



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GRASSROOTS LEVEL WORK IMPRESSES GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE WORK DONE AT GRASSROOT LEVEL BY AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AS WELL AS DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT THIS AFTERNOON WHERE HE ATTENDED HIS FIRST MEETING OF AN AREA COMMITTEE.

"IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE AREA COMMITTEE AND MEET SO MANY PEOPLE WHO DEDICATED SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE QUESTION OF HAVING MORE STAFF FROM THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO HELP AREA COMMITTEES WAS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

"THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER LIAISON WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICES, AND I KNOW IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH EXISTS ELSEWHERE WHICH THE CNTA IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF. THEY ARE HOPING TO INCREASE THEIR STAFF SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE MORE PEOPLE FOR LIAISON WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND WITH AREA COMMITTEES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HOW MUCH THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT HAD CHANGED.

"WHAT ONE SEES IS VERY RAPID DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY ROUND HERE IN WAN CHAI NORTH RECLAMATION," HE SAID, ADDING THAT SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING NEW BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG WERE GOING UP THERE, LIKE THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND THE NEW EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS ALSO SURPRISED TO SEE HOW WELL SMALL SPACES WERE USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSE.

"WAN CHAI IS A VERY CROWDED AREA AND RECREATIONAL SPACE IS VERY MUCH NEEDED. IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MUCH USE CAN BE MADE OF SMALL SPACES LIKE THE SITTING-OUT AREA IN THE SPRING GARDEN LANE WHICH I WENT TO SEE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID FELT THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE IN WAN CHAI AND IT WAS ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT VERY USEFUL WORK. "EXACTLY WHAT IT DOES WILL BE FOR THE CORPORATION ITSELF TO DECIDE."

"THERE'S A LOT OF OLD BUILDINGS HERE, VERY DENSE HOUSING. IT NEEDS RE-DEVELOPMENT. IT'S AN IDEAL AREA FOR THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO WORK," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY FURTHER PLAN TO RECLAIM THE NORTH SIDE OF WAN CHAI, SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY FUTURE PLAN AT THE MOMENT, BUT ADDED THAT IF THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE LAND IN FUTURE, HE EXPECTED THAT PEOPLE WOULD PRODUCE MORE LAND THROUGH RECLAMATION.

GOVERNOR VISITS WAN CHAI

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON SPENT AN AFTERNOON TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITING WAN CHAI AS PART OF HIS TOUR OF THE TERRITORY'S ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROGER GARCIA; AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON BEGAN THEIR TOUR BY TAKING A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT FROM THE ROOFTOP OF HOPEWELL CENTRE.

THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WAN CHAI NORTH (THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION) BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER. SIR DAVID WAS ALSO TOLD OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS IN THE AREA AROUND HOPEWELL CENTRE INCLUDING POSSIBLE SITES FOR REDEVELOPMENT BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED ALONG SPRING GARDEN LANE TO SEE STREET MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN AN OLD URBAN AREA AND THE MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS SUCH AS DEVELOPING SMALL SITTING-OUT AREAS AND BUILDING IMPROVED REFUSE COLLECTION FACILITIES.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON THEN VISITED THE WAN CHAI HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY IN AN APARTMENT BLOCK IN SPRING GARDEN LANE. OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE SCHEME PROVIDES 23 FLATS FOR 112 ELDERLIES.

SIR DAVID WAS INTRODUCED TO FIVE RESIDENTS WHO SHARE ONE OF THE APARTMENTS AND SPOKE TO THEM ABOUT THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AND HOW THEY SPEND THEIR DAY.

SIR DAVID THEN ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD IN THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE. HE MET THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM LOCAL PROBLEMS IN CAUSEWAY BAY AS WELL AS THE CONSULTATIVE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF AREA COMMITTEES.

"THE GOVERNMENT GREATLY APPRECIATED THE WORK WHICH IS DONE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG BY AREA COMMITTEES AND OTHER GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS LIKE MUTUAL AIDS COMMITTEES," HE TOLD MEMBERS.

"IT IS OF GREAT VALUE TO THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE OPINION OF GROUPS LIKE THE AREA COMMITTEES AND TO HAVE THIS SYSTEM FOR REFLECTING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISTRICT AND SOME OF THE IDEAS DEALING WITH THEM," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID THEN TOURED THE NEW URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX AT LOCKHART ROAD WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE NEW DISTRICT LIBRARY WHICH IS EQUIPPED WITH FULL AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES, STUDY ROOM, AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ROOM, AS WELL AS A LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARY FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

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THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE LOWER FLOORS WHERE THE GOVERNOR WALKED AROUND A MODERN COOKED FOOD STALL CENTRE OF THE LOCKHART ROAD MARKET. SIR DAVID TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STOP AND CHAT WITH SOME OF THE STALL TRADERS IN THE MARKET.

THE LAST STOP WAS A TEA RECEPTION IN THE YMCA HARBOUR VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOUSE WHERE SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON MET MEMBERS OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AND OTHER LOCAL PERSONALITIES.

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INDIGENOUS RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON GREEN PAPER WELCOME

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THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE INITIATIVE OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK IN CONSULTING AND COLLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE ABROAD ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD SAID DURING A VISIT TO THE KUK TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE KUK'S REQUEST FOR A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SEAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE GOVERNMENT HEARD THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GREEN PAPER, MR FORD SAID.

HE PRAISED THE MEMBERS OF THE KUK FOR TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN ALL THE THREE LEVELS OF INSTITUTIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

HE ALSO HOPED THE KUK WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NEW AND THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION AND REFLECT NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF BOTH GROUPS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

MR FORD ASSURED THE KUK THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FACILITIES OF THE SAME STANDARDS AS WERE PROVIDED ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG AND ALSO, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO PRESERVING THEIR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS.

"IN THE PROCESS OF URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISRUPTION TO THE LIFESTYLE OF THE RURAL POPULATION," HE SAID.

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HOWEVER, HE WAS PLEASED THAT THROUGH THE OFFICES OF THE KUK, CONFLICTS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED AND THE PLANNED PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE VISIT, MR FORD SAID HE HAD A VERY INTERESTING MEETING WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

"IT'S MY FIRST MEETING WITH THEM. I'VE LEARNED A LOT OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, THE FARMING AND THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE THERE, THE PROBLEMS OF FARMERS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND SOME PROBLEMS STILL WITH LAND.

"IT'S BEEN VERY USEFUL AND INSTRUCTIVE AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. I HOPE IT HAS ALSO BEEN USEFUL FOR THE HEUNG YEE KUK. IT'S BEEN VERY NICE FOR ME TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, AND I HOPE THAT WE SHALL MAINTAIN THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD," HE SAID.

MR FORD SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO OUT AND SEE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ON THE GROUND, INCLUDING THAT OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY, AND TALK TO FARMERS AND TO LEARN FOR HIMSELF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY FACED.

"I THINK THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THAT SORT," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE KUK'S REQUEST FOR A SEAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR FORD SAID THE SUBJECT WAS IN THE GREEN PAPER AND IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON IT AT THIS STAGE.

"WE DID DISCUSS THAT, AND OF COURSE IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS IN THE GREEN PAPER, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING VIEWS WHICH ARE PUT FORWARD AS A RESULT OF THE GREEN PAPER."

ASKED HOW MANY REQUESTS FROM ORGANISATIONS DEMANDING A SEAT IN LEGCO THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCOMMODATE, MR FORD SAID, "THAT IS SOMETHING WE SHALL HAVE TO DECIDE AT THE TIME."

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MAJOR GENERAL GARRY JOHNSON APPOINTED NEW CBF

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MAJOR GENERAL GARRY JOHNSON WILL SUCCEED MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY BOAM AS COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, HONG KONG, WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 13, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSON IS NO STRANGER TO HONG KONG, HAVING SERVED HERE IN 1960 AND IN 1978/79, AND HAVING VISITED THE TERRITORY TWICE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSON, 49, SPENT MOST OF HIS EARLY YEARS IN THE ARMY ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH GURKHA AND BRITISH TROOPS IN MALAYA, BORNEO, AND NORTHERN IRELAND. IN THE COURSE OF THESE DUTIES HE WAS AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (1965), MADE AN MBE (1971), AND AN OBE (1977).

AS A STAFF OFFICER HE HAS SERVED ON ALL LEVELS OF COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. HIS MOST RECENT SERVICE WITH THE ARMY HAS BEEN IN GERMANY, WHERE HE COMMANDED AN ARMOURED BRIGADE AND WAS THEN THE CHIEF OPERATIONS STAFF OFFICER AT THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

FOR THE LAST TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS HE HAS BEEN AN ASSISTANT CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN LONDON, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS FOR ALL THREE SERVICES WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NATO ALLIANCE.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSON AND HIS WIFE SARAH HAVE TWO SONS, CHARLES, 23, AN ARMY OFFICER, IS CURRENTLY LEARNING TO FLY HELICOPTERS, AND NICHOLAS, 18, WHO WILL BE WITH THEM IN HONG KONG FOR SOME MONTHS BEFORE GOING UP TO OXFORD TO READ HISTORY IN 1988.

THE JOHNSONS LOOK FORWARD TO RENEWING THEIR ACQUAINTANCE WITH HONG KONG, AND TO MAKING NEW FRIENDS IN ALL WALKS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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SCHEMES TO HELP PRISONERS REINTEGRATE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE TWO SCHEMES FOR PRISONERS AIMED AT HELPING THEM REINTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY.

DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH GIVES EFFECT TO THE TWO SCHEMES -- A RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME AND A PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME - WILL BE CONTAINED IN THE PRISONERS (RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION) BILL 1987 TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE TWO PROPOSED SCHEMES REPRESENTED A STEP FORWARD IN THE REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE APPROACH TO THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS, WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS ON REFORM, THAT IS ON TREATMENT AND TRAINING, AS THE MEANS OF REHABILITATION," MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE RECENTLY BECOME MORE CONCERNED WITH THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS, AS WELL AS THE NEED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PUNISHMENT.

"THE TWO PROPOSED SCHEMES DO NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT A SOFTENING OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIMINALS AND THERE IS NO INTENTION TO RELEASE PRISONERS WHO MIGHT BE A THREAT TO THE COMMUNITY. MOREOVER, PRISONERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE FIRST SCHEME BEING PROPOSED, THE GOVERNOR, ACTING ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION BOARD, MAY ORDER THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION OF ANY PRISONER WHO HAS SERVED NOT LESS THAN ONE HALF OR 20 MONTHS (WHICHEVER PERIOD IS THE LONGER) OF A SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS OR MORE. A PERSON SO RELEASED WOULD LOSE ALL THE REMISSION HE HAD EARNED UNDER THE PRISON RULES AND BE SUBJECT TO CLOSE SUPERVISION FOR THE FULL REMAINDER OF HIS SENTENCE.

THE SUPERVISION ORDERS WOULD INCLUDE CONDITIONS RELATING TO RESIDENCE, EMPLOYMENT, COMMITTING NO OFFENCES, DISASSOCIATING FROM CRIMINALS, AND REPORTING TO THE SUPERVISING OFFICER (ABOUT ONCE A MONTH BUT WOULD BE MORE FREQUENTLY IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY) WHO WOULD MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE SUPERVISEES TO PROVIDE THEM WITH APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE.

THE SUPERVISION ORDER WOULD ALSO INCLUDE MORE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY TO DEPENDANTS OR ATTENDING FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

IF A PERSON RELEASED UNDER THIS SCHEME BREACHED HIS SUPERVISION ORDER HE WOULD BE LIABLE TO BE RECALLED AND WOULD HAVE TO SERVE THE FULL REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE - BUT REMISSION MIGHT BE EARNED DURING THE PERIOD SERVED AFTER RECALL.

/THE BILL

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THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR A SCHEME OF PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT TO APPLY, AGAIN BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR ACTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD, TO ANY PRISONER SERVING A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT OF TWO YEARS OR MORE AND WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETING HIS SENTENCE AFTER ALLOWING FOR REMISSION.

A PRISONER ON WHOM AN ORDER IS MADE WILL BE PLACED UNDER SUPERVISION FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS SENTENCE, THAT IS FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS.

HE WILL BE REQUIRED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN A SUPERVISION ORDER, TO RESIDE IN A HOSTEL PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE AND, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, TO BE IN EMPLOYMENT.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES WOULD ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO PERMIT HIM TO BE ABSENT FROM THE HOSTEL FOR UP TO FIVE DAYS.

IT WOULD, UNDER THE BILL, BE AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE WITH A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS, FOR A PERSON SO RELEASED TO FAIL TO RETURN TO THE HOSTEL OR TO BREACH THE TERMS ON WHICH HE WAS ALLOWED TO BE ABSENT.

UNDER THE TWO SCHEMES, SUPERVISION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, OR BY OTHER PERSONS SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION BOARD FOR CONSIDERING PRISONERS' APPLICATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE BOARD WILL CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS, AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE A PERSON WHO HOLDS OR HAS HELD JUDICIAL OFFICE (AS CHAIRMAN), A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WITH EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHIATRY, AND OTHER PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE OF OR INTEREST IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO WOULD SUCCESSFULLY BE RELEASED UNDER THE TWO SCHEMES WAS EXPECTED TO BE VERY SMALL AND EACH APPLICATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS BY THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION BOARD.

HE SAID THE BILL PROVIDES FOR SERIOUS SANCTIONS FOR BREACH OF AN ORDER. "A PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF AN ORDER WILL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS," HE SAID.

"IF HIS ORDER IS TERMINATED AND HE IS RE-IMPRISONED AS A RESULT, HE WILL FORFEIT ANY REMISSION UNDER THE PRISON RULES IN RESPECT OF THAT PART OF THE SENTENCE SERVED BEFORE HIS RELEASE UNDER THE ORDER," MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

/THE BILL

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THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES THAT A RELEASED PERSON BE RE-IMPRISONED IMMEDIATELY, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES MAY REVOKE THE ORDER.

AN ORDER WILL ALSO AUTOMATICALLY CEASE TO HAVE EFFECT IF THE PERSON RELEASED UNDER IT IS CONVICTED OF ANOTHER OFFENCE AND SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT.

THE BILL PROVIDES THAT WHERE AN ORDER IS TERMINATED IN ANY OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE PRISONER MAY BE ARRESTED AND RE-IMPRISONED FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS SENTENCE.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SANCTIONS AVAILABLE UNDER THE BILL, AND THE DEGREE OF SUPERVISION PROVIDED, WILL CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT DETERRENT AGAINST THE COMMISSION OF OTHER OFFENCES DURING THE PERIOD OF SUPERVISION," MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

"THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE TWO SCHEMES WILL BE REVIEWED AFTER THREE YEARS OF OPERATION," HE ADDED.

THE PRISONERS (RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION) BILL 1987 WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 8.

COMMENTS ON THE BILL MAY BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES OR THE OMELCO OFFICE AT JACKSON ROAD.

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NORTH DB TO DISCUSS LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY

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MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE POLICY STATEMENT ON THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR THOMAS CHAN, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NEW STRATEGY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME AND THE EXTENSION OF REDEVELOPMENT TO THE OLDER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE NAMING OF SAN KAN STREET IN SHEUNG SHUI AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

/OTHER ITEMS

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES, AND A REPORT BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER ON THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH IS CURRENTLY HANDLING SUCH ISSUES AS THE RELOCATION OF THE MORNING RURAL VEGETABLE WHOLESALE MARKET AT LUEN WO HUI, THE PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTING A FOOTBRIDGE AT JOCKEY CLUB ROAD NEAR FUNG KAI MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM AT SHEUNG SHUI TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

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MORE PORT FACILITIES NEEDED FOR TRADE GROWTH

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HONG KONG WOULD NEED TO CREATE MORE SHELTERED HARBOUR, MORE WHARVES, MORE MOORING BUOYS AND MORE CONTAINER TERMINALS IF IT WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE GROWTH OF TRADE BY THE MID-NINETIES, THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE ASIAN SEA TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 1987, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT THE PORT OF HONG KONG WAS OF EQUAL IF NOT GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN THE AIRPORT IF IT WAS TO HANDLE NOT ONLY THE INTERNAL CARGOES, BUT PART OF THE GROWING TRANSIT CARGOES OF MAINLAND CHINA.

HE SAID THAT IN TERMS OF TRADE, HONG KONG NOW RANKED 13TH AMONG THE TRADING NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND NINE-TENTHS OF THAT TRADE PASSED THROUGH THE PORT.

HE SAID IN ADDITION TO OVER 14,000 OCEAN-GOING SHIPS WHICH CALLED AT HONG KONG LAST YEAR, THE HARBOUR WAS ALSO VISITED BY 80,000 SHIPS OF ALL KINDS AND THE NUMBER WAS STEADILY GROWING.

"THE PORT IS OUR LIFE LINE," HE STRESSED.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE PORT HAD BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED RAPID GROWTH IN TRADE, THE MOUNTAINS WHICH SHELTERED THE HARBOUR HAD PLACED SEVERE CONSTRAINTS ON THE SUPPORTING FACILITIES WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF THE PORT.

/NOTING THAT

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NOTING THAT A HIGH-RISE CARGO DISTRIBUTION AND HANDLING CENTRE HAD RECENTLY OPENED, HE SAID THESE PROVIDED CARGO STORAGE AS WELL AS PARKING FOR 850 CONTAINER VEHICLES AND THE HANDLING OF THE HEAVIEST CATEGORIES OF CARGO.

GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY AND GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY OF THE NEIGHBOURS WHOSE CARGOES TRANSITTED HONG KONG HAD PLACED GREAT PRESSURE ON THE LOCAL FACILITIES, SIR DAVID SAID.

LAST YEAR THROUGHPUT OF TONNAGE THROUGH THE PORT INCREASED BY OVER 16 PER CENT, AND THE YEAR ON YEAR GROWTH THIS YEAR IS NEARLY 20 PER CENT.

TO MEET THIS DEMAND, HE SAID WORK WAS ALREADY IN HAND TO PROVIDE EXTRA CONTAINER HANDLING CAPACITY.

"IF WE CAN COMBINE EXTENDING THE PORT WITH THE WORK OF BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT THEN SO MUCH THE BETTER," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE ASIAN SEA TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 1987, THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID ECONOMY OF SCALE COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIRPORT COULD BE DEVELOPED TOGETHER.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID HONG KONG SHOULD DO MORE IN THE AREA OF PORT DEVELOPMENT BY ABOUT THE MID-1990'S.

"SO IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START PLANNING FOR THAT DEVELOPMENT -- PLANNING AND THEN CONSTRUCTING FOR THAT DEVELOPMENT -- TO COPE WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE PORT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID EXTENDING THE CONTAINER PORT AT KWAI CHUNG WESTWARDS SEEMED TO BE THE BEST OPTION BUT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONFIGURATION OF THE PORT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT HOPEWELL'S SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEW AIRPORT, SIR DAVID SAID THEY WERE "VERY IMAGINATIVE PROPOSALS."

"THEY SHOW HOW IT COULD BE DONE, BUT A LOT MORE DETAILED WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE YOU CAN DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT YOU SHOULD DO. AND THAT'S WHAT WE WILL BE DOING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND YEARS -- TRYING TO WORK OUT WHAT'S THE BEST WAY OF DOING IT," HE ADDED.

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PROGRESS OF NEW HK SHIPPING REGISTER REVIEWED

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ARRANGEMENTS WILL NEED TO BE MADE, WHEN MODIFYING THE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER, TO PROVIDE THAT A FLAG OR FLAGS WILL INDICATE BOTH THE NATIONALITY OF THE SHIP (BRITISH PRE-1997 AND CHINESE POST-1997) AND THAT IT IS ON THE HONG KONG REGISTER, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ASIAN SEA TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 1987 AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB IN SHA TIN, MR HIGGINSON SAID CURRENT PROPOSALS WERE THAT SHIPS ON THE MODIFIED REGISTER SHOULD FLY TWO FLAGS FROM THE STERN WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "A UNIQUE SOLUTION TO A UNIQUE SITUATION".

"THE UPPER FLAG WOULD -- UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997 -- BE THE RED ENSIGN (THE NATIONAL FLAG FLOWN BY MERCHANT VESSELS ON THE BRITISH REGISTER); THE LOWER FLAG WOULD BE EITHER THE EXISTING HONG KONG FLAG (THE BLUE ENSIGN WITH THE HONG KONG ARMORIAL BEARING) OR, ONCE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND BRITISH SIDES ON ITS DESIGN AND USE, A NEW HONG KONG REGIONAL FLAG.

"FROM JULY 1, 1997, THE UPPER FLAG WOULD BE THE FLAG OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE LOWER FLAG WOULD BE THE HONG KONG REGIONAL FLAG," HE SAID.

MR HIGGINSON OUTLINED THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LED TO THE PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH AN AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF HONG KONG'S SHIPPING REGISTER WAS THAT HONG KONG WAS A PORT OF BRITISH REGISTRY AND THAT IT WAS OPERATED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.

THE STIMULUS FOR THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW AND AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTER OF SHIPPING WAS THE 1997 ISSUE WHICH RESULTED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, HE CONTINUED.

IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS IN SECTION 8 OF ANNEX I TO THE JOINT DECLARATION AND TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION, IT WAS PLANNED TO MODIFY EXISTING LAWS APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG CONCERNING REGISTRATION IN ORDER TO PUT THEM INTO A FORM IN WHICH THEY COULD CONTINUE TO EXIST UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION UNTIL 1997 AND, THEREAFTER, UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, MR HIGGINSON SAID.

AFTER THE DECLARATION HAD BEEN INITIALLED AND SIGNED IN 1984 AND RATIFIED IN MID 1985, CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN WITHIN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS TO HOW BEST TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SHIPPING REGISTER.

/HE TOLD

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HE TOLD THE GATHERING THAT IN MID 1985, A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WAS ISSUED SEEKING VIEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY, EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT ON HOW A FUTURE REGISTER MIGHT BE DEVELOPED.

THE DOCUMENT LED TO CONSIDERABLE COMMENT, FROM SHIPOWNERS TO SHIP MANAGERS, AND FROM PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES TO LABOUR ORGANISATIONS, HE ADDED.

AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AT A MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD IN LONDON IN JULY 1986 ON THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD UNDERLINE THE NEW SHIPPING REGISTER.

"A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO BE ADOPTED FOR THE NEW SHIPPING REGISTER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 1986," SAID MR HIGGINSON.

THE QUESTION OF THE FLAG WAS ONE OF THE KEY PRINCIPLES IN THE STATEMENT. HE NOTED THAT REGISTRATION OF A SHIP ENTITLED THAT SHIP TO FLY THE NATIONAL FLAG OF THE PLACE OF REGISTRY WHICH, IN TURN, ESTABLISHED THE NATIONALITY OF THE SHIP.

"THE FLAG STATE SIGNIFIES THE AUTHORITY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXERCISING JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OVER THAT SHIP."

THE STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES ALSO SET OUT SOME FUNDAMENTALS WHICH WOULD UNDERPIN THE OPERATION OF THE NEW REGISTER. "HIGH STANDARDS OF MARINE SAFETY WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED AND EQUIPMENT TO BE USED ON BOARD SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG WILL BE UP TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS," HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF MANNING, MR HIGGINSON NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPLES PROVIDED THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT ON SHIPS WOULD BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY REFERENCE TO PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, NO NATIONALITY CRITERIA WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EITHER OFFICERS OR CREWS ON SHIPS ON THE NEW REGISTER."

MR HIGGINSON THEN OUTLINED THE REASONS FOR NOT INSISTING ON ANY LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT ON RESIDENTIAL LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE CREW ON HONG KONG SHIPS;

FIRST, TO DO SO WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS LITTLE CHANGE AS POSSIBLE;

SECONDLY, LEGISLATIVE COMPULSION WAS THOUGHT TO BE UNNECESSARY AS NEARLY HALF THE POSTS AVAILABLE ON ALL HONG KONG VESSELS HAD BEEN FILLED BY HONG KONG SEAMEN (AND FOR OCEAN-GOING SHIPS THE PROPORTION WAS ABOUT A THIRD); AND

/THIRDLY, THE

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THIRDLY, THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED HONG KONG OFFICERS NOW AND IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WAS INADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMAND FROM SHIPS PRESENTLY REGISTERED IN HONG KONG.

"INSTEAD, WE HAVE OPTED FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WILL PROVIDE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE HONG KONG SEAFARERS WITH ADEQUATE TRAINING FACILITIES SO THAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE A HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARD AND THUS ENJOY ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE SHIPS ON ITS REGISTER, MR HIGGINSON POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN THE REPUTATION OF HONG KONG AS A SHIP-OWNING AND SHIP MANAGEMENT CENTRE, AND GIVEN THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING A REAL -- AS OPPOSED TO A THEORETICAL -- LINK, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT CORPORATE OWNERS WOULD HAVE TO BE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF THE SHIPS AND CREWS MUST BE MANAGED AND CONTROLLED FROM HONG KONG.

"THIS IS A NEW CONCEPT, BUT IT IS ONE WHICH WILL ENABLE THE AUTHORITIES HERE TO HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HONG KONG REGISTERED FLEET AND THUS TO ENSURE CLOSE CONSULTATION AND ADHERENCE TO HIGH STANDARDS OF SAFETY AT ALL TIMES AND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

"IN SUMMARY, THE EXISTING HIGH STANDARDS OF SAFETY OF SHIPS ON THE EXISTING REGISTER WILL BE MAINTAINED AND NEW, STRONG AND VERY REAL LINKS WILL BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS ON ITS REGISTER.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF THE NAME OF HONG KONG IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONTINUING TO BE HIGHLY REGARDED," SAID MR HIGGINSON.

HE SAID THE NEXT STEP WAS TO FLESH OUT THE PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICAL OPERATIONAL DETAILS AND ARRANGEMENTS -- AND A MASSIVE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME HAD TO BE PUT INTO PLACE.

"WE HAVE ALREADY MADE A GOOD START IN THE DRAFTING OF LOCALISATION TO REPLACE THE EXISTING UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WHICH, FOR THE MOST PART, EXTENDS TO HONG KONG IN RESPECT OF MARITIME MATTERS.

"BUT WE ARE NOW GETTING INTO THOSE DIFFICULT AREAS WHERE A HIGHER DEGREE OF LIAISON BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION, IS CALLED FOR.

"TO THIS END, EARLY THIS YEAR WE APPOINTED AN EXPERIENCED SENIOR MARINE ADVISER -- A PREVIOUS DIRECTOR OF MARINE -- TO LONDON TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF LIAISON AND FEED-BACK."

/NOTING THAT

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NOTING THAT HONG KONG WAS IN THE TOP TEN IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF REGISTERED TONNAGE, MR HIGGINSON SAID THE PROPOSALS DESCRIBED SHOULD ENSURE THE CONTINUED AND SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A SHIP-OWNING AND SHIP MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

"THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SHIPPING REGISTER WILL BE ONE MORE POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESS AND PRACTICALITY OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG.

"WITH OUR PHYSICAL LOCATION AS A MAJOR SHIPPING PORT IN THE SOUTH OF CHINA; WITH OUR EXCELLENT ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE; WITH OUR WELL-KNOWN AND ATTESTED FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND LEGAL SERVICES; AND WITH THE WILL TO SUCCEED, I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO ALL SECTORS OF THE LOCAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S POSITION AS ONE OF THE WORLD LEADERS IN THE FIELD OF PORT AND SHIPPING MANAGEMENT," SAID MR HIGGINSON.

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U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS A FACTOR ON HK TRADE
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IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO HONG KONG'S TRADE IF EFFORTS IN GENEVA TO HELP LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE - EFFORTS IN WHICH HONG KONG PLAYS A NOT INSIGNIFICANT PART - BEGIN TO SHOW SOME RESULTS NEXT YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, MR MACLEOD SAID THREE FACTORS DOMINATED HONG KONG'S MEDIUM TERM TRADE OUTLOOK.

THEY WERE THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN LATE 1988, WITH VOTING IN THE PRIMARIES BEGINNING EARLY NEXT YEAR; THE ACTIONS WHICH JAPAN MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT TAKE TO MEET U.S. CONCERNS OVER ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET AND THEIR EFFECT ON PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN THE U.S. AS WELL AS THE ACTIONS WHICH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT TAKE TO REDUCE THE TWIN DEFICITS (BUDGET AND TRADE).

"IT IS THESE INTERTWINED FACTORS WHICH WILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLE BEARING ON HONG KONG'S MEDIUM TERM TRADE PROSPECTS, BEARING IN MIND THAT OVER 40 PER CENT OF OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS STILL GO TO THE U.S.," MR MACLEOD SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID IT WAS USUAL FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO SUCCUMB TO PRESSURE TO ENDORSE PRESSURE GROUPS' PET SCHEMES, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ENDORSE THE TEXTILES BILL, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE ELECTORAL SUPPORT OF THE U.S. TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

/"PERHAPS MORE

"PERHAPS MORE FUNDAMENTAL, IT MUST BE LIKELY THAT, WHOEVER IS PRESIDENT IN 1989, WE SHALL THEN SEE INCREASED EFFORTS TO CUT THE BUDGET AND TRADE DEFICITS.

"BUT EVEN IF JAPAN AND GERMANY GINGER UP THEIR ECONOMIES AND IMPORT MORE, THERE IS NO WAY THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN ABSORB ALL THE U.S.\$179 BILLION WHICH THE U.S. CURRENTLY CONSUMES VIA THE TRADE DEFICIT.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT CURRENT U.S. EFFORTS TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND THEREFORE EXPORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, AND THAT CRUDE OR SUDDEN SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM ARE RESISTED," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE TOPIC OF ASSISTANCE FOR INDUSTRY, MR MACLEOD SAID THE BASIC APPROACH WAS TO STUDY IN DEPTH A PARTICULAR KEY INDUSTRY, IDENTIFY ITS WEAKNESSES, AND THEN TO TAKE ACTION WHERE IT WAS FEASIBLE TO REMEDY THOSE WEAKNESSES, IF THEY WERE OF A TYPE WHICH COULD BE DEALT WITH BY GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED BODIES - INFRASTRUCTURE, TRAINING, CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND THE LIKE.

"THIS APPROACH, GUIDED BY THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, IS I THINK THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE WE TAKE ACTIONS WHICH ARE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND MEET REAL NEEDS."

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1986 SHIPPING STATISTICS RELEASED

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IN 1986, 13,760 SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 82.4 MILLION NRT (NET REGISTERED TONS) ARRIVED IN HONG KONG, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 684 (OR 5 PER CENT) IN NUMBER AND OF 8 PER CENT IN CAPACITY OVER 1985, ACCORDING TO THE "HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT" FOR 1986 PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT.

WHEN ANALYSED BY SHIP TYPE, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINER VESSELS (+732) AND OIL TANKERS (+215), WHILE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF VESSELS (-177), SEMI-CONTAINER VESSELS (-166) AND CONVENTIONAL CARGO VESSELS (-92).

INCREASES IN NUMBER WERE RECORDED FOR SHIPS REGISTERED IN CHINA (+791), PANAMA (+141) AND SINGAPORE (+35); BUT DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE REGISTERED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (-70), LIBERIA (-50) AND JAPAN (-47).

/THE NUMBER

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THE NUMBER OF SHIPS WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 10,000 DWT (DEADWEIGHT TONS) INCREASED (+261).

IN 1986, THERE WERE 13,761 OUTGOING SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 82.4 MILLION NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 714 (OR 5 PER CENT) IN NUMBER AND OF 8 PER CENT IN CAPACITY OVER 1985. THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ON TO OUTGOING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) ROSE BY 23 PER CENT. ABOUT 65 PER CENT OF THE DEPARTING SHIPS STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, 86 PER CENT IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WAS IMPORTS AND 14 PER CENT WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

OF THE CARGO LOADED ON TO OUTGOING SHIPS, 57 PER CENT WAS EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AND 43 PER CENT WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS IN TONNAGE TERMS WERE SINGAPORE (16 PER CENT), JAPAN (14 PER CENT), CHINA (12 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (10 PER CENT), AUSTRALIA (10 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (9 PER CENT), WHILE THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS WERE THE U.S.A. (20 PER CENT), CHINA (15 PER CENT), TAIWAN (12 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (6 PER CENT) AND INDONESIA (6 PER CENT).

TRANSHIPMENT CARGO WAS MAINLY LOADED IN CHINA (31 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (16 PER CENT); AND WAS MAINLY DISCHARGED IN CHINA (16 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (13 PER CENT).

COMPARING 1986 WITH 1985, INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+61 PER CENT), CHINA (+43 PER CENT), THAILAND (+33 PER CENT), AUSTRALIA (+32 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+31 PER CENT), AND THE U.S.A. (+13 PER CENT); BUT A DECREASE IN TONNAGE WAS NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM JAPAN (-9 PER CENT).

AS A WHOLE, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 18 PER CENT. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, INCREASES IN CARGO TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR THE SEABORNE IMPORTS OF CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED (+47 PER CENT), MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (+46 PER CENT) AND ORGANIC CHEMICALS (+40 PER CENT); BUT A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR THE SEABORNE IMPORTS OF NON-FERROUS METALS (-13 PER CENT).

DURING 1986, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT. INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE REGISTERED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (+63 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+60 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+49 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+24 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (+22 PER CENT); BUT A DECREASE WAS REGISTERED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO CHINA (-4 PER CENT).

/AMONG THE

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AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (+297 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (+132 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED (+112 PER CENT), BUT INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF INORGANIC CHEMICALS (-43 PER CENT), IRON AND STEEL (-29 PER CENT) AND CEMENT AND CEMENT CLINKER (-12 PER CENT).

SHIPPING STATISTICS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIPOWNERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS ARE COMPILED FROM OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. BECAUSE OF RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, A SAMPLE OF ALL CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE MANIFESTS IS USED FOR COMPILING THE STATISTICS. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES IN THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS ON SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR 1986 ARE CONTAINED IN THE "HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT" FOR 1986, WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$21 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS PROVIDED IN THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234887.

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CALL TO FACE UP TO CHALLENGE

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THIS IS A TIME OF CHALLENGE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK AND DISABLED SHOULD NOT FEEL THEY ARE LEFT OUT OF THIS CHALLENGE, THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE COMBINED SPEECH DAY OF THE RED CROSS SPECIAL SCHOOLS, SIR DAVID SAID THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE SCHOOLS COULD TAKE PART, THROUGH THE EDUCATION THEY WERE RECEIVING, NOT ONLY IN OVERCOMING THEIR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS BUT IN THIS WIDER CHALLENGE FACING THE COMMUNITY.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE 11 SCHOOLS ATTACHED TO MAJOR HOSPITALS WHICH ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE RED CROSS IN HONG KONG.

/"THESE SCHOOLS

"THESE SCHOOLS ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WHO SPEND SOME WEEKS AND MONTHS IN HOSPITAL DO NOT MISS OUT ON THEIR NORMAL SCHOOLING WHEN THEY ARE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER SCHOOLS OF THE RED CROSS ENSURING THAT THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WERE EXTENDED AND DEVELOPED, SO THAT THEY BECAME WELL ADJUSTED AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO LEARN THAT THE RED CROSS WAS PLANNING TO EXPAND THEIR WORK TO REACH THE EASTERN AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT HOSPITALS AS EACH NEW HOSPITAL WAS BUILT.

HE THANKED THE RED CROSS SOCIETY FOR HAVING DONE A MAGNIFICENT WORK WITHOUT WHICH NOT ONLY WOULD MANY THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN SUFFERED UNNECESSARILY EACH YEAR BUT HONG KONG WOULD BE A POORER PLACE.

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PARTNERSHIP ESSENTIAL IN PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES

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THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SUBVENTED SECTOR IN THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

EXAMINING THE GROWTH IN THE WELFARE BUDGET OVER THE DECADE AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG SOUTH AT THE HONG KONG COUNTRY CLUB TODAY (THURSDAY), SHE SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME 150 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES RECEIVING AN ANNUAL SUBVENTION OF \$625 MILLION THIS YEAR.

SHE NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD COME SOME DISTANCE FROM THE RUDIMENTARY PROVISION OF YESTERYEAR TO A PROVISION OF MULTIFACETED SERVICES OF TODAY.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY WHICH WAS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY, THE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUBVENTED SECTOR, SHE SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESSENTIALLY A RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING BASIC PRIORITIES AND POLICIES; ON THE ADVICE OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES, FOR CO-ORDINATING THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE YEAR PLAN WHICH IS UPDATED AND REVISED EACH YEAR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR; AND FOR THE PROVISION OF FUNDS TO ENABLE THESE SERVICES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY AGENCIES TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF FUNDS," MRS WONG EXPLAINED.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THAT JOINT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUBVENTED SECTOR HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF ENSURING THAT THERE WAS A REASONABLE VARIETY TO ENRICH THE TYPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED.

"TO QUOTE AS AN EXAMPLE, SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY ARE PROVIDED BY PROTESTANTS, CATHOLICS, BUDDHISTS, MUSLIMS, TAOISTS, CONFUCIANS AND OTHER TRADITIONAL CHINESE BODIES SUCH AS THE BENEVOLENT TUNG WAH AND PO LEUNG KUK WHICH ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

"SO VIRTUALLY SOCIAL SERVICES STRETCH ACROSS THE COMMUNITY AND ARE PROVIDED BY PEOPLE WHO CARE AND WHO HAVE THE EXPERTISE," SHE ADDED.

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AWARD SCHEME FOR PRODUCING CHINESE TEXTBOOKS
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A \$7.2 MILLION INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME RECOMMENDED BY THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE (CTC) GOT OFF THE GROUND TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN 24 PUBLISHERS SIGNED AN UNDERTAKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT PLEDGING TO PRODUCE 60 SETS OF CHINESE TEXTBOOKS IN 14 SUBJECTS FOR USE IN THE 1989/90 SCHOOL YEAR.

THE AWARD SCHEME WAS SET UP AFTER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE CTC'S RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLISHERS TO PRODUCE A VARIETY OF GOOD SECONDARY TEXTBOOKS IN CHINESE IN DIFFERENT SUBJECTS AND AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SCHOOLS. FUND FOR THE SCHEME WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE LAST MONTH.

UNDER THE SCHEME, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AMOUNTING TO \$150,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO A PUBLISHER WHO HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PRODUCE A SET OF TEXTBOOKS FOR A SUBJECT EITHER AT JUNIOR OR SENIOR SECONDARY LEVELS.

THE CEILING FOR THE CASH AWARD IS SET AT \$450,000 FOR THREE SETS OF TEXTBOOKS ON EACH SUBJECT. IF MORE THAN THREE PUBLISHERS ARE INTERESTED, THE \$450,000 WILL BE AWARDED ON EQUAL SHARE AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE CTC, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLISHERS CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT THE TEXTBOOKS PRODUCED WILL BE OF GOOD QUALITY.

PUBLISHERS JOINING THE SCHEME ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A \$50,000 DEPOSIT FOR EACH SUBJECT AS A GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL PRODUCE TEXTBOOKS, WHICH THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO PUBLISH, ON SCHEDULE.

/THE CTC

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THE CTC HAS IDENTIFIED 16 SUBJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AWARD SCHEME. THEY ARE SOCIAL STUDIES, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, MUSIC, AND HOME ECONOMICS AT JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL; AND PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS, SOCIAL STUDIES, HOME ECONOMICS, COMMERCE, PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE AWARD SCHEME WAS STILL OPEN TO PUBLISHERS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN PRODUCING TEXTBOOKS ON DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, HOME ECONOMICS, SOCIAL STUDIES AND PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL.

APPLICATIONS TO PUBLISH TEXTBOOKS OF THE ABOVE SUBJECTS SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARY OF CTC, MRS C.H. KONG ON OR BEFORE JULY 10, 1987.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MRS KONG AT TELEPHONE 5-8392451.

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HONG KONG'S ANTI-DRUGS EXHIBITION IN VIENNA

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HONG KONG'S WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST NARCOTICS HAVE WON THE TERRITORY RENOWN BOTH ON THE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ANTI-DRUG SCENES.

THIS WAS REMARKED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS HOGG, WHEN HE PAID A VISIT TO THE HONG KONG EXHIBITION STAND AT THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICDAIT) IN VIENNA RECENTLY.

BRIEFED ON HONG KONG'S LATEST OVERALL DRUG SITUATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, PROFESSOR GERALD CHOA; AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY; WHO BOTH REPRESENTED HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION, MR HOGG WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH THE DEDICATION AND STRENUOUS EFFORTS THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IN FIGHTING DRUGS.

WHILE NOTING THAT DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS WERE AMONG THE GREATEST PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME, MR HOGG SAID THERE WERE NO EASY SOLUTIONS AND PROGRESS WOULD BE SLOW AND PAINSTAKING.

HOWEVER, MR HOGG WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT HONG KONG DISPLAYED THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF COMMITMENT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE WORLDWIDE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS.

/ "NO COUNTRY

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"NO COUNTRY CAN OPERATE ALONE: EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IS NOT A LUXURY, IT IS A NECESSITY," MR HOGG SAID.

THE ICDAIT WHICH IS BEING HELD AT THE AUSTRIA CENTRE IN VIENNA BETWEEN JUNE 17 AND 26 THIS YEAR IS THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE AT MINISTERIAL LEVELS ON DRUGS.

THE CONFERENCE DEALS WITH ALL ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF AND TRAFFICKING IN ILLICIT DRUGS, THE DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMME AND THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS.

HONG KONG, AMONG 50 OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, SPECIAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TOOK PART IN AN EXHIBITION ON COMBATING DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING WHICH FORMS PART OF THE CONFERENCE.

HONG KONG'S STAND PLACES EMPHASIS ON THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY WORKS AND ATTAINMENTS.

THE RECENTLY PRODUCED DOCUMENTARY FILM ON HONG KONG'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS AND SEVERAL TV ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERESTS ON DRUGS ARE ALSO SHOWN AT THE EXHIBITION.

IN ADDITION, ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY HANDOUTS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO HUNDREDS OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES VISITING THE HONG KONG STAND.

AMONG THE VISITING GUESTS WAS THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, MR ABEDLAZIZ BAHI.

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BOARD TO COLLECT VIEWS ON GREEN PAPER

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TWO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE INVITED TO A BRIEFING SESSION IN MONG KOK IN MID-JULY TO EXPLAIN VARIOUS OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT TO THE RESIDENTS.

ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, IT IS AIMED AT HELPING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND GIVE VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER.

MISS MARIA TAM AND MR MARTIN LEE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE SESSION WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 200 MEMBERS OF AREA COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

MEANWHILE, TO

MEANWHILE, TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL FORM TEAMS TO VISIT BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE SIX AREAS OF THE DISTRICT TO ASK RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE DOCUMENT.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO MAKE USE OF THE MEET-THE-PUBLIC SESSION TO COLLECT PUBLIC VIEWS.

A MEMBER WILL BE DEPLOYED SPECIALLY TO LISTEN TO VIEWS DURING THE WEEKLY SESSION ON THURSDAY EVENINGS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE. RESIDENTS' VIEWS WILL BE RECORDED BY A DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

IN ORDER TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO BE MORE AWARE OF THE ACTIVITIES AND TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE SERVICES, THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL PRINT POSTERS AND PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER.

A WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY BOARD MEMBER, MR JACKIE CHAN, WAS RECENTLY SET UP TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE TASK.

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TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CIRCULATION MODIFICATION SCHEME IN YUEN LONG TOWN WHEN THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM COMES INTO OPERATION.

MEMBERS WILL BE CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS WHICH INVOLVE A NETWORK OF 19 ROAD JUNCTIONS AND SOME MINOR ROAD WORKS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT URBAN LINK.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD AT 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON KWAI TSING SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KWAI TSING SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, WILL MEET THE PRESS AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO ANNOUNCE THE THEME, ACTIVITIES AND DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR WAN HING-YUAN AND MRS NANCY LAM; CHAIRMAN OF THE VETTING WORKING GROUP, MR SIN CHUNG-KAI AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR LEE SHUNG-SHIN WILL ALSO BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

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BANKING COURSE ENROLMENT STARTS

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BANKING PERSONNEL ARE INVITED TO ENROL IN A COURSE ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF CHEQUES TO BE ORGANISED BY THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

THE 10-HOUR COURSE WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL FROM JULY 29 TO AUGUST 28, 1987. CONDUCTED IN THE FORMAT OF CASE STUDIES AND DISCUSSION, THE COURSE WILL BE CENTRED ON THE ANALYSIS OF FRAUDULENT AND NEGLIGENT CASES ON CHEQUES TRANSACTIONS.

COURSE FEE IS \$350 AND CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS JULY 13, 1987.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SPONSORED BY EMPLOYERS. THE COUNCIL WILL REIMBURSE HALF OF THE COURSE FEE TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE HAD 80 PER CENT ATTENDANCE.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, CONTACT SECRETARY OF THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD DURING OFFICE HOURS ON 5-8932341 EXT. 255.

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PART-TIME WORKERS NEEDED FOR MUSIC OFFICE

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LOCAL MUSICIANS ARE NOW BEING OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE AS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS, PERFORMERS FOR BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS OR PIANO ACCOMPANISTS.

APPLICANTS FOR PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS OF WESTERN MUSIC AND PIANO ACCOMPANISTS SHOULD EITHER BE GRADUATES OF THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS OR HAVE A DIPLOMA OR DEGREE IN MUSIC FROM A REGISTERED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY OR POSSESS LRSM, OR LRAM, OR ARCM, OR GRSM OR EQUIVALENT.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING AS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS OF CHINESE MUSIC SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED MUSICAL TRAINING IN AN ACCEPTABLE INSTITUTION OR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN AN ACCEPTABLE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUP OR ACADEMY.

FOR THE POST OF PART-TIME PERFORMER, ALL CANDIDATES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY AN ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT UP TO LRSM, LRAM, ARCM, LGSM, LTCL LEVEL OR EQUIVALENT, PREFERABLY WITH PREVIOUS PERFORMING EXPERIENCE IN A PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA.

APPLICATION FORMS (G.F. 340) ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 25TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG BY JULY 10.

CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT INVITED FOR AN AUDITION OR AN INTERVIEW WITHIN FOUR WEEKS FROM THE CLOSING DATE MAY ASSUME THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL.

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE PERSONNEL REGISTRY OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AT 5-8235332 FOR DETAILS CONCERNING DUTIES AND REMUNERATION OF THE POSTS.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR THREE SITES

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES OF THREE STORAGE SITES.

ONE IS IN KWAI CHUNG AND THE OTHERS IN KOWLOON.

THE KWAI CHUNG SITE MEASURES 4,056 SQUARE METRES AND IS LOCATED NEAR TEXACO ROAD. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OR DRYING PURPOSES. THE TENANCY IS FOR SIX MONTHS.

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ONE OF THE KOWLOON SITES LIES AT THE JUNCTION OF WANG CHIU ROAD AND CHEUNG YIP STREET AND MEASURES 1.08 HECTARES. IT IS FOR STORING NON-DANGEROUS GOODS AND VEHICLES AND THE TENANCY IS NINE MONTHS.

THE OTHER SITE OF 2,400 SQUARE METRES IS AT TAT CHEE AVENUE. IT IS FOR STORAGE AND SALE OF POTTED PLANTS, OR STORAGE OF UNLICENSED NEW VEHICLES.

THE TENANT MAY USE IT FOR OPEN STORAGE AND/OR PARKING OF BUSES, COACHES AND MINI-BUSES.

HOWEVER, PARKING OF PRIVATE CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

THE TENANCY IS ONE YEAR.

THE SITES ARE ALL RENEWABLE ON A MONTHLY BASIS AFTER EXPIRY OF THE INITIAL TERMS.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON JULY 10.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE EXTENDED

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THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL DESTINATIONS IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC FROM MONDAY (JUNE 29), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ON THE SAME DAY, THE MAXIMUM SIZE FOR SPEEDPOST ITEMS TO CYPRUS WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO 1.50 METRES IN LENGTH AND 3 METRES FOR THE LENGTH AND GIRTH COMBINED.

THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS AND A FREE PICK-UP SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8471108.

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WING SING STREET BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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FOUR PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT 17 - 23, WING SING STREET, CENTRAL, WERE DECLARED DANGEROUS BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THEM IN ONE OPERATION AS IT WAS CONSIDERED THERE WAS A RISK OF COLLAPSE AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDINGS.

HE SAID THE THREE-STOREY BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED WITH TIMBER FLOORS AND ROOF ON BRICK LOAD-BEARING WALLS, HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION SINCE 1968 AND ALL WERE IN A VERY DETERIORATED CONDITION.

LARGE CRACKS HAD APPEARED IN THE ARCHES OF THE FRONT MAIN WALLS OF NOS. 21 AND 23 AND THERE WERE SIGNS OF RECENT MOVEMENT.

THE FRONT MAIN WALLS OF NOS. 19 AND 21 WERE LEANING TOWARDS WING SING STREET AND SEVERAL VERTICAL FRACTURES HAD ALSO OCCURED IN THE PARTY WALLS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 30 WERE POSTED TODAY ON NOS. 19 AND 23.

AN APPLICATION FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO NOS. 17 AND 21 AS THE TWO BUILDINGS HAD REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOTICES TO VACATE HAD BEEN SERVED ON OCCUPANTS ASKING THEM TO MOVE OUT BEFORE THE END OF JULY.

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NEW FORMS FOR NOTIFYING EMPLOYEES' DEATH, INCAPACITY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE REVISED FORM 2 AND FORM 2A FOR REPORTING EMPLOYEES' DEATH OR INCAPACITY DUE TO WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS OR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES WILL BE PUT INTO USE FROM JULY 1 (WEDNESDAY).

THESE FORMS, REVISED UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1987, ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' DEATH OR INCAPACITY.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT FORM 2 IS USED TO REPORT ACCIDENTS WHICH RESULT IN EITHER THE DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE OR THE TOTAL OR PARTIAL INCAPACITY OF AN EMPLOYEE FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

/FORM 2A

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FORM 2A IS USED TO REPORT THE DEATH OR INCAPACITY OF AN EMPLOYEE DUE TO OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE OLD FORMS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED IN RESPECT OF ACCIDENTS OCCURRING BEFORE JULY 1.

THE NEW FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT ALL BRANCH OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DIVISION.

UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, ALL CASES OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS OR DISEASES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON THE PRESCRIBED FORMS WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THEIR OCCURRENCE.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO, WITHOUT REASONABLE CAUSE, FAILS TO REPORT THE INJURY OR DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE IS LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$5,000.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CENTRAL

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THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POTTINGER STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 27).

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY, NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING PEAK-HOUR (I.E. 7 - 10 AM AND 4 - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY AND THE 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE ON A 20-METRE STRETCH OF THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POTTINGER STREET SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY LIFTED.

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CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH

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TO FACILITATE THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY THE YOUTH FOR CHRIST (HONG KONG) LIMITED, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN NOON AND 2 PM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 28).

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