



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SIR JOHN REVIEWS HK ECONOMY
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THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IS NOT PRINCIPALLY DUE TO ECONOMIC FACTORS AS HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, LED BY EXPORT GROWTH, IS IMPROVING RAPIDLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN HIS MID-YEAR ECONOMIC REVIEW THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

HE SAID THAT AMONG OTHER FACTORS, CONCERN OVER THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG HAD HEAVILY INFLUENCED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET THIS YEAR.

+IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FIX THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AT ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL. THIS MUST DEPEND UPON THE FORCES OF THE MARKET PLACE,+ SIR JOHN SAID IN HIS REVIEW PRESENTED AT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB.

ADJUSTMENT MUST THEREFORE BE EXPECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARKET FACTORS, WHICH WILL IN TIME REFLECT UNDERLYING VALUES, HE ADDED.

+INTERVENTION BY THE EXCHANGE FUND CAN ONLY SMOOTH THE CHANGING COURSE OF CROSS RATES (WHICHEVER WAY THE TREND IS RUNNING), WHILE DECISIONS BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ON DEPOSIT RATES MUST REFLECT INTER ALIA THE PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

CITING ANOTHER FACTOR, HE SAID THAT FROM THE REDUCTION IN LOCAL INTEREST RATES ON JULY 6 UNTIL THE 1.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS INCREASE ON SEPTEMBER 8, THE INTEREST RATE DIFFERENTIAL HAD CLEARLY BEEN IN FAVOUR OF U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS, WHICH SOME WOULD CALL +AN ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND SITUATION.+

FURTHERMORE, THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET HAD BEEN HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE GENERAL STRENGTH OF THE U.S. DOLLAR WORLDWIDE, GREAT CONCERN ABOUT SOME SOVEREIGN RISKS, AND SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES, SIR JOHN NOTED.

BUT HE ADDED, +WHILE HONG KONG ACCEPTS THE REALITY OF MARKET FORCES, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR OVER THE PAST YEAR DOES SEEM EXCESSIVE IN TERMS OF THE UNDERLYING ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS, WHICH INDICATE AN EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY.+

THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK OF A NUMBER OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS HAD IMPROVED, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE TERRITORY'S DOMESTIC EXPORT GROWTH HAD GATHERED MOMENTUM SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, SIR JOHN SAID.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF GOODS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, OR NINE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. GREW BY 16 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS AND TO CHINA BY 28 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 12 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS OR SIX PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, WHILE IMPORTS EXPANDED BY 11 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, OR FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

+THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP THUS NARROWED FROM 14 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1982 TO 12 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR — AN IMPROVEMENT, LET IT BE NOTED, OF 14 PER CENT,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

+THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ABOLISH THE 10 PER CENT INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE EXCHANGE RATE,+ SIR JOHN NOTED.

BUT HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE +SMALL TAX DIFFERENTIAL+ HAD BEEN A +SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR TO THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, THOUGH IT MUST BE UNHELPEFUL, PARTICULARLY PSYCHOLOGICALLY.+

+I MUST ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL LOSS OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE. THE ESTIMATED REVENUE FROM INTEREST TAX IN 1983-84 IS \$620 MILLION AND, ALTHOUGH, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ACTUAL YIELD WILL BE LESS, IT WILL STILL REPRESENT A LARGE SUM — SAY, FOR EXAMPLE ONLY, ABOUT THE COST OF THE NEW POLYTECHNIC,+ SIR JOHN POINTED OUT.

OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, HE ADDED, WAS THE POSSIBLE EFFECT WHICH THE ABOLITION OF THE TAX MIGHT HAVE ON REVENUE FROM PROFIT TAX, WHICH COULD HAVE FURTHER SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR GOVERNMENT REVENUE.

+WERE I TO COME TO THE VIEW THAT INTEREST TAX SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, I SHOULD HAVE TO INTRODUCE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PROFITS TAX YIELD — AND THESE MEASURES MIGHT BE DRACONIAN AND THUS UNPALATABLE.

+ONE POSSIBILITY THAT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IS THE IMPOSITION OF A STATUTORY MINIMUM RATIO OF EQUITY TO DEBT FINANCING FOR ALL BUSINESSES, WITH THE CONSEQUENTIAL DISALLOWANCE FOR PROFITS TAX CALCULATION PURPOSES OF INTEREST PAYMENTS RELATED TO DEBT FINANCING NOT SECURED ON THE ASSETS OF THE BUSINESS AND FALLING BELOW THE PRESCRIBED RATIO.

+SUCH A SCHEME MIGHT BE BROADLY FEASIBLE, BUT A GREAT DEAL OF FURTHER THOUGHT IS REQUIRED. MY MIND REMAINS OPEN AND I INTEND TO RE-ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT OF NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET,+ SIR JOHN STATED.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, MAINLY IN U.S. DOLLARS, WITH BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 25 PER CENT, WHILE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY THREE PER CENT.

+JULY PRESENTED A CHANGED PICTURE, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO RELY ON ONE MONTH'S FIGURES SHOWING RENEWED GROWTH IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE MENTIONED THREE FACTORS FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS THIS YEAR:

- * THE INTEREST RATE DIFFERENTIAL HAS GENERALLY BEEN IN FAVOUR OF U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS.
- * A LARGE PART OF THE INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS APPEARS TO HAVE REPRESENTED SWAP DEPOSITS, WHICH HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE EXCHANGE RATE AND SHOULD FOR ANALYTICAL PURPOSES BE REGARDED AS HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.
- * AS FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ARE REPORTED IN THEIR HONG KONG DOLLAR EQUIVALENTS, PART OF THE INCREASES IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS REFLECTS THE VALUATION EFFECT OF A WEAKER HONG KONG DOLLAR.

SIR JOHN REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS CONTROL OF MONEY SUPPLY.

+THE DIFFICULTIES REMAIN CONSIDERABLE, AND DISCUSSION CANNOT YET BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT A QUICK CONCLUSION IS IN HAND,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE MONETARY SECTOR, SIR JOHN SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED IN THE REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SEGMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, LEADING TO THE REVOCATION OF SEVERAL REGISTRATIONS, APPEARED TO HAVE SUBSIDED.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE GIVES BETTER PROTECTION FOR DEPOSITORS AND A SOUNDER MONETARY SYSTEM.

+THE MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE AND CREDIBLE FRAMEWORK WITH PROPER LEGISLATIVE DISCIPLINE IS IMPORTANT TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE,+ HE STRESSED.

TO FURTHER THIS OBJECTIVE, THE BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILLS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH, WITH SOME OF THE AMENDMENTS FLOWING FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE.

+THEIR OVERALL THRUST,+ HE SAID, +IS TO PRODUCE AN IMPROVED AND SOMEWHAT TOUGHER REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FOR REGISTERED DTC'S, WITH SOME ASSOCIATED CHANGES FOR LICENSED DTC'S AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, BANKS.

+IF NECESSARY, FURTHER MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED. HAVE NO DOUBT OF MY DETERMINATION,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

ON THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR, HE NOTED THAT IN GENERAL TERMS, THERE IS AN OVER-SUPPLY OF FINISHED PROPERTY, REFLECTING +WITH THE WISDOM OF HINDSIGHT A DEGREE OF BAD PLANNING AND MARKETING IN THE PAST BY SOME SPECULATIVE DEVELOPERS AIDED OF COURSE BY THOSE WHO FINANCED THEM.+

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DEMAND HAD ALSO BEEN CONSTRAINED BY THE SLOWER GROWTH IN INCOMES AND WEALTH LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION AND BY THE PREVAILING ANXIETY ABOUT THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

+CONSEQUENTLY, PRICES AND RENTALS FOR COMMERCIAL AND, PARTICULARLY, INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY HAVE NOW FALLEN TO A LEVEL WHICH PLACES HONG KONG IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE POSITION IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER BIG CITIES - PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY, WHICH SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVESTORS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, SIR JOHN SAID THAT DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY TO JULY, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.9 PER CENT AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE 1.7 PER CENT, BOTH WELL BELOW THEIR PEAKS RECORDED EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

+THIS IS SIGNIFICANT. MOREOVER IN HONG KONG AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF ABOUT THREE PER CENT PROBABLY INDICATES EFFECTIVE FULL EMPLOYMENT.

+AS A RESULT, I EXPECT THAT OUR LABOUR FORCE WILL SHORTLY START SHARING THE BENEFITS OF THE EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE FORM OF HIGHER REAL WAGES AND EARNINGS,+ HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 9.3 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR, SLIGHTLY EXCEEDING HIS FORECAST NINE PER CENT IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH, SIR JOHN SAID.

+BEARING IN MIND THAT, THROUGH ITS EFFECT ON IMPORT PRICES, DEPRECIATION PUSHES UP THE RATE OF INFLATION, THE FALL OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION AND WILL HAVE A FURTHER ADVERSE EFFECT DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR.

+IF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAD NOT DEPRECIATED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS -- PARTLY DUE TO CONFIDENCE FACTORS -- THE RATE OF INFLATION WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL BELOW THE 11 PER CENT RECORDED IN 1982,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED, +LET ME ASSURE MY CRITICS THAT I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE BANE OF INFLATION AND RISING COSTS, AND THAT I WILL DO ALL THAT I CAN TO CONTAIN THEM. BUT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES ARE NO ANSWER. NOR ARE MEASURES ANTIPATHETIC TO ESSENTIAL NEW INVESTMENT.+

ON GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, SIR JOHN SAID THAT CURRENT INDICATIONS WERE THAT BOTH WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN THE BUDGET FORECASTS, RESULTING IN A DEFICIT BROADLY OF THE ORDER PROVIDED FOR.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE STATED, THERE WAS NO NEED TO CONSIDER BORROWING, THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED MANY LOAN OFFERS.

/+I SHALL

+I SHALL NOT, HOWEVER, HESITATE TO BORROW IF EVER THE UNDERTAKING OF A CAPITAL PROJECT, WHICH WILL IN ITSELF BE PROFITABLE TO THE COMMUNITY, SO INDICATES.

+IN TODAY'S WORLD, IT IS REFRESHING TO BE LARGELY DEBT FREE WITH CONSIDERABLE FISCAL RESERVES,+ HE SAID.

ON THE BASIS OF THE PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS, SIR JOHN ESTIMATED THAT EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT WOULD BE \$41.2 BILLION, A DECREASE OF \$1.3 BILLION OVER THE BUDGET ESTIMATE.

STRESSING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CUTBACK IN PUBLIC SPENDING, SIR JOHN SAID, +AT PRESENT THERE IS AN OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT, I REPEAT COMMITMENT, OF ABOUT \$24.5 BILLION IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN HAND.

+THIS REPRESENTS A HUGE FORTHCOMING INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND ILLUSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION OF INVESTING VIGOROUSLY FOR THE FUTURE.+

ON THE BASIS OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AND THE GENERALLY IMPROVING ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, SIR JOHN REVISED THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE GDP FOR 1983 FROM FOUR PER CENT TO BETWEEN 5.5 PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT.

+THIS REPRESENTS MY BEST ESTIMATE FOR OUR ECONOMY ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE. IN OTHER CURCUMSTANCES IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER,+ HE SAID.

+WITH A FORECAST INCREASE IN THE GDP DEFLATOR OF EIGHT PER CENT, THE REVISED FORECAST OF EXPENDITURE ON THE GDP AT CURRENT PRICES IS ABOUT \$180 BILLION. 1983 GDP AT CURRENT PRICES IS NOW FORECAST TO BE ABOUT \$34 000 A HEAD, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 12 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS OR FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

GROWTH RATES OF THIS NATURE, HE ADDED, WOULD +CLEARLY RE-ESTABLISH HONG KONG'S ENVIABLE RECORD.+

GROWTH WOULD BE EXPORT-LED, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS NOW BEING FORECAST TO GROW BY 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS THIS YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH HIS BUDGET FORECAST OF FIVE PER CENT, SIR JOHN SAID.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS RECOVERED LESS RAPIDLY THAN EXPECTED IN THE FIRST HALF, HE ADJUSTED THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN THIS SECTOR FROM 12 PER CENT TO NINE PER CENT.

THUS TOTAL EXPORTS ARE FORECAST TO GROW BY 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AGAINST THE BUDGET FORECAST OF SEVEN PER CENT.

HE REVISED THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN REAL TERMS FROM SEVEN PER CENT TO EIGHT PER CENT.

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FOR 1983 AS A WHOLE, HE REVISED THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IN REAL TERMS FROM THREE PER CENT TO FOUR PER CENT.

LARGELY DUE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, THE HOUSING PROGRAMME AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO INCREASE, HE SAID.

BUT ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, PRIVATE-SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION IS NOW EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY 15 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1983, HE NOTED.

+GIVEN THE DECLINE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AND GENERALLY WEAK PRIVATE-SECTOR INVESTMENT INTENTIONS, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF OVERALL EXPENDITURE ON PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN ADDITION MUST BE REVISED DOWNWARDS FROM FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS TO ZERO.

+TAKING GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION AS A WHOLE, I MUST THEREFORE MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT TO THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS FROM THE BUDGET FORECAST OF SIX PER CENT TO MINUS ONE PER CENT. THE MAIN REASONS ARE TOO OBVIOUS TO MERIT COMMENT,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT AS DOMESTIC DEMAND REMAINS RELATIVELY WEAK, AGGREGATE DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY IS NOT IMPOSING MUCH PRESSURE ON AGGREGATE SUPPLY OF RESOURCES AND HENCE ON THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL.

+AS A RESULT OF THE LIKELY DOWNWARD REVISION TO THE EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT AND THE UPWARD REVISION TO THE GDP FORECAST FOR 1983, THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR SHOULD REDUCE (FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR YEARS) TO ABOUT 23 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH MY BUDGET ESTIMATE OF 24.1 PER CENT.

+BUT THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT WILL INCREASE FROM 50 PER CENT IN 1982 TO 56 PER CENT IN 1983, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF THE SHARP REDUCTION IN PRIVATE-SECTOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WILL EXCEED THAT OF IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP WILL NARROW FROM 10.9 PER CENT IN 1982 TO 10.1 PER CENT IN 1983.

AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A NARROWING OF THE COMBINED GAP ON THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE TRADE ACCOUNT, HE SAID.

LOOKING INTO 1984, SIR JOHN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF +STEADY AND CONSISTENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES+ WOULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD BENEFIT FROM FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIES OF ITS EXPORT MARKETS.

BUT HE ADDED, +IF THEY CEASE TO IMPROVE, SO WILL OUR ECONOMY WHICH IS ALMOST ENTIRELY EXPORT BASED.+

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

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GOVERNOR PRAISES 'MEN OF VISION'
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MEN LIKE THE FOUNDERS OF THE BANK OF EAST ASIA MUST BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR A BREADTH OF VISION WHICH FORESAW THE POTENTIAL OF THIS TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE BANK AT DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TODAY, SIR EDWARD SAID:

+THE BANK OF EAST ASIA IS 65 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR. THE BANK'S FOUNDERS WOULD SCARCELY RECOGNISE HONG KONG AS IT IS TODAY. BUT TO THEM AND TO MEN LIKE THEM MUST BE GIVEN THE CREDIT FOR A BREADTH OF VISION WHICH FORESAW THE POTENTIAL OF THIS TERRITORY ; AND THROUGH A READINESS TO MOVE WITH THE TIMES, THE BANK HAS, OVER THE YEARS, SUCCESSFULLY CONTRIBUTED TO AND SHARED IN THE GROWING PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

+THEY HAVE PLAYED THEIR FULL PART IN THE GROWTH OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR WHICH NOW OCCUPIES SO IMPORTANT A POSITION IN OUR ECONOMY.

+TODAY WE LOOK NOT ONLY TO THE PAST BUT ALSO TO THE FUTURE. THE COMPLETION OF THIS BUILDING BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE BANK'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND ITS CONFIDENCE IN THAT FUTURE.

+I CONGRATULATE THE BANK AND ITS BOARD, AND ALL WHO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH IT, ON THE OPENING OF THESE FINE PREMISES AND WISH THE BANK CONTINUING SUCCESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.+

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POWER PROPOSED FOR CONTROL OF BUILDING WORKS
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A BILL, WHICH AIMS TO ENABLE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH DANGEROUS BUILDING WORKS, IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE EXISTING LEGISLATION PROVIDES POWERS UNDER WHICH THE BUILDING AUTHORITY MAY DEAL WITH DANGEROUS BUILDINGS BUT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO BUILDING WORKS, SUCH AS SHORING AND SCAFFOLDING.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THERE ARE NO ADEQUATE POWERS OF CONTROL SHOULD THEY BECOME DANGEROUS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE BILL, KNOWN AS BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983, ALSO ENABLES A CLOSURE ORDER TO BE MADE TO ENABLE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT WORKS IN PURSUANCE OF HIS STATUTORY POWERS WITHOUT ENDANGERING THOSE PRESENT.

/THE EXISTING

THE EXISTING LEGISLATION ENABLES AN OWNER TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN RESPECT OF HIS BUILDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT BUILDING WORKS THEREIN, WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPIERS OR THE PUBLIC, IN CASES WHERE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS SERVED A NOTICE REQUIRING CERTAIN BUILDING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

HOWEVER, SIMILAR POWER IS AVAILABLE TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ONLY IN CASES INVOLVING AN ELEMENT OF DANGER, AND THIS POWER IS REQUIRED TO BE EXTENDED TO ALL OTHER SITUATIONS.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH.

IF APPROVED, IT WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN THE SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER.

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BOARDS HELP MONITOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS * * * *

BETTER CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS CAN HELP REDUCE THE EXTENT OF INCONVENIENCE OR AVOID PROBLEMS IN A NEWLY DEVELOPED AREA, THE YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH ORGANISATIONS AS DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, HE SAID, THE PROGRESS OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS WOULD BE MORE CLOSELY MONITORED TO ENSURE THEIR TIMELY COMPLETION.

+FURTHERMORE, THE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES WILL BE REFLECTED AND REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN MORE READILY.+

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING ON THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL MEASURES BEING TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST TSIM SHA TSUI AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KWUN TONG DINNER MEETING.

HE SAID PLANS TO DEVELOP EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, A 25-HECTARE SITE FROM THE FORMER KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY SIDINGS SOUTH OF CHATHAM ROAD, INTO A HIGH CLASS RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREA HAD MET WITH SOME PROBLEMS WHEN DEVELOPMENT TOOK SHAPE IN 1980.

THESE INCLUDED:

- * SHORTAGE OF PARKING SPACES WHICH LED TO INDISCRIMINATE ON-STREET PARKING;
- * TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG MODY ROAD;
- * INADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO SERVE THE AREA; AND
- * SLOW PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT SITES WHICH RESULTED IN THE BARREN AND OFTEN UNSIGHTLY APPEARANCE AROUND THE COMPLETED PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

BUT MR WONG STRESSED THAT UPON IDENTIFICATION OF THESE PROBLEMS RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, REACTED IMMEDIATELY BY TAKING REMEDIAL MEASURES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID A PUBLIC MULTI-STOREY CARPARK WOULD BE PARTIALLY OPENED LATER THIS MONTH TO HELP EASE THE PARKING PROBLEM.

IN ADDITION, TENDERS HAD BEEN INVITED FOR AN OPEN-AIR COACH PARK AT THE JUNCTION OF MODY ROAD AND SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, AND ONE OF THE THREE UNDEVELOPED SITES IN THE AREA MIGHT BE USED FOR A PUBLIC CARPARK.

ON TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT, HE SAID TWO OFF-STREET LOADING AND UNLOADING AREAS, CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING UP TO 40 VEHICLES AT ANY ONE TIME, WOULD BE PROVIDED AT THE EASTERN SIDE OF MODY ROAD WHICH WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WORK ON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT ALL MAJOR ROAD JUNCTIONS WOULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL NEXT YEAR.

FOUR NEW MAXI-CAB AND ONE BUS ROUTES WERE BEING INTRODUCED, AND, TOGETHER WITH THE PRESENT 11 BUS ROUTES RUNNING PASS THE AREA, THE TOTAL CAPACITY WILL BE ABOUT 150 000 PASSENGERS PER DAY.

ON DEVELOPMENT OF AMENITY AREAS, HE SAID WORK ON NINE OF THE 10 SITES ALLOCATED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR RECREATIONAL USE HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND MOST OF THE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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BRIDGE TO BE BUILT AT BORDER * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHEN ZHEN RIVER AND TO WIDEN AND IMPROVE A SECTION OF THE EXISTING MAN KAM TO ROAD FROM LIN MA HANG ROAD TO THE PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE.

THE PLAN ALSO COVERS THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING CROSS BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES AT MAN KAM TO ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHEN ZHEN RIVER AT MAN KAM TO IS AT PRESENT THE ONLY VEHICULAR LINK WITH CHINA.

+TO COPE WITH THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT A SECOND BRIDGE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED BRIDGE IS 52 METRES LONG, WITH A 7.5-METRE-WIDE CARRIAGEWAY AND TWO-METRE WIDE FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES. IT HAS FOUR SPANS.

THE TWO SPANS ON THE HONG KONG SIDE OF THE BORDER WILL BE BUILT BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WHILE THE OTHER TWO ON THE NORTHERN SIDE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

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THE PROPOSED NEW ROAD FROM THE SECOND BRIDGE TO LIN MA HANG ROAD IS ABOUT 900 METRES LONG, HAVING A CARRIAGEWAY WIDTH OF 7.3 METRES, WITH LOCAL WIDENING TO ABOUT 40 METRES AT THE CROSS BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES. TWO-METRE-WIDE FOOTPATHS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO VEHICLE HOLDING AREAS AND A VEHICLE LAYBY TO SERVE A NEW ANIMAL INSPECTION STATION OFF THE WIDENED MAN KAM TO ROAD.

+TOGETHER WITH THE ROADWORKS, ADDITIONAL CROSS BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES, INCLUDING A TWO-STORY TERMINAL BUILDING AND TWO CARGO EXAMINATION BLOCKS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.+

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

PLANS SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY- THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, NORTH, AND THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, OLD DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING, TAI PO MARKET, AND THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, FANLING SUB-OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN 15TH NOVEMBER 1983.

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NEW AIR POLLUTION CONTROL LAW STARTS OCTOBER * * * *

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, TOGETHER WITH ITS FOUR SETS OF SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, WILL COME INTO FORCE ON OCTOBER 1, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT TODAY THAT THE NEW ORDINANCE REPLACES THE EXISTING CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE, IN OPERATION SINCE 1959.

THE FOUR SETS OF SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS ARE THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FURNACES, OVENS AND CHIMNEYS) (INSTALLATION AND ALTERATION) REGULATIONS, THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (RESTRICTION AND MEASUREMENT OF SMOKE EMISSION) REGULATIONS, THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (SMOKE) REGULATIONS AND THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (APPEAL BOARD) REGULATIONS.

UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON TO ALLOW HIS FURNACES, OVENS, CHIMNEYS, STATIONARY INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES, OR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TO DISCHARGE AIR POLLUTANTS WHICH CAUSE A NUISANCE TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OR ARE PREJUDICIAL TO HEALTH OR ARE LIKELY TO ENDANGER THE NORMAL OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT IN HONG KONG.

UPON DISCOVERY OF SUCH AN AIR POLLUTANT NUISANCE, OFFICERS OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL NORMALLY ADVISE THE OFFENDER ON HOW TO ABATE THE NUISANCE. SHOULD THE ADVICE BE IGNORED, AN ABATEMENT NOTICE WILL BE ISSUED.

THE COURT PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NOTICE COULD BE UP TO \$50 000 IF THE SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT OR HUMAN HEALTH IS AFFECTED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THE NEW ORDINANCE EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO DECLARE AIR CONTROL ZONES AND TO REGISTER AND LICENSE SPECIFIED PROCESSES RESPECTIVELY.

IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR SPECIFIED PROCESS, NO REGISTRATION OR LICENSING IS REQUIRED UNTIL THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, BY NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, CALLS FOR REGISTRATION OF SUCH PROCESS.

DARK SMOKE EMISSION FROM FURNACES, OVENS, CHIMNEYS AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (SMOKE) REGULATIONS. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, EMISSION OF DARK SMOKE FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE MINUTES OR FOR MORE THAN SIX MINUTES IN ANY PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE REGULATIONS.

THE COURT PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE COULD BE UP TO \$5 000 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL FINE OF \$100 FOR EVERY 15 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EMISSION.

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FURNACES, OVENS AND CHIMNEYS) (INSTALLATION AND ALTERATION) REGULATIONS AND THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (RESTRICTION AND MEASUREMENT OF SMOKE EMISSION) REGULATIONS ARE BASICALLY THE SAME AS THE FORMER CLEAN AIR (FURNACES, OVENS AND CHIMNEYS) (INSTALLATION AND ALTERATION) REGULATIONS AND THE CLEAN AIR (RESTRICTION AND MEASUREMENT OF SMOKE EMISSION) REGULATIONS WHICH THEY REPLACE.

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FURNACES, OVENS, AND CHIMNEYS) (INSTALLATION AND ALTERATION) REGULATIONS REQUIRE ANY OCCUPIER OF PREMISES IN WHICH ANY ALTERATION TO OR INSTALLATION OF ANY FURNACE, CHIMNEY, OR OVEN HAVING A CAPACITY ABOVE A CERTAIN LIMIT IS TO BE CARRIED OUT, TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AT LEAST 28 DAYS BEFORE STARTING ANY WORK.

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (RESTRICTION AND MEASUREMENT OF SMOKE EMISSION) REGULATIONS SET LIMITS ON THE EMISSION OF GRIT AND DUST FROM SOLID AND LIQUID FUEL-FIRED PLANTS AND STIPULATE PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING FUEL SAMPLES, DETERMINATION OF FUEL OIL VISCOSITY AND THE MEASUREMENT OF GRIT AND DUST CONTENT OF FLUE GASES.

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (APPEAL BOARD) REGULATIONS STIPULATE PROCEDURES FOR MAKING AN APPEAL AGAINST ANY ACTION TAKEN OR DECISION MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE OR THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ORDINANCE AND ITS REGULATIONS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT AIR POLLUTION NUISANCE MAY BE MADE TO THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION AT 393 CANTON ROAD, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 9TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI (TEL. NO. 3-688111, EXT. 445 AND 446), OR 21 PUI CHING ROAD, 1ST FLOOR, HO MAN TIN (TEL. NO. 3-7117538).

COPIES OF AN EXPLANATORY BOOKLET ON THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THOSE ADDRESSES.

\$18-M ROAD PROJECT STARTS
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED A \$18-MILLION CONTRACT FOR A ROAD PROJECT IN YUEN LONG NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY MR LEE SHING-SEE, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTORS LTD.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUEN LONG NEW TOWN, WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

IT WILL INCLUDE THE IMPROVEMENT TO THE EXISTING YUEN LONG EASTERN ROUNDABOUT, A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND FUNG CHEUNG STREET, AND A COMBINED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE OVER THE YUEN LONG EASTERN NULLAH AND ON LOK ROAD.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE IMPROVED INTERSECTION WILL PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE NORTHERN BYPASS AND THE YUEN LONG - AU TAU DUAL CARRIAGEWAY.

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GOVERNOR MEETS UPGC MEMBERS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (FRIDAY) MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE MEETING WAS HELD ON THE LAST DAY OF A WEEK-LONG UPGC MEETING WHICH DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS TOPICS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S MEETING WERE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR HENRY CHING, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR KENNETH TOPLEY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (DESIGNATE), MR NEIL HENDERSON, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG.

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EVENING HOVERFERRY SERVICE FAVOURED
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THERE IS A GREAT DEMAND FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NIGHT TIME HOVERFERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND CENTRAL, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY TABLED AT TODAY'S (FRIDAY) TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

PASSENGERS FELT THAT THE HOVERFERRIES SHOULD RUN AT 15-MINUTE INTERVALS UP TO 6.30 PM AND AT REDUCED FREQUENCY THEREAFTER UNTIL 8 PM.

AT PRESENT, THE LAST FERRY LEAVES CENTRAL AT 5.45 PM AND TUEN MUN AT 5.55 PM.

+THIS HAS CAUSED MUCH INCONVENIENCE TO RESIDENTS OF TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG WHO WORK ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND DO NOT FINISH WORK UNTIL 5 PM OR LATER,+ THE SURVEY SAID.

THE FINDINGS ALSO SHOWED THAT THE PASSENGERS PREFERRED HOVERFERRY TO OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED ON JUNE 22 THIS YEAR BY MEMBERS OF A WORKING GROUP FROM THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO COLLECT PASSENGERS' VIEWS ON THE HOVERFERRY SERVICE.

A REPORT OF THE SURVEY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG AND YAU MA TEI FERRY COMPANY FOR CONSIDERATION.

A TOTAL OF 3 500 QUESTIONNAIRES IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PASSENGERS AT BLAKE PIER AND TUEN MUN FERRY PIER ON THAT DAY.

OF THE 834 QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED, 64 PER CENT CONTAINED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO A NUMBER OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS — AN INDICATION OF GENUINE PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING HOVERFERRY SERVICE.

PASSENGERS FEEL THAT THE HOVERFERRIES SHOULD STRICTLY KEEP TO THE SCHEDULE AND THAT COMFORTABLE SOFT-PADDED SEATS SHOULD BE USED AGAIN.

THEY CLAIM THAT THE HEIGHT AND SIZE OF THE EXISTING FIBRE-GLASS SEATS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

SOME RESPONDENTS ALSO PROPOSE THAT THE FARE SHOULD BE REDUCED TO \$5 OR \$6 IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE PASSENGERS.

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PUPILS' BEHAVIOUR SURVEYED * * * *

AN AVERAGE OF SIX SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS OUT OF EVERY 100 WERE INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DURING 1982 COVERING SOME 400 SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THIS FIGURE WAS NOT OVERLY ALARMING AS SCHOOLS WERE ASKED TO REPORT ALL INCIDENTS, LARGE OR SMALL, REFERRED TO THE DISCIPLINE MASTER OR TEACHER RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCIPLINE.

+THIS COULD RANGE FROM SUCH MINOR OFFENCES AS BEING LATE FOR SCHOOL AND FAILURE TO HAND IN HOMEWORK TO THE MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES AS FIGHTING OR STEALING,+ HE SAID.

THE SURVEY, WHICH RECEIVED NEARLY 100 PER CENT RESPONSE FROM SCHOOLS, RECORDED A TOTAL OF 131 141 INCIDENTS DURING 1982. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MULTIPLE OFFENDERS, ABOUT 6.2 PER CENT OF AN ESTIMATED 440 000 SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT WERE INVOLVED. BOYS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE INCIDENTS.

RESULTS ALSO SHOWED THAT THE MOST COMMON CATEGORY OF UNRULY BEHAVIOUR WAS INSOLENT OR REBELLIOUS BEHAVIOUR, ACCOUNTING FOR NEARLY 20 PER CENT OF ALL INCIDENTS REPORTED, WHILE FOR DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR THE MOST COMMON WERE ACTS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND STEALING WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF ALL INCIDENTS REPORTED.

SOME 87-89 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS THE LESS SERIOUS, UNRULY BEHAVIOUR, AND ONLY ABOUT 11-13 PER CENT WERE THE MORE SERIOUS, DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR.

THE MAJORITY (65 PER CENT) OF OFFENDERS WERE AGED 13 TO 15, WITH ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THEM STUDYING IN FORMS I TO III.

+ACTS OF DISHONESTY AND HABITUAL TRUANCY WERE HIGHER AMONG GIRLS WHILE OFFENCES SUCH AS INSOLENT OR REBELLIOUS BEHAVIOUR, DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES TO ATTRACT ATTENTION AND REGULAR USE OF FOUL LANGUAGE WERE MORE COMMON AMONG BOYS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A REPORT OF THE 1982 SURVEY HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED AND SENT TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

+TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE SURVEY HAS HELPED IN THE PLANNING OF VARIOUS MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOLS THROUGH A CONTINUOUS REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND THE PROVISION OF A WIDER RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BECAUSE OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE SURVEY, THE DEPARTMENT ON THE ADVICE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE SURVEY FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1983/84, TO SEEK OUT ANY PATTERN AND TREND OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AS WELL AS PROBLEM AREAS REQUIRING CLOSER EXAMINATION OR IN-DEPTH STUDY.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THREE ROUNDS, EACH COVERING A FOUR-MONTH PERIOD -- FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 1983, FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 1984 AND FROM MAY TO AUGUST 1984.

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NEW EASTERN CORRIDOR ROAD TO BE BUILT

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THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ROAD IN CHAI WAN TO FORM PART OF STAGE III OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN 800-METRE LONG DUAL TWO-LANE ROAD BETWEEN THE WING TAI INTERCHANGE AND CHAI WAN.

/ALSO INCLUDED

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ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE THE EXTENSION OF WING TAI ROAD TO THE INTERCHANGE ON THE CORRIDOR, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROUNDABOUT AT THE JUNCTION OF CHAI WAN ROAD AND WAN TSUI ROAD, AND THE WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF A 350-METRE LONG SECTION OF CHAI WAN ROAD.

A SYSTEM OF COVERED FOOTBRIDGES OVER THE CHAI WAN ROAD AND WAN TSUI ROAD ROUNDABOUT AND A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED UNDER THIS PROJECT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

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NEW SUB-OFFICE TO SERVE KWUN TONG
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A NEW SUB-OFFICE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED IN SHUN LEE ESTATE ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 18).

THE OFFICE, LOCATED AT UNITS F3 AND F4 ON THE PODIUM FLOOR OF LEE FOO HOUSE, WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO ABOUT 75 000 RESIDENTS OF SHUN LEE, SHUN ON AND SHUN TIN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE SHUN CHI COURT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE SHUN LEE TSUEN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

AT THE SUB-OFFICE, RESIDENTS CAN TAKE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, FILE COMPLAINTS, MAKE ENQUIRIES, AND OBTAIN GOVERNMENT FORMS AND PAMPHLETS.

THE OFFICE HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 3-430887.

THERE ARE FOUR OTHER SUB-OFFICES IN KWUN TONG SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF NGAU TAU KOK, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING AND YAU TONG.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY.

THE GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK; THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER/EAST, MR SO YAT-CHEUNG; THE NGAU TAU KOK DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, MR CHEUNG CHI-KEUNG; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN WAI; AND CHAIRMAN OF SHUN LEE AREA COMMITTEE, MR KWAN JOR-BONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHUN LEE SUB-OFFICE AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 18) AT UNITS F3 AND F4 ON THE PODIUM FLOOR OF LEE FOO HOUSE, SHUN LEE ESTATE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

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METERS TO OPERATE ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
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PARKING METERS WILL BE IN OPERATION ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 18) IN TSIM SHA TSUI AREA AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:-

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NO. OF METERS IN OPERATION</u>
1. ASHLEY ROAD	22
2. HANKOW ROAD	38
3. LOCK ROAD	29
4. MIDDLE ROAD	8
5. MODY ROAD SECTION BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH	53
6. BRISTOL AVENUE	4
7. CORNWALL AVENUE	23
8. HANOI ROAD	40
9. CARNARVON ROAD	41
10. HUMPHREYS AVENUE	17
11. CAMERON ROAD	49
12. KIMBERLEY ROAD SECTION BETWEEN CARNARVON ROAD AND AUSTIN AVENUE	48
13. GRANVILLE ROAD SECTION BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH	90
14. HILLWOOD ROAD	32
15. MODY ROAD OUTSIDE PENINSULA CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST	46
16. GRANVILLE ROAD OUTSIDE HILTON TOWER IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST	32

OPERATION HOURS OF THESE METERS WILL BE FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, AND ON WEEKDAYS, FROM 8 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT.

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QUARTERLY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY REPORT ON SALE
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR APRIL - JUNE 1983, CONTAINING STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

THE REPORT, WHICH IS SOLD AT \$7 A COPY, ALSO CONTAINS DETAILED ANALYSES OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS, INCLUDING THEIR AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ACTIVITY STATUS, OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS AS WELL AS DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND MAIN ACTION TAKEN TO LOOK FOR WORK BY JOB-SEEKERS.

+FINDINGS OF THIS SURVEY ARE COMPARED WITH THOSE OBTAINED FROM THE SURVEYS IN PREVIOUS QUARTERS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

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KOWLOON CHORUS SEEKS NEW RECRUITS
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THE FIRST AUDITION TO SELECT NEW RECRUITS FOR THE KOWLOON CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

AND ON EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON UNTIL OCTOBER 8, SIMILAR AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 4.30 PM IN THE MUSIC ROOM OF LA SALLE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

ABOUT 11 APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND TOMORROW'S AUDITION AND IT IS HOPED THAT 80 MEMBERS WILL BE RECRUITED.

THE CURRENT RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IS OPEN TO ALL PRIMARY THREE TO FIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS EITHER LIVING OR STUDYING IN THE DISTRICT.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD; THE HO MAN TIN BRANCH OFFICE AT BLOCK 8 OF HO MAN TIN ESTATE IN SHEUNG SHING STREET; AND THE HUNG HOM BRANCH OFFICE IN 32 WUHU STREET.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO MISS PATRICIA AU AT 3-7110171.

FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CHORUS WAS FORMED EARLY LAST YEAR TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' INTERESTS AND DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS IN MUSIC.

THE 50-MEMBER CHORUS, TOGETHER WITH THE RECRUITS, WILL STAGE ITS FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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WATER LEAKAGE TESTS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS - FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY - TO FACILITATE WATER LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY TAI WONG STREET WEST, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, ANTON STREET AND JOHNSTON ROAD.

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