



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1986

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TALKS ON TEXTILE EXPORTS END

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THIS EVENING (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE CURRENT TALKS WITH THE USA ON HONG KONG'S TEXTILE EXPORTS HAD ENDED.

THE TALKS BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, THE U.S. TEAM BEING LED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES CARLISLE, AND THE HK TEAM BY HAMISH MACLEOD, DIRECTOR OF TRADE.

COMMENTING ON THE TALKS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD EXPLAINED THE PROBLEMS AS THEY SAW THEM POSED BY IMPORTS OF MFA AND NON-MFA PRODUCTS, AND HAD PROPOSED A MORE RESTRICTIVE REGIME BASED OVERALL ON 1985 TRADE LEVELS.

IN RESPONSE, THE HK SIDE HAD QUERIED THE RATIONALE FOR SELECTING HK FOR SPECIALLY RESTRICTIVE TREATMENT, HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, HK'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE INCREASE IN THE U.S.'S MFA IMPORTS OVER THE PERIOD 1981-85 WAS ONLY FOUR PER CENT. MOREOVER, 95 PER CENT OF HK'S MFA APPAREL EXPORTS TO THE USA WERE ALREADY UNDER SPECIFIC QUOTA LIMITS, WITH VERY LOW GROWTH RATES AVERAGING ABOUT ONE PER CENT. IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH A REGIME WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PROGRESSIVE LIBERALISATION IN TEXTILES BEING SOUGHT IN THE MFA NEGOTIATIONS, AND INDEED WITH THE AIMS OF THE PROPOSED NEW GATT ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. NOR WAS IT COMPATIBLE WITH THE 1982-87 BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HK AND THE U.S.

BOTH SIDES HAD ALSO INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE A DIALOGUE ON HOW THE MFA NEGOTIATION AND ANY ASSOCIATED BILATERAL PROBLEMS COULD BE BROUGHT TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.

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MANUFACTURING ORDERS-ON-HAND REMAIN STABLE

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) IN THE 200 LARGEST FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN JANUARY 1986 REMAINED STABLE COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE WEARING APPAREL AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES RECORDED SOME INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS, WHEREAS THE TEXTILES AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES SHOWED A SLIGHT DECLINE. OTHER INDUSTRIES REPORTED NO CHANGE.

/A STABLE

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A STABLE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WAS ALSO RECORDED FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE. WHILE A MILD INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT WAS RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, DECREASES IN EMPLOYMENT WERE REPORTED BY SOME FIRMS IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY MAINLY DUE TO THE DEPARTURE OF CASUAL WORKERS. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED FOR ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES MAINLY DUE TO DOUBLE PAY AND YEAR-END BONUSES.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DECLINED SLIGHTLY AS SOME EMPLOYEES WERE LAID OFF. A SLIGHT DECREASE IN EMPLOYMENT WAS ALSO RECORDED FOR THE SERVICES SECTORS.

INCREASES IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE REPORTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND MOST SERVICES SECTORS. HOWEVER, ONLY THE BANKING SECTOR REPORTED DECLINES BECAUSE MOST OF THE BANKS SURVEYED HAD ALREADY DISTRIBUTED THEIR ANNUAL BONUS AND DOUBLE PAY IN DECEMBER 1985.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1986 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 3-7212854.

/(A) ORDERS-ON-HAND

(A) ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR JANUARY 1986
	NOV. 1985	DEC. 1985	JAN. 1986	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-2	2	1	4.46
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	3	-1	2.43
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-2	2	2	3.88
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	*	-1	3.13
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	1	*	4.88
OTHERS	*	*	*	4.39
<u>ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>4.19</u>

(B) EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED			PER CAPITA EARNINGS			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR JANUARY 1986 HK\$
	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)						
	NOV. 1985	DEC. 1985	JAN. 1986	NOV. 1985	DEC. 1985	JAN. 1986	
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>4 643</u>
FOOD AND DRINKS	-1	*	*	-4	13	49	6 131
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	*	-2	*	8	30	3 680

/TEXTILES, EXCEPT

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TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	*	*	1	14	42	5 134
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	-1	*	-5	6	72	4 701
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	*	*	6	1	22	3 883
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	-2	1	2	6	46	4 489
OTHERS	-2	*	*	5	5	30	5 919
CONSTRUCTION**	-2	*	-1	1	4	17	5 399
<u>SERVICES</u>	*	*	-1	-2	37	20	8 799
BANKS	*	*	*	*	71	-7	7 850
HOTELS	1	*	-1	-3	43	99	9 982
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	-1	-6	19	38	8 940
OTHERS	*	*	-	-1	36	3	9 157

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5 PER CENT

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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BARNES PRAISES PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, TODAY PRAISED THE WORK OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHOSE TERM WILL END ON MARCH 31 AFTER A YEAR OF OPERATION TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FULL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

SPEAKING AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL, MR BARNES SAID ITS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, AND ALSO THE INDUSTRY, ENTHUSIASM AND INTELLIGENCE OF ITS MEMBERS.

/+THESE WERE

+THESE WERE THE ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH WE HAD HOPED FOR IN ESTABLISHING THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND I HAVE NO HESITATION IN SAYING THAT OUR HOPES HAVE BEEN AMPLY JUSTIFIED IN THE RESULTS,+ MR BARNES SAID.

+IT IS CERTAINLY A GOOD AUGURY FOR THE FUTURE -- EVERYBODY MUST REALISE THAT THE ASSUMPTION OF FINANCIAL AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE COMING YEAR WILL BE A VERY BIG STEP.+

MR BARNES FELT SURE THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD FIND THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITY SATISFYING AND REWARDING, BUT THE SHEER WEIGHT OF BUSINESS WOULD ALSO IMPOSE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS ON THEM.

+IT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS EFFICIENTLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY, AS NO ONE WILL THANK THE COUNCIL FOR DELAYS IN DELIVERY,+ HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID IT MADE SENSE FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TO INITIATE PROPOSALS FOR DISTRICT COMMITTEES BASED ON THE DIFFERENT TOWNS AND AREAS AND TO INCLUDE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN THE MEMBERSHIP.

HE HOPED THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN CENTRALISED AND LOCAL DECISION-MAKING SO AS TO GIVE THESE COMMITTEES A REAL MEANING AND SOME AUTHORITY WITHIN THE DISTRICTS.

+THIS IS NOT EASY, BUT I FEEL SURE THAT THE EARLIER IT IS STARTED, THE EASIER IT WILL BE, AS CENTRALISED DECISION-MAKING IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO FRAGMENT, AND I FEEL THAT THE POLITICAL SUCCESS AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL TO A LARGE MEASURE DEPEND ON THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF ITS COMMITTEES,+ MR BARNES SAID.

EARLIER, THE CAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, SAID THE COUNCIL HAD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS VETTED 120 IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND INITIATED NUMEROUS IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS, AND THERE WERE ALSO VISITS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

+ALL THESE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG COMMENDED MR TANG NAI-MAN, THE OUTGOING YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, FOR HIS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION.

AT THE MEETING, THE SENIOR TREASURY ACCOUNTANT OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MRS MARIA YIP, PRESENTED THE REVISED REGIONAL COUNCIL DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1986-87.

SHE SAID TOTAL REVENUE ACCRUING TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN 1986-87 WAS NOW ESTIMATED AT \$1 004.4 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$1.4 MILLION MORE THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

+THE MORE SIGNIFICANT OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THIS ARE THE ADDITIONAL RENTAL INCOME OF \$1.187 MILLION WHICH WILL BE DERIVED FROM THE RECENT RENEWAL OF TENANCIES FOR THE SAN HUI MARKET AND THE LETTING OUT OF THE NEW MUI WO FERRY CONCOURSE COOKED FOOD CENTRE,+ MRS YIP SAID.

MRS YIP SAID EXPENDITURE WAS NOW ESTIMATED AT \$853.6 MILLION, OR \$5.8 MILLION LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

+THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THE CHANGES THAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THIS IS A DECREASE OF \$4.479 MILLION IN SALARIES, ON-COSTS AND ALLOWANCES,+ SHE SAID.

THE DRAFT ESTIMATES HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, ON ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON APRIL 1, BEFORE BEING SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR.

DURING THE MEETING, MEMBERS AGREED TO INVITE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO DELEGATE CERTAIN OF ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SO THAT DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS MAY CONTINUE ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HEADQUARTERS), MR GEOFFREY ORR, SAID THAT ON APRIL 1, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD ASSUME A RANGE OF EXECUTIVE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY VESTED IN THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT REGULATIONS.

+AS THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL NEED TO EXERCISE MANY OF THESE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS THROUGH PUBLIC OFFICERS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MAKE DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY,+ MR ORR SAID.

MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT ITS FIRST MEETING ON APRIL 1. THE FORMAL APPROVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE SOUGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION IS HELD.

A REPORT ON THE WORKINGS OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR, WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

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PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED FOR TREE PLANTING
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THE PUBLIC WAS URGED TO ACTIVELY TAKE PART IN A MAJOR PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO REPLANT TREES IN SHING MUN, TAI MO SHAN AND OTHER COUNTRY PARKS RECENTLY DEVASTATED BY FIRE.

IN MAKING THE APPEAL AT A PRESS-CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR K.C. IU, SAID: +ALTHOUGH THE THREAT HAS NOW DIMINISHED, WE HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD THIS YEAR TO REPLANT TREES TO MAKE UP FOR THE SEVERE LOSSES.

+THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT'S TREE NURSERIES ARE PRODUCING SOME 800 000 TREE SEEDLINGS AND ABOUT HALF WILL BE PLANTED IN COUNTRY PARKS.+

THE MAJORITY OF THE SPECIES TO BE PLANTED WOULD BE HARDY BROAD-LEAF TREES, SPECIALLY CHOSEN FOR THEIR ABILITY TO SURVIVE FIRE DAMAGE, HE ADDED.

MANY OF THE SEEDLINGS WOULD BE PLANTED IN THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME STARTING NEXT WEDNESDAY (MARCH 26).

DURING THE OCCASION, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED, MR ROBERT CHAN, AND ABOUT 1 500 STUDENTS AND YOUTHS, WOULD PLANT THE FIRST TREES IN TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK TO START THIS YEAR'S TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES.

+TREE PLANTING DAYS FOR THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAYS BETWEEN MARCH 28 AND 31, CHING MING FESTIVAL DAY ON APRIL 5 AND EVERY SUNDAY IN APRIL,+ MR IU SAID.

TREE SEEDLINGS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FREE FOR PLANTING AT SIX DESIGNATED SITES IN COUNTRY PARKS -- POKFULAM, QUARRY BAY, PAK TAM CHUNG, MUI WO, TWISK AND CHUEN LUNG BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM ON THESE TREE PLANTING DAYS.

DEPARTMENT STAFF WOULD BE ON DUTY TO PROVIDE INTERESTED PUBLIC WITH TREE SEEDLINGS, TOOLS AND THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.

+THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ORGANISED THE FIRST TREE PLANTING SCHEME IN 1957. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THE PROJECT HAS PROVED VERY POPULAR,+ MR IU SAID.

+LAST YEAR, 6 700 PARTICIPANTS PLANTED SOME 7 000 TREES AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS YEAR EVEN MORE PEOPLE WILL JOIN US IN THIS WORTHWHILE EVENT.+

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT APART FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ARRANGEMENTS HAD ALSO BEEN MADE FOR OVER 3 000 STUDENTS AND YOUTHS TO TAKE PART IN THE PROGRAMME IN GROUPS.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION SECTION AT 3-7332121 FOR REGISTRATION.

THIS YEAR'S TREE PLANTING SCHEME IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS HAWKER ISSUE
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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF AN OPINION SURVEY BASED ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON HAWKER AND MARKET POLICIES.

A WORKING GROUP WAS FORMED UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD AT THE END OF LAST YEAR TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PAPER AND TO COLLECT RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL TABLE A REPORT COMPRISING VIEWS ASCERTAINED FROM A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY COVERING ABOUT 700 RESIDENTS, DISCUSSIONS IN AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND A SEMINAR WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS.

THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY ON HAWKER POLICIES, MRS ELSIE TU, MR WALTER SULKE AND MR TONG KAM-BIU, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS AND PRIVATE BILLIARD CLUBS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A DISCUSSION ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR BOARD COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT 2.30 PM AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED THE BUILDINGS AT 462 AND 464 RECLAMATION STREET TO BE DANGEROUS AND THOSE AT 454 TO 460 RECLAMATION STREET TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BLOCKS IN DANGEROUS CONDITION ARE THREE-STOreyED PRE-WAR BUILDINGS WITH TIMBER MAIN FLOORS AND ROOFS AND REINFORCED CONCRETE VERANDAHS AND KITCHEN FLOORS ON LOAD BEARING BRICK WALLS. THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION SINCE 1970.

THE FRONT VERANDAH BEAMS OF ALL THE BUILDINGS HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF GENERAL CONCRETE DETERIORATION, INSTANCES OF PATCHING UP WORK AND NEW FRACTURES. THE FRONT MAIN ARCHES ALSO SHOWED SIGNS OF CRACKING AT THE CENTRES. THE TIMBER FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS WERE NOTED TO BE GENERALLY DECAYED AND SPLIT AT A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS.

FURTHERMORE, NEW MOVEMENT WAS RECENTLY FOUND AT THE PARTY WALL BETWEEN NOS. 462 AND 464 AND THE VERANDAHS OF NOS. 462 AND 464. THIS INDICATES THAT 462 AND 464 ARE BREAKING AT THE PARTY WALL AND THAT THE VERANDAHS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM THE MAIN BUILDINGS. THEREFORE IT IS NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH 462 AND 464.

THE BLOCKS AT NOS. 454 TO 460 WHICH ARE OF SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION AND IN A SIMILAR CONDITION, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AS THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO WITHSTAND THE EFFECT OF THE DEMOLITION OF 462 AND 464. ACCORDINGLY, 454 TO 460 ARE TO BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED IN ONE OPERATION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON APRIL 17, 1986 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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DB MEMBERS VISIT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CENTRE
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KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS VISITED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE THIS AFTERNOON (THURSDAY) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

THE VISIT WAS PART OF A PROGRAMME ARRANGED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO FAMILIARISE BOARD MEMBERS WITH THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/ACCOMPANIED BY

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ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG, AND BOARD MEMBERS WENT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL, WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP YUK-LUN, ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE.

THEY THEN TOURED THE CENTRE WHERE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY CODES ILLUSTRATED IN PICTURES WERE DISPLAYED. THEY WERE ALSO SHOWN SLIDE AND FILM SHOWS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN SUNDAY

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THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY (MARCH 23) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

THE OPEN DAY HAS BEEN HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 1968.

VISITORS ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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BOARD MEMBERS TO VISIT CHINESE UNIVERSITY

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MEMBERS OF THE YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARDS WILL VISIT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE VARIOUS FACILITIES AND THE INSTITUTION'S OPERATIONS.

THE VISIT, INITIATED BY A WORKING GROUP SET UP UNDER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED THIRD UNIVERSITY IN THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES, IS TO ENABLE BOARD MEMBERS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF A UNIVERSITY.

/AFTER TOURING

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AFTER TOURING THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, THE PARTY WILL ALSO DISCUSS WITH THE MANAGEMENT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSITY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE, AM 5797, WILL LEAVE THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD AT 12.45 PM TOMORROW TO TAKE PRESS MEMBERS TO THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

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FESTIVAL TO IMPROVE LABOUR RELATIONS
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THE THREE-WEEK-LONG WONG TAI SIN LABOUR FESTIVAL '86 WILL BE LAUNCHED ON SUNDAY (MARCH 23) WITH A CARNIVAL AT THE MORSE PARK FOOTBALL PITCH.

THERE WILL BE GAME STALLS, AN EXHIBITION ON JOB SECURITY, DISPLAY OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS, FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UPS FOR PARTICIPANTS, A TOY CORNER FOR CHILDREN, AND PERFORMANCES BY SINGING ARTISTS AND BANDS.

THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 10.30 AM WILL BE OFFICIATED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL CHENG; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICHOLAS YEK; REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR LOK MAN PAN; AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR KWAN PUI.

COUPONS FOR THE GAME STALLS ARE AVAILABLE FREE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO WORKERS AND RESIDENTS AT THE FOUR BRANCHES OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE LABOUR FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE, THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES COUNCIL AND SIX VOLUNTARY AGENCIES UNDER THE WONG TAI SIN LABOUR GROUPS ASSOCIATION.

THE FESTIVAL IS TO PROVIDE WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE DISTRICT WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

/IT IS

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IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH THE FESTIVAL, THEY CAN HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND SHOW CONCERN FOR EACH OTHER THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING A GOOD COMMUNITY, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LI YUK-WA, SAID.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE FESTIVAL INCLUDE A MURAL PAINTING FUN DAY, A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION, BEER-DRINKING CONTEST, A SEMINAR, TRAINING COURSES AND A TELEMATCH.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SINGING CONTEST FOR RESIDENTS AND WORKERS AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 25. THE FINALS WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 13 AS THE CLOSING EVENT OF THE LABOUR FESTIVAL.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEST CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS BRANCH OFFICES. INTERESTED PARTIES CAN ALSO CALL 3-7553568 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LABOUR FESTIVAL CARNIVAL AND OPENING CEREMONY AT 10.30 AM ON SUNDAY AT THE MORSE PARK FOOTBALL PITCH.

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COURSE FOR BANKING SECTOR TRAINERS

TRAINERS IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A COURSE ON INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUE, WHICH IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

THE FOUR-DAY COURSE FROM APRIL 29 WILL BE HELD AT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AT WAN CHAI. IT WILL COVER THE ANALYSIS OF TARGET AUDIENCE, FORMATION OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES, DESIGNING CONTENTS, SELECTION OF VISUAL AIDS, VALIDATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRAINING AND SUGGESTION OF SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS.

TRAINING OFFICERS WHO MISSED THE SAME COURSE IN JANUARY SHOULD ENROL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE CLASS IS LIMITED TO 16 PERSONS ONLY.

COURSE FEE IS \$370 AND DEADLINE FOR ENROLMENT IS APRIL 15. FURTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF BANKING TRAINING BOARD, MR S.M. WOO AT 5-8932341 EXT. 255.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1986

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY REPORT OUT
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THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1985 IS AVAILABLE AND CONTAINS STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOR THE QUARTER.

IT ALSO CONTAINS DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR FORCE, INCLUDING THEIR AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ACTIVITY STATUS, OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS AS WELL AS REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$8 PER COPY.

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ADVANCE PAYMENT OF WELFARE ALLOWANCES
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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE EARLIER TO PERSONS WHOSE PAYMENT DATES FALL DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT PERSONS DUE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS ON MARCH 28, 29, 30 AND 31 MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON MARCH 24, 25, 26 AND 27 RESPECTIVELY, OR LATER AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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LEASE-SIGNING CEREMONY FOR HOSTEL
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A LEASE-SIGNING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR THE SETTING UP OF A HOSTEL FOR SINGLE ELDERLY MEN IN SHAM SHUI PO.

CHAIRMAN OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT ASSISTANCE SCHEME, MR TAI TUNG-NGOK, WHO IS THE SPONSOR OF THE PREMISES, WILL SIGN A THREE-YEAR LEASE WITH THE SALVATION ARMY, WHICH WILL MANAGE THE HOSTEL.

/SHAM SHUI

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SYLVESTER TSE, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE LEASE-SIGNING CEREMONY AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 55 FAT TSEUNG STREET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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ONE PRICE FOR ALL AEROGRAMMES
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THE PRICE OF THE BAUHINIA PICTORIAL AEROGRAMME WILL BE REVISED FROM \$1.40 TO \$1.30 WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 14, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

+CUSTOMERS CAN CHOOSE BETWEEN THE PLAIN BLUE AEROGRAMME AND THE PICTORIAL VERSION AT THE SAME PRICE,+ THE POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FINALS OF DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST
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THE FINALS OF THE FOURTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 30 AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL, STARTING AT 8 PM.

THE CONTEST, AIMED AT PROMOTING INTEREST IN SINGING AND DISCOVERING SINGING TALENT IN THE DISTRICT, IS BEING JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN).

THIS YEAR THE CONTEST HAS THREE CATEGORIES—CLASSICAL MUSIC (SOLO SINGING), POP MUSIC/FOLK SONG (SOLO SINGING) AND POP MUSIC/FOLK SONG (GROUP SINGING).

MORE THAN 200 PARTICIPANTS COMPETED IN THE PRELIMINARIES HELD ON FEBRUARY 27 AND MARCH 1 AND 2. FIFTEEN FINALISTS WERE SELECTED.

A PRIZE OF \$1 000 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNER IN EACH CATEGORY WHILE THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP WILL RECEIVE \$500 AND \$300 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE FINALS

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THE FINALS WILL FEATURE GUEST PERFORMANCES BY VOCALIST MISS ESTHER FUNG, AND ZEODA, A POP GROUP.

FREE ADMISSION COUPONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND AT ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM 5-283257.

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PHAB CONCERT 86 ON SUNDAY
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THE NEWLY-FORMED CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE OF THE HONG KONG PHAB (PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE BODIED) ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOLDING THE PHAB CONCERT 86 AT KO SHAN THEATRE ON SUNDAY (MARCH 23) AT 7.30 PM.

THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE SENDING 16 MEMBERS OF ITS HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM IN THE CONCERT PROGRAMME WHICH WILL INCLUDE THREE POPULAR CHINESE PIECES : KUNG-WU (BOW DANCE), WU-SHU (CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS) AND A CHENG SOLO, FANG CHIH MANG.

A MUSIC OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY IT HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PROMOTION OF MUSIC TRAINING AMONG THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND RECENTLY ASSISTED IN THE TRAINING OF THE NEW PHAB ASSOCIATION ENSEMBLE.

TICKETS AT \$2 AND \$3 ARE AVAILABLE. FOR ENQUIRIES CALL 5-514161.

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PRESENTATION AT PARADE
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, WILL PRESENT THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASPS TO COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS TO 22 STAFF MEMBERS AT A PARADE IN STANLEY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE PARADE AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, WILL ALSO MARK THE PASSING-OUT OF 30 RECRUIT OFFICERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, BY 3 PM.

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