DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

NO CHANGE IN HK-US DOLLAR LINK : SIR DAVID 1

GOVERNOR VISITS FACTORIES 2

NOVEMBER CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES PUBLISHED 3

SURVEY ESTABLISHES NEED TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED 6

STATEMENT ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE URBAN COUNCIL 9

GUANGDONG DELEGATION VISITS EPD 9

CONTINGENCY TEXTILE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED 10

LADY WILSON OPENS FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT, FISH SHOW 12

ANNUAL CAREERS QUIZ SUSTAINS POPULARITY 13

ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN MONG KOK TO BE DEMOLISHED 14

OUTFALL PIPELINE FOR REDHILL WATER TREATMENT WORKS 14

DB MEMBERS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER 15

GALA CONCERT CLOSES BAND WEEK 15

CAS CADET CORPS TO HOLD ANNUAL CAMP 16

ANTI-NARCOTICS COMIC STRIPS COMPETITION RESULTS 16

NORTH POINT TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY 17

TENANCY SOUGHT FOR TUEN MUN SITE 17

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES EXTENDED FOR CHRISTMAS 18

URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD 19

NO CHANGE IN HK-US DOLLAR LINK : SIR DAVID

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR.

SIR DAVID WAS ASKED WHETHER THE DOLLAR WOULD BE RE-VALUED IN VIEW OF INCREASING CRITICISMS THAT THE "UNDER-VALUED" HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS INDICATED IN A REPORT BY THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD).

"IF YOU LOOK AT THE OECD REPORT, YOU WILL SEE THAT IT TENDS TO LUMP THE FOUR ASIAN DRAGONS AND MAKES IT APPEAR THAT THEY WERE ALL BUILDING UP MASSIVE TRADE SURPLUSES.

"IF YOU LOOK AT THE DETAILS YOU WILL SEE THAT THIS IS INACCURATE.

"IT'S TRUE OF TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA. IT IS NOT TRUE OF HONG KONG AND IT IS ONLY TRUE TO A SMALL EXTENT OF SINGAPORE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TWO FACTORIES IN KWAI CHUNG.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THOSE WHO LOOK AT THESE FIGURES AND MAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS SHOULD SEE HOW DIFFERENT HONG KONG IS FROM THE REST.

"WE ARE NOT BUILDING UP MASSIVE TRADING SURPLUSES. WE ARE ROUGHLY IN BALANCE," SIR DAVID ADDED.

"THERE IS THEREFORE NOT A GOOD ARGUMENT FROM A PROTECTIONIST POINT OF VIEW OF TAKING ACTION AGAINST HONG KONG BY FORCING US TO UP-VALUE OUR CURRENCY.

"INDEED, THAT SORT OF PRESSURE, LIKE ANY SORT OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURE, ON HONG KONG IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THOSE WHO OPERATE AN OPEN MARKET SYSTEM," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR OBSERVED THAT AMERICAN EXPORTS TO HONG KONG HAD INCREASED VERY RAPIDLY BY JUST UNDER 30 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

"AND THAT COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE IN THEIR EXPORTS TO THE EAST ASIAN PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE OF ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT.

"SO YOU CAN SEE AMERICAN EXPORTS TO HONG KONG ARE DOING VERY WELL, AND WE WELCOME THAT," SIR DAVID SAID.

/"THAT'S EXACTLY .....

"THAT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF THING WE HOPE AMERICA WILL DO: INCREASE EXPORTS TO HERE WHERE WE RUN A FREE TRADING SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 42 PER CENT OF BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT DESIGN TECHNOLOGY BY COMPUTER HAD IMPROVED ENORMOUSLY.

HE NOTED THAT THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE INDUSTRY SHOULD BE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH HONG KONG MUST GO IN ORDER TO KEEP AHEAD OF THE MARKET AND STAY AHEAD OF QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON OUR EXPORTS.

"IN GENERAL TERMS, OBVIOUSLY IT'S NOT YET CLEAR WHAT THE ECONOMIC FUTURE NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE LIKE. IT'LL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE ECONOMY IN THE STATES," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR SOME HARDER GOING FOR COUNTRIES AND PLACES LIKE HONG KONG, AND BE PREPARED TO RE-ADAPT AS NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

"THAT'S WHY THE SPEED OF RE-ADAPTATION, THINGS LIKE COMPUTER DESIGNING, IS SO IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG.

"IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS, THEN WE ADAPT QUICKLY. WE'RE FLEXIBLE AND WE TAKE WHATEVER OPPORTUNITIES THERE ARE FOR MAINTAINING OUR EXPORTS," SIR DAVID SAID.

----0----

GOVERNOR VISITS FACTORIES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED A TEXTILES FACTORY IN TSUEN WAN AND A KNITWEAR FACTORY IN KWAI CHUNG TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD; AND THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG; SIR DAVID TOOK A HELICOPTER TRIP TO KWAI CHUNG.

SIR DAVID FIRST WENT TO VISIT CENTRAL TEXTILES (HK) LIMITED IN TSUEN WAN WHICH PRODUCES COTTON YARNS, WOVEN FABRICS AND KNITTED FABRICS.

RECEIVED BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL TEXTILES, MR ALEX WOO, SIR DAVID WAS TAKEN TO SEE THE FACTORY'S SPINNING AND WEAVING OPERATIONS.

HE NEXT VISITED FANG BROTHERS KNITTING LIMITED IN KWAI CHUNG WHERE THEY MET THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR KENNETH FANG.

SIR DAVID TOURED THE KNITWEAR FACTORY AND WAS SHOWN THE DEMONSTRATION OF COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN AND COMPUTER-AIDED MANUFACTURE FACILITIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF KNITWEARS.

----0----

NOVEMBER CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES PUBLISHED

* * * * *

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR NOVEMBER 1987. THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCTOBER 84/SEPTEMBER 85 = 100) FOR NOVEMBER 1987 WERE 111.6 AND 111.8 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 6.2 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER NOVEMBER 1986.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE CPI(A) SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE AND THE CPI(B) INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 1987, AT 108.7 AND 108.9 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 5.2 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 1986.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 1987, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.5 PER CENT PER MONTH.

DURING NOVEMBER, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES INCREASED. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND LIVE POULTRY DECREASED.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN $2,000 AND $6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN $6,500 AND $9,999 A MONTH.

/CHANGES IN .....

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR NOVEMBER 1987 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987 AND NOVEMBER 1986, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
SECTION	INDEX FOR NOV.87	% CHANGE OVER OCT.87	% CHANGE OVER NOV.86	INDEX FOR NOV.87	% CHANGE OVER OCT.87	% CHANGE OVER NOV.86
FOODSTUFFS	108.1	-0.5	+6.7	108.8	-0.4	+6.9
HOUSING	111.2	+0.1	+4.1	108.5	+0.1	+2.7
FUEL AND LIGHT	92.4	-0.2	+3.6	93.0	-0.2	+3.5
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	117.1	+0.2	+6.1	117.6	+0.3	+6.7
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	117.8	+3.5	+6.8	119.7	+3.5	+7.3
DURABLE GOODS	113.5	+0.3	+4.8	112.6	+0.3	+4.9
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	118.5	+0.5	+6.2	118.4	+0.6	+6.6
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	117.0	+0.0*	+9.1	116.0	+0.1	+8.9
SERVICES	120.9	+0.2	+6.5	120.3	+0.3	+6.8
ALL ITEMS	111.6	+0.0*	+6.2	111.8	+0.2	+6.0

* LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1987, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND LIVE POULTRY, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH FRUIT AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

/THE EFFECT .....

THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 3.5 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF MEDICINES, JEWELLERY, TOILET REQUISITES AND COSMETICS.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR NOVEMBER 1987, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT $3.5 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; OR THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE MADE TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 115.8 IN NOVEMBER 1987, UP BY 0.7 PER CENT OVER OCTOBER 1987 AND UP BY 6.8 PER CENT OVER NOVEMBER 1986. THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT HK$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

----0----

/6 .....

SURVEY ESTABLISHES NEED TO IMPROVE
EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED

* * *

A MAJOR SURVEY ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF THIS GROUP NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED FURTHER.

THE SURVEY ALSO FOUND THAT AVAILABILITY OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SPECIAL AIDS; ENVIRONMENT AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISABLED, HAVE AFFECTED THEIR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY ARE CONTAINED IN A REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) AND RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEY - THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG - WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN AUGUST AND OCTOBER 1986 BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EMPLOYMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE RDCC, USING 3,415 DISABLED AS SAMPLE.

FIVE DISABILITY GROUPS, THE DEAF, BLIND, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND EX-MENTALLY ILL, WERE INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY.

RELEASING THE REPORT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EMPLOYMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE RDCC, MR LEE MAN-BAN, SAID THE DISABLED SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED WHERE THEIR DISABILITIES PERMITTED, TO TAKE UP JOBS AND ACHIEVE REHABILITATION AND INTEGRATION THROUGH WORK.

"EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED IN OPEN AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT.

"MORE ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THEM TO INCREASE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY AND HELP THEM SUSTAIN EMPLOYMENT," MR LEE SAID.

AMONG THE RESPONDENTS OF THE SURVEY, 35.7 PER CENT WERE IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT, (THE MAJORITY OF THEM, ABOUT 92 PER CENT WERE EMPLOYEES) AND 7.5 PER CENT WERE IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS.

THE REST OF THE SAMPLE COMPRISED UNEMPLOYED JOB-SEEKERS (9.9 PER CENT), UNEMPLOYED NON-JOB SEEKERS (22.1 PER CENT), STUDENTS (10.4 PER CENT), HOME-MAKERS (10.4 PER CENT) AND THE RETIRED (4 PER CENT).

OF THOSE EMPLOYED DISABLED, 89.4 PER CENT OF THEM WERE EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTORS AS PRODUCTION, SERVICE OR CLERICAL WORKERS.

VERY FEW OF THE DISABLED EMPLOYEES WERE ENGAGED IN PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THEM APPEARED NOT SATISFIED AND EXPRESSED AN INTENTION TO CHANGE JOBS, THE REPORT NOTED.

/MR LEE .....

MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACING DISABLED WORKERS, AS REVEALED IN THE SURVEY, APPEARED TO BE PROBLEMS IN COPING WITH THE JOB AND TRANSPORTATION.

AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED JOB-SEEKERS, 49.2 PER CENT HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR. THIS GROUP COMPRISED QUITE A HIGH PROPORTION OF GRADUATES FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

AS REGARDS THOSE WHO HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, THE MAIN REASONS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR EMPLOYABILITY, OR UNEMPLOYABILITY, SUCH AS DISABILITY PROBLEMS (36.1 PER CENT), LACK OF SKILLS (26.6 PER CENT), AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS SUCH AS A LACK OF SUITABLE VACANCIES (36.7 PER CENT) AND DISCRIMINATION BY EMPLOYERS (31.1 PER CENT).

SOME 69 PER CENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED DISABLED RESPONDENTS WERE NOT SEEKING JOBS.

THE REASONS THEY GAVE FOR THIS INCLUDED PERSONAL FACTORS SUCH AS DISABILITY PROBLEMS (58.5 PER CENT) AND RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS (36.4 PER CENT).

SOME BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE NO SUITABLE VACANCIES (18.7 PER CENT), THAT THEY LACKED SKILLS (16.6 PER CENT), AND SOME HAD TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES (16 PER CENT).

THE REPORT ALSO REVEALED THAT 93.8 PER CENT OF THE SHELTERED WORKSHOP WORKERS EARNED LESS THAN $500.

IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE, THEREFORE, THAT ONLY 30.9 PER CENT OF THE WORKERS WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR INCOME.

HOWEVER, SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT AS AN ALTERNATIVE OR TRANSITION TO OPEN EMPLOYMENT WAS THE WISH TO SOME 25.3 PER CENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED DISABLED, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED TO LOOK FOR JOBS IN THE OPEN LABOUR MARKET.

OTHER MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE REPORT INCLUDED THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SPECIAL AIDS FOR THE DISABLED.

IT WAS REVEALED THAT AMONG THE DISABLED WHO HAD RECEIVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING, 54.3 PER CENT WERE EMPLOYED.

THE CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGE FOR THOSE WITHOUT VOCATIONAL TRAINING WAS 32.2 PER CENT.

HOWEVER, THE SURVEY FOUND THAT 80 PER CENT OF THE DISABLED RESPONDENTS HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY TYPE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

SPECIAL AIDS WERE FOUND TO BE ANOTHER FACTOR HAVING A BEARING ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED. THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS ON THEIR NEEDS FOR SPECIAL AIDS, HOWEVER, WAS FOUND TO BE VERY LOW.

/IN THE .....

IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINDINGS, THE REPORT HAS MADE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SPECIAL AIDS AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED. THEY ARE:-

A) THE INTRODUCTION OF INCENTIVE SCHEMES FOR EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOY MORE DISABLED PERSONS; AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES FOR THE DISABLED WHEREBY ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF LOANS, PREMISES OR TRAINING.

B) SHELTERED WORKSHOP PLACES SHOULD BE INCREASED AND THE WORKSHOPS SHOULD BE MADE MORE PRODUCTION ORIENTED. INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE MORE JOB ORDERS TO THE WORKSHOPS.

C) MORE RESOURCES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE DISABLED STUDENTS WITH EDUCATION AND BASIC TRAINING TO PREPARE THEM FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.

D) MORE PART-TIME, IN-SERVICE AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS.

E) WIDER PUBLICITY ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES ON SPECIAL AIDS FOR THE DISABLED SHOULD BE LAUNCHED, FOR BOTH THE DISABLED THEMSELVES AND THE EMPLOYERS. INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS/AGENCIES PROVIDING SPECIAL AIDS SHOULD BE COMPILED BY A COORDINATING BODY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND THE PUBLIC.

F) VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE SUCH AS COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY PROFESSIONALS IN REHABILITATION CENTRES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ET CETERA AND BY FAMILY MEMBERS IN ORDER TO HELP SUSTAIN THE EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE ALREADY EMPLOYED.

G) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE OVERALL TRANSPORT SYSTEM TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

MR LEE SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER THAT THEY WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

----O----

STATEMENT ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE URBAN COUNCIL

* * * * *

AT THIS MORNING'S EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE URBAN COUNCIL, MEMBERS DECIDED TO UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARDS BY WHICH URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD CEASE TO BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS FROM THE END OF MARCH 1989.

MEMBERS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT AN APPROACH BE MADE THROUGH THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR AN URGENT MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER PROPOSALS TO BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WILL AFFECT THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL VIS-A-VIS THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

COUNCILLORS WERE EMPHATIC THAT THEY BELIEVED THEY SERVED A VALUABLE PURPOSE FROM A DISTRICT POINT OF VIEW BY BEING MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

COUNCILLORS HAVE SERVED ON DISTRICT BOARDS SINCE THEIR INCEPTION AND ARE LOATH TO SEE THIS LINK BROKEN BY A STROKE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PEN.

IF, HOWEVER UNWELCOME IT IS, A CHANGE MUST BE MADE, AT THE VERY LEAST WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE 15 ELECTED URBAN COUNCILLORS SHOULD MOST DEFINITELY RETAIN THEIR SEATS ON THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

- - - - O - - - -

GUANGDONG DELEGATION VISITS EPD

* * *

THE HEAD OF THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU, MR QIANG BINGHUAN, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM GUANGZHOU AND SHENZHEN CONCLUDED A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO HONG KONG TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DURING THEIR STAY, THEY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND CONSIDERED AREAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH STAFF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

THE SIX-MEMBER DELEGATION ALSO VISITED THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL DEMONSTRATION PLANT AT TA KWU LING AND THE MAI PO MARSHES CONSERVATION AREA.

"SINCE WE LAST MET IN MAY 1986, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOTH IN GUANGDONG AND HONG KONG", OBSERVED MR QIANG BEFORE LEAVING FOR GUANGZHOU.

DURING MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, THERE WERE REPORTS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GUANGZHOU, SHENZHEN AND HONG KONG AND ON THE WORK OF THE SOUTH CHINA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE .

/THEY ALSO .....

THEY ALSO CONSIDERED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SEWAGE AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANGEMENT OF RURAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTING THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT IN PROGRESS AND PLANNED AROUND DEEP BAY AND MIRS BAY, THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THESE TWO AREAS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AGGREGATE EFFECTS OF ALL RELEVANT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

"WE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TOWARDS CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH OUR COUNTERPARTS IN NEIGHBOURING GUANGDONG AND SHENZHEN", THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, COMMENTED AFTER A MEETING.

IN ADDITION TO A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DATA, SPECIFIC AREAS FOR COLLABORATION DISCUSSED INCLUDED A REPEAT OF THE WORKSHOP ON AIR POLLUTION WHICH WAS HELD IN GUANGZHOU TWO YEARS AGO.

THE WORKSHOP, IN WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF FROM BEIJING, SHANGHAI, GUANGZHOU AND HONG KONG PARTICIPATED, HAD BEEN A SUCCESS.

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT WORKSHOP WOULD BE " URBAN SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL" AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT SIMILAR WORKSHOPS WOULD BE HELD ANNUALLY.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT STAFF FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE IN SHENZHEN WOULD VISIT HONG KONG NEXT YEAR TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES OF OPERATING MOBILE AIR POLLUTION MONITORING FACILITIES.

----0----

CONTINGENCY TEXTILE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED

* * *

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL ADOPT CONTINGENCY LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE NEW TEXTILE AND APPAREL CATEGORY SYSTEM AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1988, AS A RESULT OF THE PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CATEGORY SYSTEM BY THE UNITED STATES.

AS THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ADOPTION OF THE HARMONISED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM (HARMONISED SYSTEM) BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1988, SOME OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE NEW CATEGORY SYSTEM WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. THEY INCLUDE:-

/I) NEW ARRANGEMENTS .....

I) NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUITS;

II) NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR INFANTS' WEAR (EXCEPT COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRE INFANTS' SETS);

III) NEW CATEGORY 611; AND

IV) THE CHIEF WEIGHT CRITERION AND THE OUTER-SHELL CONCEPT FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES.

IN ADDITION, THE U.S. WILL NOT IMPLEMENT THE METRIC SYSTEM UNTIL THE HARMONISED SYSTEM IS ADOPTED.

HOWEVER, HONG KONG WILL IMPLEMENT THE NEW CATEGORY SYSTEM IN FULL AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1988, UNDER AN AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND CONTINGENCY LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS ARE THEREFORE TO BE ADOPTED IN RESPECT OF THOSE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CATEGORY SYSTEM BY THE U.S.

DETAILS OF THE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS ARE SET OUT IN THE NOTICE TO EXPORTERS SERIES 1 (USA) NO. 62/87 WHICH ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE U.S.A. COUNTERS OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, ON 15TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE CONTINGENCY LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS:

- GROUP II COTTON GARMENT QUOTA CATEGORIES	MR K.W. TSANG MR Y.S. MAK	3-7222355 3-7222358
- GROUP II MMF GARMENT QUOTA CATEGORIES	MR H.F. CHAN	3-7222356
- GROUP II WOOL GARMENT, QUOTA CATEGORIES - GROUP II EA QUOTA CATEGORIES	MR C.K. LI	3-7222346
- GROUP I CATEGORIES	MR T.C. CHAN	3-7222365
- GROUP III AND SWEATERS CATEGORIES AND NON-APPAREL OF SILK BLEND AND/OR OTHER VEGETABLE FIBRE	MR S.K. LI	3-7222578
- QUOTA WINDOW ARRANGEMENT AND NON-RESTRAINED ITEMS	MR W.H. NG	3-7222366

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 .....

LADY WILSON OPENS FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT, FISH SHOW

* * * * *

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO SEE THE FIRST NORTH DISTRICT FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT AND FISH SHOW AFTER ITS OPENING BY WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, LADY WILSON.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FLOWER SECTION INCLUDED SOME NEW SPECIES OF ROSES FROM SHEKOU, CHINA; FRESH FLOWERS FLOWM IN FROM HOLLAND, AUSTRALIA, THAILAND AND SINGAPORE; CHINESE BONSAI AND FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS IMBUED WITH CHRISTMAS JOY AND DECORATED WITH FISH AND BIRDS.

FLOWERS AND PLANTS ON DISPLAY WERE DIVIDED INTO FIVE CATEGORIES, NAMELY POT PLANTS, MINIATURE POT PLANTS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, BONSAI TYPE PLANTS AND ORCHIDS.

IN THE ADJOINING FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE, VISITORS WERE ATTRACTED BY COLOURFUL SPECIES OF FISH AND TROPICAL FOREST BIRDS PROVIDED BY THE OCEAN PARK.

OF GREAT EDUCATIONAL VALUE WERE THE ILLUSTRATED SPECIMENS AND LIVING EXAMPLES OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL INSECTS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE PROVIDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 5.30 PM FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO SATURDAY (DECEMBER 26); AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 27).

THE ADMISSION FEE IS $3 FOR ADULTS AND $1 FOR CHILDREN.

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, OCEAN PARK, FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE, KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID ASSOCIATION, WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE HONG KONG, SIX FLORAL ORGANISATIONS AND A WILDLIFE ARTIST.

----0----

/13 .....

ANNUAL CAREERS QUIZ SUSTAINS POPULARITY

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL CAREERS QUIZ ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ATTRACTED MORE THAN 110,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM 248 SECONDARY SCHOOLS THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID THE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE REFLECTED THE SUSTAINED POPULARITY OF THE EVENT AMONG SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS.

THE QUIZ AIMS TO AROUSE THE AWARENESS AMONG PARTICIPATING OF STUDENTS THE VARIOUS CAREERS.

"IT ALSO ENCOURAGES THEM TO COLLECT USEFUL INFORMATION AND PLAN CAREFULLY FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS," HE SAID.

MR HAMMOND THANKED SHUN HING ELECTRONIC TRADING COMPANY FOR SPONSORING THE PRIZES AND THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY FOR MARKING THE ANSWER SHEETS.

THE THREE STUDENTS WHO SCORED THE HIGHEST MARKS WERE FUNG CHI-KEUNG OF CHIU LUT SAU MEMORIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL, MOK CHUNG-WAI OF NG WAH COLLEGE AND LOK CHUN-KEUNG OF SALESIAN ENGLISH SCHOOL. EACH RECEIVED A PORTABLE STEREO COMPONENT SYSTEM.

THE THREE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST AVERAGE MARKS - THE CHEUNG SHA WAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL AND MARYMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL - WERE PRESENTED WITH TROPHIES.

IN ADDITION, 100 STUDENTS WHO SCORED HIGH MARKS WERE EACH AWARDED A SOLAR-POWERED ELECTRONIC CALCULATOR WHILE ANOTHER 640 STUDENTS WERE EACH GIVEN A PEN-STAND FOR SCORING THE HIGHEST MARKS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FORM.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WAS MR K. L. TONG, ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SHUN HING ELECTRONIC TRADING COMPANY.

----0----

/14 .....

ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN MONG KOK TO BE DEMOLISHED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING THE CLOSURE OF AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING AT 197-209 SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, KOWLOON, SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED.

THIS FOLLOWS THE OWNER'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JULY LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE STRUCTURE'S DEMOLITION.

THE STRUCTURE IS ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT B, 14TH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON FEBRUARY 12, 1988, WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

----0----

OUTFALL PIPELINE FOR REDHILL WATER TREATMENT WORKS

* * * *

A SUBMARINE OUTFALL PIPELINE MEASURING ABOUT 200 METRES WILL BE BUILT ALONG THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED OF TAI TAM BAY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SLUDGE FROM THE REDHILL WATER TREATMENT WORKS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTIONS IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE FEBRUARY 17, NEXT YEAR.

----0----

/15 .....

DB MEMBERS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

* * * *

MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD SANG CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND DISTRIBUTED GIFTS TO THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED PEOPLE AT FOUR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE, AND STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ALSO JOINED THE GOODWILL VISITS. TWO MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WERE DRESSED AS SANTA CLAUS.

THE FOUR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS VISITED WERE THE PO LEUNG KUK LOK WAH SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG - KWUN TONG SHELTERED WORKSHOP, HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICES SHUN LEE HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY, AND THE SALVATION ARMY YAU TONG HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY.

----0----

GALA CONCERT CLOSES BAND WEEK

* * *

A CHRISTMAS BAND GALA WAS HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) TO MARK THE CLOSE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE'S "YOUTH BAND WEEK".

THE CONCERT STARTED WITH A MASS BAND PERFORMANCE OF A POPULAR TUNE, "FANFARE", FOLLOWED BY THE "DANCING HERO" JOINTLY PLAYED BY THE SHIZUOKA PREFECTURAL HAMAMATSU COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND FROM JAPAN AND THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND.

THE CONCERT ALSO FEATURED MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES BY THE JAPANESE BAND AND THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S MARCHING BAND CONTEST. TO GET THE AUDIENCE INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT, CHRISTMAS MUSIC WAS ALSO PERFORMED.

MEANWHILE, THE JAPANESE BAND ATTENDED A LUNCH RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AT THE JOCKEY CLUB IN HAPPY VALLEY THIS AFTERNOON.

IN A WELCOMING ADDRESS, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MISS LOLLY CHIU, SAID THE HAMAMATSU HIGH SCHOOL BAND'S PERFORMANCES IN HONG KONG WERE REMARKABLE. SHE BELIEVED THIS KIND OF INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EXCHANGE WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND WOULD BENEFIT YOUNG MUSICIANS OF BOTH JAPAN AND HONG KONG.

THE JAPANESE BAND WILL LEAVE TOMORROW.

----0----

/16 .....

CAS CADET CORPS TO HOLD ANNUAL CAMP

* * *

THE CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) CADET CORPS WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CAMP AT THE YMCA WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE FROM DECEMBER 27 TO 30.

THERE WILL BE 888 CADETS, OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS FROM 26 UNITS OF THE CADET CORPS PARTICIPATING IN THE CAMP, WHICH IS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE CAMPERS' CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

"THE THEME OF THE CAMP IS 'SIDE BY SIDE TAKE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE; HAND IN HAND ADVANCE TO 20TH YEAR'," A CAS SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OBJECT OF THE CAMP IS TO PROVIDE ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP, SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, ORGANISING ABILITY, CO-OPERATION AND PERSONAL TALENTS THROUGH PLANNING, ORGANISING AND EXECUTING THE INTENSIVE SERIES OF ACTIVITIES; AND TO PROMOTE GOOD COMRADESHIP AMONG THEMSELVES BY MIXING THEM WELL FOR GAMES, SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND COMPETITIONS.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR LAW CHI-KIN, AND THE CADET COMMANDANT, MR LAU SHIU-NIN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CAMP'S OPENING CEREMONY ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 27) EVENING.

THEY WILL ALSO PRESENT THE BEST CADET AWARD TO THE 10 OUTSTANDING CADETS.

----0----

ANTI-NARCOTICS COMIC STRIPS COMPETITION RESULTS

* * * * *

A COMIC STRIP OF FOUR DRAWINGS SIMPLY AND CLEARLY DEPICTING THE PERILS OF DRUG ABUSE SUBMITTED BY MR CHUNG WAI-KEUNG HAS WON THE FRIST PRIZE IN THE SENIOR SECTION OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS COMIC STRIPS COMPETITION.

IN THE JUNIOR SECTION, A FULL COLOUR ENTRY WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOUR AND SOPHISTICATED SKILL, HAS MADE MISS YUAN WAI-LING THE CHAMPION.

THE WINNER OF THE SENIOR SECTION WILL RECEIVE A $1,000 GIFT COUPON AND ONE YEAR'S FREE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE BREAKTHROUGH MAGAZINE, WHILE THE WINNER OF THE JUNIOR SECTION WILL BE AWARDED A $700 GIFT COUPON AND ONE YEAR'S FREE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR MAGAZINE.

/MR TSE .....

MR TSE PO-YU AND MR LEUNG CHUNG-TONG WON THE SECOND AND THE THIRD PRIZES OF THE SENIOR SECTION, AND WILL RECEIVE GIFT COUPONS OF $700 AND $300 RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP OF THE JUNIOR SECTION, MR LEUNG KIN-BONG AND MR YIU CHI-WAI, WILL BE AWARDED GIFT COUPONS OF $500 AND $300 RESPECTIVELY.

THE ANTI-NARCOTICS COMIC STRIPS COMPETITION WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT OF "BREAKTHROUGH", AND THE BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR MAGAZINE.

IT HAD GENERATED MUCH INTEREST AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND HAD ATTRACTED AN OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF MORE THAN 800 ENTRIES.

THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE EXHIBITED DURING THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CARNIVAL ON JANUARY 10 (SUNDAY).

----0----

NORTH POINT TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY

* * * * *

THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON FORT STREET IN NORTH POINT BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG HONG STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR ANOTHER SIX WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 26) FOR ROAD WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

----0----

TENANCY SOUGHT FOR TUEN MUN SITE

* * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A SITE IN TUEN MUN TO BE LET ON SHORT TERM TENANCYFOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

MEASURING ABOUT 3,000 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS LOCATED AT TUEN MUN AREA 44 NEAR WU SHAN ROAD.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 8.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES EXTENDED FOR CHRISTMAS

* * * * *

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WILL BE STEPPED UP DURING CHRISTMAS, WITH SOME SERVICES EXTENDED TO RUN OVERNIGHT OR WELL INTO THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 25 TO COPE WITH THE FESTIVE CROWDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND TO ALLOW THEMSELVES PLENTY OF TRAVELLING TIME.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THE MTR, THE STAR FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE AND KOWLOON POINT, AND TRAM SERVICES (EXCEPT THOSE ROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY LOOP) WILL RUN ALL NIGHT.

ALSO OPERATING OVERNIGHT ARE KMB ROUTES NO. 5, 6, 80M, 82M AND 85K AS WELL AS GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 37M IN KOWLOON AND NO. 61M IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MOST OF THESE ROUTES EITHER LINK TSIM SHA TSUI WITH OTHER PARTS OF KOWLOON OR THE KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION WITH SHA TIN.

KCR SERVICES WILL BE EXTENDED TO 1 AM WHILE PEAK TRAMS WILL RUN UNTIL 1.30 AM.

MEANWHILE, MANY BUS AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR WILL FINISH LATER THAN USUAL.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE LAST DEPARTURE FROM CENTRAL OF CMB ROUTES NO. 4, 70 AND 90 WILL BE 1 AM. FOR ROUTES NO. 2, 7, 10, 23, 72, 92 AND 97, THEIR LAST BUS WILL LEAVE CENTRAL, WESTERN DISTRICT OR CAUSEWAY BAY AT 2 AM, 2.30 AM, 1.50 AM, 1.15 AM, 1.30 AM, MIDNIGHT AND 12.48 AM RESPECTIVELY.

IN KOWLOON, KMB ROUTES NO. 1, 1A, 3C, 5C, 9, 14, 26, 28, 31M, 36M, 37M, 39M, 43M, 44M, 59M, 60M, 66M, 68M, AND 88K WILL ALSO EXTEND THEIR SERVICES TO AFTER MIDNIGHT.

AMONG THE ROUTES TO TSIM SHA TSUI, THE LAST KMB BUS ON ROUTES NO. 1, 1A AND 9 WILL DEPART STAR FERRY AT AROUND 1.30 AM WHILE THAT ON ROUTE NO. 5C, AT 1.50 AM.

THE LAST DEPARTURE FROM TSIM SHA TSUI OF ROUTES NO. 28 AND 26 WILL BE AT 1.20 AM AND 2.10 AM RESPECTIVELY. FOR ROUTES NO. 3C AND 14, THE LAST BUS LEAVING JORDAN ROAD WILL BE 1 AM AND 1.30 AM RESPECTIVELY.

AT THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION, THE LAST BUS ON ROUTE NO. 39M WILL DEPART AT 12.30 AM; NO. 60M AND 68M AT 1 AM; AND NO. 59M AND 66M AT AROUND 1.15 AM.

/THE LAST .....

THE LAST DEPARTURE OF ROUTES NO. 31M, 36M AND 43M FROM KWAI FONG MTR STATION WILL BE AROUND 12.40 AM. AT THE KWAI HING MTR STATION, ROUTES NO. 37M AND 44M WILL OPERATE UNTIL 12.30 AM AND 12.50 AM RESPECTIVELY.

AS FOR GREEN MINIBUSES, ROUTES NO. 19 AND 20 ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL OPERATE UP TO 12.40 AM; NO. 33M UP TO 1 AM; AND NO. 1 UP TO 4 AM.

IN KOWLOON, ROUTES NO. 18, 19 AND 20 WILL FINISH AT 1 AM; NO. 3, 8, 11M AND 30M AT 1.30 AM; NO. 6 AND 31M AT 2 AM; AND NO. 7, 16, 33M AND 34M AT 3 AM.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 67K WILL STOP RUNNING AT MIDNIGHT, WHILE NO. 66K AND 85 WILL FINISH AT 12.30 AM. ROUTES NO. 20K, 22K, 60K AND 65K WILL CEASE OPERATING AROUND 1.30 AM, AND NO. 80, 82, 83, 86 AND 96M AT 2 AM.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, THE MTR AND THE STAR FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE AND KOWLOON POINT WILL OPERATE UP TO 1 AM. FOR THE KCR, SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED UNTIL 1 AM ON BOTH CHRISTMAS DAY AND DECEMBER 26.

KMB SERVICES ON ROUTES NO. 5 AND 6 WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED WITH THE LAST BUS DEPARTING TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1.15 AM AND 2 AM RESPECTIVELY.

THE OPERATING HOURS OF HONG KONG GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 19 AND 20 WILL AGAIN BE EXTENDED TO 12.40 AM. KOWLOON GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 18, 19 AND 20 WILL OPERATE UNTIL 1 AM; NO. 11M AND 30M UNTIL 1.30 AM; NO. 31M UNTIL 2 AM; AND NO. 7, 16 AND 34M UNTIL 3 AM.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 20K, 22K, 65K, 66K AND 67K WILL ALSO FINISH LATE AS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

----0----

URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD

* * * * *

CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN THE ENTRANCE AND THE EXIT OF PING SHEK BUS TERMINUS WILL BE MADE A 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 25).

THE MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

----0----