



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1984

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ORDERS-ON-HAND, JOB AND PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED
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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN SEPTEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WHILE SLIGHT DECREASES IN ORDERS WERE RECORDED IN MOST INDUSTRIES, SOME INCREASE WAS REPORTED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, NOTABLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES FELL, AS SUMMER WORKERS CONTINUED TO LEAVE EMPLOYMENT.

THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY ALSO RECORDED A DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT AS TEMPORARY WORKERS, WHO HAD BEEN RECRUITED ESPECIALLY FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, LEFT.

THE NUMBER OF OPERATIVES IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR CONTINUED TO FALL, ALTHOUGH AT A SLOWER RATE, AS SOME CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED.

IN THE SERVICES SECTORS, LITTLE CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT WAS REPORTED, APART FROM A SLIGHT INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT IN HOTELS.

BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN SOME MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DECREASED BECAUSE OF LESS OVERTIME WORK IN SEPTEMBER AND THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES BY SOME FIRMS IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

DECREASES IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR AS LESS OVERTIME WORK WAS PERFORMED IN SEPTEMBER. INCREASES IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE, HOWEVER, RECORDED IN THE SERVICES SECTORS.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

/THE SURVEY

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THE SURVEY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1984 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, AT \$1.5 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION AT 3-7212768.

A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR SEPTEMBER 1984
	JULY 1984	AUG. 1984	SEPT. 1984	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-2	-2	-2	4.85
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-3	-1	-1	2.29
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	*	*	-2	4.30
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	-1	-1	3.53
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	-2	2	5.61
OTHERS	1	*	-1	4.41
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	-1	-2	*	4.63

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/ SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED			PER CAPITA EARNINGS			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 1984 HK\$
	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)						
	JULY 1984	AUG. 1984	SEPT. 1984	JULY 1984	AUG. 1984	SEPT. 1984	
MANUFACTURING	2	-3	-4	-2	5	-2	2 690
FOOD AND DRINKS	2	2	-4	-1	2	4	3 785

/WEARING APPAREL,

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WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	1	-1	-2	-1	4	-4	2 348
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	-1	-2	-4	2	-6	2 652
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	12	-10	-12	-3	11	3	2 626
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	2	-6	-3	1	7	2	2 380
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	2	-4	-5	-1	4	-1	2 500
OTHERS	1	-4	-3	*	3	-2	3 662
CONSTRUCTION**	-2	-4	-1	5	-3	-3	3 899
SERVICES	*	*	*	8	-2	3	5 186
BANKS	*	*	*	5	-3	-1	4 404
HOTELS	-1	*	1	1	*	*	3 180
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	11	-4	10	5 577
OTHERS	1	*	*	4	2	-4	6 180

* CHANGES WITHIN ⁺-0.5%.

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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'BUSINESS CONFIDENCE BOOSTED'

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BUSINESS CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN GIVEN AN ADDED BOOST BY THE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, STATED TODAY (FRIDAY).

+THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO HESITATE IN INVESTING FOR FURTHER GROWTH IN THE BUSINESS,+ HE SAID.

MR HO WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF TEXTILE BLEACHERS, DYERS, PRINTERS AND FINISHERS.

THE BLEACHING, DYEING, PRINTING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY IS AN IMPORTANT LINKAGE SECTOR IN THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES. AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 755 ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY EMPLOYING OVER 19 000 WORKERS.

ITS ROLE IN SUPPLYING QUALITY FABRICS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE UPGRADING AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THE LOCAL TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES.

THE BLEACHING AND DYEING INDUSTRY SUFFERED A DOWNTURN IN BUSINESS DURING THE RECENT GLOBAL RECESSION. THIS COUPLED WITH THE NEW COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN RULES RECENTLY IMPOSED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON IMPORTS OF TEXTILES ALSO ADDED TO THE WORRIES OF THE INDUSTRY.

HOWEVER, MR HO SAID: +THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING THIS ISSUE.+

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U.S. HOLD-UPS RAISED WITH TSB

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THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY (TSB) IN GENEVA HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG TO CONSIDER A REFERRAL OF THREE CASES OF SHIPMENTS OF HONG KONG-MADE SWEATERS HELD UP BY U.S. CUSTOMS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE TSB WAS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER THE CASES IN DECEMBER.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL LEAD HONG KONG'S DELEGATION TO THE TALKS.

THE SHIPMENTS WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NEW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RULES DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE PROPERLY LICENSED UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT.

/DURING TWO

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DURING TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF OCTOBER, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION DID NOT SECURE THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE THREE SHIPMENTS.

ONE SHIPMENT - LADIES LAMBSWOOL SWEATERS - INVOLVES CHINESE YARN KNITTED INTO +PANELS+ (PARTS) IN CHINA WITH ALL OTHER PROCESSES CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG.

IN THE OTHER TWO SHIPMENTS - LADIES SHETLAND WOOL SWEATERS AND CARDIGANS - ONLY THE PANEL KNITTING WAS CARRIED OUT IN CHINA, ALL OTHER PROCESSES BEING CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG INCLUDING THE SPINNING AND DYEING OF THE YARN.

+WE DECIDED TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO TSB FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS IN HONG KONG WITH THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE SHIPMENTS ILLUSTRATE ONE OF HONG KONG'S FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS, NAMELY THAT SOME GOODS PREVIOUSLY ENTITLED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT CAN NO LONGER DO SO.

+AS SUCH, THE REFERRAL HAS A POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND THE THREE CASES CONCERNED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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AIM TO BRING MORE WORKERS UNDER LAW
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A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHICH MAY BRING MORE WORKERS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

MR DONALD CHAN, CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND HEAD OF ITS LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION, SAID TODAY THAT LETTERS HAD BEEN SENT TO EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, SEEKING THEIR VIEWS ON A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF +CONTINUOUS CONTRACT+ IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE ORDINANCE.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION, MR CHAN SAID THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF +CONTINUOUS CONTRACT+ DATED BACK TO 1968 WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT WAS DEFINED AS ONE IN WHICH AN EMPLOYEE HAD WORKED FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR FOUR WEEKS OR MORE ON AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN EACH WEEK AND FOR NOT LESS THAN SIX HOURS ON EACH DAY.

MR CHAN SAID VARIOUS RIGHTS AND BENEFITS HAD BEEN ADDED UNDER THE ORDINANCE SINCE 1968, AND THESE WERE ONLY APPLICABLE TO AN EMPLOYEE WORKING UNDER A +CONTINUOUS CONTRACT+ OF EMPLOYMENT.

/HE EXPLAINED

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE REGULARITY OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS, THESE EMPLOYEES WERE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A RIGHTFUL CLAIM TO MORE BENEFITS AND BETTER PROTECTION THAN CASUAL OR TRANSIENT EMPLOYEES.

HOWEVER, IN RECENT YEARS MORE PEOPLE WERE WORKING +PART-TIME+.

HE SAID, +WHILE SOME HAVE TAKEN UP JOBS THAT ARE TRULY PART-TIME IN NATURE, SOME ARE WORKING 'PART-TIME' ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WORK LESS THAN SIX HOURS DAILY.+

THESE EMPLOYEES WERE NOT CLASSIFIED AS +CONTINUOUS CONTRACT+ EMPLOYEES.

+EMPLOYEES, WHO IN EVERY RESPECT DO HAVE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS, HAVE BEEN DENIED THE ENTITLEMENT TO VARIOUS STATUTORY RIGHTS JUST BECAUSE THEY WORK LESS THAN SIX HOURS EACH DAY,+ MR CHAN SAID.

IN ORDER TO KEEP THE LEGISLATION IN TUNE WITH CHANGING NEEDS, IT WAS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO ABOLISH THE SIX HOUR QUALIFYING CONDITION AND TO REPLACE TO PRESENT CRITERIA OF +4 WEEKS-3 DAYS-6 HOURS+ BY A MORE SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD ONE.

+OUR PROPOSED CRITERIA IS '4 WEEKS-18 HOURS'. THIS IS TO SAY, AN EMPLOYEE WHO WORKS FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS FOR NOT LESS THAN 18 HOURS ON EACH WEEK WILL BECOME A 'CONTINUOUS COOFBA1, ?3.0)9633,+ MR CHAN SAID.

BY THE PROPOSAL, HE SAID, THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO WERE FORMERLY DENIED THE VARIOUS BENEFITS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATUTORY ENTITLEMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

MR CHAN SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS NOW BEING FORMULATED AND A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE PUT TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

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MORE PLACES FOR SEVERELY RETARDED ADULTS

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE PLACES FOR SEVERELY RETARDED ADULTS FROM THE PRESENT 173 PLACES TO 850 PLACES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID THIS AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PRISCILLA HOME OF THE SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN SHAU KEI WAN, HE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A GROUP HOME FOR SEVERELY DISABLED ADULTS HAD BEEN SET UP IN PRIVATE HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

+THIS IS AN ENTERPRISING AND ENCOURAGING INITIATIVE, WHICH I HOPE WILL POINT THE WAY TO A GREATER EXPANSION OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL FORMS OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED ADULTS WHO CANNOT COPE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

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DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, MR CHAMBERS NOTED, THE SOCIETY HAD OPENED FIVE HOMES PROVIDING A TOTAL OF SOME 220 PLACES, 157 OF THEM RESIDENTIAL.

HE SAID THE SOCIETY HAD AGREED TO TAKE ON ANOTHER MAJOR PROJECT - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOME FOR 150 ADULTS IN SHA TIN, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1987.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE +DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE SOCIETY AND ITS UNTIRING FUND-RAISING EFFORTS+. HE ALSO THANKED THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR ITS GRANT TOWARDS THE RECURRENT COSTS OF THE PROJECT IN 1984-85.

THE PRISCILLA HOME WILL BE ABLE TO CATER FOR 15 RESIDENTS, WHO WILL BE CARED FOR BY THE SOCIETY'S STAFF AND WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP AS MANY SKILLS AS POSSIBLE.

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\$2.9-MILLION TENDER FOR TSING YI ESTATE
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DEVELOPMENT FOR TSING YI ESTATE ON TSING YI ISLAND IS TAKING ANOTHER STEP FORWARD AS THE SECOND STAGE OF PILING WORK BEGINS SHORTLY FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE HOUSING PROJECT.

A PILING TENDER WORTH \$2.9 MILLION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE SECOND HALF OF A FOUR-STORY COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND A CAR PARK, PLUS AN ELEVATED WALKWAY.

+WORK WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO FINISH,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND THE CAR PARK, ON FULL COMPLETION BY 1986, WOULD HOUSE A MARKET, A SUPERMARKET, A RESTAURANT, TWO COOKED-FOOD STALLS AND 101 PARKING SPACES.

+THE COOKED-FOOD STALLS WILL BE LOCATED ON THE PODIUM OF THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE.+

MEANWHILE THE FIRST TWO TRIDENT BLOCKS ON THE ESTATE ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL HOUSE 7 500 PEOPLE IN 1 620 FLATS WHEN COMPLETED BY EARLY 1986.

THE ENTIRE TSING YI ESTATE IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY 1988 AND WILL HAVE 3 040 FLATS IN FOUR TRIDENT BLOCKS FOR 1 500 PEOPLE.

NAMED AFTER THE ISLAND, THE ESTATE IS THE THIRD PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT AFTER CHEUNG CHING AND CHEUNG HONG ESTATES ON TSING YI.

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BILL DEALS WITH CONTROL OF CERTAIN CLINICS

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A BILL WHICH WILL EXTEND INDEFINITELY THE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AS REGISTRAR OF CLINICS, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN LONG-STANDING CLINICS FROM HAVING TO APPOINT REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AS SUPERVISORS, WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

UNDER THE MEDICAL CLINICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE REGISTRAR OF CLINIC'S POWERS OF EXEMPTION, CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION EVERY THREE YEARS, BE EXTENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE EXEMPTION COULD ONLY APPLY TO CLINICS WHICH WERE IN EXISTENCE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1963 AND WHICH WERE ABLE TO SATISFY THE REGISTRAR OF CLINICS THAT THEY MET CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS. IN PARTICULAR, THE MEDICAL MANAGEMENT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY PRACTITIONERS WHO, ALTHOUGH NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION IN THE NORMAL WAY, WERE FOUND SUITABLE AT THAT TIME TO PERFORM THE LIMITED SERVICES PROVIDED BY SUCH CLINICS. NO OTHER UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS COULD PRACTISE MEDICINE IN THESE CLINICS.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE TIME WHEN THESE CLINICS WERE FIRST GRANTED EXEMPTION THEIR NUMBER HAD DECLINED GRADUALLY, BUT ABOUT 270 REMAINED. +AS THEIR SERVICES ARE STILL USEFUL, IT IS THE INTENTION TO ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE PRACTITIONERS WORKING IN THEM HAVE RETIRED OR UNTIL THE CLINICS CLOSE FOR OTHER REASONS. IT IS THEREFORE UNNECESSARY TO REQUIRE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION EVERY THREE YEARS TO ENABLE THE CLINICS TO CONTINUE.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE PUBLISHED BY THE REGISTRAR, THESE PRACTITIONERS WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO PRACTISE WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE EXEMPTED CLINICS AND THERE WERE LIMITATIONS TO THE SERVICES THEY CAN PERFORM.

+FOR INSTANCE, THEY ARE NOT AUTHORISED TO SIGN ANY STATUTORY CERTIFICATE RELATING TO BIRTH, DEATH OR LUNACY, NOR ANY STATUTORY OR INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF INNOCULATION OR VACCINATION. NOR ARE THEY PERMITTED TO PRESCRIBE DRUGS LISTED IN PART 1 OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE.+

THE SPOKESMAN GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN SUPERVISION OVER THE OPERATION OF THESE CLINICS AND OVER THE PRACTITIONERS WORKING IN THEM.

+HE WILL ONLY GRANT EXEMPTION TO THOSE CLINICS THAT CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY, AND ONLY FOR A YEAR AT A TIME. IN CASE OF ANY SERIOUS BREACH OF THE CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS, OR IF THE PRACTITIONERS ARE NO LONGER FIT TO PRACTISE, THE REGISTRAR OF CLINICS MAY DECIDE NOT TO RENEW EXEMPTION WHEN A CLINIC'S EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE COMES UP FOR RENEWAL EACH YEAR.+

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THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 21 AND TO GO THROUGH THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE STAGES ON DECEMBER 5.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THEIR PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7TH FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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BILL AIMS TO REDUCE COURT TIME
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A BILL SEEKING TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES IN INDICTABLE OFFENCES IN MAGISTRATES COURTS, IN WHICH THE EVIDENCE IS RECORDED IN SHORTHAND, IS GAZETTED TODAY.

THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL SEEKS TO CHANGE THE PRESENT PROCEDURE, WHICH REQUIRES THE READING BACK OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE IN COURT, BY ALLOWING THE WITNESS TO READ HIS EVIDENCE SEPARATELY FROM THE COURT PROCEEDINGS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE, WITNESSES WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM ON OATH THE ACCURACY OF THE TRANSCRIPT.

+THE IMPETUS FOR THE BILL IS PROVIDED BY A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY IN WHICH, SOME ESTIMATES SAY, THE HEARING OF EVIDENCE WILL TAKE ABOUT 14 WEEKS. AN ADDITIONAL SIX WEEKS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO READ THE RECORD ALOUD IN COURT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO SHORTEN THIS HEARING AND TO ALLOW THE EARLY RELEASE OF WITNESSES FROM OVERSEAS. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT AN ELEMENT OF RETROACTIVE EFFECT BE INCLUDED IN THE BILL TO APPLY IT TO THOSE CONTINUING PROCEEDINGS AS WELL AS FUTURE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES.

+ALL COUNSEL REPRESENTING THE PARTIES IN THAT CASE HAVE STATED IN OPEN COURT THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME THE NEW PROCEDURE AND BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE NO PREJUDICE.

+TO ENABLE THE NEW PROCEDURE TO BE USED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IT IS INTENDED TO PRESENT THIS BILL TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR ITS FIRST READING ON NOVEMBER 21 AND TO SEEK THE TAKING OF THE OTHER LEGISLATIVE STAGES AT THE SAME SITTING,+ HE SAID.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE BILL MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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CARE FOR THE ELDERLY URGED * * *

THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IS TO PROVIDE CARE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, WITH A RANGE OF SUPPORTING SERVICES TO HELP THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TO CARE FOR THEM, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID THIS EVENING.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE SIXTH FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY AT KO SHAN THEATRE, HUNG HOM, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

HE SAID: +THE JOINT EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN PROVIDING AND DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE, BUT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE AND SPIRIT OF CARING FOR AND RESPECTING THE ELDERLY WE MUST RELY VERY MUCH ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT OF ELDERLY PEOPLE BY THEIR OWN FAMILIES.+

THE FESTIVAL, WHICH HAD BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT HELD IN NOVEMBER, HAD RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

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ASIAN CANOEISTS COMPETE HERE * * *

NATIONAL TEAMS FROM JAPAN, CHINA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, KOREA, INDONESIA AND HONG KONG WILL TAKE PART IN CANOEING CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD ON THE SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN THIS WEEKEND.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CANOE UNION AND SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, ARE TO MARK THE INAUGURATION OF THE ASIA CANOE CONFEDERATION.

A TOTAL OF 115 CANOEISTS -- 78 MEN AND 37 WOMEN -- WILL COMPETE IN 25 EVENTS DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

DETAILS OF THE ASIAN CANOE CONFEDERATION INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CANOE POLO INVITATION COMPETITION 1984 WERE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY BY MR DAVID CHIU, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (RECREATION AND SPORT) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THIS EVENING, MR DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS ATTENDED A COCKTAIL TO WELCOME THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ASIAN CANOE CONFEDERATION INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CANOE POLO INVITATION COMPETITION HELD IN THE EVENING.

THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO WATCH THE CHAMPIONSHIP RACES. THE FIRST EVENT WILL START AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) WHILE THE LAST ONE WILL END ABOUT 3 PM ON SUNDAY.

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ROAD SAFETY WEEK IN TUEN MUN
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A SPECTACULAR ROAD SAFETY PARADE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING AT THE TANG SHIU KIN PLAYGROUND TO START THIS YEAR'S TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE PARADE, WILL BE PERFORMED BY NINE SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY PATROL TEAMS IN THE DISTRICT, AS PART OF THE WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN FOCUSING ON PEDESTRIAN AND COMMUTER SAFETY.

THE CAMPAIGN IS AIMED ESPECIALLY AT CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY.

THE CAMPAIGN IS SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, AND IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRISTOPHER WONG, THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR MARTIN BROWN AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LAU WONG-FAT.

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE STARTS
* * *

AN EIGHT-WEEK LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN EASTERN DISTRICT TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS IN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME WAS HELD THIS EVENING (FRIDAY) AT THE KIANGSU CHEKIANG PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL IN NORTH POINT.

EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR H.T. LUI SPOKE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH.

THE 130 PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME, AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 25, WILL BE ATTENDING SEMINARS EACH FRIDAY. SUBJECTS WILL INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, COMMUNITY AWARENESS, PROGRAMME PLANNING AND ORGANISING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND SMALL GROUP WORK.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO ATTEND A WORK CAMP ON DECEMBER 8 AND 9 AT THE MING FAI CAMP ON CHEUNG CHAU.

AT THE END OF THE TRAINING COURSE, THEY WILL EACH HAVE TO ORGANISE A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT.

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME IS ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1984

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ACCESS ROAD PLANNED FOR NORTH POINT

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES CONSTRUCTING AN ACCESS ROAD FROM FORTRESS HILL ROAD TO SERVE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ABOVE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION'S FORTRESS HILL STATION IN NORTH POINT.

THE 150-METRE-LONG, DUAL SINGLE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY IS PART OF A PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES THE FORMATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS BAY ON KING'S ROAD IN FRONT OF THE STATION, A WATERWORKS AND DRAINAGE RESERVE AND A PEDESTRIAN FOOTWAY AND STAIRCASE TO LINK KING'S ROAD AND FORTRESS HILL ROAD.

IN ADDITION, A PORTION ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF FORTRESS HILL ROAD FRONTING THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD IS TO BE WIDENED TO PROVIDE A PASSING BAY FOR TRAFFIC AND A NEW FOOTPATH.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY'S) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY; AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG ISLAND (NORTH), 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HARBOUR CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, HONG KONG; AND AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 884-886 KING'S ROAD, HONG KONG.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 1985.

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14-KILOMETRE AQUEDUCT BREAKTHROUGH

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A MAJOR PHASE IN THE ENGINEERING WORKS PROJECT FOR RECEIVING ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA WAS COMPLETED TODAY (FRIDAY).

AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF TUNNEL-DRIVING IN FUNG KAT HEUNG NEAR YUEN LONG, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, PRESSED A BUTTON TO BLAST OPEN THE REMAINING PORTION OF A 14-KILOMETRE LONG TUNNEL BETWEEN MUK WU AND TAI LAM CHUNG.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE BREAK-THROUGH CEREMONY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR XU JIATUN; THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CHINA CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION'S (CCEC) HEAD OFFICE IN PEKING, MR ZHANG ENSHU; THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CCEC IN HONG KONG, MR GU TIANXUN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON.

/THE CONSTRUCTION

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS AQUEDUCT SYSTEM OF OVER THREE METRES IN DIAMETER AND COSTING \$220 MILLION HAD BEEN AWARDED TO THE CHINA CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION-GUANGDONG WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD. (JOINT VENTURE), IN FEBRUARY 1982.

IT WAS THE BIGGEST OF THE NINE CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR THE STAGE ONE OF THE \$1.75 BILLION SCHEME TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECEIVING ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA.

IN HIS ADDRESS, MR CHAN SAID THE AQUEDUCT, WHICH IS PART OF THE PLANNED 12-YEAR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, WILL BE CAPABLE OF DELIVERING WATER AT THE RATE OF 910 000 CUBIC METRES A DAY FROM MUK WU PUMPING STATION AT THE BORDER.

+OF THIS QUANTITY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DELIVER 270 000 CUBIC METRES A DAY TO A FUTURE TREATMENT WORKS AT AU TAU AND AT THE SAME TIME THE BALANCE OF 640 000 CUBIC METRES CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR,+ HE SAID.

+THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE WATER DELIVERED FROM CHINA AND DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LINK IN THE OVERALL WATER SUPPLY NETWORK.+

THE CONTRACT ALSO INVOLVES THE LAYING OF 5.5 KILOMETRES OF PIPELINE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR KILOMETRES OF ACCESS ROAD.

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POTTED PLANT CONTEST FOR SCHOOLS
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NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A POTTED PLANT COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION ORGANISED IN SUPPORT OF THE +MEI FA+ PHASE OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTION AND THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION, AND WILL BE OPEN TO ALL N.T. STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY 4 TO FORM 7.

EACH SECTION COMPRISES NINE GROUPS GROWING DIFFERENT SPECIES OF PLANTS.

THERE WILL BE THREE WINNING PRIZES OF BOOK/STATIONERY TOKENS FROM \$200 TO \$60 FOR EACH GROUP. TEN MERIT PRIZES OF \$30 EACH WILL ALSO BE AWARDED.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1984

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+FUN DAY+ AT EASTERN DISTRICT

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A CLEAN HONG KONG FUN DAY WILL BE HELD FOR RESIDENTS OF EASTERN DISTRICT ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18) AT THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, STARTING AT 1.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO WIN ATTRACTIVE PRIZES BY TAKING PART IN QUIZZES AND GAMES.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ENTERTAINED BY POPULAR SINGERS THERESA WONG, YEUNG SIU-CHING, PANG KIN-SUN AND LI LUNG-KAY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE PROGRAMME.

AND THERE WILL BE AN EXHIBITION, BACKED BY THE CONTINUOUS SCREENING OF SHORT FILMS ON THE CLEAN HONG KONG THEME PRODUCED OVER THE YEARS.

THE THIRD ANNUAL +EASTERN DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG FUN DAY+ IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

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NEW POST OFFICE FOR SAI KUNG

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A NEW POST OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SAI KUNG, WILL BE OPENED AT 9 AM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 19) TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SAI KUNG POST OFFICE AT 1 MAN NIN STREET.

THE NEW POST OFFICE, SITUATED IN THE TOWN CENTRE OF SAI KUNG, WILL OPERATE IN LARGER ACCOMMODATION WITH IMPROVED FACILITIES.

CUSTOMERS SHOULD FIND THE NEW POST OFFICE MORE CONVENIENT, AS IT IS HOUSED IN A GOVERNMENT JOINT-USER BUILDING, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

APART FROM OFFERING THE USUAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES, IT WILL BE MAKING AVAILABLE 300 PRIVATE POST OFFICE BOXES FOR LETTING. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER REMAINS THE SAME (I.E. 3-2812243), THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1984

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MODEL WORKERS TO TRY FOR CASH PRIZES
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TSUEN WAN EMPLOYERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO NOMINATE OUTSTANDING WORKERS TO COMPETE FOR CASH PRIZES IN THIS YEAR'S MODEL WORKER AWARD SCHEME.

THE SCHEME, IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES IN TSUEN WAN.

BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYERS, THE MODEL WORKERS WILL BE SELECTED FOR THEIR ABILITY, PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT. THE 10 WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE \$2 000 AND A TROPHY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID THE SCHEME WAS AIMED AT CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG WORKERS TOWARDS THEIR LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

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CLOSURE ORDER SOUGHT
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL BE APPLYING FOR CLOSURES OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE MAIN ROOF OF 15 AND 17 SOUTH WALL ROAD, AND ON THE ROOF AREA OVER FLATS A, B, C AND D, 238-244 RECLAMATION STREET, KOWLOON.

+THE CLOSURE IS REQUIRED TO ENABLE DEMOLITION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR THE PUBLIC,+ THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID TODAY.

RECENT INSPECTIONS HAD SHOWN THAT DEMOLITION ORDERS SERVED ON THE FLAT OWNERS HAD NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH, HE SAID.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN THE KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 14, AT 9.30 AM WERE POSTED TODAY.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1984

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LAMBETH WALK

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LAMBETH WALK IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 7.45 AM AND NOON ON NOVEMBER 18, NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 2.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA MURRAY ROAD, QUEENSWAY AND COTTON TREE DRIVE NORTHBOUND.

THE TERMINAL POINT OF MAXICAB ROUTE 32 IN LAMBETH WALK WILL BE TEMPORARILY RESITED TO HARCOURT ROAD OUTSIDE HUTCHISON HOUSE. THE MAXICABS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARCOURT ROAD, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, JACKSON ROAD, CHATER ROAD, MURRAY ROAD AND QUEENSWAY ON THEIR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS.

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WEEK-LONG CLOSURE

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THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER IN HO MAN TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT SEVEN DAYS FROM 7 AM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18) TO FACILITATE THE LAYING OF ANTI-SKID SURFACE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA THE ROAD NEXT TO THE FLYOVER.

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STANLEY TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO STANLEY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

AFFECTED PREMISES ARE LOCATED AT A SECTION OF TUNG TAU WAN ROAD BETWEEN WONG MA KOK ROAD AND STANLEY PRISON. STANLEY PRISON, PRISON STAFF QUARTERS, PRISON STAFF TRAINING SCHOOL, SEA TRAINING CENTRE AND ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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