



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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NEW MONEY LENDING LAWS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING NEW LAWS TO GOVERN THE LENDING OF MONEY IN HONG KONG.

THE AIM IS TO CLAMP DOWN ON LOANSHARKS, AND TO ENSURE BETTER CONSUMER PROTECTION IN ALL LOAN TRANSACTIONS BOTH AS REGARDS EXCESSIVE INTEREST RATES AND EXTORTIONATE STIPULATIONS.

THE MONEY LENDERS BILL 1980, WHICH CONTAINS PROPOSALS TO THIS EFFECT, IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL SEEKS TO REPEAL THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION WHICH PROVIDES NO CONTROL OVER MONEY LENDERS, AND TO REPLACE IT WITH A LICENSING SCHEME WHEREBY APPLICANTS WOULD BE 'SCREENED' FOR THEIR SUITABILITY TO OPERATE A MONEY LENDING BUSINESS.

UNDER THE NEW PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WISHING TO OPERATE AS A MONEY LENDER WOULD BE REQUIRED TO APPLY TO THE REGISTRAR OF MONEY LENDERS FOR A LICENCE. APPLICATIONS WOULD BE PROCESSED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND DETERMINED BY A MAGISTRATE AND TWO ASSESSORS AS THE LICENSING COURT.

EXEMPTED WOULD BE BODIES SUCH AS BANKS AND OTHER REGISTERED INSTITUTIONS.

THE BILL WOULD RESTRICT MONEY LENDERS TO CARRYING ON BUSINESS IN LICENSED PREMISES ONLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF A LICENCE.

+AN APPLICANT FOR A MONEY LENDER LICENCE IS REQUIRED TO SEND A COPY OF THE APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WHO IS EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER,+ HE ADDED.

+IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE GRANT OF A LICENCE, THE COURT WILL GRANT IT WITHOUT FURTHER INQUIRY. HOWEVER, OBJECTIONS MAY BE MADE BY THE REGISTRAR OR THE POLICE OR BY ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND IN THAT EVENT THE COURT MUST MAKE FULL INQUIRY INTO THE FITNESS OF THE APPLICANT, AND OTHER RELATED ASPECTS, BEFORE GRANTING A LICENCE.+

THE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST PERMITTED BY THE BILL IN RESPECT OF ANY LOAN AGREEMENT WOULD BE 60 PER CENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AND, ANY AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR AN EFFECTIVE RATE IN EXCESS OF THIS MAXIMUM WOULD BE UNENFORCEABLE AND THE LENDER WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

+AS REGARDS PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RECOVERY OF MONEY LENT, IF THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT THE TRANSACTION IS EXTORTIONATE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE BILL, THE COURT MAY REOPEN THE TRANSACTION AND MAKE SUCH ADJUSTMENTS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE BETWEEN THE PARTIES,+ HE SAID.

/+IF THE

+IF THE EFFECTIVE RATE CHARGED EXCEEDS 48 PER CENT PER ANNUM, THE COURT MAY SIMILARLY INTERVENE EXCEPT WHERE IT IS SATISFIED THAT, IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT RATE IS NOT UNREASONABLE OR UNFAIR.+

COMMENTING ON THE TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR EXISTING LOANS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID NOTHING IN THE BILL WOULD RENDER ANY AGREEMENT OR SECURITY VOID OR UNENFORCEABLE.

+BUT WHERE THE INTEREST RATE ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT EXCEEDS 60 PER CENT, IT WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BILL,+ HE SAID.

+THESE TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS ARE NECESSARY TO DISCOURAGE LOANSHARKS FROM ATTEMPTING TO SECURE THE BACKDATING OF AGREEMENTS.+

THERE WILL ALSO BE PROVISIONS TO PREVENT MONEY LENDERS FROM CHARGING COMPOUND INTEREST AND OTHER FORMS OF LOANSHARKING.

+AN AGREEMENT FOR THE LOAN OF MONEY BY A MONEY LENDER SHALL BE ILLEGAL IN SO FAR AS IT PROVIDES FOR THE PAYMENT OF COMPOUND INTEREST, OR FOR INCREASING THE RATE OF INTEREST, OR IF IT PROHIBITS THE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN BY INSTALMENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO REQUIRES THE MONEY LENDER TO SUPPLY THE BORROWER WITH A COPY OF A NOTE OR MEMORANDUM WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING SIGNED, TOGETHER WITH A PRESCRIBED SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PARTS III AND IV OF THE BILL.

THEREAFTER, THE MONEY LENDER WOULD BE OBLIGED, UPON REQUEST BY THE BORROWER, TO SUPPLY HIM WITH INFORMATION DISCLOSING THE UP-TO-DATE STATE OF THE LOAN, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROVISION WOULD ENABLE THE BORROWER TO PROVIDE A RECORD IN THE EVENT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.

A SURETY WOULD ALSO BE ENTITLED TO A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT OR SECURITY INSTRUMENT, AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE AGREEMENT.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR EARLY REPAYMENT BY THE BORROWER WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY THE LENDER ANY PENALTY OR PREMIUM. HOWEVER, THIS PROVISION WOULD NOT APPLY TO LOANS MADE BY A MONEY LENDER EXEMPTED UNDER THE BILL.

REGARDING CHARGES LEVIED BY THE LENDER, A CLAUSE IN THE BILL PREVENTS A MONEY LENDER FROM EXACTING FROM THE BORROWER A SUM ON ACCOUNT OF COSTS, CHARGES OR EXPENSES INCIDENTAL TO THE LOAN.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED: +AS THERE IS A FAIRLY WIDESPREAD COMMERCIAL PRACTICE BY REPUTABLE BODIES OF LEVYING FEES, THE REGISTRAR WILL BE EMPOWERED TO APPROVE CERTAIN CHARGES LIMITED TO SUCH AN AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE AS HE SPECIFIES, OR TO EXEMPT CERTAIN GROUPS AFTER CONSULTING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.+

ANY MONEY LENDER COMMITTING AN OFFENCE UNDER THE NEW ORDINANCE WOULD BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS. THAT PENALTY ALSO APPLIES TO ALL CASES OF EXCESSIVE INTEREST RATES. FOR LESSER OFFENCES, THE PENALTY IS A \$10 000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

AND, A COURT MAY ORDER THAT THE CONVICTED PERSON BE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING A LICENCE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT EXCEEDING FIVE YEARS.

REGARDING THE HEAVIER PENALTY SET OUT IN THE BILL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SINCE LOANSHARKING WAS CONSIDERED A SERIOUS SOCIAL THREAT IT WAS FELT THE PENALTIES SHOULD BE SEVERE.

ALSO CONTAINED IN THE BILL ARE PROVISIONS RESTRICTING MONEY LENDING ADVERTISEMENTS, AND POWERS FOR THE REGISTRAR TO ENTER PREMISES AND INSPECT BOOKS.

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STATEMENT BY AG ON MACLENNAN CASE

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+THERE WAS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN WHICH SHOWS THAT HE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

+ACCORDINGLY THERE IS NO REASON TO RE-OPEN THE INQUEST, AND I WOULD HAVE NO POWER TO DO SO UNDER THE CORONER'S ORDINANCE.+

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIS STUDY OF THE CORONER'S 160 PAGE RECORD OF THE INQUEST.

DRAWING ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE EVIDENCE WHICH LED HIM TO HIS CONCLUSION THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID:

+IT IS CLEAR THAT INSPECTOR MACLENNAN DIED IN THE BEDROOM OF HIS FLAT FROM GUN SHOT WOUNDS TO HIS CHEST SHORTLY AFTER 6 AM. THE FLAT WAS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.

+THERE ARE NO BALCONIES, AND NO LATERAL COMMUNICATION AS THE CONCRETE RIDGE SURROUNDING THE BUILDING IS, IN FACT, INTERMITTENT.+

THE ONLY ACCESS TO THE FOURTH FLOOR FLAT OCCUPIED BY INSPECTOR MACLENNAN WAS THE FRONT DOOR AND THE WINDOWS. THE DOOR WAS SECURELY LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE AND HAD TO BE SMASHED DOWN BY POLICE IN THE PRESENCE OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S SOLICITOR.

+THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE DOOR BEING OPENED FROM THE OUTSIDE,+ SAID MR GRIFFITHS. +THERE WERE FOUR LOCKS AND CHAINS SECURELY FASTENED FROM THE INSIDE. THE KEY TO THE MAIN LOCK WAS FOUND ON INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S KEY-RING, WHICH WAS FOUND AFTER ENTRY ON A TABLE IN THE KITCHEN/LIVING AREA.+

+THE ONLY WAY OF EVEN ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE FLAT THROUGH THE WINDOWS WOULD HAVE BEEN FROM ABOVE USING A ROPE,+ HE SAID. +BUT THE WINDOWS WERE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE AND THEY HAD NOT BEEN FORCED OR BROKEN.+

INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S BODY WAS FOUND IN HIS BEDROOM, THE DOOR OF WHICH WAS LOCKED. THE POLICE HAD TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR WITH A CROWBAR AS IT COULD ONLY BE LOCKED, OR UNLOCKED, FROM THE INSIDE BY A SNIB ON THE HANDLE. THERE WAS NO KEY MECHANISM OR OTHER MEANS OF LOCKING OR UNLOCKING THE DOOR FROM THE OUTSIDE.

+INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S SOLICITOR WAS PRESENT NEARBY WHILE THAT DOOR WAS BROKEN DOWN TOO,+ SAID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ON THE EVIDENCE CONCERNING INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S ACTIONS IN THE PERIOD BEFORE HIS BODY WAS FOUND MR GRIFFITHS POINTED TO EVIDENCE THAT:

- * INSPECTOR MACLENNAN WAS WARNED THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT-
- * HE MADE A REQUEST FOR AN EARLY CALL AT 5.30 AM ON THE MORNING HIS BODY WAS FOUND, GIVING HIS OWN NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER-
- * INSPECTOR MACLENNAN VISITED THE POLICE ARMOURY AT 6 AM WHERE HE WAS RECOGNISED BY THE STATION SERGEANT ON DUTY WHO KNEW HIM. ON THIS OCCASION INSPECTOR MACLENNAN TOLD AN UNTRUE STORY TO THE ARMOURER, WHO ALSO KNEW HIM, THAT HE WAS GOING OUT ON A POLICE RAID AND REQUIRED HIS REVOLVER.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE REVOLVER USED AND THE BULLET WOUNDS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE WEAPON WHICH WAS ISSUED TO INSPECTOR MACLENNAN PROVED TO BE THAT FOUND BESIDE HIS BODY, AND TWO OF THE FIVE BULLETS WERE POSITIVELY PROVED BY A BALLISTICS EXPERT TO HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM IT. THE OTHERS WERE TOO BADLY DAMAGED FOR IDENTIFICATION.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THAT HE WAS INITIALLY CONCERNED THAT THERE WERE FIVE BULLET WOUNDS, BUT HE WAS NOW QUITE SATISFIED THAT THERE WERE DOCUMENTED CASES IN MEDICAL BOOKS OF OTHER PERSONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVING COMMITTED SUICIDE BY SHOOTING THEMSELVES IN THE CHEST MANY TIMES. THIS VIEW WAS SUPPORTED BY THE EVIDENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT PATHOLOGIST WHO SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE FOR INSPECTOR MACLENNAN TO HAVE SHOT HIMSELF FIVE TIMES.

THERE WAS ALSO CLEAR EVIDENCE PRODUCED BY THE HANDWRITING EXPERT THAT THE SUICIDE NOTE FOUND IN THE LOCKED FLAT WAS WRITTEN BY INSPECTOR MACLENNAN.

+HAVING REGARD TO ALL THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ MR GRIFFITHS SAID, +I AM SATISFIED INSPECTOR MACLENNAN COMMITTED SUICIDE AND THAT NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED BY RE-OPENING THE INQUEST.+

TURNING TO THE RIDER TO THE JURY'S VERDICT CONCERNING THE HOMOSEXUALITY LAW IN HONG KONG THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THAT THE LAW RELATING TO HOMOSEXUALITY WAS TO BE REFERRED TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE LAW IN RELATION TO HOMOSEXUALITY SHOULD BE REVIEWED BUT WITHOUT PRE-JUDGING WHETHER OR NOT THE LAW SHOULD BE CHANGED IN ANY WAY.

+MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE HOMOSEXUALITY LAWS IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST MONTHS WITH SOME ADVOCATING THEIR RELAXATION AND OTHERS TOTALLY AGAINST ANY CHANGE,+ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID. +I THINK IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, AND DOUBTLESS THE COMMISSION WILL WISH TO CO-OPT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO HELP IN THIS WORK. I AM SURE THE COMMISSION WILL TAKE VERY GREAT CARE TO SOUND PUBLIC OPINION BEFORE EXPRESSING A VIEW,+ ADDED MR GRIFFITHS.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS LAST MONTH WAS \$7 690 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$5 389 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2 302 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$9 537 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR APRIL WAS \$1 847 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1979, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$1 234 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS- \$716 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS- \$1 950 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT IN TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$2 423 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT IN IMPORTS.

COMMENTING ON THE APRIL FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THEY SHOW A CONTINUATION OF THE PATTERN APPARENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. TOTAL EXPORTS HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW AT ROUGHLY THE SAME RATE AS TOTAL IMPORTS- AND, WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS HAS CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY.

IN LINE WITH THIS PATTERN, IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE VALUES OF TOTAL EXPORTS AND OF IMPORTS WERE BOTH 37 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1979, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WAS 44 PER CENT HIGHER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WHICH IS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, WAS 19.4 PER CENT IN APRIL, NARROWER THAN MARCH'S VERY HIGH 24.2 PER CENT. IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE +GAP+ WAS 18.7 PER CENT, WHICH IS THE SAME AS IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1979.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE FACT THAT THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ HAS CEASED TO NARROW FURTHER SINCE THE END OF 1979 IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH FORECAST OF A SLIGHTLY LARGER VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ FOR 1980 AS A WHOLE COMPARED WITH 1979.

THE FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>FEB-APRIL</u> 1980	<u>FEB-APRIL</u> 1979	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	14 100	10 432	+ 3 669	+ 35.2
RE-EXPORTS	6 290	4 467	+ 1 824	+ 40.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	20 391	14 898	+ 5 493	+ 36.9
IMPORTS	25 616	19 276	+ 6 340	+ 32.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 5 225	- 4 378	- 847	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>APRIL</u> 1980	<u>APRIL</u> 1979	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 389 (70.1%)	4 154 (72.4%)	+ 1 234	+ 29.7
RE-EXPORTS	2 302	1 586	+ 716	+ 45.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 690	5 740	+ 1 950	+ 34.0
IMPORTS	9 537	7 114	+ 2 423	+ 34.1
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 847	- 1 374	- 473	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>APRIL</u> 1980	<u>MARCH</u> 1980	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 389 (70.1%)	4 585 (67.6%)	+ 804	+ 17.5
RE-EXPORTS	2 302	2 202	+ 100	+ 4.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 690	6 787	+ 904	+ 13.3
IMPORTS	9 537	8 959	+ 578	+ 6.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 847	- 2 172	+ 325	

/CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-APRIL 1980	JAN-APRIL 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	19 097 (69.6%)	14 270 (71.1%)	+ 4 827	+ 33.8
RE-EXPORTS	8 338	5 795	+ 2 543	+ 43.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	27 435	20 065	+ 7 369	+ 36.7
IMPORTS	33 749	24 676	+ 9 072	+ 36.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 6 314	- 4 611	- 1 703	
	MAY 1979 TO APRIL 1980	MAY 1978 TO APRIL 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
LAST 12 MONTHS	\$ M	\$ M	\$ M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	60 739	44 230	+16 509	+ 37.3
RE-EXPORTS	22 565	15 341	+ 7 224	+ 47.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	83 304	59 571	+23 733	+ 39.8
IMPORTS	94 909	69 668	+25 242	+ 36.2
TRADE BALANCE	-11 605	-10 097	- 1 508	

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\$1 INCREASE IN OUT-PATIENT CHARGE
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY ADVISED THAT THE REVISED CHARGE OF \$3 PER VISIT AT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JUNE 1.

REVISED CHARGES FOR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES WERE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL LAST YEAR WHEN THE FEE WAS INCREASED FROM \$1 TO \$2 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 29 YEARS.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT THEN, THE DEPARTMENT HAD GIVEN NOTICE THAT THE CHARGE WAS TO BE INCREASED TO \$3 IN JUNE THIS YEAR SO AS TO REDUCE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COST OF SERVICE AND THE FEES CHARGED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT AT MID-1977 PRICES THE AVERAGE COST OF A GENERAL OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCE WAS \$35.

HE SAID THESE FEES WILL BE REDUCED OR WAIVED IN CASES OF REAL HARDSHIP AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRACTICE AT ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT CHARGE OF \$1 PER VISIT FOR INJECTIONS AND DRESSINGS AT A GENERAL CLINIC AND ATTENDANCES AT A FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

PATIENTS ATTENDING METHADONE TREATMENT CENTRES WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE CHARGED AT \$1 A VISIT.

AT THE SAME TIME, MANY OTHER TYPES OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN FREE. THESE INCLUDE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, CHEST SERVICES, SOCIAL HYGIENE SERVICE, CASUALTY SERVICE, THE FLOATING CLINIC AND THE FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISED CHARGES HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND ENDORSED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

IN ITS DELIBERATION, THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED A REVIEW OF THESE CHARGES TO BE REASONABLE IN VIEW OF THE RISING COSTS AND THE LAPSE OF TIME SINCE THE CHARGE OF \$1 PER VISIT WAS FIXED, HE ADDED.

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SECOND BRIDGE LINK WITH SHENZHEN

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IN SIX MONTHS' TIME HONG KONG WILL BE LINKED TO SHENZHEN BY YET ANOTHER BRIDGE - THIS TIME FOR PEDESTRIANS - AT LO WU.

THE NEW BRIDGE, SITUATED EAST OF THE EXISTING LO WU RAILWAY BRIDGE, IS BUILT TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING VOLUME OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

IT WILL BE EIGHT METRES WIDE AND 40 METRES LONG AND WILL BE BUILT IN CONCRETE. IT WILL RUN PARALLEL TO AND WILL BE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

FIBRE REINFORCED PLASTIC ROOFING WILL BE PROVIDED TO MATCH THAT OF THE EXISTING BRIDGE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON HONG KONG SIDE OF THE RIVER WILL BEGIN EARLY NEXT MONTH WHILE WORK ON THE SHENZHEN SIDE IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID THE BRIDGE WAS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

+AT PRESENT, TRAIN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN HAVE TO WALK ON THE TRACK OF THE RAILWAY BRIDGE. THIS IS BOTH HAZARDOUS AND INCONVENIENT,+ HE SAID.

+ON COMPLETION OF THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, THE SITUATION THERE WILL BE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY.+

THE SECTION OF THE BRIDGE ON HONG KONG SIDE COSTS \$5.4 MILLION TO BUILD.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN DIVISION OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISION.

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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GROUND BREAKING FOR COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE IN TUEN MUN
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OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS HAS BROUGHT WITH IT INCREASED LEISURE AND HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR AKERS-JONES WAS SPEAKING AT A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR A COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE IN TUEN MUN.

THE CENTRE IS A \$32 MILLION PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE YAN OI TONG, A LOCALLY BASED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

DESCRIBING THE PROJECT AS +MOST WORTHWHILE+, MR AKERS-JONES SAID ITS FACILITIES WHEN COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS' TIME WOULD ENSURE THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TUEN MUN HAD AN OUTLET TO REFRESH THEIR BODIES AND MINDS.

THE CENTRE WOULD BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BRINGING UNDER ONE ROOF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF TUEN MUN TO MAKE USE OF AND ENJOY.

+THE YAN OI TONG, WHICH HAS BEEN SERVING THIS COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS, HAS ONCE MORE REALIZED ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY IN SPONSORING THIS PROJECT, WHICH WILL COME INTO USE AT A TIME WHEN THE NEW TOWN POPULATION WILL BE VASTLY INCREASED AND WHEN FACILITIES OF THIS KIND WILL BE MOST NEEDED,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS DONATED \$8 MILLION TOWARDS THE COST AND THE LOTTERIES FUND \$9 MILLION. THE BALANCE IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED BY THE SALE OF TONG PROPERTY AND BY PRIVATE DONATIONS.

THE CENTRE WILL HAVE A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 141 208 SQUARE METRES. ITS FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A ROLLER SKATING RINK, AN INDOOR SWIMMING POOL, A MULTI-PURPOSE GAMES HALL, A GYMNASIUM, BOWLING CENTRE, BILLIARDS AND TABLE TENNIS ROOMS, SQUASH COURTS, A RESTAURANT AND FIVE SHOPS.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A LIBRARY, A GALLERY, MEETING AND STUDY ROOMS, A CRECHE AND PLAY AREA, YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITY ROOMS AND OFFICE SPACE.

THE 4 359 SQUARE METRE SITE ON WHICH THE CENTRE IS TO BE BUILT WAS GRANTED TO THE YAN OI TONG BY PRIVATE TREATY.

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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CHECK ON FIRE HAZARDS
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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OFFICERS TODAY CARRIED OUT A SPOT CHECK OF MORE THAN 900 TAI KOK TSUI FACTORIES TO REMOVE POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS.

AS A RESULT, 207 FACTORIES WILL BE SERVED WITH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES, MOSTLY FOR CAUSING OBSTRUCTION IN COMMON AREAS AND ON STAIRCASES.

FURTHERMORE, NINE FACTORIES ARE TO BE SUMMONSED FOR THE RECURRENCE OF FIRE HAZARDS.

DURING THE FIVE-HOUR OPERATION, THE OFFICERS VISITED 947 FACTORIES IN 36 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

THEY ALSO FOUND 48 CASES OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ALTERATIONS, ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, UNLICENSED CANTEENS AND +BAD HOUSE-KEEPING+.

THE CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED FOR ACTION.

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FOUR NEW TERRITORIES SITES FOR SALE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO AUCTION FOUR SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NEXT MONTH.

THREE OF THE SITES ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ONE IS FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN DEVELOPMENT.

THEY RANGE FROM 645 SQUARE METRES TO 11 700 SQUARE METRES IN AREA.

THE RESIDENTIAL SITES ARE IN SCENIC SETTINGS AT CHEUNG SHA ON LANTAU, ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND AND IN SHA TIN.

THEY ARE FOR VILLA-TYPE HOUSES.

MEASURING 11 700 SQUARE METRES, THE CHEUNG SHA LOT IS ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH LANTAU ROAD AND WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF CHEUNG SHA BEACH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID THE PLOT RATIO OF THIS LOT WAS ONLY 0.4 AND IT WOULD BE THE LAST TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH LANTAU HOSPITAL LAYOUT AREA. THE PURCHASER WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD A SWIMMING POOL ON THE SITE.

THE CHEUNG CHAU LOT COMMANDS A CLEAR VIEW OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IT IS 913 SQUARE METRES IN AREA WITH A PLOT RATIO OF 0.6.

/THESE TWO

THESE TWO LOTS CARRY BUILDING COVENANTS OF \$4.7 MILLION AND \$600 000 TO BE FULFILLED BY JUNE 30, 1983.

THE SHA TIN LOT, SITUATED BETWEEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY STATION AND THE RACE COURSE, MEASURES 645 SQUARE METRES.

IT HAS A PLOT RATIO OF 0.4 AND CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$520 000 TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN THREE YEARS.

THE SITE FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN DEVELOPMENT IS NEAR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AND MEASURES 1 080 SQUARE METRES.

THE CONDITIONS OF SALE SPECIFY A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 9.5 AND A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$1.7 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN THREE YEARS.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12, STARTING AT 11 AM.

DETAILS OF THE FOUR LOTS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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TUEN MUN GETS NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

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CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW \$5.8 MILLION PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE FIRST OF FIVE TO BE BUILT OUTSIDE THE HOUSING ESTATES IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH.

A CONTRACT FOR THE WORK, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WAS SIGNED TODAY BY MR C.S. LEE, CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF HOI SHING CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

THE NEW SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT ON A 3 100 SQUARE METRE SITE ON THE CASTLE PEAK BAY RECLAMATION.

IT WILL BE HOUSED IN A SEVEN-STOREY BLOCK, WITH 24 CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL ROOMS ON THE UPPER FLOORS AND AN ASSEMBLY HALL AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICES ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

A COVERED PLAY AREA WITH CHANGING ROOMS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

THERE WILL ALSO BE MINOR STAFF QUARTERS, A BASKETBALL COURT, A CAR PARK AND PLANTING AREAS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TRADE MISSION TO GUANGZHOU
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THE TRADE MISSION TO GUANGZHOU, LED BY SIR Y.K. KAN, WILL LEAVE BY THROUGH TRAIN AT 1 PM THIS SUNDAY (MAY 25).

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE MEDIA TO COVER THE DEPARTURE OF THE MISSION. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE ENQUIRY COUNTER, KOWLOON STATION, HUNG HOM, AT 12.20 PM. THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS OR PASSPORTS TO FACILITATE ENTRY INTO THE RESTRICTED AREA. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR AIRPORT SHOP
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE OPERATION OF A GENERAL MERCHANDISE CONCESSION IN THE RESTRICTED AIRSIDE DEPARTURE LOUNGE OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL AT KAI TAK.

TENANCY OF THE SHOP PREMISES, WHICH MEASURES 67 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE FOR THREE YEARS, BEGINNING THIS SEPTEMBER. IT MAY BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS ON TERMS TO BE AGREED.

TENDERERS MUST PLACE THEIR BIDS IN THE TENDER BOX IN THE ENTRANCE HALL OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT BEFORE 12 NOON ON JUNE 13 (FRIDAY).

THEY SHOULD ATTACH TO EACH TENDER A RECEIPT SHOWING THAT THEY HAVE DEPOSITED WITH THE TREASURY A SUM OF \$200 000 AS A PLEDGE OF THE BONA FIDES OF THEIR TENDERS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, OR AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1980

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HA TSUEN RANGE FIRING PRACTICE

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 11 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
JUNE 2 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 3 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 4 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 12 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 4.30 PM
JUNE 16 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 18 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 19 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 10 PM
JUNE 23 (MONDAY)	10 AM - 4 PM
JUNE 25 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 4.30 PM
JUNE 26 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
JUNE 27 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 4.30 PM

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PLB RESTRICTION ON WONG CHUK HANG ROAD

A WESTBOUND SECTION OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD EXTENDING ABOUT 80 METRES AT ITS JUNCTION WITH NAM LONG SHAN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A PLB CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 26).

WITHIN THE CLEARWAY ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE PLB DRIVERS.

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