DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1989

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

FEWER SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR 1

NEW TSUEN WAN DISTRICT POLICE HQ 2

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS 3

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR OWNER-MANAGERS 3

FESTIVE LIGHTING IN VICTORIA PARK 4

LARGE LIGHTING DECORATIONS IN SHA TIN 5

CUSTOMS ADVICE FOR NEW YEAR TRAVELLERS 6

TSUEN WAN SEMINAR ON NOISE CONTROL LAW 8

WONG TAI SIN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUNDING 8

NEW GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME REPORTS 9

CONSIDERATION OF RECLAMATION AT TSING YI AUTHORISED 10

YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA RECRUITING MEMBERS 10

LONG VEHICLE BAN 11

FEWER SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

* * * * * *

THE NUMBER OF APPEALS AGAINST THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS ON ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

THIS IS SHOWN BY THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD (SSAB) WHICH WAS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY).

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT IS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN HONG KONG IS WORKING MORE SMOOTHLY THEN EVER AS REFLECTED BY THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS WHO FELT DISSATISFIED ABOUT THE BENEFITS, AND APPEALED TO THE BOARD.

IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987-88, THE BOARD NOTED THAT IT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 71 APPEALS, A DECREASE OF 21 APPEALS, OR 23 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THERE HAD BEEN 92 APPEALS IN 1986-87 AND 132 IN 1985-86.

OF THE 71 APPEALS, FOUR WERE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 66 WERE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE CASES, AND ONE WAS A CASE UNDER THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

DURING THE PERIOD, 87 APPEALS WERE HEARD; 39 OF THESE WERE CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE BOARD CONFIRMED THE DECISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 58 CASES AND VARIED ITS DECISION IN 28.

IN THE PROCESSING OF APPEALS WHICH INVOLVED MEDICAL OPINIONS, THE BOARD LIAISED CLOSELY WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ARRANGING MEDICAL BOARDS FOR RE-ASSESSMENT.

DURING THE YEAR, 63 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES AND ONE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CASE WERE REFERRED TO SUCH BOARDS.

IN ADDITION, WHENEVER A PERSON WAS NOTIFIED IN WRITING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE RESULT OF HIS APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, HE WAS ALSO INFORMED OF HIS RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE BOARD IF HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DECLINED BY NINE PER CENT, FROM 152 TO 138. OF THESE, 85 WERE SETTLED BY THE STAFF OF THE BOARD, THREE WERE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES AND 50 EVENTUALLY BECAME APPEALS.

THE BOARD ALSO RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES AND OTHER WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

/THEY WERE, ...

THEY WERE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ANSWERED BY THE STAFF OF THE BOARD OR REFERRED TO THE RELEVANT OFFICES.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE SSAB, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR VINCENT LIANG WAN-SANG, ARE UNOFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

PUBLICITY ON THE WORK OF THE SSAB WAS A CONTINUING EXERCISE. POSTERS ON THE APPEAL MACHINERY WERE DISPLAYED IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ASSISTANCE SECTION AND AT EACH SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT.

EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS WERE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THESE OFFICES AS WELL AS AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF THE BOARD.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SOCIAL SECURITY), MR ALEXANDER FUNG, WELCOMED THE SSAB'S REPORT AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE BOARD.

MR FUNG SAID THAT APPEALS ARISING FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS COULD BE MADE AT THE OFFICE OF THE APPEAL BOARD ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR, PACIFIC HOUSE, 20-20B QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, OR AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE 14TH FLOOR, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THEY COULD ALSO BE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SECTION AT 15 WATSON ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, VICTORIA CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY, OR AT ANY OF THE 34 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS.

----0----

NEW TSUEN WAN DISTRICT POLICE HQ

* * * *

A NEW DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION IS TO BE BUILT IN TSUEN WAN.

SITUATED ON A 6,100-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT TSUEN KING CIRCUIT, THE NEW POLICE STATION WILL CONSIST OF A 17-STOREY MAIN BLOCK AND TWO SINGLE-STOREY ANCILLARY BUILDINGS.

THE HIGH BLOCK WILL PROVIDE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, PUBLIC REPORTING FACILITIES, CELLS, BARRACK ACCOMMODATION, CANTEEN AND MESS FACILITIES AND OTHER ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION.

THE SINGLE-STOREY ANCILLARY BUILDINGS WILL BE USED AS A TRANSPORT OFFICE AND FOR STORAGE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN APRIL THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY, 1991.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 24.

----0----

/3 .....

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS

* * * * *

EMPLOYERS WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED THAT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY AND THE SECOND AND THIRD DAY OF THE NEW YEAR, WHICH FALL ON FEBRUARY 6, 7, AND 8, ARE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND THOSE NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN $11,500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAYS AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAYS OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAYS.

HOLIDAYS PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY INCLUDING HIS BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ANY ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD OF BETWEEN 28 AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF EITHER 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

EMPLOYERS WHO FAIL TO GRANT THEIR EMPLOYEES ANY ENTITLED STATUTORY HOLIDAYS OR HOLIDAY PAY ARE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10,000.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

----0----

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR OWNER-MANAGERS

* * * * * *

A DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED AND IS BEING OFFERED TO OWNER-MANAGERS IN HONG KONG.

PROPRIETORS AND DIRECTORS OF SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME WHICH HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (MDC) OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 7.

/"THE MANAGEMENT .....

"THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IS POSSIBLY THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPRISING COMPREHENSIVE OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING PACKAGES FOR OWNER-MANAGERS IN WRITTEN CHINESE AND CANTONESE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID.

"THE SIX-MONTH PRACTICAL COURSE AIMS AT IMPROVING BUSINESS PROFITABILITY AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS OF OWNER-MANAGERS."

IT CONSISTS OF 27 SELF-CONTAINED TEXT MODULES AND EXERCISES IN A RANGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT AREAS. THESE ARE SUPPORTED BY A SERIES OF 12 VIDEOS IN CANTONESE.

"THIS DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME SUITS THE DIVERSITY AND HEAVY TIME COMMITMENT OF LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES BECAUSE IT ALLOWS OWNER-MANAGERS TO STUDY AT THEIR OWN PACE, TIME AND PLACE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FEE FOR THE PROGRAMME INCLUDING COURSE MATERIALS, VIDEO TAPE, TUTURIAL SUPPORT AND HELP SESSIONS IS $1,500.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS FEBRUARY 24.

APPLICATION FORMS AND COURSE LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROGRAMME ORGANISER ON TEL. 3-383611, EXT. 114.

----0----

FESTIVE LIGHTING IN VICTORIA PARK

* * * * * *

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVE LIGHTING IN VICTORIA PARK WILL BE SWITCHED ON FROM FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 3) UNTIL FEBRUARY 22.

MOUNTED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF $70,000, THE LIGHTING DEPICTS A LION DANCE BY THREE HAPPY CHILDREN, AND INCORPORATES NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE SWITCHED ON DAILY FROM 6 PM TO 11 PM, AND FROM 6 PM UNTIL 6 AM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (FEBRUARY 5).

A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6 PM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 3) OUTSIDE THE SQUASH COURT (NEAR THE HING FAT STREET ENTRANCE) IN VICTORIA PARK.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALSO PRODUCED 40,000 LAI-SEE PACKETS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES, STARTING TOMORROW (MONDAY).

----0----

/5 .....

LARGE LIGHTING DECORATIONS IN SHA TIN

* * * * *

LARGE-SCALE LIGHTING DECORATIONS WILL BE A CENTRE OF ATTRACTION IN SHA TIN DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THESE LIGHTS, PART OF THE $520,000 LIGHTING PROGRAMME IN SHA TIN FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR AND LUNAR NEW YEAR, WILL BE SWITCHED ON AGAIN BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 31) EVENING.

A FEATURE WILL BE A 10-METRE HIGH DIAMETER WOODEN VASE, WITH ELABORATE LIGHTING DECORATIONS IN THE FORM OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE PAINTING, AT A HILLTOP IN CENTRAL PARK.

A LARGE LIGHTING DECORATION SHOWING THE CHINESE CHARACTERS MEANING "LUCK" AND BUTTERFLIES WILL BE STAGED ON THE SAND MARTIN BRIDGE.

ANOTHER "GOOD LUCK" DECORATION WILL BE FLOATING ON THE SHING MUN RIVER NEAR THE BRIDGE.

OTHER FESTIVE LIGHTING DECORATIONS WILL BE SET UP ALONG THE TWO SIDES OF THE RIVER, CHE KUNG MIU ROAD, BANYAN BRIDGE, LEK YUEN BRIDGE AND IN CENTRAL PARK.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE SWITCHED ON BETWEEN 5.30 PM AND MIDNIGHT FROM TUESDAY TO FEBRUARY 12. FROM LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE TO FEBRUARY 8 AND ON FEBRUARY 20, THEY WILL BE ON UNTIL 5 AM THE NEXT DAY.

\- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTING IN SHA TIN AT 6.30 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 31) AT ONE END OF THE LEK YUEN BRIDGE IN SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK, OPPOSITE TO THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL.

\- - - - O - - - -

/6 .....

CUSTOMS ADVICE FOR NEW YEAR TRAVELLERS

* * * * *

PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL OVERSEAS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS ARE ADVISED NOT TO BRING BACK TO HONG KONG PROHIBITED ITEMS WITHOUT VALID IMPORTATION LICENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID THAT THE IMPORTATION OF PROHIBITED ITEMS INTO THE TERRITORY WAS GOVERNED BY LAW AND LICENCES WERE REQUIRED IN ADVANCE BY THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE NARCOTICS, CERTAIN MEDICAL DRUGS, ARMS AND AMMUNITION, FIREWORKS, STRATEGIC COMMODITIES, TEXTILES, ANIMALS AND PLANTS, AND MEAT AND POULTRY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE DID NOT EXEMPT A PERSON FROM BEING PROSECUTED WHEN CARRYING A PROHIBITED ARTICLE WHICH MIGHT BE A SOUVENIR FOR HIMSELF ONLY.

OTHER THAN THE ITEMS MENTIONED, TRAVELLERS ALSO HAVE TO DECLARE TO CUSTOMS OFFICERS ANY LIQUORS, TOBACCO, CIGARETTES, CIGARS, METHYL ALCOHOL, NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, COSMETICS AND MERCHANDISE WHICH ARE IMPORTED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

HE REMINDED LOCAL RESIDENTS, WHO HOLD HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS, THAT THEY WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO BRING IN FREE OF DUTY ONE LITRE OF STILL WINE, 100 CIGARETTES OR 25 CIGARS OR 125 GRAMS OF SMOKERS' TOBACCO, 60 MILLILITRES OF PERFUME AND 250 MILLILITRES OF TOILET WATER.

PASSENGERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE DO NOT QUALIFY FOR DUTY FREE LIQUOR AND TOBACCO.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT AN INCOMING PASSENGER SHOULD ONLY CARRY HIS OWN DUTY FREE ITEMS AND NOT THOSE OF HIS COMPANIONS.

IT WAS ALSO EMPHASISED THAT TRAVELLERS SHOULD NOT BRING BACK TO HONG KONG COUNTERFEIT GOODS, FIRECRACKERS, DRIED OPIUM POPPY OR FLICK-KNIVES.

NOTICES STATING THE CONCESSION RIGHTS OF TRAVELLERS, ARTICLES REQUIRED TO BE DECLARED TO CUSTOMS OFFICERS, AND ARTICLES REQUIRING IMPORTATION LICENCES ARE DISPLAYED AT THE DEPARTURE HALL AND ARRIVAL OF ALL CUSTOMS CHECK-POINTS. CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARE PREPARED TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM TRAVELLERS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO CONTACT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AT 5-8523185 FOR INFORMATION.

/THE AMOUNT .....

THE AMOUNT AND TYPES OF GOODS SEIZED FROM INCOMING PASSENGERS AT VARIOUS CUSTOMS CHECK-POINTS LAST FEBRUARY (INCLUDING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ANIMALS (INCLUDING PARTS)	985 PIECES
IVORY	190 KILOGRAMS
GRASSHOPPERS	500 PIECES
PLANTS	1,323 PIECES
ASSORTED FIREWORKS	25.5 KILOGRAMS
COUNTERFEIT LEATHERWARE	129 PIECES
ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR	215 LITRES
CIGARETTES	93,787 PIECES
CIGAR	847 PIECES
TOBACCO	22.7 KILOGRAMS
MAKE-UP PREPARATIONS	1,740 PIECES
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	3.6 KILOGRAMS
METHADONE SOLUTION	231 MILLILITRES
OPIUM POPPY	12 PIECES
CANNABIS SMOKING PIPE	7 PIECES
SKIN OINTMENT (UNGUENTUM FLUCINOLONI ACETONIDI ACETATIS)	280 GRAMS
AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE	10 KILOGRAMS
FISHING PILLS	312 BOTTLES
DISC DRIVE	130 PIECES

----0----

/8 .....

TSUEN WAN SEMINAR ON NOISE CONTROL LAW
* * * * *

A SEMINAR ON THE ORDINANCE CONCERNING NOISE CONTROL WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL TOMORROW (MONDAY) EVENING.

THREE GUEST SPEAKERS WILL EXPLAIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

THEY ARE: THE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (NOISE POLICY) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, MR STEVEN HO; SENIOR LECTURER/DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR YUAN MING-FAI; AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION, MR HUNG WING-TAT.

THE SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM, IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN TSUEN WAN.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

\- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR TO BEGIN AT 8 PM TOMORROW (MONDAY) IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

\- - - - O - - - -

WONG TAI SIN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUNDING
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S SQUATTER AREAS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 31) TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

THE APPLICATIONS INVOLVE AN ALLOCATION OF ABOUT $42,600.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHANNEL IN CHUK YUEN UNITED VILLAGE; GRASS CUTTING IN TAI HOM NORTH VILLAGE, DIAMOND HILL; INSTALLATION OF FOOTPATH SIGNS IN SQUATTER AREAS; INSTALLATION OF COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES IN DIAMOND NEW VILLAGE; AND IMPROVEMENT TO SITTING-OUT AREAS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

\- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S SQUATTER AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 31) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET.

\- - - - O - - - -

/9 .....

NEW GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME REPORTS

* * * * *

FIVE NEW GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME (GASP) REPORTS COVERING CLEAR WATER BAY, NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, EAST NEW TERRITORIES, ISLANDS AND SOUTH LANTAU HAVE JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE.

WITH THE PUBLICATION OF GASP'S VII TO XI, THE ONLY REPORT REMAINING IS GASP XII, WHICH GIVES A SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE TERRITORY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN MID-APRIL.

THE GASP STUDIES ARE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, AND THEY ARE BASED ON A UNIQUE SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING THE GEOTECHNICAL LIMITATIONS OF LAND.

THE HEAD OF THE GCO AND PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, DR EDWARD BRAND, SAID: "THE GASP STUDIES FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO EVALUATE AND CONTROL SLOPE STABILITY WITHIN THE TERRITORY.

"THEY AROSE OUT OF THE MID-LEVELS MORATORIUM ON BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WAS IMPOSED IN MAY 1979 AND SUBSEQUENTLY LIFTED AFTER A COMPREHENSIVE GEOTECHNICAL STUDY OF THE AREA WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

"EACH REPORT CONTAINS A WEALTH OF FACTUAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, FOLD-OUT COKOUR MAPS, A NUMBER OF PLATES, AND 1:20,000 SCALE MAPS WHICH PRESENT A GENERAL GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE AREA."

DR BRAND SAID THE REPORTS CONTAINED INFORMATION OF GREAT VALUE TO THOSE INVOLVED WITH PLANNING, LAND DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

"THESE DOCUMENTS WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF THE LAND RESOURCES OF THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

DR BRAND ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE GASP STUDIES EMPLOY TERRAIN CLASSIFICATION TECHNIQUES WHICH USE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, FIELD RECONNAISSANCE AND EXISTING SITE INVESTIGATION RECORDS.

THE GASP REPORTS COST $150 PER COPY AND THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE MAP SALES OUTLETS OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT. ENQUIRIES ON THE LATTER MAY BE MADE TO 5-8482480.

----0----

/10 .....

CONSIDERATION OF RECLAMATION AT TSING YI AUTHORISED

* * *

AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER GRANTING A LEASE TO MOBIL OIL HONG KONG LIMITED TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION WORKS AT THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF TSING YI ISLAND.

THE WORKS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 18.37 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF BULK STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND PETROCHEMICALS, TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIER.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 26, 1990.

----0----

YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA RECRUITING MEMBERS

* * * * *

THE MUSIC OFFICE STRING ORCHESTRA IS RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR 1989-90.

THE ORCHESTRA WAS FORMED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REGULAR AND HIGH STANDARD STRING ORCHESTRAL TRAINING TO YOUNG STRING PLAYERS IN A PLEASANT AND EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

MAJOR EVENTS IN WHICH THE ORCHESTRA WILL PLAY A PART WILL BE THE MUSIC OFFICE ANNUAL GALA TO BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON FEBRUARY 19 AND THE YOUTH STRING MUSIC FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER.

THE ORCHESTRA'S TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE AS VARIED AND COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE WORKS BY COMPOSERS OF DIFFERENT PERIODS AND STYLES.

TRAINING WILL INVOLVE A COMBINATION OF SECTIONAL AND FULL REHEARSALS. EACH SECTION WILL BE COACHED BY AN INSTRUCTOR WHO WILL HELP MEMBERS TO OVERCOME ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN PLAYING.

DURING THE REGULAR TRAINING SEASONS, REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AT THE MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE.

/APPLICANTS SHOULD .....

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AT OR UNDER 23 YEARS OLD, HAVE ATTAINED AT LEAST GRADE V IN THE R.S.M. PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS OR EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WITH ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN AUDITION ON MARCH 5.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 3-7962873.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE KWUN TONG MUSIC CENTRE, THIRD FLOOR, NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 21 ON WAH STREET, BY FEBRUARY 18.

----o----

LONG VEHICLE BAN

* * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 1), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 11 METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE BANNED FROM THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD TO TAI PO TAU.

----o----