



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1977

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GOVERNMENT'S HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME

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THE WORKING PARTY ON HOME OWNERSHIP HOPED TO TAKE THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FORWARD TO THE STAGE WHERE APPLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD BE INVITED SOME TIME IN EARLY 1978 FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLATS UNDER THE SCHEME, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE GAVE AN OUTLINE OF THE SCHEME, MR. HADDON-CAVE, WHO CHAIRS THE WORKING PARTY, POINTED OUT THAT THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF THE SCHEME HAD BEEN WORKED OUT.

THE INTENTION OF THE SCHEME, HE SAID, WAS TO HELP THE LOWER MIDDLE INCOME GROUP TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN HOMES ON TERMS THEY COULD AFFORD.

HE SAID THAT THE FIRST SITES HAD BEEN CHOSEN AT ABERDEEN, CHAI WAN, LAI CHI KOK, HO MAN TIN (NEAR OI MAN ESTATE) AND SHA TIN.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO BE ITS AGENT FOR DESIGNING, BUILDING AND SELLING THE FLATS AND, AS A FIRST STEP, HAS PRODUCED DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, TOGETHER WITH ESTIMATES OF COSTS, IN RESPECT OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD PRODUCE ABOUT 7,200 FLATS BY 1979/80 ON THESE SITES.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS COMMISSIONED SEVERAL FIRMS OF PRIVATE ARCHITECTS TO PRODUCE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THESE SITES.

EACH FLAT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A KITCHEN, TOILET FACILITIES AND A BALCONY. THE SMALLER FLATS ARE LIKELY TO BE OPEN PLAN AND THE LARGER ONES SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST TWO SEPARATE BEDROOMS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE COST OF THESE FLATS WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET BUT, ON THE BASIS OF ORDERS OF COSTS NOW KNOWN TO THE WORKING PARTY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FLATS MIGHT BE SOLD WITHIN A PRICE RANGE OF ABOUT \$80,000 TO \$140,000.

AS TO ELIGIBILITY, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE FLATS WERE INTENDED FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAD A TOTAL COMBINED INCOME OF BELOW \$3,500 A MONTH AND WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. EXISTING TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS WILL NOT HAVE TO SATISFY THE NORMAL CRITERIA AND WILL BE TREATED AS A SPECIAL CATEGORY WITH SOME PRIORITY.

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ON THE SUBJECT OF MORTGAGE FINANCE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE WORKING PARTY HAD ENVISAGED THAT FUNDS WOULD BE PROVIDED MAINLY BY THE COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LENDING DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S NOMINATED FLAT BUYERS ON TERMS WHICH HAVE YET TO BE THE SUBJECT OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

THE WORKING PARTY IS ALSO PLANNING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORTGAGE INSTITUTION, TO BE WHOLLY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT, TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ON-LENDING TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT THE COMMERCIAL BANKS FUNDS, BUT THIS INSTITUTION MAY NOT NEED TO BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION AND, EVEN IF BROUGHT INTO OPERATION WILL NOT COMPETE WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANKS FOR FUNDS.

THE BASIC MORTGAGE TERMS WHICH THE WORKING PARTY HAD IN MIND WERE :-

- * DOWN PAYMENT - A MINIMUM OF \$10,000 OR 10 PER CENT OF THE SALE PRICE, WHICHEVER IS THE HIGHER=
- * MATURITY - 15 YEARS=
- * INTEREST - TO BE SET INITIALLY BETWEEN EIGHT AND NINE PER CENT A YEAR, FOR FIXED PERIODS OF THREE, FIVE OR SEVEN YEARS, SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW AND TO ANY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD MINIMISE THE RISK TO THE MORTGAGOR OF FLUCTUATIONS IN MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

REFERRING TO THE POSSIBLE SITUATION WHERE THE OPEN MARKET VALUES OF THESE FLATS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE SALE PRICE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO INTRODUCE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON RESALE.

DETAILS HAD YET TO BE FINALISED, HE SAID, BUT WHAT THE WORKING PARTY HAD IN MIND WAS A FIVE YEAR TIME LIMIT WITHIN WHICH THE OWNER WISHING TO SELL HIS FLAT WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SELL IT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AT THE PRICE HE ORIGINALLY PAID. IF THE AUTHORITY DOES NOT EXERCISE THE BUY-BACK OPTION THE OWNER WOULD BE FREE TO SELL THE FLAT ON THE OPEN MARKET.

AS REGARDS CONSTRUCTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT THE HOME OWNERSHIP FUND HAD BEEN CREATED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 5, 1977. THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1977-78 PROVIDE FOR \$102.5 MILLION TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM GENERAL REVENUE INTO THE FUND IN ORDER TO MEET EXPENDITURE IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE FLATS-FOR-SALE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE FLATS WILL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

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THUS, CHANNELLING BACK THE MONEY FROM THE SALE OF FLATS INTO THE FUND, HE CONTINUED, WOULD MEAN THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH COULD BE USED TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INCREASING STOCK OF HOUSING. WHEN DEMAND HAS BEEN SATISFIED THESE RESOURCES WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS.

+WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE NOW,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, +IS FOR CONTRACTS TO BE LET AND CONSTRUCTION TO PROCEED, FOR SELLING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE FINALISED AND FOR SUITABLE MORTGAGE FACILITIES TO BE DEvised.+

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE WORKING PARTY TO INVITE BIDS FROM PRIVATE ESTATE DEVELOPERS FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SITES TO BUILD FLATS FOR SALE AT FIXED PRICES.

THIS EXPERIMENT WILL INDICATE WHETHER PRIVATE DEVELOPERS CAN KEEP PRODUCTION COSTS (AND PROFITS) DOWN TO A POINT WHERE HOUSEHOLDERS EARNING LESS THAN \$3,500 A MONTH CAN AFFORD TO BUY SUCH FLATS ON THE SPECIAL MORTGAGE TERMS TO BE OFFERED.

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 1976

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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1976 SHOW A SURPLUS OF \$152 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$72 MILLION IN DECEMBER 1975.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN A SURPLUS OF \$61 MILLION FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$37 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

GROSS EXPENDITURE AT \$563 MILLION WAS \$90 MILLION MORE THAN IN DECEMBER 1975.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS AT \$715 MILLION WAS \$170 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH IN 1975, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED RECEIPTS FROM DUTIES, INTERNAL REVENUE, MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES AND LAND SALES.

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'GOOD TIMES AHEAD FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY',
SAYS P.W.D. DIRECTOR
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, THIS EVENING PREDICTED A BRIGHT YEAR FOR HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRY STOOD ON THE THRESHOLD OF A PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY AND HE URGED BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS TO BRACE THEMSELVES FOR THE PRESSURES WHICH WOULD ACCOMPANY THE ON-COMING CONSTRUCTION BOOM.

+THERE ARE, AS A ONCE-POPULAR SONG SAID, 'GOOD TIMES COMING'+ HE TOLD A DINNER MEETING OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS. +THE TEST WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT THE INDUSTRY CAN MEET ALL THE DEMANDS WHICH WILL BE MADE UPON IT.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THERE HAD BEEN A RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS EVIDENCED BY THE HIGH NUMBER OF PLANS FOR NEW PRIVATE BUILDINGS APPROVED LAST YEAR BY THE P.W.D.'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE. THESE AMOUNTED TO 723,37 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1975.

COUPLED TO THIS, VARIOUS LARGE SCALE PROJECTS SUCH AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WERE ALREADY IN FULL SWING, AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE PRESSING AHEAD WITH ITS OWN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME, HE SAID.

ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH AUGURED WELL FOR THE FUTURE WAS THE VERY LARGE CONCENTRATION OF CONSTRUCTION EXPERTISE NOW IN HONG KONG -- PROBABLY THE GREATEST EVER, HE SAID.

ENGINEERS RECRUITED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM VALUABLE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM OTHER PARTS IN THE WORLD AND MORE SKILLED STAFF HAD BEEN IMPORTED BY ESTABLISHED CONSULTANT FIRMS.

IN ADDITION, NEW CONSULTANT FIRMS WERE OPENING OFFICES IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

+MY OWN DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RECRUITING FROM ABROAD QUITE A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGINEERS AND MEN OF ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MCDONALD EMPHASISED HOWEVER THAT RECRUITMENT OF OVERSEAS EXPERTISE DID NOT MEAN THAT HONG KONG COULD IGNORE ITS OWN CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE QUALIFIED ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS AND CONTRACTORS.

HONG KONG'S EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS EACH YEAR TURNED OUT A LARGE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE MANY OF WHOM WERE EAGER TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

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+THE PRACTICAL TRAINING OF THESE ASPIRANTS IS IN THE HANDS OF PROFESSIONALS LIKE YOURSELVES,+ MR. MCDONALD TOLD THE INSTITUTION,+AND THIS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WILL BE BUT ONE OF THE PRESSURES WHICH FALL UPON YOU AS PART OF THIS PROCESS OF ACHIEVING HONG KONG'S AIMS.+

THERE WOULD BE OTHER PRESSURES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED, SUCH AS THOSE FROM CLIENTS -- BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE -- PUSHING FOR EARLY DESIGNS, SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF PLANS, AND SPEEDY COMPLETION OF PROJECTS.

+YOU MUST SQUARE YOUR SHOULDERS TO BEAR THESE PRESSURES WHICH WILL BE APPLIED DURING THE ON-COMING PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCDONALD ALSO URGED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS TO APPLY MORE OF THEIR TALENTS AND ABILITY IN THE ART OF CREATIVE DESIGN.

TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST, HE SAID, STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS HAD ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE REGARDED AS MERE CALCULATORS. BUT, WITH THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION TO BE TACKLED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, HONG KONG WOULD NEED MANY MORE CAPABLE DESIGNERS AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS WOULD HAVE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

+OPPORTUNITIES WILL ARISE FOR ENGINEERS WORKING EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CO-OPERATION WITH ARCHITECTS TO PRODUCE WORKS OF IMAGINATIVE STRUCTURAL CONCEPT.

+THOSE OF YOU WHO GRASP THE OPPORTUNITIES WILL GAIN NOT ONLY PERSONAL SATISFACTION FROM THE ACHIEVEMENT BUT ALSO GIVE HONG KONG A MUCH NEEDED BOOST IN THE STANDARD OF DESIGN,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD.

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GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPENING TO PUBLIC

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN FULL BLOOM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE THIS SUNDAY (MARCH 6).

THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M. ON THAT DAY TO ENABLE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO ENJOY THE FLOWERS WHICH ARE AT THEIR COLOURFUL BEST AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE VISITED THE AZALEA SHOW AT THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND MORE VISITORS ARE EXPECTED THIS YEAR.

VISITORS ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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U.S. FIRMS TO DISCUSS SETTING UP FACTORIES IN H.K.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. ROY PORTER, LEAVES FOR THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEKEND FOR TALKS WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF SOME THIRTY AMERICAN FIRMS ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF SETTING UP FACTORIES IN HONG KONG.

THE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE MAINLY IN LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO AND DALLAS OVER A PERIOD OF THREE WEEKS.

THE APPOINTMENTS WITH THESE FIRMS WERE FINALISED BY AN ADVANCE PARTY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS WHICH LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES LAST MONTH, PAVING THE WAY FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION THIS YEAR.

MR. PORTER, WHO WILL LEAD THE MISSION, MEETS THE ADVANCE PARTY IN LOS ANGELES ON MONDAY.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN ORGANISED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE US CONSULATE-GENERAL, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LEADING BANKS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

AS IN PREVIOUS VENTURES THE AIM OF THE MISSION IS TO VISIT SELECTED FIRMS TO DISCUSS WITH TOP EXECUTIVES THE SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD ACCRUE TO THEIR COMPANIES FROM MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG. THE MISSION WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF PROMOTING THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

AMERICAN INTERESTS AT PRESENT ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF ALL DIRECT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY. +THERE ARE VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT,+ SAYS MR. PORTER, WHO POINTS OUT THAT MANY AMERICAN INDUSTRIES HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO HONG KONG'S PRESENT STATE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAYS THAT IN ELECTRONICS AND ENGINEERING PARTICULARLY, AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL KNOWLEDGE COULD BE MOST VALUABLE TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

HE FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT THE BENEFITS OF THIS TYPE OF INVESTMENT ARE TWO-WAY. BY COMPLEMENTING THEIR HOME PRODUCTION WITH A PLANT IN HONG KONG, U.S. COMPANIES WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR SALES AND THEIR PROFITS.

TWO OTHER MISSIONS ARE PLANNED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT FOR LATER THIS YEAR, ONE TO SWITZERLAND AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN JUNE AND THE OTHER TO CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND TORONTO IN OCTOBER.

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ANTI-CANCER CAMPAIGN

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A MONTH-LONG ANTI-CANCER CAMPAIGN IS TO BE LAUNCHED IN APRIL TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC WHAT CANCER -- HONG KONG'S NUMBER ONE KILLER DISEASE -- IS ALL ABOUT.

THE CAMPAIGN, IN THE FORM OF EXHIBITIONS, IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, ASSISTED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND A NUMBER OF MEDICAL BODIES.

CANCER AWARENESS '77, AS THE CAMPAIGN IS TO BE CALLED, DEALS WITH THE VARIOUS FORMS OF CANCER, PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY SAID THAT USING THE TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE TODAY CANCER COULD BE CURED IF ONLY PEOPLE KNEW THE WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS AND SAW A DOCTOR EARLY.

+EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT BRINGS ABOUT A FAR GREATER CHANCE OF CURE, AND THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THIS CAMPAIGN,+ HE ADDED.

CANCER AWARENESS '77 WILL ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH. BY USING MOVIES, SLIDE SHOWS, PICTURES, MODELS, RECORDINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS, IT WILL TEACH BASIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES CONCERNING CANCER AND ALSO WAYS TO HAVE A BASICALLY HEALTHY LIFE STYLE.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN ON APRIL 5, WITH AN EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL, EXHIBITIONS WILL BE HELD AT TSIM SHA TSUI, KWUN TONG, CAUSEWAY BAY, TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG.

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AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ASSURED JOBS
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ABOUT 272 NEW CLASSES WOULD BE OPENED IN NEW AND DEVELOPING AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR STARTING SEPTEMBER, 1977.

MR. LAM TAT-LAU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY) SAID: +THESE CLASSES WILL BE IN SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TOWNS, IN THE NEW ESTATES IN OTHER DEVELOPING AREAS AND IN AREAS WITH SHORTAGES OF AIDED PLACES.

+AS A RESULT OF A GRADUAL MOVEMENT OF POPULATION TO THE NEW AREAS COUPLED WITH A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE APPROPRIATE PRIMARY AGE GROUP, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PHASE OUT 368 SERIOUSLY UNDER-UTILIZED CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER.+

THIS MEANS A NET REDUCTION OF ONLY 96 CLASSES AND A PLACEMENT SERVICE WILL BE REACTIVATED IN MID-MAY TO HELP TEACHERS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE REDISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION. THE SERVICE WILL BE HEADED BY MR. TANG YAN, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER.

+JUDGING FROM THE SUCCESS OF THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT TEACHERS FROM CLASSES WHICH CLOSE WILL BE ABSORBED BY SCHOOLS WITH VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE OPENING OF NEW CLASSES, RETIREMENT AND OTHER NORMAL WASTAGE,+ MR. LAM SAID. THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL SPONSORS, WHO MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE IN PREVIOUS YEARS, IS AGAIN EXPECTED.

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CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, TONIGHT DESCRIBED AS +VERY IMPORTANT+ THE REGULAR MEETINGS HE HAD WITH THE HONG KONG PRIVATE ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION AND THE TWO OTHER MAJOR ASSOCIATIONS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS THROUGH THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS ADVISORY BOARD.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR. TOPLEY SAID THE SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH OFTEN RESULTED IN CHANGES FOR THE BETTER GAVE HIM GREAT SATISFACTION.

MR. TOPLEY AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE PART PLAYED BY PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND WHICH THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY IN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

+I LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION AND YOUR SCHOOLS, A DIALOGUE TO WHICH I ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE,+ HE SAID.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MR. TOPLEY WENT TO ST. CLARE'S GIRLS' SCHOOL WHERE HE OPENED AN EXHIBITION OF STUDY PROJECTS ON THE SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

HE SAID ST. CLARE'S HAD PLAYED A LEADING PART IN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG EVER SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1926 BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SCHOOL +WILL PROVIDE THE SPUR TO GREATER THINGS IN THE FUTURE THAT LIES AHEAD+.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR KOWLOON WALK FOR A MILLION
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE KOWLOON +WALK FOR A MILLION+ WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY (MARCH 6).

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, LEI YUE MUN ROAD BETWEEN JUNK BAY ROAD AND KAI TIN ROAD, KAI TIN ROAD BETWEEN LEI YU MUN ROAD AND JUNK BAY ROAD, AND JUNK BAY ROAD BETWEEN KAI TIN ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY IN AN ANTI-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 2 P.M. ON SUNDAY.

PO LAM ROAD, THE UNNAMED LINK ROAD BETWEEN SAU MAU PING ROAD AND ANDERSON ROAD, AND THE SECTION OF ANDERSON ROAD BETWEEN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LINK ROAD AND PO LAM ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF JUNK BAY ROAD FROM LEI YUE MUN ROAD TO SAU MAU PING ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN URGED MOTORISTS IN RENNIE'S MILL, KO CHIU ROAD, SHUNG SHUN STREET, KO FAI ROAD, CHA KWO LING ROAD, YAU TONG ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD TO DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND TO GIVE WAY TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE WALK.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AND TRAFFIC POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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MID-LEVEL +BUS ONLY+ LANES OPERATION HOURS TO BE CHANGED
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THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE +BUS ONLY+ LANES ALONG CAINE ROAD AND BONHAM ROAD (WESTBOUND) AND PARK ROAD AND ROBINSON ROAD (EASTBOUND) WILL BE CHANGED NEXT WEEK.

THE OPERATION HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 9 P.M. INSTEAD OF 7 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE CHANGES WHICH WILL COME INTO OPERATION FROM 7 A.M. ON MONDAY (MARCH 7).

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OPEN DAYS OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

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THREE GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL HOLD THEIR OPEN DAYS THIS MONTH.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO SEE STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE WORKSHOPS OF THESE INSTITUTES, THE ADDRESSES OF WHICH AND THE OPENING HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME</u>
MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI)	MARCH 6, FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.
KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (HING SHING ROAD, KWAI CHUNG)	MARCH 13 TO 18, FROM 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.
KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (25 HIU MING STREET, KWUN TONG)	MARCH 25, FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE EVENTS COVERED.

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LANTERN DESIGN COMPETITION IN TSUEN WAN
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A DESIGN COMPETITION ON 200 LANTERNS IS BEING ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AS AN ACTIVITY TO MARK THE LANTERN FESTIVAL.

THE 200 LANTERNS, PRODUCED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS, WILL BE PUT UP FOR JUDGING AT A DISPLAY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING AT THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TAI HO STREET, TSUEN WAN.

THE TOWN OFFICER, TSUEN WAN, MR. BENJAMIN TANG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DISPLAY WHICH STARTS AT 7.30 P.M.

DURING THE DISPLAY, WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN ON SUNDAY EVENING, A PANEL OF JUDGES WILL DECIDE ON THE BEST DESIGNED LANTERNS AND THE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE CULTURAL INTEREST PROMOTION COMMITTEE OF THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE DISPLAY AND COMPETITION.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE ON CASTLE PEAK RANGE, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 7, HAS BEEN CANCELLED, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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