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FINANCIAL SECRETARY URGES GREATER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY MAY WELL DEPEND ON ITS APPROACH TO THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MARKET AND SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS TECHNOLOGY AS A DIVERSIFICATION OBJECTIVE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, IN A SPEECH TO THE SEMINAR ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG COMPUTING INDUSTRY FEDERATION AND THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

MR BREMRIDGE STRESSED THAT HONG KONG NEEDED TO INCREASE ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE IN THE WORLD MARKETS AND ONE KEY TO THIS OBJECTIVE WAS THE GREATER USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

+WE NEED THUS TO MAKE MORE PRODUCTIVE OUR ADMINISTRATIVE, BANKING, AND TRAVEL SECTORS, OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT NEVERTHELESS, HONG KONG HAD THE BENEFIT OF CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN EFFICIENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTERS, AT LEAST FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

+COMBINE THIS WITH THE RAPID GROWTH OF OUR ELECTRONICS ASSEMBLY INDUSTRY, AND IT STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS A SPECIFIC DIVERSIFICATION OBJECTIVE,+ MR BREMRIDGE REMARKED.

HE SAID THAT WHILE ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE WOULD PRIMARILY BE A TASK FOR INDUSTRY ITSELF, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACT AS A CATALYST.

+IN FACT, IN THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE, THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, APPROVED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ELECTRONICS TOPICS TO THE TUNE OF ABOUT HK$6 MILLION, WHILE OTHERS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEES,+ HE POINTED OUT.

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HONG KONG IS RECEPTIVE TO GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PETER TSAO, CALLED ON GERMAN INVESTORS TODAY (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER HONG KONG AS THEIR OVERSEAS BASE FOR ESTABLISHING WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARIES OR JOINT VENTURES.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE STUTTGART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

+AS GERMAN INDUSTRIES ARE MOVING INTO MORE AND MORE SOPHISTICATED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AREAS, YOU MAY WELL WISH TO CONSIDER CARRYING OUT SOME OF YOUR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN OFFSHORE BASES IN ORDER TO CUT DOWN COSTS,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO TOLD HIS GERMAN AUDIENCE THAT HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED AN INDUSTRIAL BASE READY AND ABLE TO ABSORB AND SUPPORT HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES, AND HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCES.

AMONG THE MOST PROMISING LINES, HE CITED ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES, RANGING FROM THE MANUFACTURING OF TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND MINI-COMPUTERS TO AUTOMATION AND ROBOT CONTROLS.

+WE ALSO HAVE A NEED FOR SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS FOUNDRIES, PRECISION MACHINERY MANUFACTURE AND METALWORK, AND THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FURNITURE AND BUILDING SUPPLIES, PHARMACEUTICALS AND SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID HE WAS ASTONISHED BY THE RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE OF GERMAN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, VALUED AT ONLY DM 16 MILLION, OR LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

AND THE BULK OF THIS INVESTMENT IS CONCENTRATED IN THE TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES WITH LOW INVESTMENT PER EMPLOYEE.

DR VICTOR FUNG, A PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST IN HONG KONG AND A MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD ALSO SPOKE AT THE SEMINAR.

HE SUGGESTED THAT GERMAN BUSINESSMEN CONSIDER HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING SOURCE FOR COMPONENTS AND SUB-ASSEMBLIES.

HE ALSO MENTIONED THE VAST POTENTIAL OF HONG KONG AS A GATEWAY INTO CHINA.

ANOTHER HONG KONG SPEAKER AT THE STUTTGART SEMINAR WAS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, MR VIC MILLER, WHO GAVE DETAILS ON HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL LAND FACILITIES.

MR TSAO, MR MILLER AND DR FUNG WILL LEAVE FOR COLOGUE TO SPEAK AT ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION SEMINAR TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SPENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TOURING THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS IN NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

SIR PHILIP WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE DIRECTOR, MR JOHN E. PEACOCK, WHO INTRODUCED THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION, MR PATRICK SHAM, AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, MR PETER LI TO HIM.

AFTER AN INTRODUCTORY BRIEFING, SIR PHILIP WAS TAKEN ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE OBSERVATORY'S HEADQUARTERS.

SIR PHILIP FIRST WENT TO THE METEOROLOGICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, AND THE SATELLITE AND RADAR RECEPTION ROOM LOCATED ON THE SAME FLOOR. HERE SIR PHILIP WAS BRIEFED ON THE ROLE THE OBSERVATORY PLAYS IN THE EXCHANGE OF WEATHER DATA OVER THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CIRCUITS AND WAS SHOWN THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE RECEPTION AND DESPATCH OF WEATHER INFORMATION. THE RECEPTION OF WEATHER SATELLITE PICTURES AND THEIR APPLICATION TO WEATHER FORECASTING WERE ALSO EXPLAINED TO SIR PHILIP.

IN THE CENTRAL FORECASTING OFFICE, SIR PHILIP SAW FORECASTERS AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANTS AT WORK AND WAS GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF HOW LOCAL METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION AND WEATHER DATA FROM OTHER CENTRES WERE COLLATED FOR USE IN WEATHER FORECASTING.

SIR PHILIP NEXT VISITED THE OBSERVATORY'S COMPUTER DIVISION WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACQUISITION, ANALYSIS, PROCESSING AND ARCHIVAL OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR WEATHER FORECASTING AND RESEARCH.

FROM THERE, HE WENT TO THE RESEARCH AND RECORDS DIVISION, AND THEN THE AIR POLLUTION METEOROLOGY RESEARCH UNIT.

HE ALSO TOURED THE PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UNIT, AND THE SEISMOLOGY, ASTRONOMY, GEOMAGNETISM AND TIME SERVICE SECTION.

AT THE PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UNIT, SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD HOW MATHEMATICAL MODELS ARE USED TO PREDICT TIDES AND STORM SURGE LEVELS FOR WARNING PURPOSES AND ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS SUCH AS MAJOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS.

AT THE SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION, SIR PHILIP HEARD HOW INFORMATION IS COLLECTED, AND ANALYSED, IN CONNECTION WITH FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE PROPOSED NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

FINALLY, SIR PHILIP WAS SHOWN ROUND THE METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS SECTION AND THE OBSERVATORY'S TRAINING UNIT WHERE SEVEN SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANTS WERE BEING GIVEN TECHNICAL TRAINING.

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TWO NEW DIRECTORATE POSTS CREATED

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THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH PAY AND STRUCTURE DIVISION TOGETHER WITH STAFF FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING HAVE CONDUCTED AN OVERALL REVIEW INTO THE ORGANISATION AND WORK OF THE OFFICE.

AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW, STAFFING NEEDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND A SUITABLE ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE FINANCE AND THE DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER SAID TODAY.

TWO NEW DIRECTORATE POSTS HAVE BEEN CREATED. THEY ARE:

ONE POST OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AND

ONE POST OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER POST).

MR DEREK MURPHY HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT WILL ACT AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER. MRS ESTELLA TANG HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO THE SUBSTANTIVE RANK OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF WORK WITHIN THE OFFICE FROM NOW ON WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:-

(A) DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (ACTING) - DEREK MURPHY

APART FROM DEPUTISING FOR THE COMMISSIONER AS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE WILL BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CORPORATE FINANCE POLICY AND DOCUMENTATION, AND THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THE OFFICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS.

(B) ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (COMMODITIES) - ALLEN MILLS

HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE AND ALL MATTERS RELATING THERETO, TOGETHER WITH ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE ON UNIT TRUSTS AND MUTUAL FUNDS.

(C) ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (SECURITIES) - ESTELLA TANG

SHE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE AND ALL MATTERS RELATING THERETO, THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION ORDINANCE, THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE, AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

ONCE THE PRESENT PROMOTION AND RECRUITMENT EXERCISES WHICH ARE UNDERWAY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE REORGANISED STRUCTURE (INVOLVING AN ADDITIONAL FOUR NEW SENIOR SECURITIES OFFICER AND NINE NEW SECURITIES OFFICER POSTS) WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BY EARLY 1983.

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SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY
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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARDS THE ELDERLY IS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH VARIOUS SERVICES TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTINUE LIVING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN HE OPENED THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL'S YAU OI HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN TUEN MUN.

MR ALLEYNE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY'S ROLE IN PROVIDING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

BUT HE ADDED THAT IF THIS SUPPORT WAS INADEQUATE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

HE NOTED THAT THE PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAD MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF OLD PEOPLE UNABLE TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN.

THERE ARE ABOUT 2 100 HOSTEL PLACES IN WHICH OLD PEOPLE LIVE IN GROUPS WITHIN A NORMAL HOUSING ENVIRONMENT +SO THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL SOCIALLY ISOLATED OR SEPARATED FROM COMMUNITY LIFE AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO PURCHASE UP TO 150 RESIDENTIAL FLATS BY EARLY 1983 TO HOUSE SOME 700 OLD PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

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ENROLMENT IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES SHORT COURSES

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HONG KONG'S FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, NOW OPERATED UNDER THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WILL RUN A NUMBER OF PART-TIME EVENING SHORT COURSES FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN LOCAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT SAID THE COURSES, WHICH ARE FOR THE 1982-83 ACADEMIC YEAR, WILL START IN NOVEMBER. THE SHORT COURSES COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND INCLUDE COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, MARINE AND FABRICATION, TEXTILE AND CLOTHING AND GENERAL STUDIES.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE SHORT COURSES OFFERED SUCH AS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, PLACE OF ATTENDANCE, COMMENCING DATES ETC. ARE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARDS OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE IN PERSON FROM ANY OF THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THEY ARE THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG, HAKING WONG AND LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THE CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 18.

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE TRADES RELEVANT TO THE COURSES APPLIED FOR AND THEY SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

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SAI KUNG D.B. MEETING IN NEW OFFICE

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SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FOURTH MEETING AT THE BOARD'S NEW OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF AMOY PLAZA, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AT THE MEETING BOARD MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR FOUR MEI FA (BEAUTIFICATION) PROJECTS IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR AND DISCUSS THE ROUND-UP PHASE OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN. THE MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS RITA LAU.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS ACCESS AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS FOR THE DISABLED AND REVIEW THE BOARD'S LATEST FINANCIAL POSITION.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL SERVICES, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE 1980 CENSUS OF INSURANCE SERVICES

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE FIRST BENCHMARK ECONOMIC CENSUS ON THE INSURANCE SECTOR CONDUCTED IN 1981 FOR THE REFERENCE YEAR 1980 WERE RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE CENSUS COVERED ALL INSURERS (ASSURERS) AND REINSURERS, INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS, AND OTHER INSURANCE SERVICES, EXCEPT OVERSEAS INSURANCE COMPANIES WITHOUT BRANCH OR REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN HONG KONG BUT OPERATING THROUGH AGENTS, AND SELF-EMPLOYED INSURANCE AGENTS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE.

TABLE 1 (WHICH IS ATTACHED TOGETHER WITH TABLE 2) SUMMARISES THE PROVISIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE 540 REPORTING INSURANCE ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE GROUPS, NAMELY, GENERAL INSURERS, LIFE INSURERS/ASSURERS, AND INSURANCE AGENTS, BROKERS AND OTHER INSURANCE SERVICES (INCLUDING ACTUARIES, LOSS ADJUSTORS/ASSESSORS, LIAISON/REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF OVERSEAS INSURERS, AND ESTABLISHMENTS ACTING AS MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR INSURERS).

THE CENSUS RESULTS INDICATED THAT 540 INSURANCE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION DURING THE WHOLE OR PART OF 1980, WITH A WORKFORCE OF 7 016 PERSONS AND GENERATING $1 467 MILLION OF GROSS OUTPUT.

SOME $327 MILLION WERE SPENT ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND $242 MILLION ON OPERATING EXPENSES.

THE TOTAL NET PREMIUMS RECEIVED BY INSURERS (WHICH EQUAL GROSS RETAINED PREMIUMS AND REINSURANCE COMMISSIONS RECEIVED LESS COMMISSIONS AND BROKERAGES PAID) WERE ESTIMATED TO BE $1 709 MILLION.

ABOUT $807 MILLION WERE PAID AS NET CLAIMS, WHICH WERE GROSS CLAIMS LESS RECOVERIES FROM SALVAGE, SUBROGATION AND REINSURERS.

INSURANCE FUNDS AND RESERVES PUT UP BY INSURERS FOR UNEARNED PREMIUMS AND OUTSTANDING CLAIMS TOTALLED $3 371 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF INVESTMENT GENERATED OR ADMINISTERED BY RESIDENT INSURERS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE $3 836 MILLION.

CAPITAL STOCK AT THE END OF 1980, OTHER THAN THOSE FIXED ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE $107 MILLION, WITH $14 MILLION DEPRECIATED OVER THE YEAR, AND $47 MILLION INJECTED AS GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS WHICH WERE ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS LESS PROCEEDS FROM RE-SALES OF FIXED ASSETS.

INSURANCE AGENTS, BROKERS AND OTHER INSURANCE SERVICES ACCOUNTED FOR 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND 41 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE IN THE INSURANCE SECTOR. HOWEVER, THEIR GROSS OUTPUT, AT 21 PER CENT OF THE SECTOR'S TOTAL, WAS MUCH LOWER THAN THAT OF GENERAL INSURERS, AT 91 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

/LIFE INSURERS .....

LIFE INSURERS HAD A NEGATIVE GROSS OUTPUT, SUGGESTING LOSSES IN UNDERWRITING BUSINESS. BUT THESE LOSSES FROM INSURANCE OPERATIONS, IN MOST CASES, COULD BE MADE UP BY EARNINGS FROM INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS.

THE LIFE INSURERS' PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT TOTALLED ABOUT $2 000 MILLION AT THE END OF THE REPORTING YEAR, WHILE THAT OF GENERAL INSURERS TOTALLED ABOUT $1 800 MILLION AND ALTHOUGH THEY HAD A MUCH LOWER PREMIUM INCOME AND CLAIMS THAN GENERAL INSURERS, THE LIFE INSURERS MAINTAINED A POOL OF FUNDS AND RESERVES THAT WERE ALMOST TWICE AS MUCH AS THOSE KEPT BY GENERAL INSURERS.

TABLE 2 PRESENTS IN GREATER DETAIL THE TOTAL PREMIUMS RECEIVED AND CLAIMS INCURRED BY THE 161 GENERAL AND LIFE INSURERS IN 1980 DISTINGUISHED INTO 7 CATEGORIES.

IN GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, $3 077 MILLION OF TOTAL GROSS PREMIUMS WERE RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF DIRECT UNDERWRITING AND INWARD REINSURANCE BUSINESS. OF THIS, 54 PER CENT HAD BEEN CEDED OUT TO OTHER INSURERS, LEAVING A TOTAL OF GROSS RETAINED PREMIUMS OF $1 403 MILLION.

AFTER SUBTRACTING COMMISSIONS AND BROKERAGES PAID AND ADDING REINSURANCE COMMISSIONS RECEIVED, TOTAL NET PREMIUMS RECEIVED BY GENERAL INSURERS AMOUNTED TO $1 042 MILLION. OF THIS, FIRE INSURANCE AND MARINE INSURANCE (INCLUDING MARINE HULL AND MARINE CARGO) ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST SHARES, EACH AT 28 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY ACCIDENT INSURANCE (21 PER CENT), MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE (18 PER CENT) AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INSURANCE (6 PER CENT).

IN LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS, ONLY 9 PER CENT OF THE $734 MILLION OF TOTAL GROSS PREMIUMS HAD BEEN CEDED OUT, WITH TOTAL GROSS RETAINED PREMIUMS AND TOTAL NET PREMIUMS AMOUNTING TO $669 MILLION AND $667 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

GROUP LIFE INSURANCE TOOK UP OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS WHILE THE REST WENT TO INDIVIDUAL LIFE INSURANCE.

THE TOTAL GROSS CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF DIRECT UNDERWRITING AND REINSURANCE BUSINESS TOTALLED $1 508 MILLION IN GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS AND $188 MILLION IN LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS, WITH NET CLAIMS OF $639 MILLION AND $168 MILLION RESPECTIVELY. AMONG THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF INSURANCE BUSINESS, MARINE INSURANCE INCURRED THE LARGEST NET CLAIMS OF $190 MILLION, REPRESENTING 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NET CLAIMS IN GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW PREPARING A REPORT WHICH WILL DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE RESULTS OF THE CENSUS AND THE METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE 1980 CENSUS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 3-7216374).

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Table 1 Provisional statistics for reporting establishments in the insurance sector analysed by group

Group	Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Number of employees	Compensation of employees	Operating expenses	Net premiums	Net claims	Funds and reserves	Gross output	Investment	Gross additions to fixed assets	Depreciation of fixed assets	Capital stock
				$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn	$ Mn
General insurers	135	2 565	2 565	114.8	115.8	1 042.1	639.2	1 216.2	1 333.0	1 844.7	30.5	6.2	60.8
Life insurers	26	1 604	1 604	89.8	27.4	667.2	168.1	2 154.5	-167.8	1 991.1	2.7	2.2	14.3
Insurance agents, brokers and other insurance services	379	2 847	2 628	122.2	99.2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	301.4	N.A.	13.3	5.6	32.3
Total	540	7 016	6 797	326.9	242.4	1 709.4	807.3	3 370.7	1 466.7	3 835.8	46.5	14.0	107.3

Table 2 Premiums received and claims incurred by insurers analysed by class of insurance business

($ Million)

	General Insurance Business						Life Insurance Business			Total
	Marine	Fire	Motor vehicle	Accident	Others	Sub-total	Individual	Group	Sub-total	
Premiums										
Gross premiums										
Direct	543.2	684.6	319.3	371.2	140.5	2 058.8	218.3	510.5	728.8	2 787.6
Inward reinsurance	314.4	404.1	101.5	171.3	26.4	1 017.8	4.7	0.4	5.1	1 022.9
Gross retained premiums	319.4	436.0	282.7	281.6	82.8	1 402.5	163.4	505.4	668.9	2 071.4
Net premiums	287.9	296.0	182.4	215.7	62.0	1 042.1	163.6	503.6	667.2	1 709.4
Claims										
Gross claims										
Direct	320.0	227.1	119.8	133.1	46.5	846.4	87.0	99.8	186.8	1 033.2
Inward reinsurance	260.1	223.7	66.8	96.9	14.4	661.9	1.3	0.2	1.5	663.4
Net claims	189.9	182.2	127.4	116.1	23.6	639.2	69.0	99.1	168.1	807.3

Note : Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

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REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS

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RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1982 MUST BE PAID BY NOON ON OCTOBER 30.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT LATE PAYMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE AND A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT ON ACCOUNTS STILL OUTSTANDING SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

HE SAID RATEPAYERS SHOULD HAVE BY NOW RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES SHOULD APPLY FOR A COPY AT THE RATES SECTION OF THE TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

+WHETHER OR NOT THE DEMAND NOTE IS RECEIVED, IT DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES SHOULD BE PAID BEFORE THE DUE DATE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT RATES WERE PAYABLE ON VACANT PREMISES BUT WERE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE RATING ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE NO REFUNDS IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES, UNLESS IT IS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TO AVOID QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR AUTOPAY FORMS SHOULD READ THEIR DEMAND NOTES CAREFULLY TO SEE IF THEY CONTAIN THE WORDING +PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY AS AUTHORISED+. THE ABSENCE OF SUCH WORDING MEANS THEIR FORMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PROCESSED, IN WHICH CASE THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY THEIR RATES IN THE NORMAL WAY, I.E. IN PERSON OR BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER.

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SHORT TERM TENANCIES INVITED FOR N.T. LAND

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF FOUR PIECES OF CROWN LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE LARGEST SITE, ABOUT 8 880 SQUARE METRES, IS SITUATED IN THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

IT IS INTENDED FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGGREGATE AND CEMENT, INCLUDING THE BATCHING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONCRETE.

HOWEVER, THIS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES THE MANUFACTURE OF CONCRETE AND CEMENT BLOCKS OR SIMILAR PRODUCTS AND STONE CRUSHING.

THIS TENANCY WILL BE INITIALLY FOR ONE YEAR AND THEREAFTER, QUARTERLY.

THE OTHER THREE LOTS ARE ALL AT TING KOK ROAD IN TAI PO.

THESE SITES MEASURE ABOUT 1 064, 914 AND 903 SQUARE METRES, AND ARE FOR CAR-SPRAYING AND SPRAY-PAINTING PURPOSES.

INITIALLY, THESE TENANCIES WILL BE FOR THE PERIOD UP TO JUNE 30, 1983 AND THEREAFTER MONTHLY.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APPLLICATIONS OF TENDERS IS AT NOON ON OCTOBER 22.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES, AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, FOR THE TUEN MUN SITE AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TAI PO, FOR THE TAI PO SITES.

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ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICE FOR RACEGOERS

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ELECTRIC TRAINS WILL BE OPERATING ON A SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 9), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT THE TRAINS WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION FROM 12.02 PM TO 2.12 PM, AND WILL LEAVE THE RACE COURSE STATION FROM 5.04 PM TO 6.34 PM, AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS.

PASSENGERS ARE ADVISED TO BUY ADVANCE RETURN TICKETS WHICH ARE NOW ON SALE AT ALL BOOKING OFFICES OF KCR STATIONS.

SINGLE TICKETS FROM THE RACE COURSE TO KOWLOON STATION WILL ALSO BE ON SALE EACH RACE DAY AT THE BETTING BOOTH OF THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE AT $1.50 EACH.

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RESULTS OF LATEST TAXI TENDERS

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RESULTS OF THE LATEST TENDERS FOR TAXI LICENCES WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID.

ALTHOUGH 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES WERE PUT UP, A TOTAL OF 864 TENDERS SEEKING 925 LICENCES HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 3.

THE HIGHEST BID ACCEPTED WAS $221 000 AND THE LOWEST $203 000.

THIS REPRESENTED AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF $206 550.36, AN INCREASE OF 13.47 PER CENT OVER THE AVERAGE FOR THE LAST TAXI TENDERS, IN JULY THIS YEAR.

AS FOR THE 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES PUT UP, 466 TENDERS WERE LODGED FOR 615 LICENCES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS RANGED FROM $106 503 TO $97 000, GIVING AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF $98 979.97, AN INCREASE OF 48.32 PER CENT OVER THE AVERAGE PREMIUM FOR THE PREVIOUS TENDERS.

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+CLEAN FOR CHARITY+ DRIVE TO BE LAUNCHED

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PEOPLE FROM SCHOOLS, CLUBS, BUSINESSES AND OTHER COMMUNITY SECTORS ARE EXPECTED ONCE AGAIN TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON GOAL -- MAKING HONG KONG CLEANER AND RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARITY AT THE SAME TIME.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ORGANISERS OF THE THIRD +CLEAN FOR CHARITY+ DRIVE TO BE LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 20.

A TOTAL OF 3 200 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE PREVIOUS CAMPAIGN FROM NOVEMBER 1981 TO APRIL, HELPING IN CLEANING UP BEACHES, PARKS, HOUSING ESTATES AND REFUSE-RIDDEN SPOTS ON REMOTE ISLANDS, COLLECTING AT THE SAME TIME $526 000 FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST,. COMPARED WITH THE $220 000 RAISED DURING THE FIRST DRIVE.

THE PREVIOUS DRIVE COINCIDED WITH THE REVITALISED CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

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ORIENTATION WEEK FOR NEWCOMERS TO TUEN MUN

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A WEEK-LONG ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME HAS BEEN ORGANISED TO FAMILIARISE SOME 70 000 PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS IN TUEN MUN WITH THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AND SERVICES BEING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE +ON TING AND YAU OI ESTATES ORIENTATION WEEK+, BEGINNING ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 17), IS ALSO TO WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS IN THE TWIN ESTATES, THE ADJACENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME SIU ON COURT, AND THE NEARBY SECOND AND THIRD VILLAGES OF THE TUEN MUN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE IDEA WAS TO OFFER A SERIES OF ENTERTAINING AND INFORMATIVE PROGRAMMES THAT WOULD HELP BUILD UP A COHESIVE COMMUNITY.

THE ORIENTATION WEEK IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, VARIOUS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A PICTORIAL EXHIBITION, SLIDE SHOWS ABOUT THE NEW TOWN, SOCCER GAMES, TALENT QUEST, ESSAY CONTESTS, DRAWING COMPETITIONS, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, VARIETY SHOWS, CHINESE OPERA, MODEL CAR DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

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TABLE TENNIS TRAINING CAMP

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A TRAINING CAMP FOR TABLE TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS WILL BE HELD AT SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE FROM NOVEMBER 6 TO 7.

THE CAMP IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

ACTIVITIES AT THE 24-HOUR CAMP WILL INCLUDE DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE SPORT, A FILM SHOW, SPORT GAMES AND GROUP FUNCTIONS.

THE CAMP, WITH A CAPACITY FOR 180 PEOPLE, IS OPEN TO SKILFUL PLAYERS AGED 15 OR ABOVE.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CHARGED $28 EACH FOR ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORT.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 18.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO 5-458511 OR 5-755330.

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APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MAXICAB ROUTES

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A TOTAL OF 109 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR OPERATING 25 NEW MAXICAB ROUTES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE DESCRIBES THE RESPONSE AS BEING +VERY ENCOURAGING+, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY 71 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

DUE LARGELY TO THE POPULARITY AND SUCCESS OF THE EXISTING MAXICAB SERVICES, MORE PLB OPERATORS ARE SEEKING TO OPERATE FIXED ROUTES, HE ADDED.

MOST OF THE NEW ROUTES WILL BE FEEDER SERVICES TO MTR AND KCR STATIONS.

THE ROUTES WITH MOST APPLICATIONS ARE : CHOI WAN-PING SHEK, KOWLOON CITY-TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, MONG KOK KCR STATION-SAN PO KONG, BEACON HILL-BROADCAST DRIVE, ARGYLE MTR STATION-LOK MAN SUN CHUEN, ARGYLE MTR STATION-KOWLOON CITY, SHEK WAI KOK-KWAI SHING, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION-TSING LUNG TAU, AND TSUEN WAN MTR STATION-TSUEN WAN CENTRE.

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COMMON JURORS LIST

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A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING AT JACKSON ROAD ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11), THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, MR NICHOLAS JOHN BARNETT, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THIS LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS.

DURING THIS PERIOD ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED UPON CAUSE DULY ASSIGNED IN THE NOTICE.

THE REGISTRAR SHALL IN HIS DISCRETION, POST OR REMOVE SUCH NAME ACCORDINGLY AND SHALL IF NECESSARY ALTER THE LIST.

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MOVING OFFICE

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THE AD-VALOREM CHARGES COLLECTION OFFICE (HONG KONG) OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG SUB-OFFICE OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL MOVE FROM FIRE BRIGADE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, TO THE FIRST FLOOR OF ASIAN HOUSE, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, FROM NEXT MONDAY (OCTOBER 11).

AFTER THE REMOVAL, THE +CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, AD-VALOREM CHARGES COLLECTION OFFICE (HONG KONG)+ WILL CHANGE ITS NAME TO +CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, COLLECTION OFFICE (HONG KONG)+.

OFFICE HOURS WILL REMAIN AT 9 AM TO 4.30 PM, FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND AT 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 5-286377, 5-286487 AND 5-286802.

THE HONG KONG SUB-OFFICE OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE AS USUAL FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AND FROM 1.30 PM TO 5 PM, ON MONDAY TO FRIDAY. OFFICE HOURS ON SATURDAY WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO NOON.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE SUB-OFFICE ARE 5-286348 AND 5-286003.

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NEW OFFICE FOR LANDS REGISTRY

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS REGISTRY HAS MOVED TO NEW PREMISES IN THE SUB-OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF FUNG CHEUNG BUILDING, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE VALUATION AND TSO/TONG REGISTRY IN THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING: APPLICATION FOR SUCCESSION TO PROPERTY, ASSIGNMENT OF +TSO+ OR +TONG+ LANDS, THE APPOINTMENT OF MANAGERS FOR +TSO+ OR +TONG+ LANDS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR MINORS.

A FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO THE NEW LANDS REGISTRY PREMISES WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS. RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WOULD ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, HE ADDED.

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