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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING TO BE TESTED 1

NO CUT-BACK IN PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING, GOVERNOR SAYS 4

REFLECTING VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES TO BE REQUIRED 6

URBAN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 7

FIRST DB BY-ELECTIONS IN MAY 8

NUMBER OF TB CASES ABATING 9

SPONSORS PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION 10

1983 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP 11

SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL 13

GRAVE SWEEPERS URGED TO PREVENT HILL FIRES 13

LO WU STATION ROAD CLOSED FOR CHING MING FESTIVAL 14

NT GRAVES DUE FOR EXHUMATION 14

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI WO PING 15

NEW JUNK BAY LINK ROADS PLANNED 16

LAND RECLAMATION PLANNED AT TUEN MUN 16

LABOUR LAW OFFENCES 16

FIRING PRACTICE WARNING 17

ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING TO BE TESTED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT, TODAY ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO TEST A SYSTEM OF ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING THAT COULD CHANGE THE FACE OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG.

PROPOSALS FOR A PILOT STAGE TO BE SET UP WERE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL LAST WEEK AND THE NECESSARY FUNDS WERE APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TWO DAYS AGO.

IF A DECISION IS TAKEN SUBSEQUENTLY TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SYSTEM, HONG KONG WILL BE A WORLD PIONEER IN TACKLING ROAD CONGESTION BY THIS METHOD.

THE OBJECT OF ROAD PRICING IS, BY SETTING CHARGES FOR THE USE OF ROADS AT BUSY LOCATIONS AT PEAK HOURS, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRIPS AND THUS TO REDUCE CONGESTION AND FACILITATE SATISFACTORY TRAFFIC FLOW. GOODS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES CAN REAP THE BENEFITS OF BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING SERIOUS CONGESTION, AS CAN PRIVATE MOTORISTS ACCORDING TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PAY.

+CHARGING FOR THE USE OF A ROAD, THEREFORE, DOES NOT PREVENT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM OWNING A VEHICLE, NOR FROM USING IT,+ MR SCOTT POINTED OUT. +IT LEAVES HIM TO CHOOSE, ON A FINANCIAL BASIS, WHEN AND WHERE TO USE IT, AND TO COMPARE IT WITH OTHER MEANS OF TRAVELLING.+

THE SYSTEM INVOLVES THE FITTING OF ALL VEHICLES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH MAY NOT BE CHARGED, WITH AN ELECTRONIC NUMBER PLATE (ENP) ABOUT THE SIZE OF A VIDEO CASSETTE TAPE. IT IS DESIGNED SO THAT IT IS SIMPLE TO FIT, ROBUST AND TAMPER-PROOF.

UNDER THE ROAD SURFACE AT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, ELECTRONIC LOOPS ARE BURIED WHICH BROADCAST A BEAM AT THE ELECTRONIC NUMBER PLATE OF ANY VEHICLE PASSING OVER IT. THE ENP RETURNS TO THE LOOP ENCODED INFORMATION ABOUT THE VEHICLE WHICH IS TRANSMITTED TO A CENTRAL COMPUTER, TOGETHER WITH THE TIME AND DATE.

THE APPROPRIATE FEE IS RECORDED ON THE VEHICLE'S ACCOUNT AND BILLS ARE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT MONTHLY. CHARGES CAN VARY FROM NIL UPWARDS DEPENDING ON WHERE AND WHEN A DRIVER USES HIS VEHICLE. THE SYSTEM IS SIMILAR TO THAT OPERATED BY UTILITY COMPANIES, AND IF A DRIVER WISHES TO QUERY HIS ACCOUNT HE MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED STATEMENT OF EVERY CHARGE.

AT EACH CHARGING POINT WHERE A LOOP IS LOCATED THERE IS A DISPLAY UNIT SHOWING THE CURRENT CHARGE FOR THAT POINT AND FOR PARTICULAR TYPES OF VEHICLES.

/AT A .....

AT A SELECTED NUMBER OF KEY LOCATIONS, CAMERAS AUTOMATICALLY PHOTOGRAPH VEHICLES WITH DEFECTIVE OR IMPROPERLY OPERATING ENPS, AND APPROPRIATE ACTION IS TAKEN. THE SYSTEM CAN DETECT VEHICLES ON THE ROAD WITH OVERDUE ACCOUNTS AS WELL AS CASES OF FRAUD AND VANDALISM.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER IMPORTANT ADDED ADVANTAGES OF THIS MONITORING SYSTEM:

(A) IT PROVIDES MORE ACCURATE REAL-TIME INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES, ALLOWING FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF THESE OPERATIONS TO BE IMPROVED;

(B) THE POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT QUICKER AND BE BETTER ABLE TO LOCATE STOLEN CARS AND VEHICLES USED IN CRIMES;

(C) TRAFFIC SURVEYS CAN BE CARRIED OUT VIRTUALLY INSTANTLY AND IN GREATER DETAIL THAN IS NOW POSSIBLE;

(D) TRAFFIC INFORMATION BROADCASTS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION WILL BE RIGHT UP TO THE MINUTE; AND

(E) TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEMES AND TRAFFIC SIGNALLING CAN BE ADJUSTED AT SHORT NOTICE, FOR EXAMPLE WHEN PRIORITY FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES IS REQUIRED.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT WHEN THE SEVERE FISCAL RESTRAINTS TO CURB VEHICLE GROWTH WERE ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE THE MEASURES WERE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH A CRITICAL SITUATION, THEY WERE ONLY A SHORT-TERM ANSWER AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE URGENT PROBLEM OF ROAD CONGESTION.

+IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE GOVERNMENT CARRIED OUT AN EXHAUSTIVE EXAMINATION OF VARIOUS OPTIONS INCLUDING RESTRICTING THE IMPORT OF CARS AND CONTINUING TO INCREASE TAXES AND LICENCE FEES. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THEM INADEQUATE AND GENERALLY UNFAIR, AS WELL AS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE POLICY OBJECTIVE.+

THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY REPORT OF 1976 DESCRIBED ROAD PRICING AS +POTENTIALLY PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORM OF RESTRAINT+, AND MR SCOTT SAID HIS PARTICULAR CONCERN DURING A RECENT FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS TO CONFIRM THAT THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY EXISTED AND THAT OTHER QUESTIONS SUCH AS ENFORCEMENT, ACCOUNTING, PRICING ASSESSMENT, LEGAL ISSUES AND INTEGRATION WITH OTHER SYSTEMS COULD BE ANSWERED SATISFACTORILY.

THE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT WAS INVALUABLE IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY, HE SAID.

/MR SCOTT .....

MR SCOTT SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE A PILOT STAGE BECAUSE THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE THE SYSTEM COULD BE TAKEN ONLY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT THE TECHNOLOGICAL ELEMENTS HAD BEEN FULLY TESTED ON SITE, THAT THE TRANSPORT BENEFITS WERE PROVEN AND THAT THE SYSTEM COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND OPERATED SATISFACTORILY.

AT PRESENT THE INTENTION IS TO CHARGE PRIVATE VEHICLES ONLY, BECAUSE THESE ARE THE LEAST EFFICIENT USERS OF ROAD SPACE. WHETHER ANY OTHER VEHICLES, SUCH AS GOODS VEHICLES, SHOULD PAY, AND WHAT THE LEVEL OF CHARGES GENERALLY SHOULD BE, WILL BE WORKED OUT DURING THE PILOT STAGE.

THE PILOT STAGE, WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, WILL TAKE ABOUT 21 MONTHS. THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH A FULL ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SYSTEM WILL BE TAKEN IN MID-1985, AND, IF APPROVED, ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS.

THE PILOT STAGE WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH ENPS FITTED TO ABOUT 5 000 VEHICLES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES. PRIVATE MOTORISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE INCONVENIENCED.

THE FULL SYSTEM IS ESTIMATED TO COST APPROXIMATELY $300 TO $350 MILLION TO INSTAL.

+THE MINORITY IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO USE PRIVATE VEHICLES MAY INITIALLY SEE IT AS A FURTHER FINANCIAL RESTRAINT, BUT I HOPE ON REFLECTION THEY WILL ACCEPT THE FAIRNESS OF THE SYSTEM BECAUSE THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO PAY WILL TRAVEL MORE FREELY BECAUSE ALL TRAFFIC WILL TRAVEL MORE FREELY,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WOULD BE VERY SIGNIFICANT. FOR INSTANCE:

(A) FUEL CONSUMPTION WOULD BE REDUCED;

(B) VEHICLE OPERATING COSTS WOULD DROP;

(C) POLLUTION WOULD BE REDUCED, PARTICULARLY AS MOST FUMES FROM MOTOR EXHAUSTS OCCUR IN SLOW MOVING TRAFFIC;

(D) THE ACCIDENT RATE, INVOLVING BOTH VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS, SHOULD DROP; AND

(E) DRIVERS WOULD SUFFER LESS FRUSTRATION.

IN THE LONG TERM, MR SCOTT SAID, FURTHER BENEFITS COULD ACCRUE FROM THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ASSESS THE LEVEL AND PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, WHEN TRAFFIC FLOWS AND MIXES CAN BE CONTROLLED.

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NO CUT-BACK IN PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING, GOVERNOR SAYS

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THERE HAS BEEN NO CUT-BACK IN PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS EVENING.

SIR EDWARD SAID NEW ENGINEERING PROJECTS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO START IN 1983-84 INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS PHASE ONE OF STAGE THREE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FROM FAN KAM ROAD TO LOK MA CHAU, FURTHER WORKS AT JUNK BAY AND THE TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE AND ITS APPROACHES.

SIR EDWARD WAS SPEAKING AS PATRON AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS. HE SAID THIS MONEY WAS BEING SPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS EVEN THOUGH HONG KONG MIGHT BE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES.

SIR EDWARD SAID VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE INDUSTRIES ON WHICH HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS BASED REQUIRED ENGINEERS, EITHER DIRECTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL PROCESS OR IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING OF ITS PRODUCTS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT HALF OF THE ENGINEERING WORKS CARRIED OUT IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD AND EMPLOYED SEVERAL HUNDRED ENGINEERS.

+IT CAN THUS BE SAID THAT YOUR PROFESSION IS IMPORTANT TO THE LIVES OF ALL OF US,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY ENGINEERING WOULD NOT SLACKEN, AND INDEED, OUGHT TO INCREASE, IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL.

ON ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT GOOD ENGINEERING STARTED IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND WOULD BE SPENDING $5.7 BILLION ON EDUCATION WITH $1.3 BILLION ON THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

+APART FROM INCREASING THE ENROLMENT OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE POLYTECHNIC -- AND REMEMBER THAT ABOUT 600 ENGINEERING STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE THIS SUMMER -- THERE ARE PLANS WELL ADVANCED FOR A SECOND POLYTECHNIC,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

AS ESSENTIAL BACK-UP FOR ENGINEERS, THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WOULD PRODUCE OVER 5 250 ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS AND CRAFTSMEN THIS YEAR.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WAS IN FULL OPERATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY HAD JUST OPENED A SECOND TRAINING CENTRE, HE ADDED.

/THE GOVERNMENT .....

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO ANXIOUS TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO TAKE UP ENGINEERING, AND ITS RELATED TECHNICAL SUPPORT OCCUPATIONS AS A PROFESSION, BECAUSE HONG KONG WOULD NOT PROSPER IN THIS MODERN WORLD IF THEY DID NOT.

SIR EDWARD TOLD THE ENGINEERS THAT +NO PROFESSION IS COMPLETE UNTO ITSELF+.

+EACH PROFESSION MUST SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF WHICH IT FORMS PART. AND THAT COMMUNITY HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN WHAT YOU DO AND HOW YOU DO IT. IT IS THE COMMUNITY WHO PAY FOR OUR PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES AND IT IS THEY WHO WILL BENEFIT OR SUFFER FROM THE PRODUCTS OF THOSE PROGRAMMES.

+THE COMMUNITY TOO WILL PURCHASE AND USE THE PRODUCTS WHICH YOU PLAN, DESIGN AND PRODUCE. I TRUST, THEREFORE THAT YOUR INSTITUTION WILL ALWAYS KEEP AN OPEN EAR TO THE VIEWS OF THAT COMMUNITY,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE ENGINEERS HAD RESPONIBILITIES IN OTHER DIRECTIONS AS WELL, SIR EDWARD SAID.

THERE WERE MANY ASPECTS OF ENGINEERING WHICH HAD THEIR DANGERS BOTH FOR THE WORKFORCE AND FOR THE PUBLIC, WHETHER IN THE USE OF MACHINERY ON THE FACTORY FLOOR, THE CONTROL OF SITES AND THE ERECTION OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES DURING CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS OR DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH BUILDING.

WHILE LEGISLATION AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS COULD MEET PART OF THE PROBLEM, IN THE LAST RESORT IT WAS THE EXERCISE OF PRUDENCE AND GOOD MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE, OFTEN ON THE PART OF ENGINEERS, WHICH COULD HELP KEEP SUCH OPERATIONS SAFE.

THERE WAS ALSO LEGISLATION EITHER IN FORCE OR UNDER CONSIDERATION TO COVER VARIOUS TYPES OF POLLUTION FROM DUST, CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES OR NOISE.

+ENGINEERING SKILL, GOOD MANAGEMENT, AND IMAGINATIVE SELECTION OF EQUIPMENT CAN DO MUCH TO COMPLEMENT THAT LEGISLATION AND PREVENT POLLUTION FROM OCCURRING IN THE FIRST PLACE TO THE UNDOUBTED LONG-TERM BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROFESSION AND THE WORK OF THE INSTITUTION.

AND IT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE ENGINEERS WOULD, ON THEIR PART, RECOGNISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE PART THEY COULD PLAY IN MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS PLACE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

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REFLECTING VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES TO BE REQUIRED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT BY JUNE 1, 1985 ALL VEHICLES IN THE TERRITORY WILL NEED TO BE FITTED WITH REFLEX-REFLECTING VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER PLATES.

REGULATIONS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS REQUIREMENT ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

SUCH PLATES, WHICH HAVE A BACKGROUND COMPOSED OF THOUSANDS OF MINIATURE LENSES, REFLECT LIGHT TO ITS SOURCE, AND ARE VERY CONSPICUOUS AT NIGHT OR IN POOR VISIBILITY WHEN MOTORISTS ARE DRIVING WITH THEIR HEADLAMPS ON.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER PLANK IN THE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY BEING COORDINATED BY THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

HE ANTICIPATED VERY WORTHWHILE ROAD SAFETY BENEFITS SINCE EVEN WITH HONG KONG'S GENERALLY WELL LIT URBAN AREAS, 25 PER CENT OF ALL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE DARK WITH A FURTHER FIVE PER CENT HAPPENING AT DAWN OR DUSK.

THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES SUGGESTED THAT REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VEHICLES PARKED OR BROKEN DOWN ON POORLY LIT ROADS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE INTRODUCTION OF REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES WOULD BE PHASED, HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST PHASE ALL VEHICLES NEWLY REGISTERED ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 1983 WILL NEED REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES. IN THE SECOND PHASE ALL CURRENTLY REGISTERED VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE SWITCH TO REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES BY JUNE 1, 1985.

THE RELATIVELY BRIEF GRACE PERIOD WILL ENSURE THAT THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS OF REFLECTING PLATES ARE OBTAINED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, HAVING A GRACE PERIOD OF OVER TWO YEARS SHOULD GIVE TRADERS PLENTY OF TIME TO STOCK UP ON REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FOLLOWING ENQUIRIES WITH THE MOTOR TRADE, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT A PAIR OF REFLEX-REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES WOULD COST BETWEEN $75 AND $90.

HE HOPED THAT MOTORISTS WOULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SWITCH TO REFLECTING PLATES, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE LEGISLATION ALLOWED MOTORISTS TO FIT REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES EVEN BEFORE JUNE 1, 1983.

/HOWEVER, THE .....

HOWEVER, THE PLATES WILL NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE BRITISH SPECIFICATION FOR REFLEX-REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES, AND THE APPROPRIATE SPECIFICATION NUMBER MUST BE LEGIBLE AND PERMANENTLY MARKED ON EACH PLATE TOGETHER WITH THE NAME AND TRADE MARK OF THE PLATE'S MANUFACTURER. THE MOTOR TRADE WILL BE INFORMED OF THESE REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE REQUIREMENT APPLIED TO ALL VEHICLES, AND NOT JUST PRIVATE CARS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, MOTOR CYCLES WOULD NEED ONLY A PLATE AT THE REAR. THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FRONT NUMBER PLATE, REFLECTING OR OTHERWISE, ON MOTOR CYCLES WAS NOW ABOLISHED SINCE THERE WAS A DANGER THAT THESE PLATES COULD ACT AS A BLADE IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.

FRONT NUMBER PLATES WOULD HAVE A WHITE BACKGROUND AND REAR PLATES A YELLOW BACKGROUND, HE SAID.

THESE WERE THE MOST REFLECTIVE COLOURS, AND WOULD ENABLE A MOTORIST TO DISTINGUISH EASILY BETWEEN THE FRONT AND REAR OF A VEHICLE AT NIGHT, HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT WILL BE A FINE OF $1 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS, AND IN THE CASE OF A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION, A FINE OF $1 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

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URBAN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR HAS REAPPOINTED ONE SERVING MEMBER AND APPOINTED THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM APRIL 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE THREE NEW MEMBERS ARE MRS FONG WONG KUT-MAN, A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, MR SAMUEL WONG, A CONSULTING ENGINEER AND MR TONG KAM-BIU, A CARPENTRY WORKSHOP OPERATOR. THEIR APPOINTMENTS WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1983 TO MARCH 31, 1986.

MRS FONG WAS PREVIOUSLY A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION, PANEL OF ASSESSORS AND PERFORMING RIGHTS TRIBUNAL. SHE IS ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES (NEW TERRITORIES REGION), AGENCY FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

MR WONG, AGED 46, IS A MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOISE AND THE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING.

/MR TONG, ...

MR TONG, AGED 36, IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT WHERE HE RESIDES AND WORKS. HE HAS BEEN SERVING ON THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD SINCE 1981 AS AN APPOINTED MEMBER AND IS A MEMBER OF THE NAM SHAN AND YAU YAT CHUEN AREA COMMITTEE AND SECRETARY OF THE CHU KUO CHAI SQUATTER AREA MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE. MR TONG IS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE SQUATTER POPULATION IN SHAM SHUI PO BY VIRTUE OF HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

MR WALTER M. SULKE, WHO HAS SERVED ON THE COUNCIL SINCE 1981 AND WHOSE TERM EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 1983 TO MARCH 31, 1986. HE HAS BEEN CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR LAND SUPPLY AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

THESE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENT WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS TO 15.

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FIRST DB BY-ELECTIONS IN MAY

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BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL TWO VACANT SEATS ON THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE HELD ON MAY 12, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE TWO SEATS WERE LEFT VACANT FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF TWO INCUMBENT DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS -- MR KWAN LIM-HO OF QUARRY BAY CONSTITUENCY AND MR JOSEPH CHAN OF TIN WAN AND SHEK PAI WAN CONSTITUENCY -- TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ON MARCH 8.

THE VACANCIES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE BY-ELECTIONS -- THE FIRST SINCE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE FORMED -- WILL BEGIN ON APRIL 8 FOR TWO WEEKS.

THERE ARE 22 155 REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE QUARRY BAY CONSTITUENCY AND 9 836 IN THE TIN WAN AND SHEK PAI WAN CONSTITUENCY.

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NUMBER OF TB CASES ABATING

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CONCERTED EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE BROUGHT A DRAMATIC DROP IN THE NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE PAST YEAR, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION, DR THONG, WHO IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT, SAID STATISTICS SHOWED THAT BOTH THE NOTIFICATION RATE AND THE DEATH RATE OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR 1982 ARE THE LOWEST RECORDED IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID AN EARLIER SETBACK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS DUE TO THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAS NOW BEEN OVERCOME, AND THAT EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE ARE BACK ON COURSE WITH THE INDICES FALLING AGAIN.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS FELL FROM 7 729 IN 1981 TO 7 527 IN 1982, AND THE NOTIFICATION RATE AT 143.8 PER 100 000 POPULATION WAS THE LOWEST EVER RECORDED, HE SAID.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS ALSO FELL FROM 489 IN 1981 TO 454 IN 1982, WITH THE DEATH RATE DROPPING TO 8.7 PER 100 000 POPULATION, WHICH IS THE LOWEST IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT SINCE EARLY 1979 DURING THE INFLUX OF BOAT PEOPLE AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, SOME 5 500 CASES OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS REQUIRING TREATMENT WERE IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

THIS INFLUX HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED TO A TRICKLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST ON THE RESEARCH SIDE WAS BEING TURNED TOWARDS THE IMMUNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF TUBERCULOSIS, HE SAID.

+WORKING IN HARMONY WITH THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, OUR RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD IS PROCEEDING VERY WELL AND HONG KONG CAN BE REGARDED AS BEING IN THE FOREFRONT OF THIS EXCITING SUBJECT,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, DR THONG SAID THAT 7 527 NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES IN 1982 WITH 454 DEATHS STILL REPRESENTED A HEAVY TOLL BOTH FINANCIALLY AND WITH REGARD TO HUMAN SUFFERING.

+WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT RELAX OUR EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG SAID THE INCREASING POPULATION DENSITY COULD FACILITATE THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT, PROVIDED THAT THERE WAS NO FURTHER INCREASE IN IMPORTED CASES, STEADY PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE.

DR THONG TOLD THE ASSOCIATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED FUNDS FOR AN EXTENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM IN WAN CHAI, TO TURN THE TB INSTITUTION INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH ACUTE BEDS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE PROJECT ENVISAGED THE UPGRADING OF THE 280-BED SANATORIUM TO A 432-BED GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH PROVISION FOR THE ULTIMATE BED-CAPACITY TO BE INCREASED TO 600.

THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THREE PHASES WITH THE TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION IN 1988.

THE CAPITAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT $158-MILLION, WITH THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTING $127-MILLION AND THE REMAINING $31-MILLION TO BE RAISED BY THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION WHICH RUNS THE SANATORIUM.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF LUNG CANCER, DR THONG SAID THE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1982 WAS 1 456 COMPARED WITH 1 362 IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1981.

+THIS DISEASE THUS CONTINUES ITS INEXORABLE COURSE WITH THE NUMBER OF DEATHS INCREASING BY APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PER CENT EVERY YEAR,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ACTIVE STEPS TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM SMOKING, BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE LONG TERM AND NO EARLY AND DRAMATIC FALL IN THE NUMBER OF DEATHS COULD BE EXPECTED.

+BRONCHOGENIC CARCINOMA IS LINKED TO SMOKING AND EVENTUALLY A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF CIGARETTE SMOKING IN THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG WILL LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CASES DYING FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG.+ HE SAID.

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SPONSORS PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRAISED SPONSORING BODIES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN DEVELOPING HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LOK SIN TONG WONG CHUNG MING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON, MR LEUNG SAID SINCE 1965, THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOLLOWED ITS STATED POLICY OF EXPANDING EDUCATION THROUGH THE AIDED SCHOOL SYSTEM AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

+THIS POLICY HAD PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN POOLING RESOURCES AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVING ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXPERIENCED COMMUNITY LEADERS AND BODIES A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUNGER GENERATION,+ HE SAID.

OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORKING WELL WITH THE SPONSORING BODIES.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GRANTING FREE LAND AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MANY OF THESE BODIES TO ENABLE THEM TO BUILD NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS IN AREAS OUTSIDE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE OPERATING SCHOOLS BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT INSIDE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ONLY HAVE TO PAY THE COST OF THE NECESSARY FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AND A NOMINAL RENT.

/+RENTS AND .....

+RENTS AND RATES ARE ALSO REIMBURSED TO ALL ELIGIBLE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS.+

THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE TO SPONSORING BODIES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO THE KINDERGARTEN SECTOR SINCE LAST YEAR. FOR INSTANCE, RENTS AND RATES WERE REFUNDED TO ELIGIBLE NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS.

MR LEUNG SAID: +FOR AIDED SCHOOLS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FOOTING THE BILL FOR GENERAL RECURRENT COSTS AND MOST OF THE NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EXPENDITURE IN CARRYING OUT MAJOR REPAIRS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND IN REPLACING TEACHING EQUIPMENT FOR AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS ALL FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT+.

+AS REGARDS THE SPONSORING BODIES THEMSELVES, THEIR MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADDITION TO THAT OF SHOULDERING PART OF THE COST IN ESTABLISHING THEIR SCHOOLS, ARE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND TO PROVIDE A SERVICE IN KEEPING WITH OUR EDUCATION POLICY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING THEIR TRADITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ADDING VARIETY TO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

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1983 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ITS 4TH HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP THIS YEAR FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 14 AT ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE IN STANLEY.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MUSIC LOVERS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CAMP AND SHARE TWO WEEKS OF MUSIC MAKING WITH OTHER PROMISING YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS IN A BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT.

A RCD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT APART FROM INVITING LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS TO JOIN THE CAMP, INVITATIONS ARE ALSO EXTENDED TO OVERSEAS INSTRUMENTALISTS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING IN BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS IN A SUMMER CAMP ATMOSPHERE, THE MUSICAL CAPABILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE DEVELOPED AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE BE FOSTERED,+ HE SAID.

MUSIC TRAINING IN THE FORM OF WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, MASTER-CLASSES, HI-FI MUSIC APPRECIATION, SECTIONAL AND ORCHESTRAL REHEARSALS, ETC. WILL BE CONDUCTED BY BOTH RENOWNED LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MUSICIANS.

FOR RELAXATION DURING THE CAMP PERIOD, THERE WILL BE SPORT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SWIMMING, TRAMPOLINING, CANOEING, TENNIS, ARCHERY, FOLK DANCE, BALL GAMES AND THE LIKE.

CLIMAX OF THE MUSIC CAMP WILL BE A FINALE CONCERT SET TO BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL ON AUGUST 13.

CANDIDATES APPLYING TO JOIN THE SYMPHONY/CHINESE ORCHESTRA OF THE CAMP SHOULD BE UNDER 24 YEARS OF AGE WITH AN ATTAINED GRADE V OR ABOVE IN THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMINATION, OR EQUIVALENT, IN WESTERN ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS; OR THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IN CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE).

/CANDIDATES APPLYING .....

CANDIDATES APPLYING TO JOIN THE JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA OF THE CAMP SHOULD BE UNDER 17 YEARS OLD WITH AN ATTAINED GRADE IV IN THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMINATION OR EQUIVALENT.

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES MAY BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN AUDITION TO BE HELD IN MAY. CAMP FEE WILL BE $200, INCLUSIVE OF TUITION FEES, THREE MEALS EACH DAY AND ACCOMMODATION.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE AT :

(A) MUSIC OFFICE

(I) HEAD OFFICE	9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, 2 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG. (TEL. : 5-283257)
(II) KWUN TONG MUSIC CENTRE	3RD FLOOR, YAN HAU MANSION, 100 TING FU STREET, NGAU TAU KOK, KOWLOON. (TEL. : 3-7561328)
(III) YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE	2ND TO 3RD FLOORS, GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 138 AUSTIN ROAD, KOWLOON. (TEL. : 3-7226240)
(IV) MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE	1ST FLOOR, CAMBRIDGE COURT, 84 WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON. (TEL. : 3-7149255)
(V) TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE	2ND TO 3RD FLOORS, CHEUNG YIU BUILDING, 167-173 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES. (TEL. : 0-428127)
(VI) YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE	2ND TO 3RD FLOORS, YUEN LONG CENTRE, SAU FU STREET, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES. (TEL. : 0-750465)

(B) HEADQUARTERS, RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICES, 11TH FLOOR, WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND ALL ITS DISTRICT OFFICES.

(C) ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE, HEAD OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, 2 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15.

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SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL NEXT MONTH BE CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

SUCH SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SURVEY WILL COVER ABOUT 78 000 ESTABLISHMENTS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANT AND HOTEL SECTOR AND SERVICE SECTOR.

INFORMATION WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES IN EACH ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JANUARY - MARCH.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOW BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

RETURN ENVELOPES ARE PROVIDED TO ASSIST ESTABLISHMENTS IN MAILING BACK THEIR COMPLETED RETURNS.

RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING THE FORMS MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS 5-436551, 5-444301, 5-455661, AND 5-455668.

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GRAVE SWEEPERS URGED TO PREVENT HILL FIRES

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WITH THE CHING MING FESTIVAL ONLY A WEEK AWAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED PEOPLE GOING ON GRAVE SWEEPING TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HILL FIRES WHICH COULD BE SPARKED OFF EVEN IN DAMP WEATHER CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS SHOWED THAT MOST OF THE HILL FIRES DURING CHING MING AND CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVALS WERE CAUSED BY CARELESS PEOPLE WHO LEFT LIGHTED CANDLES, JOSS STICKS AND JOSS PAPERS UNATTENDED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ONCE AGAIN URGED THE PUBLIC TO PLACE JOSS STICKS IN METAL CONTAINERS AND TO EXTINGUISH THEM BEFORE LEAVING.

/DURING THE .....

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI WO PING

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A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TAI WO PING BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 27).

THE MEASURES ARE BEING MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLOSURE OF NAM CHEONG STREET BETWEEN CORNWALL STREET AND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD FOR FOOTBRIDGE WORK.

THEY ARE:

* TRAFFIC ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

* TRAFFIC ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SLIP ROAD WHICH LEADS TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

* SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ALONG TAI PO ROAD HEADING FOR SHAM SHUI PO AND MONG KOK WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE ALONG TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE PIPER'S HILL INTERCHANGE. THEY WILL THEN ENTER NAM CHEONG STREET NEAR YIU TUNG STREET.

* EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON CHING CHEUNG ROAD HEADING FOR SHAM SHUI PO AND MONG KOK WILL BE DIRECTED TO USE TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND VIA THE PIPER'S HILL INTERCHANGE AND WILL ENTER NAM CHEONG STREET NEAR YIU TUNG STREET.

* EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD HEADING FOR KOWLOON TONG AND THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE ALONG LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND, AND THEN PROCEED VIA FUNG MO STREET, FU MEI STREET AND JUNCTION ROAD.

* WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON CORNWALL STREET HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND VIA THE NAM CHEONG STREET ROUNDABOUT, BERWICK STREET, SHEK KIP MEI STREET, TAI PO ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD.

* WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD HEADING FOR SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TAI WOH PING ROAD, TAI PO ROAD AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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NEW JUNK BAY LINK ROADS PLANNED

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A 1 420-METRE-LONG NEW ROAD TO LINK AN EXISTING UNNAMED ROAD NEAR HONG KONG OXYGEN AND ACETYLENE COMPANY LIMITED TO SIU CHIK SHA TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE RECLAIMED LAND IN JUNK BAY NEW TOWN.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY NEW TOWN, WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS ROAD AT SIU CHIK SHA.

THE TWO ROADS WILL BE COMPLETED IN PHASES TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN EXTRANCE, AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 692 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

ANY OBJECTION MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

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LAND RECLAMATION PLANNED AT TUEN MUN

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THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR ANOTHER CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE RECLAMATION OF ABOUT 10.1 HECTARES OF LAND AT PILLAR POINT AND 1.4 HECTARES TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEA WALLS AND A BREAKWATER.

ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE THE WIDENING OF A SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD BETWEEN BUTTERFLY BEACH AND PILLAR POINT TO A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN JUNE AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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LABOUR LAW OFFENCES

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A TOTAL OF 487 PROSECUTION CASES FOR BREACHES OF LABOUR LAWS TAKEN OUT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS BY THE COURTS LAST (FEBRUARY) MONTH.

FINES IMPOSED AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN $566 150.

/MOST OF .....

MOST OF THE CASES CONCERNED BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID.

CASES CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS TOTALLED 174, WITH $337 050 IN FINES. THESE INCLUDED 56 CASES (WITH $71 000 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 83 CASES (WITH $221 500 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

CASES RELATING TO BREACHES OF THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR 271 WITH $201 650 IN FINES.

OF THE OTHER PROSECUTIONS, 12 CASES WERE RELATED TO FAILURE TO KEEP RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES, LEADING TO $6 850 IN FINES.

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FIRING PRACTICE WARNING

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR 10 DAYS IN APRIL.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE PRACTICES:

DATE	TIME
APRIL 8 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
APRIL 13 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
APRIL 14 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 15 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
APRIL 18 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 19 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 20 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 21 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 22 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
APRIL 26 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE, GCMG, MBE, AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS ON FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 1983

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was very grateful to you for your invitation to attend this your Eighth Annual Dinner and I have listened with great interest to your speech this evening.

It also gave me great pleasure last year to accept your invitation to become your patron. I hope that my acceptance of that invitation will have indicated to you the importance which the Government attaches to a progressive, enterprising, and highly qualified Engineering profession in Hong Kong. Virtually all of the industries on which Hong Kong's economy is based require engineers of one sort or another, either directly in connection with the industrial process or in the distribution and marketing of its products. The Government itself is responsible for something like half of the engineering works carried out in the construction field here and employs several hundred engineers of several varieties within the government service. It can thus be said that your profession is important to the lives of us all.

I would expect the opportunities for you to make your contribution to our economy not only to continue but to increase. We may be going through hard times, but no-one who has studied Government announcements on this subject ought to be in any doubt that although there may have been a reduction in the rate of increase in Government spending there has been no "cut-back" in public works expenditure. New engineering projects which are expected to start in 1983/84 include such items as Phase 1 of Stage 3 of the Island Eastern Corridor; the New Territories Circular Road improvements from Fan Kam Road to Lok Ma Chau,

/further works .....

further works at Junk Bay, and the Tsing Yi North Bridge and its approaches. In the private sector too, if Hong Kong is to retain its place in the world, as I am sure it will, as a major manufacturer and exporter, as a communications hub for both sea and air traffic, and as a regional provider of special services, the demand for high quality engineering will not slacken and indeed ought to increase.

It will be for you, Mr President, as a profession and an institution to maintain and improve standards. For our part, we in Government recognise that good engineering starts in the educational system. In the next financial year we will be spending 5.7 billion dollars on education with 1.3 billion on the two Universities, the Polytechnic and the Baptist College. Apart from increasing the enrolment of Engineering students in the University and the Polytechnic - and remember that about 600 engineering students will graduate this summer - there are plans well advanced for a second Polytechnic. Nor have we neglected the essential back-up which engineers need. Between them, the Polytechnic and the Technical Institutes will produce over 5 250 engineering technicians and craftsmen this year. The Vocational Training Council is now in full operation and the Construction Industry Training Authority have just opened their second Training Centre. We, like the Institution, are anxious to encourage the youth of Hong Kong to take up Engineering, and its related technical support occupations, as a profession because Hong Kong will not prosper in this modern world if they do not.

Mr President, it is not my intention this evening to lecture you on the professional aspects of engineering. There are many here this evening who are better qualified than I am to do that. But I trust you will not take it amiss if I remind you that no profession is complete unto itself. Each profession must serve the community of which it forms part. And that community has a legitimate interest in what you do and how you do it. It is the community who pay for our public works programmes and it is they who will benefit or suffer from the products of those programmes. The community too will purchase and use the products which you plan, design and produce. I trust, therefore, that your Institution will always keep an open ear to the views of that community.

/You have .....

You have responsibilities too in other directions. There are many aspects of engineering which have their dangers both for the workforce and for the public, whether it be in the use of machinery on the factory floor, the control of sites and the erection of temporary structures during civil engineering works or during the construction of high building. We have legislation and safety requirements which can meet part of the problem but in the last resort it is the exercise of prudence and good management discipline, often on the part of engineers, which can help to keep such operations safe. We have also legislation either in force or under consideration to cover various types of pollution from dust, chemical substances or noise. Engineering skill, good management, and imaginative selection of equipment can do much to complement that legislation and prevent the pollution from occurring in the first place to the undoubted long term benefit of the community as a whole.

I will, therefore, Mr President, leave you with an assurance and an expression of confidence. The assurance is that the Government does indeed attach great importance to your profession and to the work of your Institution. The expression of confidence is that you for your part will recognise your responsibilities to the community and the part you can play in making Hong Kong a better and more prosperous place for the benefit of all.

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