



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## GAS SAFETY REPORT RELEASED

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THE TOWNGAS AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG HAVE NOW REACHED SUCH A STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT THAT GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTROL BY EXPERT STAFF IS NEEDED TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS UPGRADING OF SAFETY STANDARDS.

THIS IS THE MAIN CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE GAS CONSULTANTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE SAFETY AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF TOWNGAS AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG.

THE CONSULTANTS RECOMMEND THAT A COMMISSIONER FOR GAS SERVICES SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO HEAD A NEW GAS STANDARDS ORGANISATION AND TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE GAS ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR INCREASED CONTROLS.

THE STUDY, UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE OF THE BRITISH GAS CORPORATION, INVOLVED A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SAFETY AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE FULL RANGE OF TOWNGAS AND LPG OPERATIONS INCLUDING MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND UTILISATION.

ON TOWNGAS OPERATIONS, THE CONSULTANTS CONSIDER THE ENGINEERING STANDARDS ADOPTED AND THE OVERALL SAFETY RECORD TO BE GOOD, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF STANDARDS RELATING TO THE OPEN FLUES FITTED TO SOME WATER HEATERS. THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CONGESTION WITHIN THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY'S PRODUCTION AND STORAGE WORKS AND THEIR CLOSE PROXIMITY TO RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, IMPOSED BY THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE.

AS REGARDS LPG, THE OVERALL SAFETY RECORD HAS ALSO BEEN SATISFACTORY BUT THE CONSULTANTS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE TRADE VARY FROM THE HIGHEST TO UNSATISFACTORY.

NOTING THAT THE USE OF GAS IN HONG KONG HAS INCREASED VERY RAPIDLY OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF GAS CONSUMERS HAVING RISEN FROM 15 000 IN 1961 TO 800 000 TODAY, THE CONSULTANTS CONSIDER THAT HONG KONG SHOULD ADOPT MODERN, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SAFETY STANDARDS TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH GAS OPERATIONS AND USAGE.

TO THIS END, THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD OVER 40 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS, MANY OF WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH TECHNICAL ASPECTS.

THE CONSULTANTS ENVISAGE THAT, IN LINE WITH HONG KONG'S USUAL APPROACH, IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY STANDARDS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED MAINLY THROUGH VOLUNTARY ACTION BY THE INDUSTRY. BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO STEP IN IF THIS PROVES INSUFFICIENT.

COMMENTING ON THIS RECOMMENDATION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF INCREASED GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO ENSURE GREATER SAFETY IN THE GAS INDUSTRY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED TO RECRUIT THE KEY STAFF REQUIRED FOR THE NEW ORGANISATION, FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION LAST JULY OF A PRELIMINARY REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE CONSULTANTS.

A POST OF GAS ADVISER AND TWO SUPPORTING POSTS OF CHIEF ENGINEER SHOULD BE FILLED BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR. THEIR PRIORITY TASK WILL BE TO DRAW UP A PROGRAMME FOR INTRODUCING NECESSARY AND PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

UNTIL THE PERMANENT STAFF ARRIVE, A SENIOR GOVERNMENT ENGINEER WILL DISCHARGE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GAS ADVISER ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO EXPERIENCED GAS ENGINEERS SECONDED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER A RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT. THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT AND PLANNING WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SOME ACTION ALREADY, EVEN BEFORE RECEIPT OF THE CONSULTANTS' FINAL REPORT AND THE ARRIVAL OF RESIDENT EXPERTS. FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS AND PWD ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN INSPECTING BULK LPG INSTALLATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS BY LICENSEES, AND A SEARCH FOR NEW SITES TO RELIEVE CONGESTED GAS WORKS HAS BEGUN.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH REQUIRED THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

THE CONSULTANTS HAVE THEMSELVES STATED THAT A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS WOULD NEED TO WORK OVER MANY MONTHS BEFORE PROGRAMMES FOR IMPLEMENTATION COULD BE WORKED OUT, AND THAT ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE STEP-BY-STEP OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE OF MOST DIRECT INTEREST TO CONSUMERS.

THE FIRST CONCERNS THE PHASING OUT OF LPG CYLINDERS IN HIGH-RISE DOMESTIC BUILDINGS IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS RISKS THAT EXPLODING CYLINDERS CAN CAUSE TO RESIDENTS AND TO FIREMEN AND OTHER RESCUE PERSONNEL IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE.

BUT THE USE OF LPG CYLINDERS CAN ONLY BE DISCONTINUED AFTER VIABLE ALTERNATIVES, MAINLY IN THE FORM OF BULK GAS SUPPLIES THROUGH PIPES, HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. THE CONSULTANTS HAVE ESTIMATED THIS TO BE A \$800-900 MILLION PROGRAMME AFFECTING 170 000 HOUSEHOLDS.

THE SECOND RELATES TO INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATERS. THE CONSULTANTS ESTIMATE THAT, OF THE 440 000 GAS WATER HEATERS CURRENTLY IN USE, ABOUT 80 PER CENT NEED REPLACEMENT OR UPGRADING, AT A TOTAL COST OF \$450 MILLION.

EVEN THOUGH THESE COSTS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY EVENTUALLY BE SHARED OUT AMONG INDIVIDUAL OWNERS OF PROPERTY AND APPLIANCES AND GAS CONSUMERS, THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS SIGNIFICANT. THE WORKS INVOLVED WILL ALSO PLACE VERY HEAVY DEMANDS ON THE STAFF RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF THE GAS AND OIL COMPANIES AS WELL AS APPLIANCE INSTALLERS, AND WILL TAKE A LONG TIME.

/THESE IMPLICATIONS, .....

THESE IMPLICATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, REQUIRED DETAILED CONSIDERATION IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY. A SPECIAL GROUP HAD BEEN SET UP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THIS WOULD BE THE START OF AN ON-GOING PROCESS WHICH WOULD CONTINUE OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GROUP WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT WITH A VIEW TO AGREEING ON ACTION WHICH CAN BE TAKEN QUICKLY TO IMPROVE SAFETY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE INDUSTRY.

AS A FIRST STEP, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ITSELF TAKE QUICK ACTION WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THIS INCLUDES GIVING URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRING ALL NEW BUILDINGS TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH PROVISION FOR ROOM-SEALED WATER HEATERS AND BULK ENERGY SUPPLY, PENDING WHICH DEVELOPERS AND PROFESSIONALS WILL BE ADVISED TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, WHILE RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR IMPROVED STANDARDS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE DEGREE OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN RESPECT OF GAS OPERATIONS AND USAGE, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO VIEW THE MATTER IN ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE. +ACCIDENTS CAN AND DO ARISE FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF CAUSES AND NO AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL CAN ACHIEVE TOTAL SAFETY OR ELIMINATE ACCIDENTS COMPLETELY. MOST ACCIDENTS CAN, HOWEVER, BE AVOIDED IF DUE CARE IS TAKEN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF GAS WATER HEATERS, THE IMPROPER USE OF WHICH HAS RESULTED IN SEVERAL FATAL ACCIDENTS, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GAS INDUSTRY HAVE MOUNTED A JOINT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO EMPHASISE TO THE PUBLIC THE NEED TO ENSURE PLENTIFUL VENTILATION WHEN USING GAS WATER HEATERS, BY OPENING WIDE THE LARGEST WINDOW OR THE DOOR IN THE BATHROOM.

IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THIS ADVICE SHOULD BE HEEDED BY CONSUMERS LEST THEY PUT THEIR OWN LIVES AT RISK, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A SUMMARY VOLUME OF THE GAS CONSULTANTS' REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE SHORTLY. COPIES OF THREE OTHER VOLUMES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING MOSTLY TECHNICAL DETAIL, WILL BE PLACED IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND DISTRICT OFFICES FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE. DETAILS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE SUMMARY VOLUME OF THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT IN ENGLISH ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE DUTY OFFICER, GIS NEWS ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, SIXTH FLOOR. THE OTHER THREE VOLUMES OF THE REPORT IN ENGLISH ARE AVAILABLE FOR READING IN THE GIS PRESS LIBRARY.

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REAL GDP GROWTH UP TEN PER CENT, GOVERNOR REPORTS  
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THE GROWTH RATE OF OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1981 SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S MID-YEAR FORECAST OF 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS MEANS THAT IT IS NOW THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR WHEN OUR ECONOMY HAS GROWN IN REAL TERMS BY 10 PER CENT OR MORE, OR IN OTHER WORDS IT HAS ALMOST DOUBLED IN SIX YEARS, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS DINNER, SIR MURRAY SAID 1981 TURNED OUT RATHER BETTER THAN EXPECTED, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVER THE YEAR AS A WHOLE GROWING BY 7 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

+THIS MAY HAVE BEEN LOWER THAN THE 11 PER CENT OF 1980 BUT GIVEN THE TRADING CONDITIONS IT WAS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR BUSINESSMEN, AND A RECORD OF WHICH MOST COUNTRIES LAST YEAR WOULD HAVE BEEN ENVIOUS.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO SAID THAT THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF GDP PER CAPITA FOR 1981 AT 7.4 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS WAS NOT MUCH BELOW THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF 9 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS, ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT THE WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS GROWTH RATE, SO APPARENT BETWEEN 1976 AND 1979 HAS BEEN DISTORTED BY A COMBINATION OF THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION AND INFLATION.

+ONCE AGAIN THE EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY OF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY LAY AT THE HEART OF THE ECONOMY'S SUCCESS IN 1981, BUT THE CONTINUED AND RAPID EXPANSION OF OUR TERTIARY SERVICES ALSO HELPED,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1981 WAS LED BY DOMESTIC DEMAND RATHER THAN BY EXPORTS. PRIVATE CONSUMER EXPENDITURE GREW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT 7 PER CENT.

THERE WAS A CLEAR TENDENCY FOR THE GROWTH RATE OF CONSUMER DEMAND TO SLOW DOWN DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING LAST JUNE WAS THE HIGHEST ON RECORD.

HE SAID THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT LAST YEAR, LARGELY CAUSED BY IMMIGRATION, REACHED A LOW OF 4.1 PER CENT IN MARCH, BUT THEN BEGAN TO RECOVER AND BY SEPTEMBER THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE WAS 3.6 PER CENT.

+DRASTIC REDUCTION IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HAS BEEN A GREAT RELIEF. OUR POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE INCREASED BY 1.7 PER CENT IN 1981 COMPARED WITH 3.2 PER CENT IN 1978, 6.1 PER CENT IN 1979 AND 2.6 PER CENT IN 1980.

+WHILE I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE THE NUMBER OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS REDUCED, THIS IS A MUCH IMPROVED SITUATION. WE CAN NOW GET BACK ON TO THE COURSE IN WHICH ECONOMIC GROWTH REFLECTS HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING, AND NOT JUST MORE PEOPLE WORKING.+

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THE MAIN DEFECT IN THE ECONOMY LAST YEAR, APART FROM THE UNCERTAIN WORLDWIDE TRADING CONDITIONS, WAS INFLATION, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+AT 15 PER CENT THE RATE OF INCREASE OF CONSUMER PRICES WAS NO LESS THAN IN 1980,+ HE ADDED.

+ALTHOUGH WORLD FOOD PRICES HAVE BEEN FAIRLY STABLE, PRICES FOR THE TYPES OF FOOD THAT WE IMPORT INCREASED RAPIDLY, AND IN PARTICULAR THE FRESH FOOD ITEMS.

+MANY FACTORS PRODUCED THE INFLATION OF THE LAST TWO YEARS. SOME WERE IMPORTED AND OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL- SOME, THOUGH DOMESTIC, ELUDED OUR CONTROL.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE REALISED THAT WHILE BRINGING US NEW WEALTH AND NEW INTERNATIONAL STATUS, THE VERY RAPID EXPANSION OF OUR BANKING AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES HAVE ALSO BROUGHT PROBLEMS RELATING TO PRUDENTIAL CONTROL AND BROAD ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.

HE SAID IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THESE BE SOLVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE BROADLY CONSULTATIVE AND COOPERATIVE.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE MFA HAD BEEN A REDOUBTABLE ACHIEVEMENT.

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG IS A MAJOR MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND A MAJOR BRIDGE TO OTHER MARKETS.

+WE NEVER RESTRICTED ANYONE'S GOODS. WE HAVE NEVER PROTECTED OUR OWN PRODUCERS. WE HAVE NEVER REFUSED RESTRAINT WHEN DAMAGE WAS FAIRLY PROVED.

+BUT IF COUNTRIES SEEK TO RESTRICT OUR EXPORTS FOR NO BETTER REASON THAN SHORT TERM POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY, THERE IS BOUND TO BE ANGER.

+IN THIS CASE, THEIR CONTRACTORS AND EXPORTERS SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THIS WERE TO AFFECT THE CHOICE OF HONG KONG CLIENTS AND BUYERS. THEY WOULD ONLY HAVE THE PROTECTIONIST INTERESTS THAT HAD INFLUENCED THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO THANK,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE BELIEVES THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG AT THE MOMENT IS THAT OFFERED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH GUANGDONG AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA.

+OUR BUSINESSMEN ARE BETTER PLACED TO SEIZED MANY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST NEAR AT HAND THAN THE MISSIONS AND THE TYCOONS FROM OVERSEAS WHO VISIT BEIJING FOR A FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS VAST PROJECT.+

HOWEVER, HONG KONG WILL ALSO HAVE ITS UNCERTAINTIES, THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

/+WE HAVE .....

+WE HAVE THE RISK OF DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL MARKETS AND THIS IS A RISK WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY LIVED WITH- WE ALSO HAVE THE REQUIREMENT TO RECONCILE THE UNDERSTANDABLE POSITION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON HONG KONG WITH PRESERVATION OF WHAT MAKES ITS CONTRIBUTION POSSIBLE AS A FREE PORT AND AN INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN APPARENT THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BECOME ACTIVE IN THE EARLY OR MID 1980S - ONE CANNOT BE PRECISE.

+IT IS THEREFORE EXTREMELY SATISFACTORY THAT SINO/BRITISH RELATIONS, AND SINO/BRITISH RELATIONS OVER HONG KONG, HAVE EVOLVED SO WELL, AND THAT THE PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP OF OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN IN HONG KONG WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS WHETHER HERE OR IN GUANGDONG OR BEIJING ARE SO GOOD.

+IT MAKES POSSIBLE DISPASSIONATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION, AT THE RIGHT TIME, OF THIS PROBLEM.

+IT IS COMMON GROUND THAT A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND.

+MOREOVER THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED SEEMS VAST. MEANWHILE THERE IS TIME, AND WE MUST KEEP OUR NERVE,+ HE SAID.

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SIR PHILIP LOOKS INTO  
TECHNICAL AND TEACHER EDUCATION  
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TO LOOK INTO TECHNICAL AND TEACHER EDUCATION.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SIR PHILIP FIRST WENT TO LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, WHERE HE WAS SHOWN AROUND CLASSROOMS AND WORKSHOPS EQUIPPED FOR A WIDE RANGE OF CRAFT, TECHNICIAN AND COMMERCIAL COURSES. HE LATER MET AND HELD TALKS WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSTITUTE.

DURING HIS VISIT, SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD THAT A STAGE TWO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS DUE TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND WILL INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL STOREY TO THE EXISTING BUILDING OF THE INSTITUTE, AND A FIVE-STOREY ANNEX. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE STUDENT CAPACITY UPON COMPLETION BY 1983.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, SIR PHILIP WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY A CHORUS OF MUSIC STUDENTS ON HIS ARRIVAL AT SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

HE THEN TOURED THE COLLEGE CAMPUS TO SEE DISPLAYS OF STUDENTS' WORKS IN THE ENGLISH, AND RESOURCES AND RESEARCH ROOMS, AND AN INSTRUMENTAL CLASS IN THE MUSIC ROOM.

HE THEN CHATTED WITH STAFF AND STUDENT UNION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLLEGE, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS FOR A DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTORATE.

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## PLANS FOR MORE PEDESTRIAN WALKS

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ON THE AGENDA OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY MEETING TODAY WERE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO HELP PEDESTRIANS WALK IN GREATER SAFETY. THESE INCLUDED PLANS TO BUILD FOOTBRIDGES ACROSS KING'S ROAD AS PART OF A PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME WHICH THE COMMITTEE SCRUTINISED TODAY.

IN ADDITION, THE TAC HAD EXAMINED POSSIBLE MEASURES TO REDUCE CONGESTION APPROACHING AND THROUGH THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL. THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT, ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUNDS, THERE WAS A CASE FOR AN INCREASE IN TUNNEL TOLLS EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC BUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES, PROVIDED THAT THE EXTRA REVENUE ACCRUING WENT INTO A DEVELOPMENT FUND TOWARDS THE COST OF NEW CROSS-HARBOUR TRANSPORT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT STRICT MEASURES WERE IMPOSED TO LIMIT ANY EXTRA REVENUE TO THE COMPANY.

THE ADVICE OF TAC WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION.

IN A REPORT PREPARED FOR THE COMMITTEE, THE ROAD SAFETY DIVISION OF THE PWD HIGHWAYS OFFICE IDENTIFIED SOME 250 PROBLEM SPOTS IN THE TERRITORY WHICH HAD A BAD RECORD OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS.

A REVIEW OF PEDESTRIAN BLACK SPOTS IS CARRIED OUT EVERY YEAR AND THE COMMITTEE CHECKS ON THE ACTION PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE HAZARDS, IN MOST CASES BY INSTALLING PROPER CROSSINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS SYSTEM.

MEMBERS ALSO LOOKED INTO PROPOSALS TO BUILD TEN PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGES AT BUSY TRAFFIC JUNCTIONS ALONG THE KING'S ROAD-SHAU KEI WAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

THESE ARE AT KING'S ROAD'S JUNCTIONS WITH LAU SIN STREET, FUK YUEN STREET, NORTH POINT ROAD, TIN CHIU STREET, JAVA ROAD, HOI TAI STREET, PAN HOI STREET, QUARRY BAY STREET, YAU MAN STREET AND TAI KOO SHING ROAD.

THE FOOTBRIDGES ARE PROGRAMMED FOR COMPLETION BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR AND ARE ONE OF THE MEASURES APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE COMMITTEE TODAY TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE MAIN FEATURE OF THIS SCHEME IS A TRAFFIC GYRATORY SYSTEM USING ELECTRIC ROAD AND JAVA ROAD ENTIRELY FOR EASTBOUND, AND KING'S ROAD FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC EXCEPT ONE RESERVED LANE FOR BUSES, TRAMS AND VEHICLES REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS ALONG THE WHOLE ROUTE WILL BE REVAMPED AND THE ENTIRE SYSTEM COULD POSSIBLY BE INTRODUCED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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ANOTHER NEW VILLAGE OPENED IN SHA TIN

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JUST IN TIME FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR, RESIDENTS OF A 200-YEAR-OLD VILLAGE IN SHA TIN, WHICH IS TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, MOVED TODAY (THURSDAY) INTO NEW HOMES BUILT NEARBY.

THE VILLAGE IS TSOK POK HANG, AND IT HAS 100 RESIDENTS, ALL WITH THE SURNAME LEE.

THE NEW HOMES WERE BUILT UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S VILLAGE REMOVAL PROGRAMME.

THE NEW VILLAGE, WHICH RETAINS ITS OLD NAME, CONSISTS OF A CHI TONG AND 29 THREE-STOREY HOUSES.

PERFORMING THE MOVING-IN CEREMONY WAS THE DEPUTY NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL SECRETARY, DR RICHARD BUTLER, WHO STRESSED THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VILLAGERS' CUSTOMARY ATTACHMENT TO THEIR CHI TONG HAD NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN.

THE RESURRECTION OF A CHI TONG IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF RURAL AND TRADITIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEING INTEGRATED WITH NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

+THE RURAL SECTOR IS INDEED AN INTEGRAL PART OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND I HOPE THAT YOUR NEW VILLAGE DEMONSTRATES THAT, DESPITE RAPID PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND URBANISATION OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN.+

TSOK POK HANG IS THE FIFTH VILLAGE RESITE IN SHA TIN. THE OTHERS ARE KWAI TAI, PAT TSZ WO, KAK TIN TSUEN KUNG MIU AND FU YIU HA.

BUILT BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, EACH HOUSE IS 65 SQUARE METRES IN AREA. GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED \$11 MILLION TOWARDS CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG= THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, MR LEE SHEK-YUNG= AND LOCAL LEADER, MR NG CHAN-LAM.

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PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL PLACES FOR HANDICAPPED PUPILS

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FOUR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS RUN BY THE CARITAS ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE A LIMITED NUMBER OF FORM 1 PLACES FOR HANDICAPPED PRIMARY 6 LEAVERS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THESE PLACES WILL CATER FOR PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED PUPILS, PARTIALLY-HEARING PUPILS AND PARTIALLY-SIGHTED PUPILS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FOUR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS INVOLVED ARE CARITAS ST FRANCIS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN CAINE ROAD, AND THE THREE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN CHAI WAN, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN.

+THESE SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE ACCESS FACILITIES SUCH AS LIFTS AND RAMPS FOR THE HANDICAPPED PUPILS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APART FROM THESE FOUR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS RUN BY THE CARITAS, SOME OTHER PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS MAY ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION FROM HANDICAPPED PUPILS, HE ADDED.

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ARE GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOLS OFFERING BASICALLY THREE YEARS OF JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION LEADING FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL MAINLY TO EMPLOYMENT.

THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE A PROPORTION OF SENIOR SECONDARY CLASSES FOR THOSE ACADEMICALLY MORE CAPABLE PUPILS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION UP TO CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION LEVEL AND LATER TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO TECHNICIAN PROGRAMMES IN THE POLYTECHNIC OR THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

ALL APPLICATIONS FROM HANDICAPPED PUPILS FOR ENTRY TO THE PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS SHOULD REACH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED PUPILS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR C.K. LAM ON 3-7136484= THOSE CONCERNING PARTIALLY-SIGHTED PUPILS TO MISS T. WONG ON 3-7154425= AND THOSE CONCERNING PARTIALLY-HEARING PUPILS TO MR S.C. LI ON 3-7136445.

AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET ON PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE ABOVE OFFICERS.

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MAJOR BOOST TO HONG KONG'S FOSTER CARE SERVICE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCES TO FOSTER PARENTS.

AS FROM JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR, THE MAINTENANCE GRANT HAS BEEN REVISED TO \$750 A MONTH AND THE INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE TO \$250 A MONTH, GIVING A TOTAL ALLOWANCE OF \$1 000 PER CHILD PER MONTH.

THIS COMPARES WITH THE PRESENT LEVEL OF \$700 PER CHILD PER MONTH, COMPRISING A MAINTENANCE GRANT OF \$500 AND AN INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE OF \$200.

A NEW +SETTING UP+ GRANT HAS ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED WHICH WILL BE PAYABLE TO FOSTER PARENTS AT THE TIME THEY RECEIVE A CHILD INTO THEIR CARE. THE GRANT IS SET AT 50 PER CENT OF THE MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRANT (\$375 AT CURRENT PRICES) AND IS INTENDED TO ASSIST WITH INITIAL PURCHASES OF BEDDING, TOYS, CLOTHES AND OTHER ITEMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE NEW LEVELS OF ALLOWANCES WERE THAT THEY SHOULD PROVIDE REASONABLE ASSURANCE TO FOSTER PARENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO SUBSIDISE THE MAINTENANCE COST OF THE CHILD IN THEIR CARE.

+WHILE THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCES SHOULD NOT BE SUCH AS TO ATTRACT POTENTIAL FOSTER PARENTS PRIMARILY FOR REMUNERATIVE GAIN, THEY SHOULD ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF TOYS, TREATS AND OUTINGS FOR THE FOSTER CHILD AND FOR OTHER CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RATES OF ALLOWANCES WOULD BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY IN RELATION TO INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING (AS MONITORED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

THE NEW SYSTEM OF CALCULATING THE FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES AND THE NEW RATES HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THESE NEW MEASURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FOSTER CARE NOW MADE A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES IN BRITAIN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, PARTLY BECAUSE OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND A TRADITIONAL RELUCTANCE BY CHINESE FAMILIES TO ACCEPT SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD INTO THE FAMILY, DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN VERY SLOW.

ALTHOUGH FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT 70 FOSTER PLACES IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, ONLY 45 PLACES HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP BY ONE AGENCY, THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE, AND IT HAS NOT EVEN BEEN POSSIBLE TO FIND SUITABLE FOSTER PARENTS TO ENABLE ALL 45 PLACES TO BE FILLED.

/+IT IS .....

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+IT IS HOPED THAT THE INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES TO FOSTER PARENTS WILL GIVE A BOOST TO EFFORTS TO EXPAND THIS SERVICE BOTH BY ASSISTING IN THE RECRUITMENT OF FOSTER PARENTS AND BY ENCOURAGING MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO ENTER THIS FIELD,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REVEALED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE FOSTER PLACEMENT SERVICES DIRECTLY, THROUGH ITS NETWORK OF FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING CAREFULLY AT THE STAFF RESOURCES REQUIRED AND IT IS HOPED TO INTRODUCE THE SERVICE SOON,+ HE SAID.

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DIRECT ISSUE OF DRIVING LICENCES TIGHTENED UP  
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REGULATIONS TO TIGHTEN UP THE DIRECT ISSUE OF HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES TO DRIVERS WHO PASSED THEIR TESTS OVERSEAS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ON AND FROM TOMORROW, HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES WOULD ONLY BE ISSUED WITHOUT A TEST, IN RESPECT OF OVERSEAS LICENCES, IF IN ADDITION TO HAVING PASSED A TEST OF COMPETENCE OVERSEAS, THE APPLICANT HAD EITHER:

- \* BEEN RESIDENT IN THE OVERSEAS COUNTRY FOR NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE LICENCE, OR
- \* HELD THE LICENCE FOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION, OR
- \* HELD A PASSPORT OR EQUIVALENT DOCUMENT OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE LICENCE WAS ISSUED.

THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH THIS REGULATION REFERS.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT ALTHOUGH THE REQUIREMENTS WERE NOW MORE STRINGENT BY IMPOSING A RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION, THE ORIGINAL INTENTION OF THE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PRESERVED TO ALLOW RESIDENTS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY WHO HAVE PASSED A TEST OF ACCEPTABLE STANDARD TO DRIVE IN HONG KONG WITHOUT FURTHER TESTING.

THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT WILL CLOSE THE LOOP-HOLE WHEREBY CERTAIN PERSONS HAD OBTAINED DRIVING LICENCES ABROAD DURING A BRIEF STAY WITHOUT THE REQUISITE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO DRIVE SAFELY IN HONG KONG.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1982

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AIR TRAVELLERS URGED TO HELP EASE RUSH  
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THE HONG KONG AIRPORT MANAGEMENT APPEALED TODAY (THURSDAY) TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TRAVELLING ABROAD BY AIR FOR THEIR LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS TO OBSERVE A FEW SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO HELP KEEP CONGESTION AT THE AIRPORT TO A MINIMUM.

DEPARTING PASSENGER TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY FROM TODAY AND REACH A PEAK ON LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY.

ARRIVING PASSENGER TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO BUILD UP GRADUALLY ON THE THIRD OR FOURTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, AN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT EXPECTS THE NUMBER OF DEPARTING PASSENGERS TO BE MORE THAN 20 000 ON LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY AND THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF DEPARTING PASSENGERS BEFORE THEN TO BE OVER 17 000.

+PASSENGERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO TRAVEL TO THE AIRPORT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT INSTEAD OF PRIVATE CARS AND TO TRY TO KEEP THE NUMBER OF FRIENDS SEEING THEM OFF TO A MINIMUM,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO ADVISED THEM TO ARRIVE EARLY AND TO CHECK-IN EARLY.

A SPECIAL CHECK-IN AREA FOR GUANGZHOU-BOUND PASSENGERS HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE WESTERN-END OF THE DEPARTURES HALL TO PROCESS THE EXPECTED LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.

BANNERS AND SIGNS HAVE BEEN PLACED TO GUIDE GUANGZHOU-BOUND PASSENGERS, WHO ARE ALSO ASKED TO ALIGHT FROM VEHICLES AT THE FAR END OF THE DEPARTURE LEVEL ROADWAY NEAREST TO THE SPECIAL CHECK-IN AREA.

+THIS WILL HELP REDUCE UNNECESSARY CROSS-FLOW OF PEOPLE AND BAGGAGE MOVEMENTS IN THE DEPARTURES HALL+, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+CONGESTION IS UNAVOIDABLE DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, ESPECIALLY IN THE PEAK HOURS. HOWEVER, THE AIRPORT WILL BE MUCH LESS CONGESTED IF PASSENGERS WILL ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES. THE EFFICIENCY OF AIRPORT OPERATION WILL DEPEND GREATLY ON THE DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION FROM THE PUBLIC,+ HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1982

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LUNAR NEW YEAR TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AND CAUSEWAY BAY  
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THE AREA SURROUNDING STATUE SQUARE IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED A PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT THROUGHOUT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (SUNDAY) NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN CAUSEWAY BAY BECAUSE OF THE LARGE TURN-OUT EXPECTED AT THE FLOWER FAIR IN VICTORIA PARK.

FURTHERMORE, A SECTION OF EDINBURGH PLACE AND QUEEN'S PIER WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FROM 7 PM TO 11 PM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY (MONDAY) FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

ON-STREET PARKING FACILITIES WILL BE SUSPENDED ON A NUMBER OF ROADS IN CAUSEWAY BAY ON SUNDAY AND LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE BANNED FROM DRIVING IN THE AREA BETWEEN 8 PM AND 11 PM THAT EVENING.

APPEALING TO MOTORISTS TO AVOID THESE AREAS DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MOST PUBLIC SERVICES WILL EXTEND THEIR HOURS OF OPERATION AND SPECIAL SERVICES WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED.

EXTRA POLICE OFFICERS, HE ADDED, WILL BE DEPLOYED FOR CROWD CONTROL AND TO ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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YEAR-END CLEAN UP IN NT  
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MASSIVE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY GARBAGE-COLLECTION POINTS ARE NOW OPENED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS TO FACILITATE THE WORK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

RESIDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE COLLECTION POINTS IN DISPOSING OF THEIR BULKY ITEMS DURING THEIR YEAR-END CLEAN-UP EFFORT.

IN ADDITION, CLEAN-UP COMPETITIONS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS IN NORTH DISTRICT WERE ALSO HELD, TO INSTILL A SENSE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

AT THE SAME TIME THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE HELD A CLEAN HOME COMPETITION.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1982

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AWARDS FOR FISHING CHAMPIONS

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A TOTAL OF 27 CHAMPION FISHERMEN WILL RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (F.M.O.) TO BE HELD ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (JANUARY 24).

THE FISHERMEN WERE CHOSEN AS A RESULT OF A COMPETITION BASED ON THE TOTAL VALUE OF FISH LANDED BY FISHERMEN AT THE F.M.O. MARKETS BETWEEN DECEMBER 1980 AND NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE LENGTH AND ENGINE HORSE POWER OF THEIR BOATS WERE ALSO TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE JUDGING.

THE FISHERMEN WERE ALSO GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE TYPES OF VESSELS.

THE WIFE OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MRS C.T. WONG WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES TO THE FISHERMEN.

DR C.T. WONG WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO A TOTAL OF 16 OTHER FISHERMEN WHO HELPED TO RESCUE 57 PEOPLE IN NINE CASES OF ACCIDENTS AT SEA DURING LAST YEAR.

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS OF THESE PRIZES WILL BE TWO FISHERMEN FROM CHEUNG CHAU, MR HO KAM-MING AND MR KWOK TAI-SHING WHO HELPED TO RESCUE 10 CREW MEMBERS FROM A SINKING FISHING VESSEL FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF SCARBOROUGH SHOAL NEAR THE PHILIPPINES LAST FEBRUARY.

FOUR STAFF MEMBERS OF THE F.M.O. AND THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WILL ALSO RECEIVE THEIR LONG SERVICE MEDALS FROM DR WONG FOR HAVING COMPLETED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE EACH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET ON SHEK PAI WAN ROAD, ABERDEEN, AT 10.45 AM ON JANUARY 24, 1982.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR DUTY FREE BRANDY

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PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU DURING THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY (JANUARY 26 AND 27) MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 1 LITRE, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THIS CONCESSION IS ALLOWED IN LIEU OF NORMAL ONE-QUART BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE.

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POSTAL BOOKING FOR SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES  
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DETAILS OF POSTAL BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THREE SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO BE HELD DURING THE FORTHCOMING HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL, WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL JOINTLY WITH UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOSTING A FOUR-DAY SYMPOSIUM FROM FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 4, CONCENTRATING ON EAST-WEST EXCHANGES IN MUSIC AND THE PERFORMING ARTS.

OUTSTANDING ARTISTS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM ITSELF, AND TWO OF THEM, NAMELY MOUNIR BASHIR FROM IRAQ AND USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN FROM INDIA WILL GIVE EVENING PERFORMANCES WITH WELL-KNOWN LOCAL ARTISTS.

MOUNIR BASHIR IS PERHAPS THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON ARAB MUSIC AND IS TODAY THE ARTISTIC ADVISER TO IRAQ'S MINISTRY OF CULTURE. HIS OWN MUSICAL STUDIES TOOK HIM TO HUNGARY, WHERE HE WORKED UNDER THE GREAT HUNGARIAN COMPOSER, ZOLTAN KODALY, A MASTER OF ETHNIC FOLK-MUSIC.

MOUNIR BASHIR'S MASTERY OF THE ARABIC LUTE (THE UD) WILL BE HEARD IN A PROGRAMME OF ARABIAN AND CHINESE MUSIC, WHICH WILL ALSO FEATURE KU HUI-MAN ON THE PIPA, ON MONDAY (MARCH 1) IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE.

ON TUESDAY (MARCH 2), ALSO IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE, THE CELEBRATED SAROD PLAYER, USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN, WILL PRESENT A PROGRAMME OF RAGA MUSIC, ACCOMPANIED ON THE TABLA AND TANPURA. HIS PERFORMANCES ARE UNIVERSALLY ACCLAIMED, AND HE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE UNESCO MUSIC AWARD IN ADDITION TO MANY OTHER HIGH MUSIC HONOURS.

IN CONTRAST TO ALI KHAN'S PROGRAMME OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN MUSIC WILL BE A CHENG RECITAL GIVEN BY ONE OF HONG KONG'S LEADING EXPONENTS OF THE INSTRUMENT, LIU LI CHUEN.

THE THIRD EVENING CONCERT AT THE SYMPOSIUM, ALSO IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE, WILL BE GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG JING YING IN A MIXED PROGRAMME OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON MARCH 3 (WEDNESDAY).

POSTAL APPLICATIONS FOR ALL THREE PERFORMANCES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM JANUARY 25. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ARTS CENTRE, THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE AT CITY HALL, THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRES OUTLETS.

TICKETS FOR ALL THREE PERFORMANCES ARE PRICED \$10, \$20 AND \$30, AND COUNTER BOOKINGS FROM THE ARTS CENTRE'S BOX OFFICE, SCMP BOOKSHOPS AT 107 WORLDWIDE HOUSE, CENTRAL, AND 313 OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1982.

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HONG KONG ART (1970 - 80) EXHIBITION

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THE FOURTH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BE PRESENTING FIVE INTERESTING EXHIBITIONS, ONE OF WHICH IS +THE HONG KONG ART (1970 - 80) EXHIBITION+ TO BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL EXHIBITION GALLERY AS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UNTIL FEBRUARY 13.

THE EXHIBITION WILL PRESENT THE WORKS BY 60 ARTISTS OF HONG KONG DURING THE PERIOD OF 1970 - 80.

THE EXHIBITS WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY HONG KONG ART IN THE URBAN COUNCIL'S HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE OIL PAINTINGS, WATER COLOUR PAINTINGS, CHINESE PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES AND PRINTS.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FESTIVAL, A SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF BOOKS ON PERFORMING ARTS WILL BE HELD AT THE KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY BETWEEN JANUARY 18 AND 31- AND AT THE TSUEN WAN LIBRARY FROM FEBRUARY 2 TO 13.

ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITIONS IS FREE.

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SCROLL WRITING COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

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AN OPEN SCROLL-WRITING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PEOPLE AGED UNDER 35 IS BEING SPONSORED BY YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, AND WILL TAKE PLACE AT KOWLOON LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON (JANUARY 23).

THE ORGANISERS ARE THE SECOND YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG CHILDREN ART EXHIBITIONS.

APPLICATIONS TO ENTER CAN BE MADE THROUGH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS OR DIRECT TO THE LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL OR YUEN LONG MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION SECONDARY SCHOOL.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS IN EACH SECTION AND ALL ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE SPRING FESTIVAL SCROLL AND FLOWER/BONSAI EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO 16.

OFFICIATING AT THE EXHIBITION OPENING AND PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF YUEN LONG TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MADAM LEUNG SING-TAK, AND THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THE SING TAO MAN PAO, MR TONG BIG-CHUEN.

THE EXHIBITION IS ONE OF 26 EVENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL RUN FROM FEBRUARY 12 TO 27.

YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED \$350 000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE FESTIVAL.

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BALLROOM DANCE CONTEST  
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THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING A MODERN BALLROOM DANCE CONTEST.

THOSE WISHING TO TAKE PART ARE URGED TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY.

JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE HONG KONG DANCE ASSOCIATION, THE CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, WAN CHAI, ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, STARTING AT 7 PM.

IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS, AND WILL FEATURE THE WALTZ, FOXTROT AND QUICK STEP, AS WELL AS THE TANGO, SAMBA, RUMBA AND CHA CHA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RSS SAID THAT CONTESTANTS SHOULD BE AGED 18 AND ABOVE TO QUALIFY FOR ENTRY, WHICH IS FREE.

TROPHIES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS AND SOUVENIRS TO THE PARTICIPANTS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE CONTEST ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICES OF THE SERVICE AND AT THE HONG KONG DANCING ASSOCIATION.

THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE THE DANCE CONTEST MAY ALSO APPLY FOR FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FROM THE RSS HEADQUARTERS ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF WING ON CENTRE IN CENTRAL.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING 5-458511 OR 0-295949.

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TWO LOTS OF RECLAMATION LAND SOLD

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TWO LOTS OF CROWN LAND IN THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION WERE SOLD AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE AT THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THEY ARE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES. THE LARGER ONE, MEASURING ABOUT 4 539 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD TO BOLIN INVESTMENT LIMITED FOR \$42.8 MILLION OR \$9 429.39 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE OTHER LOT, ABOUT 4 319 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO DELTAHILL COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$42.8 MILLION ALSO, OR \$9 909.70 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE THIRD SITE, ABOUT 3 120 SQUARE METRES, FOR GODOWN PURPOSES ONLY, WAS WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO BIDDERS.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1982

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NT LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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EIGHT LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS START BUSINESS TODAY (THURSDAY) IN SEVEN DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES, AS THE YEAR OF THE DOG APPROACHES.

FLOWER AND DRY GOODS TRADERS ARE EXPECTING GOOD BUSINESS, IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN POPULATION IN VARIOUS NEW TOWNS.

BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DEMAND FOR FLOWER FAIR SITES TWO FAIRS ARE BEING HELD IN YUEN LONG THIS YEAR, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, RESIDENTS OF SHA TIN HAVE THEIR OWN FAIR, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE CAR PARK OF THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE, PROVIDING ADEQUATE PARKING SPACES.

A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY), TO MARK THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SHA TIN FAIR.

OFFICIATING WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF SHA TIN, DR PATRICK HASE- THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOUTH REGION) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JAMES WILSON- THE CLERK OF THE COURSE OF SHA TIN RACE COURSE, MR J.N. MCCAFFREY, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG.

OTHER FAIRS ARE BEING HELD AT YUEN LONG SPORTS GROUND AND THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKET AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THE SHEK WU HUI PLAYGROUND IN SHEUNG SHUI, TAI PO PLAYGROUND, SAN HUI PLAYGROUND IN TUEN MUN, SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR AT THE COACH CAR PARK IN THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE AT 3.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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