DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1980

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

GOVERNMENT DECIDES NOT TO DECLARE HK CLUB BUILDING A MONUMENT 1

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TO STOP OVER HERE 2

PRICE MOVEMENT OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FIRST HALF OF 1980 3

TECHNICAL EDUCATION CHIEF RETIRES 5

AUSTRALIAN PENAL OFFICIAL HERE ON A VISIT 6

PAYMENT MADE TO DUST DISEASE PATIENTS 7

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 8

CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5 8

LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS GIVE CONCERT 9

ROAD JUNCTION REOPENS TO TRAFFIC 10

SALT WATER CUT 10

GOVERNMENT DECIDES NOT TO DECLARE HK CLUB BUILDING A MONUMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO DECLARE THE HONG KONG CLUB BUILDING A MONUMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WHILE THE AESTHETIC AND HISTORIC VALUE OF THE BUILDING WAS RECOGNISED, AND THE REASONS FOR THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CLUB BUILDING BE DECLARED A MONUMENT ARE NOT DISPUTED, THE HUGE COST INVOLVED COULD NOT JUSTIFIABLY BE CHARGED TO THE PUBLIC PURSE.

THE GOVERNMENT DECISION FOLLOWS LONG AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES.

+IT WAS NOT A HASTY DECISION,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN. +AFTER THE MOST STUDIOUS SCRUTINY OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE DECISION BY THE CLUB BOARD TO REDEVELOP THE SITE, IT IS FELT THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF RETAINING THE BUILDING CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED.+

HE SAID THERE WERE UNDOUBTEDLY SOME WHO FELT THE CLUB BUILDING, WHICH DATES BACK TO 1897, WAS A PLEASANT RELIEF TO THE CROWDED CENTRAL DISTRICT, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SATISFIED THAT HUGE SUMS OF MONEY SHOULD BE DIVERTED TO DECLARING THE BUILDING A MONUMENT INSTEAD OF BEING USED FOR MORE IMPORTANT PRIORITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IF THE HONG KONG CLUB BUILDING WAS TO BE DECLARED A MONUMENT, THE COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE WOULD BE VERY CONSIDERABLE.

HE EXPLAINED: +IF THE CLUB RETAINED ITS PRESENT PREMISES, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO MEET THE COSTS OF REFURBISHING AND MAINTENANCE AND THE CLUB WOULD BE IN A STRONG POSITION TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN ESTIMATE, AT CURRENT LAND VALUES, OF THE VALUE OF THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IS IN EXCESS OF $400 MILLION. EVEN IF A MUCH SMALLER SUM WAS AWARDED BY THE COURTS AS COMPENSATION THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARE STILL VERY SUBSTANTIAL.

+THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARE VERY SEVERE AND ARE STILL OPEN ENDED. THEY WOULD BE LIKELY TO RISE EVEN HIGHER WITH INCREASING BUILDING COSTS AND AS THE BUILDING ITSELF AGES.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THREE MAIN ALTERNATIVES TO ALLOWING REDEVELOPMENT AS THE CLUB'S BOARD WISHED WERE EXAMINED VERY CAREFULLY.

THEY WERE:

* THAT GOVERNMENT GRANT AN ALTERNATIVE SITE SO A NEW CLUB COULD BE BUILT, IN RETURN FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE EXISTING SITE AND BUILDING WHICH COULD THEN BE PUT TO PUBLIC USE=

* THAT THE PREMISES BE RESUMED AND BE PUT TO PUBLIC USE=

* THAT THE CLUB RETAIN THE PREMISES, BUT BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER ITS DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS BY SELLING ITS PLOT RATIO TO THE OWNER OF A NEARBY SITE.

/THE FIRST .....

THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE, EXPLAINED THE SPOKESMAN, WOULD INVOLVE A DIRECT NON-IN SITU LAND EXCHANGE WHICH, EXCEPT IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES IS NOT ALLOWED UNDER EXISTING POLICY, BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF LAND FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT IN THE FORM OF A FREE GRANT OF AN ALTERNATIVE SITE TO THE CLUB WOULD BE IN THE ORDER OF $500 MILLION AT CURRENT LAND VALUES, MORE THAN IF THE BUILDING WAS DECLARED A MONUMENT AND COMPENSATION PAID.

THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WOULD ALSO INVOLVE A COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE OF AROUND $500 MILLION, IN THE FORM OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO THE CLUB.

+AGAIN, THIS CAN HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

AS TO THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF TRANSFERRING BUILDING RIGHTS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS IT WOULD RESULT IN A BUILDING ON A SEPARATE SITE +THAT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY IN EXCESS OF THE PERMISSIBLE VOLUME+.

+THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO THE TRANSFER OF PLOT RATIO FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER AND TO DO SO IN THIS CASE WOULD CREATE A MOST DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH IF GIVEN WIDER APPLICATION WOULD UNDERMINE THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF BUILDING CONTROL AND STANDARDS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

FOR THESE REASONS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DECLARE THE HONG KONG CLUB BUILDING A MONUMENT.

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TO STOP OVER HERE

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HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HON ANGUS OGILVY WILL BREAK THEIR JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA AT HONG KONG ON SEPTEMBER 22 FOR FOUR DAYS.

THEY WILL BE STAYING AT FANLING LODGE AS GUESTS OF THE GOVERNOR.

THE VISIT WILL BE PRIVATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND MR OGILVY WILL ARRIVE AT KAI TAK AIRPORT IN AN ANDOVER OF THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT AT 9.40 PM ON SEPTEMBER 22. THEY WILL BE MET BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AIRPORT TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROYAL COUPLE.

/PHOTOGRAPHERS AND .....

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN ASSIGNED TO COVER THE ARRIVAL SHOULD BRING THEIR IDENTITY CARDS OR PASSPORTS TO FACILITATE ENTRY INTO THE RESTRICTED AREA.

THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT 8.40 PM ON SEPTEMBER 22. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST.

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PRICE MOVEMENT OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FIRST HALF OF 1980

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THE PRICES FOR BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR ROSE BY 12 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1979, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, A SLIGHTLY LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS (+ 20%) THAN FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS (+ 18%). FOR RE-EXPORTS, PRICES ROSE BY 12 PER CENT WHILE THE VOLUME SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 29 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF THE GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AGAINST SAME PERIOD IN 1979 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	EXPORT VALUES	EXPORT UNIT VALUES	EXPORT VOLUMES
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 23%	+ 14%	+ 8%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 16%	+ 11%	+ 4%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+ 43%	+ 13%	+ 26%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+ 40%	+ 16%	+ 21%
ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS	+ 58%	+ 9%	+ 45%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+ 43%	+ 13%	+ 26%
FOOTWEAR	+ 27%	+ 9%	+ 17%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+ 45%	+ 20%	+ 21%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+130%	+ 19%	+ 93%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 55%	- 4%	+ 62%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 33%	+ 12%	+ 18%

/APART FROM .....

APART FROM WATCHES AND CLOCKS, THE EXPORT PRICES OF WHICH DROPPED BY FOUR PER CENT, EXPORT PRICES OF OTHER MAJOR COMMODITIES INCREASED AT VARYING RATES (FROM A 9% INCREASE FOR TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND FOOTWEAR TO A 20% INCREASE FOR METAL MANUFACTURES).

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE GROWTH RATE FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS INCLUDING CLOTHING, THE PRINCIPAL EXPORT ITEM (AT 8%) WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THAT FOR NON-TEXTILE PRODUCTS (AT 26%).

BY MARKET, EXPORT VOLUMES TO USA, WEST GERMANY AND THE UK INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT, 14 PER CENT AND TWO PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO USA SHOWED STRONG GROWTH IN VOLUME TERMS (+ 78%), WHILE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE DELIVERY OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS TO UK (+ 81%) AND WEST GERMANY (+ 40%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF IMPORTS BY MAJOR END-USE CATEGORIES IN FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AGAINST SAME PERIOD IN 1979 ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

	IMPORT VALUES	IMPORT UNIT VALUES	IMPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+ 21%	+ 9%	+ 11%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 30%	+ 4%	+ 25%
FUELS	+ 90%	+ 65%	+ 15%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 35%	+ 13%	+ 19%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 37%	+ 7%	+ 28%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 35%	+ 12%	+ 20%

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUELS, THE PRICES OF WHICH JUMPED BY 65 PER CENT, THE IMPORT PRICES OF OTHER END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED MODERATELY, RANGING FROM FOUR PER CENT TO 13 PER CENT.

THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF FOODSTUFFS SHOWED A MIXED TREND. WHEREAS THE LOCAL DEMAND FOR SUGAR (+ 52%), LIVE POULTRY (+ 30%) AND RICE (+ 14%) ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY, DEMAND FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR (- 11%) AND SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD (- 10%) DROPPED.

GROWTH IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR CLOTHING (+ 60%), FOOTWEAR (+ 53%), RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS AND TAPE RECORDERS (+ 46%) AS WELL AS PASSENGER MOTOR CARS (+ 22%).

IMPORTED FUELS COMPRISE LIQUID FUEL AND SOLID FUEL. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF LIQUID FUEL INCREASED (+ 15%) WHILE THAT OF SOLID FUEL DECLINED SLIGHTLY (- 2%).

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WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, PURCHASES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SHOWED AN UPWARD TREND. NOTABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES (+ 69%), COTTON YARN AND THREAD (+ 68%), RAW COTTON (+ 59%), WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK (+ 33%) AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES (+ 29%).

FOR CAPITAL GOODS, REMARKABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ 91%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+ 29%) AND OFFICE MACHINES (+ 29%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR END-USE CATEGORIES IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AGAINST SAME PERIOD IN 1979 ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

	RE-EXPORT VALUES	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUES	RE-EXPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+ 14%	+ 9%	+ 5%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 38%	+ 8%	+ 28%
FUELS	+ 22%	+ 58%	- 22%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 57%	+ 15%	+ 36%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 44%	+ 13%	+ 27%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 44%	+ 12%	+ 29%

APART FROM FUELS, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF WHICH DECLINED BY 22 PER CENT, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUMES OF CONSUMER GOODS, RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, AND CAPITAL GOODS ALL SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES (AT 28%, 36% AND 27% RESPECTIVELY).

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION CHIEF RETIRES

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THE MAN WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TECHNICAL EDUCATION IS FINALLY CALLING IT A DAY AFTER 26 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

HE IS DERIC DANIEL WATERS, BETTER KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AS DAN, WHO RETIRES AS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), A POST WHICH HE HELD SINCE APRIL, 1974.

AT 60, DAN IS STILL AS SPRIGHTLY AS EVER, KEEPING HIMSELF FIT WALKING AND JOGGING SEVERAL MILES A DAY. HE PRACTISES YOGA AND IS A KARATE BLACK-BELT HOLDER.

/DAN WILL .....

DAN WILL NOT BE LEAVING HONG KONG PERMANENTLY. HE PLANS TO RETURN IN DECEMBER AFTER LEAVE OVERSEAS.

+I INTEND TO KEEP BUSY WITH CONSULTANCIES, RESEARCH, SOME WRITING AND THE PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG NOW THAT MY TIME IS MY OWN,+ HE SAID.

DAN JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1954 AND WAS MADE HEAD OF THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE FORMER TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN 1963. HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL OF THE FIRST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - MORRISON HILL - WHEN IT OPENED IN 1968.

IN THE EARLY 1970S WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT TECHNICAL EDUCATION WAS PARTICULARLY VITAL TO THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, DAN WAS POSTED TO EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS TO OVERSEE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.

BETWEEN 1974 AND 1980, HE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTES - KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG, HAKING WONG AND LEE WAI LEE - AND SAW ENROLMENT, BOTH PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME, JUMP FROM ABOUT 8 700 TO OVER 23 000.

+THE GROWTH IN NUMBERS OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS, AT CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN LEVELS, HAS BEEN QUITE STAGGERING AND IS POSSIBLY UNEQUALLED ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD,+ DAN SAID.

ANOTHER SIDE OF HIS LIFE WHICH IS LITTLE KNOWN EVEN AMONG HIS CLOSE FRIENDS IS THAT DAN WAS A MEMBER OF THE +DESERT RATS+ WHO SAW ACTION AT SALERNO AND ANZIO. HE WAS WOUNDED THREE TIMES DURING THE WAR.

AT HIS FAREWELL PRESENTATION TODAY, ATTENDED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF HIS FRIENDS IN EDUCATION, MR KEN TOPLEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, REMARKED THAT DAN DESERVED A WELL-EARNED REST BUT DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT WITH HIS BOUNTIFUL ENERGY, HE WOULD REMAIN INACTIVE FOR VERY LONG.

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AUSTRALIAN PENAL OFFICIAL HERE ON A VISIT

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THE CHAIRMAN OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, DR T. VINSON, IS CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PENAL SYSTEM HERE.

HE BEGAN HIS PROGRAMME TODAY (TUESDAY) BY VISITING THREE PENAL INSTITUTIONS, THE PIK UK PRISON, THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND THE LAI CHI KOK RECEPTION CENTRE.

DURING THE VISITS HE SAW INMATES ENGAGED IN PRODUCTION WORK OR ATTENDING CLASSES. HE WAS BRIEFED ON VARIOUS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES PROVIDED FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF INMATES.

/AFTER THE .....

AFTER THE VISITS, DR VINSON COMPLIMENTED THE PRISON OFFICERS FOR THEIR GOOD WORK. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE OUTSTANDING RESULTS ACHIEVED BY YOUNG INMATES OF PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IN THE TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN EXAMINATIONS OF THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, HE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH MR TOM ECOB, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS.

TOMORROW, DR VINSON WILL VISIT STANLEY PRISON AND THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

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PAYMENT MADE TO DUST DISEASE PATIENTS

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EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TOTALLING $151 000 WERE MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME OVER THE WEEKEND TO THREE PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE RECIPIENTS WERE AMONG 47 APPLICATIONS APPROVED SINCE THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME STARTED ON JULY 10, THIS YEAR.

PAYMENTS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT $1.2 MILLION TO THE OTHER 44 APPLICANTS WERE EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

PEOPLE DIAGNOSED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1981 TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE WHO DIED ON OR AFTER JULY 10 AND WHO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED PAYMENT ARE ENTITLED TO THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, PROVIDED THEY HAD RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR FIVE YEARS.

WORKERS WHO SUSPECT THEMSELVES TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE SHOULD EITHER CONSULT THEIR OWN DOCTOR OR APPROACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL HEALTH UNIT AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 5TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI, FOR ARRANGEMENTS OF X-RAY.

ANY ENQUIRY ABOUT THE PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION UNIT, TEL: 3-688353 AND 3-687346.

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE MORE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS TO PURSUE STUDIES RELATING TO FARMING AND FISHING INDUSTRIES IF MORE SUITABLE APPLICANTS CAME FORWARD.

HE DISCLOSED THIS DURING THE PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO SIX STUDENTS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1980/81.

HE SAID: +THE PURPOSE OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS WE ARE AWARDING TODAY IS TO STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE IN THE FARMING AND FISHING INDUSTRIES BY ASSISTING DESERVING STUDENTS TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION IN RELATED STUDIES AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO RETURN TO HONG KONG AND CONTRIBUTE TO FARMING AND FISHING.+

SINCE THE TWO FUNDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1978 EIGHT APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS OR INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO STUDY AT LOCAL OR OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THIS YEAR'S AWARDS BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED TO OVER $106 000.

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CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5

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THE 13TH CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM, WHICH WAS CANCELLED LAST SUNDAY BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER, WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5.

THE STARTING TIME, VENUE AND PROGRAMME ARRANGEMENTS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. ALL ENTRANTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.

A TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED THE 410 SWIMMERS WHO PUT THEIR NAMES DOWN FOR LAST SUNDAY'S RACE TO DO THEIR BEST TO TURN UP ON OCTOBER 5.

HE SAID CONTESTANTS SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE CAR PARK AT 9 AM. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED TO TAKE THEM TO SHA LAN BEACH WHERE THE RACE STARTS AT 10.30 AM.

THE RACE IS OVER A 2 400-METRE COURSE FINISHING AT TAI MEI TUK SEA ACTIVITIES CENTRE.

THE ANNUAL SWIM IS ORGANISED BY TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD. THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND MRS AKERS-JONES WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS GIVE CONCERT
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THE HONG KONG JING YING WILL APPEAR IN A CONCERT ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20) IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

THE GROUP RETURNED EARLIER THIS MONTH AFTER A VERY SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF ISRAEL AND CYPRUS, PARTCIPATING IN THE ISRAEL ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH FILM AND TELEVISION FESTIVAL.

THE THREE COMPONENT GROUPS OF THE JING YING - THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE AND THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS DANCE TEAM - GAVE A TOTAL OF 21 PERFORMANCES DURING THEIR MONTH-LONG TOUR OF THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR AUDIENCES OF ABOUT 30 000.

THEIR PERFORMANCES WON HIGH ACCLAIM FROM MUSIC CRITICS AND AUDIENCES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE JERUSALEM POST DESCRIBED THE CHINESE MUSICIANS' PERFORMANCE AS 'EXTRAORDINARILY POLISHED,' WITH SOLOISTS 'OF AN ASTONISHING FACILITY' AND THE DANCERS AS 'OUTSTANDING' AND THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE AS 'TRULY FASCINATING.'

ON THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, COMMENTS FROM CRITICS SUCH AS 'THE QUALITY OF STRING TONE IS UNIQUELY SENSITIVE AND SELDOM HEARD FROM ANY ORCHESTRA ...' AND 'THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SURPRISED US WITH ITS PURE SOUND, GREAT ACCURACY AND SENSE OF ENSEMBLE. THEIR PLAYING GIVES GREAT CREDIT TO HONG KONG'S MUSICAL EDUCATION ...' ALL SHOWED THAT THE HONG KONG MUSICIANS PASSED A STRINGENT TEST WITH FLYING COLOURS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID, +JUDGING FROM ALL THESE COMMENTS, THE JING YING HAVE REALLY DONE A LOT FOR HONG KONG. IT WOULD BE A PITY IF HONG KONG AUDIENCES WERE NOT ABLE TO HEAR THEM FOR THEMSELVES. SO WE HAVE MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN A SELECTION OF ITEMS BY THE JING YING AT SATURDAY'S CONCERT, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND.

+SO NOW THE CONCERT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: THE FIRST HALF WILL BE GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND AS PLANNED, WHILE THE SECOND HALF WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY THE JING YING GROUP,+ HE ADDED.

SATURDAY'S CONCERT WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM AND IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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ROAD JUNCTION REOPENS TO TRAFFIC

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THE JUNCTION OF TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND CLOUD VIEW ROAD HAS RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF WATER MAIN LAYING WORK THERE.

BUT MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE WHEN CROSSING THE JUNCTION AS SOME MINOR WORK IS STILL IN PROGRESS NEARBY.

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SALT WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WEST KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 18) FOR A MAIN CONNECTION.

THE DISTRICTS TO BE AFFECTED ARE CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, SHEK KIP MEI, MONG KOK, TAI KOK TSUI AND YAU MA TEI.

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