



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1981

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FAMILIES GETTING SMALLER, CENSUS SHOWS  
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HONG KONG'S FAMILIES ARE BECOMING SMALLER, ITS POPULATION IS GETTING OLDER, BUT ITS LABOUR FORCE IS GETTING YOUNGER.

THESE AND OTHER DETAILS ARE INCLUDED IN A SUMMARY OF THE 1981 CENSUS RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

THE CENSUS WAS CONDUCTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR. IT WAS A TWO-PHASE OPERATION, CONSISTING OF A 100 PER CENT HEAD-COUNT BY AGE AND SEX AND A 20 PER CENT SAMPLE ENUMERATION OF THE BROAD RANGE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS FINDINGS, THERE WERE 5.11 MILLION LOCAL RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG IN MARCH, 1981. (A TOTAL OF 5.02 MILLION PEOPLE WERE ENUMERATED, INCLUDING TRANSIENTS AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. IT WAS ALSO ESTIMATED THAT 120 000 RESIDENTS WERE AWAY FROM HONG KONG AT THE TIME OF THE CENSUS.)

COMMENTING ON THE CENSUS HEAD-COUNT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR C.C. GREENFIELD, SAID THAT THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 1.05 MILLION PEOPLE OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, GIVING AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 2.4 PER CENT.

WHILE THE GROWTH DUE TO NATURAL INCREASE HAS SLOWED DOWN AS A RESULT OF A DECLINE IN FERTILITY, THE LARGE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS FROM 1978 TO 1980 CAUSED THE POPULATION TO INCREASE AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 2.8 PER CENT BETWEEN 1976 AND 1981, AS AGAINST THE LOWER RATE OF 2.1 PER CENT FOR THE PERIOD 1971 TO 1976.

MORE PEOPLE ARE MOVING INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE NEW TOWNS IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN HAVE EXPERIENCED A SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OF POPULATION DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS. MEANWHILE, AS A RESULT OF PEOPLE MOVING OUT OF THE MAIN OLD URBAN AREAS, THERE WAS A LOSS OF POPULATION IN KOWLOON CITY AND WONG TAI SIN, KWUN TONG AND CHEUNG SHA WAN.

THE DECLINE WAS PARTICULARLY SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE OVERALL POPULATION DURING THIS PERIOD.

SHAM SHUI PO WAS STILL THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICT, WITH 165 000 PEOPLE PER SQUARE KILOMETRE, FOLLOWED BY MONG KOK AND HUNG HOM.

WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BORN IN THE LATE 50'S NOW REACHING ADULTHOOD, AND A STEADY DECLINE IN FERTILITY OVER THE PAST DECADE, HONG KONG'S POPULATION HAS BECOME OLDER. ITS MEDIAN AGE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM 22 IN 1971 TO 26 IN 1981. THERE WAS A SMALLER PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION AGED BELOW 15 (25 PER CENT) AND A LARGER PROPORTION AGED 65 AND OVER (7 PER CENT). AS A RESULT OF THESE CHANGES, THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 TO 64 INCREASED FROM 60 PER CENT IN 1971 TO 69 PER CENT IN 1981, SO THAT THERE IS A GREATER POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE POPULATION AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG AND THE OLD.

SOME 98 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WERE OF HONG KONG OR CHINA ORIGIN. OTHER GROUPS INCLUDED 26 000 BRITISH, 12 000 INDIANS AND PAKISTANIS, AND 29 000 FROM COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION BORN IN HONG KONG ONLY INCREASED FROM 56 PER CENT TO 57 PER CENT DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS. THE INCREASE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SIGNIFICANT HAD THERE NOT BEEN THE LARGE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS FROM 1978 TO 1980.

AS A RESULT OF THE DECLINE IN FERTILITY DURING THE PAST DECADE, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS TO EVER-MARRIED WOMEN DROPPED FROM 3.4 TO 2.5.

THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE POPULATION HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY. THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION OR ABOVE INCREASED FROM 26 PER CENT IN 1971 TO 45 PER CENT IN 1981, WHILE THE PROPORTION WITH NO SCHOOLING OR ONLY PRIMARY EDUCATION DECREASED. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR THE SIX TO 11 AGE GROUP ROSE FROM 95 PER CENT IN 1971 TO 98 PER CENT IN 1981.

OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE HAD UNDERTAKEN OR WERE UNDERTAKING STUDY IN POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE SCHOOL OF NURSING, ETC.

ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM HAD UNDERTAKEN OR WERE UNDERTAKING VOCATIONAL COURSES, AND THE MAJORITY OF THESE WERE IN THE FIELDS OF BUSINESS STUDIES, ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY.

THE LABOUR FORCE OF HONG KONG HAS BECOME YOUNGER DURING THE PAST DECADE. THE MEDIAN AGE WAS 31, COMPARED WITH 35 TEN YEARS AGO. THERE WERE ALSO MORE WOMEN WORKING.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF THE LABOUR FORCE OVER THE 10-YEAR PERIOD WAS 4.5 PER CENT, AS AGAINST THE LOWER RATE OF FOUR PER CENT FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER. THE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN MARCH WAS 66.8 PER CENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOUR PER CENT.

MORE PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED AS PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, CLERICAL AND SERVICE WORKERS. HALF OF THE WORKING POPULATION WERE PRODUCTION AND RELATED WORKERS, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AND LABOURERS, WHICH IS A SLIGHTLY LOWER PROPORTION THAN IN 1971.

FEWER PEOPLE PROPORTIONATELY WERE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR (41 PER CENT) THAN TEN YEARS AGO (47 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, CONSTRUCTION, AND SERVICES.

ON AVERAGE, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK WERE LOWER IN 1981 THAN IN 1971, 50 HOURS AS COMPARED WITH 56. SOME 34 000 EMPLOYEES, LESS THAN TWO PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYEES, HAD A SECONDARY OCCUPATION.

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THE OVERALL MEDIAN MONTHLY INCOME FROM MAIN EMPLOYMENT WAS \$1 516, AS COMPARED WITH \$738 IN 1976. DISCOUNTING THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN 1976 AND 1981, REAL EARNINGS HAVE INCREASED AT SEVEN PER CENT PER ANNUM. THE REAL INCREASE IN MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OVER THE 5-YEAR PERIOD WAS ALSO SEVEN PER CENT PER ANNUM.

THERE WAS A STEADY DECREASE IN THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE DURING THE 10-YEAR PERIOD, FROM 4.5 PERSONS IN 1971 TO 4.2 IN 1976 AND TO 3.9 IN 1981.

SIMPLE NUCLEAR FAMILIES - A COUPLE WITH OR WITHOUT UNMARRIED CHILDREN OR A SINGLE PARENT WITH UNMARRIED CHILDREN - WERE MOST COMMON, COMPRISING 54 PER CENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS.

VERTICALLY EXTENDED NUCLEAR FAMILIES - NUCLEAR FAMILIES LIVING WITH A SINGLE PARENT OF ONE OF THE SPOUSES OR A MARRIED CHILD - HAVE BECOME MORE POPULAR SINCE 1976. ITS PROPORTION INCREASED FROM LESS THAN A TENTH TO ABOUT A SEVENTH DURING THIS PERIOD.

A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION (39 PER CENT) WERE IN PUBLIC AND AIDED HOUSING IN 1981 THAN IN 1971 (38 PER CENT). THE INCREASE, HOWEVER, WAS LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHOUT THE EFFECT OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS.

THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS OWNING THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION (FROM 18 PER CENT TO 28 PER CENT). THE PROPORTION OF SUB-TENANTS DECREASED FROM 20 PER CENT TO 12 PER CENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WERE LESS HOUSEHOLDS SHARING ACCOMMODATION WITH OTHERS. IN PRIVATE HOUSING, THE AVERAGE DEGREE OF SHARING WAS 1.35 HOUSEHOLDS PER LIVING QUARTER IN 1981, AS COMPARED WITH 1.56 IN 1971.

MEDIAN RENT PER MONTH IN PUBLIC HOUSING WAS \$151 IN FEBRUARY 1981, WHICH COMPARES WITH \$442 FOR PRIVATE HOUSING. THE MAJORITY OF HOUSEHOLDS PAYING LOWER RENT THAN THIS AMOUNT IN PRIVATE HOUSING WERE SHARING ACCOMMODATION WITH OTHERS.

A SERIES OF CENSUS REPORTS CONTAINING DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE POPULATION WILL BE PUBLISHED. THESE WILL INCLUDE, IN PARTICULAR, THE BASIC TABLES, THE GRAPHIC GUIDE AND THE MAIN REPORT, ALL OF WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT YEAR.

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## HONG KONG ECONOMY SEEN ADJUSTING WELL

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THE EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED NATURE OF THE ECONOMY MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR HONG KONG TO DEPEND LARGELY ON THE AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID THIS AFTERNOON (MONDAY).

THE ECONOMY WAS NOW ADJUSTING FAVOURABLY TO COPE WITH PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT EXTERNAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AND DESPITE RECESSIONS IN THE MAIN MARKETS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS WOULD LIKELY ACHIEVE A REAL GROWTH RATE OF SEVEN PER CENT, RE-EXPORTS OF 34 PER CENT AND TOTAL EXPORTS OF 17 PER CENT FOR THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT, HELPED BY THE DEPRECIATION OF THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE MARGIN OF SPARE CAPACITY, THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR NOW APPEARED +WELL POISED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY RECOVERY IN DEMAND+.

+IT HAS, IN FACT ADJUSTED TO A POINT WHERE OUR EXPORTS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED THEIR COMPETITIVENESS. MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE THIS YEAR WAS AT AN ALL-TIME RECORD LEVEL, AND THE GROWTH IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WHICH STARTED AT THE BEGINNING OF 1979, HAS BEEN REVERSED SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

JUST BECAUSE THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAD BEEN DECLINING IN RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTOR, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE ECONOMY HAD BECOME LESS DEPENDENT ON EXPORTS, HE POINTED OUT.

HONG KONG WAS FORTUNATE THAT IT HAD LITTLE UNEMPLOYMENT ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, HE ADDED.

MR BREMRIDGE WAS SPEAKING THIS AFTERNOON ON THE +GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE ECONOMY -- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE+ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE ECONOMY, HONG KONG RELIED IN PRINCIPLE ON MARKET FORCES TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS, THROUGH THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF +POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM+, AS DESCRIBED BY HIS PREDECESSOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

+BUT IN EACH CASE, WE DO NOT SIMPLY APPLY THIS POINT AS DOGMA. WE TEST IT OUT SO THAT IF WE DO DECIDE THAT MARKET FORCES WILL PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER, THEN WE MAKE A POSITIVE DECISION NOT TO INTERVENE.

+WE REMEMBER THAT INVARIABLY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES IN DYNAMIC CHANGING SITUATIONS.+

+SO, AS THESE SITUATIONS CHANGE, WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES CONSTANTLY WHETHER OUR DECISIONS OF YESTERDAY ARE STILL VALID,+ HE SAID.

/IT WAS A .....

IT WAS A WISE GOVERNMENT WHICH RECOGNISED CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADAPTED POLICY ACCORDINGLY WHILE REMAINING TRUE TO ITS UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY, HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED ALSO IN THE PRUDENT EXERCISE OF FREEDOM, OTHERWISE IT WOULD DEGENERATE INTO ANARCHY, AND ALSO IN THE BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE A SAFETY NET IN WHICH TO CATCH AND HELP THE DISADVANTAGED WHO FELL OUT OF SOCIETY.

UNFORTUNATELY THE BASIC ARGUMENTS TENDED TO BE FORGOTTEN, AND THE POLICY STANCE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON PARTICULAR ISSUES INVOLVING THE ECONOMY COULD BE EASILY MISINTERPRETED, ESPECIALLY WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATED THAT IT MUST BE PRAGMATIC, HE SAID.

THERE WAS NEED TO BE PRAGMATIC AND NOT DOGMATIC, HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY SCEPTICAL OF THE BENEFITS OF INTERVENTION, IT IS NECESSARY IN CASES WHERE THE BENEFITS OF INTERVENING CLEARLY OUTWEIGH THE COST OF SO DOING, AND PARTICULARLY WHEN STABILITY RESULTS FROM A STABLE AND CONSISTENT FISCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN OPERATE,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT HOUSING WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN PROVIDING HOMES FOR TWO MILLION PEOPLE BELOW COST.

MR BREMRIDGE STRESSED TWO INTER-RELATED POINTS AS HAVING IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC POLICY.

THE FIRST WAS THE NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT THE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM RARELY TOOK PLACE SMOOTHLY AND INSTANTANEOUSLY AND THAT THE PROCESS COULD CREATE GREAT HARDSHIP FOR PARTICULAR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, THUS REQUIRING A DEGREE OF INTERVENTION.

THE SECOND POINT WAS THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED OVER TIME. +THIS CONSIDERATION HAS PLAYED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE NOT ONLY IN THE SHAPING OF SUCH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC POLICIES AS DIVERSIFICATION BUT ALSO IN THE SHAPING OF ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH HAVE RELEVANCE TO THE ECONOMY -- NOT LEAST TAXATION POLICIES IN WHICH CONSISTENCY IS MOST IMPORTANT,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID ALSO THAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED MARKET FORCES WOULD ENSURE THE EFFICIENT ALLOCATION AND USE OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. +THIS CREATES A COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT WHEREBY THOSE WHO ARE EFFICIENT BENEFIT AND ERRORS OF COMMERCIAL JUDGMENT ARE PENALISED,+ HE SAID.

IN CASES WHERE MARKET FORCES DID NOT PRODUCE SATISFACTORY RESULTS, THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE WOULD BE TO INTERVENE TO SHAPE THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH PARTICULAR MARKETS OPERATED.

+IN ANY CASE, WE ARE NOT SO NAIVE AS TO IGNORE THAT MARKET PRICES ARE NOT ALWAYS FAIR AND MARKETS CAN BE RIGGED,+ HE SAID.

AN EXAMPLE IN WHICH REGULATION WAS NECESSARY WAS IN THE MONETARY SECTOR +WHERE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY OF MARKET IMPERFECTIONS OR OF THE OVER-VIGOROUS OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES CAN BE SUBSTANTIAL.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT WHILE THE ECONOMY APPEARED TO BE ADJUSTING FAVOURABLY, THE INFLATION RATE WAS IN PART DUE TO THE TOO RAPID EXPANSION OF LOANS AND ADVANCES.

SOME FORM OF SUPPLY RESTRAINTS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED, HE SAID, BUT EMPHASISED THAT BEFORE FURTHER REGULATION WAS INTRODUCED THERE WAS NEED TO BE SURE THAT THE UNDESIRABLE AND UNAVOIDABLE SIDE-EFFECTS OF DOING SO, SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM, DID NOT OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES.

ANOTHER AREA WHERE REGULATION OF MARKETS WAS REQUIRED WAS THE STOCK MARKET. IT WAS HIS HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNIFIED STOCK EXCHANGE WOULD FIND EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF SELF-REGULATION.

+IF IT DOES NOT, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE STRONGLY TO BACK THE SECURITIES COMMISSION IN EFFORTS TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION,+ HE SAID.

DISCUSSING GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY WITH REGARD TO ACHIEVING SOCIAL EQUITY, HE SAID THE AIM WAS TO ALLOW FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE GENERAL GROWTH FROM THE TOP. THIS MEANT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROLE OF WEALTH IN WHICH PERSONAL FREEDOM WAS ALL IMPORTANT, AND +CONSCIOUS RECOGNITION OF THE INEVITABILITY OF A DEGREE OF INEQUALITY IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION.+

AN INCREASING SHARE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE HAD BEEN GEARED TO INCREASING THE SOCIAL WAGE IN TERMS OF THE PROVISION OF HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, AT A HEAVILY SUBSIDISED IF NOT ZERO COST TO CONSUMERS, HE SAID.

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#### TAX EXEMPTION ON INTEREST EARNED

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INTEREST PAYABLE BY LICENSED BANKS, BY CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BY THE GOVERNMENT AT RATES OF UP TO 12-1/2 PER CENT PER ANNUM WILL BE EXEMPT FROM INTEREST TAX FROM TODAY (MONDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED.

HE SAID THAT THIS REPRESENTS A REDUCTION OF ONE PER CENT IN THE EXEMPTION LIMIT, AND FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ON FRIDAY THAT THE RATES OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE REDUCED TO 12-1/2 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY.

A NOTICE SIGNED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 28(1) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE TODAY.

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MORE GET JOBS THROUGH LES  
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DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, SOME 25 000 JOB-SEEKERS, INCLUDING 236 UNIVERSITY AND POST SECONDARY COLLEGE GRADUATES, WERE PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT BY THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE LES'S NEW TSZ WAN SHAN BRANCH OFFICE TODAY (MONDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.N. HENDERSON, SAID THAT THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 18 PER CENT IN PLACEMENTS OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE WORK OF THE LES WAS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT ANY IMPROVEMENT OR EXPANSION OF ITS SERVICES WAS GEARED TO THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS, JOB-SEEKERS AND THE ECONOMY AT LARGE, HE SAID.

+ONE OF THE SERVICE'S AIMS THIS YEAR IS TO IMPROVE ITS COVERAGE BY ESTABLISHING NEW OFFICES IN AREAS WITH LARGE POPULATIONS, SUCH AS THE TSZ WAN SHAN AREA,+ HE ADDED.

MR HENDERSON EMPHASISED THAT THE LES BY ITSELF COULD NOT, AND DID NOT, CREATE JOBS ANY MORE THAN IT COULD CREATE PEOPLE IN TIMES OF A LABOUR SHORTAGE. WHAT IT COULD DO WAS TO MATCH JOB-SEEKERS WITH VACANCIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE LES THEREFORE DEPENDED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF VACANCIES NOTIFIED BY EMPLOYERS AND THE TYPES OF JOB-SEEKERS REGISTERED.

+IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS IN TSZ WAN SHAN AND THE NEARBY AREA WILL MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE FREE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THIS NEW OFFICE,+ MR HENDERSON URGED.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WITH MR HENDERSON WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE, MR STEPHEN LEUNG, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR DAKCHISON YIU.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TSZ WAN SHAN BRANCH OFFICE HAS BROUGHT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LES BRANCH OFFICES TO 15 LOCATED IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW OFFICE IS COMPLETE WITH DISPLAY BOARDS TO ENABLE JOB-SEEKERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN PRELIMINARY SELECTION OF JOBS BY COMPARING THEIR SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF THE VACANCIES SPECIFIED IN THE JOB CARDS ON DISPLAY.

IT IS ALSO LINKED UP WITH THE OTHER 14 BRANCH OFFICES BY A FACSIMILE SYSTEM WHICH TRANSMITTED VACANCY ORDERS SPEEDILY TO ALL OFFICES SO THAT SUITABLE CANDIDATES CAN BE SELECTED FROM THE COMBINED POOL OF JOB-SEEKERS AND INTRODUCED TO AN EMPLOYER WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME.

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NEW RADIO NETWORK FOR FISHERMEN  
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THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, A NEW RADIO NETWORK NOW ENABLES FISHERMEN AT SEA TO COMMUNICATE FROM SHIP TO SHIP AND WITH SHORE.

FISHING VESSELS SUITABLY EQUIPPED WITH RADIO-TELEPHONY EQUIPMENT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE HONG KONG COAST STATION FROM A RADIUS OF 500 MILES, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL DISCLOSED TODAY (MONDAY).

A FURTHER CONVENIENCE FOR THE FISHERMEN IS THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE TELEPHONE CALLS THROUGH THE HONG KONG COAST SYSTEM TO THEIR FAMILIES ON SHORE. THE CHARGES FOR THE FIRST THREE MINUTES WILL BE: SHORT-RANGE CALLS \$7.05, LONG-RANGE CALLS \$14.10.

+EMERGENCY CALLS WILL BE CONNECTED FREE OF CHARGE,+ HE SAID.

THERE HAD BEEN CONCERN IN THE PAST ABOUT THE LACK OF RADIO CONTACT FACILITIES BETWEEN THE 5 000 FISHING VESSELS WHILE THEY WERE OUT AT SEA AND THE SHORE STATION, AND THAT ACCIDENTS THAT MIGHT OCCUR WOULD NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL THE VESSELS RETURNED TO HONG KONG.

WITH THIS IN MIND, THE POST OFFICE AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, CABLE AND WIRELESS (HONG KONG) LIMITED, AS WELL AS VARIOUS DEEP-SEA TRAWLER OWNERS AND LOCAL RADIO SUPPLIERS GOT TOGETHER TO WORK OUT THE NEW RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

IN LINE WITH THE NEW SERVICE, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING FREE COURSES FOR FISHERMEN ON HOW TO OPERATE THE RADIO. EACH COURSE LASTS TWO WEEKS AND IS CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE.

OWNERS OF FISHING VESSELS USING RADIO-TELEPHONY EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL COST BETWEEN \$15 000 AND \$20 000 PER INSTALLATION ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED BY THE POST OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, AT A FEE OF \$50 A YEAR.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SYSTEM, LICENSING AND EXAMINATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

THE CONTROLLER (MARITIME SERVICES)  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH  
POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS  
CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL  
HONG KONG.  
TEL: 5-2671157

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NEW VEHICLES STRENGTHEN NT CLEANSING SERVICES  
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FORTY NEW REFUSE-COLLECTION VEHICLES HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM BELGIUM TO STRENGTHEN THE CLEANSING SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN TIME FOR THE CURRENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

THE NEW VEHICLE, VANDERKEROKHOVE (VDK) 15, IS A POWERFUL AND EFFICIENT MACHINE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CLEANSING SERVICES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NORTH REGION) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR BOWEN LEUNG, WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VEHICLE WHEN HE INSPECTED THE CLEANSING SERVICES AT A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT CHI LOK GARDEN, A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME HOUSING ESTATE, TODAY (MONDAY).

THE VEHICLE CAN HANDLE AND COLLECT REFUSE AND JUNK IN A MIXED COLLECTION SYSTEM, RESULTING IN MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE DAILY COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC GARBAGE FROM PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

EQUIPPED WITH A COMPACTION DEVICE AND HAVING AN AIR SPACE OF 15 CUBIC METRES, THE VEHICLE HAS PROVED ECONOMICAL IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HAULS TO DISPOSAL POINTS.

IT IS ALSO FITTED WITH A BIN-LIFTING INSTRUMENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF BULK REFUSE CONTAINERS FROM HOUSING ESTATES.

THE VDK 15 CAN COLLECT UP TO 6.5 TONNES OF COMPACTED REFUSE. (A TOTAL OF 1 000 TONNES OF REFUSE IS COLLECTED BY THE NTSD EACH DAY.)

ALL THE NEW VEHICLES ARE NOW IN SERVICE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

THE NTSD WILL SPEND SOME \$42 MILLION THIS YEAR TO PURCHASE MORE THAN 100 SPECIAL CLEANSING VEHICLES TO MEET ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS AND AS REPLACEMENT.

INCLUDED WILL BE SUCTION SWEEPERS FOR HIGHWAYS REQUIRING MECHANICAL SWEEPING, STREET WASHING VEHICLES FOR ROAD SURFACE CLEANSING AND DESLUGGING VEHICLES FOR SLUDGE AND NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION IN THE RURAL AREAS.

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CHRISTMAS AEROGRAMMES ON SALE SOON  
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CHRISTMAS PICTORIAL AEROGRAMMES WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT 20 CENTS EACH AT ALL POST OFFICES FROM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1981, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL MR A.C. HEATHCOTE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

+CHRISTMAS AEROGRAMMES ARE A CONVENIENT WAY OF SENDING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ABROAD. THEY COMBINE BOTH A PERSONAL LETTER AND A GREETING AND CAN BE POSTED TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD AS FIRST-CLASS AIRMAIL FOR ONLY ONE DOLLAR,+ HE SAID.

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SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATES VISIT SHA TIN  
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MEMBERS OF THE SWEDISH TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION, WHO ARE HERE FOR FIVE DAYS, VISITED SHA TIN NEW TOWN TODAY (MONDAY).

AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, AT NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, THE DELEGATION WERE TAKEN TO THE LOOKOUT ABOVE SUI WO COURT, SHA TIN, FROM WHERE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEW TOWN WERE EXPLAINED TO THEM BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK CHASE.

LATER, THE GROUP TOURED FO TAN INDUSTRIAL AREA, VISITING A GARMENT FACTORY.

THE DELEGATION, LED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE BERTIL, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM MANILA LAST FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 6) AND WILL LEAVE FOR BANGKOK TOMORROW.

IT COMPRISES MEMBERS OF THE SWEDISH TRADE COUNCIL, A SEMI-GOVERNMENT BODY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SWEDISH TRADE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN TO MEET LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SWEDEN.

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SEMINAR ON THE TEACHING OF POTTERY  
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A SEMINAR ON THE TEACHING OF POTTERY WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH FOR ART TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WITH TALKS CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE BY THREE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

MR CHAN CHUNG-KONG WILL BE SPEAKING ON THE STRUCTURE, USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ELECTRIC KILN, MRS M.Y.F. LORD WILL BE SPEAKING ON UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERIMENTING WITH CLAY AND GLAZES AND MR CHAN PING-TIM WILL BE SPEAKING ON THE AESTHETIC AND PRACTICAL VALUES OF THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF CLAY.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM ON DECEMBER 22 AT THE LECTURE THEATRE OF GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE VIA HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE INSPECTOR (ART), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, 5TH FLOOR, HONG KONG.

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