



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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APRIL EXPORTS RISE 16 PER CENT

DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL THIS YEAR INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT, OR \$1 071 MILLION OVER DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, TO REACH \$7 612 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, RE-EXPORTS, AT \$4 171 MILLION, ALSO ROSE BY 16 PER CENT OR \$582 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS, AT \$11 783 MILLION, WERE 16 PER CENT OR \$1 653 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN APRIL OF 1982.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$13 533 MILLION, WHICH GREW BY 10 PER CENT OR \$1 231 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH WAS \$1 750 MILLION.

THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP — THE PROPORTION OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS — THUS NARROWED SIGNIFICANTLY TO 13 PER CENT FROM 18 PER CENT OF APRIL LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES IN VALUE TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN APRIL SHOWED REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER THEIR CORRESPONDING AVERAGE GROWTH RATES IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THIS MAY SUGGEST THAT THE STEADY RECOVERY OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD RECESSION NOTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER NOT ONLY CONTINUED, BUT GATHERED PACE IN APRIL. FURTHER, THE SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERY IN THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS TO 10 PER CENT FROM AN AVERAGE OF ONLY TWO PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER WAS ALSO ENCOURAGING, AS IT PROBABLY IMPLIED SOME INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

PUTTING LAST MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE UP BY NINE PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS ONLY FOUR PER CENT HIGHER, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR STOOD AT 13 PER CENT, SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER THAN THE 16 PER CENT RECORDED FOR THE SIMILAR PERIOD OF 1982.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL 1983:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$ 7 612 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 4 171 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$11 783 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$13 533 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 1 750 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

/COMPARATIVE

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>FEB-APRIL</u> 1983	<u>FEB-APRIL</u> 1982	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	19 802	17 802	+2 000	+11.2
RE-EXPORTS	11 604	10 895	+ 709	+ 6.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	31 406	28 697	+2 709	+ 9.4
IMPORTS	36 136	35 688	+ 448	+ 1.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 4 730	- 6 991	+2 261	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>APRIL</u> 1983	<u>APRIL</u> 1982	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	7 612 (64.6%)	6 541 (64.6%)	+1 071	+16.4
RE-EXPORTS	4 171	3 589	+ 582	+16.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	11 783	10 130	+1 653	+16.3
IMPORTS	13 533	12 302	+1 231	+10.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 750	- 2 172	+ 422	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>APRIL</u> 1983	<u>MARCH</u> 1983	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	7 612 (64.6%)	6 620 (62.3%)	+ 992	+15.0
RE-EXPORTS	4 171	4 000	+ 171	+ 4.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	11 783	10 620	+1 163	+11.0
IMPORTS	13 533	12 440	+1 093	+ 8.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 750	- 1 820	+ 70	

/CALENDAR

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-APRIL 1983	JAN-APRIL 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	26 241 (63.1%)	24 041 (62.8%)	+2 200	+ 9.2
RE-EXPORTS	15 323	14 214	+1 109	+ 7.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	41 564	38 255	+3 309	+ 8.6
IMPORTS	47 673	45 711	+1 962	+ 4.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 6 109	- 7 456	+1 347	
LAST 12 MONTHS	MAY 1982 TO APRIL 1983	MAY 1981 TO APRIL 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	85 232	82 561	+2 671	+ 3.2
RE-EXPORTS	45 461	43 103	+2 358	+ 5.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	130 693	125 664	+5 029	+ 4.0
IMPORTS	144 855	141 618	+3 237	+ 2.3
TRADE BALANCE	-14 162	-15 954	+1 792	

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CHIEF SECRETARY HEADS FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE

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THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS BEEN RECONSTITUTED, WITH THE CHIEF SECRETARY AS ITS NEW CHAIRMAN.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXPANDED.

THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS FORESHADOWED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH, WHEN HE SAID THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS TO BE SOUGHT ON HOW THE VARIOUS EFFORTS OF THE MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PREVENTION OF CRIME COULD BE MADE COLLECTIVELY MORE EFFECTIVE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID CRIME HAD INCREASED RECENTLY AT A RATE FASTER THAN THE GROWTH IN POPULATION AND THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL TASK WAS TO PREVENT CRIME FROM HAPPENING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

+THE GOVERNMENT SHARES THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN ABOUT THIS UPSURGE AND THE DECISION TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AND ITS DETERMINATION TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM,+ SIR PHILIP SAID TODAY.

THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE COMPRISED THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, ATTORNEY GENERAL, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND FOUR UNOFFICIALS.

+IN ORDER TO TACKLE CRIME WITH EQUAL VIGOUR ON ALL FRONTS, FROM PREVENTION TO DETECTION AND REHABILITATION, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE ADDITIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RECONSTITUTED FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IS:

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (CHAIRMAN)

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

FOUR UNOFFICIALS

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY (SECRETARY)

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR CHARLES YEUNG, MR HO KAM-FAI AND MRS SOPHIA HO.

THE COMMITTEE WILL CO-OPT ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIALS WHEN NECESSARY AND WILL ALSO WORK THROUGH SUB-COMMITTEES COMPRISING ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS.

THE EXPANDED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ARE:

TO DRAW UP PLANS FOR A CO-ORDINATED EFFORT TO REDUCE CRIME;

TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES CONCERNED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PLANS;

TO RECEIVE AND TO ASSESS REPORTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES CONCERNED ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLANS AND ON THE RESULTS;

TO DETERMINE WAYS IN WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN BE STIMULATED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF CRIME;

TO RECEIVE AND TO PROCESS SUGGESTIONS FROM ANY SOURCE ON HOW CRIME MIGHT BE REDUCED;

TO RECOMMEND ANY LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS NECESSARY TOWARDS REDUCING CRIME;

TO REPORT ON PROGRESS TO THE GOVERNOR TWICE YEARLY.

THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON JUNE 14.

SIR PHILIP TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR THE POLICE, TO COMBAT CRIME.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THESE COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH ADVISING THE PUBLIC ON THE MEASURES THEY CAN TAKE AGAINST CRIME AND WITH PUBLICITY DESIGNED TO PROPAGATE THE ANTI-CRIME MESSAGE.

+DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VALUABLE ROLE AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO REDUCE CRIME,+ HE SAID.

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...THOUGH CIVIL SERVANTS ARE, SOME PRETTY CRACK POT IDEAS ARE PRODUCED FROM TIME TO TIME, THESE DO NOT GET FAR AND IT WOULD BE WISHERIOUS TO RULISH THEM AS 'SCHEMES UNDER CONSIDERATION'

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION FUNCTIONS EXPLAINED

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IN ORDER TO HAVE A FREE PRESS, PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUBLISH NEWSPAPERS OF ANY POLITICAL PERSUASION AND CRITICISE OR PRAISE THE GOVERNMENT OR ANYONE ELSE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF KOWLOON THIS EVENING, MR BRAY SAID THESE WERE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE SELDOM COMPLIED WITH IN SOME OTHER PARTS OF ASIA.

FURTHERMORE, HE SUGGESTED THAT A GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE THAN SIMPLY REFRAIN FROM SUPPRESSING THE PUBLICATION OF WHAT IT DID NOT LIKE OR COMPELLING THE PUBLICATION OF WHAT IT WANTED PRINTED.

+THIS RESTRAINT IS NECESSARY BUT MORE IS REQUIRED OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS TOO IS REQUIRED TO DO MORE THAN SIMPLY PRINT EVERYTHING ANYONE LIKES TO SAY.

+ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE, WE HAVE ACCEPTED AN OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE MEDIA OF POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT THINKING, OF EVENTS, OF PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

ON OCCASIONS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PUBLICISE ITS ACTIVITIES, THERE ARE GOOD REASONS.

+THERE ARE AREAS OF SECURITY WHERE WE DO NOT PUBLISH STATEMENTS - FOR INSTANCE ON OPERATIONAL POLICE MATTERS,+ HE SAID.

CITING ANOTHER EXAMPLE, HE SAID, +IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WERE TO SAY THAT SOMEBODY'S CONDUCT HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE OR THE ICAC, THAT HE HAD STUDIED THE PAPERS AND DECIDED NOT TO PROSECUTE, THERE WOULD BE A SLUR ON THAT MAN EVER AFTER AND ONE HE COULD NEVER FIGHT AGAINST.+

ONE OFTEN PRACTICAL REASON WHY SOME MATTERS WERE NOT PUBLISHED AT ANY MOMENT WAS THE TIME TAKEN TO PRINT A BULKY REPORT OR TO TRANSLATE IT, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES IS NOW RE-EXAMINING AN EMBARGO SYSTEM TO HELP THE PRESS OBTAIN EARLY COPIES OF SUCH REPORTS.

ANOTHER COMMON REASON FOR RETICENCE IS THE NEED TO KEEP SILENT ON PROPOSALS OR SCHEMES BEING EXAMINED.

+WISE THOUGH CIVIL SERVANTS ARE, SOME PRETTY CRACK POT IDEAS ARE PRODUCED FROM TIME TO TIME. THESE DO NOT GET FAR AND IT WOULD BE MISCHIEVOUS TO PUBLISH THEM AS 'SCHEMES UNDER CONSIDERATION'.

/+THE GOVERNMENT

+THE GOVERNMENT OWES IT TO THE PUBLIC TO LOOK CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY AT PROPOSALS IN PRIVATE BEFORE THEY ARE PUBLISHED,+ MR BRAY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT PREMATURE DISCLOSURE WOULD BE EMBARRASSING IF THERE WAS A NEED TO CONSULT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND A PRIVATE WORKING PAPER, IF DISCLOSED TOO SOON, MIGHT RAISE FALSE HOPES OR IN SOME CASES UNREASONABLY AFFECT FREE MARKETS.

HOWEVER, MR BRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECORD OF EXPOSING ITS WORKINGS WAS GOOD.

IN ADDITION TO ISSUING PRESS STATEMENTS, IT STANDS READY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE MORE TRICKY ONES WHICH SEEK COMMENTS ON SOME STORY ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT.

+THERE ARE CERTAIN RULES IN SUCH SITUATIONS. FIRST WE MUST NOT TELL LIES. IF A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE THE MATTER IS NO LONGER 'UNDER CONSIDERATION'. SO DECISIONS ARE VERY OFTEN ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY - ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS KNOWN THAT SOME SUBJECT HAS COME TO THE POINT OF DECISION.

+WE TRY TO AVOID THE PHRASE 'NO COMMENT' EVEN WHEN WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TO SAY. ABOVE ALL WE TRY TO GET AN ANSWER. IF A TOPIC IS NOT READY FOR ANNOUNCEMENT THEN WE SAY SO. THIS IS THE SORT OF SITUATION THAT DEVELOPS WHEN A SUBJECT IS BEING DISCUSSED AMONG OFFICIALS OR IN COMMITTEES. THE DISCUSSION IS INCOMPLETE. DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF THE STATE OF DISCUSSION ARE NOT ALWAYS HELPFUL ESPECIALLY WHEN SOME IMPORTANT DATA IS AWAITED OR VIEW OF SOME INTERESTED BODY IS BEING FORMED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR BRAY FURTHER STRESSED THAT PROPOGANDA WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITH A FREE PRESS - EDITORS DO NOT HAVE TO PRINT GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS AT ALL AND THEY CAN GO BEHIND THEM AND CHECK UP ON SUSPICIOUS STORIES.

THIS IS ALSO THE CASE OF RTHK, WHICH HAS TO COMPETE FOR ATTENTION WITH THE NEWSPAPERS, THE TV STATIONS AND COMMERCIAL RADIO.

+IF IT WERE USED AS A CRUDE PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENT IT WOULD LOSE CREDIBILITY AND WOULD BECOME SUCH A BORE THAT AUDIENCES WOULD SWITCH AWAY AND NOBODY WOULD BE LISTENING TO THE PROPAGANDA,+ HE SAID.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES INCREASED

FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE 10.2 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 7.8 PER CENT (TAX FREE), THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A NOTICE OF THIS WILL APPEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.85 PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX, HE EXPLAINED.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1983.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE MAY 27, 1983 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

3.24% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 22, 1978 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 24, 1978;

5.04% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 24, 1978 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 16, 1979;

5.76% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 16, 1979 AND BEFORE MAY 4, 1979;

8.04% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 4, 1979 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 26, 1979;

8.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 26, 1979 AND BEFORE APRIL 11, 1980;

10.5% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 11, 1980 AND BEFORE MAY 30, 1980;

9% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 30, 1980 AND BEFORE JUNE 27, 1980;

7.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 27, 1980 AND BEFORE JULY 30, 1980;

6.24% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 30, 1980 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1980;

8.16% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1980 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 1980;

/9.84%

- 9.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 21, 1980 AND BEFORE JULY 31, 1981;
- 13.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 31, 1981 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1981;
- 14.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1981 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 4, 1981;
- 12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982;
- 10.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982 AND BEFORE AUGUST 27, 1982;
- 9% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 27, 1982 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 3, 1982; AND
- 7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 3, 1982 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1983.

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON JUNE 1, 1983, JULY 1, 1983 AND AUGUST 1, 1983 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1983 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:-

ON \$1 000, JUNE 1, 1983 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1983, THREE COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$8.50 PER MONTH	= \$25.50
ON \$1 000, JULY 1, 1983 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1983, TWO COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$8.50 PER MONTH	= \$17.00
ON \$1 000, AUGUST 1, 1983 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1983, ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT \$8.50 PER MONTH	= \$ 8.50

	\$51.00

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO GATHER FOR SEMINAR
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THE FIRST TERRITORY-WIDE CONFERENCE ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (MAY 28).

MORE THAN 300 BOARD MEMBERS - REPRESENTING ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF ALL UNOFFICIALS AND 50 PER CENT OF ALL OFFICIALS - WILL TAKE PART IN THE SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

/THE PRINCIPAL

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION), MR C.M. LEUNG, SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS FROM ALL 18 DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND URBAN AREAS TO MEET ONE ANOTHER TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

+IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THEM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROBLEMS AND TO DISCUSS THE ROLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DISTRICT BOARDS,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, IT WILL PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO JOINED THE BOARDS MORE RECENTLY, OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY SO THAT THEY MAY BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MAKE USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS.

+THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE, WE HOPE THAT DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL COME UP WITH IMAGINATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS AS TO HOW THE BOARDS CAN PLAY AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS.+

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL DURING THE PAST YEARS IN IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, PROMOTING RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS REFLECTING VIEWS OF PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICTS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROJECTS.

+THIS IS MOST ENCOURAGING AND I AM SURE THE SEMINAR WILL ADD STEAM TO THIS PROCESS,+ HE SAID.

TAKING THE FORM OF WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS IN CANTONESE, THE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO 4.15 PM AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING BEFORE THE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED INTO FIVE WORKSHOPS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT; CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS; TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT; SOCIAL SERVICES AND DISTRICT BOARDS AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION.

EACH WORKSHOP WILL CONSIST OF TALKS BY FOUR TO FIVE PERSONS, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION PERIODS.

AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, A SUMMARY WILL BE MADE BY EACH WORKSHOP CHAIRMAN FOR PRESENTATION AT A PLENARY SESSION TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE WORKSHOP DISCUSSION SESSIONS, WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4.15 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 28) AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

MEDIA MEMBERS SHOULD REPORT TO THE PRESS RECEPTION DESK ON ARRIVAL WHEN THEY WILL BE ISSUED WITH PRESS BADGES AND INFORMATION MATERIAL.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS EXCHANGE VIEWS

MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS MET TODAY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS AND PROBLEMS.

THE IDEA OF THE GET-TOGETHER ORIGINATED FROM A SUGGESTION MADE DURING A SPRING RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT UNOFFICIAL DB MEMBERS VISIT EACH OTHERS' DISTRICT.

THE PURPOSE IS TO ENABLE THEM TO CULTIVATE FRIENDSHIP, AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROBLEMS IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

TODAY, 30 KWUN TONG DB MEMBERS CALLED ON THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN YUEN LONG TO LOOK AT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWN AND GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF RURAL AFFAIRS.

THE VISITORS WERE LED BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK.

ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND 15 DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, THE VISITING PARTY FIRST HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE NEW TOWN FROM THE ROOFTOP OF SHAN SHUI LAU IN SHUI PIN WAI ESTATE.

THEY THEN VISITED THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL, THE STADIUM AND THE LUT SAU HALL AND WERE BRIEFED ON ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROVIDED.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE GROUP TOURED THE NEW TOWN ON A COACH AND LEARNED ABOUT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE URBAN VISITORS LATER CALLED AT THE KAM TIN RURAL COMMITTEE AND ALSO SAW SOME ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD.

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\$86-MILLION AUDITORIUM FOR TUEN MUN RESIDENTS

RESIDENTS OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WILL HAVE A CENTRALLY LOCATED VENUE FOR THEIR OWN CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A 1 450-SEAT AUDITORIUM.

A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AUDITORIUM, WORTH ABOUT \$86 MILLION, WAS AWARDED THIS AFTERNOON BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SHIU TAI AND CO. LTD.

IT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED BY MR JOSEPH LEI, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT, AND MR PAUL K.Y. POON, DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY.

/THE AUDITORIUM

THE AUDITORIUM FORMS PART OF THE TUEN MUN CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPLEX TO BE BUILT IN THREE STAGES ON A FOUR-HECTARE SITE IN THE TOWN CENTRE NEXT TO THE TOWN PARK.

THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE AUDITORIUM, BEING STAGE ONE OF THE CULTURAL COMPLEX PROJECT, WILL BE THE 1 450-SEAT HALL WHICH IS SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO THE ONE IN TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, BUT WITH A LARGE STAGE, PROPER SIDE STAGES AND A LARGER ORCHESTRAL PIT, MAKING IT MORE SUITABLE FOR LARGER SCALE ORCHESTRAL, OPERATIC, DANCE AND THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES. A LARGE ORCHESTRAL SHELL IS ALSO TO BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW THE PROPER PRESENTATION OF FULL SCALE ON-STAGE ORCHESTRAL WORKS.

MR LEI SAID, +THE AUDITORIUM IS DESIGNED NOT ONLY FOR HIGHLY-PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES BUT ALSO FOR AS WIDE A RANGE OF DISTRICT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AS POSSIBLE.

+MEDIUM-SIZED, MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ROOMS ARE PROVIDED FOR SMALL SCALE PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL ARTISTIC GROUPS AND FOR REGULAR REHEARSALS AND PRACTICES.+

THESE WILL INCLUDE A CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL WITH MOVABLE SEATING FOR 250 TO 300 PEOPLE, A LARGE PRACTICE ROOM WITH MOVABLE SEATING FOR 200 PEOPLE, AND TWO LECTURE ROOMS EACH ACCOMMODATING 145 PEOPLE.

APART FROM ACOUSTIC TREATMENT, MR LEI SAID, SOUND AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PROVIDED IN ALL THESE ROOMS. MOREOVER, FILM PROJECTION FACILITIES WOULD ALSO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL AND LECTURE ROOMS.

THE AUDITORIUM WILL ALSO HOUSE A 50-SEAT CONFERENCE ROOM WITH A WAITING ROOM AND SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SYSTEM.

MR LEI SAID THAT ADJACENT TO THE AUDITORIUM WOULD BE A TWO-STOREY BLOCK TO BE OCCUPIED BY CHINESE AND EUROPEAN RESTAURANTS.

OTHER FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE SECOND AND THIRD STAGES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE TWO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BLOCKS, A LIBRARY, MAGISTRACY, MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK FOR 850 VEHICLES, POST OFFICE AND A MARRIAGE REGISTRY AND A BUS STATION.

MR LEI SAID THAT THE WHOLE CULTURAL COMPLEX WOULD HAVE AMPLE OPEN SPACE WHICH WOULD BE LANDSCAPED AND DECORATED WITH AQUATIC FEATURES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN AREA FOR RELAXATION.

+THE MAIN BUILDINGS WILL BE ON THE PERIPHERY TO GIVE A PIAZZA EFFECT AT BOTH PODIUM AND GROUND LEVELS AND THE PODIUM IS PROVIDED WITH COVERED WALKS TO LINK UP THE BUILDINGS WITHIN THE COMPLEX AND THE SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE AUDITORIUM WAS DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WHO WILL SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION.

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SIR PHILIP VISITS POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE VISITED POLICE HEADQUARTERS THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR PETER MOOR, SIR PHILIP STARTED HIS TOUR WITH A BRIEFING BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MR RICHARD QUINE, ON THE REVIEW OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FORMATIONS CONCLUDED LAST SEPTEMBER. HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS WAS GOING AHEAD AS PLANNED.

HE WAS GIVEN DETAILS ABOUT THE NEW STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS AT REGIONAL, DISTRICT AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS, RESTRUCTURING OF HEADQUARTERS CRIME UNITS AND ADDED EMPHASIS ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BY INDIVIDUAL DETECTIVES.

SIR PHILIP DESCRIBED AS 'A GOOD MOVE' THE FURTHER STREAMLINING OF REPORTING PROCEDURES INTRODUCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AND AFFIRMED ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS IN ENCOURAGING MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD TO SUPPLY VALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE.

DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CRIME, MR BRIAN WEBSTER, ON THE CURRENT STATE OF CRIME, THE CHIEF SECRETARY ENQUIRED ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CONTINUOUS OFFENSIVE ON THE LAW AND ORDER FRONT.

HE WAS SATISFIED THAT OFFICERS TASKED WITH DIVERSE RESPONSIBILITIES WERE WORKING AS A COORDINATED WHOLE TOWARDS MORE SOPHISTICATED CRIME PREVENTION AND DETECTION TECHNIQUES.

THE \$10 MILLION POLICE OPERATIONAL NOMINAL INDEX COMPUTER SYSTEM, THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH CAME ON STREAM IN MARCH THIS YEAR, IS PART OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME AIMED AT HEIGHTENING THE ABILITY OF FORCE MEMBERS TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

AFTER AN INTRODUCTION BY MR GEOFF HOBBS, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, SIR PHILIP WENT TO THE SUPER SECURE COMPUTER SUITE IN THE CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU TO SEE THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE MAJOR FIGHT CRIME AID.

EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE COMPUTER HARDWARE, SIR PHILIP INSPECTED THE VISUAL DISPLAY TERMINALS OF THE 'IN HOUSE' NETWORK LINKING THE CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU WITH THE IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, THE CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU AND THE NARCOTICS BUREAU.

MR HOBBS POINTED OUT THAT THE WHOLE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE REMOTE NETWORK COMPRISING THE FOUR REGIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRES, TUEN MUN, SHATIN, FRONTIER, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND AIRPORT POLICE STATIONS WAS EXPECTED TO BE IN FULL OPERATION BY AUGUST 1.

DURING A TOUR OF THE CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU AND A BRIEFING BY THE SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, MR BRIAN MERRITT, SIR PHILIP GAINED AN INSIGHT INTO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE FORCE IN SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.

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**SCHOOL FOR SPASTICS GETS \$100 000 BOOST
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THE TING HSIUNG CHAO SCHOOL OF THE HONG KONG SPASTICS ASSOCIATION RECEIVED A BIG BOOST TO ITS EXPANSION PROGRAMME TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN SEVEN LOCAL DIGNITARIES IN TSUEN WAN DONATED A TOTAL OF \$100 000 TOWARDS THE PROJECT.

ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR ADOLF HSU, ACCEPTED CHEQUES FROM THE DONORS - MR CHOW KWAN-SING, MR HUI TIM, MR CHAN CHONG-MO, MR CHONG TAK-MOW, MR LAM KIN-MING, MR CHAU HAU-CHEONG AND MR CHOU HAU-CHEN.

MR HSU SAID HE HOPED THE DONATIONS WOULD PROMPT OTHER CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY SERVICES SO THAT MORE ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO THE NEEDY.

+IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED, SPECIAL FACILITIES AND TECHNIQUES ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THEIR LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE AND TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT EVER SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1963, THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION HAD SPARED NO EFFORT IN PROVIDING WELFARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

+APART FROM LOOKING AFTER THESE PEOPLE, IT ALSO, THROUGH VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES, STRENGTHENS THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

+THE TING HSIUNG CHAO SCHOOL WAS SET UP IN 1975 AND HAS BECOME A WELL-ESTABLISHED ORGANISATION TODAY.

+THE SCHOOL FACILITIES WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF ITS EXPANSION PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDES A WOODWORK ROOM, LABORATORY, LIBRARY, EXTENSION OF THE SCHOOL HALL, A LIFT AND A RAIN SHELTER AT THE GARDEN,+ HE SAID.

MR HSU SAID THE GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE SEVEN DONORS WOULD ENABLE MORE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TO ENJOY THE SERVICES THEY NEEDED.

+THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT THEY HAVE SHOWN IS INVALUABLE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

+I HEREBY CALL UPON THE RESIDENTS IN TSUEN WAN TO FOLLOW THE GOOD EXAMPLE OF THESE SEVEN DONORS AND CARRY FORWARD THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT,+ HE ADDED.

AFTER RECEIVING THE CHEQUES FROM THE DONORS, MR HSU IMMEDIATELY PRESENTED THEM TO THE SCHOOL'S SUPERVISOR, MRS K.Y. FU.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER (KWAI CHUNG), MR FRED TING, AND OFFICIALS FROM THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION AND THE TING HSIUNG CHAO SCHOOL.

THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY RUNS THREE SCHOOLS, TWO CHILDREN CENTRES, TWO WORKSHOPS AND ONE RECREATION CENTRE, AND PROVIDES VARIOUS SERVICES FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

TREES STILL NOT APPRECIATED

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A LARGE NUMBER OF MATURE TREES LOST THROUGH URBAN BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAST 15 YEARS COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED IF THERE HAD BEEN SUFFICIENT APPRECIATION OF THEIR IMPORTANCE, SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ALL TOO OFTEN DEVELOPERS BULLDOZED THE SITES FLAT INSTEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING AROUND EXISTING TREES, MR IU TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH.

HE SAID DEVELOPERS FAILED TO ADAPT THEIR DESIGNS TO INCLUDE LIVING TREES IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

MR IU ADDED: +COMPENSATORY PLANTING RECOMMENDED IS NOT ALWAYS IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY AND IN ANY EVENT IT MUST BE WELL MAINTAINED IN WHAT IS AFTER ALL, A VERY HARSH ENVIRONMENT.+

DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE AUTHORITIES, THE RESULTS WERE NOT ALWAYS SATISFACTORY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES, HE SAID.

THE LONG TERM ANSWER TO THIS, MR IU SAID, WOULD BE THROUGH EDUCATION.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ORGANISES A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO INSTIL A SENSE OF LOVE OF TREES IN THE COMMUNITY.

THESE INCLUDE PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA, COMMUNITY TREE-PLANTING DAYS, SCHOOL FOREST PROJECTS IN WHICH PLOTS OF LAND ARE +ASSIGNED+ TO STUDENTS FOR FORESTRY WORK AND FIELD STUDIES, TRAINING CAMPS FOR CONSERVATION LEADERS AND SUMMER FORESTRY WORK CAMPS.

OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF FIRES IN COUNTRY PARKS ALONE EXCEEDED 500 A YEAR WITH AN AVERAGE OF 20 PER WEEK IN THE SIX-MONTH DRY SEASON, MR IU SAID.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL HILL FIRES START SMALL, AND ANY ONE OF THESE OUTBREAKS COULD EASILY HAVE DEVELOPED INTO THE SORT OF FIRE WHICH IN NOVEMBER 1979 BURNED FOR 29 HOURS DAMAGING 500 HECTARES OF LAND WITH 250 000 TREES.

+VANDALISM IS ANOTHER ENEMY OF YOUNG TREES. TREE SAPLINGS PLANTED ALONG ROADS AND THE PUBLIC GARDENS SUFFER CONSTANT INTERFERENCE FROM PEOPLE AND THOUGHTLESS CITIZENS WHO SHAKE THEIR TRUNKS AND BREAK THEIR BRANCHES.

+IT IS NOT UNUSUAL THAT FEWER THAN HALF OF THE TREES PLANTED SURVIVE TO MAKE THEIR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOWNSCAPE,+ HE SAID.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CONCERTS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL CELEBRATE THIS YEAR'S QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY BY PRESENTING TWO CONCERTS: A MATINEE CONCERT AT THE LANDMARK, CENTRAL, AT 3 PM AND AN EVENING CONCERT AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AT 8 PM ON JUNE 11.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE WILL ATTEND THE EVENING CONCERT.

THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND WILL PERFORM IN THE MATINEE CONCERT, AND WILL PLAY SUCH PIECES AS 'ROYAL FANFARE' AND 'CROWN IMPERIAL' BY SIR WILLIAM WALTON.

THE EVENING CONCERT AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (A) AND THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA.

MR MIRAN KOJIAN, CONCERTMASTER OF THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, WILL BE THE GUEST CONDUCTOR OF THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (A) AND HE WILL CONDUCT HANDEL'S 'WATER MUSIC SUITE' AND RESPIGHI'S 'PINES OF ROME'.

THE PERFORMANCE BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA WILL INCLUDE COMPOSITIONS BY WELL-KNOWN CHINESE MUSICIANS, SUCH AS DR EDWARD HO OF KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC, AND CHAN KAM-BIU, A STUDENT OF THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND FIRST PRIZE WINNER OF THE FIRST AND SECOND HONG KONG YOUNG MUSIC-MAKERS' TALENT QUEST.

ADMISSION TICKETS AT \$5 EACH ARE NOW ON SALE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 3-7226240 OR 3-7561328.

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MANPOWER SURVEY OF INSURANCE INDUSTRY STARTS JUNE 8

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A SURVEY OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN JUNE 8 AND 19 TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE MANPOWER SITUATION AND TRAINING NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY.

THE SURVEY, SECOND OF ITS KIND, IS PLANNED BY THE INSURANCE TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR ANTHONY KAN, SAID THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE USEFUL IN FORMULATING TRAINING PLANS.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS, THE BOARD CAN MAKE TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID.

/MR KAN

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MR KAN ADDED THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE CHAIRMAN APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS IN THE INDUSTRY TO COOPERATE IN SUPPLYING ACCURATE INFORMATION.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE WILL BE SENT TO UNDERWRITERS, BROKERS, AGENTS AND REINSURERS.

OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THOSE RANDOMLY-SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD TO COLLECT THE QUESTIONNAIRES AND, IF REQUIRED, ASSIST IN COMPLETING THEM.

THE INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED INCLUDES TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES UNDER TRAINING, EXISTING VACANCIES, AND A FORECAST OF VACANCIES IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

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FREQUENCY CUTBACK TO SAVE FERRY SERVICE

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THE OFF-PEAK SAILINGS ON HYF'S TWO LAMMA FERRY ROUTES ON WEEKDAYS WILL BE REDUCED FROM JUNE 1 FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS.

THE SERVICES ARE CENTRAL TO SOK KWU WAN AND CENTRAL TO YUNG SHUE WAN.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS FREQUENCY CUTBACK WAS NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE OPERATING COST SO AS TO RETAIN THE CENTRAL TO SOK KWU WAN SERVICE WHICH HAS LONG BEEN RUNNING AT A BIG LOSS DUE TO POOR PATRONAGE.

+HOWEVER, THE SAILING SCHEDULES FOR THE TWO SERVICES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED TO COPE WITH GREATER PASSENGER DEMAND BY VISITORS,+ HE SAID.

+BEFORE THE NEW TIMETABLES WERE WORKED OUT, VIEWS OF THE ISLANDERS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THROUGH A MEETING HELD BETWEEN THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW SCHEDULES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE FERRY PIERS.

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YAU MA TEI DRAMA SOCIETY FORMED
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DRAMA ENTHUSIASTS ARE BEING INVITED TO JOIN A NEWLY FORMED YAU MA TEI DRAMA SOCIETY WHICH WILL BE INAUGURATED ON SUNDAY (MAY 29).

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SOCIETY IS FORMED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE DRAMA ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT AND FOSTER DISTRICT IDENTITY AMONG DRAMA PLAYERS.

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A SEMINAR TO BE HELD BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 12.30 PM IN THE HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM LECTURE HALL.

THE GUEST SPEAKERS ARE MR CHUNG KING-FAI AND MR YUEN LAP-FUN WHO WILL TALK ON +ORGANISING A DRAMA PRODUCTION+ AND +COMMON MISTAKES IN PLAYWRITING, DIRECTING AND ACTING FOR STAGE+.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A 10-MINUTE LIVELY SHORT PLAY ENTITLED +WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY+.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY INCLUDE CAMPINGS, SEMINARS AND TALKS ON DRAMA, AND A DRAMA PERFORMANCE ADOPTED FROM A NOVEL BY BERTOLT BRECHT, +MOTHER COURAGE+, AT THE KO SHAN THEATRE IN OCTOBER.

ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE SOCIETY SHOULD SUBMIT HIS APPLICATION BY JUNE 15 TO THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 492 NATHAN ROAD, HOP FAT COMMERCIAL CENTRE OR THE TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-OFFICE AT 40 CARNAYON ROAD.

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APPLICATION INVITED FOR 'KAITO' LICENCES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR 'KAITO' LICENCES TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THIS IS A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE OPERATORS WHO HAD NOT APPLIED IN PREVIOUS EXERCISES TO DO SO NOW.

AS FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR, OPERATORS WITHOUT A LICENCE WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100 000.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE GRANTED A ONE-YEAR LICENCE AT A FEE OF \$50.

LICENCE HOLDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO INFORM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OF THE DETAILS OF THEIR 'KAITO' OPERATIONS, MAKING IT EASIER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE THEIR SERVICES.

/APPLICATION

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APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN WAN CHAI, ITS KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL OFFICE IN MONG KOK, MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL AND VARIOUS DISTRICT MARINE OFFICES IN ABERDEEN, CHEUNG CHAU, SAI KUNG, SHAU KEI WAN, TAI PO, TUEN MUN AND YAU MA TEI AND ALL NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY REGISTERED POST TO REACH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AT 32, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE WILL ORGANISE A SEMINAR IN JULY ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG ON JULY 2 BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 11 AM.

A SENIOR LECTURER FROM THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR R.K. JOHNSON, WILL DELIVER A LECTURE ON +LISTENING SKILLS AND THE LISTENING TEST+ AT THE SEMINAR.

PRINCIPALS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SEMINAR CAN BE MADE TO THE TEACHING CENTRE ON 5-482537.

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URBAN CLEARWAY AT AUSTIN ROAD
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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 28), AUSTIN ROAD BETWEEN CANTON ROAD AND KWUN CHUNG STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS AN URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

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