



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INTERNAL COST/PRICE STRUCTURE ADJUSTING TO WORLD RECESSION  
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1982. THE REPORT UPDATES THE ANALYSIS IN THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED IN AUGUST, AND REVIEWS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY SO FAR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN MUCH AFFECTED BY THE PRESENT WORLD RECESSION. THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN THE RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT MARKETS, IN PARTICULAR THE UNITED STATES. AS A RESULT, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR HONG KONG IN 1982 WAS REVISED DOWNWARDS IN SEPTEMBER TO FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE EXPORT SECTOR HAS REMAINED RATHER WEAK THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR, AS EVIDENCED BY THE DECLINES IN REAL TERMS IN THE RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND OF CAPITAL GOODS, IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS HELD BY LARGE MANUFACTURERS, AND IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT. THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS, HOWEVER, HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW.

IN CONSEQUENCE, THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS BEEN FAIRLY STABLE. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.4 PER CENT IN JUNE. BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN SINCE THEN.

ON A BRIGHTER NOTE, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE UNDERLYING RATE OF INFLATION CONTINUED TO SLOW DOWN IN THE THIRD QUARTER. TOGETHER WITH THE GENERAL DECLINE IN LOCAL INTEREST RATES AND THE FURTHER EASING OF PROPERTY PRICES AND RENTALS, THEY INDICATE A RELATIVELY DEFLATED INTERNAL COST/PRICE STRUCTURE AND THE EXISTENCE OF SOME SPARE CAPACITY. THE ECONOMY THUS APPEARS WELL PLACED TO BENEFIT FROM A REVIVAL IN EXPORT DEMAND WHEN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS GETS UNDERWAY.

APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS REMAINED SLUGGISH IN THE THIRD QUARTER, DUE TO THE WEAK DEMAND FROM HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS. DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF ONLY ONE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR A DECLINE OF FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS AS A WHOLE, THE DECLINE WAS THREE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT FURTHER NOTES THAT IMPORTS SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE OF ONE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, MAKING A TOTAL DECLINE OF THREE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1982. HOWEVER, WITH A SHARP DECELERATION IN THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS, RETAINED IMPORTS SHOWED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF ONE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

AS THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) AND OF IMPORTS HAVE BOTH SLOWED DOWN TO ONLY ONE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, AT SIX PER CENT, WAS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS THAT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1981. BUT THERE WAS A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT TO 11.2 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1982 WHEN COMPARED WITH 12.4 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1981.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT SHOWS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY ACCELERATED SOMEWHAT IN THE THIRD QUARTER, BUT THE GROWTH RATE OF CREDIT SLOWED DOWN.

THE MONETARY STATISTICS CONTINUED TO BE INFLUENCED BY A NUMBER OF SPECIAL FACTORS.

THERE WAS A MARKED EXPANSION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS (VERY LARGELY IN US DOLLARS) WITH BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, PARTLY AS A CONTINUING RESULT OF THE EXEMPTION AS FROM FEBRUARY 25, 1982 OF SUCH DEPOSITS FROM INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX, AND PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE REVALUATION EFFECT FROM THE RECENT DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE US DOLLAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS A FURTHER SHIFT OF DEPOSITS FROM DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO BANKS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER AS REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO REDUCE THEIR SHORT-TERM DEPOSIT BASE, IN PURSUANCE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE AS AMENDED IN 1981.

THE REPORT ALSO INDICATES THAT LOCAL INTEREST RATES DECLINED IN THE THIRD QUARTER AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE DEMAND FOR CREDIT IN HONG KONG SLOWED DOWN AND AS INTEREST RATES IN MAJOR OVERSEAS ECONOMIES FELL. BUT THE DECLINE WAS NOT CONTINUOUS: INTEREST RATES HARDENED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR CAME UNDER PRESSURE. THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINED FAIRLY STRONG FOR MOST OF THE YEAR, PROBABLY HELPED BY THE NARROWING OF THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP. HOWEVER, IT WEAKENED TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE MARKET WAS AFFECTED BY THE WORLDWIDE STRENGTHENING OF THE US DOLLAR AND BY ANXIETIES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THIS WEAKNESS CONTINUED INTO OCTOBER.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR SLOWED DOWN. THERE WAS AT THE SAME TIME A SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR, PARTICULARLY BY THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. THE NET DECREASE OF FOUR PER CENT IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR OVER THE PAST YEAR WAS, HOWEVER, MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR BY THE INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS.

THE REPORT FURTHER OBSERVES THAT AS THE EFFECT OF IMMIGRATION ON THE LABOUR FORCE DIMINISHED AND THE RATE OF INFLATION EASED, WAGE RATES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1982; BUT, GIVEN THE POOR EXPORT PERFORMANCE, THERE WAS NO FURTHER INCREASE BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE THIS YEAR. SALARIES IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS, HOWEVER, HAVE CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN REAL TERMS.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE DECLINES IN REAL TERMS IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IN THE RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND OF CAPITAL GOODS INDICATE THAT ACTIVITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR REMAINED RATHER DEPRESSED IN THE THIRD QUARTER. THE FINDINGS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JULY 1982 AND OF THE MONTHLY SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND ALSO CONFIRMED THE ABOVE OBSERVATION. THERE WERE, NEVERTHELESS, REPORTS OF ORDERS IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY PICKING UP TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND IN EARLY OCTOBER.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT DEVELOPERS HAVE BEEN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PACE OF ONGOING BUILDING WORK, COMPLETIONS IN TERMS OF TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA CONTINUED TO BE SUBSTANTIAL IN THE THIRD QUARTER. GIVEN A VERY HIGH VACANCY POSITION AT THE END OF 1981, SUPPLY WAS ABUNDANT IN RELATION TO DEMAND. AS A RESULT, PROPERTY PRICES AND RENTALS EITHER LEVELLED OFF OR DECLINED COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE RATE OF INFLATION, AS INDICATED BY THE YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AVERAGED ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER. THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT WHEN COMPARED WITH EQUIVALENT INCREASES OF 11 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND 13 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AND OF 15 PER CENT IN 1981.

BOTH THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS FAVOUR A FURTHER DECLINE IN THE RATE OF INFLATION, ALTHOUGH THE WEAKER TONE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MORE RECENTLY MIGHT AFFECT THE PRICE LEVEL ADVERSELY IN DUE COURSE.

THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1982 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$10 A COPY.

## PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1982

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR OCTOBER WAS \$10 702 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$7 087 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$3 615 MILLION ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S VISIBLE TRADE IN OCTOBER 1982 PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$12 218 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR OCTOBER WAS \$1 516 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1981, THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING DECREASES IN VALUE: \$447 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$76 MILLION OR TWO PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS AND \$523 MILLION OR FIVE PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, HOWEVER, INCREASED BY \$145 MILLION OR ONE PER CENT. THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT 12 PER CENT IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR WAS LARGER THAN THE SEVEN PER CENT IN OCTOBER 1981.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, AS CONSUMER DEMAND IN HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS REMAINED WEAK, THERE WAS NO IMPROVEMENT IN HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN OCTOBER. IMPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWED FAINT SIGNS OF PICKING UP.

PUTTING THE OCTOBER TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT COMPARING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1982 WITH THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1981, THE VALUES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY THREE PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

AS A RESULT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT, AGAINST AN INCREASE OF THREE PER CENT IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

IN CONSEQUENCE, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP NARROWED SLIGHTLY OVER THIS PERIOD TO 11 PER CENT, FROM 12 PER CENT IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1981.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$ 7 087 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: \$ 3 615 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	: \$10 702 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: \$12 218 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: \$ 1 516 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES .....

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>AUGUST-OCTOBER 1982</u>	<u>AUGUST-OCTOBER 1981</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	22 013	22 660	- 647	-2.9
RE-EXPORTS	10 940	10 988	- 48	-0.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	32 953	33 648	- 695	-2.1
IMPORTS	35 591	34 990	+ 601	+1.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 638	- 1 342	-1 296	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1982</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1981</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	7 087 (66.2%)	7 534 (67.1%)	- 447	-5.9
RE-EXPORTS	3 615	3 691	- 76	-2.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 702	11 225	- 523	-4.7
IMPORTS	12 218	12 073	+ 145	+1.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 516	- 848	- 668	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1982</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 1982</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	7 087 (66.2%)	7 218 (66.0%)	- 131	-1.8
RE-EXPORTS	3 615	3 722	- 107	-2.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 702	10 940	- 238	-2.2
IMPORTS	12 218	11 826	+ 392	+3.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 516	- 886	- 630	

/CALENDAR YEAR .....

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CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN.-OCTOBER 1982	JAN.-OCTOBER 1981	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	67 511 (65.3%)	65 616 (65.9%)	+1 895	+2.9
RE-EXPORTS	35 929	33 901	+2 028	+6.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	103 440	99 517	+3 923	+3.9
IMPORTS	116 655	112 912	+3 743	+3.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 13 215	- 13 395	+ 180	
LAST 12 MONTHS	NOVEMBER 1981 TO OCTOBER 1982	NOVEMBER 1980 TO OCTOBER 1981	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	82 318	77 756	+4 562	+5.9
RE-EXPORTS	43 767	39 950	+3 817	+9.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	126 085	117 706	+8 379	+7.1
IMPORTS	142 118	135 080	+7 038	+5.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 16 033	- 17 374	+1 341	

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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO HK GROWTH  
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HONG KONG COULD NOT HAVE SUSTAINED ITS REMARKABLE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS WITHOUT THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN SATISFYING THE DEMAND FOR NEW BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING THIS AFTERNOON IN OPENING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY'S SECOND TRAINING CENTRE, AT KWAI CHUNG, SIR EDWARD SAID NEW TOWNS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND OTHER MAJOR CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED.

THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT, EMPLOYED OVER 86 000 PEOPLE.

+TO DEVELOP FURTHER IT MUST CONTINUE TO BE EFFICIENT, PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE AND FOR THIS IT WILL DEPEND ON AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED AND WELL TRAINED MANPOWER,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN PROVIDING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN THE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE WORK, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE TRAINING WHICH THE AUTHORITY ORGANISED ENABLED THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO FOLLOW A WORTHWHILE AND SATISFYING CAREER AND TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

IN ESTABLISHING THE SECOND TRAINING CENTRE, THE AUTHORITY SHOWED ITS DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES SO NECESSARY FOR THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE AUTHORITY WAS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A THIRD CENTRE.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO MAKING LAND AVAILABLE, FREE OF PREMIUM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NON-PROFIT-MAKING INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHEMES.

THE AUTHORITY, HE ADDED, HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PLANS TO PROVIDE A THIRD TRAINING CENTRE ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE GOVERNOR THEN CONGRATULATED THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY FOR WORKING SO HARD TO BRING THE CENTRE TO COMPLETION SO QUICKLY.

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MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN TAI PO

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NINE GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDISED OR ASSISTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE EITHER BEING BUILT OR PLANNED TO BE BUILT IN TAI PO WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE WONG SHIU CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE FIRST GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TAI PO ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS AGO.

THE NUMBER OF THESE SCHOOLS IN TAI PO HAS NOW GROWN TO SEVEN, HE SAID.

+THE DRAMATIC GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF SUCH SCHOOLS PERHAPS REFLECTS THE EXTENT OF EXPANSION AND TRANSFORMATION WHICH TAI PO IS AND WILL BE UNDERGOING FROM A TRADITIONAL MARKET TOWN INTO A MODERN NEW TOWN WITH A QUARTER OF A MILLION POPULATION,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

+WHILE IT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SCHOOL PLACES TO MEET THE DEMAND OF THE GROWING POPULATION IN TAI PO, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE SCHOOLS SO BUILT ARE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED WITH A LOCAL IDENTITY AND FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SO THAT RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT WILL ALL TAKE PRIDE IN SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO THESE SCHOOLS TO BE EDUCATED AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

HE COMMENDED THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN THIS REGARD BY THE WONG SHIU CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL AND MANY OTHER SCHOOLS IN TAI PO.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF SOME OF THEIR SUPERVISORS, PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN LOCAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND IN THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES REFLECTED THIS.

+I AM SURE THEY ARE SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE FUTURE SCHOOLS IN TAI PO TO FOLLOW, SO THAT STUDENTS AND GRADUATES OF SCHOOLS AND GENERALLY YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE EDUCATED WITH A STRONG COMMUNITY SPIRIT, AND GENERALLY BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND MORE PREPARED TO VOICE THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISTRICT AND SUGGEST SOLUTIONS TO THEM,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG THE POPULATION AT LARGE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT KEYS TO THE SUCCESS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS CAN PLAY IN THIS REGARD CAN HARDLY BE OVER-EMPHASISED,+ HE ADDED.

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GIRLS TOLD NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THEIR COMMUNITY ROLE

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GIRLS GRADUATING FROM ST. CATHARINE'S SCHOOL IN KWUN TONG WERE TOLD BY LADY YOUDE THIS EVENING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THE COMMUNITY AND NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE WHAT THEY COULD DO TO IMPROVE HONG KONG LIFE.

+YOU ARE HONG KONG'S FUTURE, AND WE HAVE GREAT FAITH IN YOU,+ LADY YOUDE SAID, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL'S SPEECH DAY.

SHE TOLD THE GIRLS THAT WHETHER THEY WERE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION OR GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD, THEY COULD BE CONFIDENT THAT THE SCHOOL WORK THEY HAD DONE WOULD HELP THEM MAKE A GOOD START IN LIFE. THEY WERE FORTUNATE ALSO, LADY YOUDE SAID, TO HAVE A PRINCIPAL IN THE REVD. JOYCE BENNETT WHO HAD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE SCHOOL, BUT HAD ALSO FOUGHT FOR A BETTER EDUCATION AND A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHE HAS WORKED UNSTINTINGLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, AND YOU HAVE ALL BENEFITED FROM HER WIDE-RANGING EXPERIENCE. MISS BENNETT'S LEADERSHIP HAS ENABLED THE SCHOOL TO GIVE YOU THE FULLEST PREPARATION FOR YOUR FUTURE. SHE HAS SET AN EXAMPLE WHICH I AM SURE WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO YOU ALL,+ LADY YOUDE SAID.

SHE WISHED THE GIRLS ALL THE SUCCESS IN THEIR CHOSEN CAREER, AND LATER PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO THEM.

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20 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

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THE CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR G.E. EYLES, IS RETIRING AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, PRESENTED MR EYLES WITH A SILVER TRAY AND TWO SILVER GOBLETS ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

MR EYLES, WHO WAS THE VEHICLE SECTION MANAGER (HONG KONG), DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY HIS DEVOTION TO DUTY, HE SAID.

+HE HAS NEVER FAILED TO REPORT FOR DUTY DURING A TYPHOON OR ANY OTHER EMERGENCY AND IN 1964, HAVING ONLY JUST RETURNED TO DUTY AFTER MAJOR SURGERY, UNDERTOOK 24 HOURS OF ARDUOUS DUTY DURING TYPHOON RUBY,+ MR OSBORNE SAID.

+HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CLEARING DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO ALLOW TRAFFIC TO FLOW THE NEXT DAY,+ HE ADDED.

/IN JULY .....

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IN JULY 1965, MR EYLES TOOK A LEADING ROLE IN REMOVING A 500-POUND UNEXPLODED BOMB FROM POK FU LAM TO ABERDEEN FOR DISPOSAL AT SEA.

MR OSBORNE SAID THAT MR EYLES ALSO MAINTAINED HIGH STANDARDS IN PROVIDING TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ESPECIALLY DURING ROYAL VISITS.

MR EYLES, WHO WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE NEXT MONTH, JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1962 AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER II.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT IN 1974 AND TO CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER IN 1977.

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EXHIBITION ON CAUSE AND PREVENTION OF HEART DISEASES  
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT AN EXHIBITION ON HEART DISEASES IN SHA TIN NEXT WEEK FOR THE BENEFIT OF RESIDENTS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY WEEKDAY FROM NOVEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 10 BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM, AT THE SHA TIN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF LEK YUEN HEALTH CENTRE IN SHA TIN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION IS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, THROUGH AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS, ON THE CAUSES, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASES WHICH HAD CLAIMED MORE THAN 7 000 LIVES IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

THIS IS THE THIRD SUCH EXHIBITION TO BE HELD WITHIN TWO MONTHS DESIGNED TO ALERT THE PUBLIC ON IMPORTANCE OF POSSESSING A STRONG HEART.

SIMILAR EXHIBITIONS WERE HELD AT CITY HALL AND THE NEW WORLD CENTRE LAST MONTH.

PAMPHLETS ABOUT HEART DISEASES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE AT THE EXHIBITION.

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REMINDER ON NEED TO FENCE OFF DANGEROUS PLACES

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BUILDING CONTRACTORS WERE REMINDED TODAY (THURSDAY) TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO FENCING OFF WORKING PLATFORMS, LIFT SHAFT OPENINGS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES IN BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

THEY SHOULD ALSO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO WORKER REMAINS ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE UNLESS HE IS WEARING A SUITABLE SAFETY HELMET.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ISSUED THE REMINDER FOLLOWING A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A BUILDING CONTRACTOR WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$67 000 ON THREE SUMMONSES FOR FAILING TO SECURELY FENCE OFF A WORKING PLATFORM AND LIFT SHAFT OPENINGS AND FAILING TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS WEAR SAFETY HELMETS ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE.

UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, ALL PLACES LIABLE TO CAUSE FALLS OF PERSONS ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE, SHOULD BE SECURELY FENCED TO A HEIGHT OF NOT LESS THAN 0.9 METRE. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, OTHER PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR. SUCH PLACES INCLUDE EVERY OPENING IN FLOORS AND EVERY WORKING PLATFORM FROM WHICH A WORKER MIGHT FALL A DISTANCE OF MORE THAN TWO METRES.

THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR FAILURE TO FENCE OFF DANGEROUS PLACES IS \$50 000, HE ADDED.

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CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR SHA TIN

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SHA TIN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY CANTONESE OPERA SHOWS AT LOW PRICES NEXT MONTH.

THE SHOWS ARE PART OF THE \$750 000 SHA TIN ARTS FORTNIGHT WHICH WILL BE OPENED ON DECEMBER 18 BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS LYDIA DUNN, AT THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR BENJAMIN NG, SAID TICKETS FOR THE CANTONESE OPERA SHOWS WILL RANGE FROM \$5 TO \$40.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES SIX PERFORMANCES AT THE DISTRICT'S CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE BY THE REC KONGER TROUPE, WITH MISS LI PO-YING AND MR LAW KAR-YING PLAYING THE LEADING ROLES.

/MR NG .....

MR NG ADDED THAT LOCAL CELEBRITIES HAD BOUGHT PREMIERE VIP TICKETS FOR THE OPENING NIGHT TO HELP MEET THE PRODUCTION COSTS OF THE SHOWS.

+CANTONESE OPERA IS A CHINESE ART WITH SUCH A WIDE SPECTRUM THAT IT DESERVES A BIG AUDIENCE,+ MISS LI SAID.

THE ARTS FORTNIGHT IS A JOINT PRESENTATION OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT'S ARTS ASSOCIATION, THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS CONTRIBUTED \$300 000 TOWARDS THE COSTS.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG, POINTED OUT THAT THE RAPID INCREASE IN THE NEW TOWN'S POPULATION HAD RESULTED IN A GROWING DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

+ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE ARTS FORTNIGHT IS TO GAUGE RESIDENTS' INTEREST WHICH WILL HELP THE PLANNING OF FUTURE LARGE-SCALE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG DANCE COMPANY WILL PRESENT A DANCE DRAMA +ROMANCE OF THE MESMERIZING VISIONS+ TO RAISE THE CURTAIN FOR THE ARTS FORTNIGHT.

THE ARTS FORTNIGHT WILL INCLUDE OUTDOOR POP SHOWS, VOCAL AND ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES STAGED BY LOCAL GROUPS, AND EXHIBITIONS OF BONSAI AND CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY.

COPIES OF A BROCHURE WITH DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMMES AND TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD AND THE COMMUNITY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AT SAU CHUEN HOUSE, LEK YUEN ESTATE. BLOCK BOOKINGS ARE ACCEPTED AT THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY DIALLING 0-617111, EXT. 225.

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#### OPEN-AIR CONCERT FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT IS TO HOLD ITS FIRST OPEN-AIR YOUTH CONCERT AT THE FOOTBALL PITCH BEHIND ABERDEEN INDOOR GAMES HALL, WONG CHUK HANG, ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

THE TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR CONCERT, STARTING FROM 7.30 PM, WILL INCLUDE JAZZ ENSEMBLE, GUITAR ENSEMBLE, BRASS GUINTET, CITY FOLK AND MODERN DANCES.

PROFESSIONAL GUEST SINGERS, INCLUDING MR JOHNNY IP, MR LI LUNG-KAY AND MISS MABEL CHAN, WILL ALSO PERFORM AT THE CONCERT.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1982

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SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, URBAN COUNCIL AND MUSIC OFFICE.

ADMISSION IS FREE. TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, AND THE MUSIC OFFICE ON THE 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

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SEMINARS ON CLASS LIBRARIES SCHEME  
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THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WILL ORGANISE TWO SEMINARS IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR TO INTRODUCE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS THE NEW CLASS LIBRARY SCHEME WHICH WILL BE LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER 1983.

THE FIRST SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, 1983 AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL, MONG KOK, BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 12.30 PM, WHILE THE OTHER WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 22 AT HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

OWING TO LIMITED ACCOMMODATION, HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO NOMINATE ONE TEACHER FROM THEIR SCHOOL. ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

SCHOOL HEADS SHOULD SEND THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, LIBRARY SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 5/F, HYSAN AVENUE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 4.

ENQUIRIES ON THE TWO SEMINARS MAY BE MADE TO THE LIBRARY SECTION AT 5-8392502 AND 5-8392505.

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/14 .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1982

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ARCHERY COMPETITION FOR NOVICES

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AN ARCHERY COMPETITION, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ARCHERY ASSOCIATION AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD ON BOXING DAY, AT THE KOWLOON HOSPITAL'S FOOTBALL FIELD.

PEOPLE WHO ARE AGED 16 OR ABOVE AND WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN ARCHERY TRAINING COURSES ORGANISED BY RSS, THE HK ARCHERY ASSOCIATION, ITS AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS AND ANY SCHOOLS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART.

THE CONTEST WILL BE DIVIDED INTO MEN AND WOMEN CATEGORIES, AND THE CHAMPIONS AND THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RSS HEAD OFFICE IN WING ON CENTRE AND ANY OF ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 3.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN TSUEN WAN

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A NUMBER OF ROADS IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7.30 AM TO 11 AM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 28) FOR THE +WALKS FOR MILLIONS+ ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

THEY ARE:

- \* THE SOUTHBOUND KERBSIDE LANE ON WO YI HOP ROAD BETWEEN LO WAI ROAD AND WO YI HOP ROAD STADIUM,
- \* SHING MUN ROAD BETWEEN LO WAI ROAD AND SHING MUN RESERVOIR DAM, AND
- \* LO WAI ROAD BETWEEN SHING MUN ROAD AND WO YI HOP ROAD.

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