



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1980

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JUNE 1980.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR JUNE WAS \$8 457 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$6 079 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2 378 MILLION.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$8 824 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JUNE WAS \$367 MILLION WHICH WAS LESS THAN THAT FOR JUNE 1979.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1979, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$1 489 MILLION, OR 32 PER CENT, FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS- \$633 MILLION, OR 36 PER CENT, FOR RE-EXPORTS- AND \$1 859 MILLION, OR 27 PER CENT, FOR IMPORTS.

COMMENTING ON THE JUNE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS AGAIN GROWING FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, LARGELY A RESULT OF THE SLOW DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS.

WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WAS STILL RAPID AND WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BUT THERE WERE SIGNS OF IT SLOWING DOWN.

COMPARING FIGURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WITH THOSE OF THE FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS 33 PER CENT HIGHER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WAS 44 PER CENT HIGHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS 36 PER CENT HIGHER AND THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS 35 PER CENT HIGHER.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS BUT AS ENVISAGED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN THE BUDGET SPEECH, THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS HAD NOW ALMOST CAUGHT UP WITH THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WHICH IS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, WAS 14.7 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE 15.3 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979.

BECAUSE RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW FASTER THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE PROPORTION OF TOTAL EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR BY RE-EXPORTS INCREASED FROM 28.2 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 TO 29.8 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

LATEST 3 MONTHS	APRIL - JUNE 1980	APRIL - JUNE 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	17 421	13 292	+ 4 129	+ 31.1
RE-EXPORTS	7 203	4 989	+ 2 215	+ 44.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	24 624	18 281	+ 6 343	+ 34.7
IMPORTS	27 782	20 957	+ 6 825	+ 32.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 3 158	- 2 676	- 482	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JUNE 1980	JUNE 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 079 (71.9%)	4 590 (72.5%)	+ 1 489	+ 32.4
RE-EXPORTS	2 378	1 745	+ 633	+ 36.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	8 457	6 335	+ 2 122	+ 33.5
IMPORTS	8 824	6 965	+ 1 859	+ 26.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 367	- 630	+ 263	

LAST MONTH	JUNE 1980	MAY 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 079 (71.9%)	5 968 (70.3%)	+ 111	+ 1.9
RE-EXPORTS	2 378	2 527	- 149	- 5.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	8 457	8 495	- 37	- 0.4
IMPORTS	8 824	9 456	- 632	- 6.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 367	- 961	+ 594	

/CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN. - JUNE 1980	JAN. - JUNE 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	31 130 (70.2%)	23 408 (71.8%)	+ 7 721	+ 33.0
RE-EXPORTS	13 239	9 196	+ 4 043	+ 44.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	44 369	32 604	+ 11 765	+ 36.1
IMPORTS	51 994	38 516	+ 13 478	+ 35.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 7 625	- 5 912	- 1 713	
	JULY 1979 TO JUNE 1980	JULY 1978 TO JUNE 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
LAST 12 MONTHS	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	63 633	46 651	+16 982	+ 36.4
RE-EXPORTS	24 065	16 465	+ 7 601	+ 46.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	87 699	63 116	+24 583	+ 38.9
IMPORTS	99 315	73 317	+25 998	+ 35.5
TRADE BALANCE	-11 616	-10 201	- 1 415	

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PROPOSED INCREASE IN FIRE HAZARD FINES

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THE FIRE SERVICES HAS PROPOSED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FINES AS A DETERRANT TO PEOPLE CREATING FIRE HAZARDS.

+THE PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXACT MAXIMUM PENALTY HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED,+ A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH A FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICE IS \$2 000 PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$40 DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRAVENED A FIRE HAZARD ORDER, THE MAXIMUM FINE IS \$4 000 PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$100 DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

/MEANWHILE,

MEANWHILE, FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU OFFICERS TODAY INSPECTED THE BLACKSPOTS IN THE SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA TO LOOK FOR OBSTRUCTIONS TO MEANS OF ESCAPE, STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS WITHOUT A LICENCE AND OTHER POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS.

AS A RESULT, 224 FACTORIES WILL BE SERVED WITH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES, MOSTLY FOR CAUSING OBSTRUCTIONS IN COMMON AREAS AND ON STAIRCASES.

THE FACTORIES ARE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THE HAZARDS IN 72 HOURS OR ELSE BE SUMMONSED.

THREE FACTORIES WERE ISSUED WITH ON-THE-SPOT FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES FOR CAUSING SERIOUS OBSTRUCTIONS TO MEANS OF ESCAPE. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THE OBSTRUCTIONS WITHIN TWO HOURS OR ELSE BE SUMMONSED.

IN ADDITION, 18 FACTORIES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ISSUED WITH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES, WILL SOON BE SUMMONSED FOR THE RECURRENCE OF FIRE HAZARDS.

FIRE OFFICERS ALSO FOUND 30 CASES OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ALTERATIONS, 33 CASES OF ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND TWO CASES OF UNLICENSED CATERING. THESE CASES WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS FOR ACTION.

DURING THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF-HOUR OPERATION, 942 FACTORY UNITS IN 24 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WERE INSPECTED.

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PNEUMOCONIOSIS CLAIMS START

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THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME, WHICH PROVIDES EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS, HAS STARTED.

THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) BILL 1980, WHICH IMPLEMENTS THE SECOND STAGE OF THE SCHEME, WAS PASSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 23).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT DURING THE FIRST STAGE, EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS WOULD BE GIVEN TO PEOPLE WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM OR HAD DIED FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

ALL THOSE DIAGNOSED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1981 TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE WHO DIED ON OR AFTER JULY 10 AND WHO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED PAYMENT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, SUBJECT TO FIVE YEARS' RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

THE PAYMENT RATE WOULD DEPEND ON THE DEGREE OF PERMANENT DISABILITY ASSESSED.

/THE MAXIMUM

THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT WOULD FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, -- 48 MONTHS EARNINGS FOR 100 PER CENT DISABILITY AND 36 MONTHS FOR DEATH, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, A FLAT \$1 500 WAS TO BE TAKEN AS MONTHLY EARNINGS IRRESPECTIVE OF ACTUAL WAGES OF INDIVIDUAL PNEUMOCONIOTICS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF PERMANENT DISABILITY WAS ASSESSED AT 50 PER CENT, PAYMENT WOULD BE \$1 500 X 48 (MONTHS) X 50 PER CENT = \$36 000.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE ALREADY DIAGNOSED TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD BE NOTIFIED FOR MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.

WORKERS WHO SUSPECT THEMSELVES TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE SHOULD EITHER CONSULT THEIR OWN DOCTOR OR APPROACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL HEALTH UNIT AT 5TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, YAU MA TEI, FOR ARRANGEMENTS OF X-RAY.

AFTER MEDICAL ASSESSMENT A PNEUMOCONIOTIC WOULD BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE ON THE DEGREE OF DISABILITY TO APPLY TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT.

ANY ENQUIRY CONCERNING PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION UNIT, TELEPHONE NOS. 3-688353 AND 3-687346.

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BUREAUCRATIC RULES AND COMMERCIAL REALITIES IN TEXTILE QUOTAS * * * * *

IN DEVISING THE RULES OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM WE HAVE HAD TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY THE BUREAUCRATIC RULES BUT ALSO THE COMMERCIAL REALITIES AND PRACTICALITIES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR PETER TSAO SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

+IT WOULD BE RATHER TEMPTING AND QUITE EASY TO MAKE PERFECT RULES FOR QUOTA CONTROL. RULES THAT ARE SOUND IN LOGIC AND IN POLICY. WE COULD HAVE RULES WHICH CANNOT BE FAULTED AND WE COULD HAVE RULES WHICH ARE TOTALLY FAIR,+ HE TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH.

+BUT THE QUESTION THAT WE MUST ASK OURSELVES, AS ADMINISTRATORS OF THE SYSTEM, IS WHETHER SUCH RULES WILL MAKE COMMERCIAL SENSE? CAN TRADERS TRADE? CAN THEY TRADE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM PROFITS FOR THEMSELVES, THEREBY OBTAINING MAXIMUM PROFITS FOR HONG KONG AS A WHOLE?+

WHILST TEXTILE QUOTAS RESTRICTED OUR EXPORTS AND LIMITED OUR ACCESS RIGHTS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS, THEY ALSO GAVE A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY TO THE TRADE. IT WAS UP TO HONG KONG TO EXPLOIT IN FULL THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE.

+OUR AIM, THEREFORE, IS TO USE AS MUCH OF THE QUOTAS AS WE CAN= AND TO USE THEM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENABLE HONG KONG AS A WHOLE TO OBTAIN AS MUCH BENEFIT, IN MONEY TERMS, AS POSSIBLE,+ SAID MR TSAO.

+THIS PHILOSOPHY REQUIRES A FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH. SO, IN DEVISING THE RULES OF THE SYSTEM WE TRY, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, TO MAKE COMMERCIAL SENSE.+

HE ILLUSTRATED THE DANGERS OF ADOPTING A PURIST APPROACH AND MAKING RULES WHICH COULD STAND UP TO ANY CRITICISM.

TAKING QUOTA TRANSFERS AS AN EXAMPLE, MR TSAO SAID: +WE ALLOCATE QUOTAS TO COMPANIES WHICH HAVE A RECORD OF PERFORMANCE IN THE PAST. WE DO SO BECAUSE THESE ARE THE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE PROVEN ABILITY TO USE QUOTAS. SO, THE LOGICAL CONDITION ATTACHING TO SUCH ALLOCATION SHOULD BE THAT IF THEY DO NOT USE THEM, THEY LOSE THEM.

+GIVEN THAT CONDITION, IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL TO ALLOW COMPANIES TO MAKE WHAT IN OUR JARGON IS KNOWN AS TEMPORARY TRANSFERS. IN EFFECT THIS MEANS THAT A COMPANY HOLDING THE QUOTA MAY PASS ON TO ANOTHER COMPANY THE RIGHT TO SHIP AGAINST THE FORMER'S QUOTA IN ONE YEAR, WITHOUT THE TRANSFEROR LOSING ITS RIGHT TO HIS QUOTA IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THAT, IN PURIST TERMS, HE WOULD AGREE THAT SUCH A SYSTEM DID NOT STAND UP TO LOGIC. BUT WHAT, HE ASKED, WOULD HAPPEN IF THE RULES SAID THAT ALL COMPANIES MUST USE THEIR QUOTAS EVERY YEAR AND, IF THEY DID NOT USE THEM, THEY WOULD LOSE THEM.

+ONE CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE THAT A COMPANY TRADING IN SHIRTS IN YEAR ONE, WOULD BE ALLOCATED SHIRT QUOTAS IN YEAR TWO WHEN RESTRAINT WAS FIRST IMPOSED. IN YEAR THREE HIS CUSTOMER NO LONGER WANTED SHIRTS= BUT INSTEAD REQUIRED TROUSERS. HE CANNOT SHIP TROUSERS, BECAUSE HE HASN'T THE QUOTA. HE CANNOT USE HIS SHIRT QUOTA, BECAUSE HE HASN'T GOT THE ORDER.

+AND THEN THERE IS COMPANY B WHICH IS IN THE OPPOSITE POSITION - HAVING GOT TROUSERS QUOTA, BUT HAS ONLY GOT SHIRT ORDERS. IF QUOTAS CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED, THEY ARE BOTH GOING TO LOSE THEIR RESPECTIVE ALLOCATIONS IN YEAR FOUR,+ HE SAID.

+IF SUCH A LOSS WERE LIMITED TO THE COMPANIES CONCERNED, THE GOVERNMENT NEED NOT INTERVENE. HOWEVER THE MATTER DOES NOT REST WITH THE COMPANIES. BY DEFINITION, UNUSED QUOTA RESULTS IN UNUSED TRADING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG.

+IN THIS VERY COMPLEX WORLD OF COMMERCE, THE PATTERN IS NOT LIKELY TO BE LIMITED TO TWO COMPANIES TRADING IN TWO PRODUCTS,+ SAID MR TSAO.

+THE ACTUAL SITUATION OFTEN INVOLVED A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF COMPANIES, TRADING IN A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF ITEMS, AND THE AMOUNT OF QUOTAS THAT COULD BE LOCKED INTO COMPANIES THAT ARE UNABLE TO USE THEM IF THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO EXCHANGE THEM, COULD BE A VERY LARGE AMOUNT INDEED.

+SOME WOULD SAY THE COMPANIES COULD TRY TO USE THEIR UNUSABLE QUOTAS BY SELLING AT CHEAPER PRICES. I AGREE, BUT THAT SURELY WILL RESULT IN A SITUATION WHERE HONG KONG AS A WHOLE WOULD EARN LESS, AND WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVING THE AIM OF USING TO THE FULL THE LIMITED TRADING OPPORTUNITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID HIS DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO RECEIVED SUGGESTIONS THAT WHEN QUOTAS WERE TRANSFERRED, SOME OF THEM SHOULD GO TO THE COMPANY TO WHOM THE TRANSFER IS MADE.

+FIRST OF ALL, THAT WORD 'SOME' NEEDS TO BE DEFINED. HOW MUCH SHOULD THE TRANSFEROR RETAIN, AND HOW MUCH SHOULD THE TRANSFEREE GET? WHERE DOES ONE DRAW A LOGICAL LINE?+ HE ASKED.

+EVEN IF WE COULD COME TO AN AGREEMENT THAT THE LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN AT A PARTICULAR PERCENTAGE, THE RESULT WILL BE VERY SIMILAR TO NOT ALLOWING TRANSFERS. COMPANIES NOT ABLE TO USE THEIR PARTICULAR KIND OF HOLDING IN ONE YEAR WILL NOT BE WILLING TO LOSE PART OF THEIR HOLDING, BECAUSE THEY EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO USE THEIR QUOTAS IN FUTURE YEARS.

+THE NET RESULT WILL AGAIN BE FOR THESE COMPANIES TO ATTEMPT TO USE UP THEIR OWN QUOTAS AND THE CONSEQUENCE WILL AGAIN BE AN ATTEMPT TO TRADE DOWN,+ HE ADDED.

A FURTHER CONSEQUENCE OF COMPANIES BEING DISCOURAGED FROM MAKING TRANSFERS WOULD BE THE CESSATION OF TRANSFERS, THEREBY DEPRIVING THE SO-CALLED SMALL EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS, WHO DID NOT HOLD ALLOCATIONS AT PRESENT, THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING THEIR BUSINESS BY OBTAINING QUOTAS THROUGH TRANSFERS.

+WE ARE ADVISED THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE SMALL EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO EXIST.

+IN DEALING WITH THE SYSTEM, ONE MUST ADOPT A PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH. LOGIC DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE ITS PLACE IN A SYSTEM OF THIS SORT. IT IS, OF COURSE, A VERY DIFFICULT TASK TO TRY TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT IS LOGICAL AND FAIR ON THE ONE HAND, AND WHAT MAKES COMMERCIAL SENSE ON THE OTHER HAND.

+ON THE 'TRANSFER PROVISIONS' WE HOPE WE HAVE STRUCK THAT BALANCE BY ALLOWING TRANSFERS, BUT PENALISING 'PERSISTENT' TRANSFERORS,+ HE SAID.

IN REVIEWING THE QUOTA SYSTEM THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN CERTAIN STEPS IN A GENERAL DIRECTION OF TIGHTENING UP THE SYSTEM, BUT IN TAKING EVERY STEP, THEY HAD HAD TO LOOK AT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH STEPS.

+WHERE THE CONSEQUENCES ARE EITHER ADVERSE OR EVEN UNCLEAR, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED EITHER NOT TO TAKE THE STEP, OR TO TAKE A SMALLER TESTING STEP.

+WE HAVE NOT DONE A NUMBER OF THINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN URGED UPON US, NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM, BUT RATHER BECAUSE WE ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHAT ARE THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES,+ HE SAID.

+IF WE WERE TO MAKE ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN URGED UPON US, I AM AFRAID WE WOULD NOT BE TAKING A STEP, BUT MAKING A LEAP. AND BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE WE ARE HEADING, THIS WOULD BE A LEAP INTO THE DARK.+

THIS WAS A RISK WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE IN RESPECT OF A SYSTEM WHICH WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT TRADE IN HONG KONG - AN INDUSTRY WHICH EMPLOYED HALF THE WORKERS AND PROVIDED SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF OF OUR EXPORT EARNINGS.

+WHETHER THIS REVIEW ACHIEVES ITS DESIRED AIM WILL BE A JUDGEMENT THAT CAN ONLY BE MADE WITH THE LAPSE OF AT LEAST A YEAR OR SO. WE WILL BE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON HOW THE SYSTEM IS WORKING, OR NOT WORKING,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS LIKELY THAT MINOR MODIFICATIONS, OR FINE TUNING, WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FROM TIME TO TIME. A SIMILAR MAJOR EFFORT WILL BE MADE IN THREE YEARS' TIME, WHEN PERHAPS, WE MIGHT TAKE A FEW MORE STEPS WHICH WE HAVEN'T HAD THE COURAGE OR CONVICTION TO TAKE DURING THIS REVIEW,+ CONCLUDED MR TSAO.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDICES * * * *

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR JUNE 1980 WERE 158 AND 157 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, C.P.I. (A) INCREASED BY ONE POINT AND C.P.I. (B) REMAINED STABLE.

THE C.P.I. (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1 499 A MONTH AND THE C.P.I. (B) FROM THOSE SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 500 AND \$2 999 A MONTH, AS DETERMINED FROM THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY OF 1973/74.

THE CHANGES FOR JUNE 1980 IN RESPECT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE TWO INDICES, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1979, ARE:

COMPONENT	C.P.I. (A)			C.P.I. (B)		
	JUNE 80	MAY 80	JUNE 79	JUNE 80	MAY 80	JUNE 79
FOODSTUFFS	150	150	132	152	152	134
HOUSING	151	151	143	151	151	142
FUEL AND LIGHT	262	262	168	247	247	164

/ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	184	182	158	177	175	153
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	120	120	110	118	118	108
DURABLE GOODS	134	134	126	130	130	123
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	168	167	143	165	164	141
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	196	195	151	196	195	156
SERVICES	167	166	147	171	170	149
ALL ITEMS	158	157	137	157	157	138

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS REMAINED STABLE IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B). INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT-WATER FISH, LIVE POULTRY AND PORK. THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP.

HOWEVER, THESE INCREASES WERE OFFSET BY THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRESH-WATER FISH.

EFFECTS OF THE MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR BEER AND CHINESE WINES.

THE ONE POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR MEDICINES, TOILET REQUISITES, SOAP AND DETERGENTS.

HIGHER CHARGES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES INCREASED THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES BY ONE POINT EACH IN C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B).

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH C.P.I. (A) AND C.P.I. (B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND DOMESTIC HELP.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR JUNE 1980, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$2 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

FOUR NEW TERRITORIES SITES TO BE AUCTIONED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO AUCTION FOUR SITES TOTALLING MORE THAN 22 000 SQUARE METRES IN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

THE TSUEN WAN SITE, MEASURING 4 600 SQUARE METRES, IS ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND IS FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A BUS TERMINUS WHICH WILL BE LINKED BY A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY TO THE ADJACENT MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION.

THE AREA OVER THE BUS TERMINUS WILL BE FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, EXCLUDING RESIDENTIAL OR HOTEL USE. IT WILL BE THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT OF ITS KIND IN THE AREA.

SALE CONDITIONS SPECIFY THAT THE TERMINUS IS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE AUGUST 30, 1982.

DEVELOPMENT OVER THE TERMINUS CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$100 MILLION TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 48 MONTHS. IT HAS A PLOT RATIO OF 12.5.

THE THREE SHA TIN LOTS ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL, NON-INDUSTRIAL AND INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN DEVELOPMENT.

THE RESIDENTIAL SITE, SITUATED BETWEEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY RAILWAY STATION AND THE RACE COURSE, MEASURES 13 160 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR VILLA-TYPE HOUSES.

IT HAS A PLOT RATIO OF 0.4 AND A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$8.2 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 48 MONTHS.

LOCATED IN THE TOWN CENTRE, THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SITE IS 2 271 SQUARE METRES. IT HAS A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$13.6 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 48 MONTHS.

THE SITE FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN DEVELOPMENT IS NEAR FO TAN AND MEASURES 2 153 SQUARE METRES.

CONDITIONS OF SALE SPECIFY A PLOT RATIO OF 9.5 AND A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$15.34 MILLION TO BE FILFILLED WITHIN 48 MONTHS.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, AT 11 AM.

DETAILS OF THE FOUR LOTS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TUEN MUN ROAD
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WORK WILL SOON START ON THE FINAL SECTION OF THE SECOND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE \$540 MILLION TUEN MUN ROAD.

TENDERS FOR THE REMAINING TWO CONTRACTS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR YEUNG KIM-CHOY, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, SAID WORK ON THE TWO CONTRACTS WOULD START IN OCTOBER AND TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THE FIRST CONTRACT INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN SHAM TSENG AND TUEN MUN.

+THE WORK COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF ABOUT 9.3 KILOMETRES, TWO BRIDGES AT TSING LUNG TAU AND SO KWUN TAN, EXTENSIVE EARTHWORKS AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

+THE ROADWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS BY SIU LAM INTERCHANGE WHERE THE CARRIAGEWAY WAS BUILT TO ITS FULL WIDTH UNDER THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROJECT,+ HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE OTHER CONTRACT INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATED HIGHWAY STRUCTURE LINKING CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN ROAD AT CHAI WAN KOK.

+THE STRUCTURE WILL PROVIDE A TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY IN THE FORM OF A TEN-SPAN PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGE.

+THIS CONTRACT WILL ALSO INCLUDE OTHER ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIDENING AND MODIFICATION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD TOGETHER WITH THE ANCILLARY WORKS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPLETION OF THIS CONTRACT WOULD PROVIDE FREE-FLOW CONNECTIONS FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN TUEN MUN ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO THE EAST OF CHAI WAN KOK.

BY THEN, THE EXISTING TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNAL CONTROL AT CHAI WAN KOK WOULD NO LONGER BE REQUIRED, HE ADDED.

ON COMPLETION OF THE TWO CONTRACTS BY THE END OF 1982, THE 15.3-KILOMETRE TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION WITH A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, PROVIDING A HIGH CAPACITY ROUTE BETWEEN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN AND TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

STAGE ONE OF THE ROAD PROJECT, CONSISTING OF A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN MAY 1978.

WORK ON THE FIRST CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND STAGE IS WELL IN ADVANCE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

/IT INVOLVES

IT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, OF ABOUT FIVE KILOMETRES, FROM TSUEN WAN TO SHAM TSENG- 1.2 KILOMETRES OF BRIDGE AND VIADUCT, SEVERAL DRAINAGE CULVERTS AND RETAINING WALLS.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, FOR THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO MAKE FLYING SURVEY

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MR T.S. LO, THE RECENTLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MAKE A FLYING START TO HIS NEW JOB.

DURING MONDAY MORNING'S (JULY 28) RUSH HOUR ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, HE WILL MAKE AN AERIAL SURVEY OVER TRAFFIC CONGESTION SPOTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR IN A ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE HELICOPTER.

LATER, THEY WILL LAND AT TUEN MUN TO VISIT KOWLOON MOTOR BUS'S ASSEMBLY PLANT BEFORE RETURNING TO THE ISLAND.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. TRANSPORT TO TUEN MUN BUS ASSEMBLY PLANT WILL BE PROVIDED. A KMB COACH WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER AT 6.30 AM SHARP. IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED AND ANOTHER DATE WILL BE FIXED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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WORKERS AN IMPORTANT FORCE BEHIND INDUSTRY SUCCESS

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DILIGENT AND DEDICATED WORKERS THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT FORCE BEHIND THE SPECTACULAR SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE, MR LAM KIN-MING, SAID THIS TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN PRESENTING PRIZES TO SEVEN TSUEN WAN +MODEL+ WORKERS.

MR LAM SAID THE AIM OF THE TSUEN WAN MODEL WORKERS SCHEME WAS TO COMMEND PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO INDUSTRY AND TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART PLAYED BY WORKERS IN OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THERE ARE NEARLY 100 000 WORKERS IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN,+ HE SAID.

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+AND THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE EVERYDAY NEEDS OF FACTORIES AND WORKERS.+

MR LAM SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH WORKERS' CANTEENS IN THE DISTRICT TO HELP SOLVE LUNCH PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WAS CO-ORDINATING THE FORMATION OF A TSUEN WAN FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY.

PREPARATORY WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE FEDERATION WOULD BE INAUGURATED SHORTLY.

+INDUSTRIALISTS WILL THEN HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE,+ HE SAID.

ALSO, MORE ACTIVITIES AND WELFARE FACILITIES WOULD BE ORGANISED FOR WORKERS.

MR LAM SAID WHAT INDUSTRY HAD ACHIEVED, WAS THE RESULT OF DECADES OF HARD WORK BY OUR PREDECESSORS.

+SUCCESS HAS NOT COME BY LUCK.

+THE BASIC FACTORS AT THE BACK OF OUR SUCCESS HAVE BEEN THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT- CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES- THE CONFIDENCE INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE IN HONG KONG- THEIR QUICK THINKING, AND THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF WORKERS.+

HE URGED WORKERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS AND PUSH HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY A STEP FURTHER.

THE SEVEN MODEL WORKERS, WHO WERE ELECTED BECAUSE OF THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK PERFORMANCE AND THE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS THEY ENJOY WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES, WERE: MS TAI CHOI-CHUN, MR YEUNG CHIK-SUN, MS HO YAU-HA, MR LEUNG KWONG, MS KWAN YUK-LIN, MS TONG SAU-LUEN AND MR WONG WAH-CHIU.

THEY WERE PRESENTED WITH A GOLD MEDAL AND A CHEQUE FOR \$2 000 EACH AT THE CEREMONY.

MR WU YUK-CHAU, WINNER OF A SLOGAN COMPETITION WHICH WAS ALSO PART OF THE MODEL WORKERS AWARD SCHEME, WAS PRESENTED WITH \$5 000 AND A TROPHY.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER TSUEN WAN, MR LUI HAU-TUEN- THE TOWN OFFICER KWAI CHUNG, MR ALAN LAI, AND A TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, DR ALEXANDER LAI.

A CONCERT, HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY, WAS ATTENDED BY 1 500 LOCAL WORKERS. PERFORMERS INCLUDED POPULAR LOCAL STARS, MISS AGNES CHAN, DAVID AU, DANNY CHAN, AND RADIO HONG KONG DISC JOCKEYS.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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WORKING GROUP STUDIES DEMAND FOR
CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE DEMAND FOR INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AGED OVER SIX YEARS.

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE 24TH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE -- AN INSTITUTION PROVIDING EDUCATION AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH PROBLEMS.

SHE SAID THE WORKING GROUP WOULD ALSO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STANDARD STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS.

ITS FINDINGS, SHE SAID, WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR CHILDREN.

THE WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN EMPHASISED THAT THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES DEPENDED LARGELY ON THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES.

IN THIS AREA THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE IS PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND MAKING DEFINITE CONTRIBUTIONS.

SHE NOTED THAT THE CENTRE HAD MADE MARKED IMPROVEMENTS BOTH IN ITS ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF MANAGEMENT AND WAS PLANNING A NEW CENTRE IN NAM LONG SHAN.

WITH A GOVERNMENT LAND GRANT, CONSTRUCTION WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY AND THE NEW CENTRE IS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN EARLY 1982 PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE FOR 150 CHILDREN.

TO THE GRADUATING STUDENTS, MRS CHAN SAID THEY MUST NOT FEEL OBSESSED BY THEIR ADMISSION TO THE CENTRE AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO STICK TO THEIR PRINCIPLE AND ACT TO SHOW THEIR DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES.

+EVEN IF YOU JUST MAKE YOURSELF AN ORDINARY LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN, YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY,+ SHE TOLD THE GRADUATES.

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FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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\$43.9 MILLION ROAD CONTRACT AWARDED

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A SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WILL BE WIDENED TO FORM PART OF A MAJOR ROAD LINK TO SERVE A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR MORE THAN 60 000 RESIDENTS.

A CONTRACT FOR THE WORK, WORTH \$43.9 MILLION, WAS LET TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (PTY) LTD.

IT WAS SIGNED BY MR K.K. TANG, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

+THE SECTION OF ROAD TO BE WIDENED EXTENDS SOME 1 600 METRES FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TSING WAN ROAD TO THE PAK KOK SEWAGE PUMPING STATION,+ SAID MR TANG.

+BESIDES SERVING THE HOUSING ESTATE, THE NEW ROAD WILL ALSO SERVE INDUSTRIAL AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON A FUTURE 34-HECTARE RECLAMATION ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TOWN, AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE POWER STATION AND CEMENT PLANT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT TAP SHEK KOK,+ HE SAID.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES THE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING TWO-LANE ROAD TO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WITH A CENTRAL DIVIDER THAT WILL BE USED ALSO AS A NARROW AMENITY AREA.

THERE IS PROVISION FOR A FUTURE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NEW ROAD, ALONG WHICH TWO RETAINING WALLS WILL BE BUILT- ONE AGAINST THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME AND THE OTHER ALONG A HEAVILY WOODED KNOLL WHICH IS TO BE PRESERVED FOR LANDSCAPING.

THE EXISTING UNDERGROUND STORMWATER DRAINS WILL ALSO BE ENLARGED AND EXTENDED ALONG THE ROAD, MR TANG ADDED.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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PRIME SITES OFFERED FOR TENDER

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT TWO VALUABLE SITES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON ARE BEING OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER.

THE FIRST SITE, LOCATED AT RED HILL OFF TAI TAM ROAD, MEASURES ABOUT 135 000 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE SAID, +IT IS THE LARGEST SINGLE HIGH-CLASS PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE URBAN AREA IN RECENT YEARS.

+WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, IT WILL PROVIDE SOME 500 HIGH CLASS UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION EACH WITH A FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 240 SQUARE METRES.+

CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR THIS SITE IS NOON ON OCTOBER 31.

ANOTHER LOT, SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF CANTON ROAD AND HAIPHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. HOTEL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE PERMITTED. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 6 600 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR THIS LOT IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 5.

TENDER FORMS, TOGETHER WITH NOTICES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AND ON THE 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD.

TENDER PLANS MAY BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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WORKERS WARNED OF FAULTY ROPES

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WORKERS ARE WARNED TO CLOSELY EXAMINE ROPES USED IN LIFTING AND CARRYING LOADS TO ENSURE THEY ARE IN A SATISFACTORY CONDITION TO AVOID ACCIDENTS.

THIS IS THE RECOMMENDATION GIVEN BY THE CORONER WHO INQUIRED INTO THE DEATH OF A 16-YEAR-OLD YOUTH WHO WAS HIT BY A FALLING ROLLER-BOARD WHILE WATCHING CARGO WORK ACTIVITIES ON BOARD A LIGHTER IN MARCH THIS YEAR. A VERDICT OF +ACCIDENTAL DEATH+ WAS RETURNED.

THE CORONER ADVISED THAT ROPES USED FOR SUCH A PURPOSE SHOULD BE PURCHASED FROM REPUTABLE SUPPLIERS OR MANUFACTURERS.

HE SAID THAT THE ROPE IN QUESTION WAS COMPLETELY UNSUITED FOR ANY KIND OF LIFTING AND A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF IT REVEALED ITS POOR QUALITY AND THAT ITS CORE WAS MANUFACTURED FROM VARIOUS TYPES OF SCRAP MATERIALS.

THE CORONER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH ROPES MAY BE FREELY AVAILABLE AT SHIP'S CHANDLERS AND SIMILAR MERCHANTS AND MANY WORKERS COULD BE ENDANGERED.

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37 PEOPLE PRESENTED WITH LIFE SAVING AWARDS

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON PRESENTED HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB RESCUE STARS TO 37 PEOPLE WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN RESCUING PEOPLE FROM THE SEA.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARDS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB, MR RIDDELL-SWAN RECALLED THAT THE FIRST OF THE CEREMONIES WAS HELD 18 YEARS AGO.

SINCE THEN, HE SAID, THE CLUB AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE AIM OF SAVING LIVES AT SEA AND HE WAS GRATIFIED BY THE RESULTS OF THIS LONG AND SUCCESSFUL ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID: +THE 499 HONG KONG RESCUE AWARDS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE 1962, GIVE SOME IDEA OF OUR SUCCESS.+

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE WAY THE CLUB HAD GROWN AND THE EXTENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS INVOLVEMENT, NOT ONLY IN ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF LIFE SAVING BUT IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS IN GENERAL.

DURING THE YEAR, HE SAID, THE CLUB TRAINED NEARLY 10 000 YOUNG PEOPLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY'S AWARDS- TAUGHT MORE THAN 1 200 PEOPLE TO SWIM AND ORGANISED CLASSES FOR LIFE GUARDS.

/+BUT DESPITE

+BUT DESPITE THESE HEAVY COMMITMENTS, CLUB MEMBERS STILL FIND TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES AND HAVE BEEN CONCERNED IN RUNNING COURSES IN LIFE SAVING, SWIMMING INSTRUCTION, SPRING BOARD DIVING, SNORKELLING AND SUB-AQUA DIVING, ALL OF WHICH MAKE A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO PREVENTING LOSSES AT SEA,+ HE SAID.

IN FACT, HE ADDED, SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1956 WELL OVER 11 000 PEOPLE OWED THEIR LIVES EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO SEE 10 FISHERMEN AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AMONG THE RECIPIENTS OF THE RESCUE STAR. OTHER RECIPIENTS WERE FOUR POLICEMEN, 10 URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT LABOURERS AND 11 MEMBERS OF THE LIFE GUARD CLUB.

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RUINS OF TUNG LUNG FORT NOW A PROTECTED MONUMENT

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IN THE GAZETTEER OF THE SAN ON DISTRICT, REVISED EDITION OF 1819, IT WAS STATED THAT +ON THE HILL OF NAN FAT TONG, ON AN ISLAND, A FORT WAS BUILT DURING THE PERIOD OF KANG HSI TO PROTECT THE AREA AGAINST PIRATES. IN 1810 IT WAS DECIDED TO RESITE THE FORT ON THE SEASHORE OF KOWLOON+.

SINCE THEN, THE WALLS OF THE 350-YEAR-OLD FORT HAVE GRADUALLY FALLEN TO RUIN AND BECOME ALMOST COMPLETELY OBSCURED BY THICK VEGETATION.

THIS ALMOST FORGOTTEN RELIC OF LOCAL HISTORY IS NOW BEING BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AS PART OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY OF RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF HONG KONG'S ANTIQUITIES.

THE FORT WAS DESIGNATED AS A MONUMENT IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GAZETTE.

SINCE JANUARY 1979, STAFF OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS SECTION OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY HAVE BEEN WORKING TO REPAIR AND REBUILD THE OLD FORT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE HONG KONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE VEGETATION HAS BEEN CUT, THE LOOSE PARTS OF WALLS DISMANTLED, AND THE RUBBLE CLEARED.

EXCAVATION INSIDE THE FORT REVEALED FEATURES WHICH WERE TOTALLY HIDDEN UNDER TONS OF EARTH AND RUBBLE. AN IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE WITH STEPS LEADING UP INTO THE FORT HAS BEEN UNCOVERED, TOGETHER WITH THE REMAINS OF THE BRICK ARCH THAT USED TO SPAN IT.

IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE FORT STEPS HAVE BEEN CLEARED LEADING UP TO THE WALLS. BRICK FOUNDATIONS OF INTERIOR STRUCTURES, NO LONGER STANDING, CAN BE SEEN IN SEVERAL PLACES AFTER EXCAVATION.

THE FORT STANDS ON A COMMANDING POSITION OVERLOOKING THE NARROW FAT TONG MUN STRAIT OVER WHICH IT MUST HAVE HAD AN EXCELLENT CONTROL. ITS COMPARATIVELY SMALL SIZE (22 M X 34 M) DOES NOT INDICATE A FORMIDABLE DEFENSIVE FORTRESS, BUT IT PROBABLY HAD A BATTERY OF CANNON AND MANNED BY A SMALL NAVAL DETACHMENT. IT MAY HAVE ALSO SERVED AS A SIGNALLING POST.

THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE, ESPECIALLY IN REBUILDING THE WALLS AND RECONSTRUCTING SOME OF THE FEATURES.

WHEN COMPLETED IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS A HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

THE AREA IS DESIGNATED AS A SPECIAL AREA UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS ALLOTTED MONEY FOR THE WORK ON THE RESTORATION.

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TAXI LICENCE BALLOT * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT A PUBLIC BALLOT WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY (JULY 28) TO DETERMINE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS OFFERING AN IDENTICAL UNIT PREMIUM OF \$208 000 FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THREE URBAN TAXI LICENCES IN THE JUNE-JULY TAXI TENDERS.

THE BALLOT WILL BE AT 2.30 PM IN ROOM 27 ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICE, 2 MURRAY ROAD, HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE THREE TAXI LICENCES REMAIN AVAILABLE AFTER 297 OF THE 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO TENDERS OFFERING A UNIT PREMIUM IN EXCESS OF \$208 000.

ALL TENDERERS, WHO HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS, ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BALLOT, HE ADDED.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR AIRPORT SHOPS

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TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE TENANCIES OF TWO RETAIL SHOPS IN THE DEPARTURE HALL OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL, HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

THE SHOPS — NOS. D903 AND D904 — ARE TO BE USED FOR THE SALE OF OUTFITTERS AND EMBROIDERY GOODS AND CHINESE ARTS AND CRAFTS RESPECTIVELY. TENANCIES ARE FOR THREE YEARS STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 22.

APPLICANTS MAY TENDER FOR ONE OR BOTH PREMISES, BUT A SEPARATE TENDER MUST BE SUBMITTED IN RESPECT OF EACH SHOP.

BIDS MUST BE PLACED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TENDER BOX IN THE ENTRANCE HALL OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 15.

TENDERERS SHOULD ALSO ATTACH TO EACH TENDER A RECEIPT SHOWING THAT THEY DEPOSITED WITH THE TREASURY, \$20 000 AS A PLEDGE OF BONA FIDE.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, OR AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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TSING YI ISLAND RECLAMATION

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RECLAIM ABOUT 10 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO THE SOUTHEAST OF TSING YI ISLAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

THE RECLAMATION WILL INITIALLY PROVIDE A DISPOSAL AREA FOR EXCAVATED MATERIAL FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON THE ISLAND.

THE EXTENT OF AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL OR ANY CLAIM OF PRIVATE RIGHT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

THE NOTICE, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WITH A PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED, HAS BEEN POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE PORT WORKS DIVISION, FIRST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG— THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING OR AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FOU WAH CENTRE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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PLB PROHIBITION IN LAU SIN STREET

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ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING LAU SIN STREET SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JULY 28).

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE PROHIBITED ZONE.

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WATER CUT IN WAN CHAI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (JULY 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY (TUESDAY) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY MORRISON HILL ROAD, TIN LOK LANE, 110-240 AND 93-227 WAN CHAI ROAD AND 176-288 JOHNSTON ROAD, INCLUDING BURROWS STREET, MALLORY STREET, HEARD STREET, WOOD ROAD, CROSS LAND, TAK YAN STREET, SALVATION STREET, WING CHEUNG STREET, TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL AND TANG CHI NGONG SPECIALIST CLINIC.

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