



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CHAU WELCOMED U.S. TEXTILES BILL OUT OF THE WAY
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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR T.H. CHAU, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE UNITED STATES TEXTILES BILL IS NOW OUT OF THE WAY.

MR CHAU WAS COMMENTING ON THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' VOTE YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 10) WHICH FAILED TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S PRIOR VETO OF THE BILL.

THE VOTE WAS 275 FOR AND 152 AGAINST, WITH SEVEN ABSTENTIONS. THIS FELL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS MARGIN NECESSARY FOR THE OVERRIDE.

"THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THAT A PRESIDENT'S VETO ON A TEXTILES BILL HAS BEEN SUSTAINED," MR CHAU SAID.

"THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS STRONGLY AGAINST SUCH PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION. THIS IS WELCOME NEWS, BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH CLOSELY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S.," HE ADDED.

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AMERICANS TOLD OF HK'S IMPORTANCE TO CHINA
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STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF TWO TOP AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON HONG KONG'S LINKS WITH CHINA AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO CHINA'S ECONOMY.

THEY WERE ALSO TOLD OF THE POLITICAL EVENTS THAT HAD OCCURRED AND WOULD CONTINUE OVER THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS TO THE TIME WHEN CHINA WOULD RESUME SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG IN 1997.

SPEAKING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK AND PRINCETON UNIVERSITY IN NEW JERSEY, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR DARWIN CHEN, TOLD THEM THAT CHINA'S SPECTACULAR GROWTH IN THE LAST DECADE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT HONG KONG.

THE REASON MR CHEN SAID WAS THAT SOME 30 PERCENT OF CHINA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND TWO-THIRDS OF ITS FOREIGN INVESTMENTS CAME THROUGH HONG KONG.

MR CHEN ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE JOINT DECLARATION AND EXPLAINED TO THE GROUPS, AMONG WHOM WERE ALSO LAWYERS AND POLITICAL ANALYSTS, THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

/HE TOLD

HE TOLD THEM THAT AFTER 1997, HONG KONG WOULD MAINTAIN ITS OWN IDENTITY AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) OF CHINA UNDER THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT, AND WOULD ENJOY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN ALL AREAS EXCEPT FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ON THAT "SEPARATENESS", HE SAID: "WE WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, MAINTAIN OUR OWN LEGAL SYSTEM: A COMMON LAW SYSTEM DRAWING ON PRECEDENTS FROM OTHER COMMON LAW SYSTEMS AND WITH JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW COUNTRIES; WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR OWN SEPARATE FINANCIAL SYSTEM; WE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BALANCING OUR OWN BUDGET, FOR DECIDING AND LEVYING OUR OWN TAXES."

MR CHEN POINTED OUT TOO THAT IT WAS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED THAT HONG KONG WOULD NOT PAY TAXES TO CHINA.

"SO, IN SEVEN YEARS, HONG KONG WILL BE PART OF CHINA; YET IT WILL RETAIN ITS OWN UNIQUE LIFE-STYLE AND BUSINESS SYSTEMS - THE ESSENTIALS OF ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

"THAT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT. IT IS ALSO WHAT CHINA WANTS BECAUSE HONG KONG IS IMPORTANT TO CHINA," HE SAID.

HE SAID CHINA HAD MADE SURE THAT ALL THESE MATTERS WERE WRITTEN INTO THE FORMAL FRAMEWORK KNOWN AS THE BASIC LAW WHICH ENSHRINED HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. PROMULGATED BY CHINA IN APRIL THIS YEAR THE BASIC LAW FOR THE HONG KONG SAR WOULD APPLY FOR 50 YEARS BEYOND 1997.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BASIC LAW WOULD SPELL OUT IN CHINESE LAW ALL THE GUARANTEES FOR THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PROMISED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WOULD BE THE FOUNDATION FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

"BY FAR, THE GREATER PART OF THE BASIC LAW REFLECT THE PROVISIONS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, MANY ARTICLES ACTUALLY WORD FOR WORD," HE SAID, AND EXPLAINED THE MORE SIGNIFICANT PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT THAT GUARANTEED THE CONTINUATION OF VARIOUS SYSTEMS AND WAY OF LIFE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE NOW HAD.

MR CHEN SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE EVENTS OF LAST JUNE CHINESE LEADERS HAD REPEATEDLY ASSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN CHINA'S "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" POLICY.

THEY HAVE ALSO RECOGNISED THAT HONG KONG WOULD PLAY "AN IRREPLACABLE AND TREMENDOUS ROLE" IN HELPING CHINA PUSH FORWARD AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY AND THAT HONG KONG WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL MARKET, ITS QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND ITS ECONOMIC MECHANISMS, WOULD MAKE AN IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO CHINA'S RENAISSANCE.

"THEREIN LIES THE GUARANTEE THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE, AS THE PEARL OF THE ORIENT FOR MANY MORE YEARS AFTER 1997," MR CHEN SAID.

MR CHEN WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS SPEAKING TRIPS BY MR KERRY MCGLYNN, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK.

OPERATIONS TO SUPPRESS ILLEGAL SALE OF DIESEL OIL

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CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SEIZED ABOUT 6,093 LITRES OF DIESEL OIL IN THE PAST THREE DAYS IN A SERIES OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO SUPPRESS ITS ILLEGAL SALE.

DURING THE OPERATIONS, A TOTAL OF 12 CHINESE MALE WERE ARRESTED AND 14 VEHICLES DETAINED.

THE VALUE OF THE SEIZURE AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$23,762 WITH A DUTY POTENTIAL OF \$10,845.

IN A JOINT OPERATION BY THE INVESTIGATION AND OPERATION BRANCHES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), 10 CHINESE MALE WERE ARRESTED AND 3,180 LITRES OF DIESEL WERE SEIZED.

THE OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN TAI PO, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND TSUEN WAN AREAS.

ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZED 2,913 LITRES OF DIESEL OIL AT TAI PO AND FANLING AREAS.

AS A RESULT, TWO CHINESE MALE SUSPECTED TO BE SELLING THE DIESEL WERE CHARGED UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

THE SEIZED DIESEL OIL IS SUSPECTED TO BE IMPORTED FROM MAINLAND CHINA BY DUMP TRUCKS FOR SALE TO LOCAL USERS AT \$3.90 PER LITRE. THE SELLING PRICE OF DIESEL IN CHINA IS HK\$2.90 PER LITRE.

UP TO TODAY, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DIESEL SEIZED THIS YEAR IS 21,180 LITRES WHILE THE AMOUNT SEIZED FOR THE WHOLE YEAR LAST YEAR WAS 4,940 LITRES.

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FACTORY INSPECTORS TO EXPLAIN NEW SAFETY LAW

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN FROM NOW TO DECEMBER TO ENHANCE THE AWARENESS OF INDUSTRIAL PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS IN SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

THE DRIVE WAS AIMED AT HELPING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE "GENERAL DUTIES" PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

"A SPECIAL TEAM OF EIGHT EXPERIENCED FACTORY INSPECTORS WILL VISIT FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES TO EXPLAIN TO PROPRIETORS THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NEW LAW AND ADVISE THEM ON NECESSARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THEIR EMPLOYEES," ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN HON-TING, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

/MR CHAN

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MR CHAN SAID THE INSPECTORS WILL ALSO TALK TO MEMBERS OF WORKERS UNIONS ABOUT THEIR DUTIES TO COOPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS IN IMPLEMENTING SAFETY MEASURES AND TO TAKE REASONABLE CARE OF THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THEMSELVES AND OTHERS AT WORK.

IN ADDITION, PUBLICATIONS ILLUSTRATING THE NEW PROVISIONS AND RELATED SAFETY SUBJECTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE VISITS. COPIES ARE ALSO OBTAINABLE FROM ALL BRANCH OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 4075.

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VILLAGE-TYPE HOUSES DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED A NUMBER OF VILLAGE-TYPE TERRACED HOUSES IN SHA KOK MEI, SAI KUNG, DANGEROUS AND LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BUILDINGS WERE SINGLE-OR TWO-STOREY VILLAGE-TYPE TERRACED HOUSES CONSTRUCTED OF MUD AND RUBBLE WALLS WITH TIMBER PITCHED ROOFS. THEY WERE INSPECTED FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF ANOTHER ADJOINING BUILDING.

HOUSE NOS. 5/6, 9, 10 AND 11/12 ON THE 6TH LANE, NOS. 3, 12, 16, 17, 18 AND 20 ON THE 7TH LANE, NO. 1 ON 8TH LANE, AND NOS. 6, 13 AND 14 ON THE 9TH LANE HAD BEEN DESERTED FOR SOME TIME AND THEY WERE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DILAPIDATION WITH EITHER PARTIAL OR TOTAL COLLAPSE OF ROOFS AND/OR WALLS.

THESE BUILDINGS WERE IN DANGER OF FURTHER COLLAPSE AND THEY SHOULD THEREFORE BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

HOUSE NOS. 3 AND 7 ON THE 6TH LANE WERE IN A DILAPIDATED CONDITION AND UNABLE TO WITHSTAND DEMOLITION OF THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS. THEY WERE THEREFORE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

HOUSE NOS. 2, 3, 14 AND 15 ON THE 8TH LANE WERE OF SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION AND HAD BEEN DESERTED FOR SOME TIME.

THEY WERE ALSO IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DILAPIDATION WITH EITHER PARTIALLY COLLAPSED ROOFS OR DECAYED TIMBER ROOFS.

THESE BUILDINGS WERE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND WERE IN DANGER OF FURTHER COLLAPSE, AND THEY SHOULD ALSO BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

/HOUSE NO. 4

HOUSE NO. 4 ON THE 6TH LANE HAD ALREADY BEEN CLOSED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS ON JUNE 11 AND IS TO BE DEMOLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS.

DUE TO THE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OF THESE TERRACED HOUSES, THE STABILITY OF EACH HOUSE TO SOME EXTENT DEPENDED ON THE STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF THE NEIGHBOURING HOUSES.

THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THESE HOUSES IN ONE OPERATION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 25 WERE POSTED TODAY ON ALL THE BUILDINGS.

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ROOF-MOUNTED ADS ON TAXIS APPROVED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR TAXIS TO CARRY ADVERTISING SIGNS ON THE ROOF OF THE VEHICLES WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 15).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TAXI OWNERS APPLYING FOR ADVERTISING IN OR ON TAXIS FOR THE FIRST TIME SHOULD SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT. A \$100 FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR PERMISSION TO DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT ON EACH TAXI.

"FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED APPROVAL, THEY SHOULD SEND COPIES OF THE CAR REGISTRATION DOCUMENT AND THE EXISTING APPROVAL LETTER FOR A NEW APPROVAL LETTER, WHICH SEEKS TO EXTEND THE EXISTING APPROVAL TO COVER ROOF-MOUNTED ADVERTISING DISPLAY. IT WILL BE ISSUED AT NO EXTRA COST," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE REMINDED TAXI OWNERS WHO WISH TO INSTALL TAXI ROOF-MOUNTED ADVERTISING SIGNS TO OBSERVE THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE GUIDELINES SPECIFIED THAT THE ADVERTISING PANEL, WHICH MAY CARRY DOUBLE-SIDED DISPLAY, SHOULD BE FITTED SECURELY. ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS MAY BE INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED.

THE TAXI SIGN TO BE INCORPORATED AT THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE ADVERTISING UNIT SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DESIGN OF THE ADVERTISING SIGN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT FOR TYPE APPROVAL.

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THE INSTALLATION AND THE ADVERTISEMENT DISPLAYED WOULD BE CHECKED AT THE ANNUAL VEHICLE EXAMINATION OR HALF-YEARLY INSPECTION, HE ADDED.

"THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE CONDITIONS FOR ADVERTISEMENTS TO BE DISPLAYED UNDER THE EXISTING TWO METHODS, I.E. ON THE INTERIOR PARTS OF THE VEHICLE OR ON THE EXTERIOR FRONT AND/OR REAR DOOR PANELS OF THE VEHICLE BELOW THE SIDE WINDOWS," HE SAID.

IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID NO ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO-RELATED PRODUCTS SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ON THE ROOF-MOUNTED ADVERTISING PANEL.

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TSEUNG KWAN O - AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE

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TSEUNG KWAN O, WITH ITS SPECTACULAR NATURAL SETTING AND AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS, WILL BE A VERY ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE.

THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, DR NIP KAM FAN, MADE THESE REMARKS WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY OF ON NING GARDEN, A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME HOUSING PROJECT (PSPS) IN TSEUNG KWAN O THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

DR NIP SAID NOT ONLY WAS THE ON NING GARDEN A PRIME EXAMPLE OF A PSPS PROJECT, IT ALSO MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

HE SAID: "SINCE I TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO, TSEUNG KWAN O HAS GROWN FROM A POPULATION OF ABOUT 25,000 TO OVER THREE TIMES THAT FIGURE TODAY.

"THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS PACE OF DEVELOPMENT RELIES ON A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR - A COMMITMENT WHICH I AM CONFIDENT IS SET TO CONTINUE."

DR NIP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR TSEUNG KWAN O EXTENDS WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

"RECLAMATION FOR THE FUTURE TOWN CENTRE BEGAN IN JUNE AND IN A FEW MONTHS WORK WILL COMMENCE ON LAND FORMATION FOR HONG KONG'S THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND AN EXTENSION TO THE SEWAGE WORKS AT TAI CHIK SHA.

"NOVEMBER WILL SEE THE OPENING OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL WITH TRAVEL TIMES TO URBAN KOWLOON BEING SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.

"OUR LONGER TERM PLANS INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT PORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH OF THE TOWN, MORE RECLAMATION FOR BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING IN THE TOWN CENTRE AREA AND FURTHER EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD NETWORK," HE SAID.

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SIMULATED HELICOPTER
CRASH AND FIRE AT THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL HELIPAD
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A DISASTER EXERCISE INVOLVING NEARLY 150 OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WAS CONDUCTED ON THE NEW HELIPAD ON TOP OF THE INNER PIER LEVEL 4 OF THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SCENERIO OF THE EXERCISE WAS THAT A HELICOPTER WITH SIX PASSENGERS ON BOARD CRASHED ONTO THE HELIPAD AND CAUGHT FIRE.

THE MARINE OFFICER (MACAU FERRY TERMINAL) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR TREVOR ROBERTS, TODAY SAID: "THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE ARE TO TEST THE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, THE COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE FIRE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY INSTALLATIONS AT THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL IN A HELICOPTER CRASH BEFORE THE ACTUAL SERVICE STARTS POSSIBLY NEXT (NOVEMBER) MONTH."

COORDINATED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, THE EXERCISE INVOLVED THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE.

STAFF OF THE COMMERCIAL OPERATOR OF THE NEW HELIPAD, SHUN TAK ENTERPRISES CORPORATION LIMITED, AND THE HELICOPTER COMPANY, EAST ASIA AIRLINES, WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE.

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ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT FILM SERIES ON POLLUTION
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE A CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WILL GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH A FILM SERIES ON POLLUTION ON TELEVISION FROM SATURDAY (OCTOBER 13).

THE "ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT" FILM SERIES ON POLLUTION, WHICH IS PART OF THE \$5 MILLION ANTI-POLLUTION PACK FUNDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WAS PRODUCED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

THE DOCUMENTARY CONSISTS OF FIVE FILMS -- AN INTRODUCTION ON THE WAY WE LIVE, WATER POLLUTION AND SEWAGE TREATMENT, AIR POLLUTION, NOISE POLLUTION, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL.

THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE FILM SERIES WILL BE SHOWN ON TVB'S JADE, STARTING EVERY SATURDAY FROM OCTOBER 13 TO NOVEMBER 17 (EXCEPT NOVEMBER 3) AT 11:00 PM.

CURRENTLY, THE ENGLISH FILM SERIES ARE BEING SHOWN ON TVB'S PEARL EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:45 PM TO 7:15 PM TILL OCTOBER 18.

/THE FILMS

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THE FILMS TOOK A YEAR TO COMPLETE AND INVOLVED SHOOTING IN ALMOST 120 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. THESE LOCATIONS VARIED FROM LANDFILL SITES TO CLASSROOMS; FROM BACK STREETS RUNNING DEEP WITH FACTORY EFFLUENT TO THE STILLNESS OF COUNTRY PARKS; FROM BENEATH THE FLIGHT PATHS OF JET AIRCRAFT TO SEWAGE WORKS, INCINERATORS, DIRTY BEACHES AND EAR-SPLITTING CONSTRUCTION SITES.

IN ADDITION, MATERIAL WAS SECURED FROM UPWARDS OF A DOZEN OVERSEAS SOURCES TO HELP SET HONG KONG'S PROBLEMS IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT, IF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION WERE TO BE ACHIEVED, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE UNVARNISHED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACED.

THIS "ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT" SERIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHOWN ON ATV'S ENGLISH AND CHINESE CHANNELS IN JULY AND AUGUST.

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THE WEATHER OF SEPTEMBER 1990
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THE WEATHER IN SEPTEMBER WAS ON THE WHOLE RELATIVELY CLOUDY AND WET.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 409.9 MILLIMETRES WAS 28 PER CENT ABOVE THE MONTH'S NORMAL OF 320.4 MILLIMETRES.

OVER HALF OF THE MONTH'S RAINFALL COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON DOT OVER SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 1,909.2 MILLIMETRES, SEVEN PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 2,043.5 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH WAS SUNNY AND VERY HOT.

THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON ABE OVER EASTERN CHINA BROUGHT AN AIR MASS OF CONTINENTAL ORIGIN TO THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY ON SEPTEMBER 2 DROPPED BELOW 50 PER CENT WHILE THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBED TO A PEAK OF 33.8 DEGREES, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

A MOISTER EASTERLY AIRSTREAM SET IN THAT NIGHT AND GAVE RISE TO SOME LIGHT SHOWERS.

/GENERALLY FINE

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GENERALLY FINE WEATHER THEN PREVAILED TILL SEPTEMBER 7, APART FROM AN OUTBREAK OF THUNDERSTORMS ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6.

A WORKER WAS KILLED AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WERE INJURED AFTER THEY WERE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING WHILE WORKING ON A HILLTOP SITE IN SHAU KEI WAN.

TYPHOON DOT SWEEPED PAST TAIWAN ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND MOVED INTO SOUTHERN CHINA THE FOLLOWING DAY BEFORE DEGENERATING INTO A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE.

THE TYPHOON AND ITS REMNANT BROUGHT TORRENTIAL RAIN TO THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

RAINFALL IN HONG KONG EXCEEDED 230 MILLIMETRES OVER THE FIVE-DAY PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO 12.

THE RAIN WAS HEAVIEST ON SEPTEMBER 10 WHEN OVER 100 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED. THE DOWNPOUR, ACCOMPANIED BY THUNDERSTORMS AT TIMES, TRIGGERED OFF FLOODING AND LANDSLIP OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE MOST AFFECTED. ABOUT 100 SCHOOL-CHILDREN WERE TRAPPED BY FLOOD WATER IN TA KWU LING, WHILE THE FLOODING OF FISH PONDS IN KAM TIN RESULTED IN AN ESTIMATED LOSS OF OVER HK\$100,000.

AN INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WAS ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO THE INCLEMENT WEATHER.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND GENERALLY FINE CONDITION PREVAILED IN THE NEXT FIVE DAYS APART FROM SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 15.

SQUALLS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE SHOWERS BLEW DOWN SOME SCAFFOLDINGS IN NORTH POINT. WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE EAST IN THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 15 AS TYPHOON ED MOVED INTO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

A MAN WAS RESCUED FROM THE SEA OFF CHAI WAN AFTER HIS RUBBER BOAT WAS OVERTURNED BY BLUSTERY WINDS AND ROUGH SEAS ON SEPTEMBER 16.

DESPITE THE WINDY CONDITION, THE WEATHER STAYED ON THE FINE SIDE WHILE ED PASSED BY TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG. THE WEATHER FINALLY DETERIORATED ON SEPTEMBER 19 WHEN ED TURNED TO A MORE NORTHWESTWARD TRACK TOWARDS NORTHERN VIETNAM AND ONE OF THE ASSOCIATED RAINBANDS REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

THE RAIN PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND BROUGHT NEARLY 100 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL TO THE TERRITORY.

THUNDERSTORMS WERE ALSO REPORTED DURING THE AFTERNOON AND THE TEMPERATURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FELL TO 23.9 DEGREES, THE LOWEST OF THE MONTH. THE DELUGE CAUSED MINOR FLOODING AND TRAFFIC JAM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OVER THE TERRITORY.

/THE RAIN

THE RAIN EASED OFF ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND OVER THE NEXT FOUR DAYS, THERE WERE PERIODS OF SUNSHINE INTERSPERSED WITH ISOLATED LIGHT SHOWERS.

THE PASSAGE OF A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 24 WAS FOLLOWED BY HEAVIER RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS THE NEXT DAY.

THEREAFTER, A COMBINATION OF CLOUD, LIGHT SHOWERS, AND SUNNY INTERVALS CONTINUED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28 BEFORE BRILLIANTLY FINE WEATHER SET IN FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH.

SIX TROPICAL CYCLONES, OF WHICH FIVE FORMED WITHIN THE MONTH, OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, SEVEN AIRCRAFTS WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 5-12, 19-20, 24-25, AND 28. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 10-11, AND 19 AND A LANDSLIP WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 11.

THE ONLY SIGNAL HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WAS AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
TYPHOON ED	1	SEPTEMBER 14 11.00 PM	SEPTEMBER 17 7.45 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	168.8 HOURS ; 19.7 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	13.72 MJ/SQ METRE ; 3.01 MJ/SQ METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	409.9 MM ; 89.5 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	65 PER CENT ; 3 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	79 PER CENT ; NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	30.2 DEGREES ; 0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	27.8 DEGREES ; 0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	25.8 DEGREES ; 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.8 DEGREES ; 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	107.2 MM ; 48.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

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34 INMATES PASSED PITMAN EXAM
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THIRTY-FOUR TRAINING CENTRE INMATES RECEIVED CERTIFICATES THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON FOR PASSING THE PITMAN EXAMINATION.

THE INMATES CAME FROM THE CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE AND TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

THEY PASSED IN A TOTAL OF 47 PAPERS ON THREE SUBJECTS - ARITHMETIC, ENGLISH AND TYPING.

SPEAKING AT A CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S (CSD) STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, MR ALBERT TONG, PRAISED THE EDUCATION STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR WORK ON THE REHABILITATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS.

HE NOTED THAT AN IMPORTANT AREA OF THE CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMME BEING CARRIED OUT IN YOUNG OFFENDERS' INSTITUTIONS IS THE ORGANISATION OF EDUCATIONAL COURSES LEADING TO EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION.

"PAST EXPERIENCE HAS FOUND THAT INMATES WOULD MAKE BETTER CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY AND THEY STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF SECURING EMPLOYMENT, OR CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES AFTER RELEASE, IF THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO STUDY AND OBTAIN RECOGNITION THROUGH ACCREDITED EXAMINATIONS," HE SAID.

SINCE 1979, A TOTAL OF 1,550 INMATES HAD SAT FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE HELD BY THE PITMAN EXAMINATION INSTITUTE, THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY.

THEY ACHIEVED A TOTAL OF 527 DISTINCTIONS, 235 CREDITS AND 1053 PASSES. THE AVERAGE PASS RATE IS 85 PER CENT.

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CONCERT IN MONG KOK
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A CONCERT OF POPULAR CHINESE FOLK SONGS WILL BE HELD IN MONG KOK ON OCTOBER 27 (SATURDAY) AT THE ANCHOR STREET PLAYGROUND IN TAI KOK TSUI.

SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK WEST AREA COMMITTEE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, AND AT ITS TAI KOK TSUI SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 45 TIT SHU STREET.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 381 5291.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1990

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95 OFFICERS RECEIVED COMMENDATIONS

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A TOTAL OF 95 OFFICERS SERVING WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED COMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONER, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COMMENDATIONS WERE AWARDED TO OFFICERS OF VARIOUS RANKS RANGING FROM SUPERINTENDENT TO CUSTOMS OFFICER, INCLUDING SENIOR TRADE CONTROLS OFFICERS, TRADE CONTROLS OFFICERS AND A STATISTICIAN.

THEY WERE RECEIVED FOR THE DISPLAY OF A VARIETY OF PERSONAL QUALITIES, SUCH AS LEADERSHIP, ABILITY, INITIATIVE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY OF A VERY HIGH ORDER.

MANY OF THE RECIPIENTS, WHO INCLUDED SEVEN WOMEN OFFICERS, WERE INVOLVED IN ANTI-DRUG OPERATIONS AT THE AIRPORT AND AT THE BORDER, AS WELL AS BREAKING UP SYNDICATES OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

SEVENTEEN OFFICERS WERE COMMENDED FOR TAKING PART IN THE SEIZURE OF 24 KILOGRAMS OF CANNABIS AND FIVE KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN BROUGHT TO HONG KONG ON A VIETNAMESE BOAT IN JULY. TWO CREW MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED AT THE TIME AND FURTHER ARRESTS WERE MADE WHEN FIVE VIETNAMESE MEN WERE AMBUSHED BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS ON BOARD THE BOAT.

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