



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1983

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MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMME DISCONTINUED

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NO FURTHER PROJECTS WILL BE BUILT UNDER THE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMME, WHICH WAS STARTED IN 1980 TO ASSIST TOWARDS HOME OWNERSHIP FAMILIES WHOSE INCOMES EXCEED THE LIMIT FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

AS DISCLOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH, A REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT RECENTLY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS STILL A NEED FOR THE MIHP IN TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PROGRAMME SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

ONLY ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROGRAMME: MELODY GARDEN ESTATE, NOW NEARING COMPLETION, AT BUTTERFLY BEACH, TUEN MUN.

APPLICATIONS FOR FLATS IN THIS ESTATE, AT PRICES FROM \$200 200 TO \$370 200 WERE INVITED EARLIER THIS MONTH, AND THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 28).

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PROGRAMME WAS STARTED AT A TIME WHEN HIGH AND RAPIDLY RISING PRIVATE PROPERTY PRICES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR GENUINE HOME BUYERS IN THE MIDDLE INCOME BRACKET TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A SUITABLE FLAT.

+HOWEVER, PRIVATE FLATS ARE NO LONGER BEYOND THE MEANS OF THOSE FOR WHOM THE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS DUE TO SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER PRICES FOR PRIVATE FLATS, OF WHICH THERE WAS A RECORD NUMBER VACANT AT THE END OF 1982, AND AN AVERAGE MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE OF 12 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PEAK OF 21 PER CENT IN OCTOBER 1981.+

A FURTHER FACTOR MAKING THE PURCHASE OF A FLAT MORE AFFORDABLE IS THE AVAILABILITY NOW OF MORTGAGE LOANS WITH PAYMENT PERIODS EXTENDING OVER AS LONG AS 20 YEARS, WHICH CAN REDUCE CONSIDERABLY THE SIZE OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS NECESSARY TO FINANCE HOME PURCHASE.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OBJECTIVES OUTLINED

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THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO, TODAY (TUESDAY) OUTLINED FOUR OBJECTIVES FOR HIS DEPARTMENT TO MEET THE NEW DEMANDS OF HONG KONG.

IN A SPEECH TO THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST, HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING AS HIS AMBITIONS:

- * THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEN TO BE AN OPEN ONE;
- * WHAT IS SAID IN THE MEDIA IS NOT ONLY NOTICED BY, BUT IS ALSO REFLECTED TO, THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE AND THAT IT TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS SO EXPRESSED IN FORMULATING ITS POLICY;
- * THAT HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL FEEL EVEN MORE WILLING TO BE EXPOSED TO THE MEDIA, THEREBY ENABLING THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY THE THINGS THEY DO; WHY THEY DO IT; OR IN SOME CASES WHY THEY DO NOT BEHAVE IN THE WAY SOME MIGHT EXPECT THEM TO ACT; AND
- * GENERALLY TO ASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT.

+SOME MIGHT SEE MORE TO IT THAN I INTENDED. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MY COLLEAGUES IN THE MEDIA THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING NO MORE, AND HOPEFULLY NO LESS, THAN WHAT A LARGE COMMERCIAL CONCERN WOULD DO TO MAINTAIN ITS IMAGE,+ MR TSAO STATED.

PREVIOUSLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAD COMPRISED TWO DIVISIONS: THE NEWS AND PR DIVISION AND THE PUBLICITY DIVISION.

THIS SET-UP, MR TSAO SAID, WAS APPROPRIATE AND SERVED THE GOVERNMENT WELL IN THE SEVENTIES AND THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS OF THE EIGHTIES DURING WHICH HONG KONG ENJOYED UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH AND PEOPLE WERE GENERALLY CONTENT TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT TO ITS JOB.

BUT MORE RECENTLY, THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED, HE POINTED OUT.

+OUR ECONOMY HAS SUFFERED A DOWNTURN, ALTHOUGH OUR EXPERIENCES HAVE NOT BEEN AS BAD AS THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES; AND WE ALSO HAVE THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE TO CONTEND WITH,+ MR TSAO POINTED OUT.

/WITH THESE

WITH THESE PROBLEMS, HE SAID, IT WAS HIS CONCLUSION THAT WHILE THE DEPARTMENT WAS FUNCTIONING WELL, PARTICULARLY ON ROUTINE AND TRADITIONAL MATTERS, IT WAS NOT QUITE GEARED TO MEET THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS SO BECAUSE PEOPLE IN DIFFICULT TIMES FELT LESS CONTENTED AND TENDED TO LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR DIRECTION AND HELP SO THAT ITS PART IN EVERYDAY LIFE ASSUMED RATHER DIFFERENT PROPORTIONS.

+THE EXPECTATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS IS, IN PRACTICE, AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE TO MEET. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES RATHER MORE FLAK THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST,+ HE NOTED.

+WHAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND AT THAT TIME WAS WHAT SORT OF MACHINERY WE SHOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC, THROUGH THE MEDIA, WAS MADE AWARE OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT WAS PERFORMING ; AND WHERE THE RESULTS WERE NOT WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED, WE SHOULD HAVE THE FACILITY, AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE COURAGE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC WHY IT WAS NOT SO,+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TO HANDLE THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC RELATIONS MORE EFFICIENTLY, THE FIRST THING HE DID WAS TO SET UP A NEW PR DIVISION IN ITS OWN RIGHT WHILE TAKING STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE NEWS DIVISION.

+WHAT I AM AIMING AT IS AN EFFICIENT MACHINERY FOR GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE THROUGH THE MEDIA,+ MR TSAO SAID.

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HONG KONG REPRESENTATION IN US * * * *

HONG KONG'S TRADE COMMISSIONER (DESIGNATE) TO THE UNITED STATES, MR BILL DORWARD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HE IS ASSUMING A NEW DIPLOMATIC POST WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO HELP CONVEY IN THE US AN ACCURATE AND FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR DORWARD SAID HONG KONG'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN THE US WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS, PERSONAL AND CORPORATE, OFFICIAL AND COMMERCIAL, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

MR DORWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HONG KONG REPRESENTATION IN THE US WAS TO RECOGNISE THAT AMERICA WAS OUR BIGGEST EXPORT MARKET, BIGGER EVEN THAN THE EEC TAKEN TOGETHER, OUR SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF TOURISTS, OUR FOURTH LARGEST SOURCE OF IMPORTS, OUR LARGEST SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND A VERY SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT.

+AND, HAVING SAID ALL THAT, IT HAS A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN EVERY ONE OF THESE SECTORS,+ HE ADDED.

/MR DORWARD

MR DORWARD SAID THE PURPOSE OF REPRESENTATION BECAME MOST OBVIOUS IN A CRISIS OR AT THE POINT OF MAJOR DECISIONS, AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION WAS DONE BEFORE THESE AROSE.

+CONTINUOUS REPRESENTATION PERMITS THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, PROMOTES MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGES PEOPLE, NOTABLY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TO TURN TO A REPRESENTATIVE FOR INFORMATION OR ADVICE AT THE CRITICAL TIME.

+TO BE EFFECTIVE, REPRESENTATION MUST BE HONEST, CONTINUOUS, MADE BY PEOPLE WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT ON TRADE ISSUES AND, MOST IMPORTANT, MADE TO THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS,+ HE SAID.

MR DORWARD SAID HIS OFFICE IN NEW YORK WOULD HAVE A PRESS SECTION SO THAT IT COULD DEVELOP PERSONAL CONTACTS IN KEY AREAS OF THE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA TO CREATE AN AWARENESS OF THE SERVICE OFFERED AND ENCOURAGE REPORTERS AND EDITORS TO CALL FOR COMMENT AND CLARIFICATION WHEN A HONG KONG STORY CAME THEIR WAY.

HE SAID HIS OFFICE WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EXISTING HONG KONG REPRESENTATION IN THE US, NOTABLY THE OFFICES OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

+WE WILL SEEK TO COMPLEMENT AND ASSIST IN EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES TO THE COMMON PROMOTION OF A FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION OF HONG KONG AMONG THOSE WHO MAKE THE DECISIONS, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR POLITICAL, WHICH CAN HAVE A BEARING ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.+

MR DORWARD SAID THERE WERE NO DOUBT OTHER AREAS WHERE SIMILAR EFFORTS COULD USEFULLY BE MADE - JAPAN AND AUSTRALASIA FOR EXAMPLE - BUT PRIORITIES MUST BE SET TO MATCH RESOURCES, AND THE US AND THE EEC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE UK, WERE CLEARLY THE PRIME TARGETS.

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ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO GROW DESPITE RECESSION

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DESPITE THE RECESSION PREVAILING IN SOME MAJOR WESTERN ECONOMIES, THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WILL PICK UP MOMENTUM WITH THE EXPECTED ECONOMY UPTURN IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND CONTINUE TO GROW IN SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE 1982 MANPOWER SURVEY REPORT ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WHICH WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT MODERN PRODUCTION PROCESSES AND ADVANCED MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY MANUFACTURERS TO BOOST THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND PRODUCTIVITY, INCREASE THEIR COMPETITIVENESS AS WELL AS TO MEET THE MARKET DEMAND.

/HOWEVER,

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HOWEVER, THE INDUSTRY HAD TO INVEST NOT ONLY IN LATEST PLANT AND MACHINERY BUT ALSO IN MANPOWER TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS.

AND TO MEET THE FUTURE DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL MANPOWER IN THE INDUSTRY WHEN IT PICKS UP MOMENTUM AGAIN, THE TRAINING BOARD RECOMMENDED THAT OVER 450 TECHNOLOGISTS, 1 000 TECHNICIANS AND 500 CRAFTSMEN SHOULD BE TRAINED ANNUALLY IN THE COMING YEARS.

THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE TIGHTENING OF IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF HONG KONG STUDENTS EDUCATED OVERSEAS ARE RETURNING TO HONG KONG AFTER GRADUATION.

EMPLOYERS SHOULD, THEREFORE, PROVIDE MORE PRACTICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ELECTRONICS GRADUATES TO ENABLE THEM TO BECOME FULLY-TRAINED TECHNOLOGISTS, THE TRAINING BOARD SAID.

THE REPORT SUGGESTED TO EMPLOYERS TO CONTACT THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE WHEN SETTING UP THE TECHNOLOGIST AND APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHEMES.

THE REPORT WHICH ALSO CONTAINS DETAILED STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE MANPOWER STRUCTURE OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN EACH PRINCIPAL JOB, A FORECAST OF THE TRAINING NEEDS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$14 A COPY.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO EMPLOY QUALIFIED DISABLED * * * * *

HONG KONG EMPLOYERS WERE TODAY URGED TO CONSIDER EMPLOYING QUALIFIED DISABLED PERSONS APPLYING FOR WORK.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, MR MORRIS MORGAN WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF HONG KONG.

+ I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED IN THEIR PERFORMANCE, + HE SAID.

MR MORGAN SAID THAT GIVEN THE CORRECT TRAINING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES, PLUS SUFFICIENT WORK-CONDITIONING AND ADJUSTMENT, ALMOST ALL DISABLED PERSONS COULD BE TAUGHT SKILLS WHICH UTILISE THEIR RESIDUAL POTENTIAL TO PERFORM SPECIFIC TASKS.

/+EXPERIENCE

+EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT DISABLED PERSONS ARE RELIABLE WORKERS AND THEIR LABOUR TURNOVER RATE IS LESS THAN THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS,+ HE SAID.

MR MORGAN THEN OFFERED THE USE OF THE TECHNICAL AIDS AND RESOURCE CENTRE OF HIS DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE ON DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF ANY SPECIAL AID OR ADAPTATION IN THE EVENT OF ANY BEING REQUIRED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT ANY EXPENDITURE INCURRED COULD BE RE-IMBURSED THROUGH APPLICATION TO THE +EMPLOYAID+ FUND.

TURNING TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG, MR MORGAN SAID, MANY COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE TWO UNIVERSITIES WERE NOW OPEN TO DISABLED PERSONS WHO MEET THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION.

+FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT POSSESS THE REQUISITE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT TO ENROL INTO THESE INSTITUTIONS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE MISSED THEIR CHANCE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION DURING CHILDHOOD, TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT OPERATIVE AND CRAFT LEVELS ARE AVAILABLE IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.+

MR MORGAN SAID THAT SO FAR 40 DISABLED STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

+CURRENTLY, 60 ARE ENROLLED IN VARIOUS COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND A SMALL NUMBER ARE STUDYING IN THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE UNIVERSITIES,+ HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE SIX VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED CATERING FOR ABOUT 650 TRAINEES. OF THESE THE WORLD REHABILITATION FUND DAY CENTRE IS THE LARGEST AND WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED WILL PROVIDE UP TO 336 PLACES. THE CENTRE OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF TRAINING COURSES RANGING FROM INDUSTRIAL MACHINE SEWING TO ELECTRONICS, METAL WORK TO DATA PROCESSING AND CLERICAL DUTIES.

MR MORGAN SAID THAT PLANS WERE IN HAND TO BUILD TWO MORE NEW TRAINING CENTRES, COMPLETE WITH RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES, IN TUEN MUN AND ABERDEEN.

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HIGH CALIBRE WOMEN VOLUNTEERS WANTED
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THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) IS LOOKING FOR 15 INTELLIGENT AND MATURE GIRLS OF EXTREMELY HIGH CALIBRE, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF CHARACTER, INITIATIVE AND KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TO JOIN THE REGIMENT.

THEY WILL BE TRAINED TO BECOME THE NUCLEUS OF A WOMEN'S TROOP ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE SUPPORTING SERVICES TO THE GURKHA FIELD FORCE IN INTERNAL SECURITY AND ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT OPERATIONS.

THE WOMEN +VOLUNTEERS+ RECRUITMENT DRIVE, WHICH STARTED TODAY (TUESDAY), IS THE FIRST SINCE THE LATE 1960'S WHEN THE FORMER WOMEN'S CORPS WAS DISBANDED FOLLOWING A CHANGE OF ROLE FOR THE REGIMENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AT SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, HONG KONG. COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS BY APRIL 6, 1983 AT THE LATEST. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 5-7962038.

ANNOUNCING THE RECRUITMENT DRIVE AT A PRESS BRIEFING THIS AFTERNOON, THE REGIMENT'S COMMANDING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE BARNEBY SAID : +THERE IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF HAVING FEMALE VOLUNTEERS. BEFORE THE STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF THE REGIMENT WAS ALTERED IN THE LATE 1960S, WE HAD GIRLS AS NURSES, CLERKS AND SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEERS IS TO SUPPORT THE POLICE IN THE EVENT OF ANY INTERNAL DISORDERS AND IN PREVENTING THE ENTRY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

+IN BOTH THESE TASKS,+ LT. COLONEL BARNEBY SAID, +SECURITY FORCES ARE LIABLE TO COME INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND, BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF POLICEWOMEN LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR FEMALE VOLUNTEERS AS SEARCHERS AND INTERPRETERS.+

THE PROPOSAL TO RECRUIT A LIMITED NUMBER OF GIRLS INTO THE REGIMENT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS HAS RECEIVED THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES AND THE APPROVAL OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS MAY BE REQUIRED TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY OR IN SMALL GROUPS, PERFORMING SPECIALIST TASKS. BECAUSE OF SUCH REQUIREMENTS, THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE FOR THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.

APPLICANTS MUST BASICALLY HAVE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG AND HAVE THEIR EMPLOYERS' CONSENT BEFORE JOINING THE REGIMENT.

/THEY SHOULD

THEY SHOULD PREFERRABLY BE AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 30 YEARS, POSSESS A SECONDARY EDUCATION STANDARD, AND MUST BE PHYSICALLY FIT WITH A MINIMUM WEIGHT OF 42 KG AND HEIGHT OF 152 CM. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PASS A GOVERNMENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION BEFORE ENLISTMENT.

CANDIDATES WITH AN ABILITY TO DRIVE AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION WORK WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.

AFTER ENLISTMENT, FEMALE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ENGAGED FOR A SERVICE PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS WHICH IS RENEWABLE. THEY WILL RECEIVE PAY AND MEALS FOR ALL PERIODS OF TRAINING AND DUTY AS WELL AS AN ANNUAL BOUNTY FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCE.

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NEED FOR SERVICES FOR ELDERLY INCREASING * * *

THERE IS AN INCREASING NEED FOR WELFARE SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO TWO MAIN REASONS - PEOPLE LIVING LONGER BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH ECONOMIC CONDITION AND HEALTH SERVICES, AND THE SMALLER SIZE OF MODERN DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION WHICH OFTEN MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ELDERLY TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THE FAMILY.

ADDRESSING THE FIFTH PARTY FOR A THOUSAND AGED ORGANISED BY THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL TODAY, MR CHAMBERS SAID MUCH ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO THE OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN THE PAST 10 YEARS OR SO.

HE OUTLINED DIFFERENT FORMS OF SERVICES BEING PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL HOMES OF VARIOUS KINDS AND SOCIAL CENTRES.

+COUNSELLING FOR THE ELDERLY, AS FOR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, IS PROVIDED IN MANY FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

HOME HELP SERVICES HAD BEEN EXPANDED TO NEW TOWNS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+MANY OF THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WITH THE HELP OF GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, A SCHEME OF PRIORITY HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN 1981 AND THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WAS LOWERED FROM 75 TO 70 IN 1978.

+THOSE WHOSE INCOME FALLS BELOW THE PRESCRIBED LEVEL CAN ALSO APPLY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE,+ HE ADDED.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES
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ALL REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE DAY ON SATURDAY (MARCH 26) TO PREPARE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM.

+MEMBERS OF PUBLIC WHO APPLY FOR IDENTITY CARD FACILITIES ON OR AFTER MARCH 28, 1983 WILL BE ISSUED WITH THE NEW TYPE IDENTITY CARD. WE HAVE TO CLOSE BUSINESS ON MARCH 26 TO FACILITATE THE CUT OVER ARRANGEMENT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY (TUESDAY).

+NORMAL SERVICE WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, MARCH 28,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES CAN TELEPHONE 3-7333111.

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MARINE ENQUIRY COMPLETED
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A LOCAL MARINE ENQUIRY ORDERED ON FEBRUARY 3, BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR P.E.J. DAVY, WAS COMPLETED TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE MASTER OF THE FERRY, MR FOK SUM WAS NOT GUILTY OF CULPABLE NEGLIGENCE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CRITICISED FOR AN ERROR OF JUDGEMENT, INSOFAR AS HE FAILED TO ALLOW FOR THE SET OF THE TIDE AND DID NOT ANCHOR. NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS THEREFORE, RECOMMENDED, HE SAID.

THE REPORT MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:-

- 1) TO ENCOURAGE MASTERS TO STEER COMPASS COURSES AND TO USE ECHO SOUNDERS IN ALL WEATHERS
- 2) TO REVIEW AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN THE AREA
- 3) TO INTRODUCE SIMULATED FOG TRAINING-COURSES BY H.Y.F. FOR MASTERS AND ASSISTANT COXSWAINS
- 4) TO MODIFY THE STAIRCASE OF THE +MAN WAI+ IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE HAND RAILS.

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COMMON JURORS LIST
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A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING AT JACKSON ROAD ON MARCH 29, THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, MR NICHOLAS JOHN BARNETT, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS.

DURING THIS PERIOD ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING THAT HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED UPON CAUSE DULY ASSIGNED IN SUCH NOTICE.

THE REGISTRAR SHALL IN HIS DISCRETION, POST OR REMOVE SUCH NAME ACCORDINGLY AND SHALL IF NECESSARY ALTER THE LIST.

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BUILDING DECLARED IN DANGEROUS CONDITION
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 23, WING WO STREET, HONG KONG TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THE FOUR STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING, CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS AND ROOF, HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION SINCE 1972.

A RECENT INSPECTION OF THIS BUILDING INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A CONTINUING MOVEMENT IN THE FRACTURED BRICKWORK TO THE NOW EXPOSED PARTY WALL.

+IT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING TO OBTAIN THE RISK OF A COLLAPSE,+ HE SAID.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON APRIL 19 WAS POSTED TODAY.

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AIR PARCEL SERVICE TO CHINA STARTS APRIL 6
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AN AIR PARCEL SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL BE INTRODUCED ON APRIL 6, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

ITEMS SENT UNDER THIS SERVICE WILL BE FORWARDED BY TRAIN TO GUANGZHOU FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION BY AIR, HE SAID.

THE POSTAGE RATE WILL BE \$28 FOR THE FIRST 1/2 KG AND \$7 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 1/2 KG.

+THE CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF AIR PARCELS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR SURFACE PARCELS, DETAILS OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY POST OFFICE OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU - 5-2671222,+ HE SAID.

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NEW SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN TSUEN WAN
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THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, TODAY VISITED THE WORK SITE OF THE FIRST MODERN PRIVATE ABATTOIR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FRESH PORK TO ABOUT 800 000 RESIDENTS LIVING IN KWAI CHUNG, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN IN JULY THIS YEAR.

HE WAS WELCOMED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF SLAUGHTER HOUSE, MR PETER YEUNG, ON ARRIVAL AT THE \$40 MILLION ABATTOIR WHICH IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT TEXACO ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG.

MR HEYWOOD WAS TOLD THAT THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE WAS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF WORK, AND INSTALLATION OF MECHANISED EQUIPMENT FOR SLAUGHTERING AND DRESSING OF PIGS WAS ALSO UNDERWAY.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE, WHICH IS BUILT ON A 10 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE ON THE WATERFRONT OF KWAI CHUNG, IS EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION FOUR MONTHS LATER.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE STAFF OFFICER (ABATTOIRS AND FOOD) OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHUNG YIU-FAN, AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF KWAI CHUNG, MR CHAN TAI-YIU, MR HEYWOOD TOURED THE MAIN BUILDING OF THE ABATTOIR WHERE ERECTION OF THE MECHANISED SLAUGHTERING SYSTEM IS IN FULL SWING.

THE NEW ABATTOIR WILL INITIALLY HAVE A SLAUGHTERING CAPACITY OF 2 000 PIGS PER DAY RISING TO 3 000 PIGS ULTIMATELY.

THE PRODUCTION OF FRESH MEAT FROM THE ABATTOIR WILL FULLY MEET WITH THE DEMAND OF THE RAPIDLY GROWING POPULATION OF KWAI CHUNG, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

/WHILE TOURING

WHILE TOURING THE FACILITIES MR HEYWOOD TOLD MR YEUNG THAT A TEAM OF WELL TRAINED HEALTH INSPECTORS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE STATIONED AT THE ABATTOIR ONCE IT IS OPERATIONAL TO ENSURE ALL PORK IS HYGENICALLY PREPARED BEFORE DELIVERY TO THE NEW TOWNS.

THE PARTY LATER TOURED A NEWLY COMPLETED 3-STOREY LAIRAGE ADJACENT TO THE SLAUGHTERING PLANT WHERE A TOTAL OF 7 300 PIGS CAN BE HELD BEFORE SLAUGHTERING.

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CLEARANCE OPERATION IN KWUN TONG
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A TWO-DAY CLEARANCE OPERATION ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT THE REAR LANES OF HUNG TO ROAD, WAI YIP STREET, HOI YUEN ROAD AND KING YIP STREET IN KWUN TONG COMMENCED THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE OPERATION, WHICH IS PART OF THE +OPERATION TORCH+, HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE BOARD HAD DECIDED THAT ALL SUCH ILLEGAL STRUCTURES BE CLEARED BECAUSE OF SERIOUS OBSTRUCTION TO PEDESTRIANS AND FOR HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE CLEARANCE WILL INVOLVE 36 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES USED AS STORAGE, CANTEENS, COOKED FOOD STALLS, AS WELL AS HAWKER STALLS. OPERATORS OF THESE STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING THE REAR LANES FROM THREE TO 20 YEARS.

THE OPERATION IS A JOINT EFFORT OF THE SQUATTER CONTROL DIVISION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE LANDS, FIRE SERVICES AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS AND TAI HANG
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TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE MID-LEVELS, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON PARK ROAD WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO BONHAM ROAD FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24).

HOWEVER, THOSE HEADING FOR BONHAM ROAD EASTBOUND CAN TRAVEL VIA BREEZY PATH OR VIA BABINGTON PATH AND HONITON ROAD.

MEANWHILE, THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF TAI HANG ROAD NEAR NEW METHOD COLLEGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 10 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24) AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR ROAD WORKS.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REPEATED ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25).

DURING THE CLOSURE, TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED ON THE ADJACENT LANE.