



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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GOVERNOR, LADY YOUDE LOOK TO +A VERY GOOD TRIP+  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID BEFORE LEAVING WITH LADY YOUDE FOR NANJING AND SHANGHAI TODAY THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO +A VERY GOOD TRIP+.

+THIS IS GOING TO BE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT KIND OF TRIP TO THE ONES I USUALLY MAKE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL WHEN I GET BACK,+ SIR EDWARD TOLD REPORTERS, BEFORE BOARDING THE PLANE AT KAI TAK AIRPORT.

SIR EDWARD SAID HE HAD BEEN TO THOSE CITIES +QUITE A LOT IN THE PAST,+ AND HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO +A VERY PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE JOINING THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE EXHIBITION IN SHANGHAI WHICH HE WAS SURE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR ON TRIP WERE MR CHRIS WOOD, ASSISTANT POLITICAL ADVISER, AND MR Y.P. CHENG, CHIEF GOVERNMENT INTERPRETER.

SIR EDWARD AND LADY YOUDE WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE; THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG; THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR ROGER LOBO; THE VICE DIRECTOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR QI FENG; AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR NIU SHAO.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE WILL ARRIVE IN CANTON THIS AFTERNOON, WHERE THEY WILL VISIT THE CANTON TRADE FAIR BEFORE DEPARTING FOR NANJING LATER THIS EVENING.

FROM NANJING, THEY WILL VISIT YANGZHOU, ZHENJIANG AND WUXI BEFORE JOINING A HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC MISSION, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN SHANGHAI ON MAY 7.

THE MISSION, LED BY THE TDC CHAIRMAN, MISS LYDIA DUNN, WILL BE IN SHANGHAI FOR THE +MADE IN HONG KONG 85+ PRODUCT EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE SHANGHAI EXHIBITION CENTRE FROM MAY 8 TO 13.

SIR EDWARD AND LADY YOUDE WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON MAY 9 (THURSDAY).

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GOVERNOR CONCERNED OVER SLOW REGISTRATION RATE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SLOW RATE AT WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS ELECTORS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE COMING IN.

+THERE ARE ONLY FOUR MORE DAYS BEFORE THE REGISTRATION PERIOD CLOSES AND ALL THOSE ELIGIBLE SHOULD SIGN UP NOW,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ADDED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER REPRESENTED A MOST IMPORTANT STAGE IN HONG KONG'S PROGRESS TOWARDS MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT AND CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THEIR OWN TRADE OR PROFESSION IN PARTICULAR, AND FOR THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. TO REGISTER AS A VOTER IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY OVERLOOKED,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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SIR PHILIP SEES CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING FACILITIES

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TYPES OF TRAINING PROVIDED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE TRAINING DIRECTOR, MR A R B KITCHELL, SIR PHILIP ALSO MET SENIOR STAFF OF THE CENTRE AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE CENTRE IN PROVIDING TRAINING RESOURCES.

SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD THAT THE TRAINING CENTRE HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- \* HELPING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO MEET THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS FOR STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT;
- \* PROVIDING LANGUAGE AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING GENERALLY TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND
- \* PROMOTING THE LOCALISATION POLICY THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

DURING THE 1985-86 FINANCIAL YEAR, ABOUT 11 000 OFFICERS WILL ATTEND VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING COURSES LOCALLY, WHILE SOME 250 CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE SENT ABROAD FOR TRAINING AND 25 OTHERS WILL PROCEED OVERSEAS ON GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS TO OBTAIN SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS.

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+HK -- A GOING CONCERN WITH A FUTURE+  
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THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE HAD LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR THE CONTINUATION OF HONG KONG'S FREE AND DYNAMIC BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS BLYE, TOLD A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IN BANGKOK TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT COULD BE SEEN THAT HONG KONG WAS A GOING CONCERN WITH A FUTURE STRETCHING INTO THE NEXT CENTURY AND BEYOND, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE INGREDIENTS IN THE AGREEMENT FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGION THROUGH THE SUBSTANTIAL TRADE IN BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES IT CARRIED OUT WITH THE BANK'S DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES.

MR BLYE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HONG KONG WOULD NOT BENEFIT FULLY FROM THE FAVOURABLE TERMS ENSHRINED IN THE AGREEMENT WHILE INTERNATIONAL TRADE WAS HAMPERED BY RISING PROTECTIONISM.

+UNFORTUNATELY, ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID IN MANY FORUMS AROUND THE WORLD AGAINST PROTECTIONISM SEEMS TO HAVE LARGELY FALLEN ON DEAF EARS FOR THE POSITION CONTINUES TO WORSEN.

+HONG KONG BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AND ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FREE AND OPEN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND ALL CAN SEE THAT IT PRACTISES WHAT IT PREACHES. WE HOPE THAT OTHERS WILL DO THE SAME,+ HE SAID.

MR BLYE NOTED THAT IN 1984, HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE (INCLUDING ENTREPOT TRADE) IN GOODS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WAS OVER US\$30 BILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 27 PER CENT OVER 1983 AND AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 18 PER CENT OVER THE PAST DECADE.

IT TRADITIONALLY RAN A BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT WITH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE AND IN 1984 THIS DEFICIT AMOUNTED TO ALMOST US\$10 BILLION, NEARLY FOUR TIMES LARGER THAN WHAT IT WAS A DECADE AGO.

HONG KONG HAD ALSO BEEN PROVIDING ON AN INCREASING SCALE VERY EFFICIENT FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES.

HONG KONG'S EVER STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, MR BLYE SAID.

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SENIOR PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED  
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY A NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS TO SENIOR RANKS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE.

SIX OFFICERS ARE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A. THEY ARE:

MR ALAN BRISTOW,	SECRETARY GENERAL, STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
MR BARRIE WIGGHAM,	REGIONAL SECRETARY HONG KONG AND KOWLOON
MR GUS CHUI,	DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES
MR HARNAM GREWAL,	COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE
MR TONY HAMMOND,	DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES
MR JOHN YAXLEY,	DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY

A FURTHER FIVE OFFICERS ARE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1:

MR K.Y. YEUNG,	COMMISSIONER, HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
MRS ANSON CHAN,	DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE
MR MICHAEL LEUNG,	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
MR HAMISH MACLEOD,	DIRECTOR OF TRADE
MR GEOFFREY BARNES,	COMMISSIONER, ICAC

AND THE FOLLOWING NINE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B:

MR PETER NG KWOK-TAI,	DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY NEW TERRITORIES
MRS KATHERINE FOK LO SHIU-CHING,	DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ICAC
MR CLIVE OXLEY,	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING

/MR BILLY .....

MR BILLY LAM CHUNG-LUN,	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES
MR DONALD TSANG YAM-KUEN,	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE
MR MICHAEL CARTLAND,	COUNSELLOR IN GENEVA
MR DOMINIC WONG SHING- WAH,	DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
MR TONY FROST,	SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE
MR JOSEPH YAM CHI-KWONG,	DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS

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1985 U.S. GSP MADE KNOWN  
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DETAILS OF THE 1985 UNITED STATES GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE (GSP) ANNOUNCED BY THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE ON MAY 1, WERE MADE KNOWN TODAY BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE 1985 U.S. GSP SCHEME, FOUR NEW ITEMS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST OF OVER 3 000 PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR GSP DUTY-FREE TREATMENT. THESE ARE: PREPARED OR PRESERVED CABBAGE, CB RADIOS, CLOCK CASES AND PARTS, AND INFANT PANTS OF RUBBER AND PLASTIC. THESE CHANGES APPLY TO ALL BENEFICIARIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THESE FOUR PRODUCTS IN 1984 WAS SLIGHTLY OVER US\$3 MILLION.

ONE PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE ITEM - TRIFLURATION (A CHEMICAL) - HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ELIGIBLE LIST. HOWEVER, HONG KONG HAS NO TRADE INTEREST IN RESPECT OF THIS PRODUCT, A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HONG KONG HAS BEEN REDESIGNATED FOR THREE ITEMS EXCLUDED IN 1984 - STROBOSCOPES, GAMES MACHINES INCLUDING COIN AND DISC-OPERATED AND PARTS, AND TOY ANIMALS. THE VALUE OF U.S. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THESE THREE ITEMS WAS US\$34 MILLION IN 1984.

THESE CHANGES IN PRODUCT ELIGIBILITY FOR 1985 U.S. GSP WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1985.

THE VALUE OF U.S. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN 1984 OF GSP ITEMS WAS US\$4 002 MILLION, OF WHICH US\$2 676 MILLION WAS EXCLUDED FROM GSP BENEFITS AND US\$1 326 MILLION WAS GRANTED DUTY-FREE TREATMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. GSP PRODUCT LIST IS REVIEWED EVERY YEAR. A PRODUCT MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SCHEME UNDER EITHER A +COMPETITIVE NEED+ CRITERION OR THE +GRADUATION+ CRITERION OR AS A RESULT OF PETITIONS MADE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BY UNITED STATES PRODUCERS.

SOME HONG KONG PRODUCTS MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE GSP DUTY-FREE TREATMENT BECAUSE OF THE COMPETITIVE NEED CRITERION. UNDER THE STATUTORY COMPETITIVE NEED PROVISIONS, A COUNTRY LOSES GSP DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR A PRODUCT IF ITS SHIPMENTS OF THE PRODUCT IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR EQUALLED OR EXCEEDED 50 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL U.S. IMPORTS OF THE PRODUCT OR WERE MORE THAN A CERTAIN DOLLAR VALUE.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE SCHEME UNDER THE NORMAL COMPETITIVE NEED CRITERION ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY THE TRADE WHEN THE DETAILS ARE RECEIVED.+

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#### MONETARY STATISTICS FOR MARCH 1985

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO GROW IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY. FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE MONTH, REFLECTING AT LEAST IN PART A CONTINUED INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS AS THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN MONEY MARKET RATES AND THE HKAB DEPOSIT RATES WIDENED.

HONG KONG DOLLAR CASH DEMAND FELL BACK DURING THE MONTH AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL SEASONAL INCREASE AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR IN FEBRUARY.

REFLECTING THESE CHANGES, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR COMPONENTS OF THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE BROADER DEFINITIONS (HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3) CONTINUED TO INCREASE. BUT THE NARROWEST DEFINITION (HK\$M1) FELL. TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS SHOWED SIMILAR MOVEMENTS.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG CONTINUED TO INCREASE FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH, AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE IN JANUARY. BUT OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE.

/DEPOSITS .....

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.4 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 0.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. THE GROWTH RATE OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO MARCH WAS 2.5 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS WAS 16.2 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 4.8 PER CENT IN MARCH, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.9 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. WHILE THESE ROSE BY 6.8 PER CENT DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, THEY WERE 28.8 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS TO MARCH. PART OF THESE INCREASES REFLECTED THE FURTHER INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS.

FIGURES ON SWAP DEPOSITS COLLECTED FROM BANKS INDICATE AN INCREASE OF 5.2 PER CENT (\$1.2 BILLION) OVER THE MONTH TO \$24.6 BILLION AT THE END OF MARCH. THESE DEPOSITS REPRESENTED 16.4 PER CENT OF TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH BANKS AT THE END OF MARCH, WHICH IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. AS THESE SWAP DEPOSITS ARE IN NATURE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH INTEREST OFFERED CLOSE TO THE LOCAL MONEY MARKET RATES, THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SUCH FOR ANALYTICAL PURPOSES.

THE ADJUSTED GROWTH RATES FOR HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WERE HIGHER, BY 1.8 PER CENT IN MARCH AND 4.4 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO MARCH. ADJUSTED FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ROSE BY 4.8 PER CENT BOTH IN MARCH AND OVER THE THREE MONTHS.

THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS, AT 2.7 PER CENT IN MARCH, REMAINED SLOWER THAN THAT WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 4.5 PER CENT. THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH WERE 0.9 PER CENT AND 2.6 PER CENT. THIS IS PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE WIDENING DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN HKAB RATES AND MONEY MARKET RATES OVER THIS PERIOD. HOWEVER, OVER THE THREE MONTHS, DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE BY 5.5 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BY ONLY 0.9 PER CENT.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, HK\$M1, FELL BY 5.7 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL SEASONAL INCREASE OF 9.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. ON THE BROADER DEFINITIONS, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 ROSE BY 0.1 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN FEBRUARY WERE 1.8 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT. DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, HK\$M1 ROSE BY 8.3 PER CENT, HK\$M2 BY 3.4 PER CENT AND HK\$M3 BY 3.2 PER CENT. THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS WERE 13.0 PER CENT, 13.6 PER CENT AND 15.7 PER CENT.

THE GROWTH RATES OF HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3, AFTER ADJUSTING FOR SWAP DEPOSITS, WERE HIGHER AT 0.7 PER CENT AND 1.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FOR THE MONTH, AND 5.4 PER CENT AND 4.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FOR THE FIRST QUARTER.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY SHOWED SIMILAR MOVEMENTS. WHILE TOTAL M1 FELL BY 6.2 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 ROSE BY 2.1 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 2.5 PER CENT. IN FEBRUARY, THEIR GROWTH RATES WERE 9.6 PER CENT, 1.7 PER CENT AND 2.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO MARCH WERE 6.9 PER CENT, 5.9 PER CENT AND 5.2 PER CENT, AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS WERE 14.4 PER CENT, 19.0 PER CENT AND 21.6 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOWED A SMALL INCREASE OF 0.7 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER 0.5 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. OVER THE FIRST QUARTER, THESE GREW BY 1.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS BY 7.1 PER CENT.

WITHIN THE TOTAL, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE GREW FURTHER BY 2.6 PER CENT IN MARCH AFTER A RISE OF 2.5 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. WHILE THEY STILL FELL BY 1.4 PER CENT OVER THE FIRST QUARTER, THEY WERE 6.6 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG SHOWED NO CHANGE OVER THE MONTH, AFTER A SMALL INCREASE OF 0.6 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. OVER THE FIRST QUARTER, THEY ROSE BY 1.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS BY 6.0 PER CENT.

## QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG

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DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 3.3 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A FALL OF 4.5 PER CENT DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984. LOANS TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES FELL BY 1.9 PER CENT AFTER A STRONG YEAR-END SEASONAL INCREASE OF 10.2 PER CENT DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR FELL FURTHER, BY 2.9 PER CENT, AFTER A FALL OF 0.7 PER CENT DURING THE LAST QUARTER. LOANS TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME ROSE BY 3.2 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 3.8 PER CENT DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

## FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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THE SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY POSITION OF THE MONETARY SECTOR SHOWED NET ASSETS OF \$7.4 BILLION AT THE END OF MARCH. SIMILAR STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (ON THE BASIS OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS) SHOWED NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF \$4.8 BILLION AND NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF \$23.0 BILLION. THESE FIGURES WERE ALL HIGHER THAN CORRESPONDING FIGURES IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

## LIQUIDITY RATIO

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THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS ROSE TO 50.2 PER CENT, FROM 49.1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS ALSO HIGHER, AT 53.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 47.1 PER CENT A MONTH EARLIER.

## NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

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THE NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN MARCH, WITH 140 LICENSED BANKS, 33 LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND 306 REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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LATEST FIGURES ON ELECTOR REGISTRATION  
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LATEST STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
REGISTRATION AS ELECTORS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES  
AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES</u>	<u>ESTIMATED SIZE OF ELECTORATE</u> (REVISED)	<u>NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS</u>
COMMERCIAL I	2 650	431
COMMERCIAL II	6 000	1 319
INDUSTRIAL I	800	208
INDUSTRIAL II	3 000	640
FINANCIAL	140	61
LABOUR	380	229
SOCIAL SERVICES	154	52
MEDICAL	4 300	1 156
LEGAL	2 185	455
TEACHING	52 340	19 939
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	3 660	1 249
<u>ELECTORAL COLLEGE</u>	441	371
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>
TOTAL	76 918 *	26 110

\* THIS ESTIMATED FIGURE IS ON THE HIGH SIDE AS THERE ARE  
DUPLICATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND  
MEDICAL CONSTITUENCIES.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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NO DANGER SEEN FROM HALF-WAY HOUSES

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PATIENTS IN HALF-WAY HOUSES ARE NOT DANGEROUS, THEY ARE MENTALLY STABLE AND NO LONGER IN NEED OF HOSPITAL CARE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF Y'S MEN'S CLUB, MR LEWIS SAID, +ONLY PATIENTS REFERRED BY A TEAM OF PSYCHIATRISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND NURSES, WHO ARE CONSIDERED ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE FACILITIES OFFERED BY HALF-WAY HOUSES, ARE ADMITTED.+

THERE WERE NINE HALF-WAY HOUSES AT PRESENT, AND 20 MORE WERE BEING PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, AND DURING 20 YEARS OF OPERATION THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY PROBLEM OR INCIDENT IN THOSE HALF-WAY HOUSES, HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT HALF-WAY HOUSES WERE STAGING POSTS FOR CURED EX-MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS TO READAPT TO LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY AFTER A STAY IN HOSPITAL.

+SOME PATIENTS RETURN STRAIGHT HOME AFTER TREATMENT AND LEAD A NORMAL LIFE. OTHERS, HOWEVER, EITHER DO NOT HAVE A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY OR REQUIRE A PERIOD OF MORE INTENSIVE SOCIAL REHABILITATION TO HELP THEM MAKE RE-ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE, IN A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, WHERE THEY MUST BEGIN AGAIN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEMSELVES, AND BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH OTHER PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

MR LEWIS POINTED OUT THAT THE AIM OF REHABILITATION THESE DAYS WAS TO REINTEGRATE DISABLED PERSONS INTO THE COMMUNITY AND MAKE THEM USEFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

+GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN THE EX-MENTALLY ILL WERE BANISHED FROM SOCIETY TO SOME REMOTE ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

THIS WAS WHY HALF-WAY HOUSES WERE USUALLY LOCATED IN A HOUSING ESTATE TYPE ENVIRONMENT, WHICH MOST PEOPLE WERE USED TO, HE EXPLAINED.

MR LEWIS STRESSED THAT PATIENTS IN HALF-WAY HOUSES WERE WELL CARED FOR, BUT PLANS WERE VERY ADVANCED FOR IMPROVING THE STAFFING STANDARDS OF HALF-WAY HOUSES, THE EFFECT OF WHICH WOULD BE TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE MORE QUICKLY.

/GREATER EMPHASIS .....

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GREATER EMPHASIS WAS BEING PLACED ON DEVELOPING THE PATIENTS' DAILY LIVING SKILLS, WORK HABITS AND A POSITIVE APPROACH TO FILL LEISURE HOURS.

MR LEWIS SAID THAT THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK IN REHABILITATION WORK WAS THE PUBLIC'S LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL ILLNESS, WHICH OFTEN LED TO FEAR AND ANXIETY.

VIOLENCE WAS NOT THE PREROGATIVE OF THE EX-MENTALLY ILL, HE POINTED OUT.

+THE CAPACITY FOR VIOLENCE EXISTS IN EVERYONE, BOTH THE SANE AND THE MENTALLY ILL. SO MENTAL ILLNESS SHOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR.+

+INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS TELL US THAT ONE IN NINE OF US AT SOME STAGE IN OUR LIVES REQUIRE TREATMENT FOR MENTAL ILLNESS OF SOME SORT OR ANOTHER. SO WHY SHOULD REHABILITATION OF THE EX-MENTALLY ILL BE OPPOSED, WHEN MENTAL ILLNESS IS SO WIDESPREAD?+ HE ASKED.

+HOWEVER, THE LOUDEST MESSAGE IS THIS: THE EX-MENTALLY ILL ARE NOT BAD PEOPLE SEEKING TO BECOME GOOD. THEY ARE MERELY SICK PEOPLE TRYING TO GET BETTER. AS WITH ANYONE WHO IS SICK, THEY MUST BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING,+ HE SAID.

+AND IF ANY OF US IN THIS ROOM WERE ONE OF THE NINE, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THIS IS WHAT YOU WOULD WANT, AND I HOPE THAT THAT IS WHAT THE OTHER EIGHT WOULD GIVE YOU.+

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY MADE A +DETERMINED START+ IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE EX-MENTALLY ILL AND HALF-WAY HOUSES, MR LEWIS POINTED OUT, +BUT THE MORE THE MESSAGE IS SPREAD, THE MORE THE PUBLIC WILL REALISE AND UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS.+

+WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO MAKE A SUSTAINED IMPACT,+ HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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REVISED FEES FOR DOCUMENT FILING SERVICES  
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A NUMBER OF FEES COLLECTED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF DOCUMENTS UNDER VARIOUS ORDINANCES RELATING TO COMMERCIAL MATTERS WILL BE INCREASED FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE ACTING REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR L.S. SHUM ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE FEES RELATE TO DOCUMENTS FILED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS ORDINANCE, THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE AND THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE.

DETAILS OF THESE REVISED FEES WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

+IN NEARLY EVERY CASE THE INCREASES ARE DUE TO THE NEED TO REVISE THE FEE SO AS TO ENSURE THAT IT COVERS THE COST OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED, WHICH HAS RISEN CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT YEARS.

+THE FEES CONCERNED WERE LAST REVISED IN 1981 OR EARLIER. IN MOST CASES THE INCREASE VARIES BETWEEN 35 PER CENT AND 50 PER CENT,+ MR SHUM SAID.

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FIGHT CRIME GROUP LOOKS AT PRISON LIFE  
\* \* \* \*

SIXTEEN MONG KOK DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED TWO PRISONS IN STANLEY TO LOOK AT THE LIVES OF PRISONERS AND THE PROGRAMMES PROVIDED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THEY FIRST WENT TO THE MINIMUM SECURITY MA HANG PRISON WHERE THEY SAW SOME GERIATRIC PRISONERS ENGAGED IN LIGHT MANUAL WORK. THERE THEY LEARNED ALSO THAT OTHER PRISONERS WERE WORKING ON DOMESTIC SERVICES OR UNDERTAKING COMMUNITY PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE PRISON.

THE GROUP NEXT VISITED THE MAXIMUM SECURITY STANLEY PRISON. THEY TOURED VARIOUS FACILITIES AND SAW PRISONERS AT WORK IN A WIDE VARIETY OF TRADES IN THE WELL-EQUIPPED WORKSHOPS.

THEY ALSO CALLED AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, FOR A TOUR OF THE TRAINING FACILITIES AND TO SEE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS UNDERGOING TRAINING.

AFTER THE VISIT, THE PARTY MET THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, AT THE OFFICERS' CLUB.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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PERMITS OFFERED FOR CROSS-BORDER LIMOUSINE SERVICE  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR 50 HIRE CAR PERMITS TO OPERATE A LUXURY LIMOUSINE SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA VIA THE SHA TAU KOK CONTROL POINT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE PRIVATE CARS FOR WHICH SUCH PERMITS WOULD BE ISSUED MUST HAVE A CIF VALUE OF OVER \$30 000 IF THEY WERE MANUFACTURED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1983, OR A CIF VALUE OF OVER \$45 000 IF THEY WERE MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984. THE APPLICANT MUST BE THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE PRIVATE CAR.

IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY FOR THE APPLICANT TO PRODUCE, AMONG OTHER DOCUMENTS, WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL FROM THE APPROPRIATE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR OPERATING A HIRE CAR SERVICE WITHIN CHINA AND DOCUMENTARY PROOF TO THE EFFECT THAT THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN OPERATING A PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

+IF THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS EXCEEDS 50, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MAY, AS APPROPRIATE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, DETERMINE THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH APPLICATIONS.

+SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST ALSO OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE CLOSED ROAD PERMITS FOR THEIR HIRE CARS,+ HE SAID.

HIRE CAR PERMITS WILL NOT BE TRANSFERABLE. THE ANNUAL FEES FOR SUCH PERMITS ARE \$1 000 PER ANNUM AND \$350 FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION, 9TH FLOOR, ROOM 906-909 HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG OR AT ITS KOWLOON OFFICE AT 9TH FLOOR, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 56 DUNDAS STREET.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY REGISTERED POST TO THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION AT HUTCHISON HOUSE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY CALLING 5-249418.

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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FEBRUARY RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$5 857 MILLION, WAS 27 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN FEBRUARY 1984, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 26 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COMPARISON, HOWEVER, IS AFFECTED BY THE DATE OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH FELL ON FEBRUARY 20 THIS YEAR BUT ON FEBRUARY 2 LAST YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

RETAIL SALES FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD DECEMBER 1984 TO FEBRUARY 1985 ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1985 WITH JANUARY 1985, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, RETAIL SALES DECREASED BY ONE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, HE SAID.

IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 52 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 40 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1984.

BOTH CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 29 PER CENT IN SALE VALUE, WHILST THEIR INCREASES IN SALES VOLUME WERE 26 PER CENT AND 28 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ALSO ROSE BY 22 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS SHOWED THE SMALLEST INCREASE OF TWO PER CENT IN VALUE AND THREE PER CENT IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1984 TO FEBRUARY 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN VALUE TERMS, AT 25 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+, AT 17 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 13 PER CENT EACH.

FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO SHOWED A SMALLER INCREASE OF THREE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. FUELS RECORDED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE, BUT AN INCREASE OF ONE PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

/WHEN COMPARED .....

WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY THIS YEAR, RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND NINE PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT IN VALUE AND SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS FELL BY 11 PER CENT, CONSUMER DURABLES BY NINE PER CENT, AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ BY THREE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES, MOTOR VEHICLES AND SUPERMARKETS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1984. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO SHOWED LARGE INCREASES.

COMPARING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1984 TO FEBRUARY 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, WHILST DEPARTMENT STORES, SUPERMARKETS AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES.

WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY THIS YEAR, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. HOWEVER, THOSE OF MOTOR VEHICLES, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED DECREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL SALES FIGURE FOR JANUARY 1985 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1985.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF FEBRUARY 1985 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF JANUARY 1985 AND FEBRUARY 1984 AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1984 TO FEBRUARY 1985 WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO ARE ALSO GIVEN.

GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT THE INDEX MOVEMENTS OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES FROM JANUARY 1983 TO JANUARY 1985.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE FEBRUARY 1985 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1.00 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. (TEL. NO. 3-7216024).

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NO RISE IN STUDENT DELINQUENCY

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A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN 1983-84 SHOWS THAT THE LEVEL OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AMONG STUDENTS HAD REMAINED STABLE AT AROUND FIVE TO EIGHT PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE FIRST SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, MR Y.T. LI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR LI IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS.

ANNOUNCING THE RESULT OF THE SECOND ROUND SURVEY, MR LI SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS IN DEALING WITH STUDENT BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT A PAMPHLET HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADVISING THEM OF THE RELEVANT SERVICES OFFERED BY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SCHOOL HEADS WOULD BRING THESE SERVICES TO THE ATTENTION OF PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO MIGHT REQUIRE HELP.

TURNING BACK TO THE SURVEY REPORT, MR LI NOTED THAT THE BULK OF THE OFFENDERS WERE STILL BOYS, WITH A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF GIRL OFFENDERS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED WAS 150 184, AND THIS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 14.5 PER CENT OVER 1982-83.

+THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTS CONCERNING HABITUAL LATENESS,+ MR LI SAID. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE IN WHICH HABITUAL LATENESS WAS NOW LISTED AS A SEPARATE CATEGORY OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR.

THE MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS (87 TO 89 PER CENT) WERE THE LESS SERIOUS UNRULY BEHAVIOUR, AND ONLY 11 TO 13 PER CENT WERE MORE SERIOUS CASES.

APART FROM HABITUAL LATENESS AND HABITUAL TRUANCY, ALL THE OTHER COMMON CATEGORIES OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR SHOWED DECREASES WHEN COMPARED TO THE 1982-83 FIGURES.

MR LI SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR CHANGE IN THE AGE AND GRADE PATTERN OF THE OFFENDERS.

+OVER 75 PER CENT OF THE OFFENDERS ARE AGED FROM 13 TO 16, AND MORE THAN 50 PER CENT ARE FROM FORMS 1 AND 2,+ HE SAID.

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PRESS TO SEE ERP CONTROL CENTRE

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ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE PRESS TO VISIT THE 'PILOT STAGE ROAD PRICING CONTROL CENTRE' AT PACIFIC HOUSE, 20 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, NEXT THURSDAY (MAY 9).

PRESS MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW THE COMPUTERS RECORD VEHICLES WITH ENPS - ELECTRONIC NUMBER PLATES - AS THEY PASS THROUGH CENTRAL, AND HOW THIS INFORMATION IS COMPILED INTO MOCK BILLS.

AS THE CENTRE CAN HOLD ONLY 12 REPORTERS AT A TIME, THREE SEPARATE SESSIONS, EACH LASTING ABOUT 45 MINUTES, HAVE BEEN ARRANGED.

THE FIRST SESSION, IN WHICH PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO EVENING NEWSPAPERS, WILL START AT 10.30 AM.

THE SECOND SESSION, WILL BE MAINLY FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTERS, AND WILL START AT 11.30 AM.

THE THIRD SESSION WILL BE HELD AT 2 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND. HOWEVER, NOMINATION IS LIMITED TO ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM ONE NEWS ORGANISATION. REPRESENTATIVES FROM RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS MUST JOIN THE SECOND SESSION STARTING AT 11.30 AM.

EDITORS SHOULD SUBMIT THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GIS DUTY OFFICER BY 1 PM ON TUESDAY (MAY 7), INDICATING THE SESSION OF THEIR PREFERENCE. EDITORS WILL BE ADVISED SEPARATELY OF ACCEPTED NOMINATIONS.

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UNDERGRADS ELIGIBLE FOR TRAINING SUBSIDY

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THE ENGINEERING GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME (EGTS), A PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO ASSIST ENGINEERING GRADUATES TO OBTAIN NECESSARY PRACTICAL TRAINING, HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO COVER STUDENTS ATTENDING THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

+WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, UNDERGRADUATES UNDERGOING APPROVED TRAINING SCHEMES IN INDUSTRY ARE ELIGIBLE TO GET TRAINING SUBSIDY AT A RATE OF \$1 000 PER MONTH PER PERSON,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SAID.

THIS WOULD ENABLE UNDERGRADUATES ENROLLED IN SANDWICH PROGRAMMES TO ENJOY THE SAME PRIVILEGES AS ENGINEERING GRADUATES, HE SAID.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE MONTHLY SUBSIDY FOR GRADUATE TRAINEES UNDER THE SCHEME HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$1 600 TO \$1 800 FROM APRIL 1.

THE SCHEME, ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF TECHNOLOGISTS IS TO HELP ENGINEERING GRADUATES, AND FROM NOW ON UNDERGRADUATES IN SANDWICH PROGRAMMES AS WELL, OBTAINED APPROVED TRAINING IN INDUSTRY AND BECOME QUALIFIED ENGINEERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EMPLOYERS WHO WISH TO OFFER TRAINING PLACES FOR ENGINEERING GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE SECRETARY, COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF TECHNOLOGISTS ON 5-8932341 EXT. 274.

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NEW FEES TO BE CHARGED BY LAND OFFICE

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CERTAIN FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL (LAND OFFICER) FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE LAND OFFICE HAVE BEEN INCREASED.

THE NEW FEES WILL COME INTO EFFECT TOMORROW (FRIDAY), FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE LAND REGISTRATION FEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985 AND THE LAND REGISTRATION (NEW TERRITORIES) FEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985.

THE MAJOR INCREASES RELATE TO THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE PREPARATION OF :

- \* A CROWN LEASE - FROM \$400 TO \$1 000 ;
- \* THE SURRENDER OF A CROWN LEASE OR OTHER TENANCY FROM THE CROWN - FROM \$100 TO \$500 ;
- \* PLANS RELATING TO CROWN LEASES AND OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENTS - FROM \$100 TO \$1 000, AND
- \* A SURVEY WHICH IS CARRIED OUT WHEN A NEW CROWN LEASE IS ISSUED - FROM \$300 TO \$5 000.

THE ACTING REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR L.S. SHUM, EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR THE LARGE INCREASES IN THESE FEES WAS THAT PREVIOUSLY THE FEES WERE PITCHED AT A LEVEL WHICH DID NOT SEEK TO RECOVER THE COST OF THE SERVICE PROVIDED.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT POLICY THAT FEES SHOULD BE GEARED TO COST RECOVERY, EXERCISES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND THE REGISTRAR GENERAL TO ASCERTAIN THE ACTUAL COST OF PROVIDING THESE SERVICES, AND THE FEES HAD BEEN REVISED ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID.

+IN FACT CROWN LEASES ARE NOW SELDOM ISSUED, 16 WERE ISSUED IN 1984, 15 IN 1983 AND 9 IN 1982,+ HE SAID.

THE REMAINING FEES, FOR CERTIFICATION OF COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENT OR PART OF THE LAND OFFICE REGISTER, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THE STANDARD FEE CHARGED WHEN ANY OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION BY A PUBLIC OFFICER IS REQUIRED.

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DISCUSSIONS ON CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAD A LIVELY DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TODAY ON THE CAPITAL AND MINOR WORKS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THESE PROJECTS, INCLUDING FIVE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, COVER A VERY WIDE FIELD RANGING FROM MULTI-STOREY MARKET COMPLEXES, COOKED FOOD CENTRES, INDOOR GAMES HALLS, PARKS, GARDENS, PLAYGROUNDS, SITTING-OUT AREAS, TOILETS, BATHHOUSES AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.

FULL DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS AND THEIR PROPOSED PRIORITIES ARE CONTAINED IN THE DISTRICT WORKS PROGRAMME TABLED AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TODAY BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MISS ELLE SHUM.

THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS ON THE COUNCIL'S WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

INTRODUCING THE DISTRICT WORKS PROGRAMME, MISS SHUM INVITED MEMBERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE PRIORITY SUGGESTED FOR EACH PROJECT.

SHE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANNERS HAD PAINSTAKINGLY APPRAISED THESE PROJECTS BEFORE GIVING THEM A PROVISIONAL PRIORITY RATING RELATIVE TO OTHER PROJECTS IN THE SAME CATEGORY.

+HOWEVER, WE WISH TO CONSULT AND HEAR YOUR ASPIRATIONS AND OPINIONS BEFORE DECIDING ON THEIR PRIORITIES IN OUR ONGOING WORKS PROGRAMME,+ SHE TOLD THE MEETING.

/+THIS CONSULTATION .....

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+THIS CONSULTATION IS VERY USEFUL IN THAT IT GIVES THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT A BETTER IDEA OF THE NEEDS AND THE TYPES OF FACILITIES BEST SUITED FOR THE DISTRICT AS YOU SEE THEM.+

MISS SHUM ALSO EXPLAINED TO THE MEMBERS THE CONSTRAINTS AND COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VERY WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS.

DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSIONS WHICH LASTED FOR OVER TWO HOURS, MEMBERS TOOK A KEEN INTEREST IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO UPGRADE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THESE INCLUDED THE COOKED-FOOD CENTRE AT HING LUNG STREET, THE REPROVISIONING OF THE CENTRAL MARKET, THE CHUN SING COMPLEX AND THE SMITHFIELD ROAD COMPLEX.

MISS SHUM UNDERTOOK TO TAKE THEIR VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION AND TO MAKE ADJUSTMENT WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR WISHES.

UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORKS PROGRAMME FOR EACH DISTRICT, PROJECTS ARE CLASSIFIED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES - COMMITTED, READY, ADVANCED PLANNING AND PRELIMINARY PLANNING.

EXCEPT FOR THE COMMITTED AND READY PROJECTS, EACH ITEM IS TENTATIVELY GIVEN A HIGH, MEDIUM OR LOW PRIORITY.

AFTER HAVING CONSULTED ALL TEN URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS, AND WHERE POSSIBLE AMENDED THE PLANNING PROPOSALS ACCORDING TO MEMBERS' VIEWS, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT ITS FINALISED DRAFT CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

THEN, FOLLOWING RATIFICATION BY THE COUNCIL, THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE FINALISED DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THEIR DISTRICTS.

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ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR DRAGON BOAT RACE  
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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE ANNUAL SAI KUNG DRAGON BOAT RACE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 22.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, COMMERCIAL FIRMS AND BANKS= AS WELL AS NON-PROFIT MAKING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS OUTSIDE SAI KUNG DISTRICT ARE WELCOME TO ENTER THE RACE.

SPONSORED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION UNDER THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE.

WINNING TEAMS FROM BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS WILL REPRESENT SAI KUNG DISTRICT IN THE INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT RACE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN THE MEN'S DIVISION IS LIMITED TO 24 AND THE WOMEN'S SIX. THE RACE WILL BE HELD OVER A 1 300-METRE COURSE FROM YEUNG CHAU ISLAND TO THE SEA FRONT OF SAI KUNG TOWN.

ENTRANCE FEES FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND WOMEN'S TEAMS IS \$200= FOR NON-PROFIT MAKING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS \$500; AND FOR ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL FIRMS AND BANKS \$3 000.

COMPETING TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH BOATS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, AND WILL BE ALLOCATED PRACTICE TIMES.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MAY 8 AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE IN PO TUNG ROAD, SAI KUNG TOWN. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO MS HO MUK-LAN ON 3-2811762.

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FLYOVER ROAD WORK  
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THE FLYOVER LINKING POK FU LAM ROAD WITH BONHAM ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR TWO PERIODS ON SUNDAY (MAY 5) FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORK -- FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM, AND THEN FROM 8.30 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY (MONDAY).

DURING THE CLOSURES, VEHICLES ON EASTBOUND POK FU LAM ROAD HEADING FOR BONHAM ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HIGH STREET AND WESTERN STREET.

AND CMB ROUTES 3 AND 23 WILL BE CHANGED TO CIRCULAR ROUTES AND OPERATE TO PARK ROAD ONLY. CMB ROUTES 40 AND 40M ON THEIR CENTRAL-BOUND JOURNEYS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA POK FU LAM ROAD, WESTERN STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, GILMAN STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND QUEENSWAY.

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