DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FIRMS STRESS NEED FOR CLOSE CLIENT CONTACTS

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COMMERCIAL FIRMS IN HONG KONG ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED FOR CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CLIENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS LINKS THAN ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF RENTS.

THIS IS INDICATED FROM A SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN JULY AND AUGUST LAST YEAR AMONG 350 LARGE, MEDIUM AND SMALL FIRMS BY THE STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.

THE FINDINGS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY, WHICH HAS NOTED THEM WITH INTEREST.

IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE AND FOLLOW-UP PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, THE FIRMS, GENERALLY, STRESSED THE CONSTANT NEED FOR CLOSE COMMUNICATIONS WITH CLIENTS AND BUSINESS LINKS THROUGH FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS AND +URGENT-BY-HAND+ DELIVERED CORRESPONDENCE.

THIS EMPHASIS ON +ACCESSIBILITY+ -- THE TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE NEED FOR SUCH BUSINESS CONTACTS, OR FUNCTIONAL LINKAGES -- WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT AMONG THE 56 BIG FIRMS EMPLOYING MORE THAN 200 PERSONS, COVERED IN THE SURVEY.

AS A RESULT, THE +CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT+, COMPRISING THE CENTRAL RATING AND VALUATION DISTRICT, AND THE +INNER CITY+, COMPRISING THE ADJOINING SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI-TA HANG AND TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN DEMAND AS OFFICE LOCATIONS, A REPORT ON THE SURVEY STATES.

ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL COMMERCIAL SPACE IS KNOWN TO BE LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL AND INNER CITY AREAS, AND THIS SPATIAL CONCENTRATION OF OFFICE DEVELOPMENT HAS, INEVITABLY, AS IS THE CASE IN MANY LARGE CITIES ELSEWHERE, BROUGHT ABOUT PROBLEMS OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION, OVER-CROWDING, ESCALATION OF PROPERTY PRICES AND RENTS, AND LENGTHENING OF TRAVEL TIME.

OFFICIAL CONCERN ABOUT THE TOWN PLANNING AND TRANSPORT CONSEQUENCES OF THESE PROBLEMS LED TO THE SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES:

FIRSTLY -- TO IDENTIFY THE TYPES OF BUSINESSES WHICH COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE CENTRAL AND INNER CITY AREAS TO OTHER DISTRICTS, AND

SECONDLY -- TO OBTAIN DATA ABOUT COMMERCIAL FIRMS, IN PARALLEL WITH A STUDY HELD IN JANUARY LAST YEAR CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES, FOR A REAPPRAISAL OF THE MECHANICS FOR ACHIEVING +BALANCED+ NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

/THE REPORT .....

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY, FIRMS WERE ON AVERAGE PAYING TWO TO THREE TIMES THE RENTS THEY HAD BEEN PAYING ABOUT FIVE YEARS BEFORE.

YET, WHILE RENTS WERE AN EFFECTIVE +PUSH FACTOR+ TO OFFICE MOBILITY AND +DECENTRALISATION+, ACCESSIBILITY REMAINED THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERION IN THE SEARCH FOR AND DECISION ON OFFICE LOCATION.

THE SURVEY INDICATES, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THAT AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, +A WIDE GEOGRAPHICAL DECENTRALISATION IN OFFICE DEVELOPMENT -- PARTICULARLY TO THE NEW TOWNS -- IS NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR, GIVEN THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR IN GENERAL+.

THE DEMAND FOR OFFICE SPACE IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT -- THE PRIME OFFICE CENTRE -- IS LIKELY TO GROW WITH HONG KONG'S FURTHER DEVELOPMENT INTO AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CENTRE.

IF SUPPLY DOES NOT KEEP PACE, +THE GROWING DEMAND IS BOUND TO FURTHER INCREASE THE COMPETITION FOR OFFICE SPACE, WITH CONSEQUENT EFFECT ON RENT AND PROPERTY PRICES+.

IN SUCH A SITUATION, THE DEMAND FOR OFFICE SPACE WILL TEND TO BE EXTENDED TO SUCH SECONDARY OFFICE CENTRES AS WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI.

OFFICE DECENTRALISATION IN THIS LIMITED GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT IS, THEREFORE, POSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, THE SCOPE OF AND THE SPEED AT WHICH SUCH DECENTRALISATION TAKES PLACE WILL DEPEND PARTICULARLY UPON THE SUPPLY SITUATION IN CENTRAL IN FUTURE. IN PERIODS WHEN THERE IS A DISTINCT OVERSUPPLY SUCH MOVEMENTS MIGHT BE SLOWED DOWN OR EVEN REVERSED.

ANOTHER POINT EMERGING FROM THE SURVEY IS THAT BANKS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND REAL ESTATE-INSURANCE FIRMS TEND TO CONCENTRATE IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT. ON THE OTHER HAND, A GREATER PROPORTION OF IMPORT-EXPORT FIRMS ARE LOCATED IN THE OTHER OFFICE CENTRES.

THE REPORT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE STUDY HAS CERTAIN LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE REASONS:

FIRSTLY -- IT IS BASED ON ATTITUDES WHICH MAY CHANGE OVER A FAIRLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME,

SECONDLY -- UNLIKE THE CASE OF HARD FACTUAL DATA, SUCH ATTITUDES ARE DIFFICULT TO MEASURE IN PRECISE TERMS AND IN A DIRECT WAY, AND

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THIRDLY -- THE LOGISTICS OF THE SURVEY AND CONSTRAINTS ON THE TIME AND BUDGET AVAILABLE +HAVE NOT INSIGNIFICANTLY LIMITED THE SCOPE OF THE COVERAGE AND SAMPLE SIZE+.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT, THE REPORT STATES, TO NOTE THAT THE SURVEY FINDINGS SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN AS INDICATIVE RATHER THAN ABSOLUTE.

THE REPORT ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT +NOTWITHSTANDING SUCH LIMITATIONS, THE SURVEY SHOULD NO DOUBT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT OF FUTURE PROPENSITIES FOR OFFICE DEVELOPMENT, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH GOVERNMENT MAY FORMULATE OR REVIEW RELATED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES+.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

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A REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE CENOTAPH IN STATUE SQUARE TODAY (SUNDAY) IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ACTIVE SERVICE.

WREATHS WERE LAID BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE; THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS; THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL DEREK BOORMAN; REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS; COMMONWEALTH COMMISSIONERS; THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR ROY HENRY; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN; SERVICE COMMANDERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, SERVICE UNITS, TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.

AND IN STANLEY, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OBSERVED REMEMBRANCE DAY WITH A SERVICE IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE OFFICERS' CLUB.

THE SERVICE WAS ATTENDED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, AND STAFF AND FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

AFTERWARDS, THE CONGREGATION, LED BY THE CAPE COLLINSON BAND, MARCHED TO STANLEY MILITARY CEMETERY AND JOINED IN A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY.

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TALKS ON EA CALL BY EEC START SOON

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HONG KONG AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 14) IN BRUSSELS ON THE RECENT EXPORT AUTHORISATION (EA) CALL ON CATEGORY 86 IN RESPECT OF EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE EXPORT PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THE CALL ARE: CORSETS, CORSET-BELTS, SUSPENDER-BELTS, BRACES, SUSPENDERS, GARTERS AND THE LIKE (INCLUDING SUCH ARTICLES OF KNITTED OR CROCHETED FABRIC), OTHER THAN BRASSIERES, WHETHER OR NOT ELASTIC.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY MR DEREK JONES, MINISTER FOR HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE EEC AND THE MEMBER STATES.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR JOSEPH W.P. WONG, LEFT HONG KONG LAST NIGHT FOR BRUSSELS TO JOIN MR JONES IN THE CONSULTATIONS.

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NEW LOOK FOR IMMIGRATION STAFF

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THE 2 300-STRONG UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK BY MID-NOVEMBER.

+THE NEW INSIGNIAS, MADE OF SHINY METAL, WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT EMBROIDERED STRIPES WHICH HAVE BEEN IN USE SINCE THE DEPARTMENT WAS SET UP IN 1961,+ A CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR NG SUE-PING, SAID.

MR NG BELIEVED THAT WITH THE NEW FEATURES, THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS WOULD PROJECT A MORE PROMINENT IMAGE AS A DISCIPLINED SERVICE.

THE RANK INSIGNIAS ARE ALSO REMOVABLE SO THAT A PROMOTED OFFICER CAN JUST HAVE HIS INSIGNIA REPLACED WITHOUT CHANGING THE WHOLE EPAULETTE.

HE STRESSED THAT ECONOMY WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR THE CHANGE. THE NEW METAL INSIGNIAS ARE MORE DURABLE THAN THE PRESENT TYPE.

THOUGHTS ARE ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE WEARING OF UNIFORM BY SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE SERVICE.

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YOUTHS CIVIC EFFORT URGED

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THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR C.M. LEUNG TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

SPEAKING AT THE FINALS OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION QUIZ COMPETITION, MR LEUNG SAID: +WITH THE EVOLVEMENT OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT BOARDS, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, ARE INSTANCES OF THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.+

+THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS ON PROVIDING MORE CHANNELS AT DISTRICT, REGIONAL AS WELL AS CENTRAL LEVELS FOR THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY, SO THAT IT WILL BE MADE MORE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

+IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, TO SUPPORT, AND TO TAKE PART IN PROMOTING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

MR LEUNG STRESSED THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

+ACCORDING TO PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, THUS ENABLING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

TODAY'S DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION QUIZ COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND A LOCAL CHINESE NEWSPAPER TO PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AMONG YOUTHS AND TO STIMULATE THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

AFTER KEEN COMPETITION, GIFFEN CHENG EMERGED AS THE WINNER TAKING THE FIRST PRIZE OF A COMPUTER DONATED BY THE ST. LOUIS GROUP OF SCHOOLS. THE THREE RUNNERS-UP WERE TSOI YEE-HANG, SILVIA LEE AND STANLEY AU WHO RECEIVED A TYPEWRITER, A CAMERA AND A CALCULATOR.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE EVENT WERE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS PAULINE NG CHOW MEI-LIN; CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LEE TAT-YU; THE SUPERVISOR OF THE ST LOUIS GROUP OF SCHOOLS, REV PATRICK DEANE; AND THE ADVISORS OF THE COMPETITION, MR WONG MUNG-HEA OF SING TAO WAN PAO AND MR CHEUNG CHOK-LEUNG OF THE EXPRESS.

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REFUSE DISPOSAL SCHEME TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT

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A PILOT SCHEME TO BARGE HOUSEHOLD REFUSE TO TSING YI ISLAND FOR DISPOSAL WILL BE EXTENDED TO LAMMA ISLAND, MUI WO ON LANTAU ISLAND AND PENG CHAU.

AT THE MOMENT, THE SCHEME COVERS TRANSPORTATION OF SUCH REFUSE FROM CHEUNG CHAU ONLY.

THE NEW SERVICE AIMED TO PHASE OUT VILLAGE-TYPE INCINERATORS AND IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

TEN SUCH INCINERATORS WILL CEASE OPERATION WHEN THE EXTENDED SERVICE STARTS IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR. TWO OF THEM ARE LOCATED ON PENG CHAU, FOUR ON LAMMA ISLAND AND ANOTHER FOUR ON LANTAU.

THE NTSD IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF A MOTORISED BARGE AND OPEN-TIPPER LORRIES WITH CREW MEMBERS TO DO THE WORK.

THE CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT EACH DAY ABOUT 20 TONNES OF REFUSE, LOADED IN ROPE NETS AND PLASTIC BAGS, FROM LAMMA ISLAND, MUI WO AND PENG CHAU TO TSING YI ISLAND.

PART OF THE REFUSE WILL BE FERRIED FROM TSING YI THE SAME DAY TO KWAI CHUNG INCINERATION PLANT FOR DISPOSAL AND THE REST TO MA YAU TONG CONTROLLED TIP.

THE CONTRACT IS FOR THREE MONTHS FROM JANUARY 1, 1985.

TENDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ISLANDS URBAN SERVICES OFFICE, ROOMS 2101-2103, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 141 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE (AUSTIN CENTRE), 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI, BEFORE 9 AM ON DECEMBER 7 (FRIDAY).

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 5-452442 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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TENDERS FOR TWO POLICE PROJECTS CALLED

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THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MARINE POLICE BASE AT SHAM WAN, ABERDEEN.

THE PROJECT, OCCUPYING 980 SQUARE METRES, INCLUDES A 16-STOREY BUILDING TO ACCOMMODATE OFFICES, RADIO-RADAR ROOMS, LECTURE ROOMS, WORKSHOPS, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT HOLDING AREAS AND A NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE BARRACKS AND CHANGING ROOMS, DINING-RECREATIONAL ROOMS, STORES AND A LAUNDRY.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 1986.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE ALSO BEING CALLED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF POLICE RANK AND FILE MARRIED QUARTERS IN KAU YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

UNDER THE PROJECT, A 24-STOREY BLOCK PROVIDING 144 QUARTERS UNITS WILL BE BUILT.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IMPORTANT TO COMMUNITY

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY, THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FOR TSUEN WAN, MR CHAN SUI-JEUNG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARITAS BAZAAR IN TSUEN WAN, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GRATEFUL TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

MR CHAN SAID THAT OVER THE YEARS, CARITAS HAD EXPANDED ITS ACTIVITES TO COVER ALMOST ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, WITH MORE THAN 60 SERVICE UNITS SET UP THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

HE URGED THE COMMUNITY IN TSUEN WAN TO SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION.

+WITH SUCH RAPID EXPANSION TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIRED BY CARITAS TO COVER ITS MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES HAS INCREASED TO A VERY SUBSTANTIAL FIGURE,+ HE SAID.

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WHY SWIMMING IS STILL THE TOP SPORT

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SWIMMING IS STILL THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVE SPORT IN HONG KONG, WITH MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE -- PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG -- ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THE SEA AND IN SWIMMING POOLS. THIS CONFIRMS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE URBAN COUNCIL SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES SWIMMING: BY PROVIDING AND MANAGING THE POOLS AND BEACHES AND BY TEACHING PEOPLE TO SWIM COMPETENTLY AND SAFELY.

THIS YEAR THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WHO ALREADY SWAM REGULARLY HAVE BEEN JOINED BY 8 900 NEWCOMERS TO THE WATER. THE FIGURE SETS A RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF ENTHUSIASTS WHO HAVE MASTERED THE BASIC SKILLS THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S +LEARN TO SWIM+ PROGRAMME. WITH AN AVERAGE OF 30 LEARNER-SWIMMERS IN EACH CLASS, A TOTAL OF 307 CLASSES WERE HELD -- ANOTHER RECORD.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE COUNCIL HAS SPONSORED TWO INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING COMPETITIONS AND 10 LOCAL CONTESTS. IT HAS ALSO CO-SPONSORED A SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING COMPETITION, AN INTERNATIONAL WATER POLO COMPETITION, THREE WATER POLO CLASSES AND A DIVING COURSE.

IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE, THE COUNCIL FUNDED A SUMMER AQUATIC PROGRAMME COMPRISING 58 SEPARATE ACTIVITIES. AMONG THEM WERE SWIMMING CLINICS, AND COURSES IN DIVING, LIFE-SAVING, SNORKELLING AND SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING.

ALL OF THIS FOLLOWS FROM THE COUNCIL'S RECOGNITION THAT SWIMMING, PERHAPS THE HEALTHIEST OF ALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, HAS ATTRACTED AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS OVER THE PAST DECADE. LAST YEAR THERE WERE 2.5 MILLION ADMISSIONS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S SWIMMING POOLS AND THE CROWDS THAT FLOCKED TO THE BEACHES WERE ESTIMATED TO HAVE TOTALLED 12 MILLION PEOPLE OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

ALONG WITH ITS PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE WATER SAFETY THROUGH THE SWIMMING CLASSES, THE COUNCIL'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX FOR EVERY 250 000 PEOPLE IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE LAI CHI KOK COMPLEX LAST MAY, AND WITH THE WAN CHAI TRAINING POOL OPENING NEXT MONTH, THE COUNCIL IS NOW WITHIN SIGHT OF ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. IN FACT, WITH 11 POOL COMPLEXES NOW IN SERVICE, IT HAS ALREADY HIT THE TARGET IN SIX OF THE 10 URBAN DISTRICTS.

THE COUNCIL HAS EIGHT OTHER COMPLEXES IN THE PLANNING +PIPELINE+. THEY WILL BE LOCATED AT SHAMSHUIPO, KOWLOON PARK, SHUN LEE ESTATE, HO MAN TIN, JAVA ROAD, SHEK KIP MEI, HAMMER HILL AND SAM KA TSUEN (YAU TONG). IN ADDITION TO TRAINING FACILITIES, SEVERAL OF THESE NEW COMPLEXES WILL INCORPORATE +FUN+ ELEMENTS SUCH AS SLIDES AND WAVE POOLS.

/THE FIRST .....

THE FIRST URBAN COUNCIL +FUN POOL+ IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1989 AS PART OF THE KOWLOON PARK SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX.

THIS COMPLEX WILL ALSO FEATURE THE FIRST HEATED AND COVERED COMPETITION POOL TO BE BUILT TO THE LATEST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION STANDARDS -- THOSE PRESCRIBED BY FINA (FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL DE NATATION AMATEUR) -- AND THE FIRST HEATED DIVING POOL IN HONG KONG.

THE WAN CHAI TRAINING POOL INCLUDES HIGHLY ADVANCED TRAINING FEATURES THAT CAN BE INCORPORATED IN POOLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED LATER. THE POOL IS SURROUNDED BY UNDERWATER VIEWING BAYS AND ILLUMINATED BY UNDERWATER FLOODLIGHTING. IT IS PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN VARIOUS WATER SPORTS. COACHES WILL BE ABLE TO MONITOR SWIMMING AND PLAYING PERFORMANCES MORE CLOSELY THAN IN A CONVENTIONAL POOL AND GIVE ADVICE TO CONTESTANTS UNDER TRAINING.

THE HEATED POOL IS PART OF THE FACILITIES IN THE $38.4 MILLION WAN CHAI RECLAMATION RECREATION CENTRE STAGE II. WHEN FULLY COMPLETED IN 1987, THE SPORTS CENTRE WILL ALSO HAVE AN INDOOR GAMES HALL. THE POOL AND ITS ANCILLARY FEATURES ALONE COST AN ESTIMATED $12 MILLION.

THE COUNCIL NOW MANAGES A TOTAL OF 75 POOLS OF VARIOUS SIZES AND DEPTH. MOST OF THEM ARE IN THE PURPOSE-BUILT COMPLEXES LOCATED AT ABERDEEN, KENNEDY TOWN, MORRISON HILL, VICTORIA PARK AND CHAI WAN ON THE ISLAND= AND AT TAI WAN SHAN, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON TSAI, LEI CHENG UK, MORSE PARK AND LAI CHI KOK PARK IN KOWLOON.

ALSO UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CHARGE ARE THE 12 GAZETTED BEACHES ON THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF HONG KONG ISLAND. THEY ARE: BIG WAVE BAY, CHUNG HOM KOK, DEEP WATER BAY, HAIR PIN BEACH, MIDDLE BAY, REPULSE BAY, ROCKY BAY, SHEK O BEACH, SOUTH BAY, ST. STEPHEN'S, STANLEY MAIN AND TURTLE COVE.

AT ALL SWIMMING POOLS AND BEACHES, SAFETY IS A PRIME AND EVER-PRESENT CONCERN OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS POOL AND BEACH STAFF. MANY GRATEFUL TRIBUTES HAVE BEEN PAID, BY SWIMMERS WHO RECEIVED PROMPT HELP IN TIME OF DIFFICULTY, TO A HARD-WORKING LIFEGUARD SERVICE, MADE UP OF TEAMS OF DEDICATED MEN TRAINED IN FIRST AID, WATER RESCUE TECHNIQUES AND RESUSCITATION.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESCUE CASES SUCCESSFULLY MADE SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 590.

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TAKING THE SHOCK OUT OF ELECTRICAL WORKS

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A CODE OF PRACTICE ON +PROTECTION OF COMMUNICATION NETWORKS FROM ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION+ HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE POST OFFICE.

IT CONTAINS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A WORKING GROUP ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES TO BE ADOPTED IN PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO PROTECT EQUIPMENT, AND SAFEGUARD USERS AND OPERATING STAFF OF THE TELEPHONE AND OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AGAINST POSSIBLE ELECTRIC SHOCKS DUE TO HIGH VOLTAGES FROM ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

THE WORKING GROUP COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED, CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED, HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED AND THE POST OFFICE.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN AGREED ON BY ALL PARTIES AND HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND THE TWO POWER COMPANIES.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO ALL ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO THE TELECOMMUNICATION BRANCH, POST OFFICE, GPO HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL.

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WONG TAI SIN FESTIVAL STARTS

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THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE ENTERTAINED AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE 2ND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL AT MORSE PARK THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE PROGRAMME BEGAN WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE CAPE COLLINSON MARCHING BAND, FOLLOWED BY DRAGON AND THE LION DANCES, A DISPLAY OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS BY 300 STUDENTS, BRITISH FOLK DANCES BY THE HONG KONG MORRIS DANCE TROUPE, AND ORIENTAL DANCES BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE DANCE TROUPE.

APART FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT THERE WERE VARIOUS EVENTS FEATURING TABLE TENNIS, BASKETBALL, TELEMATCH COMPETITIONS, AN ARCHERY EVENT, A CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL, SPORTS FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISCO DANCING, IN WHICH THE AUDIENCE ALSO PARTICIPATED.

/SPEAKING AT .....

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM SAID THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT FESTIVAL, CENTRING ON SPORTS, OFFERED A RICH VARIETY OF EVENTS THAT WOULD BRING MUCH FUN AND HAPPINESS TO RESIDENTS.

+APART FROM THE FESTIVITIES, ANOTHER IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE FESTIVAL IS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS TOWARDS COMMUNITY BUILDING, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING AND TO INVOLVE EVERYONE IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM ALSO NOTED THAT THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL - +BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY TOGETHER+ - WAS +MOST APPROPRIATE+.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON AND THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHOK.

MORE THAN 30 SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL. THESE INCLUDE VARIOUS BALL GAMES AND COMPETITIONS, A CROSS COUNTRY RACE, VARIETY SHOWS, CANTONESE OPERAS, PUPPET THEATRE PERFORMANCES, AN OPEN-AIR CONCERT, A DRAWING COMPETITION, A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AND FAMILY OUTINGS.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS AND PROGRAMME HANDOUTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WONG TAI SIN RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 3-222261 OR 3-241871 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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FISHING CHILDREN GET VACCINATIONS

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CHILDREN FROM THE FISHING COMMUNITY WERE VACCINATED TODAY (SUNDAY) AGAINST INFECTIOUS CHILDHOOD DISEASES BY A TEAM OF OFFICERS FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THE TEAM ARRIVED AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER AT ABOUT 9 AM AND MADE BOAT-TO-BOAT VISITS TO INOCULATE CHILDREN FROM SIX MONTHS OF AGE TO 10 YEARS AGAINST DISEASES SUCH AS MEASLES, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS.

HEALTH INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON THE PREVENTION AND IMMUNISATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED FROM A HEALTH EDUCATION VAN.

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WORKSHOPS ON REMEDIAL ENGLISH TEACHING

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THREE WORKSHOPS ON REMEDIAL ENGLISH TEACHING FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER.

ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 12 AND 13, FROM 2.30 PM TO 5 PM, AT THE CENTRE AT BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG.

AT EACH WORKSHOP, DIFFERENT MATERIALS FOR TEACHING READING AND WRITING TO REMEDIAL GROUPS WILL BE DISCUSSED. IT WILL ALSO COVER THE TEACHING OF LISTENING AND ORAL SKILL.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DESIGN TEACHING MATERIALS FOR USE IN THEIR OWN CLASSES.

EACH WORKSHOP CAN ACCOMMODATE A MAXIMUM OF 20 TEACHERS. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO TEACHERS WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED SUCH WORKSHOPS BEFORE.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THE NAMES OF TEACHERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOVEMBER 22.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE WITH THE CENTRE ON 5-4832537.

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SOCCER PITCH FOR FISHER FOLK

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THE ONLY RECREATIONAL FACILITY FOR THE FLOATING POPULATION OF SAM MUN TSAI IN SAI KUNG -- A SOCCER PITCH -- WAS RECENTLY REPAIRED THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE FISHERMEN AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

ORIGINALLY BUILT BY THE FISHERMEN ON A SLOPE OF URIN ISLAND NEXT TO THE FLOATING POPULATION, THE 1 700 SQUARE-METRE SOCCER PITCH HAD BEEN BADLY DAMAGED BY EROSION.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR WORK THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON, DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS CARRIE CHENG SAID: +THE PITCH WAS REPAIRED BY THE YOUNG FISHERMEN WITH MATERIAL WORTH ABOUT $24 000, SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE.+

MISS CHENG NOTED THAT THE FISHERMEN HAD ALSO RAISED FUNDS TOWARDS THE OVERALL COST OF THE PROJECT.

/+THIS SOCCER ... .

+THIS SOCCER PITCH RENOVATION PROJECT IS THE RESULT OF EFFORTS BY THE SAM MUN TSAI FISHERMEN, LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, YOUNG FISHERMEN, WHO HAD A GOOD REPUTATION IN LOCAL SPORTS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE DRAGON BOAT RACE, WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE MORE PHYSICAL TRAINING SO THAT THEY COULD DO BETTER IN SPORTS.

+HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT APART FROM RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER EVENTS ORGANISED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE DISTRICT BOARD SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS,+ MISS CHENG SAID.

SHE URGED RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS AND TO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 7 NEXT YEAR.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT WAS HELD AMONG SIX FISHERMEN TEAMS FROM VARIOUS AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

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WORK TO START ON LAST SECTION OF SEAWALL

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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REMAINING SECTION OF A SEAWALL IN ABERDEEN RECLAMATION.

ON COMPLETION OF THE 380-METRE-LONG SEAWALL, FILLING FOR THE LAST SECTION OF THE PLANNED RECLAMATION ON THE NORTHERN BANK OF ABERDEEN HARBOUR WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ABOUT ONE HECTARE OF LAND WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR USE AS OPEN SPACE AND ROADS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS.

CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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OFFICES ON THE MOVE

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THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT SURVEY OFFICE OF SAI KUNG WILL BE OPERATING IN NEW PREMISES FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE MOVE IS NECESSARY AS THEIR SPACE AT THE SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES IS NO LONGER ADEQUATE. THEY WILL NOW SHARE ABOUT 1 700 SQUARE METRES OF FLOOR AREA ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE NEW SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOCATED AT MAN NIN STREET IN SAI KUNG.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CONTACT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 3-2814431 AND THE DISTRICT SURVEY OFFICE ON 3-2815662 ON LAND MATTERS CONCERNING SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

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MARKET STALLS FOR LEASE

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NINE COOKED-FOOD STALLS AND ONE FRUIT STALL AT TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE PUT UP FOR LEASE BY AUCTION ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 15).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL, LAI FONG STREET, KWAI CHUNG, STARTING AT 10 AM, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTALS FOR THE NINE COOKED FOOD STALLS RANGE FROM $2 500 TO $2 700 AND THAT OF THE FRUIT STALL IS $600.

THE CONTRACTS ARE FOR THREE YEARS FROM DECEMBER 1, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

BIDDERS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND FIVE RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF KWAI CHUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-253624.

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RESTRICTED ZONE INTRODUCED

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FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 13), SHUNG LING STREET BETWEEN FOO YUEN STREET AND KAM WING STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE, FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS= OR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

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STREET TO BE RE-ROUTED

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FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 13), THE SECTION OF KWEILIN STREET BETWEEN FUK WA STREET AND FUK WING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

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