



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1988

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DEFENCE MINISTER TO VISIT HONG KONG

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE, MR GEORGE YOUNGER, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO PAY A SHORT VISIT TO THE TERRITORY.

THE MINISTER IS MAKING A ROUTINE VISIT TO THE FAR EAST AND HIS ITINERARY ALSO INCLUDES MALAYSIA, BRUNEI AND KOREA.

TO MARK HIS VISIT, A PARADE, WITH THE JOINT SERVICE GUARD OF HONOUR TAKING PART, WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25) AT HMS TAMAR.

AT 3 PM THE SAME DAY, MR YOUNGER WILL MEET THE PRESS AT THE OFFICERS MESS, HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES, HMS TAMAR.

MR YOUNGER WILL ALSO TOUR THE BORDER AND PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, DURING HIS STAY.

HE WILL LEAVE ON SUNDAY (MARCH 27).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM AND THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25).

FOR SECURITY REASONS, THOSE WISHING TO COVER THE TWO EVENTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO JSPRS (5-8633314 OR 5-284724) BEFORE 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE MAIN GATE OF HMS TAMAR BEFORE 9.45 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25) FOR THE PARADE AND BEFORE 2 PM ON THE SAME DAY FOR THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE.

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HK'S TRADING PATTERN LIKELY TO CHANGE  
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THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAS EMERGED AS A DYNAMIC ECONOMIC FORCE IN RECENT YEARS AND IT IS LIKELY THAT HONG KONG'S TRADING PATTERN WILL CHANGE ACCORDINGLY, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, MR SZE SAID WITH A RATE OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION WHICH HAD FAR ECLIPSED THAT OF TRADITIONAL WESTERN POWERS, THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAD BEEN GAINING AN INCREASING SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

"IT PROBABLY NOW ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND 20 PER CENT OF WORLD TRADE IN VALUE TERMS," HE SAID.

MR SZE SAID GROWTH IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE HAD IN RECENT YEARS BEEN PARALLELED BY GROWTH IN TRADE BETWEEN ASIA-PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS ALTHOUGH RELIANCE ON THE U.S. AS A MARKET FOR THE REGION'S EXPORTS STILL REMAINED STRONG.

"GIVEN THE WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, THE LIKELY SLOWDOWN IN U.S. IMPORTS, AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC'S STILL ENORMOUS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL, THIS RELIANCE IS LIKELY TO BE CUT BACK.

"ADDED TO THAT ARE PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN THE U.S. AND THE EXCLUSION AS FROM 1989 OF THE EXPORTS OF HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA FROM THE U.S. GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES".

HE SAID SOME DIVERSIFICATION IN EXPORT MARKETS IN FAVOUR OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WAS INEVITABLE AND THE FOCUS OF THAT DIVERSIFICATION WOULD BE JAPAN.

MR SZE NOTED THAT THE CHANGE HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND EXPORTS TO JAPAN FROM HONG KONG, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA AND SINGAPORE SOARED LAST YEAR TO US\$18.83 BILLION, UP 51 PER CENT OVER 1986 WHILE JAPAN'S EXPORTS TO THEM ROSE BY 31 PER CENT.

IN CONCLUSION, MR SZE SAID WITH AN OPEN, FREE-TRADING ECONOMY, HONG KONG'S PATTERN OF TRADE WAS BASED ON OPPORTUNITY AND HAD TO GO IN SEARCH OF NEW MARKETS AS OLDER ONES CONTRACTED.

"THE IDEAL WOULD BE THAT OTHERS FOLLOW HONG KONG'S EXAMPLE AND TRADE WITHOUT BARRIERS.

"THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER GROWTH, BUT IN THE LONG RUN THIS GROWTH CANNOT BE SUSTAINED UNLESS ALL TRADING PARTNERS PURSUE A FREE AND OPEN TRADE POLICY," HE ADDED.

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GOVT PROVIDES ENVIRONMENT FOR TRADE TO FLOURISH

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THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BUSINESSMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ON BUSINESS MATTERS FREE OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTION OR BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE TOPIC OF "HOW THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PROMOTES TRADE", MR MILLER SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK OR AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TRADE COULD FLOURISH.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLAYED A DIRECT ROLE IN FACILITATING TRADE THROUGH THE WORK OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, MR MILLER SAID THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

IT PRESERVED HONG KONG'S ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS, ISSUED THE NECESSARY LICENCES FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT AND ADMINISTERED THE QUOTA ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOODS UNDER RESTRAINT, HE SAID.

"THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT FACILITATES TRADE, IT DOES NOT INTERVENE IN THE ECONOMY UNLESS THERE IS A POSITIVE REASON FOR DOING SO."

AS FOR TRADE PROMOTION, MR MILLER SAID IT WAS MAINLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND ITS WORK WAS COMPLEMENTED BY THE WORK OF SOME OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

"AS HONG KONG BELIEVES IN AND IS DEPENDENT ON FREE TRADE, IT IS THEREFORE VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT IT PROTECTS ITS ACCESS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS, THROUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

"IT ALSO MAINTAINS OFFICES IN GENEVA, BRUSSELS, LONDON AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

"THESE OFFICES KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS IN RELATION TO TRADE AND DISCUSS BILATERAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH THEM."

MR MILLER EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE GATT, HONG KONG WAS ALSO A SIGNATORY OF THE MULTI FIBRE ARRANGEMENT AND A NUMBER OF BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED BY HONG KONG WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS UNDER THE MFA.

"IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE THESE AGREEMENTS AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED SMOOTHLY, AND ABOUT HALF OF THE STAFF OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ARE INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING TRADE CONTROLS ARISING FROM THESE AGREEMENTS."

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST ALL QUOTA AVAILABLE UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WAS ALLOCATED TO HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE, NOT AUCTIONED OR SOLD TO MANUFACTURERS.

"SUBJECT TO A FEW SIMPLE RULES, MANUFACTURERS MAY TRANSFER HALF OF THE QUOTA ALLOCATED TO THEM EITHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY, BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF QUOTA AVAILABLE IS LIMITED AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF IT BE USED."

TURNING TO THE VOLUME AND PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S TRADE, HE SAID THE TOTAL VALUE OF HONG KONG'S TRADE LAST YEAR WAS \$756 BILLION.

"IT INCLUDES \$378 BILLION WORTH OF IMPORTS, \$195 BILLION DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$84 BILLION RE-EXPORTS OF GOODS OF CHINESE ORIGIN AND \$99 BILLION RE-EXPORTS OF OTHER GOODS.

"THE BULK OF HONG KONG DOMESTIC EXPORTS GO TO NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE AND ABOUT 14 PER CENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"HONG KONG'S ENTREPOT TRADE, IN PARTICULAR, HAS GROWN WITH EXTRAORDINARY SPEED IN RECENT YEARS, BY SOME 22 TIMES IN EIGHT YEARS.

"RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA GREW FROM ABOUT \$200 MILLION IN 1978 TO OVER \$60,170 MILLION IN 1987, AND RE-EXPORTS FROM CHINA GREW FROM ABOUT \$3,700 MILLION TO OVER \$84,266 MILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD," MR MILLER SAID.

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#### INDUSTRIALISTS REMINDED TO REGISTER

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED ELIGIBLE INDUSTRIALISTS THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FOR THEM TO REGISTER FOR EXEMPTIONS UNDER POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR ROBERT LAW, SAID THAT FACTORIES THAT WERE ENTITLED TO EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SPECIFIED PROCESSES PROVISIONS OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE HAD BEEN INFORMED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THEY MUST REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE APRIL 1, BUT MANY HAD NOT YET DONE SO.

"IF THEY DO NOT REGISTER BEFORE THE CUTOFF DATE, THEY WILL FACE A FINE OF \$5,000 AND WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN A LICENCE FROM US OR HAVE TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS," MR LAW SAID.

"THE PENALTY FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE ORDINANCE IS MUCH MORE SEVERE IF FACTORIES OPERATE A SPECIFIED PROCESS WITHOUT A LICENCE OR AN EXEMPTION AFTER APRIL 1.

/"IN THESE .....

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"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE FACTORY OWNERS COULD BE FINED \$50,000," MR LAW CONTINUED.

ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE EPD IS CONCERNED THAT OWNERS OF FACTORIES AND PRIVATE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, IN OPERATION PRIOR TO APRIL 1, LAST YEAR IN THE TOLO WATER CONTROL ZONE, HAVE BEEN EQUALLY SLOW IN REGISTERING FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM WASTEWATER LICENSING CONTROLS UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE.

THE CUTOFF DATE FOR REGISTERING FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM THESE CONTROLS IS ALSO APRIL 1.

AS FROM APRIL 1 THE DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER IN SHA TIN, TAI PO AND NEARBY AREAS WITHOUT AN EXEMPTION OR A LICENCE WILL BECOME AN OFFENCE, WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$50,000.

"WE HAVE GONE OUT OF OUR WAY TO ADVISE EVERYONE OF THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOW TIME IS RUNNING OUT," MR LAW SAID.

"IF THEY DO NOT APPLY FOR EXEMPTION, AND CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHOUT A LICENCE AFTER APRIL 1, THEY WILL DEFINITELY BE PROSECUTED. THEY SHOULD REGISTER AND APPLY NOW, BOTH FOR THEIR OWN GOOD AND THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE EPD.

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#### NEW STREETS AND PLACES GUIDE BOOK \* \* \* \* \*

A TWO-VOLUME LOCAL GUIDE BOOK THAT HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AMONG TOURISTS, LOCAL RESIDENTS AND DRIVERS HAS BEEN UPDATED AND COMBINED INTO A SINGLE COMPACT VOLUME.

RENAMED "HONG KONG GUIDE - STREETS AND PLACES", THE NEW EDITION WAS PUBLISHED BY THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

IT REPLACES THE EXISTING "HONG KONG STREETS AND PLACES GUIDE BOOKS - VOLUMES I AND II". AT \$32 PER COPY, IT IS ALSO CHEAPER THAN THE CURRENT TWO-VOLUME ISSUE, WHICH COSTS \$47.

"AT 21CM X 15CM X 1.25CM, IT IS SMALL ENOUGH TO BE KEPT IN HANDBAGS, BRIEFCASES OR GLOVE COMPARTMENTS OF CARS FOR EASY ACCESS.

"THROUGH THE USE OF HIGH QUALITY THIN PAPER, IT IS EVEN SLIMMER THAN VOLUME II OF THE PRESENT GUIDE BOOKS," THE SENIOR CARTOGRAPHER, MR P.L. LEUNG, EXPLAINED.

/IMPROVEMENTS HAVE .....

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IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ITS FORMAT OF PRESENTATION AND USEFUL NEW INFORMATION HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

"THE MAPS ARE GROUPED BY REGION - HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW TOWNS - AND IDENTIFIED BY COLOUR CODED MARGINS TO FACILITATE SEARCHING OF DESTINATIONS.

"ALL MAPS ARE PRESENTED IN FULL COLOUR AND BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH SELECTED HOUSE NUMBERS SHOWN TO FACILITATE LOCATING, ESPECIALLY ALONG LONG ROADS AND WHERE THERE ARE ISOLATED BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS.

"MTR STATION NAMES HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED AND THERE IS AN INCREASED USE OF SYMBOLISATION TO SAVE DESCRIBING COMMON AMENITIES IN TWO LANGUAGES.

"THE WORDS ARE PRINTED IN CLEARER TYPEFACES AND MORE BUILDING AND AMENITIES NAMES ARE INCLUDED THAN IN EARLIER EDITIONS," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE NEW GUIDE BOOK IS NOW ON SALE AT ALL DISTRICT SURVEY OFFICES AND MAP SALES COUNTERS OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

INFORMATION ON THE NEAREST SALES OUTLET CAN BE OBTAINED ON 5-8482480.

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THEME AND DESIGN MAKE SPECIAL STAMPS ATTRACTIVE  
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A PROPER THEME, PORTRAYED IN AN EXQUISITE DESIGN, MAKES A SPECIAL STAMP MORE ATTRACTIVE TO STAMP COLLECTORS. THIS ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S SPECIAL STAMPS.

IN ORDER TO ATTAIN A HIGH STANDARD, THE THEMES AND DESIGNS OF ALL SPECIAL STAMPS ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED BY THE STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

"THE COMMITTEE IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY SET UP IN 1973 WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AS CHAIRMAN," SAID MR ALBERT LEUNG, WHO IS THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE.

"THE COMMITTEE ALSO COMPRISES TWO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR."

/THE EX-OFFICIO .....

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THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS INCLUDE THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (INFORMATION) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE, WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE A PHILATELIST, THE HEAD OF A DESIGN SCHOOL, A CURATOR OF A UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR AND A BUSINESSMAN.

"THIS COMPOSITION ENABLES THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE GOOD AND FAIR JUDGEMENT WHEN SELECTING THE THEMES AND DESIGNS," MR LEUNG NOTED.

BETWEEN MARCH AND APRIL EVERY YEAR, THE POST OFFICE INVITES ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION TO SUGGEST THEMES FOR STAMPS TO BE ISSUED OVER THE NEXT 18 TO 30 MONTHS.

"GENERALLY, 70 TO 80 SUGGESTIONS ARE RECEIVED EVERY YEAR AND THEY ARE ALL PASSED TO THE STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT SOME OF THE CRITERIA IN SELECTING A THEME. THE THEME MUST BE RELATED TO HONG KONG AND SHOULD PORTRAY A GOOD IMAGE OF THE CITY. ALSO, THE THEMES ADOPTED SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED TOO OFTEN.

"ONCE APPROVAL OF A THEME IS GIVEN, WE START TO INVITE DESIGNS," HE SAID.

THE POST OFFICE HAS ON ITS RECORD ABOUT 40 DESIGNERS, EITHER PROFESSIONAL OR AMATEUR, ALL OF WHOM ARE INTERESTED IN DESIGNING STAMPS.

NORMALLY, THREE DESIGNERS ARE INVITED FOR EACH PARTICULAR THEME. EACH ONE IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A SET OF DESIGNS FOR STAMPS IN THE DENOMINATIONS OF, IN GENERAL, 50 CENTS, \$1.30, \$1.70 AND \$5.

"SELECTION WORK IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY TASK," MR LEUNG STRESSED.

"SOMETIMES THE COMMITTEE MAY FIND THE DESIGNS UNSATISFACTORY. IN THIS CASE, ANOTHER THREE DESIGNERS WILL HAVE TO BE INVITED TO THINK OF OTHER DESIGNS. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE SET OF 'MEDICAL CENTENARY' SPECIAL STAMPS.

"THE COMMITTEE, IN AN EXTREME CASE, MAY EVEN WITHDRAW A CHOSEN THEME IF IT CANNOT BE SATISFACTORILY REFLECTED BY THE DESIGNS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE THEME OF 'NATURAL ROCK FORMATION IN HONG KONG'.

"EVEN WHEN THE COMMITTEE HAS SELECTED A DESIGN, THE DESIGNER CONCERNED MAY BE REQUESTED TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ONCE AN INITIAL ARTWORK IS ACCEPTED, THE DESIGNER WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT FINAL ARTWORK.

/TURNING TO .....

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TURNING TO THE PRINTING WORK, MR LEUNG SAID ALL STAMPS WERE PRINTED OVERSEAS AS THE PRINTING OF STAMPS REQUIRED SPECIAL MACHINES WHICH WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

"THE PRINTER IS SELECTED BY TENDER. THE CROWN AGENTS PHILATELIC CO. LTD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ENTRUSTED TO INVITE TENDERS FROM PRINTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD," HE CONTINUED.

ALL SPECIAL STAMPS ARE ON SALE FOR ONLY 15 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUE AND ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL POST OFFICES WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH.

AFTER THIS PERIOD, SALE IS CONFINED TO SIX PHILATELIC POST OFFICES -- THE PHILATELIC CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, AND POST OFFICES AT BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, THE PEAK, TSIM SHA TSUI, GRANVILLE ROAD AND THE AIRPORT -- FOR ANOTHER 14 MONTHS.

"AFTER THAT, ALL SPECIAL STAMPS THAT ARE UNSOLD WILL BE DESTROYED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1988.

THE CPI (A) AND CPI (B) (OCT. 84/SEP. 85 = 100) FOR FEBRUARY 1988 WERE BOTH 114.0, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 6.9 PER CENT AND 6.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER FEBRUARY 1987.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE CPI (A) INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT AND THE CPI (B), BY 1.1 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI (A) AND AVERAGE CPI (B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1988, AT 110.5 AND 110.7 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 5.9 PER CENT AND 5.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1987.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 1988, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI (A) AND CPI (B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.6 PER CENT PER MONTH.

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 .....

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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 THE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1988 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 AND FEBRUARY 1987, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR FEB.88	% CHANGE OVER JAN.88	% CHANGE OVER FEB.87	INDEX FOR FEB.88	% CHANGE OVER JAN.88	% CHANGE OVER FEB.87
FOODSTUFFS	112.1	+2.6	+8.6	112.8	+2.4	+8.5
HOUSING	111.6	+0.1	+2.8	109.1	+0.1	+2.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	93.5	+0.8	+2.7	94.1	+1.0	+2.7
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	117.4	-0.0*	+5.7	118.1	-0.0*	+6.4
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	117.1	-2.1	+8.9	118.4	-2.5	+9.6
DURABLE GOODS	114.7	+0.2	+5.7	113.5	+0.1	+5.5
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	119.6	-0.3	+6.9	119.5	-0.1	+7.3
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	117.7	+0.2	+4.7	116.7	+0.3	+5.4
SERVICES	124.7	+2.4	+9.0	124.6	+2.8	+9.8
ALL ITEMS	114.0	+1.3	+6.9	114.0	+1.1	+6.8

\* LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 2.6 PER CENT IN CPI (A) AND BY 2.4 PER CENT IN CPI (B).

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THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH-WATER FISH, LIVE POULTRY AND SALT-WATER FISH AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT IN CPI (A) AND BY 1.0 PER CENT IN CPI (B) DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR TOWNGAS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY 2.1 PER CENT IN CPI (A) AND BY 2.5 PER CENT IN CPI (B) AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 2.4 PER CENT IN CPI (A) AND BY 2.8 PER CENT IN CPI (B) DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING, PACKAGE TOURS AND CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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 FEBRUARY 1988, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.50 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM 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 117.4 IN FEBRUARY 1988, UP BY 0.9 PER CENT OVER JANUARY 1988 AND UP BY 7.7 PER CENT OVER FEBRUARY 1987.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$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.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES CLEARED IN TO KWA WAN  
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EIGHTEEN REAR LANE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN TO KWA WAN WERE CLEARED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CLEARANCE OPERATION.

THE STRUCTURES WERE LOCATED IN TWO REAR LANES WHICH ARE BOUNDED BY THE KOWLOON CITY VEHICULAR FERRY PIER, LONG YUET STREET, YUK YAT STREET, SHUN FUNG STREET AND KING WAN STREET.

OF THE STRUCTURES, EIGHT WERE USED FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE OTHER 10 FOR STORAGE. NINE FAMILIES, COMPRISING 14 PEOPLE, WERE AFFECTED BY THE OPERATION.

THE OPERATION WAS THE FOURTH ONE CARRIED OUT IN THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. A TOTAL OF 109 STRUCTURES AND OVERSIZED CANOPIES HAD BEEN REMOVED IN THREE PREVIOUS OPERATIONS.

TODAY'S CLEARANCE WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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EMSD SEMINAR ON ENHANCING ELECTRICAL WIRING SAFETY  
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AN "INSTALLATION IMPROVEMENT SEMINAR" TO PROMOTE THE USE OF RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES (RCD'S) IN ELECTRICAL WIRING INSTALLATIONS TO MINIMISE DANGER ARISING FROM ELECTRICITY LEAKAGE WILL BE HELD BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR TONG KIN-WAH, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND HE WILL ALSO GIVE AN ADDRESS.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED AND THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PRESENT FOUR TECHNICAL PAPERS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- \* EFFECT OF LEAKAGE CURRENT THROUGH THE HUMAN BODY;
- \* APPLICATION OF RCD'S FOR PROTECTION AGAINST LEAKAGE CURRENT;
- \* APPLICATION OF RCD'S IN NEW INSTALLATIONS; AND
- \* APPLICATION OF RCD'S IN EXISTING INSTALLATIONS.

/THE PAPERS .....

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THE PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SLIDE SHOW.

ABOUT 300 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, MAINLY MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR.

THEY WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO ADVISE CONSUMERS TO PLACE RCD'S IN THEIR EXISTING INSTALLATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

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FOUR LOTS PUT UP FOR SALE  
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING FOUR LOTS FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE. THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

THREE OF THE LOTS ARE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES. THEY ARE LOCATED AT:

- \* AREA 44, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 13,200 SQUARE METRES;
- \* AREA 41A, SHA TIN, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,181 SQUARE METRES; AND
- \* SHA HA, SAI KUNG, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,601 SQUARE METRES.

THE REMAINING LOT IS AN INDUSTRIAL LOT LOCATED IN AREA 25, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING.

THE AREA OF THIS LOT IS ABOUT 3,372 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, BUT EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAND AUCTION.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF SHAM SHUI PO UNDERPASS

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THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/NAM CHEONG STREET VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 26).

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE CLEANING OF THE UNDERPASS. MOTORISTS ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LUNG PING ROAD, FLYOVER AND NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL, NORTH POINT

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HARBOUR VIEW STREET IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1.15 AM TO 5.30 AM DAILY FROM SATURDAY (MARCH 26) FOR ABOUT EIGHT DAYS BECAUSE OF FOOTBRIDGE WORKS.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, SHELL STREET IN NORTH POINT FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT THREE METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN HE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR GOODS OR PASSENGERS.

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RIGHT-TURN BAN IN KOWLOON TONG

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25), NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM JUNCTION ROAD EASTBOUND ON TO RENFREW ROAD IN KOWLOON TONG.

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS BECAUSE OF ROAD WORKS.

MOTORISTS ON WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR RENFREW ROAD WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA HEREFORD ROAD.

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