



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

| <u>CONTENTS</u>   | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| FS: WORKING PAPER NEXT YEAR ON SALES TAX PROPOSALS .....      | 1               |
| STEADY AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION ON SALES TAXES: FS ..... | 5               |
| MUTUAL CO-OPERATION RESULTS IN ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT .....     | 6               |
| NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL OPERATES NEXT WEEK .....             | 8               |
| URBAN REDEVELOPMENT - A BOOST TO YAU MA TEI .....             | 10              |
| MORE RESOURCES FOR LESS BRIGHT STUDENTS .....                 | 11              |
| ANOTHER GROUP OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE SCREENED .....        | 13              |
| OLI ORGANISES LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION .....                   | 14              |
| DB TUNNEL WORKING GROUP TO MEET TOMORROW .....                | 14              |
| COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY .....           | 15              |
| LAUNCHING OF C AND W CULTURAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL .....         | 16              |
| TWO MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR SHA TIN .....                  | 17              |
| TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL STARTS SATURDAY .....               | 17              |
| GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER .....                        | 18              |
| CSD AUTUMN FAIR AT STANLEY .....                              | 19              |
| TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT .....    | 19              |
| RE-ROUTEING, GMB FARE ADJUSTMENT .....                        | 20              |
| TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS, YUEN LONG .....           | 20              |

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

FS: WORKING PAPER NEXT YEAR ON SALES TAX PROPOSALS

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PRODUCE A WORKING PAPER EARLY NEXT YEAR AND START CONSULTING THE PUBLIC ON SALES TAX PROPOSALS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE KOWLOON ROTARY CLUB, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS IN RECENT MONTHS OF THE POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF TAX DIVERSIFICATION TO THE ECONOMY, AND HE WELCOMED THE PUBLIC DEBATE THAT THIS AWARENESS HAD GENERATED.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECENTLY BEEN EXAMINING IN SOME DETAIL THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF A POSSIBLE SALES TAX BUT HE WAS NOT PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE IT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, CERTAINLY NOT IN HIS 1989 BUDGET.

"IN FACT, AT THIS STAGE I AM NOT WORKING TO A TIMETABLE. BUT WHAT I AM DOING IS ENDEAVOURING TO GENERATE SOME INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT; DESPITE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE THOUGHTFUL RESPONSES SO FAR," HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO START SEEKING PUBLIC VIEWS BY APPROACHING A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS AND BODIES THAT WERE LIKELY TO BE IN A POSITION TO ENGAGE IN DETAILED DEBATE ON THE PROPOSALS.

"DEPENDING ON HOW WE PROGRESS, I SHALL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE MORE FORMAL PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE OBJECT OF A SHIFT FROM DIRECT TO INDIRECT TAXES WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE STABLE REVENUE BASE WHICH WOULD BE LESS VULNERABLE TO ECONOMIC CYCLES, AND BETTER ABLE TO MEET AND SUSTAIN EXPENDITURE ON A RANGE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES.

HE SAID THE TAX BASE IN HONG KONG WAS VERY NARROW AS ONLY ONE IN FOUR OF THE LABOUR FORCE PAID SALARIES TAX WHILE ABOUT 50,000 TAXPAYERS PROVIDED OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE SALARIES TAX REVENUE.

SOME 20 PER CENT OF PROFITS TAX REVENUE WAS MET BY THE TOP 30 COMPANIES AND THIS YEAR, SALARIES TAX AND PROFITS TAX TOGETHER WOULD ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY HALF OF GENERAL REVENUE, HE ADDED.

TO SWEEP ASIDE THE NEED TO BROADEN THE TAX BASE WAS IGNORING BASIC ECONOMIC REALITIES, MR JACOBS SAID.

"IN HONG KONG, WE ARE ALMOST BOUND TO SEE GREATER VOLATILITY IN THE BUSINESS CYCLE THAN IN THE PAST.

/"WITH THAT .....

"WITH THAT VOLATILITY, WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATIONS IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE. BUT ONE THING THAT DOES NOT FLUCTUATE IS PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON A RECURRENT BASIS," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT IF THERE WERE TO BE A DOWN-TURN, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE FINANCED SOMEHOW AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN HAVE A CHOICE OF INCREASING DIRECT TAXES, BORROWING, OR DRAWING DOWN ITS FISCAL RESERVES.

"ALL THESE OPTIONS CARRY WITH THEM CERTAIN RISKS. IN PARTICULAR, IF WE WERE FORCED TO INCREASE DIRECT TAXES SIGNIFICANTLY, OUR TRADITIONAL ATTRACTIVENESS AS A LOW TAX TERRITORY COULD BE ERODED.

"THIS COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE YIELD FROM DIRECT TAXES COULD CORRESPONDINGLY SHRINK IN REAL TERMS, THEREBY EXACERBATING THE PAIN," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID ONGOING RESEARCHES WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION TENDED TO CONFIRM HIS BELIEF THAT A MEASURE OF TAX DIVERSIFICATION COULD WELL LEAD TO A MORE STABLE TAX REGIME WHICH WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO WITHSTAND DIFFICULT TIMES WITHOUT MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS, EITHER IN RATES OF TAX OR SOURCES OF REVENUE.

"FURTHERMORE, A WIDER TAX BASE MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RATIONALISING SOME EXISTING INDIRECT TAXES," HE SAID.

"PROVIDED WE KEEP THE RATE OF TAX MODEST, THE INFLATION IMPACT WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT IN MANY TAX ADMINISTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THE GOVERNMENTS HAD CHOSEN TO INTRODUCE SOME FORM OF SALES TAX.

"SOME OF THESE TAXES ARE VERY COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER AND OTHERS TRY TO ACHIEVE GREAT EQUITY BUT AT CONSIDERABLE COST.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BLINDLY FOLLOW WHAT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED ELSEWHERE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE CERTAINLY LOOKING AT OTHERS' EXPERIENCE IN ORDER TO HELP TO FIND SOMETHING TO SUIT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THERE WERE THREE CRITERIA WHICH WERE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IF HONG KONG WERE TO INTRODUCE A SALES TAX.

FIRST, IT HAD TO BE DEMONSTRATED THAT A SALES TAX COULD PRODUCE A STABLE AND WORTHWHILE REVENUE YIELD AT A LOW TAX RATE, HE SAID.

"SECONDLY, THE TAX SHOULD CAUSE MINIMAL DISTORTION TO THE ECONOMY.

/"AND THIRDLY, .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 3 -

"AND THIRDLY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SATISFY OURSELVES THAT THE TAX WOULD BE SIMPLE AND CHEAP TO ADMINISTER," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE OPTIONS WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION HAD EXAMINED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT SUITABLE FOR HONG KONG TO EMPLOY THE VAT.

"I AM EVEN DOUBTFUL WHETHER A SALES TAX AT THE RETAIL LEVEL IS RIGHT FOR US BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES INVOLVED," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH A TAX WOULD BE COMPLICATED, THE SYSTEM MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO EVASION AND IRREGULARITIES WOULD OFTEN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT.

WHILE A TAX AT THE IMPORT/MANUFACTURING LEVEL MIGHT POSSIBLY MEET THE THREE BASIC CRITERIA, IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES COULD ARISE IN SEEKING TO DISTINGUISH THOSE IMPORTED OR LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS TO BE USED IN THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS AND THOSE TO BE SOLD FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

THE OPTION OF A SINGLE STAGE WHOLESALE SALES TAX (REFERRED TO AS "SALES TAX" BELOW) MET ALL THREE OF THE BASIC CRITERIA ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SHARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS MENTIONED ABOVE, HE SAID.

"OUR CURRENT THINKING IS THAT THE 'SALES TAX' UNDER THIS SYSTEM WOULD FALL ON SALES BY MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALERS TO RETAILERS. LIABILITY WOULD ARISE WHEN THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF GOODS FROM THE LAST WHOLESALER TO THE RETAILER TOOK PLACE," MR JACOBS SAID.

"AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE FEATURE OF THIS TAX WOULD BE THE NEED FOR MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALERS TO BE REGISTERED.

"ON REGISTRATION THEY WOULD BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE NUMBER WHICH, WHEN QUOTED TO ANOTHER REGISTERED PERSON, WOULD PERMIT THE TAX-FREE HANDLING OF GOODS AT THE INTERMEDIATE STAGES OF DISTRIBUTION BEFORE THE TAXING POINT, THEREBY PREVENTING DOUBLE, OR MULTIPLE, COUNTING OF THE TAXABLE VALUE OF GOODS."

LIABILITY TO THIS KIND OF "SALES TAX" WOULD THEREFORE ONLY ARISE WHEN A SALE HAD BEEN MADE TO A PERSON WHO HAD NOT BEEN REGISTERED, HE EXPLAINED.

TURNING TO THE COVERAGE OF THE TAX ON WHICH MOST PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD FOCUS, MR JACOBS SAID AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR HIM TO SPECULATE AS TO THE LIKELY COVERAGE OF ANY FUTURE "SALES TAX" IN HONG KONG.

"OBVIOUSLY THE EXTENT OF COVERAGE WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL VALUES PREVAILING IF AND WHEN SUCH A TAX WERE INTRODUCED.

/"AND INCIDENTALLY, .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 4 -

"AND INCIDENTALLY, I HOLD THE VIEW THAT DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF TAX SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE AVOIDED," HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THESE WOULD LEAD TO CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES IN CLASSIFYING GOODS.

GIVEN THE NUMBER OF VARIABLES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS STAGE TO MAKE A RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELY POTENTIAL YIELD FROM A FUTURE "SALES TAX" IN HONG KONG.

"INDEED, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT METHODS OF ESTIMATING THE POTENTIAL FUTURE TAX YIELD, SUCH AS BASING IT ON THE VALUE OF TOTAL WHOLESALE TRANSACTIONS, OR EXTRAPOLATING IT FROM PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IN THE GDP ESTIMATES," HE SAID.

"THE PROS AND CONS OF WHICH METHOD TO ADOPT ARE CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED.

"HOWEVER, BASING ON THE VALUE OF TOTAL WHOLESALE TRANSACTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR A FAIRLY BROAD AMBIT, I ESTIMATE THAT EACH PERCENTAGE POINT OF 'SALES TAX' LEVIED WOULD YIELD SOME \$1.25 BILLION AT 1987-88 PRICES.

"PURELY BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT THE YIELD FROM A FIVE PER CENT 'SALES TAX' APPROXIMATES TO THE TOTAL 1988-89 ESTIMATE FOR SALARIES TAX, OR SOME 45 PER CENT OF THE 1988-89 ESTIMATE FOR PROFITS TAX.

"A ONE PER CENT 'SALES TAX' WOULD YIELD OVER THREE TIMES THE TOTAL 1988-89 ESTIMATE OF REVENUE FROM NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND COSMETICS."

MR JACOBS STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT FIVE PER CENT OR ONE PER CENT WERE THE RATES HE WAS THINKING ABOUT. "I JUST WANT YOU TO GET SOME IDEA OF THE FIGURES, HOWEVER BROAD BRUSH."

"SO FAR, OUR RESEARCHES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A 'SALES TAX' IN HONG KONG IS FEASIBLE. BUT WE HAVE YET TO PERSUADE PEOPLE THAT IT IS DESIRABLE.

"I AGREE WITH VARIOUS STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE THAT IT IS TIME THAT WE SHOULD PUT MORE DETAILED PROPOSALS TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSIDERATION," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 5 -

STEADY AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION ON SALES TAXES: FS

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CONSULTATION FOR THE SALES TAX PROPOSALS HAS TO BE CARRIED THROUGH STEADILY AND IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ELABORATING TO REPORTERS ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS AFTER HIS LUNCHEON SPEECH ON THE SUBJECT OF SALES TAX, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO ISSUE A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT EARLY NEXT YEAR TO A NUMBER OF GROUPS WHO WERE LIKELY TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS DELIBERATIONS.

THE FIRST TASK WAS TO TAKE SOME DETAILED PROPOSALS TO PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, BUSINESS GROUPS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP US IN PUTTING TOGETHER OUR IDEAS, HE SAID.

"THE SUBJECT IS QUITE TECHNICAL. HONG KONG IS A SOCIETY WITH ITS OWN CHARACTERISTICS AND IT MAY BE THAT THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING UPON THAT WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE FOR HONG KONG.

"SO WE CAN ONLY TEST THAT BY TALKING TO PEOPLE IN THE MARKET PLACE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS, HE WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER HE SHOULD SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

MR JACOBS SAID THE PUBLIC WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSALS AT A LATER STAGE.

HE SAID THE PROPOSALS, IF FOUND TO BE WORTHWHILE INTRODUCING, WOULD THEN GO TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LATER WOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

"WE ARE NOT IN A HURRY. BUT THE PUBLIC, OF COURSE, WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY OF LOOKING AT THE PROPOSALS, CONSIDERING THEM AND THE EFFECT AND IMPACT OF THOSE PROPOSALS ON THEIR LIFESTYLE," HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON THE LEVEL OF SALES TAX THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GO FOR IF SALES TAX WAS TO BE INTRODUCED, MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS MUCH TOO EARLY TO SAY WHICH RATE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACTUALLY GO FOR.

HE SAID THE FIGURES OF BETWEEN ONE AND FIVE PER CENT WERE PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE TO SHOW WHAT SORT OF YIELD WE COULD LOOK FOR.

"PART OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THIS SORT OF THING. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND IN MY OWN MIND VERY CLEARLY WHAT SORT OF IMPACT A PARTICULAR RATE WOULD BE LIKELY TO HAVE AT THE RETAIL LEVEL," HE SAID.

/"TO MAKE .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 6 -

"TO MAKE THAT DECISION, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRUCTURE OF TRADE IN HONG KONG, THE STRUCTURE OF THE RETAIL TRADE IN PARTICULAR," HE ADDED.

"I'M CONVINCED THAT I SHOULD LOOK AT THIS THING WELL AHEAD OF THE DATE WHEN I MIGHT WANT TO INTRODUCE IT. IT'S A COMPLICATED SUBJECT AND ONE SHOULD TAKE ONE'S TIME OVER IT SO IT'S A QUESTION OF LOOKING AT IT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME," HE SAID.

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#### MUTUAL CO-OPERATION RESULTS IN ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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MORE COMMUNICATION, CONTACT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WERE NEEDED TO CULTIVATE HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS, THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST-EVER HONG KONG LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL, MR LEE STRESSED THAT THE OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG IN THE PAST 30 YEARS WERE THE RESULT OF MUTUAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

"THE SHREWDNESS OF THE PROPRIETORS OF VARIOUS ENTERPRISES, THEIR KEEN INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD MARKET, AND THE ENORMOUS INVESTMENT ON MACHINERY AS WELL AS UTILITIES ARE THE DRIVING FORCES OF OUR ECONOMY," HE SAID.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MERITORIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE 2.4 MILLION SKILLED, EFFICIENT AND ALWAYS DILIGENT EMPLOYEES ARE ALSO INDISPENSABLE."

MR LEE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS ENTERING INTO A TRANSITION PERIOD WHEREBY THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS SHIFTING ITS FOCUS FROM THE PRODUCTION OF LOW VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS TO HIGH VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS, AND ITS EXPORT FROM CHEAP PRODUCTS TO MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY.

IN ADDITION, THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRY AND THE DEMANDS OF THE CUSTOMERS WERE EVER INCREASING.

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH SUCH CHANGES, HE SAID, ONE COULD NOT WORK OUT A SOLUTION PRIMARILY BY IMPROVING THE MACHINERY.

"IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO TRAIN AND DEPLOY WISELY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITH A VIEW TO TACKLING THE PROBLEM."

/ENLIGHTENED PERSONNEL .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 7 -

ENLIGHTENED PERSONNEL POLICIES AND HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS WERE BENEFICIAL IN ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO WORK POSITIVELY AND ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTS AS WELL AS THE SERVICES.

"THE PROFITS OF THE COMPANIES MAY THUS BE INCREASED; THEREFORE, IMPROVEMENTS IN EMPLOYEE WELFARE, HOLIDAYS AND WORKING HOURS ARE INVESTMENTS WITH RETURN.

"THIS IS A NEW DEMAND IN THE NEW STAGE IN WHICH OUR PRODUCTION PRINCIPLE SHIFTS FROM 'QUANTITY IS OF MOST IMPORTANCE WHILE QUALITY IS OF THE LEAST' TO 'QUANTITY AND QUALITY ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE'," MR LEE ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH MARKED THE LAUNCHING OF LABOUR RELATIONS '88 WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS '88 ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHAN SUI-KAU.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, MR HAMMOND SAID HONG KONG WHICH WAS ENJOYING A VERY HARMONIOUS STATE OF LABOUR RELATIONS, HAD ONE OF THE WORLD'S LOWEST RATES OF WORKING DAYS LOST DUE TO STRIKES AND WORK STOPPAGES.

"INDEED, LAST YEAR, ONLY 2,773 WORKING DAYS WERE LOST AS A RESULT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, WHICH WAS A FIGURE SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE AVERAGE IN MOST INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, I AM NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE SITUATION BECAUSE I RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE HONG KONG LABOUR RELATIONS SCENE."

MR HAMMOND TOLD THE GATHERING THAT A POSITIVE LABOUR RELATIONS CLIMATE RELIED HEAVILY ON THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF EMPLOYERS, WORKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

LABOUR RELATIONS '88 IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

IT IS AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS; SHARING EXPERIENCES OF SUCCESS OF COMPANIES WHICH PRACTISE ENLIGHTENED PERSONNEL POLICIES; AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, MANAGERS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND ACADEMICS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES.

"THROUGH THE ORGANISATION OF THESE PROJECTS, AND JOINT PARTICIPATION IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS, WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND GREATER TRUST, WHICH WILL IN TURN PAVE THE WAY FOR EVEN CLOSER CO-OPERATION IN THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

/MR CHAN .....

MR CHAN SUI-KAU, IN HIS VOTE OF THANKS, SAID THE EVENT REFLECTED A COMMON DESIRE AMONG THE SPONSORS, INCLUDING LEADING EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, TO ESTABLISH POSITIVE LABOUR RELATIONS TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

HE CALLED ON MANAGEMENT STAFF TO ENCOURAGE THEIR EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT ONE-AND-A-HALF MONTHS.

"EMPLOYEES' PARTICIPATION COUPLED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS WOULD CERTAINLY BRING SOME LIGHTER ATMOSPHERE TO THE BUSTLING AND TENSE WORKING ATMOSPHERE," SAID MR CHAN.

"THE RELATION BETWEEN SUPERVISORS AND THEIR SUBORDINATES, AS A RESULT, COULD BE IMPROVED AS WELL."

TODAY'S CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 800 PEOPLE. TWENTY-SIX PROMINENT GUEST SPEAKERS DELIVERED TALKS ON THE REVIEW OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN HONG KONG, LABOUR RELATIONS AND PRODUCTIVITY, MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN A MULTINATIONAL FIRM, AND THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN ESTABLISHING POSITIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

AMONG THE SPEAKERS WAS AN EXPERT IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MR MICHIO HAMADA, WHO FLEW TO HONG KONG SPECIALLY FOR THE EVENT.

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NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL OPERATES NEXT WEEK

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THE NEW, PERMANENT CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE OPERATIONAL AS FROM 6 AM ON NOVEMBER 8, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED THAT ALL BUT ONE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL OPERATE FROM THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN CHINA HONG KONG CITY AT CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE HONG KONG-SHEKOU FERRY SERVICE WILL, HOWEVER, OPERATE FROM THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL IN CENTRAL.

ON THE SAME DAY, THE TEMPORARY CHINA FERRY TERMINALS IN CENTRAL AND TAI KOK TSUI WILL CEASE OPERATIONS.

SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (TERMINALS), MR NG KWING-KEE SAID THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WOULD PROVIDE BETTER AND MORE MODERN FACILITIES, NONE OF WHICH EXISTED AT THE PRESENT TEMPORARY TERMINALS.

/THESE INCLUDE: .....

THESE INCLUDE:

- \* ENHANCED IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES AS WELL AS LARGER WAITING AREAS WHICH ARE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED;
- \* MECHANICAL BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM;
- \* SAILING INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEM;
- \* BERTHING CONTROL SYSTEM; AND
- \* SECURITY CONTROL SYSTEM.

"ALSO UNLIKE THE EXISTING TERMINALS, CONVENTIONAL FERRIES WITH A DISPLACEMENT OF UP TO 25,000 TONNES AND A DRAFT OF UP TO 10 METRES WILL BE ABLE TO BERTH ALONGSIDE THE MAIN PIER OF THE NEW TERMINAL FOR DIRECT EMBARKATION OR DISEMBARKATION OF PASSENGERS," SAID MR NG.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID A TOTAL OF 64 IMMIGRATION COUNTERS WOULD BE PROVIDED AT THE TERMINAL, OF WHICH 38 WERE FOR ARRIVAL PASSENGERS AND 26 FOR DEPARTURE.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO IMPLEMENT ITS "EASY TRAVEL SCHEME" AT THE NEW TERMINAL ON NOVEMBER 8.

"IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TERMINAL CAN HANDLE A MAXIMUM OF 19 MILLION PASSENGERS PER ANNUM, WITH SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO MEET DEMANDS INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," MR NG SAID.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 2.8 MILLION PASSENGERS WENT THROUGH THE EXISTING TEMPORARY TERMINALS, COMPARED WITH MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

MR NG NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE NEW TERMINAL HAD BEEN DESIGNED FOR 24-HOUR OPERATION, THE PRESENT DEMAND FOR FERRY SERVICES ONLY REQUIRED IT TO BE OPEN FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM DAILY.

HE SAID AT PRESENT EIGHT FERRY COMPANIES WERE OPERATING SERVICES TO 21 DIFFERENT PORTS IN CHINA, INCLUDING GUANGZHOU, SHANGHAI, XIAMEN AND HUANGPU, USING BOTH CONVENTIONAL PASSENGER VESSELS AND MODERN DYNAMICALLY SUPPORTED CRAFT.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TERMINAL. OTHER USER DEPARTMENTS INCLUDE IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, POLICE, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AND CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 10 -

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT - A BOOST TO YAU MA TEI

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THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE DENSELY-POPULATED YAU MA TEI AREA WOULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED WITH THE COMPLETION OF TWO MAJOR URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PLANNED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT WOULD ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF YAU MA TEI AREA, AND WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

MR LAN WAS BRIEFED ON THE LATEST PROGRESS OF THESE PROJECTS BY OFFICERS OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE DURING A FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT THIS AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AFTER THE VISIT, MR LAN SAID 122 OLD TENEMENT BUILDINGS IN SIX STREETS IN THE YAU MA TEI NORTH AREA WERE BEING REDEVELOPED BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY UNDER AN "URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME" TO PROVIDE MODERN ACCOMMODATION FOR 5,900 PEOPLE.

THE SCHEME WOULD ALSO PROVIDE VARIOUS COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING A DAY CARE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, A CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, A CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, A NURSERY, A KINDERGARTEN, AND AN 8,000-SQUARE-METRE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

THE CLEARANCE FOR PHASE I OF THE SCHEME WAS CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY IN JUNE THIS YEAR, WITH DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS STARTING THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

PHASE I WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1990, TO BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY PHASE II.

MR LAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAD IDENTIFIED A SITE COMPRISING TWO STREET BLOCKS OF SIX-STORY OLD TENEMENT BUILDINGS AT YUNNAN LANE FOR AN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

"SOME SHOP OWNERS AND RESIDENTS ARE OBJECTING TO THE SCHEME; AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE IS, THEREFORE, ASSISTING THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE IN ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THEM TO EXPLAIN THE SCHEME IN DETAIL," HE NOTED.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, MR LAN SAID THE PROPOSED AREA FOR THE PROJECT COVERED OVER 300 HECTARES OF LAND TO BE RECLAIMED OFF THE EXISTING WEST KOWLOON COAST, STRETCHING FROM YAU MA TEI TO LAI CHI KOK.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY PLANNING OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT WAS TO PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED AND BALANCED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITH ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, OPEN SPACE, RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES WHICH WERE REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN A POPULATION OF 60,000 TO 120,000.

/"THE WEST .....

"THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION IS CURRENTLY UNDER DETAILED PLANNING AND A NUMBER OF STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED TO LOOK INTO THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS LARGE SCALE PROJECT. THESE INCLUDE PLANNING, ENGINEERING, TRANSPORT, AND HYDRAULIC AND WATER QUALITY STUDIES," HE ADDED.

DURING HIS VISIT, MR LAN ALSO TOURED THE FERRY POINT AREA, WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON EFFORTS BY THE AREA COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRAFFIC, AND TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

HE ALSO TOOK A CRUISE IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, WHICH WILL BECOME A RESTRICTED ZONE FOR DWELLING BOATS IN JULY 1989.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT VOLUNTARY REHOUSING EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT OVER THE YEARS HAD REDUCED THE DWELLING BOAT POPULATION IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER FROM 547 FAMILIES (WITH 2,518 PERSONS) IN SEPTEMBER 1984 TO 50 FAMILIES (WITH 220 PERSONS) LATE LAST MONTH.

"RECENTLY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS ACCEPTED A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO CLEAR THE REMAINING LICENSED DWELLING BOATS IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER BY JULY 7, 1989, BY WHICH TIME THE SHELTER WILL BE GAZETTED AS A CLOSED AREA FOR DWELLING VESSELS.

"THE LICENSED BOAT DWELLERS WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO LEAVE THE TYPHOON SHELTER, AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL OFFER URBAN REHOUSING TO THE ELIGIBLE CLEAREES.

"THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THIS PROPOSAL, AND HAS GIVEN ITS SUPPORT," MR LAN CONCLUDED.

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MORE RESOURCES FOR LESS BRIGHT STUDENTS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI SAID HE WOULD STRIVE TO OBTAIN MORE RESOURCES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS CATERING MAINLY FOR LOWER-BAND CHILDREN WHO ARE MOST IN NEED OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE.

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF ST MARK'S SCHOOL IN SHAU KEI WAN TODAY (THURSDAY), MR LI SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE INTERESTS OF BRIGHT STUDENTS SHOULD BE NEGLECTED BECAUSE HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A CONTINUING NEED TO STIMULATE THESE STUDENTS AND TO LOOK AFTER THEM AS MUCH, AND AS WELL, AS POSSIBLE.

HE SAID MANY PEOPLE HAD A STRONG NAGGING FEELING THAT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION HAD GONE DOWN.

/BUT, IF .....

BUT, IF ONE COMPARED THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH THAT 25 YEARS AGO, ONE WOULD FIND THAT HONG KONG NOW HAD MUCH BETTER SCHOOL BUILDINGS, BETTER TEACHING FACILITIES, BETTER TRAINED TEACHERS, A MUCH RICHER CURRICULUM AND MUCH MORE INTERESTING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS MUCH BETTER SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR BOTH OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, HE NOTED.

"SINCE IT IS THESE THINGS THAT MAKE UP THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION WE PROVIDE, IT IS OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE THAT THE LATTER HAS DETERIORATED," HE SAID.

"WHILE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION HAS NOT DETERIORATED, GENERALLY SPEAKING, AVERAGE STANDARDS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE DOWN BECAUSE AS A RESULT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSAL AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION, CHILDREN WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY WEAK AND WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN IN SCHOOL ARE NOW IN SCHOOL."

"IT IS THIS IMPACT WHICH HAS CAUSED THE UNEASINESS," MR LI SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION, MR LI SAID THE FIRST AND FOREMOST THING WAS FOR PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THE REALITIES OF UNIVERSAL AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION, TO RECOGNISE THAT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE BORN EQUAL IN TERMS OF ABILITY AND INTEREST AND TO RE-INTERPRET OUR EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES INCLUDING THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AS IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

"EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, IN A UNIVERSAL EDUCATION SITUATION, SHOULD BE DEFINED AS PERSONAL EXCELLENCE RATHER THAN NARROWLY AS ABSOLUTE EXCELLENCE."

"WHILE WE SHOULD APPLAUD SCHOOLS WHICH TURN OUT THE BEST SCHOLARS OF HONG KONG, WE SHOULD PAY EQUAL, PERHAPS EVEN GREATER, TRIBUTE TO THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH SUCCEEDED IN HELPING WEAKER CHILDREN TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL."

"THESE CHILDREN MAY NOT BECOME DOCTORS OR LAWYERS, BUT WITH HELP, THEY CAN BECOME EQUALLY USEFUL CITIZENS, CONTRIBUTING IN THEIR OWN WAY TO A SUCCESSFUL HONG KONG OF THE FUTURE," MR LI SAID.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 13 -

ANOTHER GROUP OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE SCREENED  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED ITS SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING THE STATUS OF ANOTHER 41 VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AFTER JUNE 15 THIS YEAR.

OF THE GROUP SCREENED, ONE PERSON WAS FOUND TO BE A REFUGEE AND HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO A REFUGEE CAMP PRIOR TO RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

THE OTHER 40, COMPRISING EIGHT GROUPS AND 19 INDIVIDUALS, WERE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES. THEY WILL BE HELD IN DETENTION CENTRES PENDING REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM.

"DETERMINATION NOTICES HAVE BEEN SERVED ON THE ASYLUM SEEKERS BY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THEIR RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE RESULT UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHT TO LEGAL ADVICE IN PREPARING THEIR OBJECTIONS.

"THE UNHCR WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT LEGAL ADVICE IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SCREENING PROCEDURES WERE BASED ON THE UNHCR PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING REFUGEE STATUS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1951 CONVENTION AND THE 1967 PROTOCOL, AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM VIETNAM.

"STAFF OF THE UNHCR WERE PRESENT DURING SOME OF THE INTERVIEWS AS OBSERVERS," HE SAID.

SO FAR, SCREENING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR 89 ASYLUM SEEKERS. OF THEM, EIGHT WERE FOUND TO BE REFUGEES WHILE 81 WERE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 14 -

OLI ORGANISES LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION  
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THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE IS INVITING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE PART IN AN OPEN COMPETITION TO DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE NEW OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (OLI).

THE OLI WILL BE A STATUTORY BODY AND THE SIXTH DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION IN HONG KONG. IT WILL CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM HIGHER EDUCATION OR WHO WISH TO LEARN NEW SKILLS.

THE OLI WILL BE LOCATED AT ARGYLE CENTRE TOWER II AND THE FIRST STUDENT INTAKE IS EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO NOVEMBER 30. THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE ON THE 12TH FLOOR, WEST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT DESIGNS. EACH PERSON MAY SUBMIT TWO ENTRIES. THE SIZE IS 60 CM X 60 CM AND THE COLOUR IS EITHER BLACK AND WHITE OR FULL COLOUR.

THERE ARE THREE PRIZES. THE FIRST PRIZE IS \$15,000, THE SECOND PRIZE IS \$8,000 AND THE THIRD PRIZE IS \$4,000.

THE WINNING DESIGN MAY OR MAY NOT BE ADOPTED AS THE OLI LOGO. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO USE AT ITS DISCRETION ANY OF THE AWARD WINNING DESIGNS SUBMITTED.

A PANEL OF JUDGES WILL BE FORMED OF MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER INVITED INDIVIDUALS.

THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY JANUARY.

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DB TUNNEL WORKING GROUP TO MEET TOMORROW  
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THE WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL UNDER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL HEAR VARIOUS REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT MADE SINCE THE WORKING GROUP'S LAST MEETING IN JUNE. THEY INCLUDE REPORTS ON THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, WORK PROGRESS, LAND ACQUISITION AND COMPENSATION.

/MEMBERS WILL .....

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE RE-ROUTEING OF BUS SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF CHOI HUNG BUS TERMINUS, AND THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL APPROACHES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE IN KING FUK STREET.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE UNDER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER A REPRESENTATION FROM FOUR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW THE PRESENT POLICY REGARDING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND CONSULT DISTRICT BOARDS BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW POLICY.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, AND WILL LEARN OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN KWUN TONG FROM A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT PREPARED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, INVITING THE DISTRICT BOARD TO JOINTLY ORGANISE A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES WITH ANTI-SMOKING AS THE THEME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 16 -

LAUNCHING OF C AND W CULTURAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL  
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A WIDE-RANGE OF PROGRAMMES OFFERED UNDER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT'S CULTURAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BE LAUNCHED THIS SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6).

THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) AND THE DISTRICT BOARD WITH AN AIM TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM AT CHATER GARDENS IN CENTRAL.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), MR WONG CHUNG-YING AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR AMBROSE LAU.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE OPENING CEREMONY CUM CARNIVAL OF 1988 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CULTURAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL, MR NGAI WAI-MING; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT, MR W.H. KIRKHOPE; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR CHOW WAI-KEUNG AND THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), MR YUEN BUN-KEUNG.

TO TIE IN WITH THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL, THE ORGANISERS WILL HOLD AN ART BONANZA OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS TO TRY OUT VARIOUS KINDS OF INTERESTING HANDICRAFT INCLUDING PAPER CLAY, CERAMICS, KNITTING, FLOUR DOLL-MAKING AND PAPER SCULPTURE.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE ART BONANZA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6) AT CHATER GARDENS IN CENTRAL.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 17 -

TWO MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR SHA TIN

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EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN SHA TIN WILL BE BOOSTED BY TWO NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS EXPECTED TO BE BUILT IN MID-1990.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

THE TWO FULL-INTERLOCKED SCHOOLS - EACH WITH THEIR OWN ASSEMBLY HALL BUILT ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER - WILL BE LOCATED IN AREA 5A, POK HONG ESTATE.

EACH WILL HAVE ONE CLASSROOM BLOCK MADE UP OF 24 CLASSROOMS, ONE SPECIAL CLASSROOM BLOCK TO HOUSE VARIOUS TYPES OF LABORATORIES, INTEREST CLASSES AND OTHER USES.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON NOVEMBER 25.

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TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL STARTS SATURDAY

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THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH A GRAND OPENING CEREMONY AND A SOCCER INVITATION MATCH ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 8 PM IN THE TSUEN WAN YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND WILL BE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN.

THE SOCCER INVITATION MATCH WILL FEATURE THE CHINESE NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAM AGAINST THE HONG KONG TV AND FILM STARS TEAM.

THIS MAIN MATCH WILL BE PRECEDED BY A CURTAIN RAISER STARTING AT 6 PM WITH THE JAPAN KAGOSHIMA TEAM AGAINST THE TSUEN WAN TEAM.

PROGRAMMES IN THE 10TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL MARTIAL ARTS TEAM, THE SHENZHEN WRESTLING TEAM (MONGOLIAN STYLE), THE JIANGSU ACRO AND RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC TEAM AND THE JIANGSU BADMINTON TEAM AS WELL AS A CELEBRITY TENNIS DEMONSTRATION MATCH.

/THERE WILL .....

THERE WILL ALSO BE A WIDE RANGE OF EVENTS, SUCH AS ARCHERY, MINI-SOCCER, FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, HANDBALL, TENNIS, AEROBIC DANCE, GO-KART RACING AND A CROSS-COUNTRY MARATHON, HELD AT VARIOUS VENUES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

THE FESTIVAL WILL ALSO HAVE SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS AND COPIES OF THE PROGRAMMES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE 10TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL IS PRESENTED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FEDERATION OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION AS A JOINT EFFORT TO BOOST SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND TO PROMOTE THE STANDARD OF SPORTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IS ABOUT \$900,000 WITH A SUBSIDY OF \$300,000 EACH FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WITH THE REMAINDER BEING MET BY LOCAL DONATIONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE 10TH TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL AT THE TSUEN WAN YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5). THE CURTAIN RAISER SOCCER MATCH WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM WHILE THE GRAND OPENING AND THE MAIN MATCH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM.

GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER  
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING A SITE IN TUEN MUN TO LET BY TENDER.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 4,106 SQUARE METRES IN AREA, IS LOCATED IN AREA 40, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN. IT IS TO BE USED FOR OPEN STORAGE, INCLUDING LOADING AND UNLOADING OF CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR CERTAIN AND THEREAFTER QUARTERLY.

TENDER DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 18.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 19 -

CSD AUTUMN FAIR AT STANLEY

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STUFFED TOYS AND HANDICRAFT ITEMS AT "DISCOUNT" PRICES ARE AMONG THE MANY ATTRACTIONS OF THE 36TH AUTUMN FAIR OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO BE HELD AT STANLEY THIS SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

THE FAIR MARKS THE ANNUAL SALE OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS MADE BY INMATES DURING THEIR DETENTION IN VARIOUS PENAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE NUMEROUS PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE MANY SKILLS THAT INMATES ACQUIRE DURING TIME IN CUSTODY AND PROVIDE THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY.

PROCEEDS FROM THE SALES WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE FAIR AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD NEXT TO STANLEY PRISON. THE FAIR WILL LAST UNTIL 5 PM.

A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS, INCLUDING STUFFED TOYS, HANDICRAFTS, RATTAN AND WOODEN FURNITURE, WILL BE ON SALE AT SOME 30 STALLS. ADMISSION IS FREE AND THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

WHILE BROWSING THROUGH THE FAIR STALLS VISITORS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ENJOY A VARIED PROGRAMME OF ENTERTAINMENT, INCLUDING MOTOR-CYCLE DISPLAY BY THE 29 SQUADRON MOTOR-CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM AND FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCE BY TAI TAM GIRL PIPERS AND MARCHING TEAM. THERE WILL ALSO BE GAME AND SNACK STALLS FOR CHILDREN.

AS PARKING PLACES ARE LIMITED, VISITORS ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT. BUS ROUTE NOS. 6 AND 260 (STARTING FROM CENTRAL), NO. 73 (FROM WAH FU ESTATE), NO. 63 (FROM NORTH POINT) AND NO. 14 (FROM SAI WAN HO) ARE CONVENIENT WAYS OF GETTING TO THE FAIR.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT WILL BE CLOSED EARLIER TO TRAFFIC THIS SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6) FROM 5 AM INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 7 AM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE PERIOD OF CLOSURE HAS BEEN LENGTHENED TO FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RICKSHAW DERBY 1988 ON THAT DAY.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

- 20 -

RE-ROUTEING, GMB FARE ADJUSTMENT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TOWN PARK ROAD NORTH AND TOWN PARK ROAD SOUTH IN YUEN LONG WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6).

THIS MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM ON THAT DAY FOR THE OPENING DAY OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FESTIVAL 1988.

MEANWHILE, THE FARE FOR THE GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 7, PLYING BETWEEN KOWLOON CITY (WYLER GARDENS) AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, WILL BE INCREASED BY 30 CENTS TO \$2.80 PER SINGLE JOURNEY FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE FARE FOR THIS CIRUCLAR ROUTE IS BEING ADJUSTED OWING TO LOW PATRONAGE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS, YUEN LONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING THREE TONNES GROSS WILL BE BANNED FROM PEEL STREET BETWEEN STAUNTON STREET AND CAINE ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

AT THE SAME TIME, TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD PHASE III, CASTLE PEAK ROAD (MAI PO) IN YUEN LONG, FROM A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH NGAU TAM MEI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 1,300 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

A NEW ROAD, SR-3C, WILL BE OPENED TO REPLACE THIS SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

MOREOVER, KMB ROUTE 76K AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 75 AND 76 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA THIS NEW ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN YUEN LONG WILL BE REDUCED FROM 70 TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR:

- \* CASTLE PEAK ROAD (NGAU TAM MEI) FROM A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FAIRVIEW PARK BOULEVARD TO A POINT ABOUT 390 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- \* CASTLE PEAK ROAD (NGAU TAM MEI) FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH NGAU TAM MEI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 270 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- \* CASTLE PEAK ROAD (MAI PO) FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH NGAU TAM MEI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 1,250 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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