



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1987

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PRINCESS MARGARET TO VISIT HONG KONG
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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SNOWDON, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, BY THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT FROM CHINA FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT.

ACCOMPANIED BY VISCOUNT LINLEY AND LADY SARAH ARMSTRONG-JONES, SHE WILL ATTEND A NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING VISITS TO THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION AND OCEAN PARK.

PRINCESS MARGARET WILL ALSO OPEN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AND A NEW WORKSHOP AT HMS TAMAR, AND ATTEND A LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW ORGANISED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIXED PRESS POSITIONS WILL BE SET UP FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ROYAL PARTY'S VISIT.

ONLY ACCREDITED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA WITH APPROPRIATE LAPEL BADGES WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE PRESS POSITIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR PRESS BADGES WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION LATER TODAY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT:

ACCREDITATION

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA COVERING THE PROGRAMME HAVE TO BE ACCREDITED SPECIALLY FOR THE VISIT. NORMAL NEWS MEDIA IDENTIFICATION ALONE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO GAIN ACCESS TO OFFICIAL PRESS POSITIONS.

IDENTIFICATION OF ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE BY LAPEL BADGES. THE APPROPRIATE LAPEL BADGE MUST BE WORN FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FUNCTION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE POSITIONS.

ON OCCASIONS WHERE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO USE A POOL SYSTEM, PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY GIS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL NEWSPAPERS, NEWS AGENCIES, TV STATIONS AND PERIODICALS.

/APPLICATION FORM

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APPLICATION FORM

THE APPLICATION FORM FOR ACCREDITATION AT EACH PRESS POSITION PROVIDED FOR THE VISIT WILL BE BOXED SEPARATELY. EDITORS ARE ASKED TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE GIS DUTY OFFICER, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, MAY 22, AT THE LATEST. APPROPRIATE LAPEL BADGES WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS OFFICERS TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SPOT BEFORE EACH FUNCTION BEGINS.

USE OF FLASH LIGHTS AND TELE-LENSES

EDITORS ARE ADVISED THAT FLASH LIGHTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND MAY NOT BE PERMITTED WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS.

TELE-LENSES WILL BE NECESSARY FOR SOME EVENTS.

GENERAL

EDITORS ARE ADVISED TO RETAIN THE DETAILED PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIEFING THEIR REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSIGNED TO COVER THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS. FURTHER COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM ON THE 6TH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

YOU ARE ALSO ADVISED THAT ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING HRH'S PUBLIC FUNCTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH SECURITY CHECKS.

PRESS FACILITIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

ARRIVAL

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARGARET, ACCOMPANIED BY VISCOUNT LINLEY AND LADY SARAH ARMSTRONG-JONES, WILL ARRIVE BY THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT AT ABOUT 3 PM. THEY WILL BE MET BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON.

THERE WILL BE A FIXED PRESS POSITION OPPOSITE THE AIRCRAFT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM BY 1.30 PM.

/THURSDAY, MAY 28

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THURSDAY, MAY 28

ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS

PRINCESS MARGARET WILL VISIT THE ACADEMY AT 11.10 AM.

A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT 10 AM FOR THE ACADEMY WHERE TWO FIXED POSITIONS, AT A DANCE STUDIO AND THE ORCHESTRAL HALL, WILL BE ARRANGED FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

HRH WILL ARRIVE AT THE GIRL GUIDES HEADQUARTERS AT 11.50 AM. SHE WILL ALSO PLANT A TREE AT THE END OF THE TOUR.

THERE WILL BE TWO FIXED PRESS POSITIONS FOR THIS EVENT. A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT 10.30 AM.

EDITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION.

HMS TAMAR

PRINCESS MARGARET WILL ARRIVE AT 2.30 PM TO UNVEIL A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF A NEW WORKSHOP AT TAMAR AND WATCH A SEARCH AND RESCUE DEMONSTRATION.

A PRESS POSITION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE UNVEILING CEREMONY AND RESCUE DEMONSTRATION. ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THIS FUNCTION SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE MAIN GATE OF TAMAR BY 1.30 PM AT THE LATEST.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

TUEN MUN TOWN HALL

HRH WILL OPEN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AT 11.30 AM.

THERE WILL BE TWO FIXED POSITIONS FOR COVERAGE OF THE OPENING CEREMONY AND AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY. A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT 9.30 AM SHARP.

/TRADE DEVELOPMENT

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TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

PRINCESS MARGARET WILL ATTEND A LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT 12.30 PM AT THE MANDARIN HOTEL.

DUE TO SPACE LIMITATION, ONLY POOL COVERAGE WILL BE ARRANGED. STILL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY GIS, AND THERE WILL BE SEPARATE POOL ARRANGEMENT FOR TELEVISIONS.

OCEAN PARK

HRH WILL ARRIVE AT 2.30 PM AND UNVEIL A PLAQUE FOR OCEAN PARK'S NEW AVIARY. SHE WILL ALSO VISIT THE ATOLL REEF.

THERE WILL BE TWO FIXED PRESS POSITIONS FOR COVERAGE OF THE AVIARY AND ATOLL REEF. THE SAME GROUP OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO COVER BOTH POINTS IF THEY TRAVEL ON THE OFFICIAL PRESS COACH WHICH LEAVES C.G.O. CARPARK AT 1.15 PM.

DEPARTURE

HRH WILL LEAVE HONG KONG AT 11 PM BY FLIGHT CX201.

A FIXED PRESS POSITION WILL BE ARRANGED AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING. ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE DEPARTURE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM BY 10 PM.

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STABLE EXCHANGE RATE KEY TO HK ECONOMIC GROWTH
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A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY DURING THE 37 YEARS FROM 1935 TO 1972 WHEN HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS LINKED TO THE POUND STERLING AND SINCE 1983 WHEN HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS LINKED TO THE US DOLLAR.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR JOSEPH YAM, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES LIMITED AT A DINNER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE IT WAS A FACT THAT IN OCTOBER 1983 IT WAS BASICALLY ON POLITICAL REASONS THAT HONG KONG LINKED ITS DOLLAR TO US DOLLAR, HOWEVER, WITH HINDSIGHT, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATIONS WERE BY THEMSELVES SOUND ENOUGH TO MERIT THE TAKING OF SUCH ACTION.

/ASSESSING THE

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ASSESSING THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF HONG KONG'S LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, MR YAM EXPLAINED THAT HONG KONG HAD A FORMAL LINK WITH THE US DOLLAR IN A MANNER WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM A PEGGED RELATIONSHIP.

+THE LINK IS ARGUABLY A STRONGER FORM OF RELATIONSHIP THAN A PEG, AND IS SIMILAR TO THE 19TH CENTURY GOLD STANDARD AND THE 20TH CENTURY 'CURRENCY BOARD' SYSTEM. AT THE CENTRE OF IT IS THE FIXED PRICE AGAINST THE US DOLLAR AT 7.80 FOR THE ISSUE OR REDEMPTION OF CURRENCY NOTES. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ANCHOR WHICH IS NOT NORMALLY A FEATURE IN A PEGGED RELATIONSHIP,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+IT PROVIDES A CLEAR, ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ARBITRAGE WHEN THE EXCHANGE RATE IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET MOVES SIGNIFICANTLY AWAY FROM THE LINKED RATE. THERE IS NO FORMAL INTERVENTION RANGE, BUT THE OPTION TO INTERVENE, IN A MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE MANNER THAN IN THE CASE OF A PEGGED RELATIONSHIP, IS THERE,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT ONE UNDESIRABLE ASPECT IN PEGGING OR LINKING ONE'S CURRENCY TO ANOTHER CURRENCY WAS THAT THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND MONETARY CONDITIONS THEN BECOME MUCH MORE DEPENDENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DOMINANT ECONOMY, IN PARTICULAR THE MOVEMENTS OF THE DOMINANT CURRENCY.

+WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE STRENGTHENING OF THE US DOLLAR IN 1984 AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT DEPRECIATION, AFFECTED OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH PERFORMANCE. OUR GDP GREW BY LESS THAN 1 PER CENT IN 1985 BUT BOUNCED BACK TO RECORD A GROWTH RATE OF ALMOST 9 PER CENT IN 1986.

+OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY 5 PER CENT IN 1985 BUT GREW BY 16 PER CENT IN 1986. THE RECENT WEAKNESS OF THE US DOLLAR HAS ALSO THREATENED TO BRING HIGHER INFLATION. THERE WERE ALSO SPECULATIVE INFLOWS INTO THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, NECESSITATING ADJUSTMENTS THROUGH LOWER INTEREST RATES AND HIGHER GROWTH RATES OF THE MONEY SUPPLY. HK\$M3 GREW IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1986 BY 12 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 4 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF. IT GREW BY ANOTHER 6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR YAM NOTED THAT THESE RATHER UNUSUAL FLUCTUATIONS MUST BE PUT IN THEIR PROPER CONTEXT. +NO DOUBT THEY ARE A REFLECTION OF THE EXTENT OF ADJUSTMENTS NECESSARY UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM. BUT WHAT WE HAVE SEEN RECENTLY WERE RATHER EXTREME MOVEMENTS IN THE US DOLLAR. AGAINST THE JAPANESE YEN AND THE DEUTSCHEMARK THERE WAS A SWING OF ALMOST 50 PER CENT.

+THE FACT THAT, EVEN AGAINST SUCH VOLATILE CONDITIONS, WE ACHIEVED, OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, VERY RESPECTABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH FULL EMPLOYMENT AND MODERATE INFLATION, ON TOP OF EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY, IS VERY MUCH A VINDICATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM AND THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM OF OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

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CHAMBER REFLECTS GROWING BRITISH BUSINESS INTEREST IN HK

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG REFLECTED A GROWING INTEREST AMONG BRITISH BUSINESSMEN IN THE TERRITORY, BOTH IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS EVENING (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION RECEPTION OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SIR DAVID SAID THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS THE FOURTH LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND THE SEVENTH LARGEST SUPPLIER OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS.

+THE VALUE OF BRITISH INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IS VERY LARGE, INCLUDING AS IT DOES, SERVICE, FINANCING AND TRADING COMPANIES. PRECISE FIGURES FOR THESE SECTORS ARE DIFFICULT TO COME BY, BUT INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT ALONE IS OVER \$1 BILLION,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN 1986, HONG KONG BOUGHT FROM BRITAIN GOODS WORTH ABOUT 960 MILLION POUND (ABOUT HK\$12.5 BILLION), MAKING HONG KONG THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR BRITISH EXPORTS IN ASIA, COMING JUST AFTER JAPAN.

+LET'S BRING THESE STATISTICS DOWN TO A MANAGEABLE SIZE. THEY MEAN THAT EVERY MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD IN HONG KONG BUYS POUND STERLING 177 (ABOUT HK\$2 318) WORTH OF BRITISH GOODS EACH YEAR. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HONG KONG AS A MARKET IS CLEAR IF YOU COMPARE THIS WITH POUND STERLING 140 (ABOUT HK\$1 834) PER HEAD IN WEST GERMANY, POUND STERLING 45 (ABOUT HK\$589) PER HEAD IN THE UNITED STATES AND POUND STERLING 10 (ABOUT HK\$131) PER HEAD IN JAPAN,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID HE SENSED A NEW DETERMINATION OF BRITISH BUSINESSMEN TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE HONG KONG MARKET AND TO WORK IN IT.

+WE IN HONG KONG WELCOME THIS TREND. WE HOPE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER WILL HELP TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THIS INTEREST AND STRENGTHEN THE TRADING LINKS BETWEEN US,+ HE ADDED.

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CMB'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE SATISFACTORY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL MECHANICAL CONDITION OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S (CMB) BUSES AND THE RECENT OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANY, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) LEARNT TODAY (TUESDAY).

AS ITS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, THE TAC CONSIDERED THE REPORT ON CMB'S PERFORMANCE WHICH COVERED ASSESSMENTS ON BUS MAINTENANCE, ACCIDENT TRENDS, COMPLAINTS, QUALITY OF SERVICE, DEPOT PROVISION AND COMPANY MANAGEMENT.

THE REVIEW COVERED THE PERIOD BETWEEN MARCH 1, 1986 AND FEBRUARY 28, 1987. IT WAS FOUND THAT CMB HAD COMPLIED WITH NEARLY ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAC WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE. SPECIFIC MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPROVED TRAINING COURSES, THE SETTING UP OF A QUALITY CONTROL GROUP, THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ORGANISATION AND METHOD CONSULTANT AND RATIONALISATION OF THE BUS FLEET.

THE TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE SAFETY STANDARD OF CMB BUSES HAD IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE YEAR. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SAFETY DEFECTS FOUND ON CMB BUSES DURING SPOT CHECKS HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM 0.5 DEFECT PER BUS IN EARLY 1986 TO 0.3 BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THIS SAFETY LEVEL IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF KOWLOON MOTOR BUS BUSES.

THE NUMBER OF INJURY ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CMB BUSES HAD BEEN REDUCED BY 16 PER CENT FROM 433 IN 1985 TO 363 IN 1986. MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE IMPROVING TREND, DUE LARGELY TO THE IMPROVED MAINTENANCE STANDARDS INTRODUCED AS A RESULT OF TAC'S MONITORING AND TIGHTER STAFF SUPERVISION BY CMB, DID PROVIDE REASON FOR OPTIMISM.

REGARDING THE QUALITY OF CMB SERVICES, TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE COMPANY CONTINUED TO DEPLOY SUFFICIENT BUSES TO MEET THE SCHEDULED REQUIREMENTS AND THAT 96 PER CENT OF BUS DEPARTURES WERE ON SCHEDULE.

THE REPORTS OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT SHOW THAT CMB'S SHARE OF PUBLIC COMPLAINTS CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN 1986. IT DROPPED FROM 25.1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE STANDARD OF SERVICE OF ALL MODES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 TO 15.6 PER CENT IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS WERE FOUND IN ITS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME, TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE A MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MANAGERS WITH THE DATA NECESSARY FOR ASSESSING THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF MAINTAINING OLD BUSES VIS-A-VIS THEIR REPLACEMENT BY NEW BUSES. AS A FIRST STEP TO RECTIFY THIS SITUATION, MEMBERS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD SET UP A COMPUTERISED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ORDER TO PLAN AND MAKE DECISION ON ITS BUS REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME IN A MORE RATIONAL MANNER, AND WORK OUT AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY CMB'S BUS SCRAPPING AND PURCHASING PROGRAMME.

/THE COMMITTEE

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THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE FUTURE MONITORING OF CMB'S PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON A WIDER RANGE OF INDICATORS, AND ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD SUBMIT ANOTHER REPORT TO THE TAC IN ONE YEAR'S TIME.

APART FROM REVIEWING CMB'S PERFORMANCE, THE TAC ALSO CONSIDERED AN INTERIM REPORT ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW SUBMITTED BY A TAC SUB-COMMITTEE. THE REVIEW WHICH COMMENCED IN AUGUST HAS EXAMINED DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF TAXI OPERATION WHICH INCLUDED THE ROLE OF TAXIS IN THE OVERALL TRANSPORT HIERARCHY, HOW THE OPTIMUM SIZE OF THE TAXI FLEET MAY BE DETERMINED, POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TAXI SERVICE, AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF ISSUING TAXI LICENCES.

REPRESENTATIVES OF TAXI ASSOCIATIONS AND CHAIRMEN OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEES OF DISTRICT BOARDS WERE CONSULTED IN THE EARLIER STAGE OF THE REVIEW TO OBTAIN THEIR PRELIMINARY VIEWS WHICH CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY TO THE REVIEW.

THE TAC TODAY ENDORSED THE INTERIM REPORT AND THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S NEXT TASK WILL BE THE PREPARATION OF A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALL DISTRICT BOARDS. THE TAC TODAY STRESSED AGAIN THAT TAXI PREMIUM WOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING TAXI FARE INCREASES. THIS IS ALSO THE PRACTICE WITHIN THE TRADE.

THE APPLICATION FROM LANTAU TAXIS FOR A FARE INCREASE HAS BEEN DEFERRED FOR FUTURE UP-TO-DATE RESEARCH FIGURES TO BE PROVIDED TO TAC.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO VET SURVEY OFFICE PROPOSALS

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, ESTIMATED AT \$9.4 MILLION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SURVEY OFFICE AND THE OFFICE OF THE MONITORS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO APPROVE AN INCREASE OF \$5 322 000 IN THE ESTABLISHMENT CEILING OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF 53 NON-DIRECTORATE POSTS FOR THE TWO OFFICES.

/THE MAIN

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY OFFICE IS TO OBTAIN AS WIDE A PUBLIC RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE GREEN PAPER WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF MAY.

IN PARTICULAR, IT HAS TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE +SILENT MAJORITY+ WOULD BE ELICITED.

THE SURVEY OFFICE IS COMMISSIONED TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 31 THIS YEAR, AN IMPARTIAL AND ACCURATE REPORT COLLATING AND PRESENTING ALL VIEWS AND OPINIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC AND EXPRESSED IN THE MEDIA.

AND TO OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE SURVEY OFFICE, TWO INDEPENDENT MONITORS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON THE WORK OF THE SURVEY OFFICE.

OTHER ITEMS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE ARE:

- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$2 957 000 TO ASSIST THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION TOWARDS BUILDING AND EQUIPPING A PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO KO CHIU ROAD, KWUN TONG;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$3 508 000 TO ASSIST THE HILDESHEIM MISSION TOWARDS EXTENDING AND EQUIPPING THE POKFULAM TRAINING CENTRE - A BOARDING SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND;
- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$3 444 000 TO ASSIST THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TOWARDS BUILDING AND EQUIPPING A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE MILDLY AND MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AT LAI KING;
- * AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF OWNER-OCCUPIER ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO OFFICERS POSTED TO THE LONDON OFFICE;
- * A REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM RECRUITED STAFF WORKING IN THE LONDON OFFICE FROM 20 PER CENT OF BASIC SALARY TO 10 PER CENT OF BASIC SALARY FOR NEW APPOINTEES;
- * INCREASES IN THE DAILY HONORARIA PAYABLE TO DEPUTY JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT, DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES AND TEMPORARY MAGISTRATES; AND
- * HIGHER LIMITS OF OVER-COMMITMENT IN 1987-88 FOR FIVE CAPITAL ACCOUNT BLOCK VOTES FOR WHICH THE STANDARD LIMIT OF 50 PER CENT IS INADEQUATE.

AT TOMORROW'S MEETING, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED FOR THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL.

**FINAL CONTRACT FOR ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR SIGNED

THE CONTRACT TO BUILD THE THIRD AND FINAL STAGE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR WAS SIGNED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS LAST STAGE OF THE NINE-KILOMETRE-LONG SUPER HIGHWAY WILL RUN FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO THE WING TAI INTERCHANGE.

WHEN IT IS COMPLETED IN EARLY 1990, MOTORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO DRIVE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO CHAI WAN IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.

TODAY'S CONTRACT, SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND MR J. HAMILTON OF LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS PTY. LTD., WAS VALUED AT \$184 MILLION AND BRINGS THE TOTAL COST OF THE CORRIDOR TO \$1.76 BILLION.

THE WORK IN THIS CONTRACT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF AN 800-METRE-LONG DUAL TWO-LANE ELEVATED ROAD FROM SHAU KEI WAN, WHERE THE CORRIDOR AT PRESENT ENDS, ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF ALDRICH BAY THROUGH A KUNG NGAM TO LYEMUN BARRACKS, AND A 1.6-KILOMETRE DUAL TWO-LANE GROUND-LEVEL ROAD RUNNING THROUGH LYEMUN BARRACKS ALONG THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE HENG FA CHUEN DEVELOPMENT TO WING TAI INTERCHANGE.

SLIP ROADS WILL ALSO BE BUILT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE CORRIDOR FROM A KUNG NGAM, HENG FA CHUEN DEVELOPMENT AND WING TAI ROAD.

LOCAL SERVICE ROADS WILL BE PROVIDED AT A KUNG NGAM TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE AREA.

THE FIRST SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR, PROBABLY HONG KONG'S MOST AMBITIOUS ROAD PROJECT TO DATE, OPENED IN JUNE, 1984, AND RAN FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO TAIKOO SHING. THE SECOND STAGE, FROM TAIKOO SHING TO SHAU KEI WAN, OPENED JUST OVER A YEAR LATER. THE SHORT SECTION FROM WING TAI INTERCHANGE TO CHAI WAN HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE JUNE, 1985.

THE CORRIDOR HAS RELIEVED TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND BY PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRAVELLING ALONG KING'S ROAD AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD. TRAFFIC ALONG THESE TWO ROADS NOW RUNS SMOOTHLY IN COMPARISON TO THE SITUATION IN THE LATE 1970'S AND EARLY 1980'S.

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EXPANSION OF OUTREACHING SOCIAL SERVICE MAPPED OUT
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE OUTREACHING SOCIAL SERVICE AT THE RATE OF TWO TEAMS PER YEAR OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

THE PROPOSAL WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE STEERING GROUP SET UP JOINTLY BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO EXAMINE THE CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR PRIORITY AREAS FOR THIS SERVICE, THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE EXISTING TEAMS, THE DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES IN NEW TOWNS AND OTHER AREAS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE TEAMS SHOULD BE REDEPLOYED AND HOW THE SERVICE SHOULD BE EXPANDED.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THAT IN SELECTING PRIORITY AREAS, THREE PRINCIPAL INDICATORS -- THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE PROSECUTED, THE SIZE OF YOUTH POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY -- SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT IN THE ORDER OF PRIORITY, THE SIX ADDITIONAL TEAMS WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO SHA TIN, WONG TAI SIN, YUEN LONG, KOWLOON CITY, KWAI CHUNG/TSING YI AND EASTERN.

ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EXISTING 18 TEAMS, THE COMMITTEE SHARED THE STEERING GROUP'S VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD BE RETAINED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF REDEPLOYING ONE TEAM TO ANOTHER AREA, SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE OPERATING AGENCY.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO ENDORSED THAT THE ENTIRE OUTREACHING SERVICE SHOULD BE MONITORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE STEERING GROUP TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER REVIEW IN TWO YEARS' TIME.

ALSO AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE ITEMS OF IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING WELFARE SERVICES TO BE FUNDED BY THE RECOVERED SURPLUS OF \$6 MILLION AND AMONG THEM WAS ONE TO IMPLEMENT AND AGREED IMPROVEMENT OF THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER TO STUDENT RATIO FROM 1:4 000 TO 1:3 000.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY TO BE SET UP WITHIN THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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FOURTH QUARTER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX PUBLISHED
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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986, AT 165.2, WAS 27.3 POINTS OR 19.8 PER CENT ABOVE THAT FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, THE INDEX SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 6.6 POINTS OR 4.2 PER CENT, DESPITE THE THIRD QUARTER IS USUALLY THE PEAK SEASON FOR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES.

ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED, THE UPSURGE IN THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTION WAS LARGELY DUE TO A CONTINUED STRONG DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN MANY OVERSEAS MARKETS. THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN LINE WITH THE US DOLLAR UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM HELPED BOOST THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS IN MANY OVERSEAS MARKETS.

INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN PRODUCTION OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1985 WERE NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+33.2 PER CENT), LEATHER PRODUCTS AND FOOTWEAR (+28.8 PER CENT), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (+28.0 PER CENT), PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+26.6 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (+26.1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A FEW INDUSTRIES REPORTED A DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OVER THE SAME PERIOD. THESE INCLUDED BASIC METALS (-19.0 PER CENT), BEVERAGES (-2.9 PER CENT) AND TOBACCO (-1.6 PER CENT).

COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, INDUSTRIES WITH INCREASES IN PRODUCTION INCLUDED BASIC METALS (+29.0 PER CENT), TOBACCO (+20.9 PER CENT), AND PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+13.1 PER CENT).

PARTLY DUE TO SEASONAL INFLUENCE, THE INDEX OF PRODUCTION IN THE BEVERAGE INDUSTRY DROPPED RATHER SIGNIFICANTLY, BY 35.4 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER. SOME MANUFACTURERS REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THE LOCAL PRODUCTION OF BEER AND SOFT DRINKS BECAUSE OF REDUCED DEMAND FOR THEIR OUTPUT FROM CHINA AND CHANGES IN THE FIRMS' PRODUCTION POLICIES.

/THE OTHER

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THE OTHER INDUSTRIES WITH A DECLINE IN PRODUCTION COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER WERE PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (-11.4 PER CENT), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-8.4 PER CENT) AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (-7.7 PER CENT).

IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO REFLECT THE LEVELS AND TRENDS OF OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER REMOVING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGE.

TWO TABLES ON THE QUARTERLY INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. ONE IS A SUMMARY TABLE FOR BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS, WHILE THE OTHER GIVES A MORE DETAILED INDUSTRIAL BREAKDOWN.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, FOURTH QUARTER 1986+ AT \$3 PER COPY.

THE PUBLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER, 19/F, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SALES CENTRE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234832.

/Table 1

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Table 1 Summary table of quarterly indexes of industrial production by broad industry group, 4th quarter 1983 to 4th quarter 1986 (1981 = 100)

Broad industry group	Weight	1983				1984				1985				1986				
		1983	1984	1985	1986	1983	1984	1985	1986	1983	1984	1985	1986	1983	1984	1985	1986	
		4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
1. Food, beverages and tobacco	34.8	110.9	119.0	138.5	150.2	122.6	102.9	122.8	126.6	123.6	125.6	133.6	145.1	149.7	136.7	144.4	161.9	157.8
2. Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	251.3	106.0	113.8	105.0	124.8	115.6	104.3	114.1	115.9	120.7	95.3	97.1	104.6	122.8	102.5	121.5	130.7	144.3
3. Textiles (including knitting)	127.4	103.5	115.0	119.6	150.0	110.8	99.6	119.5	120.7	120.1	85.9	119.6	132.3	140.7	100.9	147.2	174.6	177.4
4. Paper products and printing	61.3	133.1	157.1	156.8	183.1	141.7	121.4	160.2	177.4	169.3	139.2	157.9	163.5	166.5	141.0	178.4	204.4	208.4
5. Chemical, rubber, plastic and non-metallic mineral products	110.0	120.8	160.3	160.5	184.2	122.6	113.2	153.0	199.9	175.1	134.6	163.9	183.0	160.5	134.8	182.8	217.2	201.9
6. Basic metals, fabricated metal products and non-electrical machinery	104.1	105.1	132.2	130.8	148.1	111.2	113.1	139.1	151.9	124.8	108.1	140.5	136.2	138.2	107.4	154.2	162.3	168.6
7. Electrical and electronic products, professional equipment and optical goods	216.2	123.2	133.5	128.9	144.8	142.2	109.3	126.7	143.0	155.1	118.8	129.1	129.7	138.1	126.1	143.2	148.2	161.6
8. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	94.9	117.6	154.6	114.1	130.0	141.6	119.1	145.1	168.3	185.8	104.5	105.7	121.8	124.5	121.1	125.7	132.0	141.1
All manufacturing industries	1000.0	113.9	132.0	126.0	146.2	125.4	109.1	130.5	144.5	143.7	109.5	124.6	132.1	137.9	116.8	144.3	158.6	165.2

Table 2

Table 2 Quarterly indexes of industrial production by industry group,
4th quarter 1983 to 4th quarter 1986

(1981 = 100)

Industry group	Weight	1983				1984				1985				1986				
		1983	1984	1985	1986	1983		1984		1985		1986		1986				
		4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
1.1 Food	20.5	120.5	119.1	135.4	154.3	139.2	108.3	123.5	121.9	122.6	128.9	129.9	135.1	147.8	143.4	154.4	155.3	163.9
1.2 Beverage	9.6	98.0	109.5	107.6	114.3	95.1	74.7	124.4	140.2	98.5	80.7	112.8	134.6	102.2	89.6	114.8	153.5	99.2
1.3 Tobacco	4.7	95.3	137.9	215.1	206.0	106.4	137.1	116.3	119.2	178.9	203.2	191.9	209.8	255.3	203.8	161.1	207.8	251.2
2 Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	251.3	106.0	113.8	105.0	124.8	115.6	104.3	114.1	115.9	120.7	95.3	97.1	104.6	122.8	102.5	121.5	130.7	144.3
3 Textiles (including knitting)	127.4	103.5	115.0	119.6	150.0	110.8	99.6	119.5	120.7	120.1	85.9	119.6	132.3	140.7	100.9	147.2	174.6	177.4
4.1 Paper and paper products	11.9	182.5	240.2	223.8	255.8	207.6	190.9	255.7	270.9	243.4	187.6	232.4	263.2	212.1	187.8	263.5	303.2	268.6
4.2 Newspaper printing, job printing and other printing	49.4	121.2	137.1	140.7	165.5	125.8	104.7	137.2	154.9	151.5	127.6	140.0	139.5	155.5	129.7	157.9	180.6	193.9
5.1 Chemicals and chemical products	15.1	125.3	133.2	160.5	192.9	132.7	124.8	116.3	147.9	143.6	148.5	153.9	164.5	175.1	152.1	179.6	223.8	215.9
5.2 Rubber products	3.2	134.6	150.4	122.4	120.7	173.3	108.5	141.1	158.3	193.7	99.6	144.1	116.5	129.4	87.5	115.1	139.6	140.7
5.3 Plastic products	81.1	121.1	174.0	169.7	194.2	119.3	114.0	168.0	225.0	189.1	139.0	174.0	199.6	166.0	137.6	194.8	232.0	212.4
5.4 Non-metallic mineral products	10.6	108.5	97.0	102.2	114.1	117.7	91.8	93.7	94.9	107.4	91.6	107.2	102.9	107.2	102.7	115.5	117.7	120.6
6.1 Basic metals	9.0	109.7	98.1	89.9	79.8	109.1	94.4	99.8	97.7	100.4	70.3	89.8	95.7	103.7	79.3	90.9	65.1	84.0
6.2 Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	77.0	95.9	138.1	133.2	151.7	103.0	114.1	146.9	165.9	125.6	110.0	142.8	139.0	140.9	104.3	157.7	171.5	173.1
6.3 Machinery, except electrical	18.1	141.9	124.2	140.7	167.2	147.1	118.4	125.2	119.5	133.6	118.8	155.7	144.3	144.0	134.4	170.9	171.6	191.8
7.1 Consumer electrical and electronic products	103.2	113.1	150.0	134.9	157.7	128.0	116.0	134.3	164.6	185.2	128.9	138.2	124.7	147.6	135.2	151.8	162.0	181.8
7.2 Electrical and electronic parts, accessories and machinery	60.3	114.3	105.0	99.8	100.2	137.0	87.5	105.8	110.8	115.9	95.6	101.6	107.7	94.4	83.0	99.2	111.6	106.8
7.3 Professional and scientific equipment, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks	52.7	153.2	133.8	150.6	170.5	176.1	121.1	135.8	137.5	140.9	125.5	142.7	164.8	169.4	157.6	176.6	163.2	184.6
8.1 Leather products and footwear (except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear)	12.2	72.8	67.9	66.4	82.6	94.4	60.7	74.3	65.2	71.3	50.3	69.8	74.5	70.8	74.2	80.9	84.1	91.2
8.2 Wood and cork products, and furniture and fixtures (except primarily of metal)	18.5	83.1	83.7	86.9	99.2	89.7	85.1	81.8	85.0	83.0	87.9	83.3	83.6	92.8	86.0	94.9	101.6	114.1
8.3 Transport equipment	27.0	98.5	133.2	113.0	136.4	117.2	111.7	118.4	155.3	147.5	109.2	112.6	118.4	111.6	150.5	161.0	121.8	112.4
8.4 Miscellaneous manufacturing industries, n.e.c.	37.2	163.3	233.8	144.3	156.2	200.5	160.6	219.2	252.9	302.3	127.2	123.7	158.8	167.3	132.7	130.1	170.2	191.8
All manufacturing industries	1000.0	113.9	132.0	126.0	146.2	125.4	109.1	130.5	144.5	143.7	109.5	124.6	132.1	137.9	116.8	144.3	158.6	165.2

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MONG KOK LANDMARK LIT UP
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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD LANDMARK WAS LIT UP WITH FLOODLIGHTS AFTER A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OFFICIATED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR T.H. CHAU THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF NATHAN ROAD AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD, THE DISTRICT LANDMARK, A CIRCULAR MARBLE COLUMN, WAS CONSTRUCTED TO GIVE AN IDENTIFICATION TO THE DISTRICT AND TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS.

IT WAS OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

FLOODLIGHTS WERE LATER INSTALLED TO ILLUMINATE THE MONUMENT SO THAT IT COULD BE VISIBLE AT NIGHT.

THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI, THANKED THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANDMARK AND THE SUBSEQUENT INSTALLATION OF THE FLOODLIGHTS.

+WE HOPE THIS FINE TRADITION OF FRIENDLY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANISATION AND THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT MORE PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY WAS ALSO HELD TODAY PRIOR TO THE SWITCH-ON TO COMMEMORATE THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY.

THREE YOUNG CASSIA SURATTENSIS WERE PLANTED IN A NEARBY FLOWER BED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG- CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR CLEMENT TAO AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR WONG YUEN-WEI.

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SKILLS CENTRES FOR DISABLED HOLD OPEN DAY
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MEMEBERS OF THE PUELIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE JOINT OPEN DAY OF THE KWUN TONG AND ABERDEEN SKILLS CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED ON THURSDAY (MAY 21).

THE CENTRES' DISABLED TRAINEES HAVE MADE MORE THAN 2 000 PRODUCTS RANGING FROM SWEATERS, LEATHER GOODS, TEAK FURNITURE, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS GADGETS FOR DISPLAY AND FOR SALE.

VISITORS CAN LEARN HOW THE DISABLED RECEIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING WHICH IS GEARED TO FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.

MANAGED BY

MANAGED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT, THE CENTRES OFFER 420 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME TRAINING PLACES IN GARMENT-MAKING, OFFICE MACHINE PRACTICE, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION, PRINTING, CARPENTRY AND SO ON.

THE OPEN DAY WILL BE FROM 9.30 AM TO NOON AND 1.30 PM TO 4 PM AT THE KWUN TONG SKILLS CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED AT 487 KWUN TONG ROAD, KOWLOON.

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**LEGCO TO CONSIDER WAGE CEILING FOR EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

A MOTION TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES TO WHOM THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED TO \$11 500 PER MONTH WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

DURING TOMORROW'S SITTING, EIGHT QUESTIONS AND THREE BILLS ARE AMONG OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DUE FOR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING ARE THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

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**TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL

THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL IN AP LEI CHAU ESTATE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM TOMORROW (MAY 20) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK TO UPGRADE ITS FACILITIES.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM AND UPGRADING THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM. WORKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN FEBRUARY, 1988.

DURING THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD, THE HALL AND THE CHANGING ROOMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE, WHILE THE CONFERENCE ROOM WILL REMAIN OPEN AS USUAL.

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SHA TIN NEW ENQUIRY CENTRE OPENS

A NEW PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE, THE COUNTER WILL PROVIDE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE AND IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO RESIDENTS, REPLACING THE EXISTING CENTRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S SHA TIN ADVICE CENTRE WILL ALSO PROVIDE ADVICE AND COUNSEL IN THE SAME OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ARE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, MR ANDREW WONG WANG-FAT; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MRS SELINA CHOW LIANG SHUK-YEE, THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR NG CHAN-LAM AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LEO KWAN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE JOINT OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S SHA TIN ADVICE CENTRE AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) ON THE 1ST FLOOR OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE.

BOARD COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FILM CENSORSHIP

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (MAY 21) TO DISCUSS THE FILM CENSORSHIP BILL.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE BILL AT THE MEETING.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO COMMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO CONVERT THE FORMER FIRE STATION ON BELCHER'S STREET INTO A CENTRE OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

MEMBERS WILL

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER ORGANISING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 21) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT 14/F, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS HOUSING STRATEGY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (MAY 21) TO DISCUSS THE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DRAFT FILM CENSORSHIP BILL 1987 AND THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DEREK GOULD; ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR JIM MICHIE; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MISS ELLE SHUM WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S REGIONALISATION SCHEME, AND REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT'S SIX AREA COMMITTEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 21) IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, NO. 7-11, NAM NING STREET, MEI FUNG COURT, 2/F, ABERDEEN CENTRE.

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REVISION OF BUS SERVICES TO BE DISCUSSED
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MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO CONSIDER THE REVISION OF BUS ROUTE 69K AND THE GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 56K.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE INTRODUCTION OF A BUS LANE ALONG LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND THE PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTING A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE NEAR FUNG KAI SCHOOL.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE RELOCATION OF STOPPING PLACES FOR THE GUANGDONG TO HONG KONG COACH; INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN RAILING ALONG TAI PO ROAD OUTSIDE CHEUNG WAH ESTATE AND RELOCATION OF THE TAXI STAND AT FU HING STREET NEAR SAN FUNG AVENUE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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HUNG MUI KUK ROAD TO BE CLOSED

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THE SLOW LANE ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HUNG MUI KUK ROAD OPPOSITE LUNG HANG ESTATE, SHA TIN, WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM TO 4.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 22).

THE CLOSURE IS TO ALLOW A SURVEY TO MEASURE THE VIBRATION OF THE HIGHWAY BRIDGES THERE.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE.

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