIDES FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY PERSON CHARGED IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS WITH ANY OF THE NINE SPECIFIED OFFENCES.

THESE OFFENCES INCLUDE LOITERING, POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, GOING EQUIPPED FOR STEALING AND OTHER SIMILAR VICTIMLESS OFFENCES.

SUBVENTION TO THE SCHEME IN 1991-92 AMOUNTS TO \$26 MILLION. IN 1990 IT PROVIDED FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO OVER 13,000 PERSONS IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME HAS BEEN PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS FOR OVER 12 YEARS. IT ALREADY HAS A NETWORK OF COURT LIAISON OFFICERS IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, ALL APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A MERITS TEST, WHEREBY THE MERITS OF EACH APPLICATION ARE ASSESSED AGAINST THE "INTERESTS OF JUSTICE" PRINCIPLE.

IN APPLYING THIS TEST, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SCHEME AND HIS STAFF WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACCUSED PERSON, SUCH AS WHETHER THE OFFENCE IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO A PRISON SENTENCE AND A LOSS OF LIBERTY; WHETHER THE CASE INCLUDES A SUBSTANTIAL POINT OF LAW; WHETHER THE ACCUSED IS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL OR OTHER DISABILITY AND CANNOT REPRESENT HIMSELF; WHETHER THE DEFENCE INVOLVES CROSS-EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES; AND WHETHER IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF OTHER PERSONS THAT THE ACCUSED BE LEGALLY REPRESENTED.

A MEANS TEST WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PREVENT ABUSE BY APPLICANTS WHO CAN AFFORD THEIR OWN PRIVATE LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

PEOPLE WHOSE MEANS EXCEED A CERTAIN LIMIT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHEME. THE PRECISE LIMIT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME.

"IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF MINOR DEPARTMENTAL SUMMONSES AND REGULATORY OFFENCES DEALT WITH IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS, A SMALL HANDLING FEE WILL BE INTRODUCED TO HELP SCREEN OUT CASUAL APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE, REDUCE UNNECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND MEET PART OF THE COST OF EXPANDING THE SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME WILL HAVE DISCRETION TO REDUCE OR WAIVE THE FEE IN GENUINE HARDSHIP CASES, SO THAT NO ONE WILL BE DEPRIVED OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION SIMPLY BECAUSE HE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THE FEE."

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NEW SCHEME WILL BENEFIT 30,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR, COMPARED WITH 13,000 UNDER THE PRESENT SCHEME. IT WILL COST THE GOVERNMENT AN ADDITIONAL \$21 MILLION EACH YEAR, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DEFER THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW "FINANCIAL CAPACITY APPROACH" TO MEANS TESTING TO BE ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID IN PROVIDING LEGAL AID IN CIVIL CASES AND CRIMINAL CASES IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE HIGH COURT.

THE PROPOSED "FINANCIAL CAPACITY APPROACH" WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AND WOULD HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF RAISING THE ELIGIBILITY LIMIT OF TOTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES (DISPOSABLE ANNUAL INCOME AND CAPITAL) TO \$120,000.

"HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EXPANSION OF THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"THE NEW FINANCIAL CAPACITY APPROACH WILL BE INTRODUCED AS SOON AS FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION," HE ADDED.

NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS ON HANG SENG SUB-INDICES

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL FROM THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE (HKFE) TO INTRODUCE FOUR NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS BASED ON EACH OF THE HANG SENG SUB-INDICES, NAMELY FINANCE, UTILITIES, PROPERTIES, AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AN ORDER HAD BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER S.115 OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE TO AMEND SCHEDULE 1 OF THE ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE NEW FUTURES CONTRACTS TO BE TRADED ON THE HKFE.

THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE HKFE ON THE SUB-INDEX CONTRACT PROPOSAL TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE PROPER RISK MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS AND ADEQUATE MEASURES AGAINST POSSIBLE MANIPULATION OF THE LEVEL OF THE SUB-INDICES FOR THE PROTECTION OF MARKET USERS.

"WE RECOGNISE THE WISH OF THE HKFE TO INTRODUCE NEW PRODUCTS TO CONTINUE THE GROWTH OF THE TURNOVER VOLUME AND TO MEET THE CHANGING MARKET NEEDS, SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKET AND AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF INVESTOR PROTECTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE SFC HAS CONFIRMED THAT A PROPER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES, IS NOW IN PLACE," HE ADDED.

THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 1) ORDER 1991 WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 12 THIS YEAR UPON PUBLICATION IN THE GAZETTE.

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TELA MET FILM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (MPIA) AND THE HONG KONG THEATRES ASSOCIATION HELD A DISCUSSION ON MONDAY (JULY 1) WITH OFFICIALS OF THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE DISPLAY OF FILM STILLS IN CINEMAS, THE PUBLICATION OF FILM ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS AND THE GENERAL FILM STANDARDS APPLIED UNDER THE THREE-TIER FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

AT THE MEETING, THE REPRESENTATIVES EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH TELA OFFICIALS ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE (COIAO) ON THE DISPLAY OF FILM STILLS AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS IN CINEMAS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE CONCERNING CATEGORY III FILMS.

IN THIS RESPECT, TELA WELCOMED THE EFFORTS OF THE MPIA IN SETTING UP AN INTERNAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE FILM STILLS FOR THE FILM DISTRIBUTORS, THEREBY PROMOTING SELF-REGULATION WITHIN THE FILM INDUSTRY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COIAO.

TELA OFFICIALS ALSO ADVISED THAT IN CASE OF DOUBT, THE MPIA CAN SUBMIT THEIR MATERIALS TO THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL FOR A RULING OR THEY CAN DRAW REFERENCE FROM PREVIOUS RULINGS OF THE TRIBUNAL.

THE REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF FILM ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE COIAO AND THE ADVERTISEMENTS FOR CATEGORY III FILMS HAD BECOME A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

THE REPRESENTATIVES WERE ADVISED THAT IF THEY HAD DOUBT ABOUT THEIR ADVERTISEMENTS, THEY COULD ALSO SEEK A RULING FROM THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL OR DRAW REFERENCE FROM ITS PREVIOUS RULINGS, IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THAT FOR FILM STILLS.

AT THE MEETING, THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH TELA OFFICIALS ON THE APPLICATION OF FILM STANDARDS UNDER THE THREE-TIER FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

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PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKET GOES WITH EXACT TOLL
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ALL USERS OF GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS ARE REMINDED THAT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, NO CHANGES WILL BE GIVEN IF THEY USE PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKETS TO PAY FOR TUNNEL TOLLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF ISSUING PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKETS WAS TO ENHANCE TUNNEL OPERATION TO THE BENEFITS OF MOTORISTS AND GENERAL TRAFFIC FLOW.

"SIMILAR TO PRIVATE TUNNELS, AT LEAST TWO EXACT TOLL BOOTHS ARE DESIGNATED IN EACH DIRECTION FOR ALL GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS UNDER NORMAL OPERATIONS WHERE TOLLS ARE COLLECTED.

"ONLY EXACT TOLLS OR PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKETS WITH THE CORRESPONDING AMOUNT WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THESE BOOTHS," HE SAID.

"FOR THE SAME REASON, TOLL COLLECTORS WILL NOT ACCEPT A COMBINATION OF CASH AND PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKETS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE TOLL AMOUNT," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE THE TUNNEL TICKET IS NOT A LEGAL TENDER.

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PROPOSALS TO ALTER NEW RATEABLE VALUES

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THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION HAS RECEIVED, DURING APRIL AND MAY, SLIGHTLY OVER 34,000 PROPOSALS TO ALTER THE RATEABLE VALUES IN THE NEW VALUATION LIST, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WHILST THIS NUMBER IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THOSE RECEIVED IN 1988 AFTER THE LAST REVALUATION, THE PERCENTAGE OF RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE OBJECTED, AT THREE PER CENT, IS ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER DESPITE THE GREATER INCREASES IN RATEABLE VALUES THIS TIME.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE RENTAL VALUE WHICH WERE RAISED BY RATEPAYERS IN THEIR PROPOSALS, WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE DECISIONS WERE ISSUED.

"WORK ON THE REVIEW IS NOW UNDERWAY, AND ALL CASES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON NOVEMBER 30.

"WRITTEN DECISIONS WILL BE ISSUED IN ALL CASES, ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLANATORY NOTES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

RATEPAYERS MUST CONTINUE TO PAY THEIR QUARTERLY RATES DEMANDS, DESPITE HAVING LODGED A PROPOSAL.

IF RATES ARE REDUCED AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW, THE REVISION WILL BE BACKDATED TO APRIL 1 THIS YEAR AND AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE AMOUNT ALREADY PAID WILL THEN BE MADE.

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LOCAL HISTORY PILOT PROJECT IN SCHOOLS

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THE INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL HISTORY HERALDS A NEW AGE IN THE HISTORY CURRICULUM AND WILL BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS INSTILLING NEW INTERESTS IN THE SUBJECT.

THE ACTING CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MR HO CHE-LEUNG, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN OPENING THE LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE.

HERITAGE STUDIES, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE ENQUIRY APPROACH AND THE USE OF EVIDENCE, RENDERED THE STUDY OF HISTORY MORE LIVELY AND RELEVANT, HE SAID.

TO GENERATE AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN HONG KONG'S HERITAGE AND TO CULTIVATE AMONG STUDENTS A SENSE OF IDENTITY WITH THE COMMUNITY, A PILOT PROJECT TO INTRODUCE LOCAL HISTORY INTO THE SECONDARY 1-3 HISTORY CURRICULUM BEGAN THIS YEAR IN 15 SCHOOLS.

THE LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING UNTIL SATURDAY (JULY 6) AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AT PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

ON DISPLAY ARE EXHIBITS MOUNTED BY THE 15 SCHOOLS, THE MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES OFFICE, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HISTORY SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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SIX FLY TO BRITAIN UNDER COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME
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SIX YOUTHS LEFT FOR LONDON TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN A THREE-WEEK PROJECT IN BRITAIN UNDER THIS YEAR'S COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

SPEAKING BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAMME'S SELECTION PANEL, MRS JOYCE TAI, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF COMMISSION ON YOUTH, TOLD THE DELEGATES TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE TRIP TO BROADEN THEIR OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE.

"SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FROM MORE THAN 40 NOMINEES FROM 28 LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTES, YOUTH OR YOUTH-RELATED ORGANISATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAMME, YOU SHOULD SET GOOD EXAMPLES FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY AND SHARE WITH THEM VALUABLE EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED FROM THE SCHEME," SHE SAID.

ON THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (YOUTH), MR PARRISH NG, SAID IT WAS INITIATED IN 1977 WITH THE AIM OF ESTABLISHING TWO-WAY EXCHANGE LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES IN BRITAIN AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"HONG KONG FIRST PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHEME IN ITS INAUGURAL YEAR WHEN SIX LOCAL YOUTH WORKERS WERE SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE THREE-WEEK PROGRAMME HOSTED BY BRITAIN AND HELD IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THAT COUNTRY," HE SAID.

SO FAR, 42 LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENT TO BRITAIN UNDER THIS PROGRAMME. IN TURN, HONG KONG HAS RECEIVED 36 YOUNG BRITONS, HE ADDED.

MR NG SAID THIS YEAR'S THREE-WEEK ITINERARY WILL COVER A SERIES OF VISITS TO PLACES OF INTEREST IN LONDON AND IN CARDIFF, WALES, AS WELL AS OTHER YOUTH WORK PROGRAMMES.

THEY WILL VISIT YOUTH CENTRES, CITY COUNCILS, HIGH SCHOOLS, SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS, COMMUNITY THEATRE GROUPS, LEISURE AND PLAY RESOURCE CENTRES, WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS AND SCOUT ASSOCIATIONS.

APART FROM ATTENDING A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE LORD MAYOR OF CARDIFF, PARTICIPANTS MAY ALSO BE RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSIONER AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON AND A BRITISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER OR A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHADOW CABINET AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, HE ADDED.

DURING THEIR STAY IN BRITAIN, THE YOUTH DELEGATES WILL SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME IN HOST FAMILIES, WHERE THEY WILL EXPERIENCE THE BRITISH WAY OF LIVING AND LEARN HOW TO HELP OTHERS IN A DIFFERENT COMMUNITY.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON AUGUST 1, AFTER THEIR EXTENDED STAY IN BRITAIN.

THE SIX YOUTH AMBASSADORS ARE: MISS DONNA CHU, MISS VIVIAN SUM, MR LEUNG PAK-WAI, MISS DIANA LEONG, MR LEUNG TAK-HING AND MISS WONG WAI-CHING.

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OWNERS AND TENANTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO TAKE PART IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT AS THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW THE PROBLEMS AND FEATURES OF THEIR BUILDING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARCLAY SAID ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE A GOOD LIVING ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO INCREASE THE BUILDING'S VALUE.

THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE WAS ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS ORGANISATIONS (FMSBO) IN JUNE AND JULY, HE SAID.

"THE AIM OF THE COURSE WAS TO PROVIDE SOME BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PROPERTIES EFFECTIVELY," MR BARCLAY ADDED.

A TOTAL OF 80 PARTICIPANTS, COMPRISING MEMBERS OF OWNERS INCORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, BUILDING MANAGERS, WATCHMEN AND RESIDENTS, WERE EACH AWARDED A CERTIFICATE FOR COMPLETING THE COURSE.

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WERE THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FMSBO, MRS CHOW SUN FONG-CHUNG.

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GOVT LOT TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A LAND LOT AT SAI NING STREET, KENNEDY TOWN, HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 1,030 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OR A FEE PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 19.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES AT HONG KONG WEST AND KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN TWO BUILDINGS IN SHAM SHUI PO, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE LOCATED ON THE FLAT ROOF OF FLAT A ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF 168 HAI TAN STREET AND ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF 172 YEE KUK STREET.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON AUGUST 13 AND SEPTEMBER 3 RESPECTIVELY UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	2.7.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	3.7.91	+201
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-201
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 114.4 *+0.2* 3.7.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	2.7.91	3.7.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	6.87 PCT	6.83 PCT
1 MONTH	6.49 PCT	6.43 PCT
3 MONTHS	6.40 PCT	6.27 PCT
6 MONTHS	6.36 PCT	6.27 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.63 PCT	6.63 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	3,965 MN	5,806 MN

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