



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BUSY DAY FOR PRIME MINISTER	1
MRS THATCHER HAS TEA WITH HOUSING ESTATE RESIDENTS	3
MASSIVE FUNDS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL	4
PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1982	5
TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS RECESSED	7
PARENTS CONSENT NEEDED FOR FLAG DAY SALES	7
CHILD CARE SEMINAR IN SHA TIN	8
STUDENT TRAVEL SCHEME	9
HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS	9
CAUSEWAY BAY ROAD CLOSURE	9

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 1 -

BUSY DAY FOR PRIME MINISTER
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PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER WOUND UP HER VISIT TO HONG KONG TODAY BY OFFICIALLY OPENING A POWER STATION -- AN ENGAGEMENT SHE SAID WAS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE BECAUSE HONG KONG ITSELF WAS A UNIQUE MODEL OF ENERGY.

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE REMARK AT THE OPENING OF THE CASTLE PEAK 'A' POWER STATION AT TUEN MUN.

CASTLE PEAK 'A', WITH THE SECOND PHASE NOW BEING BUILT - CASTLE PEAK 'B' - WILL ULTIMATELY FORM THE LARGEST POWER STATION COMPLEX IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, WITH A CAPACITY OF MORE THAN 4 000 MEGAWATTS.

MRS THATCHER INSPECTED SECTIONS OF THE POWER STATION, WHICH HAS BEEN BUILT WITH BRITISH EQUIPMENT.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LORD KADOORIE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, AND OTHER COMPANY OFFICIALS, MRS THATCHER WENT FIRST TO THE CONTROL ROOM, WHERE SHE WAS BRIEFED ON THE STATION'S OPERATION AND INSPECTED A MODEL OF THE COMPLEX.

THE PRIME MINISTER THEN INSPECTED THE GIANT TURBINE ROOM, THE BOILER ROOM AND THE COAL CRUSHING PLANT, WHERE FUEL IS PULVERISED BEFORE BEING USED TO FIRE THE BOILERS.

WELCOMING MRS THATCHER TO THE STATION, LORD KADOORIE SAID THE COMPLEX WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH INDUSTRY.

LORD KADOORIE NOTED THAT THE LOAN FOR 918 MILLION POUNDS STERLING TO BUILD CASTLE PEAK 'B', SIGNED IN LONDON LAST SEPTEMBER, WAS THE BIGGEST FACILITY EVER GUARANTEED BY BRITAIN'S EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEE DEPARTMENT.

CASTLE PEAK 'A' HAS FOUR 350 MEGAWATT GENERATORS, PRODUCING A TOTAL OF 1 400 MEGAWATTS. THE FIRST UNIT BEGAN PRODUCING POWER LESS THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER WORK BEGAN ON THE SITE.

CASTLE PEAK 'B' WILL HAVE FOUR 660 MEGAWATT GENERATORS, PRODUCING A TOTAL OF 2 640 MEGAWATTS. THE MAIN FUEL FOR BOTH SECTIONS OF THE PLANT IS COAL, BUT BOTH STATIONS ALSO RETAIN THE ABILITY TO USE OIL AS FUEL.

/AFTER LUNCH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 2 -

AFTER LUNCH AT CASTLE PEAK, MRS THATCHER FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO MODERN TERMINALS LTD IN KWAI CHUNG TO VIEW CONTAINER FACILITIES THERE.

SHE WAS MET BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR P.E.J. DAVY, MR DAVID GLEDHILL, CHAIRMAN OF MODERN TERMINALS LTD, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR MARK LEESE, AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, MR SCOTT PIRIE.

MR LEESE BRIEFED MRS THATCHER ON THE WORKINGS OF THE TERMINAL FROM THE ROOF OF THE COMPANY'S 12-STOREY WAREHOUSE. HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT MTL BEGAN OPERATIONS 10 YEARS AGO WHEN IT HANDLED 18 000 CONTAINERS. LAST YEAR, THIS FIGURE REACHED 625 555 AND THE COMPANY EXPECTS THAT THIS YEAR 675 000 CONTAINERS WILL HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE TERMINAL.

MRS THATCHER WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE TERMINAL OPERATES AROUND THE CLOCK AND THAT THE THROUGHPUT OF CONTAINERS PER ACRE IS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

FROM KWAI CHUNG, THE PRIME MINISTER FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO TSUEN WAN WHERE SHE TOURED SHEK WAI KOK HOUSING ESTATE AND VISITED A FAMILY IN ONE OF THE FLATS.

THE PRIME MINISTER THEN PROCEEDED BY CAR TO TSUEN WAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION WHERE SHE WAS MET AND BRIEFED ON MTR DEVELOPMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, MR NORMAN THOMPSON.

MRS THATCHER RETURNED TO HONG KONG ISLAND ON THE MTR.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 3 -

MRS THATCHER HAS TEA WITH HOUSING ESTATE RESIDENTS

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DURING HER VISIT TO SHEK WAI KOK HOUSING ESTATE THIS AFTERNOON, MRS THATCHER WAS +GENUINELY DELIGHTED+ TO LEARN FROM THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO THAT SINCE HER VISIT TO HONG KONG IN APRIL 1977 THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD HOUSED 668 600 PEOPLE.

+THAT'S WELL OVER HALF-A-MILLION PEOPLE AND GETTING ON FOR THREE-QUARTERS-OF-A-MILLION -- IT'S SIMPLY AMAZING,+ SHE SAID.

MRS THATCHER SAID SHE WAS +HIGHLY IMPRESSED+ TO FIND THAT 49 RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP ESTATES HAD BEEN OPENED SINCE APRIL 1977 AND 161 800 FLATS BUILT AND OCCUPIED.

SHE TOLD MR LIAO: +WHEN I WAS LAST HERE, THESE NEW ESTATES WERE JUST IDEAS -- NOW THEY'RE THE HOMES OF SO MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS IS QUITE WONDERFUL.+

AT SHEK WAI KOK, MRS THATCHER ACCEPTED A CUP OF TEA FROM MRS NG SIU LAI-YING, THE WIFE OF FACTORY WORKER MR NG KAM-KAU, WHEN SHE VISITED THEIR 14TH FLOOR HOME.

SHE ASKED MRS NG HOW LONG THE FAMILY HAD LIVED THERE AND HOW THEY LIKED THEIR HOME.

MRS NG SAID THE FAMILY HAD MOVED INTO THE SEVEN-PERSON FLAT 23 MONTHS AGO AND PAID A MONTHLY RENT OF \$325.

+WE PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN TAI WO HAU ESTATE AND MOVED HERE TO SHEK WAI KOK UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S RELIEF-OF-OVERCROWDING PROGRAMME,+ SHE SAID.

+THIS IS MUCH NICER AND WE ALL LIKE THE PLACE VERY MUCH.+

ON LEAVING MRS NG'S FLAT, THE PRIME MINISTER NOTICED WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A WELCOME SIGN IN CHINESE OUTSIDE THE ADJOINING FLAT OF MR WONG TO (57).

MR WONG AND HIS WIFE BECKONED HER INSIDE AND SOON SHE WAS HAVING A SECOND CUP OF TEA -- AND MEETING MR WONG'S 80-YEAR OLD MOTHER WHO WAS VISITING THE WONG'S AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN.

MR WONG ALSO OFFERED MRS THATCHER A MOON CAKE TO GO WITH THE TEA BUT SHE DECLINED WITH A SMILE, EXPLAINING SHE DID NOT HAVE THE TIME.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 4 -

MASSIVE FUNDS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SPEND \$3.6 BILLION IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS ON SEWAGE TREATMENT TO CONTROL WATER POLLUTION IN HONG KONG, A SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, DR CATHERINE LAM, SAID.

ADDRESSING A SEMINAR JUST HELD IN NEW ZEALAND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, DR LAM SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT HONG KONG BE DIVIDED INTO TEN WATER CONTROL ZONES.

+EVENTUALLY THE EXISTING WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS SHOULD IMPROVE AND THE PRESENT GOOD WATER QUALITY WILL BE SAFEGUARDED AGAINST FUTURE POLLUTION,+ SHE PREDICTED.

IN HER TALK, ENTITLED +WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF TOLO HARBOUR+, DR LAM TRACED THE POLLUTION PROBLEM OF THE PLACE.

FORMERLY A RURAL AREA, THIS CATCHMENT WITH A POPULATION OF 60 000 IN THE MID-1970S NOW HAS 250 000 RESIDENTS, WITH THE FINAL FIGURE PROJECTED AT OVER ONE MILLION.

SUCH RAPID DEVELOPMENT, SHE SAID, HAD BROUGHT CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATING WATER CONDITION IN THIS ALMOST LANDLOCKED ESTUARY WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR SUBSTANTIAL RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

SHE SAID THAT DOMESTIC AND AGRICULTURAL WASTE DISCHARGES, RESULTING IN FREQUENT RED TIDES AND +BOTTOM OXYGEN DEPLETION+, WERE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN AT PRESENT.

+HOWEVER,+ SHE ADDED, +THE SITUATION SHOULD IMPROVE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE 1980, WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE 1980, THE PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURAL WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME AND FURTHER COMMISSIONING OF MAJOR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.+

SHE DISCLOSED THAT THREE MAJOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THE CATCHMENT.

+TWO OF THESE ARE PARTIALLY COMMISSIONED AT PRESENT. AGRICULTURAL WASTE DISCHARGES WILL BE EVENTUALLY CONTROLLED UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE,+ SHE ADDED.

OTHER URBAN PLANS PROVIDING FOR MARKET, HAWKER AND REFUSE COLLECTION AREAS WOULD HELP TO REDUCE URBAN RUNOFF POLLUTANTS, DR LAM SAID.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1982

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S VISIBLE TRADE IN AUGUST 1982. THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR AUGUST WAS \$11 355 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$7 742 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$3 613 MILLION. WITH IMPORTS AT \$11 583 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR AUGUST WAS \$228 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE SAME MONTH IN 1981, THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING INCREASES IN VALUE: \$255 MILLION OR THREE PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$150 MILLION OR FOUR PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, \$405 MILLION OR FOUR PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$322 MILLION OR THREE PER CENT FOR IMPORTS. THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT TWO PER CENT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR WAS SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN IN AUGUST 1981 AT THREE PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IN HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS PERSISTED, THE GROWTH RATE IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST, AT THREE PER CENT REMAINED LOW, COMPARED WITH A GROWTH RATE OF SIX PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. THERE WAS AT THE SAME TIME NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE IMPORT BILL. THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A NARROWING OF THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE IMPROVEMENT IN THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FROM \$1 118 MILLION IN JULY TO \$228 MILLION IN AUGUST THIS YEAR WAS MOSTLY SEASONAL.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1981, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT SEVEN PER CENT, WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT FOUR PER CENT. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP NARROWED TO 12 PER CENT IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR FROM 14 PER CENT IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1981.

TRADE FIGURES FOR AUGUST, 1982

The Census and Statistics Department has released the following provisional merchandise trade figures for August :-

<u>MERCHANDISE</u> :	Domestic Exports	: \$ 7,742 million
	Re-exports	: \$ 3,613 million
	Total Exports	: \$11,355 million
	Imports	: \$11,583 million
	Trade balance	: \$ 228 million (in deficit)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>Latest 3 months</u>	June - August	June - August	Increase or	
	1982	1981	decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	22,354	21,661	+ 694	+ 3.2
Re-exports	10,633	10,102	+ 531	+ 5.3
Total Exports	32,987	31,763	+ 1,224	+ 3.9
Imports	35,619	34,971	+ 648	+ 1.9
Trade balance	- 2,632	- 3,208	+ 576	

<u>Same month last year</u>	August	August	Increase or	
	1982	1981	decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	7,742 (68.2%)	7,487 (68.4%)	+ 255	+ 3.4
Re-exports	3,613	3,464	+ 150	+ 4.3
Total Exports	11,355	10,951	+ 405	+ 3.7
Imports	11,583	11,262	+ 322	+ 2.9
Trade balance	- 228	- 311	+ 83	

<u>Last month</u>	August	July	Increase or	
	1982	1982	decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	7,742 (68.2%)	7,680 (68.2%)	+ 62	+ 0.8
Re-exports	3,613	3,578	+ 35	+ 1.0
Total Exports	11,355	11,258	+ 97	+ 0.9
Imports	11,583	12,376	- 792	- 6.4
Trade balance	- 228	- 1,118	+ 890	

<u>Calendar year to-date</u>	January - August	January - August	Increase or	
	1982	1981	decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	53,239 (65.1%)	50,438 (65.7%)	+ 2,801	+ 5.6
Re-exports	28,603	26,372	+ 2,231	+ 8.5
Total Exports	81,842	76,811	+ 5,032	+ 6.6
Imports	92,648	89,170	+ 3,478	+ 3.9
Trade balance	-10,806	-12,359	+ 1,553	

<u>Last 12 months</u>	September 1981	September 1980	Increase or	
	to	to	decrease	
	August 1982	August 1981	\$ Mn.	%
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	83,224	74,646	+ 8,579	+11.5
Re-exports	43,970	38,094	+ 5,876	+15.4
Total Exports	127,194	112,739	+14,455	+12.8
Imports	141,853	130,260	+11,593	+ 8.9
Trade balance	-14,659	-17,521	+ 2,862	

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 7 -

TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS RECESSED

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CONSULTATIONS ON A NEW TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN RECESSED, MR LAWRENCE MILLS, WHO HEADS THE HONG KONG DELEGATION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION TOLD US THAT IT HAD TO REPORT TO MEMBER STATES ON THE POSITIONS REACHED.+

+WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT HONG KONG IS READY TO CONTINUE THE TALKS AT ANY MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME,+ HE ADDED.

MR MILLS SAID THAT A WIDE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT SOME MAJOR ISSUES REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED.

HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE UNTIMELY TO REVEAL DETAILS OF THE TALKS SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT YET COMPLETED.

THROUGHOUT THE 12-DAY CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WERE GIVEN ON-THE-SPOT GUIDANCE BY THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR BILL DORWARD.

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PARENTS CONSENT NEEDED FOR FLAG DAY SALES

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SCHOOLS SHOULD OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF PARENTS BEFORE SENDING THEIR STUDENTS TO SELL FLAGS OR FLOWERS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS ON APPROVED FLAG OR FLOWER DAYS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IN A CIRCULAR TO SCHOOLS.

THE CIRCULAR REMINDED HEADS OF SCHOOLS THAT STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THESE ACTIVITIES MUST BE ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND THE PRIOR CONSENT OF PARENTS SHOULD BE OBTAINED.

THE CIRCULAR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ONLY STUDENTS OF FORM OR MIDDLE 4 AND ABOVE MAY BE SENT OUT TO SELL FLAGS OR FLOWERS AND THAT INSURANCE AGAINST ACCIDENTS AND ROBBERY SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THEM.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 8 -

CHILD CARE SEMINAR IN SHA TIN

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THE YIN NGAI SOCIETY IN SHA TIN WILL HOLD A SEMINAR ON CHILD CARE AND WOMEN'S HYGIENE FOR ITS MEMBERS ON THURSDAY EVENING (SEPTEMBER 30).

AN EXPERIENCED NURSE, MISS HO LAI-LAI, WILL TALK ON THESE SUBJECTS, AND AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YIN NGAI SOCIETY IN SHA TIN, MRS LEUNG HO CHUN-TIM, URGED ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND, AND TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN ALONG.

THE 90-MINUTE SEMINAR WILL START AT 8 PM AT THE WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL ON THURSDAY, WITH THE PRESIDENT, MRS WAI CHEUNG CHOI-LIN AND VICE-PRESIDENT, MISS NG YUK-PING OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

INAUGURATED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, THE YIN NGAI SOCIETY PROVIDES CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES TO WOMEN, AND IS HELPED IN THIS BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE CHAIRMAN, MRS LEUNG, SAID MOST OF THE MEMBERS LIVE IN LEK YUEN AND WO CHE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND THEIR AVERAGE AGE IS 30.

A PRIVATE TUITION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PRIMARY ONE TO THREE PUPILS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS HAD BEEN A BIG SUCCESS AND A LARGE-SCALE CARNIVAL WAS BEING PLANNED AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD WOULD ALLOCATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT IT, SHE SAID.

THE SHA TIN YIN NGAI SOCIETY HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 80 AND NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

WOMEN RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 18 ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN AND THOSE INTERESTED COULD CALL AT THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT SAU CHUEN HOUSE, LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

- 9 -

STUDENT TRAVEL SCHEME

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FROM OCTOBER 1, STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO USE THE NEW 82/83 STUDENT TRAVEL CARDS TO TRAVEL AT CONCESSIONARY RATES.

THE NEW CARDS WILL BE ISSUED TO THE APPLICANTS BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE OLD ONES BECOME INVALID.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE CARDS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE, AND STUDENTS MUST PRODUCE THEM FOR CONCESSIONARY FARES.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE STUDENT TRAVEL OFFICE, TELEPHONE 5-7954631.

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HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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THERE WILL BE ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 2), WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

ON THAT DAY, 35 POST OFFICES INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI IN KOWLOON, AND TSUEN WAN AND TAI PO POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON.

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CAUSEWAY BAY ROAD CLOSURE

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PERCIVAL STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN LOCKHART ROAD AND HENNESSY ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 12.01 AM TO 6 AM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 30) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CAUSEWAY BAY STATION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG PERCIVAL STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LOCKHART ROAD AND EAST POINT ROAD.

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