



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1983

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SIR PHILIP LOOKS OVER PO LEUNG KUK'S WORK
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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE PO LEUNG KUK CENTENARY SCHOOL AND THE PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP TO SEE SOME OF THE KUK'S WORK.

SIR PHILIP, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL IN CHOI WAN ESTATE BY THE KUK'S CHAIRMAN, MR NG SHUI-CHIU, AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SIR PHILIP THEN TOURED THE SCHOOL PREMISES AND SAW THE WORKSHOPS, CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL ROOMS FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED IN 1978 AS A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED SCHOOL FOR MODERATE GRADE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN FROM SIX TO 15 YEARS OF AGE. SINCE THEN IT HAS EXPANDED TO ITS PRESENT FULL CAPACITY OF 100 PUPILS AND IS OFFERING COURSES FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS.

BEFORE LEAVING, SIR PHILIP WAS PRESENTED BY A STUDENT WITH A PIECE OF POTTERY AS A SOUVENIR.

SIR PHILIP AND MRS WONG THEN PROCEEDED TO THE PO LEUNG KUK PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP IN SAI KUNG. THEY WERE GREETED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE KUK, AND WERE BRIEFED ON VARIOUS FACILITIES OF THE CAMP WHICH IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON A BOOKING SYSTEM.

THE PARTY THEN TOURED THE CAMP TO SEE SOME OF THE FAMILY AND GROUP HOSTELS, THE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, AND THE GYMNASIUM.

THE CAMP SITE WAS GRANTED FREE TO THE KUK, AND THE CAMP STARTED OPERATING ON A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BASIS IN 1979. IT CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE UP TO 320 OVERNIGHT CAMPERS AND 250 DAY CAMPERS AT ANY ONE TIME, EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 200 000 CAMPER-TRIPS ANNUALLY.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE A ROLLER SKATING RINK, AN ARCHERY YARD, CANOES, BOATS, BICYCLES, BADMINTON COURTS AND ACTIVITY ROOMS. QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS ARE HIRED TO LEAD RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

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A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY AHEAD
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THE YEAR 1984 FOR HONG KONG IS A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY, FURTHER CHANGE AND FURTHER PROGRESS: IT IS NOT THE WORLD OF GEORGE ORWELL'S +NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR+.

THIS WAS PREDICTED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT A LUNCHEON GATHERING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF TAI PING SHAN.

+THE WORK OF THE 10 YEARS BEFORE 1984 SET THE TASKS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS. MUCH OF THE WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN, HOW MUCH MORE THERE IS STILL TO DO,+ HE SAID.

/LOOKING BACK

LOOKING BACK AT THE WORK AND CHANGES ACCOMPLISHED, HE SAID:
+THE PAST 10 YEARS SAW GIANT STRIDES IN OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AND THE PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPERS ON EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

+THE LAST 10 YEARS SAW THE OPENING OF THE COUNTRY PARKS, OCEAN PARK, THE ARTS CENTRE, AND THE SPACE MUSEUM, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, KO SHAN THEATRE, AND THE COLISEUM.

+HOW EMPTY THE YEARS BEFORE THE 1970'S SEEM WITHOUT THESE GREAT IMPROVEMENTS!+

MR AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE FOUR MAJOR RECLAMATIONS IN KOWLOON AND EIGHT ON HONG KONG ISLAND IN THE PAST DECADE.

+URBAN GROWTH SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST TSIM SHA TSUI AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF ALMOST THE WHOLE OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SHORES OF HONG KONG ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR FACILITIES, SUCH AS THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE COAL-BURNING POWER STATIONS AT CASTLE PEAK AND LAMMA AS WELL AS THE CONTAINER PORT IN KWAI CHUNG, WERE ALL COMPLETED IN THE PAST DECADE.

+IN 1973, WE BUILT 8 000 HOUSING UNITS, IN 1983, 38 000, PROVIDING HOMES FOR ABOUT 200 000 PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AND ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS THE SETTING UP OF DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE ALSO OPENED NEW HORIZONS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS GROWN FROM FOUR MILLION IN 1973 TO THE PRESENT 5.2 MILLION.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC CHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, +BUT THESE CHANGES WILL NOT STOP IN 1984 AND WHAT WAS BEGUN IN THE SEVENTIES WILL NOT BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF THE EIGHTIES.+

HE CITED THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO NEW TOWNS - SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN - TO ILLUSTRATE THE KIND OF CHANGES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

+YUEN LONG, FAN LING AND TAI PO ARE ALL IN THE MIDST OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL 1990 AND BEYOND AND WILL TAKE THE POPULATION OF EACH OF THESE TOWNS ABOVE THE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MARK,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE TO SPEAK OF SEPARATE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES IN VIEW OF THE NUMEROUS SINUES OF ROADS, RAILWAYS AND WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY LINES BUILT IN THE LAST DECADE LINKING DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY TOGETHER.

/+AND, JUST

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+AND, JUST AS THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE HAS INTEGRATED THE GEOGRAPHICAL PARTS INTO ONE UNIFIED URBAN ENTITY, SO, TOO, SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AND ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT HAVE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH WERE UNKNOWN 10 YEARS AGO,+ HE SAID.

+NOW EVERYONE OVER THE AGE OF 21 WITH SEVEN YEARS RESIDENCE HAS A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE THROUGH ELECTIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR DISTRICTS.

+THERE ARE A MILLION PEOPLE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLE AND MORE WILL JOIN THEM FOR THE ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1985 TO DECIDE THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARDS FOR THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR RETURNING TOMORROW

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM PEKING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTER ATTENDING ANOTHER TWO DAYS OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT CA 103, ETA 1.55 PM.

A FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER SIR EDWARD'S RETURN. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 12.45 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO OPEN SPORTS FESTIVAL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF TAI PO'S FIRST DISTRICT SPORTS FESTIVAL AND THE PURPOSE-BUILT LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10).

THE CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEW SPORTS CENTRE SITUATED AT ON CHEUNG ROAD OPPOSITE THE NO. 2 CARPARK IN TAI YUEN ESTATE, TAI PO.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER FOR TAI PO AT 9.45 AM.

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CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION PRAISED FOR OBJECTIVES
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THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RECENTLY-FORMED ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION WERE PRAISED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT A RECEPTION MARKING THE FORMATION IN OCTOBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, WHOSE FIRST PRESIDENT IS MR F.K. HU.

HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAD INCLUDED AMONG ITS OBJECTIVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTING IN HONG KONG, PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS AND PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF MODEL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE AIMS WILL NOT ONLY BRING ABOUT A GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN YOUR MEMBERS AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WILL SIMILARLY LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH CONSULTANTS AND CLIENTS IN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER, WITH WHICH YOUR BUSINESSES ARE CLOSELY RELATED,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID CONTRACT MANAGEMENT HAD ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS FOR WHICH HE HAD POLICY RESPONSIBILITY.

AS WITH ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF CONSTRUCTION, CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT HAD TO BE REGULARLY UPDATED.

AS LONG AGO AS 1965, A STANDING COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT WAS ESTABLISHED IN WHAT WAS THEN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ALTHOUGH THE P.W.D. HAD DISAPPEARED, AND ITS CONSTITUENT PARTS HAD EMERGED AS INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENTS, THIS COMMITTEE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ADVICE ON THE REVISION OF CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT, NOT ONLY FOR ARCHITECTURAL WORKS AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION, BUT ALSO FOR ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING WORKS.

+IT IS THEREFORE ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT YOUR MEMBERS ARE NOW WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME END AS THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS RESPECT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFER TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS CURRENT AND FUTURE WORK HAD BEEN NOTED.

+IN TURN, I HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST YOUR ASSOCIATION IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES BY PROVIDING A GOOD COMMUNICATION CHANNEL BETWEEN US,+ HE SAID.

TO THIS END, HE SAID THAT, FOLLOWING A MEETING IN OCTOBER BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, A NEW COMMITTEE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACTORS' CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, WAS FORMED.

/THREE MEMBERS

THREE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD SIT ON THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD QUARTERLY.

THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE KNOWN TO ALL ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACTORS ON THE LANDS AND WORKS APPROVED LISTS, AND TO OTHER ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG.

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, BY EXCHANGING VIEWS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST BETWEEN YOUR ASSOCIATION AND GOVERNMENT, WILL ACHIEVE MUCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN HONG KONG,+ MR CHAN CONCLUDED.

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SEPTEMBER PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE
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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 14 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY SO THAT, FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY 14 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1983, AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1982, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 19 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY FOUR PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 17 PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 20 PER CENT SO THAT AN 18 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS.

MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT.

SINCE THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND OF RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1983, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY 12 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

AS THE PRICES OF IMPORTS WERE 10 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS RECORDED A SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH IN VOLUME TERMS.

WHEN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR IS COMPARED WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1982, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY SEVEN PER CENT AND THOSE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY SIX PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY EIGHT PER CENT, THUS GIVING AN EIGHT PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, A FIVE PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM THREE PER CENT FOR FOOTWEAR TO 23 PER CENT FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP.

DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+188 PER CENT), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+60 PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+50 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+40 PER CENT), AND TEXTILE FABRICS (+38 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, MODERATE DECREASES IN EXPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-5 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-14 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, FROM 13 PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 22 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS DECREASED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING VEGETABLES, FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS, RICE AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE AND SUGAR INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR WATCHES, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS, MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR PASSENGER MOTORCARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE.

AMONG THEM, SILK FABRICS, WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR, BASE METALS EXCLUDING IRON AND STEEL, LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS, THERMIONIC, CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS, COTTON YARN AND THREAD, PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND BUILDING MATERIALS EXCEPT GLASS, FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES AND WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK, DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS ROSE INSIGNIFICANTLY IN VOLUME TERMS.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL TYPES DECREASED MODERATELY. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME OF TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY WERE RECORDED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 3, RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL END-USE CATEGORIES (EXCEPT FUELS) INCREASED, FROM SEVEN PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 34 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1983 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$2 PER COPY.

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1983 WITH SEPTEMBER 1982

<u>COMMODITY GROUP</u>	<u>EXPORT VALUE</u>	<u>EXPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>EXPORT VOLUME</u>
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 31%	+14%	+ 15%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 53%	+11%	+ 38%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+ 55%	+10%	+ 40%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+ 54%	+18%	+ 30%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	+ 2%	+ 7%	- 5%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+ 78%	+11%	+ 60%
FOOTWEAR	+ 26%	+ 3%	+ 22%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+ 33%	+ 4%	+ 28%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+253%	+23%	+188%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	INSIGNIFICANT	+16%	- 14%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	+ 19%	+14%	+ 5%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+ 67%	+11%	+ 50%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 34%	+14%	+ 17%

TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1983 WITH SEPTEMBER 1982

<u>END-USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>IMPORT VALUE</u>	<u>IMPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>IMPORT VOLUME</u>
FOODSTUFFS	+11%	+15%	- 3%
CONSUMER GOODS	+30%	+22%	+ 6%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+48%	+18%	+25%
FUELS	+13%	+13%	INSIGNIFICANT
CAPITAL GOODS	+17%	+20%	- 2%
ALL COMMODITIES	+31%	+19%	+10%

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1983 WITH SEPTEMBER 1982

<u>END-USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT VALUE</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT VOLUME</u>
FOODSTUFFS	+22%	+15%	+ 7%
CONSUMER GOODS	+34%	+14%	+18%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+51%	+13%	+34%
FUELS	-69%	+19%	-74%
CAPITAL GOODS	+25%	+12%	+12%
ALL COMMODITIES	+36%	+13%	+20%

BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSS DISTRICT PROBLEMS

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MEMBERS OF KWUN TONG AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS TODAY (THURSDAY) EXCHANGED EXPERIENCES IN TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON, 11 YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS CALLED ON THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN KWUN TONG TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT'S RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

FOLLOWING A BRIEFING BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK, THE VISITING PARTY FIRST HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT FROM THE ROOF OF A BUILDING IN SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE 1 600 RESIDENTS IN THE ON LOK VILLAGE SQUATTER AREA, INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF FIRE-BREAKS AND PROVISION OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

THEY THEN TOURED THE SHUN CHI COURT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IN SHUN LEE ESTATE AND PAID A FRIENDLY VISIT TO A FAMILY.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE VISITORS LOOKED AT THE MARKET AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX.

THEY LATER VISITED THE DISTRICT'S INDUSTRIAL AREA WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE BOARD'S EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION AND ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF REAR LANES.

THE VISITING PARTY WAS ALSO TOLD OF THE PROBLEMS OF OBSTRUCTION BY HAWKER ACTIVITIES, TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN YUE MAN SQUARE.

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STEPS TAKEN TO EASE PROPERTY MARKET PROBLEMS

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AN OUTLINE OF SOME MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE DEPRESSED PROPERTY MARKET WAS GIVEN TODAY BY THE CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR (VALUATION) OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR THOMAS HO.

MR HO TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH THAT ONE OF THE MEASURES HAD BEEN THAT APPLICATIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AT PREMIUM COULD BE MADE ON A SITE-BY-SITE BASIS TO REDUCE LARGE FLAT SIZES AS STATED IN THE ORIGINAL SALE CONDITIONS OF THE LOT.

EACH CASE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS IN THE LIGHT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, TRAFFIC AND OTHER NECESSARY TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.

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IN THE CASE OF A LARGE INDUSTRIAL SITE CAPABLE OF SUB-DIVISION WHERE THE LESSEE WAS REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT SUBSTANTIAL INFRA-STRUCTURAL WORK WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY BE HANDED BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND WHERE THE LESSEE FAILED TO KEEP UP INSTALMENT PAYMENTS, IT MIGHT NOW BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO APPLY TO RETAIN A PORTION OF THE SITE AND SURRENDER THE REMAINDER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR DISPOSAL, PROVIDED THAT THE LESSEE UNDERTOOK TO COMPLETE THE INFRA-STRUCTURAL WORK.

+IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES CURRENTLY BEING EXPERIENCED BY DEVELOPERS, A FIRST-YEAR FREE BUILDING COVENANT EXTENSION IN RESPECT OF COVENANTS EXPIRING ON OR AFTER JUNE 30, 1983, WOULD BE ALLOWED WITH CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THE PREMIA PAYABLE FOR SECOND YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT EXTENSIONS,+ MR HO SAID.

IN CASES OF DELAY WHICH HAD OCCURRED THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE DEVELOPER, THE DEVELOPER WOULD BE GRANTED WHATEVER PERIOD OF 'FREE' EXTENSION WAS RELEVANT AS IF IT WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING COVENANT. THEN, ON EXPIRY, THE PRESENT NEW POLICY WOULD APPLY. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE IN FORCE FOR TWO YEARS FROM JULY 1, 1983, AND A REVIEW THEN UNDERTAKEN TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR IT TO CONTINUE.

MR HO SAID FAILURE TO PAY AN INSTALMENT WAS A BREACH OF LEASE CONDITIONS AND RENDERED THE LOT LIABLE TO RE-ENTRY. HE SAID A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED REQUESTING EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALMENTS.

+THE LANDS DEPARTMENT HAS ADOPTED THE FLEXIBLE APPROACH OF ALLOWING INSTALMENTS TO BE DEFERRED - ON APPLICATION AND WITH JUSTIFICATIONS - GENERALLY FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS,+ MR HO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WOULD ALLOW DEVELOPERS TO ESTABLISH A CASH FLOW OR RAISE NECESSARY FINANCE, WOULD NORMALLY APPLY TO THOSE CASES IN WHICH DEVELOPMENT WAS PROCEEDING WELL ON THE SITE.

OTHER MEASURES, MR HO SAID, HAD BEEN THE +MONETISATION+ OF LETTERS B AND THE SUSPENSION OF THE REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE A PROPORTION OF SMALL UNITS WHEN SELLING CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL LOTS OF UP TO 3 000 SQUARE METRES IN AREA.

MR HO RECALLED +A COUPLE OF POSITIVE APPROACHES+ IN THE DISPOSAL OF LAND.

HE SAID THE LANDS DEPARTMENT HAD RE-ADJUSTED THE PLOT RATIOS AND SITE SIZES OF INDUSTRIAL LOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES; LETTERS A/B TENDERS FOR LOW-RISE RESIDENTIAL LAND WERE OFFERED WITH THE CONVERSION RATIO OF 1:1 ON THE BASIS OF THE SURRENDER OF THE HIGHEST AMOUNTS OF LETTERS B; AND, CONCERNING THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME, THE PUBLIC WERE BEING OFFERED TWO SETS OF SALE ITEMS. AS REGARDS ONE, ON THE ACTIVE LIST, GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ARRANGE PUBLIC AUCTION OR TENDERS, AND IN REGARD TO ANOTHER ON THE APPLICATION LIST, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY TRANSFER THE SITE TO THE ACTIVE LIST ON APPLICATION.

+IN SHORT,+ MR HO SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TO COPE WITH THE EVER-CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS.

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+THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL ALWAYS LISTEN TO ADVICE FROM PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE SO THAT WE WILL NOT LOSE SIGHT OF ANY ASPECT WHILST DEVISING THE APPROPRIATE POLICIES.+

MR HO SAID THE LAND AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR REPRESENTED A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. ITS ACTIVITIES WERE BOUND TO HAVE INTER-RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE OF OTHER SECTORS.

+IT IS CONSTANTLY SAID WE ARE ADVOCATING A LAISSEZ-FAIRE ECONOMIC POLICY,+ MR HO SAID.

+WE ARE. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROPERTY MARKET HAS BEEN OPERATING WITHIN A LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK WITH GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION BEING KEPT TO THE MINIMUM.

+GOVERNMENT SEES IT AS A DUTY TO ADOPT A FLEXIBLE APPROACH, SO AS TO ALLOW THE PROPERTY SECTOR TO RESPOND TO CHANGING DEMAND SO THAT ITS TRANSACTIONS TEND TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY AT LARGE+.

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FIGHT CRIME EFFORT TO BE STRENGTHENED
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A SEPARATE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL SOON BE SET UP, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TAM WING-PONG SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

AT A MEETING WITH 150 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OFFICE-BEARERS AND LOCAL LEADERS, MR TAM POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS ONLY ONE SUCH COMMITTEE SERVING THE THREE DISTRICTS OF TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI.

+DUE TO THE POPULATION GROWTH IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, PROBLEMS RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER HAVE BECOME MORE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS FELT THAT A SEPARATE COMMITTEE IS NEEDED FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI TO HANDLE FIGHT CRIME WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY. THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE POLICE.+

BUT MR TAM STRESSED THAT EVEN IF A SEPARATE COMMITTEE WAS TO BE SET UP, SUPPORT FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS WAS STILL NEEDED.

HE SAID THE WORK OF THE DFCCS, WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP IN ALL THE 18 DISTRICTS, WAS COORDINATED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

THE MAJOR TASKS OF THESE COMMITTEES ARE TO REVIEW REGULARLY THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE DISTRICTS, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC'S POINT OF VIEW, TO COORDINATE THE VARIOUS RESOURCES IN THE DISTRICTS TO HELP POLICE FIGHT CRIME, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE REGARDING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FIGHT CRIME WORK.

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MORE CARE COULD PREVENT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE COSTLY NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF LARGE MONETARY COMPENSATIONS, DAMAGED MACHINERY AND DISRUPTIONS TO PRODUCTION, BUT MOST REMORSEFUL OF ALL, THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES, MR WONG LAM, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SEMINAR FOR EMPLOYEES IN HONG KONG ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

HE SAID THAT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE UNNECESSARY BECAUSE MOST OF THEM COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED WITH MORE CARE AND PATIENCE AND THE UNDERTAKING OF SIMPLE PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

+THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 30 678 ACCIDENTS IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1983, INCLUDING 67 FATALITIES, REPRESENTING A DROP OF SIX PER CENT IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND A FALL OF 16 PER CENT IN FATAL CASES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.+

+THIS IMPROVEMENT IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE RESULT OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY,+ MR WONG POINTED OUT.

HE ALSO TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY SHOULD, APART FROM LISTENING TO GUEST SPEAKERS, EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND EXCHANGE VIEWS DURING THE DISCUSSION SESSIONS.

THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR, AN ANNUAL EVENT IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, ATTRACTED 300 SUPERVISORS AND FOREMEN IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONCERN.

SAFETY PROFESSIONALS, ACADEMICS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE AMONG THE GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR.

THEY INCLUDED: MR CHAN TAT-KING, DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR; DR CHAN KAI-MING, LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC AND TRAUMATIC SURGERY, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; DR MA PO-LING, SENIOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OFFICER; MR LAM TAI-HING, LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; MR LAM YUK-KEUNG, LABOUR OFFICER; AND MR DOMINIC LAI OF TAIKOO ROYAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN ON CENTRAL AND WESTERN PUBLISHED
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A COMMEMORATIVE BULLETIN ON THE HISTORICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WAS PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

THE 96-PAGE BULLETIN, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO MARK THE FIRST FESTIVAL HELD IN THE DISTRICT A MONTH AGO.

THE BULLETIN IS ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS AND OUTLINES THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES, THE HISTORY OF NAM PAK HONG AND TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, RETAIL BUSINESS IN THE DISTRICT AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOLD TRADING IN HONG KONG.

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDE A REVIEW ON SOME TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE DISTRICT, URBAN RENEWAL AND HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

AT THIS EVENING'S CEREMONY, MR AKERS-JONES PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS OF THE FESTIVAL.

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NEW CODE ON WIND EFFECTS INTRODUCED
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A NEW CODE OF PRACTICE ON WIND EFFECTS CAME INTO FORCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR NG SAI-HO, REVEALED AT A ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON MEETING.

MR NG SAID A CODE ON THIS TOPIC WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN HONG KONG IN 1959.

IN 1968, IT WAS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE WIND LOADS FOR TALLER BUILDINGS AND THE CORRESPONDING METRIC VERSION WAS PUBLISHED IN 1976.

HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE NEW CODE WAS THE ADOPTION OF GUST VELOCITY AS THE BASIS FOR DESIGN AND THE ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE WIND SPEEDS ON A STATISTICAL BASIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECORDS FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

+THE NEW EDITION TREATS WIND LOADING IN A MORE REALISTIC AND MORE PRECISE MANNER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS,+ MR NG SAID.

HE SAID THIS MOVE FOLLOWED A SIMILAR APPROACH TO THAT ADOPTED BY BRITAIN AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

+IN ESSENCE IT FOLLOWS THE LATEST BRITISH STANDARD CODE OF PRACTICE, BUT GIVES WIND PRESSURES RELATED TO THE LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY OF HONG KONG, ESPECIALLY OVER STEEP SLOPES AND IN BUILT UP AREAS,+ MR NG SAID.

/HE POINTED

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW EDITION ALSO USED WIND DATA THAT HAD BECOME AVAILABLE SINCE 1976 FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

WHEN FURTHER DATA BECAME AVAILABLE, HE ADDED, THE CODE WOULD BE REVIEWED AND POSSIBLY UPDATED.

MR NG SAID THE NEW CODE HAD BEEN PREPARED BY A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WORKING PARTY REVIEWING THE BUILDING (CONSTRUCTION) REGULATIONS, WHICH INCLUDED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE WORKING PARTY HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE COMMENTS AND VIEWS OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENTS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

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COUNTRY PARKS TO REMAIN CLOSED
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THE TAI LAM, SHING MUN, TAI MO SHAN AND POK FU LAM COUNTRY PARKS AND THE TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE PARKS WERE CLOSED LAST WEEK BECAUSE OF THE FIRE RISK AND THE ORDER WAS RECONFIRMED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN.

OFFICIALS FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY MET TODAY TO RECONSIDER THE POSITION. IT WAS NOTED AT THE MEETING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RAIN FOR 25 DAYS, AND THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF VEGETATION FUEL IN THE VULNERABLE PARKS.

THE CLOSURE ORDER ALSO INCLUDES THE RESERVOIRS IN THE AFFECTED PARKS AS WELL AS STAGES SEVEN TO 10 OF THE MACLEHOSE TRAIL.

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SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN FOUR IDENTICAL SEMINARS ON THE USE OF THE WIRELESS INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE SEMINARS ARE ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, AND WILL BE HELD AT THE CENTRE'S OFFICE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG FROM JANUARY 23 TO 27.

EACH OF THE SEMINARS IS OF TWO HOURS' DURATION. THERE WILL BE SHORT TALKS ON THE DIFFERENT MODES OF UTILISING THE SYSTEM TO PROMOTE PUPILS' LISTENING SKILLS, MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT AND ADMINISTERING A TAPED PROGRAMME IN AN ENGLISH LESSON.

/THERE WILL

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THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 40 TEACHERS AT EACH SEMINAR. APPLICATIONS WILL THEREFORE BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 12.

ALL ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CENTRE ON TELEPHONE NO. 5-482537.

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TENNET INSTRUCTORS' COURSE OFFERED

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THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TENNET ASSOCIATION ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A TRAINING COURSE FOR TENNET COACHES, STARTING FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THOSE AGED 21 OR ABOVE AND WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN PLAYING TENNET ARE URGED TO APPLY BEFORE DECEMBER 15.

'THE COURSE IS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE SPORT THROUGH TRAINING MORE COACHES,' SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR RSS.

CERTIFICATES WILL BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE REGULARLY ATTENDED THE CLASSES AND HAVE PASSED AN EXAMINATION.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD EVERY SATURDAY FROM JANUARY 7 TO FEBRUARY 18, NEXT YEAR AT LAI CHI KOK PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL.

INSTRUCTORS WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION. SUITABLE SPORTS CLOTHES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

THE FEE FOR THE COURSE IS \$20 AND THE NUMBER OF PLACES IS LIMITED TO 30.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RSS HEAD OFFICE, 11/F, WING ON CENTRE, CENTRAL OR ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE TELEPHONE 5-458511.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT AT ALDRICH STREET

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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10), THE SECTION OF ALDRICH STREET BETWEEN FACTORY STREET AND NAM ON STREET WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO FACILITATE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK.

DURING THIS PERIOD, A TEMPORARY ROAD CONNECTING FACTORY STREET AND NAM ON STREET WILL BE PROVIDED.

ALL VEHICLES INCLUDING CMB BUSES ON ROUTES 9 AND 84 WILL BE DIVERTED FROM FACTORY STREET VIA THE TEMPORARY ROAD TO REJOIN NAM ON STREET.

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MOVING OFFICE
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FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 12), THE BIRTHS REGISTRIES AT KWUN TONG AND SAN PO KONG WILL MOVE TO 14, SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, TOWER A, SECOND FLOOR, MANDARIN PLAZA, EAST TSIM SHA TSUI.

AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED PARENTS THAT THEY NEED NOT BRING ALONG THEIR NEW-BORN BABIES FOR BIRTH REGISTRATION FORMALITIES.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO TELEPHONE 3-7333111.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TV AUDIENCE SURVEY RESULTS
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MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE FINDINGS OF THE 1983 TELEVISION AUDIENCE ATTITUDE SURVEY, AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10) IN THE GIS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MR ROBERT SUN, COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AND THREE OTHER PANELLISTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRE SERVICES TO RUN
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THE ANNUAL FEI NGOR SHAN MOUNTAIN RUN ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE 2.2 KILOMETRE RUN WILL START FROM FEI NGOR SHAN ROAD ABOUT 200 METRES FROM THE CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD JUNCTION, TO THE GILWELL CAMP SITE.

MORE THAN 100 UNIFORMED AND CIVILIAN STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE RUN. THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND, MR M. KINGDOM, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS AFTER THE EVENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. REPORTERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT NGAU CHI WAN FIRE STATION BEFORE 2.15 PM, FROM WHERE THEY WILL BE TAKEN TO THE STARTING POINT.

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NEW KAITO SERVICE FOR VILLAGERS

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A NEW KAITO SERVICE WILL LINK THE LANTAU VILLAGES OF TAI O, SHA LO WAN AND TUNG CHUNG WITH TUEN MUN. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO VILLAGERS' DEMANDS FOLLOWING THE CURTAILMENT OF THE HYF CENTRAL TO TAI O FERRY SERVICE.

THE NEW SERVICE WILL OPERATE TWO DAYS A WEEK ON A TRIAL BASIS.

AGREEMENT TO INTRODUCE THE NEW KAITO SERVICE WAS REACHED TODAY (DECEMBER 8) AT A MEETING BETWEEN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, KAITO OPERATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TAI O'S NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES. THE MEETING WAS HELD TO REVIEW THE PRESENT KAITO SERVICES IN THE AREA.

MR JAMES SO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, TOLD VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY BE ASKED TO ARRANGE TEST SAILINGS FOR THE NEW SERVICE.

THE KAITO COULD CARRY 56 PASSENGERS.

SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR, KAITO SERVICE HAD BEEN BROUGHT UNDER THE CONTROL OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY KAITO OPERATORS FOLLOW THE TIMETABLE SET BY THE DEPARTMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE CURTAILMENT OF REGULAR HYF SERVICES, MR SO EXPLAINED THAT VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN BY BOTH THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE APPROVING THE CANCELLATION OF THE ROUTE ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS. BUT THE FERRY SERVICES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPERATED.

MR SO RECALLED THAT UMELCO MEMBERS HAD ALSO TAKEN A TOUR OF THE ROUTE BY FERRY LAST MONTH TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE STATE OF THE SERVICE. UMELCO MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE SERVICE SHOULD BE CANCELLED AND REPLACED BY SUITABLE KAITO OPERATION TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS.

IN RESPONSE TO VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES WHO REQUESTED THAT REGULAR HYF SERVICE BE RESUMED, MR SO SAID ALTHOUGH THIS SERVICE UNDER PRESENT PATRONAGE LEVEL COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PURSUE THE RESUMPTION OF THE CENTRAL TO TAI O SERVICE ON SATURDAYS WITH THE COMPANY.

MR SO ALSO EMPHASISED THAT RESIDENTS OF TAI O ARE SERVED BY BUS TO MUI WO AND FROM THERE THEY COULD TRAVEL TO CENTRAL BY FERRY.

MR SO NOTED THAT IN THE LONG TERM, RESIDENTS OF SHA LO WAN WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY A DIRECT ROAD LINK WITH SHAM WAT ROAD AND OTHER PARTS OF LANTAU ISLAND. STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE ROAD SYSTEM LINKING THE OTHER VILLAGES TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO THE BUS NETWORK.