HK GIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MORE ANTI-NOISE MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED FOR PUBLIC CO-OPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NOISE POLLUTION.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT POINTED OUT THAT +NO AMOUNT OF LEGISLATION IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC CO-OPERATION.+

+WITH IMPROVED AFFLUENCE LEADING TO GREATER USE OF NOISE PRODUCING EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, THE PUBLIC HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE AN ALMIGHTY DIN, IT IS ALSO WITHIN THE POWER OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF US TO MAKE A LITTLE LESS NOISE IF WE ONLY PUT OUR MIND TO IT -- IF WE DO, OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORT WOULD RESULT IN A VERY DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT,+ HE EMPHASISED.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT STRESSED THAT THE REDUCTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE +WAS VERY MUCH IN THE HANDS OF THE PUBLIC AND A GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO AVOID UNNECESSARY NOISE WOULD BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANY AMOUNT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS.

HE RECALLED THAT A CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED LAST YEAR AGAINST SUCH NOISES CAUSED BY ELECTRIC GUITARS, CASSETTE TAPE PLAYERS, BANGING SAUCEPANS AND THE CLATTER OF MAHJONG TILES.

HE NOTED THAT MOST OF THESE NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISES WERE COVERED BY VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, IN PARTICULAR THE SECTION THAT IMPOSED A GENERAL BAN ON EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM 11 P.M. TO 6 A.M., THE NEXT DAY.

+CONSTRUCTION NOISE,+ HE SAID, +GAVE RISE TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS.+

ON THE ADVICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM), HE DISCLOSED, AN AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS WAS BEING DRAFTED TO EXTEND THE BAN ON PILING FROM 7 P.M. TO 7 A.M. THE NEXT DAY AS WELL AS ALL DAY ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

IT WAS ALSO THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ADD TO THIS BAN ALL NOISY ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, HE SAID.

+ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION IS THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A SYSTEM OF TYPE APPROVALS, OR SOME OTHER SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WHICH EMBODIES NOISE SUPPRESSION DEVICES OR FUNCTIONS REASONABLY QUIETLY,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO 'TRAFFIC NOISE', MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT THERE WERE PLANS TO GREATLY INCREASE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT'S CAPACITY TO INSPECT VARIOUS TYPES OF VEHICLES.

ON 'AIRCRAFT NOISE', HE SAID MEASURES TO DEAL WITH IT INCLUDED A VIRTUAL BAN ON FLIGHTS BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6.30 A.M. AND CERTAIN RSTRICTIONS ON OPERATIONS TO REDUCE NOISE BETWEEN 9 P.M. AND 7 A.M. WERE EFFECTIVE IN PROVIDING RELIEF WHEN IT WAS MOST NEEDED.

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AS FOR NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY 'VENTILATING SYSTEMS AND AIR CONDITIONERS', MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT POINTED OUT THAT IN MOST CASES, WITH PROPER DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE, NOISE FROM THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT COULD BE KEPT DOWN TO A REASONABLE LEVEL.

TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, HE SAID, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES REGULATIONS HAD BEEN AMENDED RECENTLY ON THE ADVICE OF EPCOM TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION TO MAKE THE OWNERS OF EXCESSIVELY NOISY VENTILATING SYSTEMS AND AIR-CONDITIONERS, REDUCE THE NOISE.

+IT IS INTENDED TO MOUNT ANOTHER ANTI-NOISE CAMPAIGN NEXT MONTH -- THIS TIME DIRECTED AT AIR-CONDITIONING AND VENTILATING NOISE,+ HE ADDED.

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ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR UTILIZATION OF QUOTAS FOR WEST GERMANY

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WILL SHORTLY BE PROMULGATING REGULATIONS GIVING HONG KONG ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF ITS 1976 TEXTILE QUOTAS FOR WEST GERMANY.

THIS WAS CONVEYED IN A FORMAL NOTE TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE IN BRUSSELS.

THE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITIES TAKE THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL +SWING+ AND ADDITIONAL +ANTICIPATION+. THIS IS TO SAY, A MORE FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSFERRING QUOTAS FROM CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF TEXTILES TO OTHER CATEGORIES, AND PROVISION FOR BORROWING A BIGGER PERCENTAGE OF QUOTA FROM NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA THAN IS AT PRESENT ALLOWED FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES.

THE ITEMS FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL +SWING+ ARE TROUSERS, SKIRTS AND DRESSES.

THE ITEMS ALLOWED ADDITIONAL +ANTICIPATION+ ARE KNITTED UNDERGARMENTS, SHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS, KNITTED PULLOVERS WOVEN DRESSES AND SHIRTS, NIGHTWEAR, KNITTED OUTERGARMENT, RAINCOATS, WOVEN SHIRTS AND JACKETS, WOVEN TROUSERS, WOVEN COATS, AND JACKETS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, WOVEN BLOUSES AND HOUSEHOLD LINEN.

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL BE ISSUING A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS ANNOUNCING THE CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY FACILITIES.

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HK SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE GROUP WELL RECEIVED IN SCOTLAND

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CHEERS AND APPLAUSE FILLED THE EDEN COURT THEATRE, INVERNESS, SCOTLAND, THIS WEDNESDAY WHEN THE HONGKONG SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE GROUP GAVE A SUPERB PERFORMANCE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 400.

APPEARING IN COLOURFUL CHINESE DANCING COSTUMES, THE SCHOOL DANCERS PERFORMED 12 CHINESE CLASSICAL AND FOLK DANCES DEPICTING THE RICH CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF CHINA.

THE PROGRAMME BROUGHT THE ENTHRALLED AUDIENCE BACK IN TIME TO THE HAN DYNASTY IN THE +DANCE OF SUNFLOWERS+ AND AT TIMES TOOK THEM RIDING ALONG WITH MONGOLIAN HORSEMEN, OR SHARING AN INTIMATE COURTSHIP IN THE LOVE DUET OF A SINKIANG DANCE.

THE FIRST HALF OF THE PERFORMANCE ENDED WITH THE +DANCE OF THE MYTHICAL LANCE+, A COMBINATION OF CHINESE MARTIAL ART AND CHOREOGRAPHY, AND THE CURTAIN FELL ON A GRAND FINALE WITH ALL THE GROUP'S 26 DANCERS PERFORMING WITH FANS, RIBBONS AND FLOWER LANTERNS.

THE MANAGER OF THE EDEN COURT THEATRE, MR. GEORGE MCLAREN WAS THEN PRESENTED WITH A BANNER BEARING THE CHINESE CHARACTERS ''ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP'' AND A COPY OF THE 1976 HONGKONG ANNUAL REPORT.

BACK STAGE AFTER THE SHOW, IT WAS A SCENE OF WARM FRIENDSHIP AND SINCERE COMPLIMENTS WITH MANY OF THE AUDIENCE CONGRATULATING THE DANCERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS AND ASKING FOR AUTOGRAPHS. AN ELDERLY SCOTTISH LADY GAVE THE DANCERS THREE BOXES OF CHOCOLATES AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR WHAT SHE REGARDED AS ''AN IMMACULATE AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE BY A MOST NON-PROFESSIONAL GROUP". THE PERFORMANCE BY THE HONGKONG SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE GROUP IN INVERNESS WAS THEIR FIFTH APPEARANCE IN SCOTLAND AS PART OF THEIR PROGRAMMES IN THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND PERFORMING ARTS CURRENTLY HELD IN SCOTLAND.

RESPONSE TO THE GROUP HAS BEEN SO OVERWHELMING THAT THE ORGANISERS HAVE ASKED THE HONGKONG GROUP TO STAGE AN EXTRA PERFORMANCE IN ABERDEEN ON AUGUST 19.

OVER 500 PEOPLE HAD TO BE TURNED AWAY ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE GROUP'S APPEARANCE BEFORE A CAPACITY AUDIENCE OF 600 AT THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION THEATRE IN ABERDEEN ON AUGUST 8.

MRS. JOY BRYER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND PERFORMING ARTS SAID THAT SHE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A BIG GROUP ON PAST OCCASIONS. ''THIS BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE APPEAL OF THE HONGKONG GROUP'', SHE SAID.

THE DANCERS PERFORMED AT THE SAME PLACE ON AUGUST 9. THE THEATRE WAS ONCE AGAIN PACKED TO CAPACITY. AMONG THE AUDIENCE WERE LORD PROVOST ROBERT LENNOX OF ABERDEEN AND THE LADY PROVOST. AT THE END OF THE HOUR-LONG PERFORMANCE WHICH CONSISTED OF 13 DANCES, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUP PRESENTED THE LORD PROVOST WITH A BANNER AND A COPY OF THE 1976 HONGKONG ANNUAL REPORT AND THE LADY PROVOST WITH A SOUVENIR COIN.

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IN HIS BRIEF REMARK, THE LORD PROVOST DESCRIBED THE HONGKONG GROUP'S PERFORMANCE AS ''FANTASTIC'' AND ONE ''FULL OF BEAUTY AND GRACE''.

THE HONGKONG DANCERS CHALKED UP ANOTHER RESOUNDING SUCCESS WHEN THEY STOLE THE LIMELIGHT IN A FIREWORKS TATTOO HELD IN LINSFIELD STADIUM IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 10 BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 6,000. THE TATTOO FEATURED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MARCHING BANDS, CHINESE DANCES, MASSED CHOIRS AND PIPERS CULMINATING IN THE ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE OF TCHAIKOVSKY'S 1812 OVERTURE AND A SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

THREE DANCES WERE PERFORMED BY THE GROUP THAT NIGHT. THEY WERE THE ''FLOWER DRUM DANCE'', AND ''DANCE OF SUNFLOWERS'' AND THE NORTHERN LION DANCE.

THE DANCE GROUP MADE ITS DEBUT IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 7 (SATURDAY), A FEW HOURS AFTER THE FESTIVAL WAS DECLARED OPEN, WHEN THEY MADE A PROCESSION DANCE WITH FLOWER DRUMS ALONG UNION STREET, ABERDEEN'S THOROUGHFARE. PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO TOOK PART IN THE SAME MARCH WHICH ATTRACTED HUNDREDS OF ON-LOOKERS.

MRS. ELEANOR LEE, LEADER OF THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE TEAM SAID THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING THAT THE GROUP HAD RECEIVED SUCH TREMENDOUS ACCLAIM. ''I FEEL VERY PROUD OF OUR DANCERS' MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE'', SHE SAID.

AFTER FIVE HECTIC DAYS OF CONTINOUS PERFORMANCE AND AN APPEARANCE IN THE GRAMPIAN TELEVISION, THE DANCERS WERE ENJOYING THEIR FIRST FREE DAY IN SCOTLAND AND TOURING AROUND THE CITY OF ABERDEEN.

MORE THAN 1,300 PARTICIPANTS FROM 16 COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL. THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE MUSIC HALL ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 7. THE HONGKONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR. S.T. KIDD WAS AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

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BILL TO EXTEND MASS TRANSIT COMPENSATION PERIOD

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR WHICH CLAIMS CAN BE MADE FOR COMPENSATION FOR PECUNIARY LOSS OR DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE TEMPORARY OR INDEFINITE CLOSURE OF A STREET BECAUSE OF WORK ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

THE NEW PROVISION, WHICH WILL ALSO COVER LOSSES CAUSED BY SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATIONS TO A STREET, WOULD EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR WHICH CLAIMS CAN BE MADE TO ONE YEAR FROM THE RE-OPENING OR REINSTATEMENT OF THE STREET.

DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE BILL WILL GO BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER IT RESUMES BUSINESS.

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COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE EFFECTIVE FROM MONDAY

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THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE 1976, WHICH PROVIDES FOR AREAS OF HONG KONG COUNTRYSIDE SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT TO BE SET ASIDE AS COUNTRY PARKS WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON MONDAY (AUGUST 16), ACCORDING TO THE GAZETTE TODAY.

IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR ANY AREA OF CROWN LAND WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE A COUNTRY PARK, TO BE SET ASIDE AS A SPECIAL AREA, AGAIN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A BOARD, CONSISTING OF SIX OFFICIALS AND TEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. IT REPLACES THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD IS AS FOLLOWS :

CHAIRMAN : DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS : DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEY, DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS : MRS. MADELINE TANG, MR. J.H. BREMRIDGE, PROFESSOR L.B. THROWER, MR. A. DONALD YAP, MR. R.S. SHELDON, MR. R. HUTCHEON, MR. C.M. LEUNG, MR. WOO TING-SANG, MR. WILLIAM W.T. HSU AND MR. LEE KWAN-CHUNG.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WILL BE THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS.

IT WILL BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR THE AREAS TO BE DESIGNATED AS COUNTRY PARKS OR SPECIAL AREAS.

IN ADDITION, IT WILL BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE VEGETATION AND WILD-LIFE INSIDE THE PARKS OR AREAS AND TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN BUILDINGS AND SITES OF HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL INTEREST. HE WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS FOR RECREATION AND TOURISM AND PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT.

THE ORDINANCE PRESCRIBES PROCEDURES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS. THERE ARE STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR OBJECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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SHEK KIP MEI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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MORE RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ARE PROPOSED IN A REVISED OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR SHEK KIP MEI PREPARED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

THE NEW DRAFT PLAN INCLUDES THREE ZONING CHANGES AS WELL AS A NEW FORM OF NOTES WHICH DEFINE THE PERMITTED USES OF THE VARIOUS SITES AS WELL AS THOSE WHICH MAY BE EXCEPTIONALLY PERMITTED BY THE BOARD.

ONE MAJOR AMENDMENT IS THE REZONING OF A LARGE AREA OPPOSITE THE TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THIS AREA, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY RESERVED PARTLY FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL, AND FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USES, PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL FOUR HECTARES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND IS TO BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE NEARBY ESTATES.

OTHER CHANGES ARE THE PROVISION OF A COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL SITE OFF TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION AND SITES FOR PETROL FILLING STATIONS ALONG TAI PO ROAD.

THE PLAN COVERS A TOTAL AREA OF 221.8 HECTARES, OF WHICH 82.2 HECTARES ARE RESERVED FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, 34.8 HECTARES FOR OPEN SPACE AND 33 HECTARES FOR GREEN BELT.

A TOTAL OF 44.8 HECTARES IS EARMARKED FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USES SUCH AS SCHOOLS, CLINICS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, THE NEED FOR FURTHER SITES FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USES WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN THE NEXT DECADE AND SITES HAVE THEREFORE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE DISTRICT.

TENTATIVE RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A HOSPITAL AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADJOINING NAM CHEONG STREET AND CORNWALL STREET, HE SAID.

TENTATIVE RESERVATIONS HAD ALSO BEEN MADE FOR A CIVIC CENTRE NEXT TO THE EXISTING POLICE STATION AT TAI HANG SAI STREET. FURTHER SITES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES HAD ALSO BEEN RESERVED ALONG THE NORTHERN SECTION OF TAT CHEE AVENUE, HE ADDED.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT AMENDED PLAN, INCLUDING THE NEW NOTES, ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), THE SHAM SHUI PO C.D.C., AND AT THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING.

UNDER A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, HONG KONG, BEFORE OCTOBER 12, 1976.

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FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN COMMENDED

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FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR THEIR COURAGE, TENACITY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WHICH THEY DISPLAYED DURING A THIRD ALARM FIRE IN KOWLOON EARLY THIS YEAR.

AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE MONGKOK FIRE STATION THIS MORNING, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR. FRED JACKSON, PRESENTED THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION TO PRINCIPAL FIREMAN MAK SUM= THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES HIGH COMMENDATIONS TO FIREMEN LEE KWOK-FAN, CHAN CHI-MING AND WAI SHIU-FAI= AND THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES COMMENDATION TO DIVISIONAL OFFICER TAI CHUN-LAU.

AT THE SAME CEREMONY, THE CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR. BILL DOORE, ALSO PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATIONS TO NINE AMBULANCE OFFICERS. THEY WERE SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN WONG PEE-TAK, CHAN YUK-LUNG AND CHAN LOY-SUN, AMBULANCEMEN LAM WING-KEUNG, WONG YEE-FONG, WONG YIM-SANG, WONG WEI-SING, LO CHI-MING AND POON YUEN-WING.

THE 14 RECIPIENTS WERE RECOGNISED FOR THE PART THEY PLAYED IN THE RESCUE OPERATIONS DURING A FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT AT NOS. 1 - 9 CHEUNG SHA STREET, KOWLOON, ON FEBRUARY 19 THIS YEAR.

THE FIRE STARTED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING SHORTLY BEFORE 6 A.M. AND DUE TO THE INTENSIVE USE OF TIMBER FOR PARTITIONS AND DECOR INSIDE THE FLAT, THE BLAZE SPREAD RAPIDLY.

AS A RESULT, FIRE AND SMOKE QUICKLY ENGULFED THE STAIRCASES, THREATENING THE LIVES OF SOME 150 PEOPLE ON THE UPPER FLOORS, MOST OF WHOM WERE STILL ASLEEP AT THAT TIME.

PRINCIPAL FIREMAN MAK AND THE THREE FIREMEN CONCERNED WERE THE CREW OF AN EMERGENCY TENDER DESPATCHED FROM THE MONGKOK FIRE STATION TO THE SCENE THAT MORNING.

ON ARRIVAL THEY SAW THE FIRST AND THE SECOND FLOORS WERE BURNING FURIOUSLY WITH SMOKE LOGGING THE UPPER FLOORS.

AFTER TELLING THE OCCUPANTS OF THE UPPER FLOORS NOT TO JUMP, THE TEAM ENTERED THE BUILDING AND LED THEM TO SAFETY. AMONG THOSE RESCUED WERE A PREGNANT WOMAN, AN UNCONSCIOUS BOY AND AN OLD WOMAN WHO HAD TO BE CARRIED DOWN.

PRINCIPAL FIREMAN MAK LATER FOUND A SEMI-CONSCIOUS BOY ON THE STAIRCASE BETWEEN THE 7TH AND 8TH FLOORS. ALTHOUGH BY THIS TIME HE HIMSELF WAS NEAR EXHAUSTION, HE PICKED UP THE CHILD AND CARRIED HIM DOWN THE CONGESTED STAIRS TO THE STREET WHERE HE COLLAPSED BEFORE HE COULD REACH AN AMBULANCE, WITH THE CHILD STILL CLASPED IN HIS ARMS. BOTH OF THEM WERE CONVEYED TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

WHILE THEIR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE WAS BEING SENT TO HOSPITAL, FIREMEN LEE, CHAN AND WAI ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH OF THE UPPER FLOORS AND SUCCESSFULLY ESCORTED MANY TENANTS TO SAFETY.

/THE CITATION .....

THE CITATION IN RESPECT OF THE FOUR FIREMEN STATES THAT THEIR ACTIONS, IN PARTICULAR PRINCIPAL FIREMAN MAK, WERE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

THEIR CONDUCT THROUGHOUT WAS FIRST CLASS AND INDICATED THE QUALITIES OF THE MEN OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF WHICH THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE JUSTLY PROUD.

DIVISIONAL OFFICER TAI WAS COMMENDED FOR THE FIRST CLASS LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCEFULNESS HE DISPLAYED WHEN DIRECTING THE FIRE FIGHTING OPERATION AND RESCUE OF THE PEOPLE TRAPPED.

AS A RESULT OF HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, THE FIRE WAS QUICKLY SUBDUED, STAIRCASES CLEARED, PERSONS SPEEDILY RESCUED AND REMOVED TO WAITING AMBULANCES FOR TRANSPORTATION TO HOSPITALS.

THE AMBULANCE OFFICERS WHO WERE AWARDED THE CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER'S COMMENDATIONS WERE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY IN TREATING THE PATIENTS AT THE ABOVE INCIDENT.

ALTOGETHER THEY MADE 11 TRIPS TO HOSPITAL CARRYING 17 INJURED PERSONS WITHIN 45 MINUTES.

THEIR PROMPT ACTION PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SURVIVAL OF THOSE RESCUED.

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR MAY

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1976 SHOW A SURPLUS OF $21 MILLION COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF $60 MILLION IN MAY LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS OF $127 MILLION FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF $78 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

GROSS EXPENDITURE AT $446 MILLION WAS $21 MILLION LESS THAN IN MAY 1975. THE EXPENDITURE FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SALARY INCREASE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST APRIL 1976, WHICH WILL NOT BE REFLECTED IN THE ACCOUNTS UNTIL JUNE.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS AT $467 MILLION FOR THE MONTH WAS $61 MILLION MORE THAN IN MAY 1975, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED RECEIPTS FROM RATES, INTERNAL REVENUE, MOTOR VEHICLES TAXES AND LAND SALES.

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ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF DRUGS IN GOV'T HOSPITALS

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GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WILL HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF DRUGS FOR PATIENTS SEEKING IN-PATIENT OR OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF DRUG SUPPLIES NOR HAD THERE BEEN ANY CUTBACK IN THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS ON DRUGS.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT DOCTORS AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CUT DOWN THE USE OF DRUGS BECAUSE FUNDS WERE SHORT.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE ON DRUGS FOR 1976/77 IS $35 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF $5 MILLION OR 16.6 PER CENT OVER THE ESTIMATE FOR 1975/76.

BASED ON THE DRUG SPENDING LAST YEAR, A PRELIMINARY $6 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL FOR DRUGS DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE BEST USE TO BE MADE OF THE FUNDS, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES ARE BEING SET UP IN THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS. THESE COMMITTEES ARE MADE UP OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT AND THE CONSULTANTS WHO HEAD THE VARIOUS UNITS OF THE HOSPITALS. THEIR PRIMARY OBJECT IS TO MAKE SUB-ALLOCATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS ON A FAIR AND EQUITABLE BASIS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE OVERALL ALLOCATION UNDER THE DRUG VOTE TO A HOSPITAL, AND TO MONITOR DRUG USAGE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT AT NO TIME HAD DOCTORS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CUT DOWN THE USE OF DRUGS BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF FUNDS.

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LAND RESUMPTION IN TUEN MUN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME MORE THAN FIVE ACRES OF LAND IN TUEN MUN FOR FURTHER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION, WHICH COVERS 105,561 SQUARE FEET OF PRIVATE LAND, WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT NONE OF THE AFFECTED AREA WAS CLASSIFIED AS BUILDING LAND, ALTHOUGH 23 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AND A SHRINE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED FROM THE SITE.

SIX FAMILIES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE, HE SAID, AND HAD BEEN OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING OR ALTERNATIVELY SPACED IN A LICENSED AREA.

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DETAILS OF NEW ALLOCATION SYSTEM OF FORM 1 PLACES

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PUPILS ENTERING PRIMARY 5 THIS COMING SEPTEMBER WILL BE THE FIRST TO TAKE PART IN THE NEW PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES. DETAILS OF THE NEW SCHEME HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO SCHOOLS.

THE NEW SCHEME IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO HAVE A SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR EVERY PRIMARY 6 LEAVER IN 1978, THUS ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

SCHOOLS WILL BE ASKED IN OCTOBER WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW ALLOCATION PROCEDURE. WHERE THEY DO NOT ELECT TO PARTICIPATE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD WILL BE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE A SUBSIDISED FORM 1 PLACE.

IT IS HOPED THAT ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL TAKE PART IN THE NEW ALLOCATION PROCEDURES WHICH ARE BASED ON SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR STUDENTS' ABILITY AND INDUSTRY.

SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS WILL BE MONITORED BY A CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO MONITOR AND SCALE THE ASSESSMENTS. IN PRINCIPLE, EVERY STUDENT FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS MUST TAKE THE APTITUDE TEST IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MONITORING AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE, BUT GENUINE AND UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCE FROM THE TEST WILL NOT AFFECT A PUPIL'S ALLOCATION.

THE TEST WILL CONSIST OF MACHINE MARKED MULTIPLE CHOICE PAPERS, ONE ON VERBAL REASONING AND ONE ON NUMERICAL REASONING. BOTH PAPERS WILL BE SET IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE IN SCHOOLS IN WHICH THERE ARE STUDENTS UNABLE TO TAKE THE TEST IN CHINESE. OFFICERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ARE ALREADY AT WORK DESIGNING DETAILS OF THE TEST AND PREPARING SPECIMEN PAPERS.

THE NEW PROCEDURES INVOLVE THE CREATION OF SCHOOL NETS, OR GROUPS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH SUPPLY STUDENTS TO BALANCED GROUPS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS. DETAILS OF THE SCHOOL NETS WILL BE DRAWN UP IN THE AUTUMN AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION AND IT IS HOPED TO HAVE THESE PUBLISHED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION EARLY IN 1977.

SIMILARLY, DETAILS OF THE COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS WILL BE DRAWN UP AFTER CAREFUL CONSULTATION AND SHOULD BE FINALISED IN TIME FOR THE COUNCILS TO BE SET UP BEFORE SCHOOLS SUBMIT THEIR FIRST SET OF INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE SUMMER OF 1977.

/THE ACTING .....

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, STRESSED THAT THE NEW SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION WAS THE FAIREST AND MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF REPLACING THE S.S.E.E. IT WAS DECIDED UPON ONLY AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE S.S.E.E., AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR SCHOOL COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS, AND AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A PUBLIC TEST WAS STILL NECESSARY, BUT THAT THE NEW APTITUDE TEST WAS NOTHING LIKE THE FORMER S.S.E.E. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT COULD NOT BE PREPARED FOR, AS IT HAD NO SYLLABUS, AND, APART FROM THE NEED FOR TWO OR THREE PRACTICE TESTS, WORKING THROUGH TEST PAPERS WOULD PRODUCE NO APPRECIABLE IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE. IN THE SECOND PLACE, INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY PERFORMANCE IN THE TEST. PUPILS IN UPPER PRIMARY FORMS COULD THEREFORE NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE BALANCED COURSE OF STUDY RECOMMENDED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SCHOOLS COULD ASSESS THEIR PUPILS ON THAT COURSE.

MR. HAYE ADDED THAT THE NEW ALLOCATION SYSTEM WOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE BY 1980.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A GENERAL SCHOOL CIRCULAR ARE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES.

IT IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES TO INFORM SCHOOLS OF THE GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION OF FORM 1 PLACES WHICH WILL REPLACE THE S.S.E.E. AFTER THAT EXAMINATION IS HELD FOR THE LAST TIME IN MAY 1977.

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