



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1986

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SUPPORT FOR BANKS AND EXCHANGE FUND
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY:

+I WILL RESPOND IN FULL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEEK TO THE POINTS MADE IN THE BUDGET DEBATE ABOUT VARIOUS BANKING AND EXCHANGE FUND MATTERS. IN LIGHT OF SOME COMMENTS REPORTED IN THE PRESS DURING THE HOLIDAYS I WANT TO MAKE FOUR POINTS IMMEDIATELY TO REMOVE THE CONFUSION WHICH EXISTS IN CERTAIN QUARTERS.

(1) UNDERLYING STRATEGY OF MINIMUM RISK TO SAFEGUARD ECONOMY

AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY, I HAVE BEEN FACED WITH A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN THE BANKING SECTOR SINCE END OF 1982. EACH OF THESE PROBLEMS HAS BEEN TACKLED -- AND TACKLED SUCCESSFULLY -- BY THE MEANS MOST APPROPRIATE TO THE PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

OUR UNDERLYING STRATEGY THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG AND ITS FINANCIAL SYSTEM ON WHICH OUR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT DEPEND. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY FOLLOWED A POLICY OF RUNNING THE MINIMUM RISK IN THE SOLUTION TO EACH DIFFICULTY.

OUR PARTICULAR AIM HAS BEEN THE PROTECTION OF THE DEPOSITS OF THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG AND THE CONFIDENCE OF BANKERS HERE AND INTERNATIONALLY IN OUR BANKING SYSTEM. WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE FIRES AS THEY OCCUR AND WE USE THE APPROPRIATE MEANS TO PUT THEM OUT AT MINIMUM POSSIBLE COST BEFORE THE FIRES CAN SPREAD.

OUR PRIME CONCERN IS NOT WITH SHAREHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT BUT RATHER IN MAKING HONG KONG A PLACE WHERE DEPOSITORS LARGE AND SMALL, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, CAN INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE.

(2) IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRES IMMEDIATE POWERS

FOR THIS REASON POWERS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE BANKING COMMISSIONER. IF IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY, POWERS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO BE USED IMMEDIATELY. THAT IS WHY THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE GIVES CLEAR POWERS TO BE USED WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY CONSIDERS THEIR USE APPROPRIATE. EQUALLY, THE BANKING ORDINANCE GIVES THE NECESSARY IMMEDIATE POWERS TO THE BANKING COMMISSIONER.

BANKING SECRECY WHICH IS REQUIRED IN EVERY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND SHARE PRICE SENSITIVITY OF INFORMATION MAKE OPEN DEBATE IMPOSSIBLE. BUT IF THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, THERE REMAINS THE PRACTICAL POINT THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CANNOT AWAIT A POLICY DEBATE.

/THE FINANCIAL

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE BANKING COMMISSIONER WOULD RIGHTLY BE CRITICISED IF THEY STOOD AND WATCHED A COLLAPSE LEADING TO A RUN ON SEVERAL BANKS BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED THEY HAD NO POWERS OR WERE AFRAID TO USE THE POWERS THEY POSSESSED.

(3) PREVENTION OF DIFFICULTIES

WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ACTUAL EVENTS NOT ABOUT THEORETICAL POSSIBILITIES. THE DEBATE SHOULD NOT BE ABOUT THE USE OF POWERS TO DEAL WITH THE FIRE BUT ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION. THE NEW BANKING BILL HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD WITH THESE ISSUES IN MIND.

(4) SUFFICIENCY OF EXCHANGE FUND

IF ANY OF THE CONFUSION ARISES FROM DOUBTS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, LET ME MAKE THE POSITION CLEAR. THE SURPLUSES OF THE EXCHANGE FUND -- LET ME EMPHASISE, THE SURPLUSES -- ARE HONG KONG'S INNER RESERVES. THESE HAVE BEEN GROWING IN SPITE OF ALL THE DIFFICULTIES AT A VERY SATISFACTORY RATE IN RECENT YEARS AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.

ACTION WE HAVE TAKEN TO SUPPORT SOME BANKS HAS, BY PRESERVING STABILITY, PROTECTED THE EXCHANGE FUND FROM HAVING TO BE USED IN A MORE DIRECT WAY AT A MUCH GREATER COST. IN ANY CASE, IF THE SUM OF ALL THE CONTINGENT LIABILITIES INCURRED IN MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE BANKING SECTOR HAD TO BE MET -- WHICH IS MOST UNLIKELY -- THE COST TO THE EXCHANGE FUND WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN THE GROWTH IN THE SURPLUSES OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ACTUAL COST OF THE SUPPORT IS WELL WITHIN THE GROWTH OF THE SURPLUS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND WHILE ACTION TAKEN THIS WAY SAVES BOTH A SEVERE POTENTIAL LOSS BY THE FUND AND MORE IMPORTANTLY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS.

THE PROOF OF THE SUCCESS OF THIS POLICY IS SEEN IN INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. INTERNATIONAL BANKS ARE STILL QUEUING TO ENTER HONG KONG AND ONE REASON FOR THIS CONFIDENCE IS THAT INTERNATIONAL BANKERS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL DEAL IMMEDIATELY WITH PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE AS WOULD ANY OTHER CENTRAL BANK IN ANY OTHER INDUSTRIALISED SOCIETY.+

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CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT 1986

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR DAVID FORD, MET THE STAFF SIDES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL AND THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR PAY CLAIMS FOR 1986. THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL ALSO MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH.

+THE RESULTS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION'S PAY TREND SURVEY AND THE VIEWS OF THE STAFF SIDES OF THE THREE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS WERE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MORNING,+ SAID MR FORD. +WE WERE AUTHORISED TO OFFER TO THE STAFF SIDES A PAY AWARD OF 6.96 PER CENT ACROSS THE BOARD.+

THE OFFER WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE STAFF SIDES OF ALL THREE COUNCILS.

THE 6.96 PER CENT INCREASE ALSO APPLIES TO DIRECTORATE OFFICERS. FUNDS FOR THE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR THE WHOLE CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE SOUGHT AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 23. IF APPROVED, REVISED SALARIES WILL BE PAID AT THE END OF MAY.

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FORSGATE ELECTED UC CHAIRMAN, ELSIE TU IS NEW VICE CHAIRMAN
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MR H.M.G. GERRY FORSGATE TODAY CROWNED 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL WHEN HE WAS CHOSEN AS CHAIRMAN FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, SUCCEEDING MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR FORSGATE WAS ELECTED BY 19 VOTES TO 10 AGAINST HIS SOLE OPPONENT, MRS ELSIE TU.

HOWEVER, MRS TU WAS HERSELF CHOSEN AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, WINNING BY 18 VOTES TO 10 AGAINST HER SOLE OPPONENT, MR PAO PING-WING.

ONE COUNCILLOR, MRS MARGARET LI, WAS OUT OF HONG KONG, WHILE IN THE ELECTION FOR VICE CHAIRMAN, ONE VOTE WAS DECLARED INVALID.

THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO HAVE SIX NEW CHAIRMEN OF SELECT COMMITTEES, AS FOLLOWS:

/MR PAO

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MR PAO PING-WING IS TO CHAIR THE CAPITAL WORKS SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MRS MARGARET LI AS VICE CHAIRMAN MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WILL CHAIR DISTRICT RELATIONS SELECT COMMITTEE (MR FAN KAM-PING AS VICE CHAIRMAN) DR RONALD LEUNG, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE (MR TONG KAM-BIU) MR WALTER SULKE, FINANCE SELECT COMMITTEE (MR MARVIN CHEUNG) MISS CECILIA YEUNG, FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE (MR L.H. KWAN) AND MR LEE CHIK-YUET, MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS (MRS ELSIE TU).

CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE REMAINING SEVEN SELECT COMMITTEES ARE AS FOLLOW:

ADMINISTRATION, DR KIM CHAM (MRS NELLIE FONG) CULTURE, MR LAWRENCE FUNG (MR LO KING-MAN) ENTERTAINMENT, MR STEPHEN LAU (MR FREDERICK K.K. FUNG) LIBRARIES, MR JOSEPH CHAN (MR LAM CHAK-PIU) LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD, MR PETER C.K. CHAN (MR KWAN LIM-HO) MUSEUMS, DR PHILIP KWOK (MR LAM CHAK-PIU) RECREATION, MR HOWARD YOUNG (MR SAMUEL WONG).

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CHEUNG ELECTED REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
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MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY WHEN THE COUNCIL OFFICIALLY CAME INTO BEING.

ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN WAS MR NATHAN MA.

THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE JUST BEFORE THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

MR CHEUNG AND MR MA HELD SIMILAR POSTS IN THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WHICH CEASED TO EXIST WHEN ITS ONE-YEAR TERM ENDED ON MARCH 31.

AT ITS INAUGURAL MEETING HELD SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 36, AGREED TO APPOINT MRS PAMELA TAN, SECRETARY OF THE FORMER PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, AS SECRETARY OF THE FULL COUNCIL.

THE MEETING DECIDED THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH REPLACES THE NEW TERRITORIES LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD AS THE LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA FROM TODAY, SHOULD ADOPT A LICENSING SCHEME BASED ON THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES PREVIOUSLY FOLLOWED BY THE BOARD.

ALSO DECIDED WAS THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE THAT HAD WORKED EFFECTIVELY FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

/THE DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, COMPRISING THREE SELECT COMMITTEES AND NINE DISTRICT COMMITTEES, REDUCED THE WORKLOAD AT THE CENTRE AND ENABLE POLICY MATTERS TO BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL AT SELECT COMMITTEE LEVEL.

+IT ALSO PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CATERING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE NINE DISTRICTS AND ALLOWED OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED AT DISTRICT LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

MR HAMMOND NOTED, HOWEVER, IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO BE SET UP, IN THE COURSE OF TIME, SOME SUB-COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC LONG OR SHORT TERM TASKS.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL RATIFIED THE 1986/87 ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FINANCIALLY AUTONOMOUS BODY BEFORE THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE COUNCIL IS ESTIMATED AT \$1 004.4 MILLION WHILE THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE IS ESTIMATED AT \$853.6 MILLION.

MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE TIME-TABLE AND PROCEDURE TO ELECT A NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE.

A FRESH ELECTION IS NECESSARY AS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER FROM THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD TO VACATE HIS SEAT TODAY WHEN THE PROVISIONAL RC CEASED TO EXIST.

THE COUNCIL ALSO RESOLVED TO DELEGATE CERTAIN OF ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS OF ITS EXECUTIVE ARM, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SO THAT DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTIONS MAY CONTINUE ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

TO ENABLE MATTERS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE COUNCIL'S ASSUMPTION OF STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS PROPER FUNCTIONING, TO BE DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD TWO MORE MEETINGS THIS MONTH, ON APRIL 15 AND 29.

FROM MAY ONWARDS, THE COUNCIL WILL MEET ONCE A MONTH ON THE FOURTH OR LAST THURSDAY AFTERNOON OF EACH MONTH.

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U.S. MAKES EA CALL ON NIGHTWEAR
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AN EXPORT AUTHORISATION (EA) CALL ON CATEGORY 651 (MAN-MADE FIBRE PYJAMAS AND OTHER NIGHTWEAR).

THIS IS THE FIRST EA CALL MADE BY THE UNITED STATES IN 1986.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HONG KONG/U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUSPENDED ISSUE OF FURTHER EAS IN THE CATEGORY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO APPROVE AND ISSUE EXPORT LICENCES FOR THIS CATEGORY AGAINST VALID EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS APPROVED PRIOR TO THE SUSPENSION.

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NEED FOR MORE POST-EXPERIENCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING
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THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS CALLED ON EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE BETTER AND MORE RELEVANT POST-EXPERIENCE COURSES TO MEET TRAINING NEEDS OF LOCAL MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS.

FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE SHOWED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NEED FOR POST-EXPERIENCE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THE SURVEY FOUND THAT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS WERE RELATIVELY LOW: MORE THAN HALF THE MANAGERS AND ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF SUPERVISORS IN SURVEYED ESTABLISHMENTS DID NOT GET BEYOND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

MORE THAN 75 PER CENT OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS DID NOT TAKE MANAGEMENT SUBJECTS IN SCHOOLS OR UNIVERSITIES AND ONLY A FEW MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL HAD ATTAINED PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, HE ADDED.

THE SURVEY ALSO FOUND THAT MORE THAN 70 PER CENT OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND RELEVANT MANAGEMENT COURSES IF THEY WERE RELEASED AND COURSE FEES PAID BY THEIR COMPANIES.

/THE MAJORITY

THE MAJORITY WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND SHORT INTENSIVE RESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT COURSES OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ALSO REVEALED THAT MANY MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS RECEIVED IN-COMPANY TRAINING TO UPGRADE AND UPDATE MANAGEMENT SKILLS.

HOWEVER, MANY SAID THAT IN-COMPANY TRAINING WAS INADEQUATE BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CURRENT PROGRAMMES OF THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO MEET THIS DEMAND.

THE 1984 SURVEY REPORT ON TRAINING NEEDS OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS IS ON SALE AT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$13 PER COPY.

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REMINDER FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS
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VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PAID MONEY DUE TO THEM STILL HAVE TWO DAYS TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A GOVERNMENT SCHEME.

THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT HAS REMINDED TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS THAT THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME IS APRIL 4.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEME, ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER 1985, PROVIDES EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN COMPENSATED BECAUSE THE NEGLIGENT DRIVER'S INSURANCE COMPANY HAS GONE BANKRUPT.

+THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME IS TO PAY THIRD PARTIES AN EX-GRATIA AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LEGALLY PAYABLE TO THEM BY THE INSURER HAD THE INSURER BEEN SOLVENT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT SAID.

+WE BELIEVE THERE IS STILL A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED PAYMENT AND HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR THIS ASSISTANCE,+ HE CONTINUED.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS SHOULD APPLY TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE CLAIMS FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEME.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT ON 5-457306, EXT. 206, AND DISTRICT OFFICES MAY ALSO BE CONTACTED FOR ADVICE.

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NEW TSUEN WAN FOOTBRIDGES PLANNED
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD TWO COVERED FOOTBRIDGES IN TSUEN WAN TO PROVIDE SAFER AND MORE CONVENIENT PEDESTRIAN ROUTES.

THE FOOTBRIDGES ARE TO BE BUILT ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT KIN MING STREET AND SAI LAU KOK ROAD TO LINK FUK LOI ESTATE AND ITS NEIGHBOURING AREAS TO THE PRIVATE COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL CENTRE, THE TSUEN WAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AND LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY MAY 26.

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NEW WATERWORKS DEPOT AT TAI O
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WATERWORKS DEPOT AT THE EASTERN END OF LUNG TIN ESTATE AT TAI O ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE DEPOT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE IN SHEK TSAI PO STREET WHICH WILL LATER SERVE AS A WATERWORKS CONSUMER SERVICES CENTRE.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY AND WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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(10) CONSUMER SERVICES DEPOT RELOCATED
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S NEW CONSUMER SERVICES DEPOT AT YUNG SHUE WAN, LAMMA ISLAND, WHICH MOVED TO NEW PREMISES LAST WEEK, IS NOW IN OPERATION.

CONSUMERS MAKING REQUESTS FOR SERVICES REGARDING WATER MAINS BURSTS OR THOSE WITH COMPLAINTS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE CAN EITHER CALL AT THE CENTRE OR TELEPHONE 5-9820348.

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DETAILS OF MAJOR HIGHWAY SCHEME
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A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CONNAUGHT ROAD UPGRADING PROJECT WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 911, EMPIRE CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, AT 11 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 3).

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND SENIOR ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT, MR KEITH WESTMORELAND, WILL EXPLAIN THIS MAJOR HIGHWAY ENGINEERING SCHEME WHICH WILL HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS ON TRAFFIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONTINUES THIS MONTH
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN APRIL TO JUNE, 1986.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED MONTHLY SINCE AUGUST 1981, COLLECTS INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

ABOUT HALF OF THE HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED THREE MONTHS AGO WILL BE SURVEYED AGAIN TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN.

SOME 5 000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED AT RANDOM EACH MONTH FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR CO-OPERATION.

ASSISTANT CENSUS AND SURVEY OFFICERS, EACH CARRYING AN IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS CONTROL OF BILLIARD HALLS
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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS AND COMMENT ON THE CONTROL OF BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS AT THEIR FIRST MEETING OF THE 1986-87 SESSION ON THURSDAY (APRIL 3).

THE PAPER IS PRESENTED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND GIVES AN INSIGHT ON THE SUBJECT. MEMBERS WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONTROL AND LICENSING OF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS WHETHER PRIVATE BILLIARD CLUBS SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM LICENSING CONTROLS.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, WILL ADDRESS MEMBERS ON THE WORK OF THE BOARD DURING THE PAST YEAR AND WHAT PLANS THERE ARE TO FURTHER DEVELOP TSUEN WAN INTO A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO SPEAK ON GENERAL DISTRICT ISSUES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COMMUNITY BUILDING, PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY AT 2.30 PM IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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POSTAL SERVICES TO FINLAND AFFECTED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT DUE TO A STRIKE IN FINLAND AFFECTING POSTAL OPERATIONS, AIR MAIL, AIR PARCEL AND SPEEDPOST SERVICES TO FINLAND HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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FINANCIAL NEWS HOURLY ON RTHK

FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL BROADCAST THE LATEST PRICES OF THE 10 LEADING SHARES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG EVERY HOUR ON CHANNEL ONE IN CHINESE AND CHANNEL THREE IN ENGLISH.

THE HOURLY BROADCAST WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE LATEST GOLD PRICES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES. THIS WILL ENABLE LISTENERS TO MONITOR CLOSELY MOVEMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

IN ADDITION, CHANNEL ONE WILL INTRODUCE A THREE-MINUTE FINANCIAL NEWS PACKAGE TWICE A DAY, AT 1 PM AND 5.57 PM, FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY. THE 1 PM BROADCAST WILL CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF STOCK MARKET TRADING IN THE MORNING, MORNING CLOSING PRICES OF THE 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS, OPENING AND MORNING CLOSING PRICES OF GOLD, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES.

THE EVENING BROADCAST WILL INCLUDE CLOSING PRICES OF THE 10 MOST ACTIVE SHARES, A DESCRIPTION OF THE DAY'S TRADING, THE OPENING, CLOSING, HIGHEST AND LOWEST TRADING PRICES OF GOLD, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES.

BESIDES REPORTING ON THE HANG SENG INDEX, CHANNEL ONE AND CHANNEL THREE WILL ALSO GIVE FIGURES FROM THE NEW HONG KONG STOCK INDEX AS WELL AS INDICES FROM OTHER MAJOR MARKETS, NEW YORK'S DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE, LONDON'S FINANCIAL TIMES INDEX, AND TOKYO'S NIKKI-DJ INDEX.

THE MAIN NEWS BULLETINS OF BOTH CHANNELS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORTS.

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PLB RESTRICTION IN SHAM SHUI PO

KI LUNG STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO, BETWEEN YEN CHOW STREET AND KWEILIN STREET, WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 4). NO PLBS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AREA.

AT THE SAME TIME, KWEILIN STREET BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND TAI NAN STREET WILL BE MADE A PLB RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY. NO PLBS WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

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ROAD CLOSED FOR REPAIRS
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THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM WYLIE ROAD TO PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM WITH EFFECT FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 4) TO FACILITATE REPAIR WORKS ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON WYLIE ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO WATERLOO ROAD AND PUI CHING ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND AND YIM PO FONG STREET SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD VIA WYLIE ROAD SHOULD USE WATERLOO ROAD AND PUI CHING ROAD.

THE MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ABOUT 20 DAYS.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON SEVEN DAYS THIS MONTH.

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

THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE PRACTICE ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
APRIL 14 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 15 (TUESDAY)	1 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 16 (WEDNESDAY)	1 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 24 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 3 PM
APRIL 25 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 3 PM
APRIL 29 (TUESDAY)	6.30 PM - 11.59 PM
APRIL 30 (WEDNESDAY)	12.01 AM - 11.59 PM

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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1986

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY)
STOOD AT 52.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 293.147 MILLION CUBIC
METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 348.591
MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 59.5 PER CENT
OF CAPACITY.

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