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[Typographical errors in the original document]

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CONCERTED EFFORTS TO SOLICIT PUBLIC
OPINION ON SOCIAL SECURITY GREEN PAPER
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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO SOLICIT PUBLIC OPINION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME PROPOSED IN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED GREEN PAPER ON SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF CASTLE PEAK THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, SAID THAT THE DECISIONS TO BE MADE BEFORE A WHITE PAPER IS PUBLISHED DEPEND TO A GREAT EXTENT ON THE OPINIONS AND ARGUMENTS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC.

+THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN THIS OPERATION. HIS DEPARTMENT HAS SENT COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER AND EXPLANATORY PAMPHLETS TO 232 TRADE UNIONS, 12 MIXED UNIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, 293 EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND OTHER INTERESTED ASSOCIATIONS. WHEN THEIR OPINIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD,+ MR. SWEETMAN EXPLAINED.

THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED, HAD ALSO BEEN CONCERNED THROUGH ITS NETWORK OF CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS WHO WOULD CONSULT DISTRICT LEADERS AND MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE PUBLIC.

+THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CARRYING OUT A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY AMONG BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WHICH WILL HELP TO OBTAIN A CLEARER PICTURE OF THEIR ATTITUDES ON WHAT THEY EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO DO IN THE WAY OF PROVIDING THEM WITH SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.+

MR. SWEETMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONSULTING THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE PROPOSALS OF THE GREEN PAPER IN THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

+SO, WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE VOLUNTARY SECTOR'S COMMENTS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WE TOO CAN ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ON REACTIONS TO THESE PROPOSALS,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE WORKERS' RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE THIS SCHEME, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT THE IMMEDIATE REACTION APPEARED TO BE FAVOURABLE. HOWEVER, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THROUGH INADEQUATE STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS, PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THEY WOULD GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING FROM THE SCHEME.

/+THIS IS

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+THIS IS BY NO MEANS THE CASE - AND EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO PAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE SCHEME, THE ACTUAL MONEY WILL OF COURSE STILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE TAXPAYERS WHETHER THEY JOIN THE SCHEME OR NOT.

+APART FROM THIS, THE WORKERS CAN ONLY RECEIVE UNDER THIS SCHEME BENEFITS THE TOTAL OF WHICH DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS - THUS A HEALTHY WORKER JOINING THE SCHEME FOR MANY YEARS MUST EXPECT, IN RETURN FOR THE PROTECTION IT HAS GIVEN HIM IN CASE HE WENT SICK, TO SEE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS BEING PAID OUT TO HIS LESS FORTUNATE SICK OR INJURED FELLOW-WORKERS.+

IN OTHER WORDS, HE CONTINUED, A PERSON'S CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD NOT BE 'INDIVIDUALLY FUNDED'.

+IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN SOME QUARTERS THAT HONG KONG'S WORKERS ARE NOT WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A SYSTEM WHEREBY THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE BENEFITS OF THEIR FELLOW-WORKERS, AND IT IS UP TO THOSE WHO THINK OTHERWISE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. SWEETMAN SAID THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER OR A SIMPLE EXPLANATORY PAMPHLET SUMMARISING THE MAIN PROPOSALS AT THE VARIOUS PUBLIC ENQUIRY OFFICE COUNTERS.

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MORE SPORTING FACILITIES PLANNED FOR THE NT

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THESE FACILITIES WOULD INCLUDE SPORTING STADIA, RUNNING TRACKS, SOCCER PITCHES, SQUASH AND TENNIS COURTS, BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS AND SWIMMING POOLS.

MR. AKERS-JONES WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF THE SILVER JUBILEE SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION AT THE YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND IN TSUEN WAN.

HE SAID ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN THE PROVISION OF SUITABLE VENUES FOR STAGING SPORTING EVENTS.

+YOU CAN SEE HERE TODAY THAT THE YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND IS BEING GREATLY IMPROVED -- AND FLOODLIGHTING WILL SOON BE A REALITY SO THAT A GREATER USE CAN BE MADE OF THIS STADIUM.+

/+THE GOVERNMENT

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+THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PROVIDING MANY OUTLETS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- BUT IT IS UP TO ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS YOUR OWN TO SEE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY UTILISED,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND PUPILS TAKING PART IN EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE N.T. SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

+THIS,+ HE SAID, +IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME AND ENERGY INTO BRINGING HEALTHY AND VIGOROUS ACTIVITY TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN SUCH A HEALTHY AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY.

+THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR ENTHUSIASM REFLECTS THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF THE ORGANISATION OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS AND THE INTEREST AND SUPPORT IT HAS GENERATED AMONG HEADMASTERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

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ELECTRICITY FOR KOWLOON TSAI SQUATTER AREA

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AN ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME TO SUPPLY POWER TO ABOUT 300 HOUSEHOLDS OF 2,000 PEOPLE IN THE CHIU YUEN, WAN SHAN ROAD AND YUNG KWONG LANE SQUATTER AREAS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE SCHEME, A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIU YUEN FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE, AT LUNG CHI STREET, KOWLOON TSAI.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE JOINTLY OFFICIATED BY DR. P.H. HASE, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (SHAM SHUI PO), MR. R.A. PEDDER, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER, AND MR. C. STEELE, SENIOR COMMERCIAL ENGINEER, BOTH OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

LATER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SQUATTERS WILL PRESENT BANNERS TO THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POWER COMPANY AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AS A TOKEN OF THEIR APPRECIATION.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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48 PEOPLE COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY
IN SEA RESCUES
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TWO 15-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLBOYS ARE AMONG 48 CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE COMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR. MALCOLM ALEXANDER FOR THEIR BRAVERY IN SAVING 15 LIVES AT SEA DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THE GROUP, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES EIGHT MARINE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF JUMBO RESTAURANT WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RESCUE FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION IN ABERDEEN HARBOUR ON APRIL 6, RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY FROM MR. ALEXANDER AT A CEREMONY THIS MORNING.

AMONG OTHER RECIPIENTS WERE MEMBERS OF THE YAUMATI AND STAR FERRY COMPANIES AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR. ALEXANDER PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS AND SAID THEIR ACTIONS INDICATED NOT ONLY GREAT COURAGE, BUT ALSO PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS OF A VERY HIGH ORDER, AND CONCERN FOR THOSE IN TROUBLE.

+THEY DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY DESPITE THE PERSONAL RISK INVOLVED,+ MR. ALEXANDER SAID.

HE NOTED THAT ALL THE RESCUERS, WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS, ACTED SPONTANEOUSLY WHEN THE INCIDENTS IN WHICH THEY WERE INVOLVED OCCURRED, AND +AS THEY PLUNGED INTO THE WATER, THERE CAN HAVE BEEN ONLY ONE THOUGHT UPPERMOST IN THEIR MINDS - TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE IN DISTRESS.+

ON RESCUERS AT THE ABERDEEN EXPLOSION WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THREE MARINE OFFICERS AND INJURY TO MANY OTHERS, MR. ALEXANDER SAID THE COURAGE AND FORTITUDE THEY DISPLAYED IN THE RESCUE GAINED THEM THE ADMIRATION OF THEIR COLLEAGUES AND WAS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO TAIWAN
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT SPEEDPOST SERVICE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO TAIWAN FROM JANUARY 3, 1978.

+INITIALLY THE SERVICE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO TAIPEI BUT IT WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE EXTENDED TO OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN TAIWAN,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID.

TAIWAN WILL BE THE NINTH TERRITORY TO WHICH SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS AVAILABLE. THE OTHER EIGHT COUNTRIES ARE AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, FRANCE, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES.

MEANWHILE, THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SPEEDPOST CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG NEXT MARCH.

THE CONFERENCE, TO BE HOSTED BY THE POST OFFICE, WILL CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS OF EXTENDING THE RANGE OF SPEEDPOST FACILITIES AND OF EXTENDING THE SERVICE TO EVEN MORE DESTINATIONS.

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HK TEACHER AWARDED MANCHESTER TEXTILE SERVICE MEDAL

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MR. W.T. WAN, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES, KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, IS THE FIRST CHINESE TO BE AWARDED THE SERVICE MEDAL OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE IN MANCHESTER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES TO THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE MANCHESTER INSTITUTE IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION WHICH IS RUN BY CHARTERED TEXTILE TECHNOLOGISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND IS RECOGNISED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT.

CURRENTLY, MR. WAN IS SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE'S HONG KONG SECTION COMMITTEE AND HELPS THE HONG KONG TEXTILE INDUSTRY TO KEEP ABREAST OF MODERN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD. HE WAS ALSO INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE SECTION INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST ACTIVE WITHIN THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE.

AT THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, MR. WAN, ASSISTED BY A GRADUATE TEACHER, TWO ASSISTANT LECTURERS, AND TWO WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS, PREPARES 90 FULL-TIME STUDENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA IN KNITWARE MANUFACTURE AND A TWO-YEAR CERTIFICATE IN KNITTING MECHANICS. MR. WAN, HIMSELF A KNITTING SPECIALIST, TEACHES KNITTING TECHNOLOGY AND SUPERVISORY STUDIES.

IN ADDITION TO THE 90 FULL-TIMERS, THE INSTITUTE TRAINS 60 PART-TIME STUDENTS (ONE FULL DAY AND TWO EVENINGS A WEEK) FOR BOTH COURSES AND ANOTHER 120 BOYS FOR A SEPARATE EVENING COURSE OF THREE DAYS A WEEK.

THE FIRST BATCH OF 27 TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA HOLDERS LEFT THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN JULY 1977, AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM ASSISTED BY MR. WAN, HAVE FOUND JOBS IN KNITTING AND KNITWARE FACTORIES.

FOR THE TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA AT THE INSTITUTE, THE STUDENT, USUALLY A FORM 5 LEAVER, UNDERGOES JOB TRAINING FOR ONE YEAR AFTER WHICH HE IS PROMOTED AS A TECHNICIAN. THE MECHANICS COURSE GENERALLY TAKES FORM 3 LEAVERS.

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW TSING YI FIRE STATION

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THE NEW \$1.8 MILLION TSING YI FIRE STATION WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION IN JUNE THIS YEAR WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. TANG YUEN-PUI WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

MR. TANG WILL ALSO PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO 20 MEMBERS OF THE TSING YI TONG CIVILIAN FIRE SQUAD WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING COURSE ORGANISED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SQUAD WAS FORMED TO LOOK AFTER THE FIRE SAFETY ASPECTS OF TSING YI TONG, AND TO SERVE AS A FIRST STRIKE-FORCE IN CASE OF A FIRE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW. YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO MEET SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER, MR. CHUI HUNG-FAT AT 2.30 P.M. AT KWAI CHUNG FIRE STATION, TAI LIN PAI ROAD WHERE TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE THEM TO TSING YI FIRE STATION.

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APPLICATION FOR SIR DAVID TRENCH RECREATION FUND

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APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM VOLUNTARY AND SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1978-79 FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION..

SET UP IN 1970, THE FUND IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL, SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO PROJECTS WHICH WILL HELP TO DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL AND ENCOURAGE THE PURPOSEFUL USE OF LEISURE BY YOUNG PEOPLE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1, MA TAU KOK ROAD, FIFTH FLOOR, KOWLOON, NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1978.

FUND ALLOCATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED IN JULY, 1978.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
IN FEI NGOR SHAN AREA AND KING'S ROAD
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A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN FEI NGOR SHAN AREA ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 18) FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON TO FACILITATE THE ANNUAL ROUND FEI NGOR SHAN RUN.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE SECTION OF FEI NGOR SHAN ROAD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ONE-WAY SECTION TO JAT'S INCLINE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC=
- * JAT'S INCLINE FROM FEI NGOR SHAN ROAD TO GOOD HOPE SCHOOL WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC= AND
- * THE SECTION OF SHA TIN PASS ROAD BETWEEN TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD AND JAT'S INCLINE WILL BE TEMPORARILY RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY.

MEANWHILE, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT WILL ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED IN KING'S ROAD FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 19) FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE CABLE LAYING WORKS.

THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN THE JUNCTION OF KING'S ROAD AND PAN HOI STREET AND THAT OF KING'S ROAD AND THE EASTERN PART OF SHIPYARD LANE WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAY ZONE FROM 7 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

THE CLEARWAY ZONE WILL ALSO APPLY TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND FROM 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS IN THESE AREAS.

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