



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1984

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NEW NT TAXI BOUNDARY EFFECTIVE SUNDAY

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THE PERMITTED AREA OF OPERATION FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WILL BE EXTENDED FROM SUNDAY (MARCH 4), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE APPROVAL FOR THIS WAS GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JANUARY.

THE BOUNDARY EXTENSION WILL PERMIT NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS TO GO AS FAR AS THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION, SHUN LEE ESTATE, AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

TAXIS TRAVELLING TO TSUEN WAN MTR STATION SHOULD GO VIA TUEN MUN ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND SAI LAU KOK ROAD= OR VIA ROUTE TWISK, TSUEN KAM INTERCHANGE, WAI TSUEN STREET, SAI LAU KOK ROAD, THE UNNAMED ROAD LINKING SAI LAU KOK ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND SAI LAU KOK ROAD.

AND TAXIS TO SHUN LEE ESTATE WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, THE SLIP ROAD LINKING NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD AND SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, SHUN KING STREET AND LEE ON ROAD.

AND THE ROUTE TO THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WILL BE ALONG TAI PO ROAD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID :

+TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE AND CHANNEL NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS ALONG THESE ROUTES.

+ALL NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SIDE ROADS LEADING OFF FROM THESE ROUTES.

+NEW TERRITORIES TAXI CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED ALONG THE ROUTES LEADING TO THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND TO SHUN LEE ESTATE.

+WITHIN THE CLEARWAY RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL TAXI DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS, OR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

+A TAXI STAND WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND AT LEE ON ROAD IN SHUN LEE ESTATE. PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS IS ALSO PERMITTED WITHIN THE 'NO WAITING' ZONE NEAR THE TAXI STAND AT LEE ON ROAD.+

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MONETISED LETTERS B VALUES DETAILED
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THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THAT IT WAS +MONETISING+ LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS B), GAVE DETAILS TODAY (FRIDAY) OF THE CURRENCY VALUES OF ENTITLEMENTS.

A LANDS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID GIVING THE ENTITLEMENTS A CASH VALUE WAS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE 15 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING LAND FOR THEIR REDEMPTION.

HE SAID THEY COULD NOW BE USED TO PAY FOR NEW TERRITORIES LAND BOUGHT AT AUCTION OR BY TENDER.

THEY COULD ALSO BE USED AS CASH PAYMENT IN NEW TERRITORIES LAND-RELATED TRANSACTIONS, SUCH AS MODIFICATIONS, EXCHANGES, PRIVATE TREATY GRANTS, LICENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, BUILDING COVENANT PREMIUMS, SHORT TERM TENANCIES AND WAIVERS, FOREBEARANCE FEES AND EXTENSIONS.

THE VALUES RANGE FROM A HIGH OF \$259.90 PER SQUARE FOOT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR WHICH A LETTER B WAS ISSUED IN JANUARY, 1960, TO A LOW OF \$19.00 WHERE THE LETTER B WAS ISSUED A YEAR AGO.

FOR BUILDING LAND THE RATES RANGE FROM \$647.20, PLUS THE SURRENDER VALUE, TO THE SURRENDER VALUE ONLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CURRENCY VALUE FIGURES HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CURRENT PRICES OF VARIOUS TYPES OF LAND IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN NEW TOWNS.

HE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD COME INTO OPERATION FROM APRIL 1 AND BE REVISED AT SIX-MONTH INTERVALS.

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BILL PROVIDES FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO AMEND THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE IN EXPLICIT TERMS FOR PAYMENT AND REDEMPTION IN RELATION TO CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO BE MADE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES TO PROVIDE FOR A MINOR CHANGE IN THE MANNER IN WHICH RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE EXCHANGE FUND AGGREGATE BORROWING LIMIT ARE PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PROPOSALS ARE CONTAINED IN THE EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN RECALLED TODAY THAT IN ORDER TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE RATE, CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS HAD, SINCE OCTOBER 17, 1983, BEEN ISSUED AND REDEEMED AGAINST US DOLLARS AT A FIXED RATE OF HK\$7.80 TO US\$1. THESE CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED TO THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE AND ARE HELD AS COVER FOR THEIR NOTE ISSUES.

PRIOR TO THESE MEASURES, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, SUCH CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED AND REDEEMED AGAINST HONG KONG DOLLARS. ALTHOUGH THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, IF ENACTED, WOULD REMOVE ALL DOUBT. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF SECTION 4 BE AMENDED SO AS TO PROVIDE EXPRESSLY THAT ISSUES AND REDEMPTIONS OF CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS MIGHT BE TRANSACTED NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG DOLLARS BUT ALSO IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND AT SUCH RATE OF EXCHANGE AS MIGHT BE DETERMINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO BEING TAKEN TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE BY REMOVING AN UNNECESSARY REQUIREMENT THAT RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE EXCHANGE FUND BORROWING LIMIT MUST BE PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BILL WAS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING ON MARCH 14, AND TO GO THROUGH THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE STAGES ON APRIL 18.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMEICO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, AT ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 11, 18 HARCOURT ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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STUDENTS URGED TO SUPPORT DB ELECTIONS

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POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE TODAY URGED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO VOTE IN NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND TO HELP IN THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS.

BY DOING SO, HE SAID, STUDENTS COULD +HELP TO ENSURE THAT THESE ELECTIONS ARE A SUCCESSFUL EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT+ AND +SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR HONG KONG+.

MR AKERS-JONES MADE THE APPEAL AT THE OPENING OF THE BAPTIST WEEK '84 ORGANISED FOR STUDENTS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE.

HE SAID THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS, THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF HONG KONG, WILL HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS NEXT YEAR.

+IN OUR SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALL WHO HAVE LIVED IN HONG KONG LONG ENOUGH TO BELONG TO OUR COMMUNITY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE,+ HE SAID.

+TO VOTE IN THESE ELECTIONS IS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

+A VOTE IS A SMALL THING BUT IT SHOWS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL VOICE, HOWEVER SMALL, IS OF VALUE AND IN THE ACT OF VOTING THE VOTER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HONG KONG AND ITS WAY OF LIFE.

+IT IS A SMALL GESTURE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO US ALL.+

MR AKERS-JONES RECALLED THAT HE HAD ALSO SPOKEN ON THE GROWING FEELING OF IDENTITY AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG TO STUDENTS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE SOME FIVE YEARS AGO.

+MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. HONG KONG HAS CONTINUED WITH ITS PHYSICAL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

+BUT IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY BUILDING, THE CHANGE WHICH AFFECTS EVERY ONE OF US WAS THE DECISION IN 1982 TO GIVE ALL RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG OVER THE AGE OF 21 THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND TO VOTE IN DISTRICT ELECTIONS.

+NEARLY A MILLION PEOPLE REGISTERED AND SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TOOK THE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE IN THE SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.+

DESCRIBING THIS AS A GOOD START, MR AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS WOULD ONCE MORE PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

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JETTY PLANNED FOR CHINA WATER SCHEME
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO BUILD A JETTY ON HARBOUR ISLAND FOR THE SCHEME TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA.

IT WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO TWO PUMPING STATIONS BEING BUILT AS PART OF THE SCHEME AT HARBOUR ISLAND AND TAI MEI TUK.

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR BARGES BEING USED FOR DREDGING FOR THE SUBMARINE PIPELINE TO BE LAID FROM HARBOUR ISLAND TO SAI O.

THIS WILL BE 2.4 KILOMETRES LONG AND IS ALSO PART OF THE CHINA WATER SCHEME.

WORK ON LAYING IT WILL START IN NOVEMBER AND FINISH TWO YEARS LATER.

BUILDING THE JETTY WILL BEGIN IN JULY AND INVOLVE DREDGING AND RECLAIMING 1.4 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED UNDER THE PUBLIC RECLAMATIONS AND WORKS ORDINANCE.

THE PIPELINE PROJECT INVOLVES DREDGING AND REFILLING 14.1 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY BOTH PROJECTS IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY'S) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH A PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE. THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT:

- * THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO MARKET, NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL AND CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD REACH THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS BY MAY 2.

THE SCHEME TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLIES FROM CHINA IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN THREE STAGES COSTING \$724.5 MILLION, \$725 MILLION AND \$300 MILLION.

IT STARTED IN 1981 AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1992, BY WHICH TIME THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL WATER BEING PROVIDED WILL TOTAL 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER ANNUM.

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NEW RATES FOR RESUMED LAND ANNOUNCED
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THE NEW RATES OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND BUILDING LAND RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THEY COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1 AND WILL BE OPERATIVE FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

THE RATE FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND RESUMED WITHIN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WILL NOW BE \$40.80 PER SQUARE FOOT, DOWN FROM \$45.60 WHICH HAS BEEN THE RATE FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THE RATE FOR BUILDING LAND RESUMED WITHIN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS WILL BE \$66 PER SQUARE FOOT, COMPARED WITH \$78 PREVIOUSLY.

THE RATES FOR LAND RESUMED OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE THE APPROPRIATE PERCENTAGE OF THE BASIC RATES OF \$34 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND AND \$55 FOR BUILDING LAND.

THESE RATES HAVE BEEN \$38 AND \$65 RESPECTIVELY SINCE APRIL 1, 1983.

A LANDS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE LOWER RATES REFLECTED THE DROP IN LAND VALUES WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

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I.D. CARD SCHEME ENTERING PHASE TEN
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE NEW I.D. CARD ISSUE SCHEME WILL ENTER ITS TENTH PHASE ON MARCH 12.

WITHIN THE FIVE WEEKS BETWEEN THE COMMENCEMENT DATE AND APRIL 19, MEN BORN IN 1948, 1949 AND 1965 WILL BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE THEIR EXISTING IDENTITY CARDS FOR NEW ONES.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR OLD CARDS WHEN THEY APPROACH ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +MOST APPLICANTS CHOOSE TO VISIT THE OFFICES BETWEEN 3 PM AND 8 PM. TO AVOID THE RUSH, ONE SHOULD TRY TO COME IN THE MORNING OR AT WEEKENDS.+

THOSE WHO WISH TO USE THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICE.

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE ONLY SEVEN WORKING DAYS LEFT FOR MEN BORN IN 1950 AND 1951 TO APPLY FOR NEW CARDS. THE CURRENT PHASE WILL END ON MARCH 10.

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NEW COLONEL FOR REGIMENT

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MR JOHN RULE HEYWOOD, OBE, ED, JP, HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO SUCCEED DR SOLOMON BARD, OBE, ED, JP, AS HONORARY COLONEL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ON MARCH 1, 1984.

DR BARD RETIRES AFTER A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE REGIMENT AND AFTER HAVING HELD THE POSITION FOR TWO YEARS.

MR HEYWOOD WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1955 AND ROSE TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN 1973. HE WAS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE REGIMENT FROM OCTOBER 1973 TO APRIL 1976.

MR HEYWOOD SERVED IN THE REGIMENT FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AND DURING THIS TIME WAS AWARDED THE EFFICIENCY DECORATION IN 1966, A FIRST CLASP TO ED IN 1972 AND THE OBE FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE IN 1976.

MR HEYWOOD IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, STAFF GRADE +B+ WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND IS AT PRESENT SERVING AS THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES.

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FREE MEDICAL SCHEME FOR OLD FOLK

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A 10-DAY FREE MEDICAL SCHEME FOR ABOUT 800 OLD PEOPLE IN MONG KOK WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (MARCH 5).

FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM AND 6 PM TO 8 PM DAILY, THERE WILL BE DOCTORS AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE TO GIVE ADVICE AND FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UPS TO THE OLD PEOPLE.

MORE THAN 30 DOCTORS, VOLUNTEERS FROM FIVE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND NURSES FROM THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL WILL TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME.

THE MEDICAL SCHEME IS PART OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE MONG KOK ELDERLY CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE.

AFTER THE CEREMONY THERE WILL BE A FILM AND SLIDE SHOW ON HEALTH ADVICE FOR THE OLD PEOPLE AND MEDICAL CHECK-UPS BY THE DOCTORS.

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OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILFRED WONG, ADVISOR OF THE FREE MEDICAL SCHEME, MR RONALD LEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR CHO SHIU-CHUNG, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHOI FOOK-CHI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MONG KOK FREE MEDICAL SCHEME AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE IN FUK TSUEN STREET, TAI KOK TSUI.

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SCHOOL MEETS SPECIAL DEMAND - HAYE
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THE NEEDS OF THE MINORITY SHOULD BE RECOGNISED, ACCEPTED AND MET IN A TRULY DEMOCRATIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL EXTENSION, MR HAYE SAID THAT EVEN WITH THE PROVISION OF FREE, UNIVERSAL EDUCATION THERE WERE ALWAYS GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

+ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, AS THE ONLY INDEPENDENT BOARDING PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN HONG KONG, FOLLOWING AN ANGLO-CHINESE CURRICULUM IN WHICH BOTH THE ENGLISH AND THE CHINESE LANGUAGES ARE GIVEN EQUAL EMPHASIS, IS CLEARLY AN INSTITUTION WHICH IS CATERING FOR JUST SUCH A SPECIAL, MINORITY NEED.

+INDEED IT HAS BEEN DOING SO FOR MANY YEARS, AND, AS EVIDENCED BY ITS HIGH REPUTATION IN OUR COMMUNITY, HAS BEEN DOING SO WITH MUCH SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

THE EXTENSION WOULD ENABLE THE SCHOOL TO MAKE ITS EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO MORE CHILDREN IN HONG KONG AND TO MEET A RECOGNISED DEMAND.

MR HAYE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, WHICH HAD BEEN FREE AND COMPULSORY FOR ALL CHILDREN MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO.

+CLASS SIZES HAVE BECOME SMALLER, A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT, AND THE CURRICULUM HAS BECOME MUCH MORE CHILD- AS OPPOSED TO SUBJECT-CENTRED.

+THE TEACHER TO CLASS RATIO HAS BEEN IMPROVED AND SCHOOLS ARE NOW MORE ABLE TO OFFER MORE STIMULATING EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES AND MORE REMEDIAL HELP TO INDIVIDUAL PUPILS.

+IN BRIEF, THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERALL BRIGHTENING, AN INCREASED SENSE OF PURPOSE AND, I BELIEVE, A MUCH GREATER AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF THE WORK IN OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE WAS NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, MR HAYE SAID.

+I FULLY REALISE THAT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR MUCH IMPROVEMENT. BUT I KNOW THAT ALL OF US CONCERNED WITH PRIMARY EDUCATION ARE CONTINUING TO WORK FOR THAT IMPROVEMENT; AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK THAT WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE,+ HE SAID.

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FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR RO DIRECTOR
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THE DIRECTOR OF ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR J.E. PEACOCK IS TO RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE ON APRIL 3, AFTER SERVING IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR 34 YEARS.

HE WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON MARCH 15.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (FRIDAY) BID FAREWELL TO MR PEACOCK AT A DINNER RECEPTION AT THE MARIGOLD RESTAURANT AND NIGHTCLUB. HE WAS PRESENTED A SILVER TRAY AS RETIREMENT GIFT BY THE DIRECTOR DESIGNATE, MR PATRICK SHAM PAK ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR PEACOCK WAS BORN IN FEBRUARY 1927. HE JOINED THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AS SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN 1950 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROMOTED TO SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN 1963 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1965. SINCE THEN, HE HAD ACTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AS DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR IN 1981.

MR PEACOCK WAS APPOINTED A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN 1968 AND WAS AWARDED THE OBE IN 1984.

HE IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

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MORE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IN SPORTS

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MORE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ARE TAKING PART IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS EVERY YEAR, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS, MR DICKEN YUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 7 000 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED MEN AND WOMEN TOOK PART IN SUCH EVENTS AS SWIMMING, TRACK AND FIELD, SOCCER, BASKETBALL AND BADMINTON, HE SAID.

MR YUNG WAS SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AT A LIONS CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN 1978, ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS WERE ACTIVE IN SPORTS.

BUT THE NUMBERS WERE INCREASING EVERY YEAR.

+THIS IS INDEED A GOOD SIGN AS IT IS OUR AIM TO GET AS MANY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AS POSSIBLE TO BE ACTIVE IN SPORTS,+ HE STRESSED.

ONE YEAR AFTER THE ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED, A GROUP OF 12 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS TOOK PART AT THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS, WINNING 18 MEDALS.

AND IN THE 1983 SPECIAL OLYMPICS, 16 ATHLETES TOOK PART, BRINGING BACK 11 GOLD, FOUR SILVER AND FOUR BRONZE MEDALS.

MR YUNG SAID THE ASSOCIATION PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ENCOURAGING NATIONS IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION TO ESTABLISH SPORTS PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

GIVING AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, HE SAID THE ASSOCIATION HOSTED A LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE LAST YEAR FOR MORE THAN 70 DELEGATES FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE

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A PRESS CONFERENCE ON +ANTI-OVERLOADING OF BUSES EDUCATIONAL EXERCISE+ WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY (MARCH 5) AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 6TH FLOOR, GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL BE PRESENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WAN CHAI TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 5) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY KENNEDY ROAD FROM BOWEN DRIVE TO QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, MONMOUTH TERRACE, SAU WA FONG, SIK ON STREET, SHIP STREET, HAU FUNG LANE, SCHOONER STREET AND FUNG WONG TERRACE.

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TAI HANG WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO PREMISES IN TAI HANG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 5) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

AFFECTED WILL BE: PREMISES ALONG TAI HANG ROAD BETWEEN NEW METHOD COLLEGE AND TAI HANG DRIVE, YIK KWAN AVENUE, LI KWAN AVENUE, FUK KWAN AVENUE, LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD, WANG FUNG TERRACE, TAI HANG DRIVE AND CHUN FAI ROAD.

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