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MONDAY, JULY 15, 1985

JANUARY-MAY EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS RELEASED
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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY-MAY 1985, VALUED AT $186 767 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 12 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY TWO PER CENT TO $49 452 MILLION, BUT RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 45 PER CENT TO $44 301 MILLION AND IMPORTS BY EIGHT PER CENT TO $93 014 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. DECREASED BY FIVE PER CENT. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $754 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $492 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $448 MILLION OR FIVE PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $85 MILLION OR SEVEN PER CENT), AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY $30 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO CHINA INCREASED RAPIDLY IN VALUE, PARTICULARLY OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $814 MILLION OR 1 186 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $679 MILLION OR 131 PER CENT), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $341 MILLION OR 171 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $117 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY $24 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $223 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $103 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY $85 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT).

/DECREASES IN .....

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $509 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $111 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN ALSO FELL (BY $104 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY $46 MILLION OR 146 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $32 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF TEXTILES (BY $12 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

IMPORTS

DEMAND FOR GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN INCREASED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $1 284 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY $987 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $706 MILLION OR 97 PER CENT), MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY $311 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT) AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY $138 MILLION OR 125 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $475 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY $153 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, LARGE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $1 195 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY $207 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILE FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (BY $218 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT) AND TRAVEL GOODS, HAND BAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY $193 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. WERE MOSTLY OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD AND AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY $461 MILLION OR 79 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $423 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY $156 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $124 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT) AND INORGANIC CHEMICALS (BY $88 MILLION OR 139 PER CENT).

/MEANWHILE, INCREASES .....

MEANWHILE, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $613 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT) AND IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $284 MILLION OR 220 PER CENT). HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL FROM TAIWAN DECREASED (BY $36 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT), AS DID IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM SINGAPORE (BY $93 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY $12 467 MILLION OR 151 PER CENT), U.S.A. (BY $939 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY $434 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT), MACAU (BY $228 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT), ITALY (BY $115 MILLION OR 116 PER CENT), FRANCE (BY $81 MILLION OR 54 PER CENT), BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG (BY $65 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT) AND THE PHILIPPINES (BY $61 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY $283 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (BY $281 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $2 476 MILLION OR 207 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $1 428 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $1 405 MILLION OR 182 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $1 400 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $137 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT), FERTILIZERS MANUFACTURED (BY $76 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (NOT INCLUDING UNMILLED CEREALS) (BY $60 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT).

(RELEVANT TABLES ARE SET OUT BELOW)

THE MAY 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $5 PER COPY. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN MAY 1985 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY AUGUST 1985 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $13 PER COPY.

/ENQUIRIES CONCERNING .....

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-214375). ENQUIRIES CONCERNING TRADE STATISTICS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-444436).

FOLLOWING ARE THE TABLES:

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	21 031	22 179	- 1 148	- 5
CHINA	6 722	3 652	+ 3 071	+ 84
U.K.	3 187	3 730	- 543	- 15
F.R. OF GERMANY	2 915	3 619	- 704	- 19
JAPAN	1 698	1 858	- 160	- 9
CANADA	1 505	1 605	- 100	- 6
AUSTRALIA	1 304	1 413	- 109	- 8
SINGAPORE	934	1 089	- 155	- 14
NETHERLANDS	809	889	- 80	- 9
FRANCE	658	714	- 57	- 8

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	16 144	16 671	- 526	- 3

/MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED .....

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS, JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND PLASTIC ARTICLES)	7 446	7 346	+	100	+	1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES AND SEMI-CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS)	4 348	4 423	-	75	-	2
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3 853	3 771	+	82	+	2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPROCUDING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3 705	3 927	-	222	-	6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	3 198	3 222	-	24	-	1

/TABLE 3 : .....

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES

MAJOR SOURCE	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
JAPAN	23 067	19 941	+ 3 126	+ 16
CHINA	21 166	21 957	- 790	- 4
U.S.A.	9 184	9 362	- 178	- 2
TAIWAN	8 847	6 380	+ 2 467	+ 39
SINGAPORE	4 843	4 600	+ 244	+ 5
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3 807	2 736	+ 1 070	+ 39
U.K.	3 281	3 566	- 285	- 8
F.R. OF GERMANY	2 636	2 007	+ 629	+ 31
ITALY	1 370	1 141	+ 228	+ 20
FRANCE	1 309	1 220	+ 89	+ 7

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY SECTION

COMMODITY SECTION	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	27 283	21 017	+ 6 266	+ 30
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	24 810	25 725	- 915	- 4

/MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED .....

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	16 516	14 739	+ 1 776	+ 12
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	7 581	7 981	- 400	- 5
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6 097	6 012	+ 85	+ 1
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	4 502	4 677	- 175	- 4

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	20 747	8 280	+12 467	+151
U.S.A.	5 549	4 609	+ 939	+ 20
JAPAN	2 271	1 836	+ 434	+ 24
TAIWAN	1 881	2 009	- 128	- 6
SINGAPORE	1 638	1 919	- 281	- 15
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1 455	1 414	+ 41	+ 3
INDONESIA	1 321	1 604	- 283	- 18
MACAU	1 180	952	+ 228	+ 24
PHILIPPINES	586	525	+ 61	+ 12
SAUDI ARABIA	546	525	+ 21	+ 4

/TABLE 6 : .....

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN.-MAY 1985 ($ MN)	JAN.-MAY 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6 047	4 647	+ 1 400	+ 30
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	4 492	3 064	+ 1 428	+ 47
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3 670	1 194	+ 2 476	+207
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2 835	2 537	+ 298	+ 12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	2 582	1 639	+ 943	+ 58
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2 258	1 914	+ 344	+ 18

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MARCH NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES PUBLISHED

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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR MARCH 1985, AT 124.9, INCREASED BY 6.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1984 AND BY 3.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1984, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE MARCH 1985 AND MARCH 1984 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 6.8 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 5.8 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 10.5 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 8.2 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 6.3 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE MARCH 1985 AND DECEMBER 1984 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 3.1 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 2.6 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.4 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.1 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.3 PER CENT.

THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1984 TO MARCH 1985 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX, AT 99.3 IN MARCH 1985, WAS 2.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN MARCH 1984 AND 1.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN DECEMBER 1984.

FROM MARCH 1984 TO MARCH 1985, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 2.6 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.6 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 6.0 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.9 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 2.1 PER CENT.

COMPARING MARCH 1985 WITH DECEMBER 1984, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 1.4 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.0 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 2.6 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 2.5 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 1.5 PER CENT.

THE REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1984 TO MARCH 1985 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

/THESE NOMINAL .....

THESE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED EACH QUARTER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT COVERING BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING WORKERS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR, THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR.

SUCH INDEXES MEASURE CHANGES IN WAGE RATES BY HOLDING THE STRUCTURAL PATTERN OF THE LABOUR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, SEX AND MODE OF PAYMENT THE SAME AS THAT OF MARCH 1982, WHICH IS THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURES CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF WAGES (ALTHOUGH THE SAME DEFLATOR IS USED FOR EACH INDUSTRY TO DERIVE THE REAL WAGE INDEX FROM ITS NOMINAL COUNTERPART, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MOVEMENTS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX AND THE REAL WAGE INDEX BETWEEN ANY TWO TIME PERIODS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY FROM INDUSTRY TO INDUSTRY DUE TO ROUNDING).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE ALSO PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE.

IN ADDITION, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES THAT ARE PAID LESS FREQUENTLY THAN MONTHLY, ARE CONVERTED TO AN EQUIVALENT MONTHLY RATE WHEN COMPILING THE WAGE RATE INDEXES.

TOTAL PAYROLL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS. APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASH RECEIPTS, IT ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

/AS A .....

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGE RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE REPORT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOL. I, MARCH 1985 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

THE VOL. II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN EARLY AUGUST 1985.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NOS. 5-455774 OR 5-416062.

TABLE 1 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1984	JUN. 1984	SEPT 1984	DEC. 1984	MAR. 1985
MANUFACTURING	116.7	118.9	120.3	120.8	124.6
WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	113.6	113.8	115.6	117.1	120.2
TRANSPORT SERVICES	125.3	129.7	132.6	132.6	138.4
BUSINESS SERVICES	116.5	120.3	120.4	121.1	126.1
PERSONAL SERVICES	113.4	116.1	116.1	116.8	120.6
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	116.8	118.8	120.4	121.1	124.9

/TABLE 2 : .....

TABLE 2 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

INDUSTRY	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1984	JUN. 1984	SEPT 1984	DEC. 1984	MAR. 1985
GARMENTS	113.0	114.7	115.4	116.5	119.5
GLOVES	117.6	124.7	130.2	131.1	133.9
HANDBAGS	112.9	114.6	115.6	116.3	119.0
COTTON SPINNING/WEAVING	118.9	120.0	120.3	120.5	125.5
KNITTING	120.1	123.4	123.7	124.0	126.7
BLEACHING AND DYEING	117.1	119.8	121.2	121.8	126.3
PRINTING	115.7	122.0	123.4	123.5	126.1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	118.5	121.3	123.3	122.9	125.6
METAL PRODUCTS	118.9	120.1	121.1	123.3	125.3
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	126.1	127.8	129.4	128.2	135.0
ELECTRONICS	119.9	120.9	123.9	124.1	127.6
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	121.2	123.5	124.6	124.6	130.2
MANUFACTURING	116.7	118.9	120.3	120.8	124.6

/TABLE 3 : .....

TABLE 3 : REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1984	JUN. 1984	SEPT 1984	DEC. 1984	MAR. 1985
MANUFACTURING	96.6	96.8	97.1	97.7	99.1
WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	94.0	92.6	93.3	94.6	95.5
TRANSPORT SERVICES	103.8	105.6	107.0	107.2	110.0
BUSINESS SERVICES	96.5	98.0	97.2	97.9	100.3
PERSONAL SERVICES	93.9	94.5	93.7	94.5	95.9
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	96.7	96.7	97.2	97.9	99.3

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GOVT HELPS IN ANTI-TOUTING DRIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS LAUNCHING A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE PRACTICE OF TOUTING FOR LEGAL BUSINESS.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), MR TIM FRESHWATER, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY SAID, +THE LEGAL PROFESSION EXISTS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE AND EVERYBODY IS ABLE TO SEEK HELP FROM A SOLICITOR.+

+WE WISH TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO APPROACH A SOLICITOR THROUGH ANY CLERK OR MIDDLEMAN= YOU CAN AND SHOULD APPROACH HIM DIRECT,+ HE SAID.

/THE PRACTICE .....

THE PRACTICE OF TOUTING OCCURS IN MANY FORMS. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS WHERE PEOPLE KNOWN AS +RUNNERS+ ARE PLACED IN DISTRICT COURTS AND MAGISTRACIES. THEY APPROACH DEFENDANTS WHO DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION, AND INTRODUCE THEM TO A TOUT WHO THEN INTRODUCES THEM TO A SOLICITOR'S CLERK.

A TOUT IS NOT LEGALLY QUALIFIED AND IS NOT EMPLOYED BY A LAW FIRM. HE ASKS FOR A FEE, KEEPS PART OF IT, AND PASSES THE BALANCE ON TO THE CLERK. THE CLERK WILL TAKE STATEMENTS AND ARRANGE MEETINGS, AND THEN INTRODUCE THE DEFENDANT TO A SOLICITOR OR BARRISTER, OFTEN NOT UNTIL THE MORNING OF THE COURT HEARING. THE CLERK USUALLY RECEIVES A COMMISSION FOR HIS WORK AS WELL, AND THE ULTIMATE RESULT IS THAT THE DEFENDANT PAYS FAR TOO MUCH FOR THE LEGAL SERVICE HE RECEIVES, AND MAY ALSO RECEIVE LESSER QUALITY REPRESENTATION THAN HE OUGHT.

ELABORATING ON THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE LEGAL PROFESSION TO COMBAT TOUTING, MR TIM FRESHWATER SAID THAT THE SOCIETY HAD ENLISTED THE HELP OF THE ICAC IN CERTAIN AREAS.

+IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE POLICE AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE DEVISED A SYSTEM WHEREBY ACCESS TO DETAINED PERSONS BY UNQUALIFIED CLERKS IS CONTROLLED.+

+HENCEFORWARD, THE NUMBER OF CLERKS AFFILIATED TO SOLICITORS' FIRMS WILL BE LIMITED; EACH CLERK WILL BE PERMITTED TO BE AFFILIATED WITH ONLY ONE FIRM. A LIST OF THE AFFILIATED CLERKS WILL BE HELD BY THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE POLICE, AND ACCESS TO DETAINED PERSONS WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY TO THOSE CLERKS CARRYING A LETTER NAMING THE DETAINED PERSON CONCERNED AND SIGNED BY A SOLICITOR OF THE RELEVANT FIRM,+ MR FRESHWATER SAID.

ACTING SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR W.R. MARSHALL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE REPORTS THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED OF THE ACTIVITIES OF TOUTS.

+WHILE THE INSTITUTION OF MIDDLEMEN BETWEEN THE CHINESE SPEAKING COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COURTS HAS HAD A RESPECTED PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF UNSCRUPULOUS TOUTS WHO HAVE BETRAYED THIS TRADITION, TAKING PEOPLE'S MONEY ON THE PRETEXT THAT THEY WILL ASSIST THEM TO OBTAIN THE BEST LEGAL ADVICE,+ MR MARSHALL COMMENTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TO A LARGE DEGREE THESE TOUTS SUCCEED BECAUSE OF THE IGNORANCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF THEIR RIGHT TO DIRECT ACCESS TO LAWYERS, AND THEIR RIGHT TO LEGAL AID.

+IT IS TO COMBAT THIS IGNORANCE THAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS DESIGNED,+ HE ADDED.

/THE CAMPAIGN .....

THE CAMPAIGN IS TO WARN PEOPLE AGAINST THE USE OF TOUTS AND INFORM THEM OF HOW THEY CAN OBTAIN LEGAL SERVICES THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS.

THE MESSAGE +NEVER PAY A TOUT; GO DIRECT TO A SOLICITOR+ WILL BE CONVEYED THROUGH TELEVISION SLIDES AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS. POSTERS AND COPIES OF A LEAFLET EXPLAINING IN DETAIL HOW TO APPLY FOR LEGAL SERVICES WILL BE DISPLAYED AND MADE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT LOCATIONS WHERE TOUTING ACTIVITIES ARE COMMON.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION, MR DENIS CHANG, Q.C., WHO SAID, +AN INFORMED PUBLIC IS THE BEST DEFENCE AGAINST UNDESIRABLE PRACTICES, AND ALL OF US HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING THE PUBLIC ADEQUATELY INFORMED.+

CONCLUDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, MR MARSHALL SAID, +I THINK WE CAN NOW PRIDE OURSELVES ON A MODERN AND EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEM WHICH IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE GOAL OF MAKING JUSTICE AVAILABLE AT REASONABLE COST FOR ALL. ACTION TOWARDS REGULATING THE CONTINUING ACTIVITY OF UNSCRUPULOUS TOUTS AND COMMISSION CLERKS WILL MOVE US SEVERAL STEPS TOWARDS THAT GOAL.+

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SHA TIN BOARD TO ASK ABOUT RIVER POLLUTION CONTROL

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A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ONE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM PLAN TO CONTROL POLLUTION IN THE SHING MUN RIVER, WILL BE RAISED AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

OTHER QUESTIONS DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT POLICY REGARDING THE SIU WO COURT YOUTH CENTRE AND A DECISION TO CLOSE ALL ACCESS ROADS AND THE CANCELLATION OF BUS STOPS ALONG THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE NAMING OF THE SHA TIN TO TAI PO COASTAL ROAD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS, AND PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES UNDER THE BOARD.

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BRIEFING SESSION FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

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A GROUP OF 50 MEMBERS FROM FOUR DISTRICT BOARDS TODAY DISCUSSED PUBLIC HOUSING POLICIES WITH HOUSING DEPARTMENT DIRECTORATE DURING A BRIEFING SESSION AT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS PART OF A SERIES OF PRE-ARRANGED BRIEFINGS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO UPDATE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON THE LATEST PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

MEMBERS OF THE KWAI CHUNG-TSING YI, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND EASTERN DISTRICT BOARDS WERE FIRST WELCOMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FRED PANG.

THE GROUPS TOURED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S EXHIBITION HALL LOOKING AT MODELS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS WHICH DEPICTED THE EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING SINCE THE 1950'S. THEY WERE SHOWN A FILM WHICH EXPLAINED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S SET-UP AND THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY DIRECTORS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS. THE LAST HOUR WAS DEVOTED TO ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

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MORE LAND TO BE FORMED

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SEVENTEEN HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE FORMED TO THE WEST OF TIN PING ESTATE WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SHEK WU HUI, NEW TERRITORIES, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME HOUSING ESTATE.

THE LAND FORMED WILL ALSO PROVIDE SPACE FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES SUCH AS A SPORTS GROUND, INDOOR GAMES HALLS, LOCAL OPEN SPACE, A CAR PARK AND A BUS TERMINUS.

TWO ROADS, TOTALLING 1.3 KILOMETRES, WILL ALSO BE BUILT TO THE NORTH OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER, AND BE COMPLETED IN 20 MONTHS.

THE TAI PO AND FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT.

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DISPLAY ON SCHOOL CLASS LIBRARIES

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PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE GETTING SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO SET UP SCHOOL CLASS LIBRARIES FROM A DISPLAY WHICH WILL BE PUT ON AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAU MA TEI, ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (JULY 17 AND 18).

THE DISPLAY FOLLOWS A PILOT SCHEME INTRODUCED IN STAGES AMONG 25 PRIMARY SCHOOLS SINCE 1982.

IT HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE 25 SCHOOLS AND THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, TO PREPARE TEACHERS FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLASS LIBRARY SCHEME IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

TEACHERS WILL FIND THE EXHIBITION HELPFUL FOR THEIR PURPOSES, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DISPLAY WILL BE OPEN TO TEACHERS FROM 9.45 AM TO 4 PM ON THE TWO DAYS.

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CAMP FUN FOR FISHERFOLK CHILDREN

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SOME 800 CHILDREN FROM 13 FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION SCHOOLS ENDED THEIR ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP AT WU KWAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TODAY WITH A PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY.

VISITING THEM TO SPEAK TO THEM AND GIVE OUT PRIZES WAS THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, WHO SAID THAT THEY HAD ALL BEEN VERY FORTUNATE +TO ENJOY COMMUNITY LIFE AND MUTUAL CO-OPERATION AND TO SEE JUST HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS,+ IN THE CAMP.

+GOOD TEAM SPIRIT IS FOSTERED WHEN EVERYONE WORKS HARD TOGETHER TO KEEP THE CAMP CABINS TIDY AND WHEN COMPETING IN SPORTING EVENTS.+

THE PRIZES WERE FOR THE WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS HELD DURING THE FOUR-DAY CAMP, THE 17TH ORGANISED SINCE 1969 AS PART OF THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME. DR RIDDELL-SWAN WAS SHOWN AROUND BY THE FMO SCHOOL SUPERVISOR, MR P.K. TUNG.

THE SUMMER CAMP BUDGET CAME TO $133 000, OF WHICH $90 000 WAS DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, AND THE BALANCE MET BY THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

THE SUMMER CAMP, HE SAID, OWED A GREAT DEAL OF ITS SUCCESS TO THE GENEROSITY AND HARD WORK OF +MANY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES+.

/MEMBERS OF .....

MEMBERS OF THE T.S. COLLINGWOOD SEA CADET CORPS OF THE FMO ABERDEEN TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ALSO TOOK PART IN THE CAMP ACTIVITIES.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED ARCHERY, ROLLER SKATING, ROPE BRIDGE CLIMBING, SWIMMING, SINGING, FOLK DANCING, DRAWING AND BALL GAMES.

THERE WERE ALSO BARBECUE PARTIES AND SONG AND CHEER LEADER GROUP CONTESTS.

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TUNNEL EXIT ROAD WORK

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THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM THE EXIT OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO NORTH POINT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12.30 AM TO 4 AM ON THURSDAY (JULY 18) FOR ROAD WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE EXIT ROAD LEADING TO CAUSEWAY BAY, THEN TO PROCEED VIA GLOUCESTER ROAD FLYOVER, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND CAUSEWAY ROAD.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE

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TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS, THE NORTHERN JUNCTION OF TSING HOI CIRCUIT WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD (CASTLE PEAK BAY SECTION) WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY (JULY 18).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOUTHERN JUNCTION OF TSING HOI CIRCUIT WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

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WATER WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 18) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET AND SAM CHUK STREET, INCLUDING NG FONG STREET, LUK HOP STREET, TSAT PO STREET, PAT TAT STREET AND KING FUK STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 60.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 352.645 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 477.938 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 81.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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SPORTS PLAN FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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IN PROMOTING THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB SOUTH ARE CURRENTLY ORGANISING A SPORTS PROGRAMME IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

THE PROGRAMME, KNOWN AS THE +SOUTHERN DISTRICT SPORTS CONNECTION+, IS SPECIALLY TAILORED TO PROVIDE RECREATION AND SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED OVER 15 WHO HAVE ALREADY MASTERED THE BASIC SKILLS OF CERTAIN SPORTS.

IT ALSO AIMS AT ENCOURAGING THEM TO DEVELOP A CONSISTENT HABIT OF RECREATION, TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES THROUGH PRACTICE AND COMPETITION, AND TO MEET OTHER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, TRAINING IN THREE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES - BADMINTON, DANCING AND ARCHERY - AT BEGINNER'S LEVEL IS ORGANISED. EACH COURSE COMPRISES TEN TWO-HOUR TRAINING PERIODS.

THE ENTRY FEES ARE $30 FOR A BADMINTON COURSE, $20 FOR A DANCING COURSE AND $20 FOR AN ARCHERY COURSE.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS OBTAINABLE AT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE (RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS), SHOP NO. 3, SITE 5, ABERDEEN CENTRE, HONG KONG (TELEPHONE NO. 5-551268).

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