



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1985

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1985

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GO OUT AND VOTE - GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THIS EVENING MADE A LAST MINUTE APPEAL TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS TO COME OUT AND VOTE.

+THERE IS A FEW HOURS LEFT, GO OUT AND VOTE. I WANT AS MANY REGISTERED VOTERS AS POSSIBLE TO VOTE THIS EVENING,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE ATTENDING THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS ANNUAL BALL AT THE REGENT HOTEL.

ASKED WHY HE DID NOT VISIT ANY OF THE POLLING STATIONS TODAY, HE SAID: +I THOUGHT SERIOUSLY OF VISITING THE VOTING CENTRES. BUT IF I GO TO A VOTING CENTRE, THERE WILL BE QUITE A LOT OF TELEVISION LIKE THOSE NOW AND SOME CANDIDATES MIGHT FEEL I GIVE THEM MORE PUBLICITY THAN OTHER CANDIDATES.

+SO WE DECIDED TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR AND I WOULD STAY AWAY,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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ORGANISATION OF ELECTIONS A CREDIT TO ALL

THE ORGANISATION AND EFFORTS IN MOUNTING THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, INVOLVING SOME 5 000 GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, IS A CREDIT TO ALL CONCERNED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS WHILE VISITING THE ELECTIONS PRESS CENTRE IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AT THE WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE.

+THE WHOLE PROCESS HAS GONE SO FAR VERY SMOOTHLY AND THERE HAS BEEN NO UNSEEMLY EVENTS OF ANY KIND THAT I KNOW OF,+ HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE VOTER TURN-OUT SO FAR.

+ONE SHOULD ALSO REMEMBER THAT IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS, PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER, THEY ARE POSITIVELY ASSISTED IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS BY DOOR TO DOOR CALLS AND SO ON.

+SO IN A SENSE THERE IS A CERTAIN PASSIVE REACTION TO APPROACHES TO REGISTER.

+BUT WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING THEY HAVE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO GO AND DO IT THEMSELVES.

/+I DON'T

+I DON'T FIND IT SURPRISING THAT THE NUMBER WHO VOTE IS LESS THAN THE NUMBER WHO REGISTER. AND IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, YOU KNOW, A LOT OF PEOPLE ON THE DAY FIND THEY HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO AND ALL SORTS OF EXCUSES.+

ASKED HOW GOVERNMENT COULD INCREASE VOTER AWARENESS AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING FORWARD AS CANDIDATES, SIR PHILIP SAID THIS WAS AN INCREMENTAL PROCESS AND THAT ONE COULD NOT EXPECT GREAT LEAPS FORWARD.

+PROVIDED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO TURN OUT THIS TIME AND THE PROPORTION OF THE ELECTORATE THAT TURNS OUT HAS INCREASED --- THAT IS IT HAS INCREASED IN BOTH SENSES --- THEN WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

+WHETHER YOU REGARD THE PROGRESS AS SATISFACTORY OR OTHERWISE IS A MATTER OF OPINION.

+I DON'T THINK ONE CAN POSSIBLY SAY IT'S BEEN A FAILURE, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, BUT WHETHER THE RESULTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE, BY SOME PEOPLE, DISAPPOINTING, OR NOT, THAT IS A MATTER OF OPINION.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHY GOVERNMENT WAS AGAINST A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR CANDIDATES WHO WERE BEING RETURNED UNOPPOSED, SIR PHILIP SAID THIS SEEMED TO HIM A POINTLESS EXERCISE AND WOULD BE A UNIQUE PROCEDURE COMPARED WITH PROCEDURES ELSEWHERE.

A CANDIDATE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE RETURNED WITHOUT A CONTEST IF THERE WAS NO ONE WILLING TO STAND AGAINST HIM, HE SAID.

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HK'S ECONOMY HELPED BY CHINA'S POLICIES - FS
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APART FROM THE RECOVERY IN THE U.S. ECONOMY, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS HAD BEEN CHINA'S SWITCH TO MORE LIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ITS REOPENING TO WORLD TRADE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE ZONTA CLUB OF KOWLOON LUNCHEON MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF +THE HONG KONG ECONOMY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS,+ SIR JOHN SAID CHINA HAD BECOME AN EXPANDING MARKET FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS WITH MANY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS.

+THIS IS IN ADDITION TO ITS MORE ESTABLISHED ROLE AS AN IMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF GOODS AND AN INVESTOR IN VARIOUS LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED IN AREAS BEYOND MERCHANDISE TRADE.

+CO-OPERATION IN SUCH MATTERS AS JOINT VENTURES, DIRECT INVESTMENT, PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, IS ALREADY FIZZING WITH VITALITY, AND WILL FURTHER BENEFIT BOTH ECONOMIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

+IN PARTICULAR CLOSE CO-OPERATION IS ALREADY WELL DEVELOPED AND SHOULD DEVELOP FURTHER IN THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE,+ HE ADDED.

SIR JOHN EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A RAPID INCREASE IN EXPORTS TO CHINA OF BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES, ESPECIALLY BUSINESS-RELATED SERVICES.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT IN GENERAL ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA WOULD GROW STRONGER IN THE FUTURE AND THAT, RATHER THAN SUPPLANTING EXISTING LINKS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, THESE EXPANDED LINKS WOULD ADD A VALUABLE NEW DIMENSION TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE ECONOMY WAS DOING WELL AT PRESENT. DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW RAPIDLY IN 1983 AND 1984, WHICH HAD LED TO A RESURGENCE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. BY THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.8 PER CENT AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.8 PER CENT. THIS COMBINATION PROBABLY REPRESENTED EFFECTIVE FULL EMPLOYMENT. THE INFLATION RATE HAD ALSO DECREASED TO A LOW LEVEL -- IN TERMS OF CPI (A), FROM A YEAR-ON-YEAR OF 12.4 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1984 TO 3.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1985.

TURNING TO LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS IN MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE GDP IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, SIR JOHN SAID EXPORTS OF GOODS, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, WOULD INEVITABLY STILL BE SUBJECT TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE VARIABLE WORLD DEMAND FOR OUR GOODS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE U.S.

THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE U.S. IN 1984 WAS EXTREMELY GOOD BUT MIGHT NOT BE SUSTAINABLE. AN AVERAGE OF SEVERAL FORECASTS WAS THAT THEIR GNP WOULD GROW AT BETWEEN THREE PER CENT AND FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1985, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS AT PRESENT OF ANOTHER SEVERE RECESSION, SUCH AS THAT EXPERIENCED IN 1982, SIR JOHN SAID THIS REPRESENTED A SLOWING DOWN COMPARED WITH THE MOST RECENT PERFORMANCE.

/+PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE,

+PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT IT SHOULD NOT AFFECT OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS SERIOUSLY. THUS I BELIEVE THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THIS MARKET WILL GROW AT A MODERATE TO HIGH RATE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1980S, DESPITE THE CONTINUED POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED PROTECTIONISM. AT THE SAME TIME SOME RECOVERY IN THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S OTHER TRADITIONAL MARKETS SEEMS LIKELY,+ HE SAID.

THEREFORE, SIR JOHN DID NOT EXPECT THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF GOODS IN REAL TERMS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT RECORDED BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984, WHICH WAS ABOUT 10 PER CENT.

A SIMILAR CONTINUATION OF RECENT TRENDS, THOUGH WITH PERHAPS SOME SLOWING DOWN, SEEMED LIKELY FOR RE-EXPORTS, WHICH GREW BY 21 PER CENT PER ANNUM BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984.

+ALTHOUGH THIS EARLIER PERIOD INCLUDES THE VARY RAPID GROWTH RATES AS CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE OPENED UP, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER EXPANSION AND I EXPECT HONG KONG'S UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES IN RELATION TO CHINA TO ENSURE IT A SHARE IN THIS EXPANSION,+ HE SAID.

+THERE SHOULD ALSO BE A HEALTHY GROWTH IN EXPORTS OF SERVICES, BOTH TO CHINA AND TO OTHER ECONOMIES IN THIS REGION,+ HE ADDED.

ON INVESTMENT, SIR JOHN SAID 1984 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND FOR THE TAKE-UP OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, REFLECTING THE STRONG RECOVERY IN EXPORT GROWTH.

+FOR MY PROGNOSIS ABOUT OUR EXPORT TRADE IN THE FUTURE TO BE BORNE OUT, CONTINUED INVESTMENT, BOTH IN PLANT AND MACHINERY, AND IN BUILDINGS AND WORKS, WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY,+ HE SAID. +HERE AGAIN THE PROSPECTS ARE FAVOURABLE.+

AS FAR AS THE INVESTMENT INTENTIONS OF PROPERTY DEVELOPERS WERE CONCERNED, SIR JOHN SAID THERE WERE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT CONFIDENCE WAS REVIVING TOWARDS THE END OF 1984, AS PRICES BECAME FIRMER AND THE USABLE FLOOR AREA OF BUILDING PLANS WITH CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK BEGAN TO INCREASE.

THE FALLING VACANCY RATES FOR MOST MAJOR TYPES OF PROPERTY SEEN IN 1984, ALLIED WITH A GROWING ECONOMY, SHOULD FURTHER STIMULATE DEVELOPERS TO UNDERTAKE NEW PROJECTS.

+THUS I LOOK FOR A STEADY, THOUGH NOT SPECTACULAR, RECOVERY IN THIS AREA,+ HE SAID.

THE PAINFUL LESSONS OF THE SLUMP, WHICH FOLLOWED THE LAST PROPERTY BOOM, SHOULD ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RETURN BY BAD MANagements TO THE EXCESSES SEEN IN THE PREVIOUS UPSWING.

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+THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. CHANGING ECONOMIC AND FISCAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAY AFFECT THE TIMING OF THE INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES, BUT THE COMMITMENT REMAINS,+ HE SAID.

+BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984 GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION GREW AT FOUR PER CENT PER ANNUM IN REAL TERMS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT, BARRING UNFORESEEN SHOCKS, THE GROWTH RATE OF INVESTMENT DURING THE REST OF THE 1980S WILL BE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS THIS,+ HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON GROWTH RATE, SIR JOHN SAID IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE COULD BE EXPECTED TO GROW AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS SIMILAR TO, IF NOT GREATER THAN, THE EIGHT PER CENT RECORDED BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984, GIVEN GOOD GROWTH RATES IN THE OTHER EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF THE GDP.

+THIS GROWTH RATE, ALTHOUGH HIGH BY WORLD STANDARDS, IS ON THE LOW SIDE COMPARED WITH EARLIER EXPERIENCE,+ HE SAID.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FOR THE 10 YEARS BETWEEN 1975 AND 1984 WAS OVER NINE PER CENT.

+THE REAL GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC SECTOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN THE REST OF THE 1980S WILL, AS ALWAYS, BE THE OUTCOME OF A COMPROMISE BETWEEN DEMANDS FOR DESIRABLE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, THEMSELVES DEPENDENT ON THE PREVAILING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PERMIT FULL USE TO BE MADE OF THE STEADILY INCREASING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND THE STRONG TENDENCY FOR INCREASED PROSPERITY TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEMANDS FOR EXPANDED AND IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES, I EXPECT FURTHER STEADY GROWTH IN EXPENDITURE BUT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF BALANCED BUDGETS,+ HE ADDED.

GIVEN THE LIMITED SCOPE IN HONG KONG FOR SUBSTITUTING LOCALLY-PRODUCED GOODS FOR IMPORTS, THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS OVER THE REST OF THE 1980S WOULD REFLECT THE GROWTH RATE OF FINAL DEMAND.

COMBINING THE GROWTH RATES OF THE VARIOUS EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF THE GDP AND MAKING ALLOWANCE FOR LIKELY CHANGES IN THE SUPPLY SIDE COMPONENTS SUGGESTED THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE GDP IN REAL TERMS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1980'S SHOULD ROUGHLY IN LINE WITH THAT IN THE FIRST HALF, THAT WAS TO SAY ABOUT 7.5 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

+BUT ROUGHLY MEANS ROUGHLY; THIS IS A HEROIC GUESS,+ SIR JOHN CAUTIONED.

/ON INFLATION,

ON INFLATION, SIR JOHN SAID THE INFLATION RATE IN HONG KONG TENDED TO MOVE BROADLY IN LINE WITH THAT IN THE U.S. UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL FORECASTS SUGGESTED THAT CONSUMER PRICES IN THE U.S. WOULD INCREASE BY FOUR PER CENT TO SIX PER CENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SIR JOHN SAID. THUS THE OUTLOOK FOR INFLATION IN HONG KONG WAS ENCOURAGING. ASSUMING NO RESURGENCE IN WORLD INFLATION AND A REASONABLY STABLE U.S. DOLLAR, THERE SHOULD BE ONLY LIMITED IMPORTED INFLATION.

IN CONCLUSION, SIR JOHN SAID THE PROSPECTS FOR THE REST OF THE 1980S WERE GENERALLY FAVOURABLE.

+BUT THIS FORECAST IS TOTALLY SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL,+ HE SAID.

ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED. THESE LINKS WOULD THUS BECOME A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AS WELL AS HELPING TO STABILISE POTENTIAL FLUCTUATIONS IN THE ECONOMY.

THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS-RELATED SERVICES, INCLUDING FINANCIAL SERVICES, IN THE ECONOMY SHOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE, WHILE THAT OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR MIGHT TEND TO BE SMALLER IN RELATIVE EXTENT. DOMESTIC DEMAND SHOULD GROW AT LEAST AS RAPIDLY AS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1980S.

+AS A RESULT, THE ECONOMY IS EXPECTED TO GROW MORE STEADILY WITH RELATIVELY FULL EMPLOYMENT AND CONTAINED INFLATION,+ HE SAID.

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HK NOW LEADING DIAMOND CENTRE
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AS A FREE PORT WITH ADVANCED BANKING AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AS WELL AS EXCELLENT HUMAN RESOURCES, HONG KONG HAD NOW EMERGED AS ONE OF THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND TRADING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST DIAMOND BOURSE IN ASIA, SIR JOHN SAID IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE FORMATION OF HONG KONG DIAMOND BOURSE WOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL DIAMOND TRADE AS WELL AS PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

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HE NOTED THAT THE DEMAND FOR DIAMONDS HAD BEEN STEADILY INCREASING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE NET RETAINED IMPORTS OF POLISHED DIAMONDS IN HONG KONG AMOUNTED TO \$2.4 BILLION IN 1982 AND \$2.7 BILLION IN 1983. FOR 1984, THE FIGURE WAS OVER \$2.9 BILLION.

THE BOURSE WOULD ALSO BE AN IDEAL VENUE FOR ORGANISING AUCTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, AND SEMINARS FOR THE INDUSTRY, HE ADDED.

+THE HONG KONG ECONOMY HAS SHOWN STRONG SIGNS OF RETURNING VIGOUR AND I AM SURE THAT THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY WILL SHARE THE SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG IN THE YEAR OF THE OX,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE SAID THAT DIAMOND EXCHANGES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN LONDON, NEW YORK, ANTWERP, TEL AVIV AND JOHANNESBURG.

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SIR PHILIP VISITS POLLING STATIONS
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED FIVE POLLING STATIONS FOR A FIRST HAND LOOK AT VOTING IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

STARTING AT 11 AM, SIR PHILIP, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH, MR TONY HAMMOND, VISITED POLLING STATIONS IN THREE DISTRICTS -- KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, MONG KOK AND YAU MA TEI.

AT EACH STATION, SIR PHILIP WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE DISTRICT CONCERNED, AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE LATEST SITUATION THERE.

SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD THAT THE POLLING STATION AT THE SHEK LEI ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE, SERVING THE KWAI CHUNG EAST CONSTITUENCY, HAD EIGHT CANDIDATES VYING FOR TWO SEATS.

THE POLLING STATION AT CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA MONG KOK CHURCH KAI OI SCHOOL SERVED 15 985 REGISTERED VOTERS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTERS AMONG POLLING STATIONS.

SIR PHILIP THEN WENT TO THE POLLING STATION AT THE URBAN COUNCIL PERFORMING COMPANIES OFFICE, AT YAU MA TEI.

HERE, HE LEARNED THAT ONE PAKISTANI AND TWO INDIAN RESIDENTS WERE AMONG THE SIX CANDIDATES VYING FOR THE TWO SEATS IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI CONSTITUENCY.

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IN THE AFTERNOON, FROM ABOUT 4.30 PM, SIR PHILIP VISITED THE POLLING STATIONS AT THE NORTH POINT ESTATE ASSEMBLY HALL SERVING THE NORTH POINT WEST CONSTITUENCY, AND AT THE HENNESSY CENTRE, SERVING THE CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY.

SEVEN CANDIDATES WERE CONTESTING TWO SEATS IN NORTH POINT WEST, WHILE FIVE CANDIDATES WERE VYING FOR THE TWO-SEAT CONSTITUENCY OF CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL.

IN THE ELECTIONS TODAY, IN WHICH 477 CANDIDATES ARE CONTESTING 213 SEATS ON 19 DISTRICT BOARDS, A TOTAL OF 288 POLLING STATIONS ARE BEING KEPT OPEN FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM.

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LADY YOUDE TO PRESENT PRIZES

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LADY YOUDE WILL OFFICIATE AT THE +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+ PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AND CONCERT AT 8 PM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1985 AT ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. PRESS MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BY 7.40 PM. G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO GIVE ASSISTANCE.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON WAGES FUND

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE WILL CHAIR A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS ON THE OPERATION OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DAVID LIN AND SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MRS ANGELA HO.

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STUDENTS DESIGN ANTI-DRUGS DISPLAY
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A LARGE SCALE ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITION CREATED AND DESIGNED BY STUDENTS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, NEW WORLD CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, ON SATURDAY (MARCH 9) AND SUNDAY (MARCH 10).

THE +ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITION STALL DESIGN COMPETITION+ IS THE FINAL COMPETITION OF THE +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND COMMERCIAL RADIO.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+ ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR KARL STUMPF WILL BE AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

THE +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+ LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 1984, AIMS AT HEIGHTENING AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIONS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM 2 PM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY AND 10 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY
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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS AWARDING A \$160 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ELEVATED ROADS FOR THE STAGE III OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

A CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 10.30 AM IN ROOM 911, 9TH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 64 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAYS ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF LEIGHTON CONTRACTOR'S PTY LIMITED, MESSRS. J.J. MCNAUGHT AND J.G. HAMILTON, WILL SIGN THE CONTRACT.

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MORNING BRIEFING ON VOTER TURNOUT

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A BRIEFING FOR PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MORNING VOTER
TURNOUT SITUATION WILL BE GIVEN AT 11.30 AM TODAY (THURSDAY)
BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON,
MR ALBERT LAM, AT THE CNTA PRESS CENTRE ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF
WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE AT 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

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