



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

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AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CALL TENDERS FOR BUILDING A BRIDGE TO AP LEI CHAU IN EXCHANGE FOR A PIECE OF LAND ON THE ISLAND.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR THE PROPOSAL WHICH WILL MEAN MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF AP LEI CHAU.

UNDER THE PLAN, AN AREA OF ABOUT 28 ACRES OF LAND ON THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND WOULD BE GRANTED TO A PRIVATE DEVELOPER IN RETURN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND HANDING OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF A BRIDGE AND CERTAIN ROADS AND THE PAYMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE PREMIUM.

INITIALLY THE BRIDGE WOULD BE OF TWO LANES WITH FOOT-PATHS ON EITHER SIDE. IT WOULD HAVE A SPAN OF 300 FEET OVER THE MAIN CHANNEL WITH A CLEARANCE OF 50 FEET TO ENABLE BOATS TO SAIL BENEATH WITH NO DIFFICULTY. THE BRIDGE WOULD HAVE TO BE DESIGNED BY THE DEVELOPER AND APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY THAT THE EXCHANGE LAND WOULD BE USED FOR A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE.

THE DEVELOPMENT ENVISAGED IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ESTATE FOR ABOUT 28,000 PEOPLE AT A RESIDENTIAL DENSITY NOT EXCEEDING 1,000 PEOPLE PER ACRE. THERE WOULD BE FULL PROVISION FOR A COMPLETE RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, OPEN SPACES, SHOPPING FACILITIES AND MARKETS.

IT IS LIKELY THAT THE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION WOULD BE MAINLY IN THE FORM OF SMALL FLATS OF 400 TO 500 SQUARE FEET AND WHICH WOULD BE OCCUPIED BY FAMILIES OF FOUR TO FIVE PEOPLE.

MR. BARNES SAID THE PROVISION OF A BRIDGE AND SERVICES TO AP LEI CHAU WOULD ALLOW THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS ON THE ISLAND TO PROCEED IN THE FUTURE AND WOULD RESULT IN A USEFUL ADDITION TO THE OVERALL HOUSING POSITION.

HE ADDED THAT THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS' ASSOCIATION AND OTHER PRIVATE DEVELOPERS HAD BEEN SOUNDED OUT ON THE EXCHANGE PROPOSAL AND A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST HAD BEEN EXPRESSED.

+IN FACT,+ MR. BARNES SAID, +IF A TENDER IS LET FOR THE GRANT OF THE LAND, WE EXPECT THAT A REASONABLE NUMBER OF OFFERS WILL BE RECEIVED.+

NOW THAT APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PROPOSAL, DETAILED CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER WILL BE WORKED OUT AND SENT TO LOCAL DEVELOPERS FOR COMMENTS.

/MR. BARNES SAID

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MR. BARNES SAID IT WAS HOPED A TENDER COULD BE GAZETTED IN ABOUT MARCH NEXT YEAR AND WORK BEGUN ON THE BRIDGE LATER IN THE YEAR. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE BRIDGE AND APPROACH ROADS WOULD TAKE OVER TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT POINTED OUT THAT A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A BRIDGE TO AP LEI CHAU WAS CURRENTLY IN CATEGORY B OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME. BUT IF IT WERE CONSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IT COULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE PRIORITY COULD BE GIVEN FOR THE PROJECT TO PROCEED.

FOR THIS REASON DEVELOPMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED TO ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AP LEI CHAU TO PROCEED MORE QUICKLY, PARTICULARLY THE HOUSING ASPECTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A SKETCH PLAN OF THE AREA ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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TOTAL DEFICIT OF \$224 M. RECORDED
IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975/76 FINANCIAL YEAR

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 1975 SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$146 MILLION COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$100 MILLION IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF \$224 MILLION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$282 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$330 MILLION WAS \$11 MILLION LESS THAN IN JUNE 1974.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT \$476 MILLION WAS \$35 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

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BRITISH TRADE SECRETARY ARRIVES TOMORROW

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MR. PETER SHORE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON AT THE START OF A FIVE-DAY VISIT. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE.

THEY WILL BE MET AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE.

DURING HIS STAY HERE, MR. SHORE WILL MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES IN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR BRITISH EXPORTS.

HE WILL HAVE TALKS WITH THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER IN HONG KONG AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN.

MR. SHORE WILL ALSO MAKE A NUMBER OF SHOP FLOOR VISITS TO LOCAL FACTORIES AND TOUR THE POWER STATION ON TSING YI ISLAND.

HE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON SEPTEMBER 11 FOR SEOUL FROM WHERE HE WILL GO ON TO TOKYO.

MR. SHORE WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE FOLLOWING THE RETURN TO POWER OF THE LABOUR PARTY AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION OF 1974.

HE WAS LABOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR STEPNEY, AN EAST LONDON CONSTITUENCY FROM 1964-74, AND FOLLOWING CONSTITUENCY CHANGES, NOW REPRESENTS TOWER HAMELTS, STEPNEY AND POPLAR.

MR. SHORE SERVED IN THE LAST LABOUR GOVERNMENT (1964-70), AND IN OPPOSITION (AFTER HIS ELECTION TO THE SHADOW CABINET IN 1971) WAS RESPONSIBLE, TOGETHER WITH MR. MICHAEL FOOT, FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY HANDLING OF ALL MATTERS INVOLVING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

HE WAS EDUCATED AT QUARRY BANK SCHOOL IN LIVERPOOL AND AT KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND IS A POLITICAL ECONOMIST.

MARRIED IN 1948, MR. SHORE HAS TWO SONS AND TWO DAUGHTERS. HIS WIFE IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. SHORE AND HIS WIFE ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT ABOUT 6.20 P.M. TOMORROW ON FLIGHT BA950.

THERE WILL BE NO PRESS INTERVIEWS AT THE AIRPORT, BUT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR MR. SHORE TO MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE HE LEAVES. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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AUTHORITIES SET UP FOR CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION TRAINING SCHEMES
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THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO AUTHORITIES WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY TO CARRY OUT COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING SCHEMES TO PROVIDE SKILLED MANPOWER FOR TWO OF HONG KONG'S BIGGEST INDUSTRIES -- CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION.

CHAIRING THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY IS MR. FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN, WHILE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY IS HEADED BY MR. WONG TIN-SUNG.

OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE TWO STATUTORY BODIES INCLUDE INDUSTRIALISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS, TRADE UNIONISTS AND OFFICIALS FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE FORMATION OF THE AUTHORITIES FOLLOWED THE ENACTMENT LAST MONTH OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE AND THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE.

THE AUTHORITIES ARE TO ADMINISTER THE SCHEMES BY BUILDING TWO SEPARATE TRAINING CENTRES TO PRODUCE QUALIFIED OPERATIVES FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY AND CRAFTSMEN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

UNDER THE ORDINANCES, THE TWO CENTRES WILL BE FINANCED BY A TRAINING LEVY ON ALL EXPORT CLOTHING ITEMS AND A LEVY ON THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

COMMENTING ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE AUTHORITIES, THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. T.Y. CHUI, SAID THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN HELPING TO EASE THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED PERSONNEL FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID PREPARATORY WORK FOR BUILDING THE TWO TRAINING CENTRES WAS NOW AT AN ADVANCED STAGE. +A SITE OF 15,000 SQ. FT. IN KWAI CHUNG HAS ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE.

+THE CENTRE, TO COST SOME \$4.2 MILLION, WILL INITIALLY OFFER COURSES FOR SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS, KNITTING MACHINE OPERATORS, LINKING MACHINE OPERATORS, AND PRESSING, CUTTING AND PATTERN MAKING WORKERS. IT IS EXPECTED TO TRAIN 3,600 OPERATIVES EACH YEAR, + HE SAID.

AS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE, MR. CHUI SAID A SITE OF 59,000 SQ. FT. ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION IN KWUN TONG HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR THE PROJECT.

/+COSTING ABOUT

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+COSTING ABOUT \$8.8 MILLION, THIS CENTRE WILL PROVIDE ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME BASIC TRAINING FOR ABOUT 600 CRAFT TRAINEES IN BRICK-LAYING AND PLASTERING, CARPENTRY, PAINTING AND DECORATING, PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING, BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING AND MASONRY. A COURSE IN PLANT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS HAS ALSO BEEN PLANNED,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHUI POINTED OUT THAT THE LATEST MANPOWER SURVEYS HAD SHOWN THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEEDED 700 NEW SKILLED CRAFTSMEN EACH YEAR, AND THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY NEEDED AS MANY AS 17,000 TRAINED MACHINE OPERATORS.

+THE TRAINING CENTRES,+ HE ADDED, +ARE EXPECTED TO GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE CONTINUALLY GROWING DEMAND OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IN THE TWO INDUSTRIES.+

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TRAINING LEVY SYSTEM WAS INITIATED BY EMPLOYERS IN THE TWO INDUSTRIES AS A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE, AND TO THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO SHARE THE COST OF PROVIDING PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS.

+THE RATE OF LEVY, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE RECOMMENDED BY THE TWO TRAINING AUTHORITIES AND APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE LEVIES WOULD MOST LIKELY COME INTO FORCE AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR, AND WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRAINING CENTRES WOULD BEGIN A FEW MONTHS LATER, FOR COMPLETION IN TIME FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE FIRST TRAINEES IN 1977,+ HE SAID.

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MARKETING TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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PUPILS IN HONG KONG ARE NOW AWARE OF THE RELEVANCE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO THE DEMANDS OF THE MODERN WORLD, MR. ANDREW KINGWELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION ON 'PERSPECTIVE VIEWS ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS' AT THE KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE PUPILS OF GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, WILL LAST THREE DAYS. THE EXHIBITION WILL MOVE TO THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL ON HONG KONG ISLAND WHERE IT WILL BE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 13 AND 15.

IN THANKING THE ORGANISERS, MR. KINGWELL SAID THAT THROUGH THIS EXHIBITION, THE PUPILS WERE ATTEMPTING TO SELL TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC.

HE REITERATED THAT FOR HONG KONG TO SURVIVE IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND COMPLEX WORLD IT MUST HAVE A SUPPLY OF INTELLECTUAL AND TECHNICAL ABILITY TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THAT WORLD.

+EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE CONCEPT THAT EACH PUPIL SHOULD ENJOY AN EDUCATION THAT WILL ENABLE HIM TO DEVELOP HIS FULL POTENTIAL AND UNDERSTAND THE CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY WHICH OCCUR SO RAPIDLY IN THIS MODERN WORLD.+

ON THE PROBLEM OF MARKETING TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AND THIS WAS NOT CONFINED SOLELY TO HONG KONG, MR. KINGWELL SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE EXHIBITION THAT THE PUPILS UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES OF PERSUADING THE MORE ABLE STUDENTS THAT A TECHNICAL EDUCATION WAS WORTHWHILE.

HE STRESSED THE NEED TO GET RID OF RESISTANCE TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

+THIS RESISTANCE MUST AND WILL BE OVERCOME, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HONG KONG WHICH IS NOW EXPERIENCING ITS OWN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION MUST COME TO TERMS WITH THE NEED FOR CHANGE,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

PRACTICAL WORK IN SCHOOLS WAS SADLY NEGLECTED BEFORE BUT THIS ACTIVITY COULD NO LONGER BE DISREGARDED AND MANY ADVANCES WERE BEING MADE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THIS MONTH TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, ONE AT KWUN TONG AND THE OTHER AT KWAI CHUNG, WERE BEING OPENED.

THE COTTON SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL WAS ALSO OPENING THIS MONTH. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA ROTARY AND CARITAS ST. PAUL PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WERE OFFICIALLY OPENED.

+TECHNICAL EDUCATION IS NOW BEING REGARDED BY THE PUBLIC AND INDUSTRY AS MORE AND MORE RELEVANT IN A SOCIETY WHICH GIVES SO MANY OF ITS RESOURCES TO TECHNOLOGY,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

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MOVE TO EXEMPT GOVERNMENT BONDS FROM INTEREST AND PROFITS TAX
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THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE IS TO BE AMENDED TO EXEMPT GOVERNMENT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) ORDINANCE FROM INTEREST AND PROFITS TAX.

THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT)(NO.5) BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) ORDINANCE WHICH ENABLES THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE LOANS BY ISSUING HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATED BONDS WAS PASSED INTO LAW ON AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) BILL ON JULY 16 THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MENTIONED THAT IT WAS THE INTENTION THAT INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND PROFITS FROM THEIR SALES SHOULD BE FREE OF TAX.

AT THE TIME HE SAID THAT THE EXEMPTION WOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

THE BILL GAZETTED TODAY SEEKS TO EFFECT THE CHANGE.

THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) ORDINANCE ALREADY PROVIDES FOR BOND TRANSACTIONS TO BE EXEMPT FROM STAMP DUTY.

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PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF KWUN TONG LOT
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RESUME A LOT OF LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD AND HIP WO STREET IN KOWLOON IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ROADWORKS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA AND FOR THE FUTURE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY KWUN TONG STATION.

AT PRESENT, THE LOT IS OCCUPIED BY A PETROL FILLING STATION, ONCE THE LOT REVERTS TO THE CROWN, PROBABLY IN EARLY OCTOBER THIS YEAR, IT IS INTENDED TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE SITES AVAILABLE FOR USE AS PETROL STATIONS.

THE ROADWORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER THE LOT HAS BEEN RESUMED.

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED RESUMPTION IS GIVEN IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

A COPY OF THE PLAN SHOWING THE AFFECTED AREA MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, ICE HOUSE STREET, DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS.

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PWD TO CONDUCT STREET POLL
ON TSIM SHA TSUI PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT
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A TEAM FROM THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING (MAINLAND) DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BE CARRYING OUT SPOT INTERVIEWS WITH PEDESTRIANS AND SHOPPERS IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT NEXT WEEK.

THE INTERVIEWS, WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 7) AND ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 10) FOLLOW COMPLAINTS FROM SHOP OWNERS IN HANOI ROAD AND CORNWALL AVENUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DROP IN THEIR BUSINESS SINCE THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT WAS INTRODUCED ON JULY 1.

AS A RESULT OF THE COMPLAINTS THE SCHEME WAS MODIFIED ON SEPTEMBER 1 TO ALLOW TAXIS, HIRE CARS AND PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, INCLUDING TOURIST COACHES, TO ENTER THE PRECINCTS.

THE TEAM OF INTERVIEWERS WILL BE IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M. ON SUNDAY. THEY WILL BE ASKING PEDESTRIANS AND SHOPPERS SIMPLE AND SHORT QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SCHEME, THE FIRST EVER INTRODUCED IN KOWLOON.

THE TEAM WILL RETURN TO THE AREA AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M. AND ALSO FROM 5 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING (MAINLAND) DIVISION SAID TODAY THAT THE SURVEY WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN HELPING TO UNDERSTAND THE OPINIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE USING THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE TEAM OF INTERVIEWERS. +THE INTERVIEWERS SHOULD ONLY TAKE UP ABOUT TWO OR THREE MINUTES OF THE PEDESTRIAN OR CUSTOMER'S TIME,+ HE ADDED.

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