



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1987

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TOP U.S. OFFICIALS HEAR HONG KONG'S CASE
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A HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, HAS ENDED FOUR DAYS OF TOP-LEVEL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON TO CONVEY THE TERRITORY'S FREE TRADE MESSAGE, AND TO ASSESS THE LIKELIHOOD OF U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT HONG KONG.

MR HO MET SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AND KEY FIGURES IN CONGRESS. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS CALLS BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, AND HONG KONG'S COUNSELLOR IN WASHINGTON, MR PETER LO.

DISCUSSIONS CENTRED ON BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES, THE GATT NEW ROUND AND POSSIBLE TRADE INITIATIVES IN THE U.S.A.

ON HIS FIRST DAY IN THE U.S. CAPITAL, MR HO MET THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, MR CLAYTON YEUTTER= THE SECRETARY OF LABOUR, MR BILL BROCK= AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF STATE AND COMMERCE.

ON TUESDAY, MR HO CALLED ON MORE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, MR MALCOLM BALDRIGE, AS WELL AS OFFICIALS AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY. ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY HE MET SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS OF KEY TRADE COMMITTEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR MACLEOD WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON FLIGHT UA 805 ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 8). MR HO IS TRAVELLING FROM THE U.S.A. TO LONDON FOR A PRIVATE VISIT.

A PRESS FACILITY WILL BE ARRANGED TO ALLOW MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO TALK TO MR MACLEOD AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN.

THE SCHEDULED ETA OF UA 805 IS 8.05 PM. HOWEVER, EDITORS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS IS SUBJECT TO VARIATION AND THEY SHOULD MAKE THEIR OWN CHECKS ON SUNDAY.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO FLIGHT ARRIVAL.

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CHINA NOW RANKS THIRD IN INVESTORS' LIST
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CHINA IS NOW THE THIRD LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, TRAILING ONLY THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE STUDY FOUND THAT CHINA'S STAKE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR STOOD AT \$2 851 MILLION REPRESENTING 18.4 PER CENT OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT BASED ON ORIGINAL COST.

THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH RANKED THIRD IN THE LAST SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN 1984, NOW LIES FOURTH ON THE LIST.

THE FINDINGS ARE CONTAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S +1986 SURVEY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES+ PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SCOPE OF THE 1986 SURVEY HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE DATA NOT COVERED IN PREVIOUS SURVEYS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, FOR INSTANCE, THAT DATA ON CHINESE INVESTMENT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY TO UPDATE THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION ON FACTORIES WITH OVERSEAS INTERESTS.

THE REPORT, COVERING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1985 TO MARCH 1986, DOES NOT REPRESENT AN EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. INSTEAD IT IS BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY 509 FACTORIES KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT TO INVOLVE OVERSEAS INTERESTS.

ONE OF THE REPORT'S KEY FINDINGS IS THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AMOUNTED TO \$15 527 MILLION WITH THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND CHINA ACCOUNTING FOR 75.9 PER CENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT.

OF THIS, WORKING CAPITAL ACCOUNTED FOR 43.3 PER CENT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT 32.8 PER CENT, AND LAND AND BUILDINGS 17.6 PER CENT.

THE INVESTMENT VALUE IS BASED ON THE FIXED ASSETS OF THE COMPANIES SURVEYED AT ORIGINAL COST BEFORE DEPRECIATION AND THEIR WORKING CAPITAL AS AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIODS ADOPTED BY THE COMPANIES.

THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINED ITS POSITION AS THE TOP OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR. THE AMERICANS INVESTED A TOTAL OF \$5 659 MILLION (36.4 PER CENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT) IN 143 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING MORE THAN 35 000 WORKERS.

/JAPAN REMAINED

JAPAN REMAINED THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE COUNTRY WITH \$3 273 MILLION (21.1 PER CENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT) INVESTED IN 117 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS WITH 18 467 WORKERS.

CHINA CAME THIRD ON THE LIST WITH ITS STAKE OF \$2 851 MILLION (18.4 PER CENT OF OVERALL INVESTMENT) IN 35 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING MORE THAN 5 000 WORKERS.

CHINESE INVESTMENT WAS CONCENTRATED MAINLY IN THE MANUFACTURING OF NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS, ELECTRONICS (EXCEPT TOYS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS), AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN FOURTH PLACE, ACCOUNTED FOR \$1 051 MILLION WORTH OF INVESTMENT (6.8 PER CENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENT), AND WAS PROVIDING JOBS FOR 11 079 WORKERS IN 56 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE MANUFACTURERS WERE ALSO ASKED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON HONG KONG AS A LOCATION FOR INVESTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT 345, OR 68 PER CENT OF THE 509 FACTORIES SURVEYED, SAID HONG KONG OFFERED A FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS WHILE 141 OR 28 PER CENT HELD THE OPPOSITE VIEW.

THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE FOREWORD TO THE REPORT: +IT IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE FACTORIES SURVEYED REGARD HONG KONG AS PROVIDING A HIGHLY FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, CITING OUR LOW AND SIMPLE TAX STRUCTURE, GOOD INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, FREIGHT, UTILITY, BUSINESS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSISTENT ADHERENCE TO FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE.+

SOME FACTORIES ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE ARE WEAKNESSES IN CERTAIN AREAS SUCH AS IN THE SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES.

THIS IS WELL KNOWN TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WHICH ARE PURSUING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM MAINLY THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT AND QUALITY PROMOTION SERVICES.

HIGH LABOUR TURNOVER, HIGH LABOUR COSTS, THE LACK OF SPECIAL FISCAL INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, NO TAX HOLIDAYS), AND THE ABSENCE OF LONG-TERM LEASES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES WERE ALSO CONSIDERED UNFAVOURABLE FACTORS.

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT THE ELECTRONICS (EXCLUDING TOYS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS), NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES WERE THE THREE MAJOR INDUSTRIES FOR OVERSEAS INVESTMENT.

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THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR \$5 021 MILLION (OR 32.3 PER CENT) OF TOTAL INVESTMENT AT ORIGINAL COST FOLLOWED BY THE NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AT \$1 892 MILLION (OR 12.2 PER CENT) AND THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY AT \$1 322 MILLION (OR 8.5 PER CENT).

APART FROM EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY TO COVER FACTORIES KNOWN TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TO INVOLVE INVESTMENT FROM CHINA, THE 1986 SURVEY IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS ONES IN OTHER WAYS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, DATA ON BOOK VALUE AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD AND ON NET ACQUISITION WAS COLLECTED IN ADDITION TO THAT ON CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT AT ORIGINAL COST BEFORE DEPRECIATION.

IN TERMS OF BOOK VALUE AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE TOTAL VALUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT WAS \$12 492 MILLION. OF THIS WORKING CAPITAL ACCOUNTED FOR 53.8 PER CENT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT 23.4 PER CENT, AND LAND AND BUILDINGS 18.9 PER CENT.

NET ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS BY INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS CONTAINING OVERSEAS INTEREST AMOUNTED TO \$1 105 MILLION IN 1984 AND \$1 031 MILLION IN 1985. ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THERE WAS A SLIGHT DECREASE OF 6.7 PER CENT. IN 1985, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTED FOR 68.4 PER CENT, AND LAND AND BUILDINGS 18.8 PER CENT. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1984 WERE 69.8 PER CENT AND 17.9 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE DECREASE, MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE FIGURES FOR 1984 WORKED OUT TO \$12 369 PER WORKER EMPLOYED IN THE 509 FACTORIES. +THIS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH \$5 498 PER WORKER FOR ALL FACTORIES IN HONG KONG IN THAT YEAR. DESPITE THE FACT THAT 1985 WAS NOT CONSIDERED A GOOD YEAR FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE NET ACQUISITION VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS BY THE FACTORIES SURVEYED WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY REDUCED TO \$1 031 MILLION OR \$11 929 PER WORKER.+

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT AS THE SCOPE OF THE 1986 SURVEY HAD BEEN EXPANDED, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COMPARE THE RESULTS WITH THOSE OF PREVIOUS SURVEYS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT SIMILAR SURVEYS OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT WILL IN FUTURE BE CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY INSTEAD OF ONCE EVERY TWO OR THREE YEARS.

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL BE TACKLED VIGOROUSLY

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION REMAINS THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM TO BE TACKLED IN THE YEARS TO COME, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING, MR LEEDS SAID THIS WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROVIDING NEW ROADS OR NEW BUS SERVICES.

+IF IT IS NOT TACKLED FIRMLY AND IN GOOD TIME ALL THE ADVANTAGES THAT HAVE BEEN GAINED OVER THE PAST YEARS BY THE HEAVY INVESTMENT IN THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WILL HAVE BEEN WASTED IF THE ROAD TRAFFIC SYSTEM IS BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL BY ROAD CONGESTION,+ HE STRESSED.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND IT WOULD BE TACKLED VIGOROUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

MR LEEDS SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE MORE ECONOMIC USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM -- ONE OF THE THREE PRINCIPLES DRAWN UP IN THE 1979 POLICY WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT -- WAS BOTH THE LEAST UNDERSTOOD AND THE MOST CONTENTIOUS.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT BOOM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-RISE PREMISES FOR THE DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, BUT THERE HAD NOT BEEN A COMPARABLE INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD SYSTEM AND THERE NEVER COULD BE.

SOME FORM OF RATIONING WAS INEVITABLE AS THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A SHORTAGE OF ROAD CAPACITY WHEN COMPARED WITH DEMAND, HE SAID.

+A DO NOTHING POLICY WOULD RESULT IN RATIONING OF A SORT- RATIONING BY CONGESTION UNDER WHICH MANY JOURNEYS WOULD NOT BE TAKEN AT ALL BECAUSE FOR MANY HOURS OF THE DAY OVER WIDER AREAS TRAFFIC WOULD MOVE IN A SNAIL-LIKE SPEED OR PERHAPS NOT AT ALL.

+THIS POSSIBLE SITUATION, WHICH SOME OF YOU MAY SAY IS HAPPENING ALREADY, IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN FORECAST IN THE MANY TRANSPORT STUDIES AND IT IS THE SITUATION WHICH NOBODY WOULD WISH TO SEE HAPPEN,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MUCH HAD BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW BY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM WAS HOW TO RESTRAIN THE INCREASING DEMAND.

+THERE ARE NO EASY OR PAINLESS TRAFFIC RESTRAINT OPTIONS TO BRING THE DEMAND FOR ROAD SPACE INTO LINE WITH THE SUPPLY AVAILABLE. THE PRESENT POLICY OF HIGH TAXATION ON VEHICLES OWNERSHIP TO HOLD DOWN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES IS A SYSTEM OF INDIRECT ROAD PRICING,+ HE SAID.

/+IT IS

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+IT IS BLUNT INSTRUMENT WHICH HAS SO FAR WORKED ALTHOUGH IT CANNOT INFLUENCE TRAFFIC FLOWS IN MAJOR CONGESTION AREAS.

+THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS THE SYSTEM OF DIRECT ROAD PRICING WHICH WOULD MAKE BETTER USE OF THE ROAD NETWORK BY RESTRAINING TRAFFIC IN THE BUSY AREAS AND TIMES, WHILE REDUCING THE COST OF USING VEHICLES IN OFF-PEAK PERIODS AND IN LESS BUSY AREAS.

+ONE SUCH SYSTEM WHICH COULD ACHIEVE THAT DESIRABLE RESULT IS ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING, UNFORTUNATELY, A SYSTEM WHICH WAS NOT SUPPORTED AT THE TIME WHEN THE REPORT ON ERP WAS PUBLISHED IN 1985,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE OTHER TWO PRINCIPLES OF THE 1979 POLICY WHITE PAPER -- IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD SYSTEM AND EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT -- MR LEEDS SAID A LOT HAD BEEN DONE IN THE SEVEN YEARS SINCE THE REPORT WAS PUBLISHED.

THE ROAD SYSTEM HAD IMPROVED WITH EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$7 000 MILLION ON NEW WORKS AND MAINTENANCE.

SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR ROADS THAT HAD BEEN COMPLETED DURING THE PERIOD INCLUDED THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, THE AIRPORT TUNNEL, TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, AND TOLO HIGHWAY.

AMONG THE MAJOR WORKS CURRENTLY IN HAND WERE THE JUNK BAY TUNNEL, TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, ROUTE 5 FROM SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN AND THE BORDER CROSSING AT LOK MA CHAU.

ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, MR LEEDS SAID THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HAD PROBABLY SEEN AN INCREASE THAT WAS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED BEFORE AND PERHAPS WOULD NEVER BE MATCHED AGAIN.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 1979, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED ON THE MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS WAS 4.4 MILLION PER DAY, AND AT THE END OF 1986 IT WAS 9.3 MILLION PER DAY -- AN INCREASE OF 111 PER CENT -- A RECORD THAT COULD NOT BE BETTERED BY ANY OTHER LARGE CITY IN THE WORLD.

HONG KONG'S TWO RAILWAYS, THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WHICH WAS FULLY ELECTRIFIED IN 1983, AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY HAD ACHIEVED THE BIGGEST INCREASE IN PASSENGER CARRYING CAPACITY.

IN 1979, THE TWO SYSTEMS CARRIED LESS THAN 200 000 PASSENGERS PER DAY, BUT NOW THE FIGURE HAD REACHED A STAGGERING 1.9 MILLION DAILY.

MR LEEDS SAID THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT WAS INCREASING AT A PHENOMENAL RATE BECAUSE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS NEEDED GOOD COMMUNICATIONS.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE RAILWAYS HAD TAKEN UP SUCH A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE DEMAND THIS HAD NOT MEANT THAT OTHER SERVICES, APART FROM CROSS HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES, HAD SUFFERED FROM LOSSES IN PATRONAGE.

+OVER THE SAME SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED BY THE TWO LARGEST FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES HAS GONE UP FROM 3.3 MILLION PER DAY TO FOUR MILLION PER DAY, WITH MUCH OF THE INCREASE BEING GENERATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS AND THEIR NEED TO HAVE GOOD LOCAL SERVICES AND LINKS WITH THE MAIN URBAN AREAS,+ HE SAID.

FURTHER EFFORTS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMANDS BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY, HE ADDED.

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TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME FOR WHEELCHAIR-BOUND DISABLED

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DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE WHEELCHAIR-BOUND CAN BENEFIT FROM A NEW SCHEME UTILISING PRE-PAID TAXI VOUCHERS TO PAY FOR TAXI FARES.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR FRANCIS HO, TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST, MR HO SAID, + THE AIM OF THE TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME (TVS) IS TO USE THE TAXI SERVICE TO SUPPLEMENT CENTRE-BASED TRANSPORT AND THE TERRITORY-WIDE SPECIAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.+

THE SERVICE WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR DISABLED PERSONS WHO CANNOT UTILISE OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO MEET THEIR TRANSPORT NEEDS ARISING FROM NORMAL DAILY LIVING.

THE REASON WHY THE TAXI SERVICE WAS CHOSEN, MR HO WENT ON TO EXPLAIN, WAS THAT IT WAS GENERALLY RECOGNISED THAT THE TAXI WAS A VERY IMPORTANT FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAT COULD BE UTILISED BY MOST OF THE WHEELCHAIR-BOUND AND THOSE WITH SEVERE WALKING DIFFICULTIES EITHER ON THEIR OWN OR WITH ASSISTANCE.

THE SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS.

/UNDER THE

UNDER THE SCHEME, AN ELIGIBLE PERSON WILL BE ISSUED WITH TAXI VOUCHERS AMOUNTING TO \$55 PER MONTH. THE VOUCHERS WILL BE OF \$5, \$2 AND \$1 DENOMINATIONS AND WILL BE VALID FOR SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE.

A PERSON AGED 15 OR ABOVE AND WHO IS SUFFERING FROM A PERMANENT PHYSICAL DISABILITY WHICH CONFINES HIM OR HER TO A WHEELCHAIR, WILL BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHEME IF HIS OR HER MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME FALLS BELOW \$5 400. APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A STATUTORY DECLARATION OF THE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ON THE APPLICATION FORM.

DISABLED DRIVERS WHO CURRENTLY ENJOY EXEMPTIONS FROM THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX, CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TAX AND THE FEES FOR DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW SCHEME.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT THEIR VOUCHERS AND THEIR TVS CARDS, WHICH ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE. THE CARD, WHICH BEARS THE NAME, ID CARD NUMBER AND PHOTO OF THE USER, MUST BE PRODUCED WHEN THE VOUCHERS ARE USED IN PAYMENT OF TAXI FARES.

MR HO ADDED THAT TAXI DRIVERS CAN CASH THE VOUCHERS AT THE OFFICES OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BY SHOWING THEIR TAXI DRIVING LICENCES.

SPEAKING ON THE BACKGROUND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME, MR HO SAID THAT THE IDEA OF THE SCHEME DERIVED ORIGINALLY FROM RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY A WORKING PARTY APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

A WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, FOLLOWED UP THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBSEQUENTLY AND MONITORED THEIR IMPLEMENTATIONS, HE ADDED.

MR HO EXPLAINED THAT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY COULD BE HELPED BY INTRODUCING MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUOUSLY EXPLORING WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF THE DISABLED.

+THE TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME WAS JUST ONE OF THE NEW INITIATIVES+, HE SAID.

EMPHASISING THAT THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY DEPENDED QUITE LARGELY ON THE AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT, MR HO SPECIFICALLY THANKED THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR ITS GENEROUS DONATION OF \$660 000 TOWARDS THE SCHEME AND THE TAXI TRADE FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE SCHEME.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD WILL BE FROM FEBRUARY 9 TO MARCH 14. APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE STUDENT TRAVEL OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AT SECOND FLOOR, LOW BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG; OR FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES, OR MAY BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE POST ON APPLICATION, EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONE (5-8623253).

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED BY POST OR BY AGENT TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT (PILOT TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME) AT SECOND FLOOR, LOW BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY AGENT TO :

- * TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT 28TH FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG;
- * TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN LICENSING OFFICE AT KCR HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR, SHA TIN STATION, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE AT 56 DUNDAS STREET, NINTH FLOOR, KOWLOON; AND
- * TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG LICENSING OFFICE AT KOWLOON EAST GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FIFTH FLOOR, 12 LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 5-8623253.

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STREAMLINING OF ADOPTION PROCEDURE PROPOSED
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A BILL TO STREAMLINE THE PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING CHILDREN WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

EXISTING LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT AN INFANT MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE CONTINUOUS CARE AND POSSESSION OF THE PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENT FOR AT LEAST SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS BEFORE AN ADOPTION ORDER MAY BE MADE.

/THE ADOPTION

THE ADOPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 PROPOSES THAT WHERE ONE OF THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS IS A NATURAL PARENT OF THE INFANT, THE PRESCRIBED PRE-ADOPTION PERIOD SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM SIX MONTHS TO 13 WEEKS.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS THAT WHERE AN INFANT IS HOSPITALISED OR AT BOARDING SCHOOL, THE CONTINUOUS ACTUAL CUSTODY WITH THE ADOPTIVE PARENT SHALL NOT BE REGARDED AS BROKEN.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY AS THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE TOO STRINGENT AND MORE PROTRACTED THAN DESIRABLE.

FURTHERMORE, TO AVOID THE DELAY AND UNCERTAINTY CAUSED BY VACILLATION ON THE PART OF THE NATURAL PARENTS IN SIGNING OVER AN INFANT, A NEW SECTION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, IF THE DIRECTOR IS THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF AN INFANT OR IF THE INFANT IS IN THE DIRECTOR'S CARE, TO OBTAIN AN ORDER FROM A COURT FREEING THE INFANT FOR ADOPTION, WHEN THE CONSENT OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN CANNOT BE OBTAINED.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE PROVISIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING INFORMING PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT THE DATE OF THE COURT HEARING AND A TIME FRAME FOR THEM TO APPLY TO THE COURT TO REVOKE THE ORDER.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL IS TO ENABLE RULES TO BE MADE UNDER WHICH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE MAY CONCEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF AN INFANT IN RESPECT OF WHOM AN APPLICATION TO FREE THE CHILD FOR ADOPTION IS MADE.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THIS WOULD NOT ONLY PROTECT THE INFANT FROM POSSIBLE PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERFERENCE BUT IT WOULD ALSO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE APPLICANT IN THOSE FREQUENT CASES WHERE THE INFANT IN QUESTION IS ALREADY RESIDING WITH THE APPLICANT.

ON ADOPTION APPLICATIONS, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT ALL THE APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMMENCED IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND THAT SUCH APPLICATIONS MAY BE TRANSFERRED BY THE DISTRICT COURT TO THE HIGH COURT AT THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY TO THE PROCEEDINGS OR ON THE MOTION OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE.

WHERE THE APPLICATION IS HEARD BY THE DISTRICT COURT, THAT COURT CAN, IN SUITABLE CASES, DISPENSE WITH THE ADOPTION CONSENT WITHOUT HAVING TO TRANSFER THE APPLICATION TO THE HIGH COURT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

ALSO, FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, A NEW SECTION IS INTRODUCED TO VALIDATE EXISTING ORDERS WHERE THE DISTRICT COURT HAS DISPENSED WITH THE ADOPTION CONSENT.

IT IS EXPECTED THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 18.

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PRESS STATEMENT ON EDA AND CARRIAN INVESTIGATIONS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, MR RAY ASTIN, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE STATUTORY REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS APPOINTED BY THE SECURITIES COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF EDA INVESTMENTS LIMITED, ITS SUBSIDIARIES, ASSOCIATED AND RELATED COMPANIES (+THE EDA GROUP+), HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, AND A COPY HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY THE INSPECTORS, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 130 OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE.

THE INSPECTORS CONCERNED, MR ROBERT C. TANG, QC, AND MR MICHAEL JOHNSON, WERE FIRST APPOINTED ON MARCH 7, 1983 TO INVESTIGATE THE EDA GROUP, AND THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER APPOINTMENT ON APRIL 29, 1983 TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF CARRIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED, CARRIAN INVESTMENTS LIMITED, AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES, ASSOCIATED AND RELATED COMPANIES (+THE CARRIAN GROUP+), BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE AFFAIRS OF THE EDA GROUP AND THE CARRIAN GROUP.

IN NOVEMBER 1985, THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, INSTRUCTED THE INSPECTORS TO CONCENTRATE ON COMPLETING THE EDA GROUP INVESTIGATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND TO SUSPEND THE CARRIAN GROUP INVESTIGATION FOR THE TIME BEING. THE SECURITIES COMMISSION ALSO AGREED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT, ON COMPLETION OF THE EDA GROUP INVESTIGATION, THEY WOULD REVIEW FURTHER THE POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE CARRIAN GROUP INVESTIGATION IN LIGHT OF THE FUNDS THEN REMAINING, AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

THE POSITION WAS RECONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE SECURITIES COMMISSION BEGINNING IN OCTOBER 1986 WHEN THE EDA GROUP INVESTIGATION WAS NEARING COMPLETION AND A REASONABLY ACCURATE ESTIMATE COULD BE MADE AS TO THE BALANCE OF APPROVED FUNDS REMAINING AFTER COMPLETION OF THE EDA GROUP INVESTIGATION. ON DECEMBER 4, 1986, THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTORS IN RESPECT OF THE CARRIAN GROUP INVESTIGATION WITHOUT REQUIRING THE STATUTORY REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 130 OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE. THIS COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED HAD THE INSPECTORS COMPLETED THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE CARRIAN GROUP.

THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAD NOTED THAT POLICE INVESTIGATIONS HAD LED TO THE INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND THAT THE INSPECTORS THEMSELVES HAD IDENTIFIED THE BROADER FEATURES OF WHAT HAD GONE WRONG IN CARRIAN AND WHY, AND THUS THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF THEIR INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS, AND THE STILL FURTHER WORK THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE DONE BY THE INSPECTORS TO COMPLETE A STATUTORY REPORT, WITH CONSEQUENT FURTHER CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THE SECURITIES COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DRAW THE INSPECTORS' CARRIAN INVESTIGATION TO AN EARLY CLOSE.

/THE INSPECTORS

THE INSPECTORS HAVE AGREED WITH THE SECURITIES COMMISSION TO PREPARE, WITHIN THE REMAINING BALANCE OF APPROVED FUNDS, A PAPER SUMMARISING WHAT WENT WRONG, WHY, AND WHAT LESSONS CAN BE LEARNT.

HAVING CONSIDERED THE ADVICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO PUBLISH THE STATUTORY REPORT ON THE COMPLETED EDA GROUP INVESTIGATION (+THE EDA REPORT+) AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, THE EDA REPORT IS NOW BEING STUDIED, THE COMMISSIONER SAID. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING, IN THE LIGHT OF THE INSPECTORS' FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS, WHETHER CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE INSTITUTED AGAINST ANY PERSON. CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST OTHER PERSONS WHOSE CONDUCT HAS BEEN CRITICISED BY THE INSPECTORS IN THE EDA REPORT.

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SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS RELEASED
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IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, 3 478 SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 21.2 MILLION NRT (NET REGISTERED TONS) ARRIVED IN HONG KONG, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 137 (OR 4 PER CENT) IN NUMBER AND OF 8 PER CENT IN CAPACITY OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985.

THESE FIGURES ARE CONTAINED IN THE +HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT+ PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT.

WHEN ANALYSED BY SHIP TYPE, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINER VESSELS (+173) AND OIL TANKERS (+45), WHILE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SEMI-CONTAINER VESSELS (-52), ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF VESSELS (-50) AND DRY BULK CARRIERS (-15).

INCREASES IN NUMBER WERE RECORDED FOR SHIPS REGISTERED IN CHINA (+167) AND PANAMA (+59), BUT DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE REGISTERED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (-28), TAIWAN (-23) AND JAPAN (-12).

/THE NUMBER

THE NUMBER OF SHIPS WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 10 000 DWT (DEADWEIGHT TONS) INCREASED (+5).

IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, THERE WERE 3 478 OUTGOING SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 21.1 MILLION NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 146 (OR 4 PER CENT) IN NUMBER AND OF 8 PER CENT IN CAPACITY OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) ROSE BY 23 PER CENT. ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE DEPARTING SHIPS STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, 86 PER CENT IN TERMS OF TONNAGE REPRESENTED IMPORTS AND 14 PER CENT WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO. OF THE CARGO LOADED ON TO OUTGOING SHIPS, 58 PER CENT REPRESENTED EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AND 42 PER CENT WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS IN TONNAGE TERMS WERE SINGAPORE (18 PER CENT), CHINA (12 PER CENT), JAPAN (11 PER CENT), AUSTRALIA (10 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (10 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (8 PER CENT), WHILE THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS WERE THE U.S.A. (20 PER CENT), CHINA (17 PER CENT), TAIWAN (12 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (7 PER CENT).

TRANSHIPMENT CARGO WAS MAINLY LOADED IN CHINA (32 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (19 PER CENT); AND WAS ALSO MAINLY DISCHARGED IN CHINA (13 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (13 PER CENT).

COMPARING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985, INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA (+58 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+39 PER CENT), AUSTRALIA (+35 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (+10 PER CENT); BUT A DECREASE IN TONNAGE WAS NOTED FOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN (-21 PER CENT).

AS A WHOLE, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 18 PER CENT. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, INCREASES IN CARGO TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORTS OF ORGANIC CHEMICALS (+72 PER CENT), CHEMICAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS, N.E.S. (+67 PER CENT), MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (+64 PER CENT), ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (+64 PER CENT), INORGANIC CHEMICALS (+53 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FIBRES (+46 PER CENT), BUT A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR THE IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL (-15 PER CENT).

DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT. INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE (+64 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+35 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (+23 PER CENT).

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (+360 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (+139 PER CENT), MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES OF METAL AND NON-METALLIC MINERALS, N.E.S. (+75 PER CENT) AND CEMENT AND CEMENT CLINKER (+67 PER CENT), BUT SEABORNE EXPORTS OF INORGANIC CHEMICALS AND OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP DROPPED (-41 PER CENT AND -38 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

SHIPPING STATISTICS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIPOWNERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS ARE COMPILED FROM OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BECAUSE OF RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, A SAMPLE OF ALL CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE MANIFESTS IS USED FOR COMPILING THE STATISTICS. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES IN THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS ON SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 ARE CONTAINED IN THE +HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT+ FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1986, WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$14 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS PROVIDED ON THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-455422.

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NGAU TAU KOK TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME ACHIEVES EFFECT
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THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME WHICH IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN NGAU TAU KOK AREA HAS BEEN OBSERVED TO BE EFFECTIVE.

+FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME ON JANUARY 20, AN INITIAL SURVEY IN THE AREA INDICATED THAT THE PROJECT HAS HELPED TO ALLEVIATE THE LONG-STANDING TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEM AND THE ASSOCIATED TRAFFIC NOISE POLLUTION WHICH HAD AROUSED CONCERN FROM BOTH RESIDENTS AND ROAD USERS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

/THE CONGESTION

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THE CONGESTION ALONG NGAU TAU KOK ROAD WESTBOUND NEAR AMOY GARDEN AND CHUN WAH ROAD, CAUSED BY VEHICLES STOPPING HAS BEEN GREATLY ALLEVIATED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT NO-STOPPING RESTRICTION THERE.

AS A RESULT, OBSTRUCTION BY WAITING VEHICLES TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING MOVEMENT AT THE JUNCTION OF NGAU TAU KOK ROAD AND JORDAN VALLEY NORTH ROAD IS NOW CLEARED.

+AT PRESENT TRAFFIC IS FLOWING MORE SMOOTHLY AND THE JOURNEY TIME ALONG NGAU TAU KOK ROAD HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE ALTERNATIVE BOARDING AND ALIGHTING LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN NGAU TAU KOK FOURTH STREET HAS REDUCED THE KERSIDE SPACE FOR THE SHOPS THERE TO LOAD AND UNLOAD THEIR GOODS, THIS SHOULD BE WEIGHTED AGAINST THE OVERALL BENEFIT THE SCHEME HAS BROUGHT TO NGAU TAU KOK AREA.+

REACTION FROM THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC IS MIXED. SOME PLB COMMUTERS COMPLAIN ABOUT THE LONGER WALKING DISTANCE TO THE NEW BOARDING LOCATIONS AND THE RELATIVELY LONGER TRAVELLING TIME CAUSED BY THE DIVERSIONS. THOSE WHO DO NOT TRAVEL BY PLB'S WELCOME THE SCHEME AS NGAU TAU KOK ROAD IS NOW LESS CONGESTED.

AS SOME PLB DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE SCHEME DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE BOARDING LOCATIONS OCCURRED. TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, TEMPORARY ADVISORY SIGNS HAVE BEEN ERECTED TO ADVISE PASSENGERS OF THE NEW ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR BOARDING AND ALIGHTING FROM PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN NGAU TAU KOK FOURTH STREET.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THE SCHEME HAD BEEN FINALISED AFTER THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PLB TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE. THE PROJECT PROVIDED A SOLUTION TO THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND ASSOCIATED TRAFFIC NOISE POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN NGAU TAU KOK AREA.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL REVIEW THE SCHEME IN THREE MONTHS TO ASSESS WHETHER FURTHER MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA, HE ADDED.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1987

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HSU EXPLAINS AIMS OF POLITICAL REVIEW

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ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT MUST BE GEARED TOWARDS PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR HONG KONG TO GROW AS A STABLE AND SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY (FRIDAY, HK TIME).

ADDRESSING A JOINT MEETING OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND THE ASIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE, MR HSU ASSURED HIS AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 200 THAT THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PUBLIC WOULD BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT THROUGH THE GREEN PAPER REVIEW ON THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS TO BE CONDUCTED DURING 1987.

+THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER WHETHER FURTHER CHANGES ARE DESIRABLE, AND IF SO, THE TIMESCALE FOR THEIR INTRODUCTION. THERE WILL AGAIN BE PUBLIC CONSULTATION. THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS AND WISHES WILL BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT,+ MR HSU SAID.

CONCEDING THAT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WOULD BE WITHOUT MEANING UNLESS BACKED BY A STRONG AND RESILIENT ECONOMY, MR HSU SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PHILOSOPHY OF MINIMUM INTERFERENCE AND INTERVENTION IN THE THE ECONOMY DURING THE TWO YEARS OF NEGOTIATION OVER HONG KONG'S FUTURE HAD ENABLE HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS TO GET ON WITH THEIR JOB +WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO DIRECTIVES AND CONCERN FROM A GOVERNMENT PREOCCUPIED BY THE WEIGHTY PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE.+

HE NOTED THAT ALL THE ECONOMIC INGREDIENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY EXISTED IN HONG KONG, EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IN IMPORTS DURING 1986.

ANOTHER ECONOMIC FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF THE POLITICAL MOOD, +THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR,+ WAS THE SIGNIFICANT REVIVAL IN INVESTMENT INTENTIONS: MR HSU POINTED OUT THAT IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS AND RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY GREW BY 23 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD FOR 1985.

+THESE FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. THEY DO NOT INDICATE AN ECONOMY THAT IS RUNNING DOWN BUT ONE THAT IS PREPARING FOR A FRESH SURGE AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE FUTURE, MR HSU EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS A CONTINUING COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

+WE ARE ENCOURAGED IN THAT TASK BY THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR PARTNERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT,+ MR HSU SAID.

+EVERYBODY IS WORKING HARD TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S SUCCESS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AS AN UNIQUE AND VIBRANT ENTITY IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENCES
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC NON-EXCLUSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE LICENCES FOR THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF:

- (I) A PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE- AND
- (II) A PUBLIC MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICE.

THE OPERATOR OF THE PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE A PUBLIC SERVICE ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS ON CHANNELS ALLOCATED IN THE 800 MHZ OR 900 MHZ FREQUENCY BANDS USING THE TOTAL ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS.

THE SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO MEET THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PERMISSION-TO-CONNECT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SERVICES OPERATING IN THESE FREQUENCY BANDS WHICH ARE TO BE RELOCATED TO OTHER BANDS, AND THIS MAY AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE NEW SERVICE.

THE OPERATOR OF THE MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICE WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE A PUBLIC SERVICE ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS ON CHANNELS ALLOCATED IN THE 800 MHZ FREQUENCY BANDS.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO MEET THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PERMISSION-TO-CONNECT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTER-CONNECTION WITH THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK.

NOTICES IN TODAY'S GAZETTE INVITE THOSE PARTIES INTERESTED IN PROVIDING ANY OF THE TWO SERVICES TO APPLY TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS WILL THEN BE SUPPLIED TO THE APPLICANTS.

AS THE FREQUENCY SPECTRUM AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONES SERVICE IS LIMITED, IT IS LIKELY THAT VERY FEW LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. APPLICATIONS FOR THIS SERVICE SHOULD THEREFORE BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 6, 1987.

FOR THE PUBLIC MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICE, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE GAZETTE NOTICE.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY MAY MAKE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF THE APPLICANTS.

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LAB TO DISCUSS OVERTIME, MATERNITY ISSUES
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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WOULD BE CONSULTED SHORTLY ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONTROL OF OVERTIME WORK BY FEMALE WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WITHIN THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK.

THIS FOLLOWS AN INTERNAL REVIEW BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT NO CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED TO THE EXISTING LEGISLATION RESTRICTING THE HOURS OF OVERTIME A WOMAN IN INDUSTRY IS PERMITTED TO WORK, THAT IS TWO HOURS A DAY OR 200 HOURS A YEAR.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO BE CONSULTED ON THE REMOVAL OF SOME ANOMALIES IN THE LEGISLATION IN RESPECT OF MATERNITY LEAVE.

+THE INTENTION IS TO CLARIFY THE LEGISLATION IN OFFERING PROTECTION TO A PREGNANT WORKER BEFORE CONFINEMENT AND TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO ENABLE HER TO RESUME WORK FOUR WEEKS AFTER GIVING BIRTH IF SHE SO WISHES, WITHOUT PREJUDICING HER EXISTING ENTITLEMENT TO PAID MATERNITY LEAVE FOR 10 WEEKS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PAPERS OUTLINING DETAILED PROPOSALS ON THE OVERTIME AND MATERNITY ISSUES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN EARLY MARCH.

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HANG LUNG BANK NOW RECEIVES FUND DONATIONS
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THE HANG LUNG BANK AND ITS 26 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL NOW ACCEPT DONATIONS TO THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE FUND, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

+IT IS NOW VERY CONVENIENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE FUND,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT 53 SUB-OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS AROUND 300 BRANCHES OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND HANG SENG BANK HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVING DONATIONS.

HE NOTED THAT THE FUND WOULD SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION TO WHICH THE LATE GOVERNOR ATTACHED MUCH IMPORTANCE.

+NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL IN MEMORY OF A MAN WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO HONG KONG,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BY THIS AFTERNOON, THE FUND HAD RECEIVED \$64.3 MILLION.

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LONG-SERVING MARINE STAFF HONOURED

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, OFFICIATED AT A CEREMONY AT THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF 12 LONG-SERVING STAFF.

IN PAYING HIS TRIBUTE TO THE MEN, MR HIGGINSON SAID THEY HAD EACH SERVED THE DEPARTMENT FOR BETWEEN 29 AND 39 YEARS.

+BETWEEN THEM, THEY HAVE A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 400 YEARS' LOYAL SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD,+ HE SAID.

MR HIGGINSON SAID THEIR CONTRIBUTION HAD MADE POSSIBLE THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE DOCKYARD FLEET AND THAT THEY HAD THUS PLAYED A ROLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PORT OF HONG KONG.

ON THE MODERNISATION OF THE FLEET, MR HIGGINSON SAID NEW VESSELS NOW HAD BETTER MACHINERY AND A BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT. THE FLEET WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHEN THE STAFF MEMBERS JOINED, HE ADDED.

THE RETIRING STAFF WERE OF THE RANKS OF COXSWAIN AND LAUNCH MECHANIC.

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT NEW TOWN PLAZA

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A MINI FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT THE FOOTBRIDGE GALLERY OF THE NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 8) FROM NOON UNTIL 3 PM.

THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT REMINDING RESIDENTS OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT FIRE IN THE DRY WINTER MONTHS.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE PANELS OF GRAPHICS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING BOTH GENERAL FIRES AND COUNTRYSIDE FIRES WITH EMPHASIS ON THE DANGER POSED BY SMOKE FROM FIRE.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL RECEIVE A USEFUL LEAFLET LISTING THE +DOS+ AND +DON'TS+ IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, A FREE CALENDAR CARD AND GIVEAWAY ITEMS SPONSORED BY THE KWONG ON BANK.

THE NEXT EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 22 AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST CENTENARY GARDEN.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1987

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JULY DATE FOR JUNK BAY PUBLIC HOUSING
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THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MOVE INTO JUNK BAY NEW TOWN IN JULY, AND PEOPLE LIVING IN YAU YUE WAN VILLAGE AND HANG HAU VILLAGE AFFECTED BY THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE TO MOVE OUT AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE VILLAGERS TO WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE MATTER, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A SPRING RECEPTION THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, MR HO REPORTED ON THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT DURING 1986.

+THE MOST ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR THE YEAR SHOULD BE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LOCATION FOR THE TERRITORY'S THIRD UNIVERSITY WHICH WILL BE SITUATED AT THE VACATED BARRACKS AT TAI PO TSAI IN SAI KUNG.

+ALL RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT ARE VERY PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE DECISION MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HO ALSO NOTED THAT A PROBLEM IN CHOOSING THE SITE FOR BUILDING THE HANG HAU CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL WAS SOLVED. HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THOSE WHO HAD GIVEN HELP IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED COMPLETION OF WIDENING PO TUNG ROAD NEAR THE TOWN HALL, A NEW BUS TERMINUS NEAR THE WATERFRONT AND A RECLAMATION PROJECT AND SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM IN TUI MIN HOI.

+THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS WILL ALSO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. I HOPE THAT MOST VILLAGES IN THE DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE FRESH WATER SUPPLY BY THAT TIME,+ HE ADDED.

AS DEVELOPMENTS WERE IN PROGRESS IN SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU, MR HO APPEALED FOR CO-OPERATION FROM AFFECTED VILLAGERS. HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE INCONVENIENCE THAT INEVITABLY WAS CAUSED.

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SITE SOLD FOR PSPS DEVELOPMENT
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A SITE IN TUEN MUN FOR A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN SOLD.

THE SITE COVERS AN AREA OF 22 240 SQUARE METRES AND IS LOCATED NEAR TUEN MUN HOSPITAL.

THE LEASE WILL BE SIGNED ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 9) BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, TUEN MUN, MR R.B.J. CROSS, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUYER, LEADCHOICE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11.30 AM AT THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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URBAN MINOR WORKS TEAMS TO BE FORMED
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TWO SPECIAL TEAMS WILL BE SET UP IN JUNE BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE UP MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN URBAN AREAS.

INTRODUCING THE PLAN, A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE TEAMS WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS INITIATED BY DISTRICT BOARDS.

INITIALLY, THERE WOULD BE TWO TEAMS, ONE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND ONE FOR KOWLOON, HE ADDED.

CALLED URBAN MINOR WORKS TEAMS, THEY WOULD BE HEADED BY A CIVIL ENGINEER AND MADE UP OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF INCLUDING INSPECTORS OF WORKS, ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF WORKS AND WORKS SUPERVISORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SIMILAR TO MINOR WORKS TEAMS OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THEY WOULD GIVE TECHNICAL ADVICE AND PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN URBAN DISTRICTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TEAMS WOULD ALSO SUPERVISE WORKS PROGRESS AND PROVIDE SUBSEQUENT SERVICE OR MAINTENANCE WORKS WHEN REQUIRED.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN TSUEN WAN TO BE DEMOLISHED
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NOTICES WERE POSTED ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN TSUEN WAN TODAY (FRIDAY) INFORMING THE OCCUPANTS THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY TO HAVE THEM CLOSED.

THE STRUCTURES ARE IN THE REAR YARD OF 22 LUEN YAN STREET.

AN APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IS TO BE MADE IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 31.

AN ORDER TO DEMOLISH THE STRUCTURES UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WAS ISSUED IN DECEMBER 1985, BUT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

NOW THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK COURT HELP SO THAT IT CAN HAVE THE STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF THEIR OCCUPANTS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER A CLOSURE ORDER WAS MADE.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 11) TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION OF THE TUEN MUN NULLAH.

OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL POSITION IN RESPECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, A PROGRESS REPORT ON LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, AND SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT AND EMERGENCY REPAIR PROJECTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF FIRST CBC CAPITAL (ASIA) LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY (FRIDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986.

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MUSICIANS INVITED TO ENTER AWARDS COMPETITION

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AMATEUR MUSICIANS ARE INVITED TO ENTER THE 1987 HONG KONG YOUNG MUSICIANS AWARDS COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE COMPOSERS AND AUTHORS SOCIETY OF HONG KONG (CASH).

THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO AMATEUR MUSICIANS WHO ARE UNDER 30 AS AT JUNE 30 THIS YEAR AND ARE EITHER HONG KONG RESIDENTS OR HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG SINCE JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF COMPOSING AND PERFORMING OF SERIOUS MUSIC AND ALSO TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AROUSING INTEREST IN THE APPRECIATION OF SERIOUS MUSIC.

THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES IN THE CHINESE MUSIC AND WESTERN MUSIC SECTIONS, ONE FOR COMPOSITION AND THE OTHER FOR ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, CASH AWARDS WILL BE DONATED BY THE COMPOSERS AND AUTHORS SOCIETY. THE THREE PRIZE WINNERS IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE AWARDED \$6 000, \$3 000 AND \$1 000 RESPECTIVELY.

A PANEL COMPRISING LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MUSICIANS WILL JUDGE THE COMPETITION IN THREE STAGES WITH THE FINALS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO :

1987 HONG KONG YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS,
MUSIC OFFICE,
HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR,
2 HARBOUR ROAD,
WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM 5-283257.

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PEAK WALKATHON FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS
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MORE THAN 500 RESIDENTS FROM CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN A VICTORIA PEAK WALKATHON ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 8) MORNING.

THE ANNUAL EVENT HAS BEEN ORGANISED AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S LUNAR NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES. IT IS INTENDED TO GIVE RESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY HIKING AND TO LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THE WALKATHON WILL START FROM THE CHIU SHEUNG SCHOOL AT POK FU LAM ROAD, AND FINISH AT THE VICTORIA GAP CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND. THE ROUTE WILL TAKE IN THE SERVICE RESERVOIR, HATTON ROAD, LUGARD ROAD AND HARLECH ROAD.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN FREE SOFT DRINKS AND THERE WILL BE A LUCKY DRAW. SOUVENIRS WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED.

THE WALKATHON HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, DISTRICT BOARD, GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WALKATHON STARTING CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE AT 9.30 AM ON SUNDAY AT THE CHIU SHEUNG SCHOOL AT 79B POK FU LAM ROAD.

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STREET PERFORMERS IN ACTION ON CHEUNG CHAU
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A TEAM OF STREET PERFORMERS WILL GIVE A VARIETY SHOW ON CHEUNG CHAU TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE VARIETY SHOW HAS BEEN CO-ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FRINGE CLUB AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME.

THE 90-MINUTE SHOW AT THE PAK TEI PLAYGROUND WILL INCLUDE JUGGLING, PUPPETRY, MIME, COMEDY AND STILT-WALKING. IT WILL START AT 12.30 PM.

/THE PERFORMERS

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THE PERFORMERS COME FROM BRITAIN, FRANCE, SPAIN AND SINGAPORE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHOW AT THE PAK TEI PLAYGROUND.
IT WILL START AT 12.30 PM.

A PRESS LAUNCH, THE CLEMENTI, WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER, CENTRAL,
AT 11 AM FOR CHEUNG CHAU.

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MELODIES TO MARK LUNAR NEW YEAR
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THE KWUN TONG MELODIES GALA, A CONCERT SPECIALLY ORGANISED
TO CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY)
EVENING.

MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE CONCERT WHICH
WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM IN THE DELIA MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN HIP WO
STREET.

THE KWUN TONG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG,
AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KWUN TONG CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION
ASSOCIATION, MR NG PING-TAK, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY.

THE CONCERT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT
OFFICE AND THE KWUN TONG CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION
ASSOCIATION, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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SPRING FESTIVAL FUN FOR KOWLOON CITY RESIDENTS
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KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO AN EVENING OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR SPRING FESTIVAL CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 8) AT THE ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND.

A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES HAS BEEN ORGANISED AND INCLUDE LANTERN RIDDLE GAMES STALLS, PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS, CANTONESE OPERA, A LION DANCE, CHILDREN GAMES STALLS AND PERFORMANCES BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT DANCING GROUP.

ADMISSION TO THE CARNIVAL IS FREE AND THOSE TRYING THEIR LUCK AT THE RIDDLE GAMES STALLS WILL BE GIVEN A PRIZE FOR CORRECT ANSWER.

THE CARNIVAL WILL LAST FROM 7 PM TO 10.30 PM. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, DR DANIEL TSE= URBAN COUNCILLOR, MISS VICTORIA CHAN= ASSISTANT KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS DIANA TONG= AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL, MR WU SHING-SHUEN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR SPRING FESTIVAL CARNIVAL TO BEGIN AT 7 PM ON SUNDAY AT THE ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND.

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