DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1984

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

ROAD PRICING CHARGES NOT ADDITIONAL TAX - SCOTT 1

PEOPLE NOW EAGER TO DONATE BLOOD, GOVERNOR SAYS 4

SIR PHILIP STRESSES VITAL ROLE OF FIREMEN 5

MANUFACTURING STILL BEDROCK OF ECONOMY 7

BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION 'FAIRLY STAGNANT, BUT VARIED' 9

MORE TIME SPENT ON LEISURE 11

SAFETY SEMINAR FOR TOP MANAGEMENT 11

JOCKEY CLUB CHIEF TO BUY FIRST CENTENARY STAMPS 12

ANTI-NARCOTICS DRIVE GETS GOOD RESPONSE 13

ERUCIC ACID IN FOOD DUE FOR CONTROL 14

$347 MILLION IN PUBLIC HOUSING TENDERS APPROVED 14

FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT LIBRARY OPENS TOMORROW 15

FESTIVAL TREAT FOR ELDERLY 15

GOODWILL VISITS TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS 16

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ON DISPLAY AT EDINBURGH PLACE 16

RECREATION AREA FOR BUTTERFLY BEACH 17

SEMINARS ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION 18

ROAD PRICING CHARGES NOT ADDITIONAL TAX - SCOTT

* * * * * *

RESEARCH ON ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING INDICATES THAT IF A FULL SYSTEM WERE INTRODUCED TODAY, AND AFTER TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE CAPITAL AND RECURRENT COST OF THE SYSTEM ITSELF, VEHICLE ANNUAL LICENCE FEES COULD BE REDUCED BY ABOUT HALF.

FURTHER, A STAGED REDUCTION IN FIRST REGISTRATION TAX COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT, SAID AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY.

HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A FULLER PICTURE OF THE ERP SYSTEM BASED ON LATEST INFORMATION FROM SURVEYS AND RESEARCH WORK IN THE PILOT SCHEME SO THAT CAR OWNERS AND WOULD-BE CAR OWNERS COULD FORM THEIR OPINIONS ON THE MERITS OF CAR OWNERSHIP TAXES OR ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING.

STRESSING THAT ROAD PRICING CHARGES WERE NOT AN ADDITIONAL TAX, HE SAID THAT FORECASTS OF REVENUE FROM A FULL SYSTEM SHOWED THAT SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS COULD BE MADE IN THE PRESENT HIGH ANNUAL LICENCE FEES AND FIRST REGISTRATION TAXES.

+SUCH HARSH DETERRENTS TO CAR OWNERSHIP WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY. AND THIS PRINCIPLE, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

+DEPENDING ON THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF REVENUE FROM ERP CHARGES, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE INCREASES IN LICENCE FEES AND FIRST REGISTRATION TAX INTRODUCED IN MAY 1982 COULD, OVER A REASONABLE PERIOD, BE REMOVED.

+IN OTHER WORDS, THAT PART OF TAX AND LICENCE FEES WHICH WAS IMPOSED FOR TRANSPORT POLICY REASONS IN MAY 1982 COULD BE REMOVED, LEAVING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO DETERMINE TAX AND LICENCE FEES ON FISCAL POLICY GROUNDS ALONE,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE SAID THAT A FULL ERP SYSTEM WOULD NOT NEED TO BE APPLIED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, BUT ONLY ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON.

+ALL TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND WITHIN THE SOUTHERN AREA OF HONG KONG ISLAND - ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF TOTAL MILEAGE - WOULD INCUR NO CHARGES AT ALL.

+ABOUT 250 TOLL SITES WOULD PROVIDE A SERIES OF CONTIGUOUS ZONES THROUGHOUT THE MAIN URBAN AREAS, AND THUS CONGESTION WOULD NOT BE SQUEEZED FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER - AN ANXIETY EXPRESSED BY SOME COMMENTATORS.

/+THE INTRODUCTION .....

+THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES IN THE MAIN URBAN AREA WOULD AIM TO DISCOURAGE ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF VEHICLES FROM USING BUSY ROADS AT PEAK PERIODS,+ MR SCOTT SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE A BETTER FLOW OF ALL TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD, WITH SUBSTANTIAL TRAVEL TIME SAVINGS FOR ALL VEHICLES, AND A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN AIR POLLUTION.

HE ENVISAGED THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD OPERATE ONLY ON WEEKDAYS WITH NO CHARGING REQUIRED ON WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

+HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM IS FLEXIBLE, AND IF PUBLIC OPINION INDICATED THAT SATURDAY MORNINGS OR OTHER PERIODS SHOULD BE INCLUDED, THEN THEY COULD BE,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE HOURS OF OPERATION, MR SCOTT SAID THE SYSTEM WOULD OPERATE BROADLY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM, SO THAT EVENING TRIPS WOULD BE FREE OF CHARGE.

HOWEVER, IN MANY PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA, CHARGES IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM COULD BE LOWER THAN IN THE PEAK PERIOD.

HIGH CAPACITY CARRIERS SUCH AS BUSES, TRAMS AND MINIBUSES WOULD NOT BE CHARGED, SO THAT THEIR PASSENGERS WOULD BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM REDUCED JOURNEY TIMES AND FROM FEWER UNCOMFORTABLE START-AND-STOP MOVEMENTS.

REGARDING TAXIS, MR SCOTT SAID THE PRESENT STATE OF RESEARCH INDICATED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO BRING TAXIS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF A FULL SCHEME INITIALLY, AND THAT IF IT WAS LATER PROVED NECESSARY, THE RATE OF CHARGE WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN THE RATE FOR PRIVATE CARS.

+THE IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE POINT IS THAT TAXIS WOULD BENEFIT FROM BETTER TRAFFIC FLOWS BECAUSE THEY WOULD COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEYS MORE QUICKLY AND GET IN MORE PAYING MILEAGE AS OPPOSED TO WAITING TIME IN TRAFFIC JAMS - A MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE USE OF TAXIS THAN AS AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT GOODS VEHICLES SHOULD BE CHARGED, ALTHOUGH IN CERTAIN AREAS THEY CREATED THE VERY CONGESTION FROM WHICH THEY TOO SUFFERED, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH IT WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE TO BE PRECISE ABOUT THE CHARGES SOME TIME BEFORE THE END OF THE PILOT SCHEME ON ERP, AS A BROAD INDICATION THE RATE OF CHARGE WOULD AVERAGE ABOUT $2 PER KILOMETRE AT PEAK PERIODS, WITHIN THE CHARGEABLE AREA, HE SAID.

REVIEWING THE PRIVATE CAR GROWTH RATE SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAY 1982 FISCAL MEASURES WHICH IMPACTED MAINLY ON CAR OWNERSHIP, HE SAID THE NUMBER HAD FALLEN FROM 190 000 TO 150 000.

/WHILE IT .....

WHILE IT MIGHT APPEAR THAT THE PROBLEM OF CONGESTION HAD BEEN SOLVED, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN FACT TRAVEL DEMAND HAD BEEN INCREASING BY FIVE TO 10 PER CENT EACH YEAR WHICH MEANT THAT EACH YEAR THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM HAD TO COPE WITH AT LEAST 400 000 ADDITIONAL TRIPS PER DAY.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, MR SCOTT SAID THE FOLLOWING FIVE PRESSURES WOULD LEAD TO INCREASING TRAFFIC ON OUR ROADS: THE POPULATION WHICH GREW BY ONE MILLION EVERY 10 YEARS; THE INCREASING NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WHICH HOUSED SMALLER FAMILIES WITH NEW TRAVEL NEEDS; DISPERSION OF THE POPULATION WITH MANY PEOPLE HAVING TO TRAVEL TO WORK IN THE URBAN AREAS; PROSPERITY; AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

HE SAID THAT BY 1991, HONG KONG LIVING STANDARDS WOULD BE APPROACHING EUROPEAN LEVELS AND THIS GROWTH IN PROSPERITY WOULD STIMULATE A RENEWED STRONG DEMAND FOR CARS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY SPENDING $1 600 MILLION A YEAR ON OUR ROADS AND HAD INVESTED HEAVILY IN OFF-ROAD SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE MODERNISED KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

+GOVERNMENT WILL BY CHOICE CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT LEVEL OF INVESTMENT IN ROADS, AND THIS WILL HELP TO RELIEVE SOME STRATEGIC BOTTLENECKS. BUT EVEN THIS HIGH LEVEL OF INVESTMENT CAN DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE THE INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY OF ROADS IN THE URBAN AREA IN PEAK PERIODS.

+WE ARE IRRESISTIBLY LED TO A POLICY OF RESTRAINT - AND THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS THE FAIREST AND MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO SELECT TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?+ HE ASKED.

IN PRACTICE, THERE WERE TWO TYPES OF RESTRAINT MEASURES, HE SAID, NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TRIED THE FIRST METHOD WHICH WAS TO TACKLE ROAD USAGE INDIRECTLY BY INCREASING THE COST OF OWNING A CAR.

WHILE SEVERE TAX AND LICENCE FEES WOULD CERTAINLY DETER GROWTH IN THE VEHICLE POPULATION AND REQUIRE LITTLE EFFORT ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT, MR SCOTT NONETHELESS SAID IT WAS INEFFICIENT AND UNFAIR.

+IT WAS DELIBERATELY INTRODUCED IN 1982 AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, WITH THE PLEDGE THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD RSEARCH FOR A MORE EQUITABLE METHOD, A PLEDGE WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NOTED AND EXPECTS TO BE HONOURED.

+THE MAY 1982 MEASURES BOUGHT US TIME BY RESTRICTING AND REDUCING CAR OWNERSHIP. BUT IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO CURTAIL PERSONAL TRANSPORT SEVERELY.

/+FISCAL MEASURES, ...

+FISCAL MEASURES, BLUNT AS THEY ARE, DO NOT PERMIT THE NECESSARY SELECTIVE APPROACH. THE SOCIAL COST IS HIGH, AND IN OUR CROWDED, PRESSURED SOCIETY, WE HAVE TO BE MOST CAREFUL ABOUT MEASURES WHICH MAY GENERATE JUSTIFIED ANTIPATHY AND DISCONTENT,+ HE SAID.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUALLY INCREASING TAXES ON CAR OWNERSHIP WAS A PRICING SYSTEM WHICH COULD BE APPLIED AT BUSY TIMES IN HEAVILY TRAFFICKED AREAS, BUT WHICH ALSO LEFT PEOPLE FREE TO USE THEIR CARS WHEN THE ROAD SYSTEM WAS NOT UNDER PRESSURE, HE SAID.

+SOME DRIVERS WILL BY CHOICE CONTINUE TO DRIVE IN CONGESTED AREAS AT PEAK PERIODS AND TO PAY THE PRICE. OTHERS WILL CHOOSE NOT TO. THEREFORE SOME DRIVERS WILL PAY MORE BY WAY OF ERP CHARGES THAN THEY DO NOW BY WAY OF LICENCE FEES, AND OTHERS WILL PAY LESS.

+BUT IT WILL BE A CHOICE FOR EACH OF THEM TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW MUCH ERP CHARGES HE WISHES TO INCUR,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

----o----

PEOPLE NOW EAGER TO DONATE BLOOD, GOVERNOR SAYS

*****

HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE NOW WILLING AND EAGER TO DONATE BLOOD, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

THIS HAD RESULTED FROM MANY YEARS OF UNREMITTING EFFORT IN OVERCOMING PUBLIC RESISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATIONS, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE BRADBURY CENTRE THIS AFTERNOON.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF PERSUADING PEOPLE TO DONATE BLOOD HAD BEEN RECOGNISED SINCE 1952, +WHEN A GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS SET UP HONG KONG'S FIRST BLOOD COLLECTION POINT IN A HUT IN STATUE SQUARE.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THIS +REMARKABLE CHANGE IN PUBLIC ATTITUDE+ HAD BEEN LARGELY DUE TO THE UNCEASING EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS IN EDUCATION, PUBLICITY AND PERSUASION ON THE PART OF THE HIGHLY MOTIVATED STAFF OF THE RED CROSS.

+THEY DESERVE OUR CONGRATULATIONS,+ HE SAID.

SPECIAL MENTION, HE SAID, SHOULD ALSO BE MADE OF THE MANY CIVIC-MINDED COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CITIZENS WHO, THROUGH THEIR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE BLOOD DONOR CAMPAIGN, HAD HELPED BRING ABOUT THIS +QUIET REVOLUTION.+

/+I AM .....

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS COMMUNITY SPIRIT WILL BE MAINTAINED AND FURTHER DEVELOPED IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IT HAD BEEN A LONG-STANDING AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG RED CROSS TO INTRODUCE A CENTRALISED TRANSFUSION SERVICE.

THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE TODAY WAS THUS AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE CENTRALISED SERVICE WOULD BE DEALING WITH ALL ASPECTS OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION. EVERYDAY BLOOD FROM SOME 500 DONORS WOULD BE PROCESSED IN THE CENTRE.

+EVERY UNIT OF BLOOD DONATED WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE WITH THE UTMOST SAFETY AND ECONOMY,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE IMPRESSIVE BUILDING, SIR EDWARD SAID, HAD BEEN A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE BRADBURY CHARITABLE TRUST, AFTER WHICH THE BUILDING HAD BEEN NAMED; SIR RUN RUN SHAW, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS; THE HONG KONG RED CROSS ITSELF, AND THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

+I PAY TRIBUTE TO ALL ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT,+ HE SAID, IN DECLARING OPEN THE CENTRE.

----o----

SIR PHILIP STRESSES VITAL ROLE OF FIREMEN

****

THE FIREMAN'S ROLE WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG, WITH ITS HIGH-RISE AND HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING, AND COMPLEXITY OF ASSOCIATED FIRE RISKS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

THERE WERE ALSO THOUSANDS OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES HOUSED IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, SOME CONSTITUTING POTENTIALLY VERY SERIOUS FIRE RISKS THROUGH THE IGNORANCE, CARELESSNESS OR SELFISHNESS OF THEIR OCCUPANTS, SIR PHILIP SAID.

THE FIREMAN'S LIFE, SIR PHILIP SAID, WAS A TOUGH ONE. HE WAS EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF DANGERS, AND HE WOULD, OFTEN DURING HIS CAREER RISK SERIOUS INJURY AND EVEN DEATH.

THE FIREMAN, SIR PHILIP SAID, WAS CONSTANTLY JUDGED BY THE PUBLIC FOR THE SPEED WITH WHICH HE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH HE COPED WITH ALL MANNER OF ACCIDENTS AND SITUATIONS, THE COMPASSION WHICH HE SHOWED TO VICTIMS, AND GENERALLY, FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE REACTED TO THE DEMANDS MADE ON HIM.

+BUT A FIREMAN'S LOT IS ALSO A REWARDING ONE FOR HE DEVOTES HIS WORKING LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MEN.

/+THAT IS .....

+THAT IS WHY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SO MANY LONG SERVING OFFICERS ON ITS ESTABLISHMENT,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

IN PRESENTING LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO 109 OFFICERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT THE SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION THIS AFTERNOON, SIR PHILIP SAID, +THE MEDALS AND CLASPS REPRESENTED 2 300 YEARS OF GOOD CONDUCT AND LOYAL SERVICE.+

THE PRESENTATION, SIR PHILIP SAID, GAVE HIM THE CHANCE TO SPEAK BRIEFLY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADMIRABLE WAY IN WHICH IT CARRIED OUT ITS WORK.

+IN ANY COMMUNITY, THE FIREMAN PERFORMS AN ESSENTIAL DUTY WHICH REQUIRES SKILL, TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, DETERMINATION, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND COURAGE OF A HIGH ORDER. HIS ROLE IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG,+ SIR PHILIP STRESSED.

SIR PHILIP WAS LATER PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR ROBERT HOLMES, WITH AN ALBUM OF PICTURES TAKEN DURING SIR PHILIP'S VISIT TO THE FIFTH ALARM FIRE AT ABERDEEN LAST MONTH.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, IN REPLY TO PRESS QUESTIONS CONCERNING CIVIL SERVANTS ARRANGEMENTS HE MENTIONED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PHILIP SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED ABOUT THE SO-CALLED LOCALISATION AND ABOUT RECRUITMENT POLICY, AND THAT THESE WERE IN PARAGRAPHS 31 TO 34 OF HIS SPEECH.

+YOU READ IT. IT'S VERY CLEAR,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION CONCERNING HIS LETTER TO CIVIL SERVANTS, SIR PHILIP SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER TO ALL CIVIL SERVANTS AFTER THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED, EXPLAINING THE AGREEMENT AND ASKING THEM TO READ THE WHITE PAPER CAREFULLY.

SINCE THEN, +MANY, MANY CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATIONS AND MANY INDIVIDUAL CIVIL SERVANTS+ HAD PUT IN REPRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS, HE SAID.

+I SIMPLY SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN IMPLICATIONS FOR EXPATRIATES IN THE AGREEMENT AND THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

+AND CLEARLY SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. BUT YOU KNOW, IT IS EARLY DAYS YET. WE HAVE GOT 12 TO 13 YEARS TO GO BEFORE 1997,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

----0----

/7 .....

MANUFACTURING STILL BEDROCK OF ECONOMY

* * * *

MANUFACTURING WOULD REMAIN THE BEDROCK ON WHICH THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WAS BUILT AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRIALISTS, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE DRAFT SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH DEVELOPMENT COULD CONTINUE WELL IN THE NEXT CENTURY,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IS DRAWN UP IN TERMS WHICH GUARANTEE THAT A FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH HERE - TERMS WHICH ARE SPECIFIED WITH A CLARITY THAT SHOULD GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE MOST FAINT HEARTED BUSINESSMAN. WHAT BETTER CONDITIONS COULD ANY INVESTOR EXPECT?+ HE SAID.

MR YAXLEY WAS SPEAKING TO THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG.

THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD REMAINED ONE OF ALLOWING MARKET FORCES TO RUN OUR INDUSTRY AND OUR OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

+IT HAS NEVER SOUGHT TO INTERVENE IN DECISIONS ON WHAT TYPE OF INDUSTRY SHOULD BE SET UP HERE OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF PRIVATE BUSINESS INVESTMENT.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S PRAGMATIC AND LIBERAL APPROACH HAS WORKED EXTREMELY WELL, AND HONG KONG'S RESILIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY HAVE TIME AND AGAIN ENABLED ITS INDUSTRIES TO COPE WITH ALL KINDS OF PRESSURE SUCH AS INCREASING COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, RISING PRODUCTION AND LABOUR COSTS, STRINGENT QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, AND NOT LEAST, STAGNATION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.

+THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN A DIVERSIFICATION FROM TEXTILES AND GARMENTS TO PLASTICS, TOYS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, ELECTRONICS, OPTICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND OTHER MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS WHICH CARRY A HIGHER ADDED VALUE,+ HE SAID.

TO MAKE THE POLICY WORK IN PRACTICE AND REACT IN A POSTIVE WAY TO THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SIXTIES SET UP A SERIES OF STATUTORY BODIES TO PROVIDE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY. THESE BODIES INCLUDED THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

/IN THE .....

IN THE SEVENTIES, THE GOVERNMENT FACED A GROWING DEMAND FOR LAND, AND RECOGNISED THAT SPECIAL MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO CATER FOR THE PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY. A SPECIAL INDUSTRIES POLICY WAS THUS AGREED TO ACCOMMODATE LAND AND CAPITAL INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, BRINGING NEW AND SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SOPHISTICATED PROCESSES TO HONG KONG.

SPECIAL PRIVATE TREATY TERMS WERE AGREED BECAUSE THE FIRMS INVOLVED WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPETE ON THE OPEN MARKET FOR LAND AGAINST COMPETITORS LOOKING FOR MUCH MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THIS POLICY WAS AUGMENTED BY THE FORMATION OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION.

FACED WITH CHANGING TIMES, THE CORPORATION REALISED RECENTLY THAT SOME OF ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS WERE NO LONGER APPROPRIATE AND TOOK STEPS EARLIER THIS YEAR TO LIBERALISE THE SELECTION CRITERIA, THE TERMS OF LEASES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF LAND PREMIA. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A MUCH GREATER INTEREST IN THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THESE TWO ESTATES HAVE TO OFFER.

BECAUSE OF INCREASING QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING EXPORTS, AND INCREASING COMPETITION FROM HONG KONG'S NEIGHBOURS, THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION IN 1977, TO ADVISE WHETHER DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, COULD BE FACILITATED BY THE MODIFICATION OF EXISTING POLICIES OR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICIES.

THIS COMMITTEE MADE A SERIES OF PROPOSALS WHICH WERE NOW IN VARIOUS STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION, HE SAID.

THREE AREAS WERE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE FIRST AREA WAS THE NEED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES. POSITIVE ACTION TAKEN TO DATE INCLUDED:

* THE PLANNING OF A GOVERNMENT LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SYSTEM AS PART OF AN IMPROVED AND MORE CLEARLY INDEPENDENT RANGE OF QUALITY CERTIFICATION SERVICES ;

* THE OPENING OF A GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY WHICH TOOK PLACE IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR ;

* THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE MICROPROCESSOR DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY IN THE HKPC TO PROMOTE THE APPLICATION OF MICROPROCESSORS IN INDUSTRY ;

/* THE PROVISION .....

* THE PROVISION OF FUNDS AMOUNTING TO $4 MILLION AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC FOR RESEARCH INTO VARIOUS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FABRICATION AND USE OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AND THE COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

THE SECOND REQUIREMENT WAS FOR THE EXPANSION AND CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING. THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING. THE V.T.C. WOULD BE ESTABLISHING THREE NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE EXISTING ONES AND HAD SET UP TWO INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEXES, HE SAID.

THIRD, THERE WAS THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO PLAN, MONITOR AND ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON VARIOUS PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

----o----

BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION 'FAIRLY STAGNANT, BUT VARIED'

*****

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES REMAINED FAIRLY STAGNANT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, THOUGH THE PERFORMANCE VARIED AMONG DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984 WAS $8 390 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DECLINE OF TWO PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 0.9 PER CENT ON THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984 WAS $5 807 MILLION, GIVING AN INDEX OF 88.1 (WITH THE QUARTER AVERAGE OF 1982 = 100).

AS DISTINCT FROM THE FIGURE ON CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS, THE FIGURES FOR MAIN CONTRACTORS ARE FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF DOUBLE-COUNTING CONSTRUCTION VALUE DUE TO THE SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984 WAS $4 731 MILLION, WHICH WAS 6.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 6.6 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. A DECLINE WAS RECORDED IN THE OUTPUT VALUE OF PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS, IN PARTICULAR THAT OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

/PUBLIC SECTOR .....

PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS REFER TO THOSE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ON TRANSPORT FACILITIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DECLINED IN ACTIVITY LEVEL IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984 WHILE A FEW OTHERS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS SAW AN INCREASE OF 2.7 PER CENT IN THE VALUE OF OUTPUT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER, THOUGH THIS WAS STILL SLIGHTLY BELOW THE LEVEL IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

THE OUTPUT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS CONTINUED TO RISE. ITS VALUE, AT $1 502 MILLION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, WAS THE HIGHEST QUARTERLY FIGURE RECORDED SINCE THE START OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY IN 1983.

IN OUTPUT VALUE TERM, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 8.7 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984 OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR. DESPITE THIS INCREASE, THE VALUE OF OUTPUT OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WAS STILL WAY BELOW THAT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL AND STORAGE BUILDINGS CONTINUED TO FALL SUBSTANTIALLY, SO THAT THE VALUE, AT $207 MILLION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, WAS THE LOWEST QUARTERLY FIGURE RECORDED SINCE THE START OF THE SURVEY.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN THE +REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, SECOND QUARTER 1984+ RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY REPORT IS ON SALE AT $2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT CENTRE, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-7224490.

---0---

/11 .....

MORE TIME SPENT ON LEISURE

* * *

MORE TIME WAS BEING SPENT BY HONG KONG PEOPLE ON LEISURE ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

AS A RESULT, ALL SORTS OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PURSUITS HAD SPRUNG UP IN RECENT YEARS, MR BRAY SAID, OPENING THE 1984 HONG KONG BOAT SHOW AT THE CLUB MARINA COVE, HO CHUNG IN SAI KUNG.

MR BRAY SAID THAT BOATING IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER WAS AMONG THE MORE POPULAR ACTIVITIES, AND THAT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLEASURE CRAFT HAD DOUBLED AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER IN 1976.

THIS DID NOT INCLUDE THE MASSES OF PLEASURE CRAFT THAT DID NOT HAVE TO BE REGISTERED, LIKE SAILING DINGHIES OR WINDSURFERS, HE SAID.

WORKERS' TIME OFF HAD INCREASED SINCE 1976, SO THAT TODAY THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF DAY WEEK WAS VERY WIDESPREAD.

+A GOOD DEAL OF THE INCREASED WEALTH GENERATED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY ITS PEOPLE NOT IN INCREASED WAGES BUT IN INCREASED LEISURE,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY NOTED THAT OVER 30 EXHIBITORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH BOATING WERE AT THE SHOW.

----o----

SAFETY SEMINAR FOR TOP MANAGEMENT

* * *

AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SEMINAR FOR TOP MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 13 (THURSDAY) AT THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL.

THE ANNUAL SEMINAR, INTRODUCED FOUR YEARS AGO, IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROMOTION ORGANISING SUB-COMMITTEE.

MR K.Y. TONGSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, PARTICIPATION WOULD BE INVITED FROM NEIGHBOURING PLACES TO FACILITATE A WIDER EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON WORK SAFETY.

HE SAID THE SEMINAR HAD ACHIEVED REMARKABLE RESULTS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, MAKING MORE TOP MANAGEMENT AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AT WORK.

/THIS YEAR .....

THIS YEAR ADVICE WOULD BE OFFERED ON HOW TO ADOPT A RESPONSIBLE AND YET PRACTICAL, APPROACH TO MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, HE SAID.

HE SAID A MAJOR THEME THIS YEAR WOULD BE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROMOTION, WHICH SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE TARGET PARTICIPANTS -- TOP PERSONNEL OF LARGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE OPENED BY MR J.N. HENDERSON, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, MR J.D.G. HAMMER, WILL BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF THE SEMINAR.

AMONG OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS ARE MR ALLEN LEE PENG-FEI, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MR MICHAEL N. SOMERVILLE, CHAIRMAN OF THE INSURANCE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SEMINAR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT 3-688111, EXT. 454.

----o----

JOCKEY CLUB CHIEF TO BUY FIRST CENTENARY STAMPS

*****

THE FIRST SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS MARKING THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL BE PURCHASED BY THE CLUB'S CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL SANDBERG, AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT 7.45 AM, ON THE ISSUE DAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

MR SANDBERG WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR HUGH ARDLEY.

IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUE OF A SPECIAL FIRST DAY COVER AND THE FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS, THE POST OFFICE WILL ALSO ISSUE A SOUVENIR SHEET.

AS ALL POST OFFICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CROWDED ON THAT DAY, ADDITIONAL SPECIAL COUNTERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

POST OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND

GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HENNESSY ROAD, MORRISON HILL, NORTH POINT, QUEEN'S ROAD, AND SHEUNG WAN.

/POST OFFICES .....

[Typographical errors in the original document]

POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES

KOWLOON CENTRAL, CHEUNG SHA WAN, GILLIES AVENUE, KOWLOON CITY, KWUN TONG, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, TSIM SHA TSUI, TSUEN WAN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXTRA STAFF WOULD BE ON DUTY AT MOST POST OFFICES ON THAT DAY, BUT THAT THERE WOULD STILL BE QUEUES FORMING.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC +TO SHOW THEIR USUAL TOLERANCE, AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO TRANSACT THEIR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS ON THE DAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE DATE.+

----o----

ANTI-NARCOTICS DRIVE GETS GOOD RESPONSE

*****

THE +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+ HAS DRAWN GOOD RESPONSE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A TOTAL OF 143 TEAMS, COMPRISING 1 144 STUDENTS IN SENIOR AND JUNIOR DIVISIONS FROM 84 SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PARTICIPATED IN A QUALIFYING QUIZ CONTEST AND A POSTER AND SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION.

THE MOVEMENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND COMMERCIAL RADIO.

WINNING TEAMS OF THE DESIGN COMPETITION WERE SELECTED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS.

THE ADJUDICATORS WERE: MR DERICK PAO, LECTURER AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN; MR ISAAC CHOW, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY IN THE NARCOTICS DIVISION; MRS BETTY SHUM, PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES; AND MRS MARGARET MAN, INSPECTOR (ART AND CRAFT) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE WINNING TEAMS WILL NEXT JOIN AN ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION, THE WINNERS OF WHICH WILL THEN TAKE PART IN LYRIC WRITING AND SINGING COMPETITIONS, TELEMATCH GAMES AND EXHIBITION STALL DESIGN.

MARKS SCORED IN THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS WILL BE TOTALLED UP, AND THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE IN EACH DIVISION WILL BE THE CHAMPION.

THE PRIZE WILL BE A LASER 3 000 COMPUTER, WORTH ABOUT $6 000, FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE CHAMPION TEAM.

THE ANTI-DRUG COMPETITION AIMS TO MAKE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A SERIES OF ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES.

----o----

/14 .....

ERUCIC ACID IN FOOD DUE FOR CONTROL

* * * *

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED PEOPLE IN FOOD TRADE THAT THE REGULATION GOVERNING THE CONCENTRATIONS OF ERUCIC ACID IN OIL AND ANY FOOD CONTAINING OIL WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR.

THE REGULATION IS PART OF THE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN FOOD REGULATIONS WHICH WAS ENACTED IN 1983 AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH HEALTH AUTHORITIES ABROAD AND LOCAL TRADERS, SAID A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

HOWEVER, A GRACE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WAS GIVEN TO ALLOW TRADERS TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW REGULATION.

+AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1985, IT SHALL BE A CONTRAVENTION OF THE REGULATION TO IMPORT, CONSIGN, DELIVER, MANUFACTURE OR SELL FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ANY OIL OR FAT OR ANY FOOD WITH ADDED OIL OR FAT WHICH CONTAINS MORE THAN FIVE PER CENT ERUCIC ACID BY WEIGHT OF THEIR FATTY ACID CONTENT.

+HEALTH STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION BY TAKING SAMPLES AT BOTH IMPORTING STAGE AND RETAIL OUTLETS FOR LABORATORY TESTS TO ASCERTAIN THAT THERE ARE NO CONTRAVENTIONS,+ HE SAID.

OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10 000 AND SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN FOOD REGULATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

----0----

$347 MILLION IN PUBLIC HOUSING TENDERS APPROVED

* * * * *

THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME WAS GIVEN A SHOT IN THE ARM AS YET ANOTHER BATCH OF TENDERS TOTALLING OVER $347 MILLION WERE ACCEPTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE TODAY.

THEY ARE FOR A VARIETY OF WORKS RANGING FROM CONSTRUCTION OF RENTAL PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS TO NEW ESTATE BLOCKS TO MAINTENANCE ON A NUMBER OF EXISTING HOUSING ESTATES, AS WELL AS IMPROVEMENTS TO SQUATTER AREAS.

ALSO INCLUDED IS A TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A COMPUTER AIDED DRAUGHTING AND DESIGN SYSTEM FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL HELP ACCELERATE THE PUBLIC HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE.

----0----

/15 .....

FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT LIBRARY OPENS TOMORROW

* * * *

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY, THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT LIBRARY, WILL COME INTO SERVICE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

SITUATED AT 5 PUI CHING ROAD, HO MAN TIN, THE 12-STOREY LIBRARY HAS A TOTAL AREA OF MORE THAN 4 000 SQUARE METRES. IT INCLUDES AN ADULT LENDING LIBRARY, A JUNIOR LENDING LIBRARY, A QUICK REFERENCE COLLECTION, A NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS SECTION, A STUDENTS' STUDY ROOM AND AN EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ROOM.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE LIBRARY WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING WATERLOO ROAD LIBRARY.

UPON FULL COMPLETION IN MID-1985, THE LIBRARY WILL HAVE A BASIC STOCK OF 200 000 BOOKS, 400 CURRENT LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR READERS OF VARIOUS INTERESTS AND AGE GROUPS. IN ADDITION, THE AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 5 000 ITEMS OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL.

THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY WILL ALSO HAVE STACK ACCOMMODATION FOR THE POOL STOCK FOR SMALL STATIC LIBRARIES AND THE RESERVE COLLECTION FOR DISTRICT LIBRARIES IN KOWLOON.

OPENING HOURS OF THE ADULT LENDING LIBRARY ARE FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM AND THOSE OF THE JUNIOR LENDING LIBRARY ARE FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON WEEKDAYS. BOTH LIBRARIES ARE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THEY WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAYS.

- - - - o - - - -

FESTIVAL TREAT FOR ELDERLY

* * *

A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL OF THE CARITAS CENTRE IN CENTRAL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING, TO MARK THE OPENING OF 6TH CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY.

MORE THAN 500 ELDERLY PEOPLE, ALL OVER 60, WILL BE TREATED TO A TWO-HOUR ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME, STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

THE THEME OF THE SHOW IS +HARMONIOUS GATHERING OF THE ELDERLY AND THE YOUTH+ WHICH EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTEGRATION AND HARMONY OF A FAMILY.

/THE ENTERTAINMENT .....

THE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES WILL FEATURE A LION DANCE, CHOIR SINGING, CHINESE FOLK DANCING, A MUSICAL DRAMA, A CANTONESE OPERA, MARTIAL ART PERFORMANCES AND A LUCKY DRAW.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES, SEVEN ELDERLY CENTRES AND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS.

----o----

GOODWILL VISITS TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS

* * *

A GROUP OF 120 ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL PAY DOOR-TO-DOOR GOODWILL VISITS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO SOME 2 000 ELDERLY RESIDENTS LIVING IN SHA TIN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THESE GOODWILL CITIZENS, FROM NINE HOSTELS AND SOCIAL CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT, WILL CHAT WITH THEM AND HELP THEM READ AND WRITE LETTERS.

THE IDEA OF THE VISITS CAME FROM THE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ELDERLY WHILE COORDINATION WORK IS BEING DONE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE. THE PROGRAMME IS FUNDED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRAMME TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LUNG HANG COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHA TIN, AT 10 AM.

----o----

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ON DISPLAY AT EDINBURGH PLACE

* * *

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL STAGE AN OUTDOOR DISPLAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE +CAREERS '85 EXHIBITION+ AT EDINBURGH PLACE OUTSIDE THE CITY HALL ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18) STARTING AT 10 AM.

THE EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OPERATIONS, AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A DRUG DETECTION DOG SHOW AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF WALK-THROUGH METAL DETECTOR AND DETECTION OF +DISCOLOURISED+ INDUSTRIAL DIESEL OIL.

IN ADDITION, CUSTOMS LAUNCHES WILL BE BERTHED ALONGSIDE QUEEN'S PIER FOR VISITS BY THE PUBLIC.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, WILL OPEN THE EXHIBITION.

----o----

/17 .....

RECREATION AREA FOR BUTTERFLY BEACH

* * * *

A $15-MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR WORK TO START ON PHASE ONE OF A PROJECT THAT WILL TRANSFORM A 9.2-HECTARE SITE AT BUTTERFLY BEACH IN TUEN MUN INTO A MAJOR RECREATIONAL AREA.

THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

IT WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE, FOOTWAYS AND THE CENTRAL PART OF AN EXTENSIVE BEACHSIDE PROMENADE.

THE RECREATIONAL AREA WILL INCLUDE AN OPEN-AIR FOOD CENTRE, A REFRESHMENT KIOSK, A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA, SITTING-OUT AREA AND AN AMPHITHEATRE-TYPE VENUE FOR OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES. THERE WILL ALSO BE A GARDEN WITH A LAGOON AND CHINESE-STYLE BRIDGES AND PAVILION.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A BUS TERMINUS AND PARKING SPACES FOR CARS AND COACHES, A SERVICE BUILDING, A PERMANENT REFUSE COLLECTION POINT, TOILETS AND A POLICE REPORTING CENTRE.

THE FACILITIES WILL ALL BE INTERCONNECTED BY A COMPREHENSIVE FOOTWAY SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE LIGHTED AND LANDSCAPED.

PHASE ONE OF THE PROJECT WILL COVER ONE THIRD OF THE PROPOSED RECREATION AREA AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1985.

WORK ON PHASE TWO, WHICH INCLUDES A BARBECUE AREA, A BUTTERFLY GARDEN, A PALM GARDEN, CAMP SITES AND A SOCCER PITCH, IS EXPECTED TO START IN 1986.

ON COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT BY THE END OF 1987, THE SITE WILL BE A MAJOR RECREATIONAL CENTRE IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN AND WILL SERVE MAINLY RESIDENTS OF MELODY GARDENS, SIU SHAN COURT, WU KING AND BUTTERFLY ESTATES.

----o----

/18 .....

SEMINARS ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION

* * * * *

TWO SERIES OF HALF-DAY SEMINARS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER TO MARCH 1985.

ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, THESE SEMINARS ARE INTENDED TO UPDATE TEACHERS ON MODERN TRENDS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM DESIGN, EVALUATION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND TECHNIQUES IN EXERCISE IN SCHOOL SITUATIONS.

THE SEMINARS WILL INCLUDE BRIEF TALKS AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS. ONE SERIES WILL CENTRE ON THE TEACHING OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND THE OTHER ON THE TEACHING OF PHYSICAL FITNESS.

THE FIRST SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 6, AT LIU PO SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE, LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

----o----