



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1988

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CHINA'S UNDERSTANDING OF HK SITUATION IS IMPORTANT:
BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING

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AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN PEKING WAS TO KEEP ABREAST OF HONG KONG AFFAIRS, AND TO IMPRESS UPON THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING (DESIGNATE), MR ALAN DONALD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE LEAVING FOR PEKING, MR DONALD SAID DURING HIS VISIT TO HONG KONG HE HAD LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO A WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWS AND OPINIONS FROM A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

"I WILL TAKE THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH I HAVE ACQUIRED THIS LAST WEEK WITH ME TO PEKING, AND I HOPE THAT IT WOULD INFORM ALL MY CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR DONALD SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OMELCO MEMBERS, BUT THEIR VIEWS WERE VERY PRELIMINARY.

"THE BASIC LAW IS THE CONCERN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN PEKING, AND AT PRESENT THERE IS A CONSULTATION PROCESS IN HONG KONG ON THE DRAFT," HE SAID.

"THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BASIC LAW, AS IT ULTIMATELY EMERGES AFTER CONSULTATION, AND THE JOINT DECLARATION OF 1984.

"NOW, IF AT THAT POINT, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE VIEWS THEN IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR ME TO CONVEY THEM TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

MR DONALD POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THERE WOULD BE CHANGES TO THE DRAFT BASIC LAW IN THE LIGHT OF OPINIONS, IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE BEING CONSULTED ON THE DOCUMENT.

HE SAID THE DRAFT WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD ALSO BE STUDYING THE DOCUMENT.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF THE "BRAIN DRAIN" IN HONG KONG WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, MR DONALD SAID: "I KNOW THERE IS A PROBLEM, AND I'VE HAD MANY PEOPLE EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO ME.

"I'LL TRY AND MAKE SURE IT IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN PEKING," HE SAID.

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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR JANUARY - MARCH RELEASED

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL IN THE THREE MONTHS JANUARY - MARCH 1988, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS HAVE REMAINED TIGHT, WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE FULLY EMPLOYED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1988 WAS 1.6 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.9 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987 AND 2.1 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASES OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD AND 0.5 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THIS LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, AVERAGED OVER THE THREE MONTHS, WAS DUE TO THE RATHER LOW RATE FOR FEBRUARY 1988, WHICH PROBABLY RESULTED FROM FEWER JOB-SEEKERS LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN JANUARY - MARCH 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 44,500, COMPARED WITH 53,000 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987 AND 54,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1988 WAS 0.9 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 1 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987. THE RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1987 WAS 1 PER CENT.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1988 WAS 25,200, COMPARED WITH 28,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987 AND 25,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1987.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

/COMMENTING ON

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988 WAS 1.7 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 50,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1988 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACES, CENTRAL AROUND JUNE 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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HK'S FIRST INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT TEAM FOUND HELPFUL

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THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM (IBMCT) SET UP UNDER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE HAS GAINED THE CONFIDENCE AND CO-OPERATION OF OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN AUGUST 1986.

IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY HELPED SEVERAL OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS TO SOLVE THEIR MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

THE TEAM TO LOOK AFTER INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1986 FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF TWO MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAMS FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREA.

KWAI TSING DISTRICT, WITH ITS MANY MIDDLE-AGED AND MULTI-USER FACTORY BUILDINGS, WAS SELECTED FOR THIS EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT.

THE KWAI TSING IBMCT CONSISTS OF A HOUSING MANAGER, AN ASSISTANT HOUSING MANAGER AND TWO HOUSING ASSISTANTS, ALL SECONDED FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

ITS MAJOR TASKS INCLUDE INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, COLLECTION AND COLLATION OF RELATED INFORMATION AND THE SETTING UP OF A COMMITTEE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS AMONG RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

CHAired BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, AS WELL AS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES, REGIONAL SERVICES, LABOUR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS.

COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT AT INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BY THE IBMCT REVEALED THAT THE MAJOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS INCLUDE OBSTRUCTION OF COMMON AREAS, DEFECTIVE FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEMS, UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AND ALTERATIONS, POOR SANITATION AND LACK OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE.

THE PROBLEMS ARE AGGRAVATED BY THE FACT THAT SOME INDUSTRIALISTS ARE INDIFFERENT TOWARDS BUILDING MANAGEMENT. ALSO, SOME OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS ARE IGNORANT OF THE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT AND THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS' INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, AND THERE IS INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION AMONG THE OWNERS.

THE IBMCT HAS STARTED WORK IN 21 TARGET BUILDINGS SELECTED FROM THE 121 PRIVATE MULTI-OWNED AND MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

/SOME OWNERS'

SOME OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THE TEAM'S ADVICE AND HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES. THE OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS OF VICTORY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AND WING YIP INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ARE TWO OF THESE.

THE VICTORY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OWNERS' INCORPORATION SPENT \$250,000 TO RENOVATE THE WHOLE BUILDING AND REPAIR DILAPIDATED INSTALLATIONS.

IN WING YIP INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, ALL DEFECTIVE SMOKE LOBBY DOORS AND DAMAGED COMMUNAL TOILET FACILITIES HAVE BEEN REPLACED. OBSTRUCTIONS IN COMMON AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN REMOVED.

IN THE ABOVE TWO EXAMPLES, IT WAS FOUND THAT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS AND OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN GOOD BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT OF THE IBMCT IS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ON THE SLOPE OF YIP SHING STREET IN KWAI CHUNG WHICH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY POLLUTED BY INDUSTRIAL TRADE EFFLUENT DISCHARGED FROM NEARBY FACTORIES SINCE 1979.

THE IBMCT APPROACHED THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON STARTING AN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AND POLLUTION THERE IS NOW UNDER CONTROL.

IN THE COMING YEAR, IN ADDITION TO ITS WORK TO HELP IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, THE IBMCT MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT IMPROVEMENT WORK ON THE SLOPE CAN MEET THE TARGET COMPLETION DATE OF MID-1989.

AS THE IBMCT IS ONLY AN ADVISORY BODY WITH NO STATUTORY POWER FOR TAKING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EMPHASISE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY WORK IN THE LONG TERM.

IN THE PAST YEARS, THE IBMCT AND THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD HAD JOINTLY ORGANISED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT COURSES AND SEMINARS. THESE WERE WELL RECEIVED BY OWNERS OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE ORGANISED IN FUTURE.

THE IBMCT ALSO PRODUCED A HANDBOOK ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT LAST MONTH FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS.

THE HANDBOOK, DIVIDED INTO 12 SECTIONS COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS THE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES, CRIME PREVENTION, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, FIRE PREVENTION AND LABOUR ORDINANCE, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE.

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FIELD TEST FOR CENSUS OPERATION

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A FIELD TEST TO STUDY THE DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES OF A CENSUS OPERATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR A POPULATION CENSUS THAT WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN 1991.

IT IS A WELL ESTABLISHED PRACTICE IN HONG KONG TO CONDUCT A POPULATION CENSUS AT REGULAR INTERVALS. THE CENSUS PROVIDES UP-TO-DATE BENCHMARK INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOVERNMENT PLANNING.

"A RANDOM SAMPLE OF SOME 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THE TEST," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"ENUMERATORS, WHO WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH AN IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL VISIT THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS BETWEEN MAY 16 AND MAY 27."

HOUSEHOLDS ARE ADVISED TO ASK THE ENUMERATORS TO PRODUCE THE IDENTITY CARD FOR INSPECTION BEFORE ADMITTING THEM INTO THEIR HOME.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED ALL SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO CO-OPERATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE TEST BY PROVIDING FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION. HE ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT ALL INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

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MANPOWER SURVEY ON ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO BEGIN

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THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A MANPOWER SURVEY BETWEEN MAY 18 (WEDNESDAY) AND JUNE 3 TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF THE INDUSTRY.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED IN THE SURVEY. SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CALL AT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TOMMY ZAU, URGED EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT IN FORMULATING MANPOWER TRAINING PLANS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY.

/INFORMATION COLLECTED

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INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE MANPOWER STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8235075.

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CHANGE PROPOSED IN AMENDING PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION ON PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES (PSL'S) TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PSL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE LICENSEE.

A PSL IS ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORISE ITS HOLDER TO OPERATE A NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS SERVICE, A PRIVATE BUS SERVICE OR A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICE.

TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF THE LICENCE, FOR INSTANCE, TO PERMIT ALTERATIONS TO A SERVICE'S ROUTEING AND STOPS BECAUSE OF ROAD WORKS.

UNDER THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MUST OBTAIN THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE LICENSEE BEFORE INTRODUCING ANY AMENDMENTS.

HOWEVER, IF THE LICENSEE DISAGREES, THE COMMISSIONER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THE SERVICE UNTIL THE LICENCE EXPIRES.

"THIS LIMITS THE COMMISSIONER'S ABILITY TO MEET PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDS PROMPTLY AND MAY, IN SOME CASES, JEOPARDISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS SO THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE EMPOWERED TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PSL AFTER CONSULTING THE LICENSEE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 GAZETTED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY) IS TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE REVIEW BY A TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL OF ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PSL.

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PRAISE FOR AUXILIARY POLICE

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THE INTENSIVE TRAINING RECEIVED BY AUXILIARY OFFICERS HAS PREPARED THEM FOR ANY EMERGENCIES, AND A RECENT SHOOTING AND ROBBERY CASE HAS SHOWN CRIMINALS THAT THE AUXILIARY POLICE ARE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, A FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON BAY THIS MORNING, MS CHRISTINA TING, OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, RECALLED THAT AN AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICER WAS THE KEY FIGURE IN FOILING A MAJOR ROBBERY ATTEMPT RECENTLY, AND SEVERAL SUSPECTS WERE CAPTURED FOLLOWING A SHOOTOUT.

SHE SAID THE OFFICER'S DECISIVE ROLE HAD STRENGTHENED THE MORALE OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE, AND IT WAS SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE TO BE PROUD OF.

MS TING ADDED THAT MORE THAN 20 AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS SERVED IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT EVERY DAY, SHARING THE WORK WITH REGULAR POLICE OFFICERS.

ON TOP OF THAT, AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CROWD CONTROL DUTIES AT THE BEACHES, AND WITH THE SWIMMING SEASON APPROACHING, THEIR WORKLOAD WOULD BE HEAVIER THAN EVER.

ON PARADE WERE 130 OFFICERS FROM THE HONG KONG ISLAND DISTRICT (AUXILIARY), WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED THEIR ANNUAL TRAINING CAMP AND WOULD BE RETURNING TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES.

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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR PROBATIONERS SCHEME

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VOLUNTEERS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO HELP WITH THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS UNDER THE VOLUNTEERS SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS (VSP).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE VOLUNTEERS SHOULD BE AGED 21 YEARS OR ABOVE, WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND BE KEEN IN HELPING OTHER PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY YOUNG OFFENDERS.

/"THEY CAN

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"THEY CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN WIDENING THE PROBATIONERS' CONTACTS AND FACILITATING THEIR RE-INTEGRATION WITH THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

"THE VOLUNTEERS' RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDE BEFRIENDING THE PROBATIONERS AND HELPING THEM WITH PRIVATE TUITION, GIVING THEM GUIDANCE ON THE PROPER USE OF LEISURE TIME, ORGANISING FUNCTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST AND SO ON.

"WITH THE SUPERVISION OF THE PROBATION OFFICERS, SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SERVICE OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND COUPLED WITH THEIR OWN EFFORTS, THE PROBATIONERS WILL BE ABLE TO MEND THEIR WAYS TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE VSP HAS BEEN OPERATED SINCE 1976 AND VOLUNTEERS ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND TRAINED IN AN ORIENTATION COURSE BEFORE THEY START SERVICE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE VSP CENTRE AT ROOM 1028, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT ALL PROBATION OFFICES ATTACHED TO MAGISTRACIES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CENTRE BY JUNE 4.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE TO MISS LAM ON 5-8954190.

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PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DB FOCUS

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON MAY 16 (MONDAY) TO EXAMINE THE PROGRESS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO MENTALLY-RETARDED PEOPLE.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THESE INCLUDE INSUFFICIENT FACILITIES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, A PROPOSAL ON ESTABLISHING CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, PREFERENTIAL MEDICAL AND TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE AGED, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICES AT THE TUEN MUN CLINIC.

/THE WORK

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THE WORK REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (1987-88), A REPORT ON YOUTH PROBLEMS IN TUEN MUN, AND THREE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING SOCIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY (MAY 16) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON 3/F, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, HUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$220,000 IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR FOR SUBSIDISING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS OF A SOCIAL SERVICE NATURE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDIES WERE NOW OPEN TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MAY 31 AND THE FINANCED PROJECTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECTS MIGHT TAKE THE FORMS OF VISITS, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS AND TRAINING COURSES, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN KWUN TONG.

THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED BY A VETTING COMMITTEE, TO BE FORMED UNDER THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"WHEN CONSIDERING THE APPLICATIONS, THE COMMITTEE WILL VALUE THE CREATIVITY OF THE PROJECTS, AND IS UNLIKELY TO SUBSIDISE PROGRAMMES OF A ROUTINE NATURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LETTERS EXPLAINING THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN SENT TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT.

/APPLICATION FORMS

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APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, FIRST FLOOR, KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-416315 EXT. 451.

ANOTHER APPLICATION EXERCISE WILL BE HELD NEAR END OF JUNE FOR PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN OCTOBER AND JANUARY.

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JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIP FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

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THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL AGAIN OFFER TWO SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS NEXT YEAR FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, AND NATURAL SCIENCES IN JAPAN. APPLICATIONS ARE NOW INVITED.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUSHO) SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE MONBUSHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 1989 WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS OVER 17 AND UNDER 22 YEARS OF AGE ON APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR.

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG OR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS; OR HAVE PASSED IN TWO RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ORDINARY LEVEL, OR IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN ONE RELEVANT SUBJECT AT THE ORDINARY LEVEL IN A GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION OF ENGLAND.

APPLICANTS NEED NOT HAVE ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE, BUT MUST BE WILLING TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN THE MEDIUM OF JAPANESE.

THE AWARDS NORMALLY TENABLE FOR FIVE YEARS FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR TO MARCH 1994 WILL COVER TUITION, ACCOMMODATION, LIVING EXPENSES AND RETURN PASSAGE.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE ENROLLED AT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL ATTACHED TO THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES AND WILL BE GIVEN A ONE-YEAR COURSE ON THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND SUCH OTHER SUBJECTS AS ARE NECESSARY TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE COURSES OF STUDY AVAILABLE IN JAPANESE ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, FIFTH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE BEFORE JULY 12 THIS YEAR.

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REGIMENT SEEKING NEW RECRUITS

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WILL START ITS ANNUAL RECRUITMENT EXERCISE ON MONDAY.

THE REGIMENT IS LOOKING FOR 130 MALE RECRUITS AND 20 FEMALE RECRUITS THIS YEAR.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED SHOULD BE 17 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE, HAVE COMPLETED SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HAVE A REASONABLE KNOWLEDGE OF SPOKEN ENGLISH.

THEY SHOULD ALSO HAVE REGULAR EMPLOYMENT AND SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED THEIR EMPLOYERS' CONSENT TO JOIN THE FORCE.

"SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING IN BASIC MILITARY SKILLS, INCLUDING HANDLING RIFLES, SUB-MACHINE GUNS, VEHICLES AND ASSAULT BOATS, DRILL, OPERATING RADIO EQUIPMENT, MAP READING, AND FIRST AID," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE VOLUNTEERS SAID.

TRAINING FOR NEW RECRUITS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON FOUR EVENINGS AND ONE WEEKEND A MONTH FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE MONTHS. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO ATTEND TWO NINE-DAY TRAINING CAMPS BEFORE PASSING OUT.

"THIS NO DOUBT HELPS IN BUILDING UP ONE'S PHYSIQUE AS WELL AS CULTIVATING A MORE MATURE AND CAPABLE PERSONALITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"VOLUNTEERS WILL ALSO GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN SUPERVISORY SKILLS, JUDGMENT AND DECISION-MAKING."

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AT 1, SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 25.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIMENT'S RECRUITING OFFICER ON 5-761371.

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SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1988

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SHA TIN TRAFFIC LANES TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY

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FROM MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY (MAY 16) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FAST LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND SHA TIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE SLOW LANE OF THE SAME SECTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE SAME PERIOD ON THURSDAY (MAY 19) AND FRIDAY (MAY 20).

THE TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE.

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TWO NEW BUS ROUTES FOR KOWLOON

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TWO NEW KMB BUS ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM MONDAY, MAY 16, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

PLYING BETWEEN CHUK YUEN ESTATE AND CHEUNG SHA WAN, ROUTE NO. 2B WILL RUN DAILY BETWEEN 5.40 AM AND 12.07 AM AT A FREQUENCY OF 13 TO 25 MINUTES. THE FARE WILL BE \$1.20 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

THE OTHER NEW ROUTE, NO. 13X, RUNNING BETWEEN SAU MAU PING ESTATE AND STAR FERRY, WILL OPERATE DURING PEAK HOURS ONLY FROM 6 AM TO 10.30 AM AND FROM 3 PM TO 7.40 PM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

IT WILL RUN AT A 10-MINUTE INTERVAL AS AN EXPRESS ROUTE TRAVELLING ALONG AIRPORT TUNNEL AND EAST KOWLOON WAY. THE FARE WILL BE \$2 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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