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GOVERNOR TO REVIEW TALKS IN LONDON

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID HE WOULD REVIEW WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON THURSDAY PROGRESS OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS AND DISCUSS WITH THEM OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS LONDON VISIT AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY), MR PATTEN SAID: "I'LL BE REVIEWING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND WITH OFFICIALS THE PROGRESS THAT WE'VE MADE IN THE TALKS WITH CHINA, PROGRESS THAT WAS MADE IN THE EIGHTH ROUND, AND PREPARING THE BRIEF FOR THE NINTH ROUND OF TALKS.

"I ALSO WILL BE RAISING A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES WHICH ARE OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN HERE IN HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POSITION OF THOSE ETHNIC GROUPS WHOSE CONCERN HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OVER THE MONTHS."

MR PATTEN SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE REGULAR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS ONE.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES BUILDING, MR PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT DISCUSSIONS ON DEFENCE LANDS WERE NOT YET CONCLUDED, ADDING THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GARRISON AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHAT WE HAVE TO BALANCE IS FIRST OF ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GARRISON IN HONG KONG BOTH TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND SECONDLY THE IMPORTANCE OF USING LAND AND PARTS OF THE DEFENCE ESTATE WHICH AREN'T REQUIRED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES IN THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"THAT'S A BALANCE WHICH WE'RE DETERMINED TO STRIKE AS BEST AS WE CAN FOR THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

MR PATTEN NOTED THAT THE PRESENT GARRISON HAS BEHAVED EXTREMELY WELL OVER THE YEARS AND HAD DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY.

ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS, THE GOVERNOR SAID MORE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT ROUNDS BUT THERE WAS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE WERE DIFFICULT ISSUES.

"AND I'VE SAID AS WELL THAT PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT THESE ISSUES ARE TAKING A GREAT DEAL OF NEGOTIATING TIME. THEY ARE DIFFICULT ISSUES," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT HE HAD CHANGED POSITION AND HAD SET A DEADLINE ON THE TALKS.

/"SO NO .....

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"SO NO CHANGE SO FAR AS DEADLINES ARE CONCERNED," HE REITERATED.

"THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WANTS THESE TALKS TO BE A SUCCESS, IF POSSIBLE.

"I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OR THE GREAT MAJORITY OF IT IS ALSO PRETTY CLEAR THAT WHAT IT WANTS TO COME OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS AN AGREEMENT ON THE THROUGH TRAIN, AND AN AGREEMENT ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994 AND 95 WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

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AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING  
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THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG ON 4 AUGUST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT PROJECTS.

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FARE INCREASES FOR TAXI AND NLB CONSIDERED  
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) MET TO DISCUSS FARE INCREASES FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS.

MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED A FARE INCREASE APPLICATION FROM THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY (NLB) AND WERE INFORMED OF THE UP-TO-DATE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME.

ON TAXI FARE INCREASES, MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE OPERATING COSTS OF URBAN AND NT TAXIS ARE FORECAST TO RISE BY 16.2%-22.3% FROM THE LAST REVISION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR TO NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE HIGHER OPERATING COSTS ARE DUE LARGELY TO A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN FUEL COST AS WELL AS INCREASES IN SERVICING AND REPAIR COSTS AND INSURANCE AND DEPRECIATION CHARGES.

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE FARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TAXIS AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES HAVE NARROWED TO A LEVEL BELOW FIVE TO SEVEN TIMES FOR URBAN TAXIS AND THREE TO FOUR TIMES FOR NT TAXIS WHICH WERE STATED IN A POLICY ENDORSED BY TAC IN 1988.

MEMBERS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME TO DISCUSS THE PROS AND CONS OF VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR FARE INCREASES AND CAME TO A VIEW THAT MORE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED IN RESPECT OF THE COMBINATION OF THE FLAGFALL RATE, THE WAITING TIME AND SUBSEQUENT CHARGES AS WELL AS THE JUSTIFICATION AS TO WHY NT TAXIS NEED A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.

/THE COMMITTEE .....

THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING IN AUGUST. IT REMAINS TAC'S TARGET TO HAVE THE NEW FARES COMING INTO EFFECT IN NOVEMBER.

ON THE NLB FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, MEMBERS NOTED THAT WITHOUT A FARE INCREASE, NLB IS EXPECTED TO EARN A NEGLIGIBLE AFTER-TAX PROFIT OF \$0.29 MILLION IN 1993/94.

THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION WILL FURTHER DETERIORATE TO INCUR A LOSS OF \$1.33 MILLION IN 1994/95.

THE TAC ALSO NOTED THAT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 11% BETWEEN NLB'S LAST FARE REVISION IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON NLB'S FARE INCREASE APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, THE TAC ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT NLB HAS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICE IN TERMS OF AVAILABILITY, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY STANDARDS AND HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO CUT DOWN ITS OPERATING COST.

ON TRANSPORT CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES FOR THE ELDERLY, MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH HAD FORMED AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE ISSUANCE OF A SENIOR CITIZEN CARD TO ENABLE THE ELDERLY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF VARIOUS CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES OFFERED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT VARIOUS OPTIONS WERE BEING EXAMINED CLOSELY AND THAT A DECISION WOULD SOON BE TAKEN.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON A \$900 MILLION PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN BY KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION TO REFURBISH AND EXPAND THE KOWLOON STATION TO COPE WITH THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN RAIL TRAFFIC.

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AGREEMENT ON WATER SUPPLY FROM GUANGDONG

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FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS IN GUANGDONG DURING JULY 5-8, BETWEEN OFFICIALS FROM THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER AND FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, APPROVAL HAS NOW BEEN FORMALLY GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1989 AGREEMENT, UNDER THE TERMS OF WHICH HONG KONG PURCHASES RAW WATER TO MEET GROWING NEEDS.

THE QUANTITIES AND BASE PRICES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, AGREED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, ARE:

/PERIOD .....

PERIOD	QUANTITY IN MILLION CUBIC METRES	PRICE PER CUBIC METRE
1994 (MARCH - DECEMBER)	534	HK\$1.940
1995 (JANUARY-DECEMBER)	690	HK\$2.160
1996 (JANUARY-DECEMBER)	720	HK\$2.405

THE AGREED UNIT PRICES REPRESENT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF 10.72 PER CENT FOR THE PERIOD 1994/96. THE INCREASE IS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL 11 PER CENT RISE IN UNIT PRICES AGREED IN THE CURRENT PRICE AGREEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 1991 TO FEBRUARY 28, 1994.

THE NEW BASE PRICES REFLECT THE ANTICIPATED RISING COST OF LABOUR AND MATERIALS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS BEEN HELD DOWN TO MINIMISE ADVERSE COST IMPACT ON THE ULTIMATE COST OF WATER TO CONSUMERS IN HONG KONG.

THE RISE IN THE COST OF PURCHASING WATER FROM CHINA IS ONLY ONE OF THE FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ANNUAL EXERCISE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE AN INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES TO CONSUMERS AND IF SO AT WHAT RATE SHOULD THE INCREASE BE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE DOMESTIC WATER CHARGE WAS INCREASED BY 8.7 PER CENT FOR THE YEAR 1993/94 WHICH IS LESS THAN THE GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION.

SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN WELCOMING THE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETINGS, NOTED THAT THE EARLY COMPLETION BY THE GUANGDONG BUREAU OF EXPANSION WORKS FOR WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES WAS OF GREAT BENEFIT IN SECURING ADEQUATE RAW WATER SUPPLY TO HONG KONG.

THIS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED DESPITE THE INCREASING DEMANDS UPON CONSTRUCTION RESOURCES IN THE PROVINCE, AND WELL WITHIN THE TIME FRAME AGREED FOR THE WORKS BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES TO THE 1989 AGREEMENT.

DIRECTOR GUAN ZONGZHI OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER SAID THE FOLLOWING WATER QUALITY PROTECTION MEASURES WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED:

- (I) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, SERIOUS ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY ENACTED BY THE GUANGDONG PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND STEPPING UP OF THE PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION AND THE FUNCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, TO PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY;
- (II) IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY OF "HE WHO POLLUTES BE RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDOING IT", THE GUANGDONG PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAD LEGISLATED TO ALLOCATE A SPECIAL SUM OF MONEY FROM THE REVENUE COLLECTED FROM THE SUPPLY OF EAST RIVER WATER TO SUBSIDIZE THE WORKS FOR POLLUTION TREATMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE GUANGDONG PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WAS ALSO PREPARED TO LEGISLATE FOR STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF WATER CATCHMENT AREA TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY;

/(III) ENHANCEMENT OF .....

- (III) ENHANCEMENT OF THE MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING WATER QUALITY ALONG THE ROUTE OF DONGJIANG - SHENZHEN WATER SUPPLY SUCH AS PUTTING SUITABLE FISH STOCKS IN THE RESERVOIR AND IMPROVE THE BAINIKENG BIOLOGICAL ABSORPTION PILOT SCHEME, ETC.;
- (IV) EXPANSION OF THE CAPACITY OF SHAWAN SEWAGE AND TREATMENT PLANT FROM 3,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY TO 20,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY AND DISCHARGING TO BUJI RIVER AFTER TREATMENT, USING THE METHOD OF CROSS RIVER BASIN DISPOSAL;
- (V) CONSIDERATION OF INTRODUCING FROM DENMARK SEWAGE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY AND SETTING UP A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT TANGSHA;
- (VI) PLANNING THE WORKS FOR ENSURING WATER QUALITY IN RESPECT OF THE DONGJIANG - SHENZHEN WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND ADOPTING CONSOLIDATED MEASURES OF SEPARATING POLLUTED WATER FROM CLEAN WATER AND SETTING UP SEWERAGE SYSTEM. THE GUANGDONG SIDE INDICATED THAT THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY OF THE DONGJIANG - SHENZHEN WATER SUPPLY. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THROUGH MUTUAL CO-OPERATION, WATER QUALITY WOULD IN FUTURE CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED AT THE AGREED REQUIRED STANDARDS.

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REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR ESTATE AGENTS BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WITH LEGISLATIVE BACKING FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN HONG KONG, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS (LAND POLICY), MR CANICE MAK, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON LICENSING OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS, MR MAK SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET FORMED A FIRM VIEW ON THE MATTER AND WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE DETAILS SO THAT THE SHAPE OF A POSSIBLE REGULATORY SYSTEM COULD BE DRAWN UP.

MR MAK DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROCRASTINATION BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO PROCEED PRUDENTLY IN DRAWING UP THE DETAILS OF A REGULATORY SYSTEM WHICH WILL AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE IN THE TRADE.

"WE NEED TO STEER A CAREFUL COURSE AND SHOULD NOT CONFUSE THE NEED TO ENSURE AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF COMPETENCE WITH PUSHING FOR INCREASED PROFESSIONALISM JUST FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

"IF WE PURSUED THE LATTER COURSE TOO VIGOROUSLY, TOO FAST, IT WOULD BE THE CONSUMER WHO WOULD SUFFER FROM THE RESULTING LIMITED SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL," HE SAID.

MR MAK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PEOPLE IN THE TRADE AND WILL PRESS ON VIGOROUSLY WITH THE WORK OF DRAWING UP A REGULATORY SYSTEM.

HE EMPHASISED THAT ANY LICENSING SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO SUIT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG.

/MR MAK .....

MR MAK SAID THE LACK OF A FORMAL REGULATORY SYSTEM DID NOT MEAN THAT ESTATE AGENTS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY CONTROL AT ALL.

"UNDER THE COMMON LAW, AN ESTATE AGENT HAS A DUTY TO EXERCISE CARE AND SKILL, TO DISCLOSE ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND NOT TO MAKE SECRET PROFITS OR BRIBES.

"THE LAW OF MISREPRESENTATION ALSO ENABLES A PRINCIPAL TO CLAIM REMEDIES WHERE HE CAN SHOW THAT THE AGENT HAS INDUCED HIM TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BY MAKING UNTRUE STATEMENTS OF FACT.

"A PRINCIPAL IS ENTITLED TO CLAIM DAMAGES AND/OR TO RESCIND THE CONTRACT.

"IN ADDITION, ESTATE AGENT ACTIVITIES ARE ACTIONABLE UNDER VARIOUS ORDINANCES SUCH AS THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, THE THEFT ORDINANCE AND THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE WHERE FRAUD OR CORRUPTION IS INVOLVED," HE SAID.

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SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 TO DESIGNATE RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WATERS ADJACENT TO THE TSING YI (SOUTH), TSING YI (NORTH) AND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGES.

THE REGULATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON AUGUST 6 AND WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON THE SAME DAY.

THE REGULATION IS TO DESIGNATE A RESTRICTED AREA IN RAMBLER CHANNEL SO THAT, EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, NO VESSEL HAVING A MAST OR SUPERSTRUCTURE HEIGHT EXCEEDING 17 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL IS ALLOWED:

- \* IN THE CASE OF VESSEL BEING TOWED, TO ENTER, BERTH OR UNBERTH WITHIN THE AREA UNLESS IT IS BEING TOWED BY SUCH NUMBER OF TUGS OR OTHER VESSELS AS MAY REASONABLY BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE VESSEL HAVING REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING THERETO; OR
- \* TO APPROACH A BRIDGE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREJUDICE THE SAFETY OF THE BRIDGE

SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS WILL ALSO APPLY TO THE WATERS ADJACENT TO THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE FOR VESSEL HAVING A MAST OR SUPERSTRUCTURE HEIGHT EXCEEDING 14 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID: "IN DETERMINING A MAXIMUM HEIGHT LIMIT, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS REGARD TO THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE CLEARANCE WITHIN THE SPAN OF A BRIDGE, SO AS TO ALLOW A SUFFICIENT SAFETY MARGIN FOR WORST CASE SITUATIONS."

THE PORT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, THE PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG CARGO VESSEL TRADERS ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN CONSULTED.

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BRIDGE TOWER REACHES 100 METRES MARK

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THE FIRST OF THE TWO GIANT CONCRETE TOWERS WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE TSING MA BRIDGE HAS REACHED A HEIGHT OF 100 METRES, EIGHT WEEKS AFTER CONSTRUCTION BEGAN.

WHEN THE JOB IS COMPLETED IN MID-SEPTEMBER THE CONCRETE TOWER, LOCATED ON TSING YI, WILL BE 190 METRES - THE SAME HEIGHT AS SOME OF THE MODERN 50-STOREY OFFICE BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG'S CENTRAL DISTRICT.

WORK ON THE SECOND 190-METRE CONCRETE TOWER, AT THE MA WAN END OF THE BRIDGE, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

THE TOWERS ARE BEING BUILT BY A PROCESS KNOWN AS SLIPFORMING, WHICH ACCELERATES THE SPEED AT WHICH CONCRETE CAN BE POURED.

THE FORMS - OR SHUTTERS - WHICH SURROUND THE CONCRETE MOVE STEADILY UPWARDS.

THIS IS A QUICKER PROCESS COMPARED WITH THE MORE CONVENTIONAL BUILDING METHODS WHERE THE FORMS ARE DISMANTLED AND RE-ERECTED AT EVERY STAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION.

STEEL TRUSSES WEIGHING UP TO 185 TONES EACH WILL BE INSTALLED TO BRACE THE TOWER LEGS TEMPORARILY AS CONCRETE WORK PROCEEDS.

THE TRUSSES WILL EVENTUALLY BE ENCASED IN REINFORCED CONCRETE AND PRESTRESSED TO THE TOWER LEGS.

REINFORCED CONCRETE PLINTHS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON TOP OF THE TOWER AFTER THE SLIPFORMING OPERATION. STEEL SADDLES WILL THEN BE ERECTED ON THE PLINTHS TO CARRY THE MAIN SUSPENSION BRIDGE CABLES. THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL HEIGHT OF THE TOWER TO ABOVE 200 METRES.

BY SPRING NEXT YEAR THE SHAPE OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE, WHICH WILL BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGES, WILL START TO EMERGE WHEN WORK BEGINS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPORARY CATWALKS, FROM WHICH THE MAIN CABLES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED USING A PROCESS KNOWN AS AERIAL WIRE SPINNING.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE, PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, IS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE TRANSPORT NETWORK IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME LINKING NORTH LANTAU AND THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK TO THE REST OF HONG KONG.

IT IS BEING CONSTRUCTED UNDER A \$7.14 BILLION CONTRACT AWARDED LAST MAY TO THE ANGLO-JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION JOINT VENTURE.

THE BRIDGE WAS DESIGNED FOR THE GOVERNMENT HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT BY MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED.

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HK MAKES GOOD PROGRESS ON AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME

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HONG KONG IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), MR BILLY LAM, SAID IN SEATTLE, USA, YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

MR LAM SAID REMARKABLE, VISIBLE PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TWO YEARS AGO.

THE RECENT CHINESE AGREEMENT ON THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING FRANCHISE AND THE CENTRAL AND WANCHAI RECLAMATION PROJECT HAD GIVEN THE PROGRAMME FURTHER IMPETUS.

MR LAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PACIFIC RIM TRANSTECH CONFERENCE HELD BETWEEN JULY 25 AND 28 AT THE WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION CENTRE IN SEATTLE.

OUTLINING PROGRESS OF THE ACP, MR LAM SAID TO DATE, PHYSICAL WORKS FOR SIX OF THE 10 ACP PROJECTS WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY AND OTHERS WOULD SOON BE STARTING. THESE SIX PROJECTS INCLUDED THE AIRPORT, TWO RECLAMATION PROJECTS AND MOST OF THE HIGHWAY PROJECTS.

"SO FAR, 27 MAJOR ACP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WORTH OVER US\$4.5 BILLION (ABOUT HK\$35 BILLION) HAVE BEEN LET, ALL ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION AND WITHIN BUDGET.

"OF THESE, 23 ARE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, AMOUNTING TO 68 PER CENT OF ALL GOVERNMENT ACP WORK BY VALUE, AND FOUR BELONG TO THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE US\$1.2 BILLION (ABOUT HK\$9 BILLION) SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT TO FORM THE AIRPORT ISLAND," HE SAID.

MR LAM TOLD DELEGATES THAT IN LINE WITH HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL FREE TRADE AND "OPEN DOOR" POLICY AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, TRADE, FINANCIAL, AVIATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, HONG KONG ENCOURAGED INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN ITS ACP PROJECTS AND ADOPTED A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD APPROACH TO TENDERERS IN ALL CONTRACTS.

"INDEED, THE ACP HAS ALREADY DRAWN PARTICIPATION FROM COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE. TAKING THE LEAD IN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED ARE COMPANIES FROM JAPAN (23 PER CENT BY VALUE), FOLLOWED BY THE UK (18.5 PER CENT) AND THE NETHERLANDS (14.8 PER CENT)," HE SAID.

MR LAM ADDED THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETING ALL 10 PROJECTS ON SCHEDULE AND WITHIN BUDGET, AN OVERALL BASELINE PLAN HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO SET DOWN THE FIRM SCOPE, CRITICAL PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONES, AND DETAILED BUDGET FOR THE WHOLE ACP.

"TOGETHER WITH A FIRM CASH LIMIT ON EACH PROJECT, AND A REGIME OF FIXED PRICE LUMP SUM CONTRACTS AWARDED AFTER OPEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT, SO FAR, THE ACP IS ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION AND WITHIN BUDGET.

"THIS IS, BY ANY STANDARD, A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME OF SUCH SCALE," HE SAID.

ON THE CONTINUING TALKS WITH CHINA ON THE DETAILED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, MR LAM SAID: "WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE TALKS WILL SOON LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT ON FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, THUS ADDING FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE CURRENT MOMENTUM."

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NAPCO, MR H K WONG, ADDRESSED ONE OF THE SEMINARS HELD AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPLAINED IN DETAIL HOW HONG KONG WAS BUILDING A TRANSPORT NETWORK TO LINK THE AIRPORT TO THE URBAN AREAS.

ABOUT 1,500 TOP EXECUTIVES FROM 33 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEWEST AND MOST ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS BEING DEVELOPED IN THE PACIFIC RIM.

DELEGATES WILL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE ACP FROM A NAPCO STAND IN AN EXHIBITION WHICH IS BEING STAGED AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE.

DETAILS OF THE 10 PROJECTS ON THE ACP ARE SHOWN THROUGH A VARIETY OF DISPLAYS, INCLUDING MODELS AND A VIDEO, AND INFORMATION KITS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED.

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WRITTEN CONTRACT FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT A MUST

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYEES INTENDING TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYERS TO ENTER INTO WRITTEN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS BEFORE THEY LEAVE HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE, A FOREIGN EMPLOYER WHO IS NOT IN HONG KONG AND NOT CARRYING ON A BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, IS REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH ALL LOCAL MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITH MONTHLY WAGES NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000 FOR WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

LABOUR OFFICER (EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE), MISS CORRINA CHENG, SAID THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPARTURE.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF PROTECTION SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT ARE IN NO WAY LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION," SHE EXPLAINED.

"A CONTRACT WITH TERMS WHICH ARE UNFAIR TO THE EMPLOYEE OR DO NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE EMPLOYEE'S INTERESTS WILL NOT BE ATTESTED," SHE STRESSED.

MISS CHENG POINTED OUT THAT A DULY ATTESTED CONTRACT COULD NOT ONLY CLEARLY DEFINE THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES BUT WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT ARE REASONABLE.

IT SHOULD INCLUDE SUCH DETAILS AS PAY, NATURE AND HOURS OF WORK, HOLIDAYS, SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION, REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENT AND PROVISIONS FOR DEPENDANTS.

"IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERSEAS FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYERS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL REQUIRE A HONG KONG RESIDENT NOMINATED BY THE EMPLOYER TO FURNISH A BOND OR GUARANTEE BEFORE ATTESTING THE CONTRACT," MISS CHENG SAID.

SHE SAID IT WAS AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT WHO FAILED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE OR FAILED TO PRESENT THE CONTRACT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPARTURE.

"THE EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR INDUCING AN EMPLOYEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WHICH DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, OR INDUCING THE EMPLOYEE TO DEPART HONG KONG TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS ATTESTED," SHE SAID.

OFFENDERS WILL BE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$50,000.

ENQUIRIES ON THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES UNDER THE ORDINANCE MAY BE MADE TO THE EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ON TEL 852 3535.

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#### JUSTICE OF APPEAL AND HIGH COURT JUDGES APPOINTED

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUDICIARY TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MORTIMER, A JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT, HAD BEEN APPOINTED A JUSTICE OF APPEAL.

MR JUSTICE MORTIMER JOINED THE JUDICIARY IN HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER 1985 AS A HIGH COURT JUDGE. PRIOR TO THAT DATE HE PRACTISED AS A QUEEN'S COUNSEL AT THE ENGLISH BAR.

THE JUDICIARY ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE NEW HIGH COURT JUDGES. THEY ARE MR JEROME CHAN, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT, MR ANTHONY ROGERS, QC AND MR MICHAEL STUART-MOORE, QC.

MR JUSTICE JEROME CHAN'S APPOINTMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND MR ANTHONY ROGERS, QC AND MR MICHAEL STUART-MOORE, QC WILL TAKE UP THEIR APPOINTMENTS IN SEPTEMBER.

MR JUSTICE JEROME CHAN WAS BORN AND EDUCATED IN HONG KONG, GRADUATING LL.B AND P.C.LL IN 1975.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG BAR IN 1976 AND WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE UNTIL 1985 WHEN HE JOINED THE JUDICIARY.

HE HAS SERVED AS MAGISTRATE, PRESIDING OFFICER, LABOUR TRIBUNAL, AND DISTRICT JUDGE AND WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT IN 1990.

MR JUSTICE JEROME CHAN IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

MR ANTHONY ROGERS, QC WAS BORN IN 1946 AND EDUCATED IN ENGLAND. HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR BY GRAY'S INN IN 1968 AND PRACTISED IN ENGLAND UNTIL 1976.

HE BEGAN PRACTICE AT THE HONG KONG BAR IN 1976 AND BECAME A QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1984.

HE IS A PAST-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, MR ROGERS IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

MR MICHAEL STUART-MOORE, QC, IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN. HE WAS EDUCATED IN ENGLAND AND CALLED TO THE BAR BY MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1966 AND TOOK SILK IN 1990.

HE HAS SAT AS A DEPUTY CIRCUIT JUDGE AND AS A RECORDER IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INNS OF COURT.

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AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (JULY 31) AT 9.30 AM AT THE LECTURE HALL, SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, FIFTH FLOOR, URBAN COUNCIL SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX AT 345 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

A TOTAL OF 50 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

- |        |         |         |        |
|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| FF2628 | FG318   | FF8887  | FG106  |
| FG861  | FF9888  | FF280   | FF8300 |
| *FM909 | *FJ3838 | *CC8000 | *2881  |
| DT691  | AC9997  | FF9298  | FG760  |
| FG866  | FF238   | FG911   | BM1957 |
| FF6838 | FG112   | AU2836  | FF6208 |
| CH590  | HK3303  | FG9886  | FG776  |
| *FM77  | *FK6    | *FN888  | *FP41  |
| FF729  | AA1955  | FG819   | FG2311 |
| FF106  | FG189   | DC7772  | FF7707 |
| FF1728 | CA1958  | *FN9292 | FF6543 |
| FG4022 | CT7730  | FF4877  | *FM717 |
| FG149  | FF9115  |         |        |

\* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 199TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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FS VISITS ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WAS BRIEFED THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON ON THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS USED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE WORK EFFICIENCY AND TO CUT COSTS.

DURING A TWO-HOUR VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT, MR MACLEOD LEARNED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD EMBARKED ON A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME TO EXPAND AND UPGRADE ITS COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

HIS VISIT BEGAN WITH A BRIEFING GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS.

SINCE EARLY 1990, IT HAS BEEN WORKING ON A PLANNED DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION STRATEGY WHICH AIMS AT INTEGRATING INDIVIDUAL COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.

THE INTEGRATED APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROVIDE A STANDARDISED FRAMEWORK OF MANAGEMENT OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME CONTROL, TO PROVIDE SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION OF RESOURCES REQUIRED, AND TO MONITOR THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR CORSER, MR MACLEOD INSPECTED VARIOUS COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

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CENTRAL REGISTER SUPPLIES BUSINESS DATA

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTER OF AROUND 300,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG TO SERVE MAINLY AS THE SAMPLING FRAME FOR ITS VARIOUS ECONOMIC SURVEYS.

MANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO MAKE USE OF THE REGISTER FOR PUBLICITY, SURVEY AND RESEARCH WORK.

A SAMPLE LISTING CONTAINING 20 PER CENT OF THE RECORDS RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THE CENTRAL REGISTER IS CREATED FOR USE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN MARKET RESEARCH, STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND BUSINESS OR PRODUCT PROMOTION.

APPLICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF A PHOTOCOPY OR A MAGNETIC TAPE OF THE LISTING OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL PARTICULARS SUCH AS NAME, ADDRESS, MAJOR TYPE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASS CAN BE MADE TO THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED FOR THIS SERVICE. THE RATES ARE:

- \* \$4.3 PER PAGE OF PHOTOCOPY; AND
- \* A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$530 FOR A JOB REQUIRING UP TO 20 COMPUTER RESOURCES UNITS (CRU'S) PLUS \$26.5 FOR EACH CRU IN EXCESS OF 20 CRU'S, IF THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED ON MAGNETIC TAPES. THE MAGNETIC TAPE CAN BE PROVIDED BY APPLICANTS OR BY THE DEPARTMENT AT A CHARGE OF \$105 PER TAPE.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4760.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
TENDER RESULTS

\* \* \* \* \*

TENDER DATE	27 JUL 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q330
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,968 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,000 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.18 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.20 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 1 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.20 PCT

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 2 AUGUST 1993 -

TENDER DATE	3 AUG 93	3 AUG 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q331	H370
ISSUE DATE	4 AUG 93	4 AUG 93
MATURITY DATE	3 NOV 93	2 FEB 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,000 + 200 MN	HK\$400 + 80 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,960
REVERSAL OF LAF	+40
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-190
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,810
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.7 *+0.1* 27.7.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.51 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.59	3.84
1 MONTH	2.75 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.76	4.06
3 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.76	4.28
6 MONTHS	3.47 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.75	4.53
12 MONTHS	3.81 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,565 MN

CLOSED JULY 27, 1993

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