



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS ESSENTIAL: CS	1
FIRST-DEGREE GRADUATES TO EXCEED 15,000 YEARLY BY 1999	1
NURSERIES GET SOCIAL WORK INPUT	2
MONETARY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY PUBLISHED	3
JPC CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM \$3.15 MILLION BURSARIES	7
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST PROBATIONERS	7
INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES OF CNTA WORKS SECTIONS	8
REGIONAL SECRETARY MEETS MAC REPRESENTATIVES	10
EXHIBITION TO STRESS HOME SAFETY IN TAI PO	11
DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS	11
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YUEN LONG	12
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TOLO HIGHWAY	12
HILL FIRE WARNING FOR GRAVE WORSHIPPERS	12

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

- 1 -

ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS ESSENTIAL: CS

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TIMELY AND ACCURATE CONSUMER INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF A FREE MARKET, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S "RIGHT TO KNOW EXHIBITION".

NOTING THAT HONG KONG WAS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A FREE MARKET, THAT IS, FREE OF TRADE BARRIERS, FREE OF PRICE CONTROLS AND FREE OF BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE IN THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES, SIR DAVID SAID, HOWEVER, A FREE MARKET DID NOT MEAN A MARKET "WHERE ANYTHING GOES".

"WE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE CONSUMERS' SAFETY AND WE NEED TO PROTECT THE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS," HE SAID.

"AS PART OF THAT PROTECTION, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT CONSUMERS CAN CHOOSE WISELY ON THE BASIS OF A FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ABOUT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES."

SIR DAVID SAID THE EXHIBITION SHOWED HOW IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION WAS TO DAILY LIVES AND HOW IT COULD AFFECT SUCH DECISIONS AS BUYING A HOME, FOOD AND CLOTHING.

"IN PARTICULAR IT GIVES US A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR AND HOW WE CAN AVOID PITFALLS IN MAKING IMPORTANT BUYING DECISIONS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID PRAISED THE COUNCIL FOR BUILDING UP OVER THE YEARS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS THE GUARDIAN OF CONSUMERS' RIGHTS, AND ADDED THAT ITS HIGHLY INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS HAD WON WIDE ACCLAIM FROM THE COMMUNITY.

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FIRST-DEGREE GRADUATES TO EXCEED 15,000 YEARLY BY 1999

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW FIRST-DEGREE GRADUATES PRODUCED BY HONG KONG'S TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS EACH YEAR WAS TODAY (SATURDAY) FORECAST TO RISE TO MORE THAN 15,000 BY 1999.

SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION DINNER OF DISTINGUISHED SALESMAN AWARDS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, SAID THAT JUST OVER 3,000 NEW FIRST-DEGREE GRADUATES WERE PRODUCED IN 1987.

"IN 1988, THAT NUMBER ROSE BY 24 PER CENT TO 3,750 AND WILL GROW FURTHER THIS YEAR BY 15 PER CENT TO 4,330," HE SAID.

/"BY 1999

"BY 1999, WITH THE COMING ON STREAM OF THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE TOTAL WILL EXCEED 15,000 - A QUINTUPLING OF OPPORTUNITY IN JUST 12 YEARS.

"TO THOSE REMARKABLE FIGURES MUST BE ADDED THE MANY THOUSANDS OF HONG KONG STUDENTS GRADUATING EACH YEAR IN OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS AND RETURNING TO HONG KONG TO LIVE AND TO WORK, PLUS THE MANY SKILLED RETURNING EMIGRANTS.

"THAT IS WHY DESPITE THE LOSSES TO EMIGRATION, THE NUMBER OF SKILLED AND QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW."

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE WAY FOR HONG KONG WAS CLEAR.

"WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEVELOP; WE MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE UPMARKET, WE MUST BOOST VALUE ADDED; WE MUST GROW MORE SOPHISTICATED," HE SAID.

"WE IN GOVERNMENT MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO ASSIST THESE PROCESSES BY PROVIDING THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE HONG KONG PEOPLE THE SKILLS THEY NEED."

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NURSERIES GET SOCIAL WORK INPUT

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NURSERIES NOWADAYS ARE NOT MERELY A PLACE TRADITIONALLY FOR LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN BUT ALSO FOR PROVIDING THEM WITH PROPER PREPARATION FOR FUTURE SCHOOLING AND GROWTH.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HENG ON BAPTIST NURSERY OPERATED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM IN MA ON SHAN, SHA TIN.

MR CHUI SAID THAT CHILD CARE SERVICES HAD EMERGED INTO A NEW ERA IN THE CONTEXT THAT THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION FROM PROFESSIONAL WORKERS IN LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN.

HE SAID THAT THIS PROFESSIONAL INPUT WOULD HELP CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT COVERING PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, LINGUISTIC, SOCIAL AND MENTAL ASPECTS.

CHILD CARE WORKERS WERE PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT AND CHALLENGING ROLE AS THEY WERE INFLUENTIAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN, WHO REQUIRED LOVE AND CONCERN.

MR CHUI SAID THAT IN 1976 THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD SET UP THE CHILD CARE CENTRES INSPECTORATE.

/ "THE INSPECTORATE

"THE INSPECTORATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS AND MAINTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ALL REGISTERED CHILD CARE CENTRES ARE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SPACE AND SAFETY STANDARD AND PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

"THE INSPECTORATE ALSO REGULATES REGISTRATION CONDITIONS FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS, AND PROVIDES TRAINING FOR THEM.

"TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, HAS COMPILED A DAY CARE NURSERY ACTIVITIES BOOKLET WHICH GIVES GUIDELINES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX."

MR CHUI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR RENDERING DIVERSIFIED WELFARE SERVICES - INCLUDING A NURSERY, SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE, STUDY CENTRE, AND CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY - SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN THE 1950'S.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY PUBLISHED

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY COMPARED WITH JANUARY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

IN PART REFLECTING THE DECLINE IN CASH HOLDING AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE NARROWEST DEFINITION OF MONEY SUPPLY, HK\$M1, RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL FALL DURING FEBRUARY. THE BROADER DEFINITIONS, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3, DECREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE MONTH.

THE GROWTH OF TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS PICKED UP DURING FEBRUARY. PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ACCELERATION IN THE GROWTH OF OFFSHORE LOANS. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG ALSO SHOWED A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE WHILE LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE DECLINED DURING THE MONTH.

THE ACCOMPANYING TABLE SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 1989 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW BY 0.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989 FOLLOWING ZERO GROWTH IN DECEMBER 1988 AND AN INCREASE OF 2.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1989. OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS DROPPED BY 4.6 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE TIME DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.8 PER CENT. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 12.5 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW BY 0.6 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.5 PER CENT AND 2.8 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 1.5 PER CENT WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.3 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE BY 33.9 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 4.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989, AFTER INCREASES OF 7.2 PER CENT AND 4.2 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 0.8 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND BY 20.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND BY 27.5 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH BANKS GREW BY 0.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 2.1 PER CENT. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989, THE FORMER ROSE BY 24.6 PER CENT WHILE THE LATTER GREW BY 20 PER CENT.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 DECLINED BY 5.2 PER CENT, 0.5 PER CENT AND 0.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY. THESE FIGURES COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 10.2 PER CENT, 3.6 PER CENT AND 3.1 PER CENT IN JANUARY. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1989, HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 GREW BY 7.2 PER CENT, 11.5 PER CENT AND 12.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SWAP DEPOSITS, HK\$M2 GREW BY 0.1 PER CENT WHILE HK\$M3 ROSE BY 0.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 19.5 PER CENT AND 19.8 PER CENT.

TOTAL M1 FELL BY 3.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY WHILE TOTAL M2 AND M3 GREW BY 0.1 PER CENT AND 0.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN JANUARY WERE 9.2 PER CENT, 3.4 PER CENT AND 2.9 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 7.1 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 24.1 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 23.8 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW BY 5.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 1.2 PER CENT AND 1.9 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 4 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES GREW BY 6.9 PER CENT.

/LOANS TO

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

- 5 -

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG DROPPED BY 2.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 2.9 PER CENT AND 2.1 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 26.7 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 3.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989 FOLLOWING A GROWTH RATE OF 2.3 PER CENT AND 3.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 35.4 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 4.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1989, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.6 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1989 RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 32.3 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY ONE TO 159. THE NUMBER OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 35 WHILE THAT OF REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY ONE TO 215.

/MONETARY STATISTICS

MONETARY STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 1989

	(HK\$mn)			
	Feb 1989	Earlier months (% change to February 1989)		
	Jan 1989	Nov 1988	Feb 1988	
Money Supply				
M1 - HKS	82,844	87,362 (-5.2 %)	78,698 (5.3 %)	77,288 (7.2 %)
Foreign currency	10,331	9,608 (7.5 %)	9,742 (6.0 %)	9,711 (6.4 %)
Total	93,175	96,970 (-3.9 %)	88,439 (5.4 %)	86,999 (7.1 %)
M2 - HKS	365,820	367,752 (-0.5 %)	354,334 (3.2 %)	328,158 (11.5 %)
Foreign currency	487,988	484,985 (0.6 %)	466,567 (4.6 %)	359,861 (35.6 %)
Total	853,807	852,737 (0.1 %)	820,900 (4.0 %)	688,019 (24.1 %)
M3 - HKS	400,052	401,177 (-0.3 %)	387,345 (3.3 %)	355,787 (12.4 %)
Foreign currency	521,515	518,007 (0.7 %)	501,688 (4.0 %)	388,875 (34.1 %)
Total	921,567	919,184 (0.3 %)	889,033 (3.7 %)	744,662 (23.8 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	36,415	39,975 (-8.9 %)	32,298 (12.7 %)	33,092 (10.0 %)
of which held by public	31,757	33,838 (-6.1 %)	28,363 (12.0 %)	28,716 (10.6 %)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	61,418	63,132 (-2.7 %)	60,076 (2.2 %)	58,284 (5.4 %)
Total Savings deposits	170,136	171,225 (-0.6 %)	174,278 (-2.4 %)	190,868 (-10.9 %)
Total Time deposits with banks	574,512	568,984 (1.0 %)	542,529 (5.9 %)	397,721 (44.5 %)
Total Time deposits with dtcs	65,692	64,313 (2.1 %)	66,044 (-0.5 %)	54,731 (20.0 %)
HKS deposits	355,739	354,856 (0.2 %)	346,700 (2.6 %)	316,336 (12.5 %)
US\$ deposits	270,733	266,761 (1.5 %)	264,336 (2.4 %)	211,167 (28.2 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	245,285	246,037 (-0.3 %)	231,889 (5.8 %)	174,101 (40.9 %)
All deposits	871,758	867,654 (0.5 %)	842,926 (3.4 %)	701,604 (24.3 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	47,751	45,527 (4.9 %)	40,755 (17.2 %)	18,014 (165.1 %)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	56,955	58,239 (-2.2 %)	55,436 (2.7 %)	44,965 (26.7 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	11,816	8,988 (31.5 %)	7,709 (53.3 %)	7,847 (50.6 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	489,677	472,311 (3.7 %)	446,183 (9.7 %)	361,572 (35.4 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	401,220	384,775 (4.3 %)	375,550 (6.8 %)	303,234 (32.3 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	76,202	56,012 (36.0 %)	65,923 (15.6 %)	62,515 (21.9 %)
Loans in HKS	436,541	419,770 (4.0 %)	396,930 (10.0 %)	315,058 (38.6 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	599,329	560,556 (6.9 %)	553,871 (8.2 %)	465,074 (28.9 %)
Total loans and advances	1,035,870	980,326 (5.7 %)	950,801 (8.9 %)	780,133 (32.8 %)

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JPC CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM \$3.15 MILLION BURSARIES

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BURSARIES TOTALLING \$3.15 MILLION WILL BE AWARDED THIS YEAR TO 1,593 CHILDREN OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS, REPRESENTING A 26 PER CENT INCREASE, OR 157 NEW BURSARIES, WHEN COMPARED WITH THE AMOUNT AND NUMBER AWARDED IN 1988.

SPEAKING AT THE 22ND ANNUAL BURSARY CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION OF THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AT THE POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB TODAY (SATURDAY), THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING NOTED THAT VERY MANY POLICE CHILDREN HAD BEEN ASSISTED BY THE FUND DURING THE PAST 22 YEARS.

THE AWARDS THIS YEAR INCLUDED 216 BURSARIES GIVEN TO STUDENTS AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND 104 TO THOSE STUDYING IN OVERSEAS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS, MR ANNING ADVISED THEM TO EXPLOIT THEIR POTENTIAL TO THE FULL AND STUDIOUSLY PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION.

HE ALSO THANKED THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SOUND ADVICE AND EFFORTS IN ENSURING THAT THE FUNDS WERE BEING PROFITABLY INVESTED AND PUT TO THEIR BEST USE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HUI CHUN-KEUNG, WHO ALSO SPOKE AT THE CEREMONY, POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF EACH AWARD DISTRIBUTED TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENT.

HE ADDED THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOUND THEIR WORK IN MANAGING THE TRUST BOTH SATISFYING AND MEANINGFUL.

THE TRUST, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1967, HAS ITS FUNDS DRAWN FROM PUBLIC DONATIONS TO THE POLICE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE. ITS ASSETS HAVE GROWN FROM \$2.7 MILLION TO \$31.5 MILLION AT PRESENT.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST PROBATIONERS

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PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS PLACED ON PROBATION ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS.

SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER, MRS IRENE SIH, SAID THE VOLUNTEERS SHOULD PREFERABLY BE AGED 21 OR ABOVE, OF SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARD, MATURE IN PERSONALITY AND WILLING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH LAW OFFENDERS.

/THE SHOULD

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

- 8 -

THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR LEISURE TIME TO SERVE OTHERS WITHOUT MONETARY REWARD AS WELL AS BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND OF WHOLESOME INTEREST, MRS SIH SAID.

ON THE ROLE OF A VOLUNTEER, MRS SIH SAID HE/SHE CAN ACT AS A TUTOR FOR A PROBATIONER WHO HAS PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL WORK AND TO HELP DEVELOP A PROBATIONER'S RANGE OF INTERESTS OR HOBBIES.

"THE VOLUNTEER CAN ALSO GUIDE A PROBATIONER IN THE PROPER USE OF LEISURE TIME AND DIRECT HIS INTEREST INTO WHOLESOME SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

"HE CAN OFFER PRACTICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE SUCH AS ON CHILD CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF A HOUSEHOLD AS WELL AS GIVE TECHNICAL INFORMATION IF HE IS A PROFESSIONAL OR SKILLED PERSON," SHE SAID.

"MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE VOLUNTEER CAN PROVIDE FRIENDSHIP ESPECIALLY TO PROBATIONERS WITHOUT FAMILY SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO THOSE WITHOUT DESIRABLE FRIENDS," SHE ADDED.

THE NEWLY-RECRUITED VOLUNTEERS WILL BE BRIEFED IN AN ORIENTATION COURSE BEFORE THEY START TO ASSIST PROBATION OFFICERS IN THE REHABILITATION OF PROBATIONERS.

HOWEVER, THE VOLUNTEERS WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE OVER THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROBATION OFFICERS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE FOR THE VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS AT 19/F, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY AND PROBATION OFFICES ATTACHED TO MAGISTRACIES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CENTRE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 24, 1989. FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MISS CHENG WING-SEUNG ON 5-8954190.

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INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES OF CNTA WORKS SECTIONS

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CONSEQUENT TO GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD OF THE WORKS SECTIONS OF DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (DEVELOPMENT) NT, MR MIKE WATERS, SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE MORE EXTENSIVE AND COMPLEX PROJECTS TO BE DESIGNED, VETTED AND SUPERVISED BY THE WORKS SECTIONS, A POST OF CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER HAD BEEN CREATED IN THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS TO STANDARDISE THE DESIGNS OF WORKS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING OF WORKS STAFF IN CNTA.

/MR WATERS

MR WATERS THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING PRESENTED THE PROMOTION LETTER TO THE RECENTLY APPOINTED CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, MR CHOW KING-SHING, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN CNTA AS INSPECTOR OF WORKS I IN NORTH DISTRICT.

OUTLINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKS SECTIONS, MR WATERS SAID THAT IN 1919 THE GOVERNMENT INITIATED THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL AREAS AND VILLAGES.

"AT THAT TIME, THE SCHEME WAS BASICALLY A SELF-HELP PROGRAMME WHEREBY MATERIALS WERE SUPPLIED TO THE VILLAGERS FOR THEM TO UNDERTAKE MINOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS, SUCH AS FENCING, FOOTPATHS AND DRAINAGE CHANNELS," HE SAID.

"OVER THE YEARS, THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE LPW PROJECTS HAD GRADUALLY INCREASED BEYOND THE VILLAGERS' ABILITY TO CARRY THEM OUT. AS A RESULT, PROJECTS HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT BY CONTRACTORS."

MR WATERS EXPLAINED THAT TO COPE WITH THIS CHANGE, A WORKS SECTION WAS SET UP IN EACH OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE 1950S WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLANNING, CO-ORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LPW PROJECTS.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF VAN TRACKS, FOOTPATHS, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, AQUA PRIVIES, PLAYGROUNDS, SITTING-OUT AREAS, PIERS, SEAWALLS, VEHICULAR BRIDGES, PAVILIONS AND EARTH RETAINING WALLS, HE ADDED.

MR WATERS POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPLEXITY OF PROJECTS HAD GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY NOT ONLY BECAUSE MORE MANPOWER AND EXPENDITURE WERE NOW INVOLVED, BUT BECAUSE THE WORKS SECTIONS ALSO UNDERTOOK SOME PROJECTS ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS.

"THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF AQUA-PRIVIES FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS PROJECTS FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONATION," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, AS FROM APRIL 1987, THE CONTRACT CEILING FOR NEW LPW PROJECTS AT THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LEVEL WAS INCREASED FROM \$0.3 MILLION TO \$1.5 MILLION."

HE NOTED THAT THE EXPENDITURE ON PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE NEW TERRITORIES WORKS SECTIONS IN 1988/89 WAS \$43.86 MILLION, REPRESENTING A 90 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THAT IN 1986/87.

AT PRESENT, MAJOR ON-GOING PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS SECTIONS INCLUDE A \$1.2 MILLION PROJECT IN FANLING AND A \$1.1 MILLION PROJECT AT SHA TIN, BOTH OF WHICH WERE TO IMPROVE AND UPGRADE A VAN TRACK TO PROPER HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT STANDARD.

ANOTHER MAJOR PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 1989/90 WILL BE A \$1.5 MILLION PROJECT TO IMPROVE A VAN TRACK, DRAINAGE AND SLOPEWORKS AT KWUN YUM SHAN IN SHA TIN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

- 10 -

REGIONAL SECRETARY MEETS MAC REPRESENTATIVES

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MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES (MAC's) ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, PROVIDING SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS TO NUMEROUS COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES.

A CASE IN POINT WAS HELPING TO PROVIDE A PLEASANT LIVING ENVIRONMENT AT SO UK ESTATE IN SHAM SHUI PO, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) FOLLOWING A VISIT TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AT THE ESTATE.

"THE ENVIRONMENT AT SO UK ESTATE IS COMPARABLE WITH THOSE AT PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES, AND THIS IS OBVIOUSLY THE RESULT OF THE JOINT EFFORTS BY THE MAC's AT THE ESTATE TO IMPROVE THE LIFE-STYLE OF RESIDENTS," HE NOTED.

THE VISIT WAS THE FIRST OF A SERIES AIMED AT FORGING CLOSER LIAISON WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON REGION.

HE WAS MET BY THE ACTING SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS JENNIE CHOK; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEI CHENG UK AND SO UK AREA COMMITTEE, MR CHAN CHEE-SING, AND A NUMBER OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES.

MR LAN TOURED SO UK ESTATE TO SEE EXISTING FACILITIES AND THE RECENTLY-COMPLETED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

LATER HE ATTENDED A JOINT MEETING OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF WILLOW HOUSE, PEONY HOUSE AND LARKSPUR HOUSE OF SO UK ESTATE, AT WHICH MAC MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE PROVISION OF PARKING SPACES AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT THE ESTATE.

ALL THREE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES HAVE PROVIDED VARIOUS SERVICES TO RESIDENTS SINCE THEIR FORMATION OVER 10 YEARS AGO.

MR LAN SAID THAT MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WERE ONE OF THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

HE PRAISED THE THREE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HELPING TO BUILD UP A SENSE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS AND IN ORGANISING VARIOUS CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENABLE THEM TO FUNCTION AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE," MR LAN SAID.

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EXHIBITION TO STRESS HOME SAFETY IN TAI PO

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HOME SAFETY MESSAGES WILL BE SPREAD AMONG RESIDENTS OF KWONG FUK ESTATE, TAI PO, THROUGH AN EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE ESTATE SHOPPING CENTRE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM.

ORGANISED BY THE HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF POTENTIAL HIDDEN DANGERS IN THE HOME AND TO GIVE ADVICE ON PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

"IN MANY CASES, ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME ARE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS AND IGNORANCE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID.

"THE TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF GREATER CONCERN HAD BEEN SHOWN FOR HOUSEHOLD SAFETY," HE ADDED.

THE FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS IN THE TWO MOST ACCIDENT-PRONE AREAS IN THE HOME - THE KITCHEN AND THE BATHROOM.

"THE EXHIBITION, IN THE FORM OF A MOCK-UP KITCHEN, WILL HIGHLIGHT THE POTENTIAL DANGERS," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

A NEW BOOKLET "SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME" WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS AT THE VENUE.

"THE BOOKLET OUTLINES THE MOST COMMON HAZARDS IN THE HOME, AND ALSO PROVIDES GUIDELINES ON HOW TO AVOID MISHAPS ARISING THROUGH THE USE OF GAS, ELECTRICITY, MICROWAVES, WATER, CHEMICALS AND MEDICINE.

"IT ALSO GIVES ADVICE ON FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE AND THE CONTENT OF A FIRST AID BOX," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO MORE HOUSEHOLDS, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED IN ROTATION AT SEVEN OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ON SUNDAYS UNTIL THE END OF MAY.

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN KWUN TONG PLANNING TO ORGANISE SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT MAY NOW APPLY FOR A SUBSIDY FROM THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD HAS SET ASIDE \$250,000 FOR FINANCING LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS OF A SOCIAL SERVICE NATURE IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

/A SPOKESMAN

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE PROJECTS MIGHT TAKE THE FORMS OF VISITS, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS AND TRAINING, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN KWUN TONG.

LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT, INVITING THEM TO APPLY AND SPELLING OUT DETAILS OF APPLICATION PROCEDURES. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE ON 3-416315, EXT. 451.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 30 AND THE FINANCED PROJECTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN MID-MAY AND SEPTEMBER 30, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EACH APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED BY A VETTING COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED UNDER THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"THE CREATIVITY OF THE APPLICANTS' PROJECTS WILL BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION WHILE REGULAR PROGRAMMES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ANOTHER APPLICATION EXERCISE WILL BE HELD IN JULY FOR PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN OCTOBER AND NEXT JANUARY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YUEN LONG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ON SHUN STREET IN YUEN LONG WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE TO ONE-WAY ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TERMINAL POINT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS' SERVICE ROUTE 68R (FAIRVIEW PARK - YUEN LONG MARKET) WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE LAYBY OUTSIDE YUEN LONG LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IN ADDITION, ON SHUN STREET BETWEEN ITS WESTERN JUNCTION WITH YUEN LONG ON NING ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TOLO HIGHWAY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND FAST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY AT PAK SHEK KOK, TAI PO, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON MONDAY (APRIL 3) AND THE NEXT DAY FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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HILL FIRE WARNING FOR GRAVE WORSHIPPERS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA CARE IN HANDLING FIRES WHEN THEY VISIT THEIR ANCESTRAL GRAVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR C.W. LAI, SAID: "THERE WERE 22 HILL FIRES REPORTED IN THE LAST CHING MING AND CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVALS, DAMAGING SOME 1,000 TREES AND 97 HECTARES OF PLANTATIONS."

THESE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE.

"IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING DRY WEATHER CONDITION AND THE POTENTIAL HIGH FIRE RISK, THE DEPARTMENT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD COUNTRY PARK PLANTATIONS ON THE FESTIVAL DAY NEXT WEDNESDAY BY PUTTING 25 TEAMS OF 250 FIRE FIGHTERS ON STAND-BY, ROUND-THE-CLOCK," MR LAI SAID.

THE AFD FIRE FIGHTERS WILL BE JOINED BY SIX TEAMS OF 160 CIVIL AID SERVICES PERSONNEL, INCLUDING 40 CADETS DEPLOYED ON FIRE WATCH DUTIES.

MR LAI STRESSED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS A GENUINE NEED FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE CAREFUL.

"THEY CAN HELP MINIMISE THE HIGH RISK OF FIRE JUST BY OBSERVING A FEW SIMPLE RULES," HE ADDED.

THESE RULES ARE:

- * BURN WORSHIPPING ITEMS IN METAL CONTAINERS;
- * DO NOT LEAVE LIGHTED CANDLES, JOSS ARTICLES AND PAPERS UNATTENDED; AND
- * MAKE SURE ALL BURNING ITEMS ARE EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE GRAVE SITES.

MR LAI ALSO REMINDED PICNICKERS TO LIGHT FIRES ONLY AT DESIGNATED BARBECUE AREAS.

"ILLEGAL LIGHTING OF FIRES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT, AND A FINE OF UP TO \$2,000 MAY BE IMPOSED FOR CAUSING FIRE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE," HE WARNED.