



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1980

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BALANCED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING CONCEPT FOR NEW TOWNS
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THE DISTRICT OFFICER SHA TIN, DR PATRICK HASE, SAID TODAY THAT HE BELIEVED HONG KONG SHOULD NOT DESIGN ITS NEW TOWNS ON DORMITORY LINES AS WAS BEING DONE IN JAPAN.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR HASE SAID THE PRESSURE OF POPULATION IN GREATER TOKYO WAS BEING ALLEVIATED BY THE BUILDING OF SEVERAL VERY LARGE NEW TOWNS, MOST OF WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF ENDLESS AND UNRELIEVED HOUSING ESTATES.

+THE NEW TOWNS IN JAPAN, IN FACT, ARE BEING PLANNED PURELY AND SIMPLY AS DORMITORY SUBURBS,+ HE SAID. DORMITORY SUBURBS OF THIS TYPE HAD ALSO BEEN PLANNED AND BUILT IN A NUMBER OF GREAT CITIES= LONDON, FOR INSTANCE, AND PARIS.

+THE PRESSURE OF POPULATION IN HONG KONG IS WORSE THAN IN MOST OF THESE OTHER CITIES= SHOULD WE DESIGN OUR NEW TOWNS ON SIMILAR LINES AS DORMITORY SUBURBS TO RELIEVE THIS PRESSURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE?+ DR HASE ASKED.

+WE BELIEVE NOT.

+WE BELIEVE THAT TO BUILD HOUSING ESTATES ALONE WOULD NOT SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS, SINCE IT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON ONE FACTOR OF LIFE (THAT IS, THE NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP) TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS, INCLUDING THE NEED TO FIND PLACES TO WORK IN, SHOP IN, PLAY IN AND SO FORTH.

+WE HAVE, THEREFORE, RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO DEAL WITH OUR HOUSING NEEDS QUICKLY BY GOING FOR A +BALANCED DEVELOPMENT+ CONCEPT OF PLANNING.+

DR HASE SAID PUT IN SIMPLE TERMS BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IMPLIED THAT EACH NEW TOWN SHOULD BE SO DESIGNED THAT, IF THE REST OF HONG KONG WERE TO SINK INTO THE SEA, THE NEW TOWN WOULD BE RELATIVELY UNAFFECTED SINCE ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DECENT MODERN URBAN LIFE COULD BE FOUND WITHIN THE TOWN.

WHEN COMPLETED, HE SAID, SUCH A NEW TOWN SHOULD BE SO PLANNED THAT NONE OF ITS INHABITANTS SHOULD BE FORCED TO LEAVE IT FOR ANY PURPOSE.

+AS WELL AS ADEQUATE HOUSING, THIS IMPLIES, OF COURSE, JOB OPPORTUNITIES ADEQUATE NOT ONLY IN NUMBER BUT BY RANGE OF TYPES OF JOB= ADEQUATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT BOTH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND DISTRICT LEVEL= ADEQUATE SHOPPING COMPLEXES, AGAIN PROVIDING FOR BOTH NEIGHBOURHOOD REQUIREMENTS AND LUXURY NEEDS= PROVISION FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL SERVICES, CULTURAL NEEDS AND SO ON, AS WELL AS A GOOD INTERNAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

/+SUCH A

+SUCH A NEW TOWN MUST HAVE A TOWN CENTRE WHICH CONTAINS ALL NECESSARY GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO SERVE THE TOWN, SUFFICIENT LUXURY SHOPS TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE TOWN, AND SUFFICIENT ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES TO CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE OF A TOWN CENTRE,+ HE SAID.

A PROPERLY BALANCED TOWN WOULD HAVE BOTH PUBLIC HOUSING AND PRIVATE HOUSING, BOTH RENTED AND PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY, DR HASE SAID.

HE SAID SHA TIN NEW TOWN WAS PLANNED TO HAVE 270 380 PERSONS IN PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY, 86 240 IN HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES, AND 365 480 IN GOVERNMENT RENTED HOUSING ESTATES, RESPECTIVELY, 37.5, 11.9 AND 50.6 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION.

THIS BREAKDOWN WAS CLOSE TO THAT WHICH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE IDEAL +MIX+ FOR A CITY SUCH AS HONG KONG.

OF THE PRIVATELY OWNED ESTATES, SOME WOULD BE DENSELY BUILT AND DESIGNED FOR ORDINARY WORKING CLASS OR MIDDLE CLASS TENANTS.

OF THESE ESTATES THE BEST EXAMPLE WAS THE PARAMATTA DEVELOPMENT THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH WAS SOLD ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO.

THIS ESTATE, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD HOUSE OVER 40 000 PERSONS, AND WOULD BE BUILT TO A DESIGN SIMILAR TO, FOR INSTANCE, MEI FOO SUN TSUEN, WITH RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS AND SCHOOLS BUILT AROUND A SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL CENTRE INCLUDING A MARKET.

OTHER PRIVATE ESTATES, SUCH AS WORLDWIDE GARDENS, WOULD ATTRACT THE UPPER, LUXURY END OF THE MARKET.

MOST OF THESE UPPER CLASS AREAS WERE ON THE SLOPES OF THE HILLS SURROUNDING THE TOWN, ON PLATFORMS ORIGINALLY CUT TO PROVIDE SOIL FOR THE VARIOUS RECLAMATION PROJECTS OF THE NEW TOWN. AS SUCH, MOST OF THESE LOTS WOULD ENJOY VERY FINE VIEWS.

MAJOR AREAS OF SUCH UPPER CLASS HOUSING WOULD BE SOLD ABOVE THE RACE COURSE, ABOVE LOK LO HA VILLAGE, ABOVE THE SUI WO HOME OWNERSHIP AREA, AND ABOVE SHA TIN WAI VILLAGE: SOME OF THESE LOTS WOULD BE SOLD FOR TWO-STOREY INDIVIDUAL LUXURY HOMES WITH GARDENS.

ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES, DR HASE SAID THESE WOULD BE PROVIDED BASICALLY IN FOUR MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS, FO TAN, TAI SHEK KWU, PAK SHEK AND TAI SHUI HANG.

OF THESE, THE FIRST AREA, FO TAN, WAS ONE-THIRD COMPLETED, WITH ONE-THIRD UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND ONE-THIRD EITHER ABOUT TO START CONSTRUCTION OR ELSE SCHEDULED FOR SALE OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THIS AREA WOULD PROBABLY BE FULLY OPEN FOR BUSINESS BY THE END OF 1982.

SITES AT TAI SHEK KWU WOULD BEGIN TO BE SOLD FROM THE MIDDLE OF 1981, AND AT PAK SHEK FROM THE END OF 1982.

THEY WOULD BE COMPLETED BY ABOUT 1986, WHEN THE FIRST LOTS FROM THE TAI SHUI HANG AREA WERE EXPECTED TO COME ONTO THE MARKET.

THESE FOUR AREAS WERE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SOME 145 000 JOBS (EQUAL TO 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION), APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER IN EACH OF THE FOUR AREAS.

HE SAID 750 000 PEOPLE REPRESENTED A WORKFORCE OF SOME 290 000 (40 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION)- CONSEQUENTLY THE FOUR INDUSTRIAL AREAS SHOULD PROVIDE ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL JOBS REQUIRED.

THE REMAINDER SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY CATERED FOR IN THE 23 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES, THE TWO HOTELS, THE FIVE MAJOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS INCLUDING A MAJOR GOVERNMENT OFFICE BLOCK, THE 150 ODD RESTAURANTS, AND ABOVE ALL, IN THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT.

A WORKFORCE SPLIT 50 PER CENT INDUSTRIAL AND 50 PER CENT COMMERCIAL AND SERVICE WAS IN LINE WITH THE NORMAL BREAKDOWN OF THE POPULATION IN HONG KONG AND SHOULD BE APPROXIMATELY CORRECT.

+OUR AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT AT ALL TIMES INDUSTRIAL JOBS EQUIVALENT TO 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION ARE AVAILABLE.

+THIS IMPLIES TRYING TO GEAR OUR SALES PROGRAMME FOR INDUSTRIAL LOTS TO ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATES OF HOUSING ESTATES. SO FAR, WE HAVE NOT FALLEN BADLY BEHIND.

+PROVISION OF COMMERCIAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES, HOWEVER, HAS FALLEN BEHIND AS THE MAJOR PROVISION WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT IN 1983,+ DR HASE SAID.

TURNING TO TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID: +IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IT WILL GIVE A REAL 'HEART' TO SHA TIN, AND SO HELP US TO DEVELOP A REAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT WITHIN THE DISTRICT.+

THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE IN A 'U' SHAPE, WITH 17 MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS USING, ABOVE, THREE FLOORS OF PODIUM -- TWO FLOORS PROVIDING 3 300 CARPARKING SPACES (INCLUDING 1 650 PUBLIC CARPARKING SPACES) AND ONE FLOOR WHICH, TOGETHER WITH A CENTRAL COMMERCIAL BLOCK, WOULD PROVIDE OVER 93 000 SQUARE METRES OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES.

BEHIND THIS DEVELOPMENT, ON TOP OF THE MAIN SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION, WOULD BE A 13-STOREY GOVERNMENT OFFICE BLOCK TO SERVE THE TOWN, AND TWO OR THREE MAJOR OFFICE BLOCKS. ALL WOULD BE INTERLINKED WITH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES AND WALKWAYS.

ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE 'U' WOULD BE A 600-BED HOTEL, A CINEMA/PUBLIC AUDITORIUM BLOCK, AND A LARGE CULTURAL CENTRE, TOGETHER WITH A MAGISTRACY, ALL SEPARATED FROM THE RIVER BY A LARGE AND ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED TOWN PARK.

THE FIRST BLOCKS HAD ALREADY BEEN SOLD, AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE FINISHED BY EARLY 1982, AND THE COMPLETE PROJECT BY THE END OF 1983.

DR HASE SAID THE CONCEPT OF +BALANCED DEVELOPMENT+ ALSO UNDERLINED PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS.

RECREATIONAL PROPOSALS INCLUDED, AS WELL AS THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, A MAJOR STADIUM, TWO RUNNING TRACKS WITH STADIA AND THREE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES, AS WELL AS TWO OR THREE AREAS OF LOCAL ACTIVE OPEN SPACE.

IN ADDITION, THE SHING MUN RIVER WOULD BE DEVELOPED AS A RECREATIONAL ASSET, WITH BOTH FACILITIES FOR SPORTS ROWING AND CANOEING AND FOR BY THE HOUR RECREATIONAL USE.

SIMILARLY, SHA TIN WAS VERY RICH IN COUNTRY PARKS, BEING SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY THESE VITAL RECREATIONAL AREAS.

IT WAS HOPED TO IMPROVE THE USAGE OF THESE AREAS BY A PROGRAMME OF FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION, AND CAMPING AND YACHTS CENTRE PROVISION, TO ENABLE THEM TO BE ACTIVELY USED BY THE POPULATION.

WITHIN THE NEW TOWN AREA ITSELF, ALL THOSE SLOPES WHICH WERE WELL-WOODED BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGAN HAD BEEN PRESERVED, AND WOULD BE DEVELOPED WITH SMALL UNOBTRUSIVE FOOTPATHS AS BEAUTIFUL AND RESTFUL WOODED PARKS.

EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES WERE AGAIN BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT: HOWEVER MUCH WAS REQUIRED BY THE ACTUAL POPULATION OF THE NEW TOWN MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NEW TOWN.

DR HASE SAID: +OF COURSE, THIS SOPHISTICATED PLAN FOR AN INSTANT CITY CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED AT ONCE. LEAVING ASIDE THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW RESIDENTS, FEW WITH ANY PREVIOUS CONNECTION WITH SHA TIN, AND TO BUILD UP THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND A SENSE OF BELONGING TO SHA TIN, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME OF THE PURELY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS CANNOT PROCEED EXACTLY IN STEP WITH THE PROVISION OF HOUSING.+

THUS, BUILDING A HOSPITAL AND FITTING IT OUT WITH ALL THE SOPHISTICATED MACHINERY A MODERN HOSPITAL REQUIRES WAS A SLOW PROCESS.

THE MAIN SHA TIN HOSPITAL BEGAN CONSTRUCTION 18 MONTHS AGO BUT WOULD NOT BE READY UNTIL 1982-83= IN THIS AREA STANDARDS UP UNTIL THEN WOULD BE LESS THAN PERFECT.

AGAIN, FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS HAD DELAYED SOME PROJECTS BY A YEAR, FROM COMPLETION DATES IN 1982 TO 1983.

THE CULTURAL COMPLEX AND TWO OR THREE OPEN SPACE PROJECTS WERE CASES IN POINT= PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT WERE THE DELAYS ON THE MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS TO TAI PO AND TSUEN WAN AND TO THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

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ABOVE ALL, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE TRANSPORT SYSTEM HAD LAGGED BEHIND -- IT HAD NOT PROVED POSSIBLE TO BUY THE BUSES REQUIRED (THE FACTORY OUTPUT WAS TOO LOW) TO MEET THE DEMAND.

DR HASE SAID: +IN PROVISION OF SCHOOLS, SHOPS, THE INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY, HOWEVER, WE ARE ON TARGET, AS WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROVISION OF POLICE, FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES.

+OF COURSE, THESE PROBLEMS ARE INITIAL ONLY. BY 1982-83, WE SHOULD BE ON TARGET IN ALL AREAS, AND THEREAFTER THERE SHOULD BE NO MAJOR SHORTFALL AREAS, ALTHOUGH TEMPORARY SHORTFALLS MAY DEVELOP HERE AND THERE.

+IN OTHER WORDS, BY 1982-83, WE SHOULD BE IN BALANCE, AND OUR AIM OF A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT BASICALLY ACHIEVED,+ HE SAID.

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FESTIVAL OF YOUTH BANDS

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THE THIRD HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND FESTIVAL, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION AND THE TOM LEE MUSIC FOUNDATION, WILL BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 16 TO 23 THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM SAID THE AIMS OF THE FESTIVAL WERE TO PROMOTE MUSIC THROUGH BAND ACTIVITIES AND TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH BANDS TO GET TOGETHER TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.

THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND FESTIVAL WAS FIRST HELD IN 1978 AND HAS SINCE BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT.

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT IN THE PAST TWO FESTIVALS, THERE WERE ALTOGETHER EIGHT CONCERTS ATTRACTING A TOTAL AUDIENCE OF 30 000 PEOPLE.

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL START OFF WITH A SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT ON NOVEMBER 16 (SUNDAY) AT 8 PM IN THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM. THE CONCERT WILL BE JOINTLY PRESENTED WITH THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

SELECTIONS OF CONCERT CLASSICS, TRANSCRIPTIONS AND POPULAR MARCHES WILL BE PLAYED BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND AND SOME OF THE BEST LOCAL SCHOOL BANDS.

THEY WILL BE FROM TANG KING PO SCHOOL, DELIA MEMORIAL SCHOOL, HO FUNG COLLEGE, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CHIU CHOW SCHOOL, BUDDHIST TAI KWONG MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ST BONAVENTURE COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL, THE HONG KONG LUTHERAN YOUTH BAND WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.

/PROGRAMME FOR

PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE THE +WILLIAM BYRD+ SUITE BY GORDON JACOB, +STAR WARS MEDLEY+ BY JOHN WILLIAMS, +TWO MARCHES FOR THE SULTAN ABDUL MEDJID+ BY ROSSINI AND DONIZETTI, AND +THREE HUNGARIAN SONGS+ BY BELA BARTOK. TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AT \$5 AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, MUSIC OFFICE AND TOM LEE PIANO COMPANY.

EIGHT WORKSHOPS WILL BE ORGANISED DURING THE FESTIVAL. VISITING ARTIST, MURRAY KHOURI AND LOCAL WIND INSTRUMENTALISTS WILL GIVE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATE PLAYING OF CLARINET, OBOE, FLUTE, HORN, TRUMPET, TROMBONE AND BASSOON TO YOUNG HONG KONG MUSICIANS.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE THE BAND DAY, JOINTLY PRESENTED WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL, TO BE HELD FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM ON NOVEMBER 23 (SUNDAY) IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

IN THE MORNING, MARCHING BANDS WILL COMPETE FOR THREE AWARDS: 'BEST BAND DRILL TROPHY', 'BEST MARCHING MUSIC TROPHY' AND THE 'BEST SPECTACLE TROPHY'. THE ADJUDICATORS WILL BE MR WONG LAM, MRS SELINA CHOW, MR G.M. COMPSON, MR DICKEN YUNG AND MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

IN THE AFTERNOON, SYMPHONIC BANDS WILL COMPETE FOR THE 'BEST SYMPHONIC BAND MUSIC TROPHY' AND WILL BE JUDGED BY MR CHARLES YEUNG, MR COLIN WOOD, MR THOMAS LEE OF THE TOM LEE MUSIC FOUNDATION, MR JOHN DUNN AND MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

ADMISSION TO BOTH THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES IS FREE. ADMISSION CARDS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE MUSIC OFFICE AND BRANCH OFFICES OF TOM LEE PIANO COMPANY.

IN THE EVENING, A GALA CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM AT 8 PM. THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY A COMBINED YOUTH BAND OF SOME 300 PLAYERS, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE BAND, AND THE REGIMENTAL BAND OF THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS.

TAI CHI SWORD, CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS TEAMS FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT.

THE EVENT WILL BE CLOSED WITH A PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S HALLELUJAH CHORUS.

TICKETS AT \$5 WILL BE SOLD AT THE CITY HALL BOX OFFICE, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM BOX OFFICE, MUSIC OFFICE AND TOM LEE PIANO COMPANY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE MUSIC OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 5-283257 OR 3-819204.

ALL TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR FREE DISTRIBUTION FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 24).

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NEW WORKMEN COMPENSATION RATES FROM NEXT MONTH
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EMPLOYERS WERE REMINDED TODAY THAT THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES IMPROVED STATUTORY BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES INJURED AND DEPENDANTS OF THOSE KILLED AT WORK, WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

FROM THAT DATE, THE BENEFITS WILL APPLY TO ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WILL BE RENAMED EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN COMPENSATION LEVELS, WHICH VARY WITH THE AGE OF THE EMPLOYEE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT.

THE NEW COMPENSATION LEVELS ARE: UNDER 40 YEARS OLD, 84 MONTHS EARNINGS FOR DEATH AND 96 MONTHS EARNINGS FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY= 40 TO UNDER 56 YEARS OLD, 60 MONTHS AND 72 MONTHS= AND 56 YEARS OLD AND OVER, 36 MONTHS AND 48 MONTHS.

THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN ALL CASES, HOWEVER, IS SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$168 000 FOR DEATH AND \$192 000 FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY, AND A MINIMUM OF \$49 000 AND \$56 000 RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT LAW REQUIRES THE EMPLOYER TO PAY THE COST OF THE INITIAL SUPPLY AND FITTING OF A PROSTHESIS OR SURGICAL APPLIANCE, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10 000.

THE AMENDED LAW REQUIRES THE EMPLOYER TO PAY, IN ADDITION TO THE INITIAL COST, THE ESTIMATED COST OF REPAIRING AND RENEWAL OF THE APPLIANCE FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$30 000. AFTER THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD, ANY FURTHER COST OF REPAIR AND RENEWAL WILL BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION ARISING FROM PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY FROM \$32 000 TO \$77 000 AND AN INCREASE IN BURIAL EXPENSES IN FATAL CASES FROM \$800 TO \$3 000.

IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE, EMPLOYERS ARE URGED TO INSURE AGAINST THEIR LIABILITIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

ALSO, FROM NOVEMBER 1, THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT WHICH HANDLES COMPENSATION CLAIMS WILL BE RETITLED THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION UNIT.

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ACAN LAUNCHES SINGING COMPETITION
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THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) IS ORGANISING AN +ANTI-NARCOTICS SINGING COMPETITION+ TO BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE COMPETITION, PROMOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY ACAN, IS PART OF ITS PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME FOR 1980/81.

+ONE OF THE IMPORTANT POLICY OBJECTIVES OF ACAN IN THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE IS TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH BY ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO SEEK HEALTHY AND MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES TO DRUG ABUSE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID.

+IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT THE COMPETITION IS DESIGNED. WE HOPE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND THEIR ENERGY AND LEISURE ON WHOLESOME ACTIVITIES SO AS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEIR EXPERIMENTING WITH DRUGS.+

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY ACAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MUSIC OFFICE AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND SPONSORED BY THE TOM LEE PIANO COMPANY.

IT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL AMATEUR SINGERS OR GROUPS, BUT PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 15. THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES WILL BE LIMITED TO 200.

A PRELIMINARY SELECTION AND AUDITION OF ENTRANTS BY PROFESSIONAL SINGERS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AND THE GRAND FINAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL ON JANUARY 24.

FOR THE AUDITION, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SING ONE OF THREE ACAN SONGS BY WELL-KNOWN COMPOSERS AND LYRIC-WRITERS. DEMONSTRATION TAPES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THEM ON REQUEST.

FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE, THE AUDITION WILL BE HELD SEPARATELY IN FOUR CENTRES LOCATED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN THE GRAND FINAL THE BEST SINGERS SELECTED WILL PERFORM THEIR CHOICE OF ONE OF THE THREE SONGS TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER CHINESE OR ENGLISH SONG.

THE FIRST THREE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED GIFT COUPONS VALUED AT \$5 000, \$3 500 AND \$2 000 RESPECTIVELY. OTHER CONTESTANTS WILL BE PRESENTED SOUVENIRS.

WELL-KNOWN SINGERS, SONG WRITERS, DISC JOCKEYS, AND OTHER PERSONALITIES WILL JUDGE THE COMPETITION.

/ THE PRIZE

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THE PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE +ACAN WINNERS' CONCERT+ TO BE HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON MARCH 7.

THIS CONCERT, FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY THE WINNERS AS WELL AS GUEST ARTISTS AND THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA, IS EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY SOME 3 400 PEOPLE.

ADMISSION TO THE FINAL COMPETITION AND THE CONCERT WILL BE FREE.

BROCHURES CONTAINING APPLICATION FORMS, RULES OF THE COMPETITION AND THE SCORES OF THE THREE ACAN SONGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM CITY AND DISTRICT OFFICES, THE MUSIC OFFICE, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND ALL BRANCHES OF THE TOM LEE PIANO COMPANY.

APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 8 TO THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, ROOM 130, FIRST FLOOR, EAST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION AT TEL. NO. 5-95761 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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HK TO HOST WHO COURSE FOR DOCTORS
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL HOST A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION INTER-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR DOCTORS ON THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG DEPENDENT PERSONS BETWEEN OCTOBER 28 AND NOVEMBER 17.

THE TRAINING COURSE IS THE SECOND OF ITS KIND ORGANISED BY WHO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE HELD LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SAID THE OBJECT OF THE COURSE WAS TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH AN IN-DEPTH STUDY INTO THE LATEST THEORY AND PRACTICE IN DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE LOCAL SITUATION- AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE A CROSS-FLOW OF IDEAS.

THERE WILL BE LECTURES BY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD. OTHER PARTS OF THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE GROUP DISCUSSIONS, VISITS AND ATTACHMENT TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION INSTITUTIONS.

ABOUT 26 DOCTORS FROM BURMA, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, KOREA, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL TAKE PART IN THE COURSE.

SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, WILL OFFICIATE AT ITS OPENING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 9.15 AM ON OCTOBER 28.

/NOTE TO

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE SECOND WHO INTER-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR DOCTORS NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 28). THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE PUBLIC ENTRANCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER NOT LATER THAN 9 AM. NARCOTICS DIVISION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THEM.

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UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR DESIGN COMPETITION
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SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ENTER A POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (IYDP).

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS' DECISION TO PROCLAIM 1981 AS IYDP.

ENTRIES SHOULD SHOW THE INTEGRATION OF THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY, OR THE DISABLED AND ABLE-BODIED COOPERATING IN MEANINGFUL PUBLIC SERVICE WORK.

POSTERS SHOULD BEAR THE WORDS +INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS - 1981+ IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH, OR BOTH= AND SHOULD SHOW THE UN EMBLEM FOR THE IYDP IN BLUE COLOUR.

WORKS MAY BE IN THE FORM OF PHOTOGRAPH, COLLAGE, PHOTOGRAM, PRINT, PAINTING OR DRAWING, BUT SHOULD MEASURE EITHER 420 BY 594 MM OR 297 BY 420 MM.

THE COMPETITION IS IN TWO SECTIONS, SEPARATELY FOR SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

PRIZES WILL BE IN THE FORM OF BOOK/STATIONERY TOKENS RANGING FROM \$500 TO \$50.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG BY JANUARY 10.

AN EXHIBITION OF WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL CONCOURSE ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 15.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1980

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE TAXI AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS IN CHI WO STREET, YAU MA TEI, WILL BE REMOVED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM THURSDAY (OCTOBER 23) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY, THE UNNAMED ROAD NEXT TO NO. 162 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD JOINING MAIN STREET ABERDEEN WILL BE REROUTED TWO-WAY FOR SITE FORMATION WORK ON A FUTURE PUBLIC ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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