



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS STAY ON UPSWING
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HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO EXPAND RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1984 SHOWS THAT THESE EXPORTS INCREASED BY 51 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 30 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

GIVEN THE STRONG ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF MANY INDUSTRIES AND THE SUBSTANTIAL REAL-TERM INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THE SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAIN ENCOURAGING, THE REPORT SAYS.

DOMESTIC DEMAND IN THE SAME PERIOD ALSO IMPROVED MODERATELY OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983, WITH RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS GROWING BY ABOUT 14 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AND OF CONSUMER GOODS BY ABOUT 11 PER CENT.

ON THE LABOUR FORCE FRONT, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT AS A WHOLE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983, BUT REMAINED LARGELY STABLE, COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WAS 4.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 5.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 4.1 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1983.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS 1.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 2.5 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 1.4 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE RATE OF INFLATION (AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)) SLOWED DOWN DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, FROM A YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE OF 12.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY TO 9.3 PER CENT IN MARCH.

THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT THE ADVERSE INFLUENCE ON IMPORT PRICES OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR UP TO SEPTEMBER 24, 1983 MAY HAVE LARGELY FED THROUGH TO THE RETAIL LEVEL.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WAS ON AVERAGE 11.1 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983; THE EQUIVALENT RATE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1983 WAS 11.9 PER CENT.

THE REPORT ASSESSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 USING SUCH STATISTICS AS ARE AVAILABLE.

IT ALSO UPDATES THE ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY IN THE 1983 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND PUBLISHED ON BUDGET DAY.

APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT SAYS THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS -- THE UNITED STATES, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, CHINA AND JAPAN -- CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983.

WHILE THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE CURRENCIES OF THESE MARKETS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1984 ALSO HELPED BY ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983. IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 23 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS AND RE-EXPORTS BY ALMOST 37 PER CENT.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT 54 PER CENT, WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT 43 PER CENT. THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP THUS NARROWED SIGNIFICANTLY TO 6 PER CENT, FROM 13 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT:

- * FIRST, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HELD STEADY AGAINST THE US DOLLAR THROUGHOUT THE FIRST QUARTER, REFLECTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM,
- * SECOND, WITH THE RETURN OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL CURRENCY, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW RAPIDLY, RESULTING IN A RAPID EXPANSION IN THE MONEY SUPPLY, AND
- * THIRD, THERE WAS EXCESS LIQUIDITY IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY MARKET DURING MOST PART OF THE QUARTER, WHICH EXERTED DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON LOCAL INTEREST RATES AND CREATED A DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES AND THOSE FOR US DOLLARS. THIS SITUATION WAS, HOWEVER, TEMPORARY AND TOWARDS THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER, LOCAL INTEREST RATES ROSE AGAIN.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR PICKED UP AS DOMESTIC EXPORTS RECOVERED. EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTOR ALSO SHOWED SOME INCREASE, BUT EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES FELL FURTHER.

/THE REPORT

THE REPORT SAYS THAT, REFLECTING THE STRONG RECOVERY OF THE EXPORT SECTOR, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED IN BOTH MONEY AND REAL TERMS DURING 1983. EARNINGS IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS ALSO INCREASED.

CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUED TO FALL IN REAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SMALL INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, AND THE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT POINTS TO THE FOLLOWING TRENDS:

- * FIRST, ALTHOUGH THE VACANCY POSITION IN THE EXISTING STOCK REMAINED HIGH AT THE END OF 1983, VACANCIES IN MOST SECTORS DECLINED, COMPARED WITH THE YEAR-EARLIER POSITION,
- * SECOND, THERE WERE REPORTS OF GOOD RESPONSE TO THE MARKETING OF SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS IN WELL-LOCATED AND BETTER-PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE REASONABLE PRICING HAD MADE THE PURCHASE OF SUCH FLATS MORE AFFORDABLE TO INTENDING OWNER-OCCUPIERS,
- * THIRD, THE DEMAND FOR BETTER-MANAGED ARCADE SHOPS AND OFFICES IN PRIME LOCATIONS APPEARED STRONG, STIMULATED BY A MORE OPTIMISTIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND THE OFFER OF MORE REALISTIC RENTALS, AND
- * FOURTH, THE TAKE-UP FOR INDUSTRIAL PREMISES ALSO IMPROVED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD OF 1983, FOLLOWING THE SUSTAINED EXPORT RECOVERY.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE, HELPED BY THE RELATIVE BALANCE BETWEEN THE AGGREGATE SUPPLY AND THE AGGREGATE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE RELATIVELY MODEST RATE OF INFLATION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, SHOULD FAVOUR A FURTHER SLOWING DOWN IN THE RATE OF INFLATION IN DUE COURSE.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1984 IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT \$8 A COPY.

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SIR PHILIP SEES FAMILY HEALTH WORK

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED A HEALTH CENTRE IN NORTH KWAI CHUNG TO SEE VARIOUS MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

SIR PHILIP WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE MRS WU YORK YU HEALTH CENTRE AT LEI MUK SHU BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG AND SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICERS.

SIR PHILIP TOURED THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT, THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CENTRE AND THE MATERNITY WARD IN THE HEALTH CENTRE.

HE SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE, WHICH INCLUDES MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CARE, IMMUNISATION, INFANT WELFARE, HEALTH EDUCATION AND FAMILY PLANNING.

IN THE AREA OF HEALTH CARE OFFERED TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, SIR PHILIP HEARD THAT FOR THE MOTHERS, THERE ARE BOTH ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL HEALTH CONSULTATION SESSIONS AND ALSO COUNSELLING ON HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. AS FOR CHILDREN, A FULL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME IS OFFERED AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS, DIPHTHERIA, MEASLES, POLIOMYELITIS AND OTHER COMMON CHILDHOOD INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

THERE IS ALSO A COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME FOR CHILDREN FROM BIRTH UP TO THE AGE OF FIVE.

SIR PHILIP SAW THE DIFFERENT ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT BY THE MEDICAL STAFF ON THE AUDIO, VISUAL AND SPEECH ABILITIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS OBSERVATION SCHEME WAS USEFUL IN DETECTING AND ASSESSING DEVELOPMENTAL ABNORMALITIES, THUS ENABLING EARLY TREATMENT.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY LOOKS OVER AIRPORT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, SPENT THIS MORNING LOOKING OVER GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR PIERS JACOBS, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, AND MR W.C. HUTCHINGS, ACTING AIRPORT GENERAL MANAGER, SIR JOHN SAW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN ACTION AT THE CONTROL CENTRE AND TOWER.

FOLLOWING THIS, HE VISITED THE AIRPORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE TO SEE THE DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER FORECASTING INFORMATION.

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AT THE AEROFIXED CENTRE, SIR JOHN SAW THE MESSAGE RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS OF THE AUTOMATIC MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

HE ALSO INSPECTED THE AIRPORT FIRE CONTINGENT AND SAW FIRE EQUIPMENT IN USE.

BEFORE WINDING UP HIS AIRPORT TOUR, SIR JOHN VISITED OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG AIR TERMINAL SERVICES LTD., THE HONG KONG AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING CO., CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AND THE SWIRE AIR CATERERS ESTABLISHMENT.

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\$99 800 TO \$174 700 PROPOSED FOR FLATS
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PRICES RANGING FROM \$99 800 TO \$174 700 EACH FOR TRIDENT II FLATS AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP MAY SHING COURT IN SHA TIN WILL BE SHORTLY RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL.

THESE PRICES WERE PROPOSED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S HOME OWNERSHIP COMMITTEE AT A MEETING TODAY.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE 1 632 FLATS WOULD FIRST BE SOLD TO PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS IN THE COMING PHASE VIA HOS SALES, AND THAT THE MONTHLY MANAGEMENT FEE BE \$150.

+TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER HOS-PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME PROJECTS, TWO TRIDENT II BLOCKS AT MAY SHING COURT WILL BE PUT ON SALE FROM LATE JUNE,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

HE SAID THE TRIDENT II FLATS WERE BEING CONVERTED FROM RENTAL UNITS UNDER A PILOT SCHEME.

+THEIR OPEN-PLAN DESIGN INCORPORATES AN ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY IN THAT IT ALLOWS THE OWNERS TO PARTITION THEIR FLATS INTO TWO BEDROOMS OR THREE BEDROOMS TO SUIT INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

+WITH GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 50 AND 64.3 SQUARE METRES, EACH FLAT WILL HAVE ITS OWN BATHROOM AND KITCHEN WITH GLAZED-TILE WALLS AND MOSAIC-TILE FLOORS AS WELL AS A SERVICE BALCONY.

+WALLS IN THE LIVING AREA WILL HAVE EMULSION PAINT FINISH WHILE THE FLOORS WILL BE SURFACED WITH DURABLE VINYL TILES.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS THE FLATS WERE ON THREE WINGS RADIATING FROM A CENTRAL CORE WHERE THE COMMON FACILITIES WERE LOCATED, EACH COULD ENJOY A BETTER VIEW OF THE SURROUNDINGS AND NATURAL LIGHTING.

+STAIRCASES ARE PROVIDED IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH WING TO MINIMISE THE DISADVANTAGES OF LONG CENTRAL CORRIDORS AND ALLOW MAXIMUM PENETRATION OF NATURAL LIGHTING AND VENTILATION INTO THE ENCLOSED AREAS.+

THE TRIDENT II FLATS AT MAY SHING COURT ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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REHABILITATION COMMISSIONER NAMED
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MR MARTIN LEWIS HAS FROM TODAY TAKEN UP THE NEW POST OF COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION.

AT A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING LAST MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EDUCATION AND MANPOWER) POST WOULD BE RETITLED COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS TO PROVIDE A CLEARER CENTRAL COORDINATING IDENTITY FOR REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED.

THE NEW COMMISSIONER IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER FOR FORMULATING REHABILITATION POLICY AND FOR COORDINATING THE PLANNING AND EXECUTIVE ACTION OF ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ENGAGED IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED.

HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICING THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND FOR ENSURING THAT THE COMMITTEE IS FULLY CONSULTED ON ALL POLICY PROPOSALS AND THAT ITS ADVICE IS GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION IN REACHING DECISIONS.

IN ADDITION, HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED POLICIES AND PLANS AND FOR ENSURING THAT THESE ARE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER.

ONE OF THE COMMISSIONER'S FIRST TASKS WILL BE TO ATTEND THE WORLD CONGRESS OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, TO BE HELD IN LISBON FROM 4 TO 8 JUNE.

HE WILL BE CHAIRING A DISCUSSION GROUP RELATED TO THE CONGRESS' THEME OF INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING FOR INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PERSONS AND SOCIETY.

MR LEWIS LISTS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CHALLENGES CURRENTLY FACING REHABILITATION IN HONG KONG:-

- * THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS.
- * STEPPING UP THE PROVISION OF SPEECH THERAPISTS.
- * REDUCING THE SHORTFALL IN SCHOOL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.
- * THE INTRODUCTION OF A TRANSPORT POLICY FOR THE DISABLED.
- * INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

HIS CURRENT POSITION IS THE THIRD NEW PROGRAMME COORDINATION POST MR LEWIS HAS ASSUMED. PREVIOUSLY, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REVITALISED CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME.

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LATEST TAXI TENDER RESULTS ANNOUNCED

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING THE LATEST TENDERS FOR 300 URBAN, 181 NEW TERRITORIES AND 10 LANTAU TAXI LICENCES.

A TOTAL OF 659 TENDERS FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES WERE RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON APRIL 13.

THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS \$161 050, AND THE LOWEST \$151 889.

THE AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$157 182 WAS AN INCREASE OF 12 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS TENDERS.

A TOTAL OF 246 TENDERS WERE LODGED FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS RANGED FROM \$18 100 TO \$4 506, GIVING AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$7 535, A DECREASE OF 62.2 PER CENT ON THE PREVIOUS TENDERS.

TWELVE TENDERS WERE RECEIVED FOR LANTAU TAXI LICENCES, WITH ACCEPTED BIDS RANGING FROM \$31 050 TO \$20 190.

THE AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$27,884.7 REPRESENTED AN 11.8 PER CENT INCREASE ON THE PREVIOUS FIGURE.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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HK FOR UK DRIVING LICENCES

HOLDERS OF CURRENT HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES WHO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY TO EXCHANGE THEM FOR ORDINARY BRITISH DRIVING LICENCES AS FROM JUNE 1.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW ARRANGEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), MR COLIN PRISTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (LICENSING) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, STRESSED THAT THE APPLICATION MUST BE MADE WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF RESIDENCE.

+APPLICATION FORM (D1) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT POST OFFICES IN THE U.K. AND LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED THROUGH THE DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT IN SWANSEA FOR A FEE OF 10 POUNDS,+ HE SAID.

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YAN CHAI HOSPITAL OUTLINES NEW PROJECTS
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, HAD A DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON WITH VISITING MEMBERS OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABOUT WELFARE SERVICES UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOSPITAL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR NG JING-YEE, THANKED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE ON PREVIOUS PROJECTS.

HE OUTLINED THE BOARD'S NEW PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR, WHICH INCLUDED A NEW NURSERY AND A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN TUEN MUN, A HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN SHA TIN AND A CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME IN TSUEN WAN.

REPLYING, MR CHAMBERS SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE VARIOUS WELFARE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOSPITAL WOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE ASSURED BOARD MEMBERS THAT STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO FACILITATE THE COMPLETION OF THESE PROJECTS.

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PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE FORMS BEING MAILED
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APPLICATION FORMS FOR PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ARE BEING MAILED TO ALL REGISTERED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS OPERATORS AND THE GRANTEEES OF MAXICAB SERVICES IN PHASES, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

+ALL OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION AT ROOMS 906-909, HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG BEFORE THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED IN THE LETTER+, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

+OTHERWISE IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE APPLICANT TO BE ISSUED WITH A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE AND CERTIFICATE BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION IN LATE AUGUST.+

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, A VALID PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE IS REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF PLB AND MAXICAB SERVICES.

IN ADDITION, A CERTIFICATE AND A PLATE WITH RED BACKGROUND SHOWING THE OPERATOR'S PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE NUMBER MUST BE DISPLAYED AT THE WINDSCREEN AND THE REAR RESPECTIVELY OF THE PLB WHICH PROVIDES NON-SCHEDULED SERVICES, WHILE A MAXICAB PROVIDING SCHEDULED SERVICES MUST DISPLAY A CERTIFICATE AND A PLATE WITH GREEN BACKGROUND ON THE VEHICLE.

/THE SPOKESMAN

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ANY OPERATOR WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED THE APPLICATION FORM BY MAY 31, SHOULD CHECK WITH THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION ON 5-254958.

+REGISTERED OWNERS WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESSES MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY IF THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE SO,+ HE SAID.

+NO PAYMENT SHOULD ACCOMPANY COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT. WHEN NOTIFIED OF THE APPROVAL TO OBTAIN A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE, OPERATORS WILL ALSO BE ADVISED AS TO WHEN AND HOW THE FEES SHOULD BE PAID,+

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MARINE DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN TSUEN WAN

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A TWO-STOREY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AT THE CARGO WORKING AREA LOCATED ON RECLAIMED LAND IN TSUEN WAN BAY.

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$5.47 MILLION CONTRACT TO LOUVRE ENGINEERING LTD TO CONSTRUCT THE BUILDING WHICH WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 330 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE SPACE AS WELL AS A CANTEEN.

THE PROJECT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WILL ALSO INCLUDE A PERIMETER WALL AND PAVING WORK WITHIN THE CARGO WORKING AREA.

COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE 1.8-HECTARE CARGO-HANDLING AREA OCCUPIES THE CHAI WAN KOK END OF THE BAY AND IS PART OF STAGE II OF THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS PROJECT.

THE BYPASS, WHICH IS PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE, WILL PROVIDE A MUCH-NEEDED THROUGH ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC TO TUEN MUN AND OTHER PARTS OF THE NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES WHEN COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

SO FAR, A NEW FERRY PIER HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON THE 35-HECTARE RECLAMATION SITE AND A TRANSPORT COMPLEX IS NEARING COMPLETION.

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MORE VIGOUR SEEN IN SEPARATE BOARDS
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RESIDENTS OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL FIND IT MUCH EASIER TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WITH THE SETTING UP OF A SEPARATE DISTRICT BOARD NEXT YEAR, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TAM WING-PONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI NOW HAVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 400 000.

MR TAM SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SPLIT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, WITH A SEPARATE BOARD FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI TO COPE WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

+BY THEN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WILL BE EVEN MORE VIGOROUS AND RESIDENTS CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS MORE EASILY,+ HE SAID.

MR TAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A THREE-DAY PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE WORK AND STRUCTURE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

THE EXHIBITION BEING HELD AT THE OPEN GROUND OUTSIDE THE KWAI HING MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION, WILL LATER MOVE TO OTHER AREAS IN KWAI CHUNG.

+IT IS HOPED THAT, THROUGH THE EXHIBITION, RESIDENTS WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT THE DISTRICT BOARD'S STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION AND THEY WILL, IN TURN, CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND TAKE MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION,+ MR TAM SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE DISTRICT BOARD HAD CONTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY HAD ALSO INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE FORMULATING OF POLICIES ON TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES, HE ADDED.

THE SECOND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD NEXT MARCH AND THE SIX-WEEK REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 15.

MR TAM APPEALED TO THOSE QUALIFIED RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AND VOTE IN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

+DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE WITH RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

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DB MEMBERS TO LEARN FROM SOUTH KOREA
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TWELVE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL LEAVE FOR SOUTH KOREA TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON A STUDY TOUR.

MEMBERS WILL SPEND SIX DAYS IN THE COUNTRY TO SEE HOW NEW TOWNS AND RURAL VILLAGES DEVELOP AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO LEARN ABOUT A COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT +SAEMAUL MOVEMENT+.

THEIR ITINERARY WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO THE SONGNAM TRAINING INSTITUTE OF SAEMAUL MOVEMENT HEADQUARTERS, THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION FEDERATION, SEVERAL VILLAGES AND A DISTRICT OFFICE.

THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR DONALD TSANG, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG, AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER, MR NG YING-NEEN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF KAI TAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH KOREA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TALK ON HONGKONG'S SUCCESS
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL ADDRESS THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT HONG KONG HOTEL, 6TH FLOOR, FUNG SHUI ROOM, TSIM SHA TSUI.

MR MACLEOD'S SPEECH ENTITLED +HONG KONG'S SUCCESS+ WILL BE DELIVERED AT ABOUT 1.30 PM.

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1984

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CUSTOMS MEN TO PARADE
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SERVICE REVIEW TO MARK ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY (MAY 26) AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG AT 10.30 AM.

THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL DEREK BOORMAN WILL TAKE THE SALUTE.

A GOVERNMENT COACH AM 2075 WILL BE WAITING AT HUNG HOM FERRY PIER BETWEEN 8.45 AM AND 9 AM ON SATURDAY TO TAKE GUESTS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL AND LATER RETURN THE PARTY TO KOWLOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. GUESTS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO BE SEATED BY 10.15 AM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRIZE-GIVING
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE NINTH HONG KONG YOUTH CULTURAL AND ARTS COMPETITIONS ON SATURDAY (MAY 26).

MORE THAN 500 WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES THEY WON AT THE NINE COMPETITIONS HELD LAST YEAR, INCLUDING ESSAY WRITING, CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY, DEBATE, PAINTING AND TRANSLATION.

THE COMPETITIONS WERE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND SPONSORED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM IN THE CONCERT HALL OF CITY HALL.

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1984

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U.S. MAKES EXPORT AUTHORISATION 'CALLS'
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES MADE EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALLS AT 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) ON CATEGORY 650 (MAN-MADE FIBRE DRESSING GOWNS, INCLUDING BATHROBES AND BEACH ROBES) AND PART OF CATEGORY 359 (COTTON COVERALLS/JUMP SUITS/HUNTING SUITS AND COTTON OVERALLS).

THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF CALLS BY THE UNITED STATES ON HONG KONG TO NINE SO FAR THIS YEAR.

PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUSPENDED THE ISSUE OF FURTHER EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS FOR THESE TWO CATEGORIES AS FROM THE TIME OF CALLS.

HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT WILL, AS USUAL, CONTINUE TO APPROVE AND ISSUE EXPORT LICENCES FOR THESE CATEGORIES AGAINST VALID EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS APPROVED BEFORE THE SUSPENSION.

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ILLEGAL SLAUGHTER HOUSE OPERATORS WARNED
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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AGAIN WARNED UNLICENSED SLAUGHTER HOUSE OPERATORS IN YUEN LONG AGAINST CARRYING ON THEIR ILLEGAL BUSINESSES.

THE WARNING WAS GIVEN TODAY AFTER A VILLAGER WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$1 950 AT FANLING MAGISTRACY FOR SLAUGHTERING WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE.

THE VILLAGER HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN A RAID BY THE NTSD AND POLICE ON MAY 16.

MEANWHILE AN NTSD SPOKESMAN URGED PEOPLE, IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS, NOT TO BUY PORK FROM UNLICENSED HAWKERS.

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THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1984

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NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINT FOR MONG KOK
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AN OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT NULLAH ROAD, MONG KOK, TO REPLACE AN EXISTING ON-STREET ONE AT FA YUEN STREET.

THE SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING WILL OCCUPY 170 SQUARE METRES AND BE CONSTRUCTED ON A NULLAH DECK.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED INCLUDE A STANDARD REFUSE COLLECTION AREA, A LOADING BAY, A ROLL-CALL ROOM, AN OFFICE, HANDCART-WASHING SPACE AND A STOREROOM.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORK, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND TAKE FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MONG KOK WILL THEN HAVE A TOTAL OF EIGHT REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.

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