



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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POWER OF 'RULE OF LAW' FOR LIBERTY STRESSED
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HONG KONG, WITH THE ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF THE COMMON LAW BEHIND IT, HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL POWERFUL WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO PRESERVE LIBERTY AND TO CHALLENGE OPPONENTS OF FREEDOM, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

THAT TRADITION, HE SAID, WAS ACCORDED THE TITLE +THE RULE OF LAW+.

ADDRESSING HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS THIS AFTERNOON ON THE QUESTION OF WHAT WAS MEANT BY +THE RULE OF LAW+, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED IT WAS A REFERENCE TO SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW THAT GOVERNED THE WAY IN WHICH POWER WAS EXERCISED.

IT WAS ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION TO YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING UP IN HONG KONG AT THIS TIME, HE SAID.

FOR THE IDEA OF THE +RULE OF LAW+ LAY AT THE HEART OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM WHICH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION PROMISED TO PRESERVE AFTER 1997, WHEN HONG KONG BECAME PART OF CHINA.

IT HAD FORMED THE BASIS OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND SURVIVED IN MANY PLACES AFTER BRITISH RULE ENDED.

+IT HAS CERTAINLY TAKEN ROOT AND FLOURISHED IN HONG KONG,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

BRITAIN AND HONG KONG, MR THOMAS SAID, DID NOT HAVE WRITTEN CONSTITUTIONS FOR EVERYONE TO READ, LIKE THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES, SOVIET RUSSIA OR CHINA, BECAUSE THOSE COUNTRIES HAD ALL BEEN THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES WHILE BRITAIN HAD AVOIDED REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES.

+THE ABSOLUTE POWER OF ITS KINGS WAS TAMED GRADUALLY, AT FIRST BY THE BARONS AND LATER BY ITS OWN PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE JURISTS WERE EXPOUNDING THE LAWS AND THE JUDGES WERE APPLYING THEM TO CASES THAT CAME TO COURT.

+THUS THE COMMON LAW OR CUSTOMARY LAW DEVELOPED OUT OF THE TEXTBOOKS AND REPORTS OF DECIDED CASES.

+EVEN TODAY THE LAWYERS CAN REFER A JUDGE TO A DECISION THAT IS HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD TO SHOW WHAT THE LAW IS,+ HE SAID.

THE POWER TO MAKE NEW LAWS WAS ENJOYED BY PARLIAMENT WHO, WITH THE FORMAL ASSENT OF THE KING, MADE STATUTES WHICH WERE JUST AS BINDING ON THE KING'S SUBJECTS AS THE RULES LAID DOWN BY THE JURISTS AND THE JUDGES.

/+BUT NOWHERE

+BUT NOWHERE IS THERE TO BE FOUND A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION WHICH COMPREHENSIVELY SETS OUT WHERE POWER LIES, HOW POWER IS TO BE EXERCISED AND THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUALS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

EXPLAINING THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE RULE OF LAW, HE SAID, FIRST, THE RULE OF LAW REQUIRED THAT THE POWERS OF THE CROWN AND OF ALL ITS SERVANTS SHOULD BE DERIVED FROM LAW, CLEARLY LIMITED BY LEGISLATION AND THE JUDICIAL DECISIONS TAKEN BY INDEPENDENT COURTS.

THIS WAS TO BE CONTRASTED WITH A DIFFERENT STATE IN WHICH THE SOVEREIGN OR THE PRESIDENT OR THE GOVERNMENT COULD EXERCISE POWERS BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW.

AT THE HEART OF THE HONG KONG SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, LAY THE RULE THAT NO ONE, FROM THE GOVERNOR DOWN THROUGH THE RANKS OF SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS, COMMISSIONERS, THE POLICE, ICAC, AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, COULD DO ANYTHING THAT AFFECTED THE INDIVIDUAL, HIS HOME, HIS MONEY OR HIS FREEDOM, UNLESS HE COULD POINT TO SOME SPECIFIC PROVISION OF THE LAW WHICH AUTHORISED WHAT HE HAD DONE.

IF HE COULD NOT DO THAT, HE COULD BE SUED IN THE COURTS OF HONG KONG AND COMPELLED TO PUT RIGHT WHAT HE HAD DONE OR TO PAY COMPENSATION FOR THE WRONG THAT HE HAD DONE.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT IN HONG KONG'S ORDINANCES, THERE WAS PROVISION FOR SEARCH WARRANTS TO BE ISSUED BY A MAGISTRATE UNDER SPECIFIC PROCEDURES AND THESE WERE AUTHORISED BY LAW.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES, SUCH AS THE POLICE AND ICAC, COULD NOT GO BEYOND THE POWER GIVEN TO THEM UNDER PARTICULAR ORDINANCES, HE EXPLAINED.

+NO ONE ELSE, NOT EVEN THE GOVERNOR, CAN ORDER SEARCHES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMON LAWYER'S DISLIKE OF ARBITRARY POWERS EXTENDED TO THE CRIMINAL LAW WHICH OPERATED ON PRINCIPLES THAT PROTECTED PERSONS FROM BEING PUNISHED MERELY BECAUSE THEY WERE DISSENTERS OR UNPOPULAR WITH THE POWERS THAT BE.

THE POWER OF ARREST AND THE POWER TO DETAIN BEFORE TRIAL WERE SUBJECT TO STRICT LIMITS, HE SAID.

+THE CROWN HAS TO PROVE ITS CASE BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT,+ HE SAID.

THE TRIAL HAD TO BE IN PUBLIC AND CONFESSIONS WOULD ONLY BE ADMITTED AS EVIDENCE IF THEY WERE MADE VOLUNTARILY.

THOSE WHO PROSECUTED DID NOT STRIVE TO SECURE A CONVICTION BUT TO SEE THAT THE FACTS WERE FAIRLY PLACED BEFORE THE COURT, SO THAT THE VERDICT WOULD BE A JUST ONE, HE ADDED.

A SECOND FEATURE OF THE RULE OF LAW, MR THOMAS SAID, WAS EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW.

+IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT ALL PERSONS, HIGH OR LOW, REGARDLESS OF RACE, POLITICS OR RELIGION, ARE SUBJECT TO THE ORDINARY LAW OF THE LAND ADMINISTERED BY THE ORDINARY COURTS OF LAW,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS THAT AN ATTORNEY-GENERAL WHO DRIVES WITHOUT A PROPER LICENCE IS LIABLE TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS AND BE PUNISHED FOR THE OFFENCE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE PASSIONATELY DISAGREED WITH THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY AND FORMED GROUPS TO RESIST ITS POLICIES.

+TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH, TO PERSUADE OTHERS OF THEIR CAUSE, TO DEMONSTRATE BELIEFS IS ONE THING.

+TO BREAK THE LAW IS QUITE ANOTHER,+ HE EXPLAINED.

ANYONE WHO BROKE THE LAW WAS LIABLE TO BE PUNISHED DESPITE THE SINCERITY OF HIS BELIEFS AND HIS RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEM, HE ADDED.

+THROUGH THE YEARS, THE COURTS HAVE PROTECTED THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUALS, AND THEY HAVE ALSO KEPT IN CHECK THE GROWTH OF STATE POWER AND DEALT EFFECTIVELY WITH ITS ABUSE,+ MR THOMAS SAID IN OUTLINING THE THIRD, +AND IN SOME WAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW.+

DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF ELABORATE WRITTEN CONSTITUTIONS, BRITAIN AND HONG KONG ENJOYED REPUTATIONS AS RELATIVELY FREE AND OPEN SOCIETIES COMPARED WITH MANY OTHERS.

+THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BECAUSE OF THE RESPECT ACCORDED BY THOSE IN POWER TO LANDMARK JUDICIAL DECISIONS FROM THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

THIS WAS DUE TO THE ATTITUDE AND INFLUENCE OF JUDGES, LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND LEGAL DRAFTSMEN AND LEGAL ADVISERS WHICH WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY CONSERVATIVE AND JEALOUS OF WELL-ESTABLISHED LEGAL RULES.

+IN THEORY THE POWER OF THE GOVERNOR TO MAKE LAWS WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE LETTERS PATENT FOR 'THE PEACE ORDER AND GOOD GOVERNMENT' OF HONG KONG IS A WIDE ONE. BUT IN REALITY THAT POWER IS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED IF ONLY BECAUSE IT IS WIDELY DISPERSED,+ HE SAID.

MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF NEW ORDINANCES: SECRETARIES AND PUBLIC OFFICERS WHO EVOLVED POLICY, THE ADVISORY AND DISTRICT BOARDS WHO WERE CONSULTED UPON POLICY PROPOSALS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHICH DETERMINED POLICY AND APPROVED BILLS, INTERESTED PARTIES, THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION WHO EXAMINED BILLS WHEN THEY WERE GAZETTED, AND FINALLY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO SCRUTINISED, DEBATED AND PASSED THOSE BILLS, WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

+SO IF SOME HOT HEAD WERE TO DEMAND A NEW ORDINANCE TO TAKE AWAY RETROSPECTIVELY THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF ALL LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE, IT WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH ALL THOSE CHECKS AND BALANCES IN OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

+AMONG THOSE WITH AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY ARE THE LAWYERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WHO HAVE A POWERFUL AND PERSUASIVE INFLUENCE UPON GOVERNMENT POLICY AND UPON THE DRAFTING AND PROMOTION OF LEGISLATION.

+NO LAWYERS TRAINED IN THE COMMON LAW WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A BILL OF THAT KIND. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY ADVISE THAT RETROSPECTIVE LEGISLATION WAS IN GENERAL OBJECTIONABLE. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY ADVISE THAT VESTED RIGHTS COULD NOT LAWFULLY BE TAKEN AWAY WITHOUT PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY ADVISE THAT LEGISLATION THAT DISCRIMINATES ARBITRARILY AGAINST ONE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WAS REPREHENSIBLE AND CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

+SIMILARLY THEIR INFLUENCE WILL ENSURE THAT WHERE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS MUST GIVE WAY TO SPECIFIC COMMUNAL NEEDS - FOR EXAMPLE, TO BUILD A NEW ROAD, - THE PUBLIC INTEREST OVERRIDES PRIVATE RIGHTS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, AND THE FINANCIAL LOSS OF INDIVIDUALS IS AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE COMPENSATED OUT OF THE PUBLIC PURSE,+ HE SAID.

THE COURTS TOO HAD AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN SUPERVISING THE EXERCISE OF POWER.

THEY WERE ASTUTE TO PROTECT THE RULE OF LAW.

WHERE LEGISLATION WAS AMBIGUOUS, THEY WOULD INTERPRET IT IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESERVATION OF EXISTING RIGHTS.

WHERE LEGISLATION EMPOWERED OFFICIALS TO REACH DECISIONS OR TO TAKE ACTION THAT AFFECTED PERSONAL RIGHTS, A PERSON AGGRIEVED HAD THE RIGHT TO ASK THE COURTS TO REVIEW THE MATTER.

SPEAKING OF THE IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE RULE OF LAW, MR THOMAS SAID:

+SO LONG AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPECT ITS SPIRIT, THEN HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE TO TRY TO OVERTHROW ESTABLISHED PERSONAL FREEDOMS, OR TO DISREGARD THE PROVISIONS OF HONG KONG'S ORDINANCES OR THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS, OR TO CLAIM THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE ARBITRARY POWERS OF INTERFERENCE WITH ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OPPOSED TO THEIR POLICIES, THE RULE OF LAW WOULD BE IN DANGER.

+HONG KONG COULD THEN EXPECT PUBLIC OPINION, THE LEGISLATURE AND EVERY LAWYER TRAINED IN THE COMMON LAW TO STAND UP AND MAKE THEIR ARTICULATE PROTEST.

+IT WOULD BE UP TO THE PERSONS AFFECTED TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE COURTS TO CHALLENGE UNLAWFUL ACTS OF THE EXECUTIVE. IT WOULD BE UP TO HONG KONG'S JUDGES, PROUD OF THEIR ROLE AS INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL GUARDIANS OF THE RULE OF LAW, TO EXERCISE THEIR JURISDICTION TO CHECK THE ABUSE OF POWER,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

LAND AUCTION GOES WELL
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A SITE IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF WAN CHAI WAS SOLD FOR \$302 MILLION AT TODAY'S (MONDAY) AUCTION AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

IT WAS AMONG SEVERAL SALES THAT WENT VERY WELL AMID STRONG BIDDING, THE AUCTIONEER, THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR TIM MILLS SAID.

MEASURING ABOUT 3 429 SQUARE METRES AT HARBOUR ROAD, THE SITE WAS BOUGHT BY SOUTH CASTLE LIMITED FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING HOTEL).

THE DEVELOPER WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN 30 900 SQUARE METRES OF THE GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE JULY 1, 1989.

TWO OTHER LOTS ARE AT MOORSOM ROAD, JARDINE'S LOOKOUT AND SOUTH BAY ROAD IN REPULSE BAY, BOTH FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES WERE ALSO AUCTIONED.

THE 2 243 SQUARE-METRE SITE AT MOORSOM ROAD WAS SOLD TO CAMAFORCE LTD FOR \$51 MILLION, WHILE THE SOUTH BAY ROAD SITE OF 3 650 SQUARE METRES WAS BOUGHT BY WIN STANDARD INVESTMENT LTD FOR \$76 MILLION.

TWO MORE PLOTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND - ONE AT VICTORIA ROAD FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN USES AND THE OTHER AT SAI NING STREET FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE - WERE ALSO SOLD.

MEASURING 500 SQUARE METRES, THE VICTORIA ROAD LOT WAS BOUGHT BY GAIN SOURCE INVESTMENT LTD FOR \$9 MILLION AND THE SAI NING STREET SITE OF 680 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD TO RYFORT CONSTRUCTION LTD FOR \$25.5 MILLION.

OF THE TWO PLOTS IN SHA TIN, ONE OF ABOUT 39 440 SQUARE METRES NEAR SUI WO COURT WAS SUCCESSFULLY BID BY HEE YUN COMPANY LTD AT \$138 MILLION. IT IS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE OTHER SITE OF 3 371 SQUARE METRES, BEHIND CITY ONE RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, IS RESTRICTED TO INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER IS CROWN PACIFIC LIMITED AT \$9.2 MILLION.

THE SALES WERE AN INDICATION THAT THE PROPERTY MARKET WAS MAKING A COMEBACK, MR MILLS SAID.

+BUT THIS IS AT AN EARLY STAGE, AS THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BACK TO THE BOOMING PERIOD SEVERAL YEARS AGO,+ HE ADDED.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN THEIR BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED TO THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, MANUFACTURING FIRMS ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985 AND EXPECT TO ACHIEVE SOME IMPROVEMENT.

AS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE EXPECTATION OF A RECOVERY IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AS INDICATED BY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND OF THE SURVEY, MATERIALISED.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982 THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS WAS ACHIEVED. A CONTINUED UPTREND IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED BY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR EXPERIENCED A LARGELY STABLE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER, BUT A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IS ANTICIPATED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

ABOUT 1 000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY AND WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE AND EXPECTATIONS.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS IN THE WEARING APPAREL, TEXTILES, PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985.

FIRMS IN THE OTHER INDUSTRIES HOWEVER EXPERIENCED A LARGELY STABLE BUSINESS SITUATION, WITH A SMALL DECLINE ON BALANCE REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES INDUSTRIES.

THE PRINTING INDUSTRY HAS DONE BETTER THAN EARLIER EXPECTED AND THIS HAS BEEN A RATHER GOOD FIRST QUARTER WHEN COMPARED WITH THE HISTORICAL TREND.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE FOR FIRMS ACROSS ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WITH FIRMS IN THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO, PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985.

AS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, A RECOVERY IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS SECTORS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 WAS MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984.

A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IS ANTICIPATED BY FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES WHILE A SEASONAL DROP IN BUSINESS IS PREDICTED BY FIRMS IN THE RESTAURANTS SECTOR.

RESPONDENTS IN THE HOTELS BUSINESS EXPERIENCED A SEASONAL DOWNTREND IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER BUT THEY ARE CONFIDENT OF AN UPTREND IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, BANKS AND FIRMS IN THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES BUSINESS EXPERIENCED AN UPTURN IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

AS FOR TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, EXPERIENCE VARIED AMONG FIRMS BUT THE OVERALL SITUATION COULD BE CONSIDERED AS STABLE. LOOKING INTO THE SECOND QUARTER, FIRMS IN THE SECTOR ARE GENERALLY CONFIDENT OF IMPROVEMENTS.

THE SURVEY ALSO COVERED BUSINESS PROBLEMS FACED BY FIRMS.

FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, A CONSIDERABLY LARGER PROPORTION OF FIRMS INDICATED INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS, AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS AS THEIR MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE NEXT QUARTER. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PROBLEMS OF QUOTA AND OTHER TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND THAT OF SHORTAGE OF LABOUR ARE EASING.

FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR STILL CONSIDER INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG AS THEIR PROMINENT PROBLEMS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1985.

AS FOR THE RESTAURANTS BUSINESS, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS, PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER WERE CITED AS THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS.

PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED AS THE MOST PROMINENT PROBLEM FOR FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, HOTELS, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES BUSINESSES IN THE FIRST QUARTER, WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF EASING IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

AS FOR THE HOTEL BUSINESS, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF RESPONDING FIRMS THAT CONSIDERED HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AS THEIR MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE FIRST QUARTER, ALTHOUGH THE INTENSITY OF THIS PROBLEM IS EXPECTED TO DIMINISH CONSIDERABLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

HIGH STAFF COSTS WAS REGARDED AS A MAJOR PROBLEM BY SOME BANKS IN THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD +IMPROVED+, +REMAINED THE SAME+ OR +DETERIORATED+ IN THE QUARTER JUST ENDED AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE THAT.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WILL +IMPROVE+, +REMAIN THE SAME+ OR +DETERIORATE+. THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED.

THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS. THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3 A COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-423401.

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PLAN TO EASE CAUSEWAY BAY PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
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A MAJOR PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CAUSEWAY BAY TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC WHEN THE MTR ISLAND LINE BECOMES OPERATIONAL AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY MR JIM COWIE, CHIEF ENGINEER, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING HONG KONG DIVISION, OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY).

/THE SCHEME,

THE SCHEME, TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES, COMPRISES TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS, WIDENING OF FOOTPATHS, IMPROVEMENTS TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AND RELOCATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS. THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY GLOUCESTER ROAD TO THE EAST AND NORTH, PERCIVAL STREET TO THE WEST AND LEIGHTON ROAD TO THE SOUTH.

MR COWIE EXPLAINED THAT THE SCHEME WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE CAUSEWAY BAY WAS A POPULAR SHOPPING AND TOURIST CENTRE AND WAS LIKELY TO BECOME EVEN MORE POPULAR WITH THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND LINE AND THE COMPLETION OF HOTEL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS ABOVE THE CAUSEWAY BAY STATION.

+ALREADY PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT IN THE AREA IS CONSIDERABLY RESTRICTED OWING TO THE NARROW FOOTPATHS, OBSTRUCTIONS OF AND ENCROACHMENTS INTO FOOTWAYS AND CONFLICT WITH TRAFFIC. THE SITUATION IS BOUND TO GET WORSE AS MORE PEOPLE FLOCK THERE,+ HE SAID.

TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE HEAVY PEDESTRIAN FLOWS IN THE DISTRICT, MR COWIE SAID, TRAFFIC COUNTS TAKEN BETWEEN 4.45 PM AND 5.45 PM ON AN APRIL SUNDAY LAST YEAR REVEALED THAT 16 300 PEOPLE HAD USED THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ACROSS YEE WO STREET.

THE MAIN AIM OF THE PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME, MR COWIE SAID, WAS TO CREATE BETTER, LESS CONGESTED CONDITIONS FOR PEDESTRIANS, TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TO MAINTAIN VEHICULAR ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT UNDULY AFFECTING PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT. IT ALSO AIMED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICING OPPORTUNITIES WHILE MINIMISING CONFLICTS BETWEEN LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD DISCUSSED THE SCHEME WITH THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, CMB, KMB AND PLB OPERATORS. THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SCHEME, WHICH WOULD IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE MTR STATION AT CAUSEWAY BAY, WAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE MAY 31.

UNDER THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE SCHEME, TRAFFIC WOULD ENTER CAUSEWAY BAY EITHER VIA A TWO LANE, ONE-WAY WEST-EAST ROUTE ALONG LOCKHART ROAD, EAST POINT ROAD AND GREAT GEORGE STREET OR VIA A TWO LANE ONE-WAY NORTH-SOUTH ROUTE ALONG CLEVELAND STREET, KINGSTON STREET AND GREAT GEORGE STREET. LOCAL OUTBOUND TRAFFIC TO CENTRAL WOULD BE DIVERTED VIA THE NEW GLOUCESTER ROAD FLYOVER WHILE INBOUND TRAFFIC FROM HENNESSY ROAD WOULD BE DIVERTED VIA SUGAR STREET.

+THE TRAFFIC REROUTINGS WILL HOPEFULLY REDUCE EXTRANEIOUS TRAFFIC IN THE AREA AND SIMPLIFY THE FLOW PATTERN. MOREOVER, THEY WILL FACILITATE THE LINKING OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS, PERMIT THE USE OF REDUCED CYCLE TIMES AND PROVIDE INCREASED GREEN TIME AT THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS THEREBY REDUCING WAITING TIME FOR PEDESTRIANS,+ MR COWIE EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE SCHEME WAS THAT THE NORTHERN FOOTPATH OF HENNESSY ROAD WOULD LINK UP WITH THE NORTHERN FOOTPATH ON YEE WO STREET AND THE SOUTHERN FOOTPATH ON GREAT GEORGE STREET. THE FOOTPATH, COUPLED WITH THE WIDER AND MORE DIRECT CROSSING FACILITIES TO BE INSTALLED IN PATERSON STREET AT A LATER STAGE, WOULD CONSIDERABLY EASE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT IN THE BUSY PART OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY SHOPPING AREA.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY STATION, THE TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS WOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND THE EXISTING SCHEME MODIFIED IF NECESSARY, MR COWIE SAID.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WHEN THE FOOTBRIDGE AT THE JUNCTION OF SUGAR STREET WITH YEE WO STREET AND PENNINGTON STREET WAS COMPLETED.

BY REOPENING LEE GARDEN ROAD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, AN EXPERIMENT TO CLOSE JARDINE'S CRESCENT BETWEEN JARDINE'S BAZAAR AND KAI CHIU ROAD TO VEHICLES COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY DIVERTING TRAFFIC IN JARDINE'S CRESCENT TO LEE GARDEN ROAD. SUCH A CLOSURE WOULD IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION OUTSIDE THE MTR STATION ENTRANCE IN JARDINE'S CRESCENT AND COULD BE MADE PERMANENT IF NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS WERE CREATED.

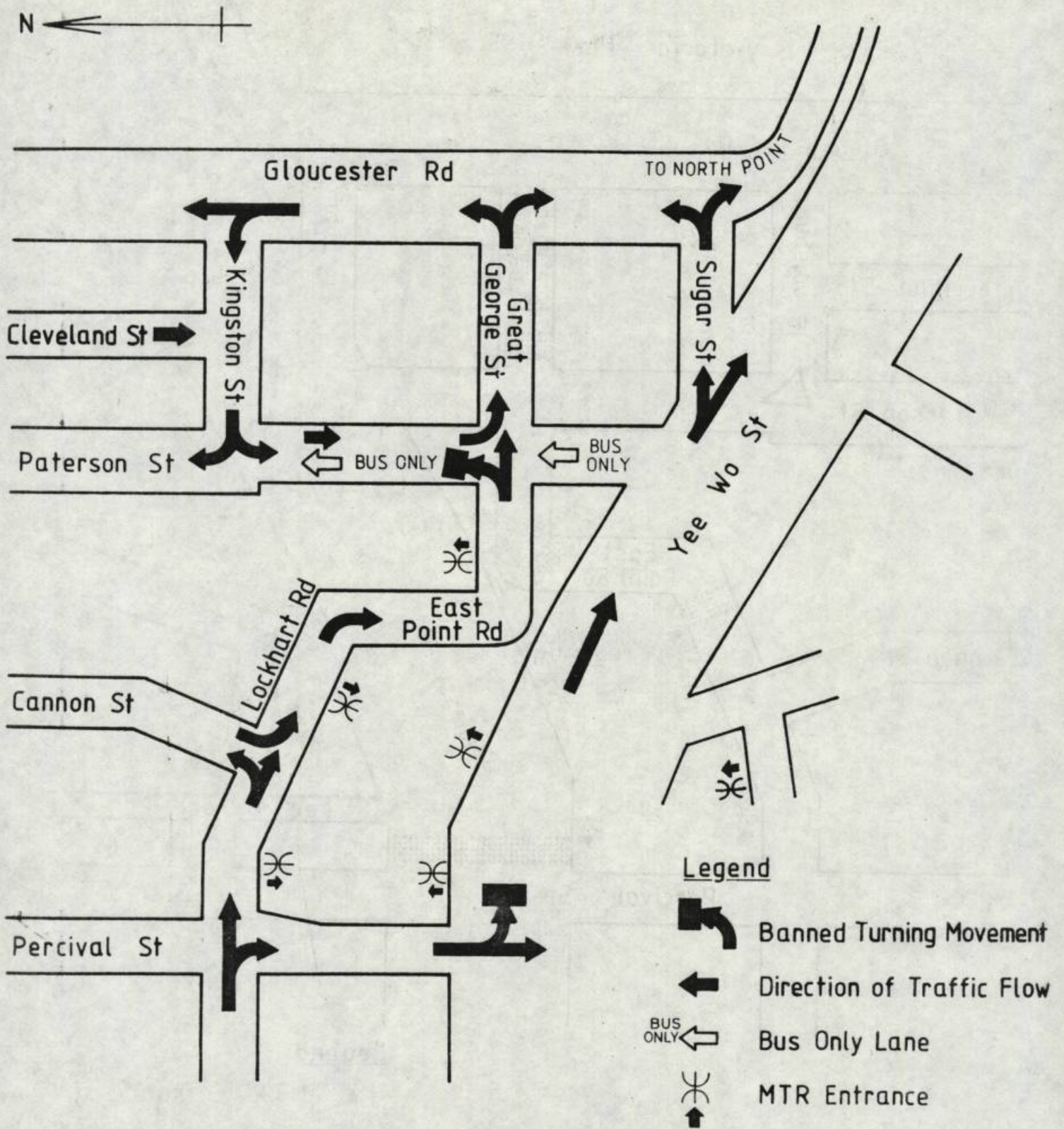
THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THE CLOSURE OF PATERSON STREET, KINGSTON STREET AND GREAT GEORGE STREET. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSAL AND TO FURTHER STREET CLOSURES, POSSIBLY ON A PART-TIME OR SELECTIVE BASIS, AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAD MONITORED THE SITUATION FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE SCHEME.

PLANS WERE ALSO AFOOT TO WIDEN FOOTWAYS IN KINGSTON STREET, PATERSON STREET, GREAT GEORGE STREET, HENNESSY ROAD, YEE WO STREET, PERCIVAL STREET AND JARDINE'S BAZAAR.

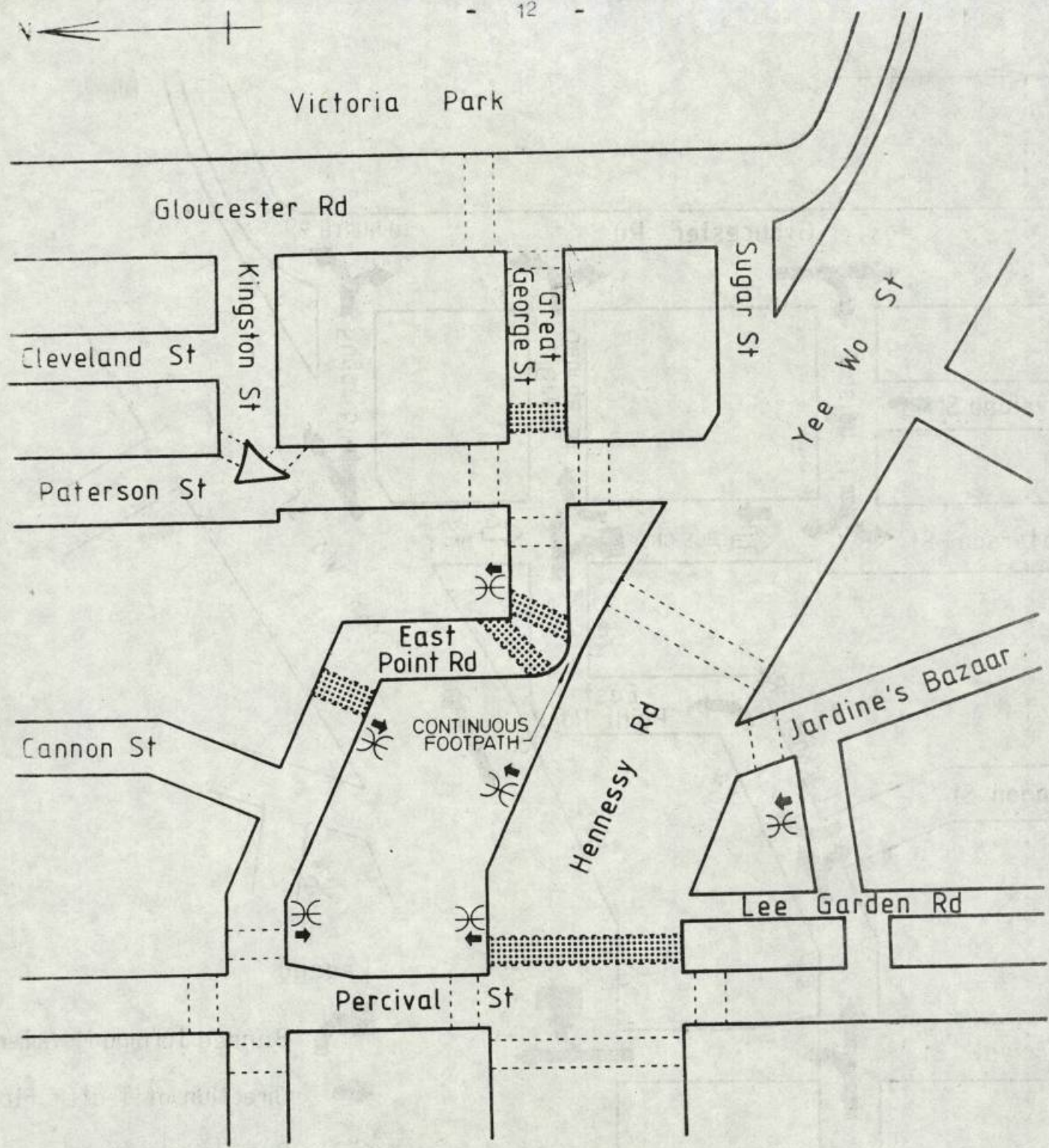
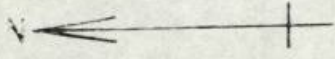
MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN ACTION TO CLEAR ALL NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE FOOTWAYS IN THE AREA. MR COWIE SAID THAT THE CONGESTED AREAS OF CAUSEWAY BAY WERE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY MOBILE HAWKER STALLS, NEWSPAPER VENDORS AND BUS QUEUES.

POINTING OUT THAT THE PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME DID NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ON LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA, MR COWIE, HOWEVER, SAID THE SITUATION WOULD BE KEPT UNDER CLOSE WATCH AND ALTERNATIVE LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES MIGHT HAVE TO BE PROVIDED TO ELIMINATE PERSISTENT PROBLEM AREAS.




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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR CAUSEWAY BAY



Legend

-  MTR Entrance
-  Existing Crossing
-  Additional Crossing

PEDESTRIAN MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR CAUSEWAY BAY

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

- 13 -

LABOUR OFFENCES DROP AS FINES GO UP
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THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES UNDER THE LABOUR LAW HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 AS A RESULT OF STEPPED-UP ACTION AND HEAVIER FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE DEPARTMENT'S PROSECUTIONS DIVISION HANDLED 399 PROSECUTION CASES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR FOR BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS, RESULTING IN A TOTAL OF \$1 386 900 IN FINES IMPOSED, HE SAID.

IN COMPARISON THE FIGURES FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR WERE 888 CASES AND A TOTAL FINE OF \$1 266 850.

ALSO IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 595 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYERS FOR BREACHES OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS.

THESE CASES RESULTED IN FINES TOTALLING \$607 290, COMPARED WITH 1 219 CASES IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR AND \$746 550 IN FINES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LEVEL OF FINES FOR FACTORY SAFETY CASES RECORDED IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 33.7 PER CENT OVER THAT OF THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND AN INCREASE OF 97.5 PER CENT OVER THAT OF THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER IN 1984.

FOR CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY CASES, THE INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF FINES WAS 82.2 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 174.81 PER CENT OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

AS FOR CASES UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, THE LEVEL OF FINES ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 10.29 PER CENT OVER THAT OF THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 38.97 PER CENT OVER THAT OF THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984.

THE INCREASES IN THE LEVEL OF FINES MIGHT HAVE HAD A DETERRENT EFFECT WHICH EXPLAINED THE RECENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS TAKEN OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

OTHER FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES WERE THE STRENGTHENED ENFORCEMENT ACTION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF REVISED PROSECUTION GUIDELINES BY THE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S PROSECUTIONS DIVISION, WITH THE HELP OF THE OPERATIONAL DIVISIONS, HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING ON BRINGING THE MORE SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE.

/ARRANGEMENTS HAVE

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S INSPECTORATE TO VERIFY REMEDIAL ACTION ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY AN OFFENDER ON MITIGATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATION FOR A REVIEW OF SENTENCE WOULD BE CONSIDERED IF THE ALLEGED REMEDIAL ACTION HAD BEEN CONFIRMED NOT IN EXISTENCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MOST FACTORY PROPRIETORS AND EMPLOYERS WERE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHO SAW TO THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE UNDER THEIR EMPLOY, IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT 'SERIOUS AND PERSISTENT OFFENDERS AGAINST HONG KONG'S LABOUR LEGISLATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE COURT AND GIVEN THE HEAVY FINES THEY DESERVED.

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25 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN MARCH

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED 25 BUILDING PLANS IN MARCH THIS YEAR - SEVEN ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX IN KOWLOON AND 12 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED 10 BLOCKS OF THE KORNHILL DEVELOPMENT, TWO HOTEL BUILDINGS IN WAN CHAI AND SHA TIN, FOUR BLOCKS OF 31 STOREYS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES IN SHA TIN AND AN EXTENSION FOR A SCHOOL IN KWAI CHUNG.

IN THE SAME MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO AGREED TO WORK STARTING ON 38 PROJECTS - 11 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 15 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED AN ELECTRICITY SWITCHING STATION/QUARTERS AT POKFULAM ROAD, A SOCIAL CENTRE AT THE JUNCTION OF NAM CHEONG STREET AND TAI HANG SAI STREET, A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION IN SHA TIN AND AN LPG/AIR PLANT IN YUEN LONG.

THE FLOOR AREA OF THESE 38 PROJECTS TOTALLED 226 075.3 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 151 506.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES WITH THE REMAINDER FOR NON-DOMESTIC USE.

DURING MARCH, 35 OCCUPATIONAL PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS, INCLUDING SEVEN RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS AT SASSOON ROAD, A BUS DEPOT AT HEUNG YIP ROAD, TWO PETROL-FILLING STATIONS IN SHA TIN, AND FIVE STAFF QUARTERS FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

TOTAL FLOOR AREA FOR ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN MARCH WAS 399 357.3 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 316 178.1 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR NON-DOMESTIC USE AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ISSUED EIGHT DEMOLITION ORDERS IN RESPECT OF 21 BUILDINGS DURING THE MONTH.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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DB MEMBERS SEE POLYCLINIC FACILITIES

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MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED A NON-PROFIT-MAKING POLYCLINIC IN NORTH POINT TO SEE ITS FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

RUN BY THE KIANGSU AND CHEKIANG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, THE CLINIC PROVIDES VARIOUS OUT-PATIENT TREATMENTS, INCLUDING MEDICAL, SURGICAL, DENTAL, PAEDIATRIC, GYNAECOLOGY, SKIN, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

THE POLYCLINIC, OFFICIALLY OPENED TWO MONTHS AGO, IS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH X-RAY FACILITIES, AN OPERATION THEATRE FOR MINOR OPERATIONS, A LABORATORY, PHYSIOTHERAPY AND ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT ROOMS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR LEE KWONG-LAM, SAID AFTER THE VISIT THAT HE AND OTHER MEMBERS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE FACILITIES AND VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE CLINIC.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD, ITS COMMITTEES, AND THE VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISTRICT SHOULD CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE RESIDENTS' WELFARE,+ SAID MR LEE.

+THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF THE CLINIC WILL SUPPLEMENT THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEDICAL SCHEME WHICH, IMPLEMENTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD IN 1982, HAS PROVED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.+

UNDER THE SCHEME, LOCAL RESIDENTS AGED OVER 60 AND OTHERS IN NEED CAN RECEIVE TREATMENT AT REDUCED FEES FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS JOINING THE SCHEME.

ALSO JOINING TODAY'S VISIT WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, AS PART OF A PROGRAMME TO FAMILIARISE BOARD MEMBERS WITH THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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SHA TIN DB TO DISCUSS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

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SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO COMMENT ON PROPOSALS FOR THE SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ROADS, WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY A WORKING GROUP.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE NEW TERRITORIES TAXI BOUNDARIES, THE SHA TIN TO TAI WO PING INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE DISTRICT BOARD LOGO.

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VEHICLE EXAMINERS FOR BUSES SOUGHT

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A RECRUITMENT EXERCISE FOR MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT TO DEPLOY MORE STAFF TO MONITOR CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT ON CMB MAINTENANCE.

THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TAC'S ADVICE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S DIRECTIVE.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR ENGINEER (MOTOR VEHICLES), MR P.K. LO, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR FOUR SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER II POST.

+THESE ADDITIONAL POSTS WILL FORM PART OF A NEW 'BUS DIVISION' SET UP WITHIN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE IT TO STEP UP MONITORING OF BUS MAINTENANCE BY FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES, IN PARTICULAR THAT OF CMB.+

THIS BUS DIVISION WILL BE PLACED UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF A SENIOR ENGINEER.

MR LO SAID APPLICANTS FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER II POST SHOULD EITHER HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED AN APPROVED TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP OR HOLD A HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING OR EQUIVALENT.

HE MUST ALSO HAVE FIVE YEARS POST-QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE (EXCLUDING APPRENTICESHIP) IN ALL FIELDS OF MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING OR THREE YEARS POST-QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE AT SUPERVISORY LEVEL IN THE INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF ALL TYPES.

/THE DUTIES

THE DUTIES OF A MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER II ARE:

- * TO CONDUCT INSPECTION OF VEHICLES TO ENSURE THEIR ROADWORTHINESS AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION;
- * DEAL WITH CASES REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES;
- * INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF VEHICLE ACCIDENTS AND
- * ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF AN INSPECTION CENTRE.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MAY BE REQUIRED TO WORK IRREGULAR HOURS AND TO PERFORM OUTDOOR DUTIES.

THE PAY SCALE FOR THE POST IS \$9 010 TO \$12 970 PER MONTH WITH ENTRY POINT DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE OF THE CANDIDATES.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON FORMS G.F. 340 WHICH ARE OBTAINABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OR THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, LABOUR DEPARTMENT. THEY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, ROOM 416, FOURTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

MR LO STRESSED THAT APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOT LATER THAN NEXT MONDAY (MAY 27).

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES COULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH ON 5-951953.

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CONTRACT FOR LAB SCHEME SIGNED
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A \$1.6 MILLION CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TESTING AUTHORITIES (NATA) TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S LABORATORIES ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR TESTING LABORATORIES HERE.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, AND THE REGISTRAR OF NATA, MR JOHN GILMOUR.

WITNESSING THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WAS MR ERNIE EVANS, THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM, WHICH IS TO BE KNOWN AS HOKLAS (HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME).

ABOUT 10 LABORATORIES ASSESSMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONDUCTED AS THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF HOKLAS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1986.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR TAI PO

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A PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TO BE BUILT ON A 4 320 SQUARE-METRE-SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF ON CHEUNG ROAD AND TAI WO ROAD, TAI PO.

THE SIX-STOREY SCHOOL BUILDING WILL HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS, THREE SPECIAL ROOMS AND AN ASSEMBLY HALL, AS WELL AS BASKETBALL COURTS, TWO VOLLEYBALL COURTS AND PLAY AREAS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED IN ONE YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, AND THE DEADLINE FOR TENDERS IS JUNE 7.

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ECOLOGY COURSE FOR MATRICULATION STUDENTS

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FIFTEEN RESIDENTIAL ECOLOGY COURSES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR THE 1985/86 ACADEMIC YEAR FOR MATRICULATION STUDENTS AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S FIELD STUDIES CENTRE IN SAI KUNG.

THE COURSES, JOINTLY HELD BY THE EDUCATION AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, ARE TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH STUDY AND ENJOYMENT IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

APART FROM ACADEMIC STUDIES, THE CONTENT OF WHICH WILL BE BASED ON THE HIGHER LEVEL AND ADVANCED LEVEL BIOLOGY SYLLABUSES, EACH COURSE WILL ALSO INCLUDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THERE WILL BE TWO THREE-DAY RESIDENTIAL ECOLOGY COURSES FOR MIDDLE VI STUDENTS AND 13 FOUR-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSES FOR LOWER AND UPPER FORM VI STUDENTS DURING THE TERM-TIME IN THE 1985-86 ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE AT SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE.

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLACES FOR EACH COURSE WILL BE 40. AT LEAST ONE TEACHER FROM EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL BE REQUIRED TO STAY IN THE CAMP WITH THE STUDENTS AND TO ASSIST IN CONDUCTING THE COURSES.

NO TUITION FEES WILL BE CHARGED. ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED AT \$60 AND \$90 PER PARTICIPANT PER COURSE FOR HIGHER LEVEL AND ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES RESPECTIVELY.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WHO WOULD LIKE THEIR MATRICULATION STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE COURSES SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE INSPECTOR, FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, PAK KONG, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES, BEFORE JUNE 7.

ENQUIRIES ON THE ECOLOGY COURSES CAN BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE AT 3-2814009.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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MEDALS FOR FIREMEN
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, WILL BE PRESENTING THE COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO 58 OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A CEREMONY AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION ON THURSDAY (MAY 23) AT 4 PM.

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CONFIRMATION LETTERS PRESENTED
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TWO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, MR P.L. WONG AND MR K.S. TONG, RECEIVED LETTERS OF CONFIRMATION FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MARTIN ROWLANDS, TODAY (MONDAY).

LETTERS OF CONFIRMATION WERE ALSO PRESENTED BY MR ROWLANDS TO SENIOR SUPERINTENDENTS, MR MAN SHU-HUNG AND MR MAK KAM-LAU, SUPERINTENDENTS, MR LI KWAN-KEUNG AND MR DAVID TONG, AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS, MR LEE YIP-TIM, MR WAI CHI-HUNG AND MR LEE WOON-WAH.

LATER, MR ROWLANDS, WHO IS RETIRING SHORTLY, WAS PRESENTED WITH A SOUVENIR BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR HARNAM GREWAL, ON BEHALF OF THE SENIOR OFFICERS' MESS COMMITTEE.

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BETTER INSTRUMENTS FOR MARCHING BANDS
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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CAPE COLLINSON MARCHING BAND AND THE TAI TAM GIRLS' PIPERS AND PRECISION MARCHING TEAM ARE BETTER EQUIPPED, THANKS TO A DONATION OF \$53 000 FROM THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (CHARITIES) LIMITED FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NUMBER OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THESE INCLUDE DRUM SETS, PIPES, BAGPIPES, SAXOPHONES, FLUTES, CLARINETS, FIFES AND BALDRICS FOR TEAM LEADERS.

THE TWO BANDS ARE VERY POPULAR AND OFTEN PERFORM PUBLICLY.

THEY HAVE PERFORMED AT CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, FESTIVALS AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY CHEST, ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGNS, CRIME PREVENTION CARNIVALS, AND LUNCH-TIME CONCERTS.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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KWUN TONG, JUNK BAY INTERCHANGE PLANNED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT A GRADE SEPARATED INTERCHANGE AT THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PING ROAD AND JUNK BAY ROAD AS PART OF THE ROAD SYSTEM LINKING KWUN TONG AND JUNK BAY NEW TOWN.

ALSO PROPOSED ARE THE REALIGNMENT OF JUNK BAY ROAD, CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SLIP ROADS AND THE ASSOCIATED FOOTPATHS.

AS PART OF THE WORK, IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE A FOOTPATH ALONG JUNK BAY ROAD AND A SHORT LENGTH OF AN UN-NAMED ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PING ROAD AND JUNK BAY ROAD.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN 30 MONTHS.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE WORK CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE,
CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE,
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING,
MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST,
YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR,
250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE,
KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING,
TUNG YAN STREET, THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS,
KOWLOON.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WORK MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY JULY 16.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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NIGHT WORK CLOSES CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD

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CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD IN NGAU CHI WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF FROM 2.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 22) FOR WORK ON A STEEL BRIDGE NEAR PING SHEK ESTATE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS WILL BE BANNED:

- * LEFT TURN FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND INTO CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD;
- * RIGHT TURN FROM CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD AT THE CHOI HUNG INTERCHANGE INTO CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD EASTBOUND; AND
- * LEFT TURN FROM PING SHEK ESTATE ACCESS ROAD INTO CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD WESTBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD AND PING SHEK ESTATE ACCESS ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

TRAFFIC FROM KOWLOON HEADING FOR SAI KUNG WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWUN TONG ROAD, HIP WO STREET, SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, SAN SHUN STREET AND NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD. TRAFFIC FROM SAI KUNG HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, HIP WO STREET AND KWUN TONG ROAD.

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MORE ROADS TO BE BUILT IN SHEK WU HUI

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO BUILD TWO ROADS TOTALLING 1.3 KILOMETRES TO THE NORTH OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD IN SHEK WU HUI TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THE PROPOSED WORK WILL ALSO INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS TERMINUS, A CAR PARK, FOOTPATHS, AND ASSOCIATED STORMWATER AND SEWER DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

/A NOTICE

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE.

A RELATED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; AND THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS IN WRITING MUST REACH THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY JULY 16.

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TRAFFIC REROUTING IN KWAI CHUNG

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WAI KEK STREET, BETWEEN TAI LOONG STREET AND SHEK LI STREET, IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MAY 23). THE SOUTHBOUND SECTION WILL HOWEVER BE RESTRICTED TO FRANCHISED BUSES.

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FOOTBRIDGE WORK CLOSES ROAD

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THE TUEN MUN BOUND SECTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD, BETWEEN SIU LAM INTERCHANGE AND ROAD D8, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 11.30 PM AND 5 AM FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY (MAY 23 - 25) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

GENERAL TRAFFIC AND KMB ROUTES 57M, 59A, 59M, 60, 60M, 66, 66M, 67M, 68 AND 68M HEADING FOR TUEN MUN WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE SLIP ROAD AT SIU LAM INTERCHANGE AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

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MEET THE MEDIA

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR IAN MACPHERSON, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON FIFTH FLOOR, BEAONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

- 23 -

RETURNING SECRETARY TO MEET PRESS

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BACK IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (TUESDAY) EVENING AFTER A TOUR OF SIX EUROPEAN CAPITALS WHERE HE HAD INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

MR HO WILL BE RETURNING ON BRITISH CALEDONIAN FLIGHT BR 382, ETA 6.10 PM.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 55.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 324.853 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 401.121 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 68.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WAN CHAI WATER LEAKAGE TESTS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 23) FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY LOCKHART ROAD, CANAL ROAD EAST, HENNESSY ROAD AND EAST POINT ROAD.

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