



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1981

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REVIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE PAY POLICY

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THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAS RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADJUSTING CIVIL SERVICE PAY IN 1982.

THE STANDING COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN OVERALL REVIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE PAY POLICY. IN A LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR DATED NOVEMBER 27 IT ADVISED THAT GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT, ITS REPORT WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO AFFECT THE 1982 CIVIL SERVICE PAY ROUND.

THE COMMISSION HAS THEREFORE PROPOSED, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, THAT THE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR 1982 SHOULD, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, BE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF PAY TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT HAS, HOWEVER, PROPOSED A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE EXISTING PAY TREND SURVEY SYSTEM FOR 1982.

THE PRINCIPAL CHANGES RECOMMENDED ARE : -

- (A) ADVANCING THE COMPLETION DATE OF THE PAY TREND SURVEY SO AS TO ENABLE ANY PAY AWARD TO BE ANNOUNCED BY APRIL AT THE LATEST, INSTEAD OF IN JULY OR AUGUST- THIS WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR BACK PAY-
- (B) WEIGHING THE SURVEY RESULTS TO REFLECT THE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG- AND
- (C) MAKING DUE ALLOWANCE FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN THE VALUE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SERVICE FRINGE BENEFITS.

THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO SUGGESTED WAYS OF OVERCOMING A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAY TREND SURVEY SYSTEM.

THESE PROPOSALS HAVE NOW BEEN REFERRED TO THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. A MEETING OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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TICD INTRODUCES REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS TO HONG KONG
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A REVOLUTIONARY METHOD OF MAKING MOULDS, SPOTTED IN GERMANY AT THE HANOVER FAIR BY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MAJOR C.G. BERNARD OF THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, IS NOW BEING USED BY A HONG KONG COMPANY.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR PETER TSAO, WAS SHOWN THE SYSTEM IN OPERATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE VISITED THE KWAI CHUNG FACTORY OF PRECISION PLASTICS LTD., A SISTER COMPANY OF EAST ASIA CONTACT BUREAU, WHICH HAS LEASED THE PRODUCTS FROM THE BRITISH COMPANY THAT DEVELOPED THE PROCESS.

UNTIL RECENTLY A COMPANY WISHING TO TEST THE MARKET FOR A NEW PRODUCT DESIGN HAD TO INVEST LARGE SUMS FOR STEEL MOULDS, AND WAIT FOR WEEKS OR EVEN MONTHS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION, JUST TO SEE THE TRIAL RUN.

NOW BY SPRAYING LOW-MELTING-POINT ALLOYS ON TO A PATTERN, EVEN THE MOST COMPLICATED MOULD CAN BE PRODUCED IN A DAY. PRODUCTION CAN START, WITH SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS.

INJECTION AND BLOW MOULDING, VACUUM FORMING, COLD PRESS AND RESIN INJECTION, POLYURETHANE AND METAL SPRAY MOULDS CAN ALL BE PRODUCED USING THE MCP SPRAYMOULD SYSTEM.

GIVEN A PATTERN OF THE FINAL PRODUCT, A METAL SHELL CAN BE BUILT UP ROUND IT TO ANY DESIRED THICKNESS. THE MOULD IS AN EXACT COPY IN REVERSE NOT ONLY OF EVERY SURFACE DETAIL BUT ALSO OF FORM AND DIMENSIONS, WITH NO SHRINKAGE OR DISTORTION DUE TO THERMAL CONTRACTION.

MR TSAO, WHO WAS CONDUCTED AROUND PRECISION PLASTICS LTD. BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR ERIC FAN, COMMENTED: +WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT WE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN INTRODUCING THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY TO HONG KONG.+

MR THOMAS BOVET, A DIRECTOR OF EAST ASIA CONTACT BUREAU TOLD MR TSAO THAT THE COMPANY WAS INITIALLY ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR SMALL BATCH PRODUCTION, BUT PLANNED TO ACCEPT ORDERS FOR THE COMPLETE SYSTEM FROM HONG KONG COMPANIES, AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR THEIR STAFF.

EARLIER MR TSAO HAD VISITED THE JAPANESE-OWNED KWAI CHUNG FACTORY OF ASAHI OPTICAL (INTERNATIONAL) LTD. WHICH, FOR OVER EIGHT YEARS HAS BEEN ASSEMBLING AND TESTING +PENTAX+ CAMERAS.

MR T. MIYAKAWA, MANAGING MANAGER, TOLD MR TSAO THAT THE COMPANY NOW EMPLOYS 330 PEOPLE IN THE 2 400-SQUARE METRE FACTORY AND APART FROM SELLING ITS PRODUCTS LOCALLY, ALSO EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA.

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REPORT OF THE 1979 SURVEY OF WHOLESALE, RETAIL
AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A REPORT ON THE 1979 SURVEY OF WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS CARRIED OUT IN 1980 AND EARLY 1981 AS A FIRST ANNUAL FOLLOW-UP SURVEY TO THE 1977 BENCHMARK CENSUS OF THE SECTOR.

THE REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE, CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE OF THE SECTOR AND ANALYSES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE THE 1977 CENSUS.

THE REPORT DESCRIBES THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY AND ANALYSES SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SECTOR OVER TIME.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE ANALYTICAL TABLES OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ANALYSED BY NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, CENSUS DISTRICT, VALUE OF SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, CENSUS VALUE ADDED AND PURCHASES OF GOODS FOR SALE.

DETAILED STATISTICS FOR REPORTING ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE WERE 60 206 REPORTING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN 1979, ENGAGING A TOTAL OF 412 094 PERSONS, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 20 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER 1977.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED \$181 606 MILLION IN SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS AND PAID OUT \$8 013 MILLION IN LABOUR COST AND \$13 657 MILLION IN OPERATING EXPENSES. THESE FIGURES, COMPARED WITH THOSE IN 1977, SHOWED INCREASES OF 67 PER CENT, 58 PER CENT AND 83 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. VALUE ADDED, COMPRISING LABOUR COST, INTEREST PAYMENTS AND OPERATING SURPLUS, GREW FROM \$11 014 MILLION IN 1977 TO \$19 762 MILLION IN 1979, AN INCREASE OF 79 PER CENT.

IN 1979, OVER 56 PER CENT OF THE 60 206 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN RETAIL TRADE, ACCOUNTING FOR 31 PER CENT OF ALL PERSONS ENGAGED, 17 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS AND 22 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED IN THE SECTOR.

IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE, REPRESENTING 23 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND 25 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE, RECORDED THE LARGEST SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, AT \$118 044 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT OF THE SECTOR TOTAL, AND CONTRIBUTED 51 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED IN THE SECTOR.

WHOLESALE TRADE ACCOUNTED FOR 13 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, 11 PER CENT OF THE SECTOR'S WORKFORCE, 13 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, AND 8 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED IN THE SECTOR.

/RESTAURANTS AND

RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES REPRESENTED 7 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, AND 27 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE. RESTAURANTS REGISTERED 4 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS AND CONTRIBUTED 13 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED WHEREAS HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, ACCOUNTED FOR 1 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, AND 5 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED.

IN TERMS OF GROWTH IN SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS SINCE 1977, RETAIL TRADE ATTAINED THE HIGHEST RATE AT 77 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE AT 74 PER CENT, HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES AT 68 PER CENT, RESTAURANTS AT 50 PER CENT AND WHOLESALE TRADE AT 35 PER CENT. IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE RECORDED THE HIGHEST GROWTH SINCE 1977 IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED AT 92 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY RETAIL TRADE AT 79 PER CENT, HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES AT 71 PER CENT, RESTAURANTS AT 60 PER CENT AND WHOLESALE TRADE AT 53 PER CENT.

BY LOCATION, SHEUNG WAN AND ISLAND WEST HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENTS, ACCOUNTING FOR 23 PER CENT OF TOTAL WHOLESALE TURNOVER AND 22 PER CENT OF VALUE ADDED.

OTHER IMPORTANT DISTRICTS IN TERMS OF TURNOVER AND VALUE ADDED IN THE WHOLESALE TRADE WERE CHEUNG SHA WAN AND SHEK KIP MEI.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS WERE, NATURALLY, SCATTERED.

DISTRICTS WITH THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL RETAIL SALES AND VALUE ADDED WERE TSIM SHA TSUI AND WAN CHAI (INCLUDING TAI HANG AND CAUSEWAY BAY), WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 26 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND 27 PER CENT OF VALUE ADDED.

IMPORT/EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS WERE CONCENTRATED IN CENTRAL, SHEUNG WAN AND ISLAND WEST, AND TSIM SHA TSUI.

THESE DISTRICTS TOGETHER CONTRIBUTED 70 PER CENT TO TOTAL IMPORT AND EXPORT TURNOVER AND 68 PER CENT OF VALUE ADDED. TSUEN WAN AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ISLANDS WERE THE AREAS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS BUT RENDERED ONLY 12 PER CENT OF TOTAL TURNOVER AND VALUE ADDED. WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI HAD THE LARGEST SHARE IN RESTAURANT TURNOVER AND VALUE ADDED.

THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 25 PER CENT OF TOTAL TURNOVER AND 28 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED. DISTRICTS WITH MAJOR SHARES IN HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES BUSINESS WERE TSIM SHA TSUI, CENTRAL, WAN CHAI AND YAU MA TEI WHICH WITH A TOTAL OF 405 HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, ACCOUNTED FOR 96 PER CENT OF TOTAL TURNOVER AND VALUE ADDED.

WITH REGARD TO THE TYPE OF OWNERSHIP OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES AND SERVICE SECTORS, SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS PREDOMINATED TO THE EXTENT OF 67 PER CENT IN WHOLESALE TRADE, 79 PER CENT IN RETAIL TRADE, 55 PER CENT IN RESTAURANTS AND 64 PER CENT IN HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES. DESPITE A LARGE NUMBER OF SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS, THE LARGEST SHARE OF SALES WAS RECORDED IN PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES, WITH 39 PER CENT FOR WHOLESALE TRADE, 45 PER CENT FOR RETAIL TRADE, 69 PER CENT FOR RESTAURANTS AND 65 PER CENT FOR HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES.

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IN THE CASE OF IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE, PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES AND SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS EACH MADE UP 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH 74 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF SALES.

PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES CONTRIBUTED THE LARGEST SHARE TO TOTAL VALUE ADDED : 42 PER CENT IN WHOLESALE TRADE, 44 PER CENT IN RETAIL TRADE, 81 PER CENT IN IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE, 69 PER CENT IN RESTAURANTS AND 65 PER CENT IN HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE AT \$25 PER COPY.

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GOVERNOR CHECKS ON CLEAN-UP AT SHAM SHUI PO

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID ALTHOUGH HE FELT THE NEW CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN WOULD BE A SUCCESS, THE REAL PROBLEM WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHER LEVEL OF CLEANLINESS.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE END OF HIS VISIT TO SHAM SHUI PO THIS MORNING (WEDNESDAY) TO SEE THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CURRENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE HAD FOUND A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CLEANSING OPERATIONS, AND THESE INCLUDED ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, BROKEN PAVEMENTS (RESULTING FROM VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS) AND ABANDONED VEHICLES.

GIVING HIS IMPRESSIONS AFTER THE TOUR OF SHAM SHUI PO, SIR MURRAY SAID THE DISTRICT WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A VERY VIGOROUS AREA COMMITTEE WORKING TO BRING THE CLEAN HONG KONG MESSAGE HOME TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR BRIAN WILSON, THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN CO-ORDINATOR, MR MARTIN LEWIS, THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER, SHAM SHUI PO, MR SZETO LIM AND THE AREA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE, MR FAN KAM-PING ON THE TOUR.

THE GROUP SAW USD WORKERS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE CLEANSING OF BACKLANES, CLEARING OF ACCUMULATED JUNK AND REFUSE AND DEMOLISHING ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND CANOPIES.

AFTER SHAM SHUI PO, THE GOVERNOR PROCEEDED TO SEE THE CLEAN HONG KONG OPERATIONS IN KOWLOON CITY, AT MODEL VILLAGE, A SQUATTER COMMUNITY OF 3 000 PEOPLE.

THE GOVERNOR LATER TOURED SOME OF THE DIRTIEST STREETS IN TO KWA WAN TO SEE THE SIZE OF THE CLEAN-UP PROBLEM.

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CHIEF SECRETARY TO ADDRESS INAUGURAL
SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL ADDRESS THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 4) AT THE CHAN PAK SHA SCHOOL, 1 SHUM WAN ROAD IN WONG CHUK HANG, HONG KONG.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SECOND TO BE SET UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND, COME FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF SOCIETY - FROM INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORK AND KAIFONGS, THUS ENSURING REPRESENTATION OF THE VIEWS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, A SOUTHERN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN MAY THIS YEAR, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT, AND CHAIRED BY THE AREA'S CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

ITS PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE THAT DISTRICT NEEDS ARE MET AND ALL PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH.

IN THE MONTHS SINCE IT WAS FORMED, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SET UP THREE SUB-COMMITTEES TO CARRY OUT NUMEROUS RESPONSIBILITIES IN A VARIETY OF MATTERS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND OTHER PROJECTS, TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES, PARKING NEEDS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, AMONG OTHERS.

WITH THE EXPERIENCE BEHIND IT, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEW DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AT THE CHAN PAK SHA SCHOOL, 1 SHUM WAN ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG, HONG KONG AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 4). UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AT ABOUT 4 PM.

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CAS MEN WHO TRAIN HARD TO RESCUE OTHERS

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EVERY TIME MR CHOW KA-PO PUTS ON HIS GEAR IN RESPONSE TO A CALL TO DUTY, HE LAYS HIS LIFE ON THE LINE.

LAST WEEK HE DID THAT ON THREE OCCASIONS.

NO, HE IS NOT A DRUG FIGHTER, OR A DETECTIVE OR A FIREMAN.

AND THE MOST LETHAL EQUIPMENT HE CARRIES IS A CLASP KNIFE.

HE IS A SENIOR OFFICER, OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES' MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, WHOSE WORK HAS OFTEN MEANT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR PEOPLE IN DISTRESS IN MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS.

FORMATION OF THE UNIT BEGAN IN JANUARY 1967 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IT WAS NECESSARY TO FILL THE GAP LEFT BY THE DISBANDMENT OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM.

UNDER THE OVERALL CO-ORDINATION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE, TWO MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS WERE FORMED WITH THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF SEARCHING FOR AND RESCUING LOST HIKERS, INJURED CLIMBERS AND VICTIMS OF AIR CRASHES IN REMOTE AREAS.

THE TEAMS WERE AMALGAMATED ON JANUARY 1, 1975 TO FORM THE CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT WHICH NOW HAS A FULL COMPLEMENT OF 65 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

ADMISSION TO THE UNIT REQUIRES A LOT MORE THAN FITNESS AND A FONDNESS FOR THE SPORT OF MOUNTAINEERING.

AS MR JOHN FORTUNE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND CHIEF STAFF OFFICER OF CAS, EXPLAINED: +YOU MUST NOT ONLY BE FIT, YOU MUST ALSO BE A GOOD MOUNTAINEER, CLIMBER AND HAVE FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT A CRACK MOUNTAIN CLIMBER IS FIT AND HAS MANY ATTRIBUTES BUT THAT WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MAKE HIM A GOOD RESCUER. THERE ARE MANY OTHER SKILLS TO MASTER.+

A CANDIDATE FOR THE MRU MUST HAVE FIRST SERVED A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS IN THE CAS, PASSED A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND A FITNESS TEST WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE ABILITY TO WALK OVER HILLS IN SCORCHING SUMMER TEMPERATURES WITH A HEAVY LOAD OF EQUIPMENT ON HIS BACK. HE MUST ALSO POSSESS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF FIRST AID AND THE TECHNIQUES OF SURVIVAL IN HARSH ENVIRONMENT. IF HE PASSES AN INTERVIEW, HE WILL THEN BE PUT THROUGH A FIVE-DAY, FULL-TIME COURSE ON BASIC MOUNTAIN CRAFT, ROCK CLIMBING AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TECHNIQUES UNDER THE EXPERT ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION OF RAF AND CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUE INSTRUCTORS.

UPON ACCEPTANCE, MOUNTAIN RESCUERS HAVE TO UNDERGO A CONTINUAL SERIES OF STRENUOUS PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS, TWICE A MONTH, ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, IN ROCK-CLIMBING, ROPE MANAGEMENT, BELAYING, STRETCHER-HANDLING AND LOWERING OVER SHEER ROCK FACES AND OVERHANGING CLIFFS, MOUNTAIN FIRST AID, AREA FAMILIARISATION, ORIENTEERING, COMMUNICATIONS, NIGHT NAVIGATION AND BIVOUACING.

THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A SIX-DAY REFRESHER COURSE ON ADVANCED MOUNTAINCRAFT EACH YEAR.

IN ADDITION, A THOROUGH INSPECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT IS CARRIED OUT BIENNIALLY BY AN INSPECTOR OF LAND RESCUE FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF APPRAISING THE UNIT'S ABILITY, UPDATING TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT AND SUGGESTING WAYS AND MEANS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

THE NEXT INSPECTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1982.

THE RIGOROUS STANDARDS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN MORE A SOURCE OF PRIDE THAN A CAUSE FOR DROPPING OUT IN THE UNIT, MR FORTUNE SAID.

HE DESCRIBED THE UNIT'S MORALE AS +EXTREMELY HIGH+, A FACT BORNE OUT BY THE AVERAGE SERVING PERIOD OF MORE THAN SIX YEARS AMONG UNIT MEMBERS.

MR CHOW KA-PO, WHO QUALIFIED AS A MOUNTAIN RESCUER IN 1971 AND IS THE CURRENT DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE MRU, SPOKE FOR MANY OTHER MRU MEMBERS WHEN HE EXPLAINED WHY THEY ARE WILLING TO UNDERGO SUCH RIGOROUS TRAINING TO MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT OFTEN HAZARDOUS TASKS IN THEIR PRIVATE LEISURE HOURS AT ONLY TOKEN REMUNERATION FOR EXPENSES INCURRED.

+IT'S REALLY, FIRST OF ALL, FOR THE SATISFACTION OF PERFORMING A VITALLY IMPORTANT JOB REQUIRING EXPERTISE THAT COULD SAVE A HUMAN LIFE YOU SHOULD SEE THE RELIEF ON THE FACES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE HELPED.+

+IT'S ALSO, OF COURSE, FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE AND THE SPORT (OF ROCK CLIMBING AND HIKING) AND THE JOB PROVIDES US AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO INDULGE IN BOTH. A TRUE CHALLENGE.+

+EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE UNIT IS THE ONLY ORGANISED MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP IN HONG KONG AND AS SUCH, IT HAS ALSO THE IMPLICIT RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD AND PASSING ON SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF CLIMBERS. BY SETTING OURSELVES GOOD EXAMPLES, WE ALSO HELP PROMOTE SAFETY AND A HEALTHY IMAGE FOR THE SPORT,+ MR CHOW ADDED.

CLEARLY, THEN, HIKING AND MOUNTAINING ARE NO CHILD'S PLAY. BUT THE +SILLY WAY+ SOME NORMALLY RESPONSIBLE ADULTS, WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER, PREPARED THEIR EXPEDITIONS INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE COULD DRIVE A KNOWLEDGEABLE OUTDOORSMAN UP A MOUNTAIN WALL, MR FORTUNE LAMENTED.

+DESPITE OUR PERIODICAL SAFETY CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLIC APPEALS TO HIKERS AND CLIMBERS TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS, WE STILL SEE PEOPLE GOING INTO COUNTRY PARKS AND UP MOUNTAINS UNSUITABLY CLAD AND WITHOUT THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.+

+SOME WERE DRESSED ONLY IN HAWAIIAN SHIRTS, SHORTS, SNEAKERS AND EVEN PLASTIC FLIP FLAPS. LET ME EMPHASISE THAT EVEN FOR A CASUAL EXPEDITION INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE GROUP MUST PREFERABLY BE LED BY SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA THEY WISH TO EXPLORE.

+AND THEY MUST INFORM THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR THEIR FAMILY WHERE THEY ARE GOING BEFORE THEY PROCEED.

+THEY SHOULD ALL WEAR BROKEN-IN, ANKLE-LENGTH HIKING BOOTS WITH TREADED RUBBER SOLES, BRING OR WEAR A WATERPROOF JACKET AND CARRY A RUCSACK TO KEEP THEIR COMPASS, WHISTLE, A MAP OF THE HIKING AREA, A SMALL RADIO TO KEEP THEMSELVES INFORMED OF SUDDEN WEATHER CHANGES, + ADVISED MR FORTUNE, WHO HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN ORGANISING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES HERE AND OVERSEAS.

+A TORCH AND WHISTLE ARE AMONG THE MOST OFTEN OVERLOOKED THINGS AS PEOPLE SELDOM EXPECT TO LOSE THEIR WAY AND DO NOT REALISE THAT IF THEY DO, IT WOULD INVARIABLY BE NIGHTFALL BY THE TIME THE RESCUE PARTY IS DISPATCHED TO SEARCH FOR THEM, + MR FORTUNE ADDED.

DEPENDING ON THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EXPEDITION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, AN EXPEDITION MAY NEED OTHER ESSENTIAL TOOLS. BUT TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, ESPECIALLY IF AN EXPEDITION IS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF INEXPERIENCED MEMBERS, THEY ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO WRITE TO THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, CIVIL AID SERVICES HEADQUARTERS, 100 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, HONG KONG, WHO WILL ARRANGE FOR A FREE TALK ON THE SAFETY MEASURES TO TAKE OR OBTAIN FREE COPIES OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT ENTITLED 'STEPPING OUT' AND 'SAFE CAMPING' FROM EITHER THE MARKETING AND ADVERTISING OFFICE, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, 22 ICE HOUSE STREET, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR, CENTRAL, HONG KONG OR THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3RD FLOOR, HONG KONG.

A MAJORITY OF CASES TO WHICH THE MRU RESPONDED WERE THE RESULT OF CARELESSNESS AND NOT GENUINE ACCIDENTS, MR FORTUNE NOTED.

+TO GUARD AGAINST ACCIDENTS, THE IDEAL HIKING GROUP SHOULD BE MAKE UP OF A MINIMUM OF THREE PERSONS, BUT NOT TOO LARGE SO THAT SOMEONE CAN GO FOR HELP LEAVING ANOTHER TO LOOK AFTER THE INJURED IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT. ALSO ONE SHOULD NEVER WALK ALONE OVER THE HILLS, + HE ADVISED.

ALTHOUGH NO PRECISE OFFICIAL STATISTICS WERE AVAILABLE, MR CHOW SPOKE OF A TREND IN RECENT YEARS FOR MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO GO HIKING IN SUMMER THAN PREVIOUSLY.

+BUT THEY MUST REALISE THAT DANGER LURKS IN THE TRANQUIL COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE ILL-PREPARED AND FOOLHARDY AND THEY MUST KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE ELEMENTS. CARELESSNESS COULD EASILY TURN AN INVIGORATING AND ENJOYABLE COUNTRY HIKE INTO A NIGHTMARE, + MR CHOW WARNED.

THE PERIOD BETWEEN OCTOBER-MARCH REMAINS, HOWEVER, THE MOST POPULAR TIME FOR HIKING AND CLIMBING. BUT THE MRU MAINTAINS A TEAM OF ONE OFFICER AND EIGHT MEMBERS ON STANDBY DUTY AT ITS CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON (TEL. 3-7115011) ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FROM 1 PM TO 9.30 PM, WHICH IS THE TIME WHEN MOST ACCIDENTS OCCUR.

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DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS, REQUESTS FOR MRU ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO CAS HEADQUARTERS (TEL. 5-763236) OR TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

THE MRU, WHICH RECEIVED ONLY \$40 000 FOR EQUIPMENT AND \$90 000 FOR TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL ALLOWANCES FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, WAS CREDITED WITH RESCUING 35 HIKERS AND CLIMBERS IN DISTRESS IN 1980 AND 58 SO FAR THIS YEAR.

+WE ARE GETTING MORE CALLS FOR HELP NOW BECAUSE MORE GROUPS ARE GOING CAMPING, HILL TREKKING AND MOUNTAINEERING AND ALSO THE POLICE ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH OUR MOUNTAIN RESCUE EXPERTISE,+ SAID MR CHOW, WHO IS ONE OF ONLY TWO FULL-TIME PAID MEMBERS OF MRU.

ALTHOUGH THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING RESCUE ATTEMPTS, THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT ALSO MAINTAINS A CLOSE WORKING LIAISON WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND FIRE SERVICES. IT CAN ALSO DRAW SUPPORT FROM THE CIVIL AID SERVICES MOUNTAIN SEARCH TEAMS (MST) IN LARGE SCALE SEARCH OPERATIONS.

MR FORTUNE AND MR CHOW ARE BOTH SADDENED BY THE FACT THAT THE MRU HAS TO BE DEPLOYED SO FREQUENTLY AS IT MEANS INEVITABLY SOMEONE IS IN DISTRESS, INJURED OR EVEN DEAD WHEN BY CAREFUL PLANNING, USE OF COMMON SENSE AND PROPER CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, THE ACCIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

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SEMINAR ON COMMITTEE WORK * * *

A HALF-DAY SEMINAR AIMED AT PROMOTING EFFECTIVENESS IN COMMITTEE WORK WAS OPENED AT 4.30 PM THIS AFTERNOON (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR ALBERT LAM.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARDS, THE SEMINAR WAS HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN.

DURING THE SEMINAR, A SENIOR GOVERNMENT TRAINING OFFICER SPOKE ON 'HOW TO MAKE A COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE', AND GAVE SOME HINTS ON HOW TO CONDUCT MEETINGS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER TALK ON 'THE ART OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS' GIVEN BY MR TSUI TIM-FOOK, WHO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF A COMMITTEE.

ABOUT 70 UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE ATTENDED THE SEMINAR, AND EXCHANGED VIEWS IN A GROUP DISCUSSION.

THE SEMINAR ENDED WITH A BRIEF TALK BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION), CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR HAIDER BARMA.

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COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORT IN WONG TAI SIN
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A +LOWER WONG TAI SIN FORTNIGHT+ FEATURING A COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORT, WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 6 TO 20 IN THE AREA.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AREA'S CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, THE HONG KONG YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, TOGETHER WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE PROJECT AIMS AT CULTIVATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE ESTATE'S COURSE OF REDEVELOPMENT.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE FORTNIGHT WILL INCLUDE A +YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY+ VARIETY SHOW, A +GAMES DAY FOR THE ELDERLY+, MOBILE THEATRES, A MOBILE EXHIBITION AND A +CHILDREN'S OPEN-AIR ART GALLERY+.

MR KEVIN HO, WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 6) AT THE ESTATE'S NUMBER SIX PLAYGROUND.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR THE DISTRICT'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 6) AT 7.30 PM, AT PLAYGROUND NUMBER SIX ADJACENT TO BLOCK 15, LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

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NO SERVICE DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS
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HOVERFERRY SERVICES OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY FROM KWUN TONG TO CENTRAL WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING THE OFF-PEAK PERIOD BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 7).

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING THIS SERVICE HAS DROPPED BY 60 PER CENT SINCE THE OPENING OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1981

- 12 -

SURVEY BEING HELD OF MASS MEDIA TRAINING NEEDS
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A MANPOWER SURVEY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG'S MASS MEDIA BEGAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE 14-DAY SURVEY, THE FIRST IN A SERIES, IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, SAID THE BOARD WOULD THEN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANPOWER PLANNING AND TRAINING TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS MEDIA.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO 600 NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, NEWS AGENCIES, RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS COVERED IN THE SURVEY. OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WOULD CALL ON THE ESTABLISHMENTS TO HELP COMPLETE AND TO COLLECT THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES :

- (I) THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME-
- (II) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES UNDER TRAINING-
- (III) THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES, AND
- (IV) A FORECAST OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

MR SHUM STRESSED THAT INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATION.

+AS THE INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM THIS SURVEY WILL ASSIST THE TRAINING BOARD IN DRAWING UP TRAINING PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRY, ALL EMPLOYERS COVERED IN THE SURVEY ARE REQUESTED TO OFFER THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

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CAREERS TEACHERS TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL COURSES

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MORE THAN 150 CAREERS TEACHERS WILL BE ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 4) TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH COURSES OFFERED AT THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE EVENT HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CAREERS SECTION, AND WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AT LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, RENFREW ROAD, KOWLOON TONG.

THE AIMS OF THE SEMINAR ARE TO INTRODUCE THE COURSES CONDUCTED BY THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAREERS TEACHERS AND STAFF OF VARIOUS DISCIPLINES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO MEET AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS DURING THE SEMINAR WILL CENTRE ON THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTES.

THEY INCLUDE MECHANICAL AND PRODUCTION ENGINEERING, MARINE AND FABRICATION, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING, TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE, DESIGN, HOTEL KEEPING AND TOURISM, CHILD CARE, PRINTING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (OPTICS, CLOCK AND WATCH, FOOTWEAR, AND METAL FINISHING).

STAFF FROM THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL BE LEADING THE DISCUSSIONS, AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A SLIDE SHOW INTRODUCING THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS, THE CAREERS TEACHERS WILL TOUR THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

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ADDITIONAL MOBILE LIBRARY STOP FOR TUEN MUN

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THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES LIBRARIES WILL ESTABLISH ONE MORE MOBILE LIBRARY STOP AT CHI LOK FA YUEN, TUEN MUN, THUS INCREASING ITS SERVICE IN THE AREA.

FROM DECEMBER 10, THE VEHICLE WILL STOP AT THE CARPARK OF BLOCK 1, CHI LOK FA YUEN ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS FROM 11 AM TO 1 PM.

TUEN MUN RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO USE THE LIBRARY.

THE OPERATION HOURS OF TWO EXISTING MOBILE LIBRARY STOPS AT TUEN MUN DISTRICT WILL BE CHANGED.

FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), THE MOBILE LIBRARY WILL STOP AT OI FAI HOUSE, YAU OI ESTATE ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS BETWEEN 11 AM AND 1 PM, AND FROM 2 PM TO 6 PM.

FROM DECEMBER 10, THE MOBILE LIBRARY NEAR HO PONG ROAD PLAYGROUND WILL OPERATE FROM 2.30 PM TO 6 PM ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1981

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RECREATION CENTRE OPENED AT SAN TIN
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A \$570 000 RECREATION CENTRE WAS OPENED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SAN TIN, YUEN LONG.

THE CENTRE INCLUDES A THREE-STOREY BUILDING HOUSING A LIBRARY, CONFERENCE ROOM AND OFFICES. THERE IS ALSO A WELL-EQUIPPED CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND A LARGE AREA OF OPEN SPACE.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DONATED \$160 000 TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION COST, WITH THE BALANCE BEING RAISED BY SAN TIN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE PROJECT STARTED IN EARLY 1979 AND WAS COMPLETED RECENTLY.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING WERE YUEN LONG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARRY YEUNG= YUEN LONG SUB-DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR, MR TANG CHIU-WING= AND LOK MA CHAU SUB-DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR, MR KWONG CHU-MAN.

INAUGURATION OF THE SAN TIN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE WAS HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPENING. THE NEW CHAIRMAN, MR POON FOON-HING, AND 20 OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL SERVE A TWO-YEAR TERM.

THE ASSOCIATION WAS SET UP IN 1977 TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE 25 000 RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

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