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GOVERNOR SEES RISE IN TRADE WITH SHANGHAI

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HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE WITH SHANGHAI AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA HAD GROWN IN TERMS OF VALUE TO A POINT WHERE IT RIVALLED THAT WITH THE UNITED STATES, TRADITIONALLY HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN SHANGHAI TONIGHT.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING IN PUTONGHUA AT THE RETURN DINNER HELD BY THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE MISSION AT JINJIANG CLUB. THE MISSION IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND LED BY MISS LYDIA DUNN.

+THE PROSPECTS FOR YOUR GROWTH AND FOR FUTURE TRADE ARE NOW EVEN BETTER,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+WE WELCOME YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY OUR TRADING PARTNERS MAY MEAN COMPETITION: BUT IT ALSO MEANS GREATLY INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WHICH CAN ONLY BE TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH,+ HE SAID.

IN THIS MODERN WORLD, SIR EDWARD SAID, NO ECONOMY COULD BE SELF-SUFFICIENT. MODERN INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL AND TRADING RELATIONSHIPS WERE TOO COMPLEX FOR THAT. EACH CENTRE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAD THINGS IT COULD DO MORE EFFICIENTLY, AND ENJOYED ADVANTAGES IN SERVICES AND FACILITIES WHICH IT COULD OFFER TO ALL THOSE WISHING TO GO AND USE THEM.

+IT IS RECOGNITION OF THAT FACT WHICH HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE PHENOMENAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND WORLD TRADE OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES. PROVIDING A DUE BALANCE IS MAINTAINED, BOTH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF THAT PHILOSOPHY THAT THE HONG KONG MISSION HAD GONE TO SHANGHAI.

+WE COME TO SHOW YOU WHAT HONG KONG CAN PRODUCE AND TO TELL YOU OF THE SERVICES THAT WE CAN OFFER,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

REFERRING TO HONG KONG'S POSTWAR ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND THE REPUTATION HONG KONG EARNED FOR TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL, SIR EDWARD SAID IT NOW COMPETED WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN PRODUCING PLASTICS, ELECTRONIC GOODS, WATCHES, TOYS, PRECISION AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS AND MANY OTHER PRODUCTS.

EARLIER, SIR EDWARD EXPRESSED PLEASURE IN VISITING SHANGHAI ONCE AGAIN, PARTICULARLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE +MADE IN HONG KONG '85+ HONG KONG PRODUCT EXHIBITION MOUNTED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WHICH HE, AND MAYOR WANG, HAD OPENED IN THE MORNING.

/HAVING FIRST .....

HAVING FIRST GONE TO SHANGHAI IN 1946, AND THEN ON MANY LATER OCCASIONS, HE HAD SEEN THE CITY GROW INTO ONE OF THE BIGGEST INDUSTRIAL CITIES IN THE WORLD.

SIR EDWARD SAID HONG KONG WAS A NATURAL POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE FAST GROWING ASIAN PACIFIC REGION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION HAD REMOVED DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THERE HAD SINCE BEEN MANY ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF RETURNING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE, HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD INVESTED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT HONG KONG'S NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN THE VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC CITY THAT IT WAS TODAY, HE SAID.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE PART OF SHANGHAI AND HONG KONG WOULD PROVIDE GREAT SCOPE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT WHILE THE +MADE IN HONG KONG '85+ EXHIBITION WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW WHAT HONG KONG COULD DO, HE WISHED ALSO TO EMPHASISE THAT CHINESE ENTERPRISES WERE EQUALLY WELCOME IN HONG KONG.

HE WAS SURE THAT THE EXHIBITION WOULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL PHASE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI, SIR EDWARD SAID.

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TEXT OF GOVERNOR'S SPEECH
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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE AT THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE MISSION RETURN DINNER HELD AT JINJIANG CLUB, SHANGHAI TODAY:

+IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR DINNER THIS EVENING. I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD TO BE HERE ON THE OCCASION OF THE +MADE IN HONG KONG '85+ HONG KONG PRODUCT EXHIBITION MOUNTED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHICH YOU AND I OFFICIALLY OPENED THIS MORNING.

+MR MAYOR I KNOW YOUR CITY WELL. I FIRST CAME HERE IN 1946 AND HAVE BEEN HERE ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. I HAVE SEEN THIS CITY GROW INTO ONE OF THE BIGGEST INDUSTRIAL CITIES IN THE WORLD AND I KNOW THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH YOU MAKE TO THE ECONOMY OF CHINA AS A WHOLE.

/+SHANGHAI HAS .....

+SHANGHAI HAS ALSO ALWAYS BEEN A CITY WITH A STRONG INTEREST IN EXTERNAL TRADE. IT IS NOW, WE ARE TOLD, RESPONSIBLE FOR A QUARTER OF ALL CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE AND THAT MEANS A QUARTER OF A TRADE WHICH HAS BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME AND OPEN-DOOR POLICIES. IT IS A TRADE IN WHICH I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT HONG KONG IS ALREADY PLAYING ITS PART. OUR TRADE WITH YOU AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA HAS INDEED GROWN TO A POINT WHERE, IN TERMS OF VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE, IT RIVALS OUR TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES, OUR TRADITIONAL LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.

+THE PROSPECTS FOR YOUR GROWTH AND FOR FUTURE TRADE ARE NOW EVEN BETTER. WE WELCOME YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY OUR TRADING PARTNERS MAY MEAN COMPETITION: BUT IT ALSO MEANS GREATLY INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WHICH CAN ONLY BE TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH.

+IN THIS MODERN WORLD NO ECONOMY CAN BE SELF-SUFFICIENT. MODERN INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL AND TRADING RELATIONSHIPS ARE TOO COMPLEX FOR THAT. EACH CENTRE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS THINGS WHICH IT CAN DO MORE EFFICIENTLY, AND ENJOYS ADVANTAGES IN SERVICES AND FACILITIES WHICH IT CAN OFFER TO ALL THOSE WISHING TO COME AND USE THEM. IT IS THE RECOGNITION OF THAT FACT WHICH HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE PHENOMENAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND WORLD TRADE OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES. PROVIDING A DUE BALANCE IS MAINTAINED, BOTH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

+IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THAT PHILOSOPHY THAT WE COME TO SHANGHAI TODAY. WE COME TO SHOW YOU WHAT HONG KONG CAN PRODUCE AND TO TELL YOU OF THE SERVICES THAT WE CAN OFFER. SINCE THE POST-WAR YEARS HONG KONG HAS GROWN INTO ONE OF THE FOREMOST LIGHT MANUFACTURING CENTRES OF THE WORLD USING GOODS WHICH BECAUSE OF THEIR QUALITY, THEIR ABILITY TO MEET EXACTING STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND THE RELIABILITY OF THEIR SUPPLY, FIND A READY MARKET IN EVEN THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AS THE PATTERN OF WORLD DEMAND HAS CHANGED SO HAVE MANY NEW INDUSTRIES EMERGED IN HONG KONG. WE WERE ALWAYS WELL KNOWN FOR TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL. NOW WE COMPETE WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN PRODUCING PLASTICS, ELECTRONIC GOODS, WATCHES, TOYS, PRECISION AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND MANY OTHER PRODUCTS.

+BUT IT IS NOT ONLY ON ITS PROGRESS AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE THAT HONG KONG HAS BUILT ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN RECENT YEARS. ITS FINE DEEP WATER HARBOUR AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION HAS MADE IT A NATURAL COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION CENTRE. TO THESE NATURAL ADVANTAGES HAVE BEEN ADDED THE MOST MODERN MARITIME AND AIR TRANSPORT FACILITIES. IN CONSEQUENCE HONG KONG IS NOW A NATURAL POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE FAST GROWING ASIAN PACIFIC REGION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

/+THIS IN .....

+THIS IN TURN HAS ATTRACTED MANY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES TO HONG KONG. THEY FIND THERE A FREE MARKET SYSTEM AND A SYSTEM OF LAW WHICH ARE FAMILIAR TO THEM. IN CONSEQUENCE HONG KONG HAS ALSO GROWN INTO ONE OF THE FOREMOST FINANCIAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD WHERE ALL THOSE FINANCIAL SERVICES SO NECESSARY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADVANCED ECONOMY CAN BE FOUND.

+FROM THESE WIDE-RANGING INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, FINANCE AND BANKING AND COMMUNICATIONS HONG KONG HAS BEEN ABLE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE OF THE MOST MODERN MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, THE MOST MODERN METHODS OF MANUFACTURING, AND THE FAST-CHANGING TECHNIQUES AND PRACTICES OF THE REST OF THE WORLD TRADING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.

+IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT IN RECENT YEARS THERE WAS SOME DOUBT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH DECLARATION AT THE END OF LAST YEAR THE WAY FORWARD HAS BECOME CLEAR. SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT, AND THE PUBLIC COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF RETURNING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE.

+FOR ITS PART, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT OUR NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WILL REMAIN THE VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC CITY THAT IT IS TODAY.

+MR MAYOR, I AM SURE THAT THIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOTH ON YOUR PART AND ON OURS WILL PROVIDE GREAT SCOPE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN US. THE +MADE IN HONG KONG '85+ HONG KONG PRODUCT EXHIBITION IS DESIGNED TO SHOW YOU WHAT WE IN HONG KONG CAN DO AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE INTEREST WHICH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN SHANGHAI, AND FROM MANY OTHER PARTS OF CHINA, HAVE SHOWN IN IT. BUT LET ME ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT YOUR ENTERPRISES ARE EQUALLY WELCOME IN HONG KONG. SOME HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES THERE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT CHINESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN VALUED AT ABOUT US$5 BILLION. THE SCOPE FOR INVESTMENT IS EXTENSIVE, INCLUDING INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, FINANCE AND PROPERTY. GIVEN THE COMPLEMENTARY ADVANTAGES WHICH WE CAN OFFER TO EACH OTHER, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE DRAMATIC GROWTH IN TWO-WAY TRADE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE.

+THE HOLDING OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCT EXHIBITION HERE IS A FITTING SYMBOL OF AN ALREADY CLOSE AND BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP. BUT IT ALSO RECOGNISES THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REST ON OUR LAURELS: WE MUST LOOK TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW AREAS OF BUSINESS. I AM SURE THAT THIS EXHIBITION WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL PHASE IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI.+

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GOVERNOR, LADY YOUDE RETURN TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE, WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER VISITING CHINA.

THEY WILL BE ARRIVING ON FLIGHT CX301, ETA 9.45 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE. THOSE COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM BY 8.55 PM TOMORROW.

GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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'FULL POWERS TO MANAGE OWN REGIONAL AFFAIRS'
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THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL GIVE RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FIRST TIME +TO MANAGE THEIR AFFAIRS IN THEIR REGION WITH FULL POWER+, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL SAID AT ITS INAUGURAL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID THE 24-MEMBER COUNCIL HAS THE AUTONOMY TO PURSUE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND ITS ACTIVITIES WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT MORE THAN 1.7 MILLION PEOPLE WHICH REPRESENTS ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

+THE COUNCIL'S SERVICE AREA WILL COVER ABOUT 88 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA OF HONG KONG. ONE CAN THUS APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULT AND MASSIVE BURDEN LEVIED ON THE COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

COMPARING THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WHICH CAME INTO BEING ONLY ON APRIL 1, WITH THE CENTURY-OLD URBAN COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID +THE NEW TERRITORIES IS GEOGRAPHICALLY MUCH WIDER AND THE POPULATION IS MORE DISPERSED; SOCIAL FACILITIES CANNOT CATCH UP WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH AND SOME ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES NEED TO BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

MR CHEUNG CAUTIONED THAT IN THE PROCESS OF URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE NEEDS TO BE HARMONISED WITH MODERN CIVILISATION.

+ALL THESE REQUIRE THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

/HE CALLED .....

HE CALLED ON THE COUNCIL TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES WITH REFERENCE TO THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+FIRSTLY, THERE ARE MANY LANDS SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS WILL REQUIRE APPROPRIATE MEASURES FROM THIS COUNCIL TO IMPROVE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SO THAT THE INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN THE MAIN ARTERY OF HONG KONG CAN FURTHER DEVELOP TO THEIR BEST.+

+SECONDLY, WE HAVE MANY FAST-GROWING NEW TOWNS WHERE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE THEIR ROOTS. APPROPRIATE URBAN AND CULTURAL FACILITIES WOULD HELP TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE HARMONIOUS RELATION BETWEEN THE NEW AND THE OLD SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.+

+THIRDLY, WE HAVE IN THIS REGION MANY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELICS WHICH REQUIRE THIS COUNCIL TO PRESERVE AND TO TREASURE,+ SAID MR CHEUNG.

IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD +CONSULT CONSTANTLY WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF OUR REGION, SO THAT THE MEMBERS CAN REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE REGION AND TO REFLECT THE DIFFERING NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT.+

MR CHEUNG POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORK AND PROBLEMS OF THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL CARRY OUT THE COUNCIL'S POLICY DECISIONS.

ELABORATING ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, DESCRIBED THE COUNCIL'S JOB AS +ADVISING THE GOVERNOR ON PLANNING, INAUGURAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COUNCIL IN 1986.+

THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO PLAY AN ADVISORY ROLE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, HYGIENE, RECREATION AND CULTURE, AND FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ANY SUCH MATTERS WITHIN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT BY THE END OF THE YEAR MOST OF THE BASIC POLICIES FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AN OPENING BUDGET FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S FIRST YEAR AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THAT COUNCIL WOULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL'S ADVICE.

/+THE NEED .....

+THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WITH POPULAR PARTICIPATION TO COVER THE NON-URBAN AREAS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT IN RECENT YEARS WITH THE SHIFT OF POPULATION TO THE NEW TOWNS AND WILL BECOME MORE SO AS THIS TREND CONTINUES,+ HE SAID.

+BY 1991, THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE LIVING NORTH OF THE KOWLOON HILLS THAN IN KOWLOON ITSELF. THE INCREASE IN POPULATION AND THE MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS BEING PROVIDED TO ACCOMMODATE IT HAS BROUGHT WITH IT DEMANDS FROM RESIDENTS FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND A BIGGER SAY IN THEIR PROVISION+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THESE DEMANDS AND TO SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN DETERMINING HOW THEY ARE MET.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED FROM THE OUTSET THAT +THE NEW TERRITORIES IS IN NO SENSE A SINGLE CONURBATION AND THAT ANY COUNCIL FOR THE REGION MUST HAVE VERY STRONG LINKS WITH THE DISTRICTS IF IT IS TO CATER ADEQUATELY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN EACH DISTRICT.+

THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP, IN FACT, COMPRISED ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, THREE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, NINE APPOINTED MEMBERS AND ANOTHER THREE TO BE NOMINATED BY THE KUK.

TODAY'S INAUGURAL MEETING WAS DEVOTED MAINLY TO DISCUSSING A TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS AND THEIR AGENDAS FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY TO JULY. DURING THIS INDUCTION PERIOD, THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO MEET EVERY FORTNIGHT TO ENABLE ITS MEMBERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE EXTENSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS EXECUTIVE ARM - THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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LATEST FIGURES ON ELECTOR REGISTRATION

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LATEST STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS ELECTORS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES	ESTIMATED SIZE OF ELECTORATE (REVISED)	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS
COMMERCIAL I	2 334	677
COMMERCIAL II	5 211	1 853
INDUSTRIAL I	777	393
INDUSTRIAL II	2 233	928
FINANCIAL	141	119
LABOUR	390	303
SOCIAL SERVICES	156	130
MEDICAL	4 540	2 161
LEGAL	1 500	731
TEACHING	53 270	25 464
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	2 500	1 756
ELECTORAL COLLEGE	434	433
TOTAL	73 486	34 948

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INSURANCE ROLE IN EXPORT PRICING OUTLINED

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THE INSURANCE COVER AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION COULD PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN INFLUENCING THE PRICE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, ITS COMMISSIONER, MR K.Y. YEUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YEUNG WAS SPEAKING ON +THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION - ITS RAISON D'ETRE+ AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST AT THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL.

HE SAID THAT THE ECIC'S ROLE IN PROMOTING PRICE COMPETITIVENESS WAS FOUNDED ON THREE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS.

+FIRST, BY A POOLING OF RISKS, THE PRICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL FIRM'S GOODS SHOULD BE LOWER THAN WOULD BE THE CASE WERE THE FIRM TO CARRY ITS OWN RISKS AND BUILD IN ITS OWN PROTECTION.

+MOREOVER, THE INSURED EXPORTER COULD FIX HIS EXPORT PRICES IN THE CERTAINTY THAT HIS POTENTIAL LOSSES ARE LIMITED,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

SECONDLY, HE SAID, THE ECIC WAS IN THE BUSINESS OF ASSESSING AND TAKING A VARIETY OF CREDIT RISKS, AND WAS IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION THAN THE INDIVIDUAL EXPORTER OR MANUFACTURER IN JUDGING THE CREDIT-WORTHINESS OF A PROSPECTIVE OVERSEAS BUYER.

THIS CREDIT ADVISORY SERVICE, HE POINTED OUT, WAS BACKED UP BY A COMPUTERISED LIBRARY COMPRISING SOME 18 000 EXPORTER FILES AND 55 000 BUYER FILES, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE AUGMENTED AND UPDATED BY THE NETWORK OF BANK, STATUS AGENCY AND DEBT COLLECTOR REPORTS, AND BY REGULAR FEEDBACK FROM OTHER EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE ORGANISATIONS IN THE BERNE UNION.

THIRDLY, AND VERY IMPORTANTLY, THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ECIC POLICY WOULD RENDER THE EXPORTER MORE ACCEPTABLE TO BANKS AND OTHER LENDING INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCOUNTING THE BILLS AS CLAIMS BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE ECIC POLICY WERE FREELY ASSIGNABLE TO THE LENDING INSTITUTIONS.

+IT IS A FACT THAT OVER 65 PER CENT OF OUR POLICYHOLDERS HAVE ASSIGNED THEIR CLAIMS BENEFITS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE BANKS AND DTCS, WHICH PROVES THAT THE ECIC POLICY IS GOOD COLLATERAL SECURITY,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

THE ECIC EXISTED, THEN, AS A CREATURE OF PUBLIC POLICY TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY INSURANCE PROTECTION AGAINST CERTAIN CAUSES OF LOSS BUT ALSO A RANGE OF CREDIT ASSESSMENT, RISK MANAGEMENT AND LOSS SALVAGE SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE EXPORTER AND MANUFACTURER, HE SAID.

/+WE ARE .....

+WE ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THOSE BUSINESSES WHICH ARE SEEKING TO EXPAND THEIR TURNOVER, AND THOSE WHOSE FINANCIAL STRENGTH IS SUCH THAT THEY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE BILLS DISCOUNTING FACILITIES WITHOUT OUR COVER,+ HE ADDED.

THUS THE AIM OF THE CORPORATION, HE SAID, WAS NOT GEARED TO CAPTURING A GIVEN SHARE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, BUT TO PROVIDING PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THOSE EXPORTERS WHO GENUINELY NEEDED THEM.

CURRENTLY, INSURED EXPORTS OF BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES WERE RUNNING AT A LEVEL OF SOME $6 BILLION A YEAR, MR YEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN THE EVENT OF A LOSS THE INSURED EXPORTER WAS INDEMNIFIED UP TO 90 PER CENT OF THE GROSS INVOICE VALUE OF THE SHIPMENT INVOLVED.

AT PRESENT, THE CORPORATION'S BASIC INSURANCE POLICY AFFORDED INSURED EXPORTERS THE PROTECTION OF ITS COVER FOR CREDIT PERIODS OF 180 DAYS FOR POST-SHIPMENT STAGE.

ON POSSIBLE FUTURE INSURANCE FACILITIES, MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE ECIC WOULD SOON BE PUTTING TO THE GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR LAUNCHING A COMPREHENSIVE PRE-SHIPMENT RISK POLICY.

THIS WAS TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING LEVEL OF RISKS AT THE PRE-SHIPMENT, OR MANUFACTURING, STAGE AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE OF PATTERN BY WHICH OVERSEAS BUYERS HAD BEEN PLACING ORDERS WITH LOCAL EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

EXPLAINING THIS, HE SAID THAT WHEREAS FIVE YEARS AGO IT WAS QUITE FEASIBLE FOR A MANUFACTURER TO START MANUFACTURING ONLY AFTER HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER OF CREDIT, NOW THE MANUFACTURER OFTEN FOUND HIMSELF HAVING TO BEGIN MANUFACTURING AT A MUCH EARLIER DATE AND TO RISK HAVING THE BUYER RENEGE ON HIS CONTRACT.

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THAT AN INSURANCE COVER MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED FOR CERTAIN DOMESTIC TRADE FLOWS ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

THE TRADE FLOWS MR YEUNG REFERRED TO INCLUDED THOSE BY WHICH MANUFACTURERS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS SUPPLIED EXPORT FIRMS WITH THEIR PRODUCTS AND THOSE BY WHICH MANUFACTURERS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS SUPPLIED THEIR PRODUCTS TO OVERSEAS BUYERS.

THE AVAILABILITY OF INSURANCE COVER WOULD ENABLE THE LOCAL SUPPLIER OF GOODS TO SUPPLY THEM ON CREDIT, THEREBY ENABLING THE FINAL MANUFACTURER OR EXPORT FIRM IN TURN TO EXPORT ON CREDIT TERMS.

+THIS MUST IMPROVE HONG KONG'S EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS, PARTICULARLY DURING A PERIOD OF DECLINE IN EXTERNAL DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURES,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

/NOTING THAT .....

NOTING THAT PRACTICALLY ALL DEVELOPED INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS HAD DOMESTIC CREDIT INSURANCE FACILITIES, HE SAID THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC CREDIT INSURANCE EXISTED IN HONG KONG.

FINALLY, MR YEUNG SAID, THERE MIGHT BE A CASE FOR SEEKING TO PROVIDE SOME DEGREE OF COVER FOR EXPORTS OF CERTAIN SERVICES.

+EXPORTS OF HOTEL SERVICES ARE A CASE IN POINT,+ HE SAID.

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HOLIDAY REMINDER

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT THE GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AND THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WILL FALL ON JUNE 15 AND JUNE 17 THIS YEAR, AND NOT ON JUNE 8 AND 10.

THESE CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED LAST NOVEMBER AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE IN JANUARY.

JULY 29, A MONDAY, IS AN ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY THIS YEAR. THIS IS BECAUSE CHING MING FESTIVAL AND GOOD FRIDAY, BOTH GENERAL HOLIDAYS, FELL ON THE SAME DAY ON APRIL 5.

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STRIKE HITS INTELPOST TO SWEDEN

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DUE TO A STRIKE BY THE SWEDISH POST OFFICE, THE INTELPOST SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SWEDEN WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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NEW LEAFLET TELLS ABOUT +AIDS+

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A NEW INFORMATION LEAFLET PRODUCED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON THE ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE LEAFLET CONTAINS GENERAL INFORMATION ON AIDS: THE NATURE OF THE DISEASE, ITS SYMPTOMS, MODES OF TRANSMISSION AND PREVENTION.

FORTY THOUSAND COPIES OF THE BILINGUAL LEAFLET HAVE BEEN PRINTED, AND THEY MAY BE OBTAINED FREE FROM THE OUT-PATIENT CLINICS, SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS, METHADONE CLINICS, CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION OFFICES AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TWO OTHER LEAFLETS WERE BEING PREPARED - ONE PROVIDING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON AIDS, AND THE OTHER ONE FOR HEALTH WORKERS.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 6 629 CALLS ON ITS TWO AIDS INFORMATION 'HOTLINES' - 5-724533 AND 5-8330111 - SINCE THE SERVICE STARTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

OF THE CALLS RECEIVED, 477 HAD RAISED QUESTIONS AND 490 OTHERS HAD MADE COMMENTS AFTER LISTENING TO THE RECORDED PROGRAMME. A TOTAL OF 354 CALLERS HAD LEFT THEIR CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

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TRANSPORT BOSSES TO DISCUSS TRAINING

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EMPLOYERS FROM THE TRANSPORT AND PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR TO DISCUSS MANPOWER NEEDS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE INDUSTRY.

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT AND PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY (MAY 13) AT 2.15 PM AT THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF HONG KONG, 17TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

SEMINAR SPEAKERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE TRAINING BOARD WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THAT FIELD.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, MR NELSON WONG, ON 5-8932341 EXT. 254.

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FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY
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THE KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND AND FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU PERSONNEL WILL CARRY OUT A MAJOR FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY AT A MULTI-STOREY BUILDING IN TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (THURSDAY) MORNING.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPERATION. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE MIRADOR MANSION IN NATHAN ROAD BEFORE 10 AM. A FIRE SERVICES INFORMATION OFFICER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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NEW FIREBOAT GOING INTO SERVICE
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A $5.2 MILLION FIREBOAT WILL BE COMMISSIONED AT A CEREMONY TO BE PERFORMED BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, HONG KONG FIRE COMMAND, MR BRIAN FENDER ON SATURDAY (MAY 11) AT 9.30 AM.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PIER (WEST ARM), AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A WATER DISPLAY.

THE FIREBOAT WILL THEN SAIL TO JOSS HOUSE BAY FOR THE CUSTOMARY HOMAGE TO +TIN HAU+ - THE GODDESS OF THE SEA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY. PRESS MEMBERS SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PIER (WEST ARM) NEXT TO THE OUTLYING FERRY PIER BEFORE 9.15 AM.

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ORAL SKILLS COURSE FOR JOURNALISTS

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THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR A COURSE IN ENGLISH ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR JOURNALISTS WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 24.

THE COURSE, ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, AIMS TO TRAIN WORKING JOURNALISTS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN JOB-RELATED SITUATIONS.

TECHNIQUES OF QUESTIONING AND INTERVIEWING, LISTENING COMPREHENSION, USE OF TELEPHONE AND ORAL PRESENTATION WILL BE DISCUSSED IN 10 LECTURES.

WITH THE HELP OF A SUBSIDY PROVIDED BY THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD, THE FEE WILL BE $150 FOR EACH PARTICIPANT WHOSE ATTENDANCE RATE IS ABOVE 70 PER CENT.

THOSE WHOSE ATTENDANCE RATE IS LESS THAN 70 PER CENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL FEE OF $900.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS MAY 22. ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR FRANK NG, SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, ON 5-8932341 EXT. 283.

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COUNCILLOR URGES PUBLIC TO LOVE TREES

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THE URBAN COUNCIL, THROUGH ITS TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME, HAS SUCCEEDED IN AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ESSENTIAL ROLE THAT TREES CAN PLAY IN DENSELY-POPULATED AREAS, URBAN COUNCILLOR MR LAM CHAK-PIU SAID AT TODAY'S TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND.

+IT IS PARTICULARLY A GOOD IDEA TO INVOLVE STUDENTS IN THE PLANTING PROGRAMME BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FUTURE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN TREE PLANTING THEY WILL APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF NATURE,+ HE SAID.

WHILE COMMENDING THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR HAVING DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT OVER THE YEARS, MR LAM HOWEVER MAINTAINED THAT THE PLANTING FIGURE WAS NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

/+WHAT COUNTS .....

+WHAT COUNTS MOST IS THE EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 'GREENING UP' HONG KONG.

+THE URBAN COUNCIL SHOULD LAUNCH MORE CAMPAIGNS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A GREEN ENVIRONMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COUNCIL SHOULD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARDS, ORGANISE MORE DISTRICT SEMINARS ON LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING,+ SAID MR LAM.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE CHIEF MANAGER (LEISURE SERVICES), KOWLOON EAST, OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR JOHNNY WOO, SAID SOME 789 000 TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS WERE PLANTED THROUGHOUT THE URBAN AREAS LAST YEAR. IN KWUN TONG ALONE, 1 207 TREES, 7 998 SHRUBS AND 17 650 FLOWERS WERE PLANTED.

AMONG THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN TODAY'S PLANTING CEREMONY WERE THREE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MISS YEUNG KAM-CHUN, MRS ALISON LEE AND MR LEE WAH-MING, AS WELL AS 20 STUDENTS OF DELIA MEMORIAL SCHOOL, WHO TOGETHER PLANTED 10 TERMINALIA CATAPPA TREES.

THE PLANTING PROGRAMME, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED LAST MONDAY, WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AT VARIOUS URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC FACILITIES.

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CARNIVAL BOOST FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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A CARNIVAL WILL BE STAGED AT VICTORIA PARK ON SUNDAY (MAY 12) AFTERNOON TO PROMOTE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A TWO-HOUR SHOW BY RTHK SINGERS AND DISC JOCKEYS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE CYCLING DEMONSTRATIONS, EXHIBITIONS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND HEALTH KNOWLEDGE, GAMES STALLS, INCLUDING PALM READING, AS WELL AS MAKE-UP AND BEAUTY DEMONSTRATIONS.

A SEVEN-METRE TALL INFLATED KING KONG WILL BE INSTALLED.

/EASTERN DISTRICT .....

EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO COLLECT PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, DISTRIBUTE THE EASTERN DISTRICT HANDBOOK PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD; AND PROMOTE THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHEME FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTS.

THE SHOW WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON SUNDAY FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM ON RTHK'S RADIO ONE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, AND THE HEAD OF THE CHINESE PROGRAMME SERVICES OF RTHK, MR CHU PUI-HING WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT CARNIVAL AND THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 1 PM ON SUNDAY (MAY 12) IN THE BASKETBALL COURT OF VICTORIA PARK.

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DRAGON BOAT RACE ENTRIES SOUGHT

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ROWING ENTHUSIASTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE SHA TIN DRAGON BOAT RACE ON THE SHING MUN RIVER ON JUNE 22 (SATURDAY).

THIRTEEN FIBRE-GLASS DRAGON BOATS, COSTING MORE THAN $400 000, AND DONATED BY THE SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES COMPANY LIMITED, WILL BE USED IN THE 650-METRE RACE FROM MARTENS BRIDGE TO BANYON BRIDGE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN DRAGON BOAT RACE 1985 ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHOY KAN-PUI SAID ABOUT $250 000 WOULD BE SPENT ON THE EVENT WITH THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONTRIBUTING $43 000.

+THE SECTION OF THE SHING MUN RIVER BETWEEN THE TWO BRIDGES HAS THE BEST WATER COURSE AND IS IDEAL FOR ROWING COMPETITIONS.

+AS A LARGE CROWD OF SPECTATORS ARE EXPECTED ON THAT DAY, THE MARTENS BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, AND STANDS WILL BE ERECTED NEAR THE BRIDGE,+ HE ADDED.

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ENTRIES IS 50 WITH EACH TEAM HAVING 27 MEMBERS COMPRISING A PADDLING CREW OF 24, A DRUMMER, A GONG-BEATER AND STEERSMAN. EACH TEAM WILL HAVE TO PAY AN ENTRANCE FEE OF $800, A SPONSORSHIP FEE OF $500 AND A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF $1 000.

/APPLICATION FORMS .....

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION. COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 10 TOGETHER WITH THE FEES.

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PARTICIPATING TEAM WILL BE ARRANGED FROM MAY 18.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION AT 0-615657 OR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 0-6065456.

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RIGHT ADDRESS PLEASE FOR LICENCE APPLICATIONS

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY ISSUED A REMINDER THAT WITH THE SEPARATION OF ITS LICENSING SECTION INTO HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON REGIONS THIS MONTH, ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUOR, ENTERTAINMENT, AMUSEMENT AND GENERAL LICENCES IN URBAN AREAS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE.

APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH LICENCES IN KOWLOON ARE DEALT WITH BY THE KOWLOON LICENSING SECTION AT ROOM 309, USD DEPOT, 148 SAI YEE STREET (3-948955 AND 3-956846), AND THOSE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND BY THE HONG KONG LICENSING SECTION, 3/F., TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET BUILDING, 59 JARDINE'S BAZAAR, CAUSEWAY BAY (5-7954194 AND 5-7954219).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE SPLITTING OF THE SECTION INTO REGIONAL OFFICES WAS AIMED AT SPEEDING UP LICENSING PROCESSES.

+TO AVOID ANY DELAY, APPLICANTS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE LICENSING OFFICE,+ HE ADDED.

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