



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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UK WELCOMES HK PEOPLE'S PART IN BASIC LAW DRAFTING

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE PARTICIPATION OF RESPONSIBLE AND REPRESENTATIVE PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG IN THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE, THE PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, SIR ANTONY ACLAND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR SHANGHAI, SIR ANTONY SAID ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE IN ANY DETAIL DURING HIS VISIT, HE WELCOMED THE FACT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS.

+WE ATTACH A LOT OF IMPORTANCE TO THAT,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SIR ANTONY SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FROM JULY 22 TO 25 IN LONDON, HAD BEEN RAISED WITH HIM DURING HIS VISIT.

+I KNOW THERE IS SOME CONCERN ABOUT PEOPLE HERE BEING INFORMED OF THE DELIBERATIONS, AND THAT WILL HAVE TO BE THOUGHT ABOUT. I WILL REPRESENT THE VIEWS ON THAT AND OTHER SUBJECTS THAT I HAVE HEARD DURING MY VISIT HERE TO THE AUTHORITIES IN LONDON,+ HE SAID.

ASKED FOR HIS VIEW ON CLOSED CAMPS FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, SIR ANTONY SAID NOBODY IN HONG KONG WHOM HE HAD TALKED TO WELCOMED THE CONCEPT OF CLOSED CAMPS.

+BUT I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE CARE AND THOUGHT WHICH HAS GONE INTO LOOKING AFTER THE REFUGEES THERE, IN PROVIDING EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND FOOD AND TOYS FOR THE CHILDREN.

+OBVIOUSLY A GREAT DEAL OF CARE IS TAKEN OVER THE REFUGEES HERE, BUT IT IS SAD THAT THEY HAVE TO BE CLOSED IN.+

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE ADDING HIS VOICE TO PERSUADE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG, HE SAID HE WOULD BE REPORTING THE VIEWS THAT HE HAD HEARD HERE.

+IT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED IN LONDON.

+WHEN SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND OTHERS WERE IN LONDON THE OTHER DAY, THEY MADE THEIR VIEWS VERY CLEAR TO MR RICHARD LUCE, THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

ASKED FOR HIS VIEW ON DISTRICT BOARDS IN ACTION, SIR ANTONY SAID IT WAS A GOOD AND DYNAMIC PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TAKING PART.

/+I WAS

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+I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION THERE.+

RECOUNTING DETAILS OF HIS VISITS DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS -- HIS FIRST IN 13 YEARS -- SIR ANTONY SAID IT HAD GIVEN HIM A GOOD PICTURE OF HONG KONG.

+I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE MY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PLACE, WHICH IS STILL A PLACE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE AND HIGH PRIORITY BOTH FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND OF COURSE FOR THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

+I AM ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED BY THE CONFIDENCE AND THE PROSPERITY AND THE IMAGINATIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE,+ HE SAID.

SIR ANTONY SAID HE WAS GOING TO SHANGHAI TO PERFORM THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONSULATE THERE.

+AND OF COURSE THE OPENING OF THE CONSULATE SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACH TO DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT AREA OF CHINA,+ HE SAID.

SIR ANTONY WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE AIDE-DE-CAMP TO THE GOVERNOR, SUPERINTENDENT PAUL COLLIER, AND THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR CHRISTIAN ADAMS.

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11 UNOFFICIALS TO SPEAK ON 'POWERS AND PRIVILEGES BILL'
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ELEVEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE SPEAKING WHEN DEBATE RESUMES TOMORROW ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) BILL 1985.

DEBATE WILL ALSO RESUME ON THREE BILLS PRIOR TO FINAL READING. THESE ARE:

* EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985;

* LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985; AND

* BILLS OF SALE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING FOUR NEW BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED :

- * FOREIGN JUDGMENTS (RESTRICTION ON RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT) BILL 1985;
- * DANGEROUS GOODS (CONSIGNMENT BY AIR) (SAFETY) BILL 1985;
- * MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985; AND
- * WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

ANOTHER BILL, THE PUBLIC BODIES (CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTED MEMBERS) (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, SEEKING TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF AN URBAN COUNCILLOR AND FOUR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR ALL THREE READINGS.

IN ADDITION, UNOFFICIALS WILL BE ASKING NINE QUESTIONS DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS AS THE PROGRESS MADE IN DEVELOPING HIGH TECHNOLOGY FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT'S POSITION REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A MEDIA COUNCIL, CONTROLS ON HAZARDOUS INSECTICIDE AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF FILIPINA DOMESTIC HELPERS.

A STATEMENT WILL ALSO BE MADE BY THE HON S.L. CHEN ON THE REPORT OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP 1984.

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APPROVAL BEING SOUGHT FOR MTR EQUITY INJECTION * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED IN A FORTNIGHT'S TIME TO ACCEPT A FIRM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF \$2 500 MILLION IN EQUITY INJECTIONS TO BE PAID INTO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IN 1985-86 AND 1987-88, TOGETHER WITH A FURTHER POSSIBLE COMMITMENT OF UP TO \$2 500 MILLION ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1989.

FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$1 500 MILLION OF THE INITIAL \$2 500 MILLION FOR TRANSFER TO THE MASS TRANSIT FUND DURING THIS CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR SO THAT THE FIRST PART OF THE EQUITY INJECTION CAN BE MADE. THE REMAINING \$1 000 MILLION WOULD BE PAID IN 1987-88.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MOVE WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE MTRC.

+REVENUE IN THE FORM OF EXTRAORDINARY PROFITS FROM LAND SALES MADE BEFORE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT IS BEING USED TO BUILD UP THE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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THE RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN LAND PRICES COUPLED WITH PAYMENTS FOR LAND PURCHASES IN CASH, RATHER THAN LETTERS 'B', HAS RESULTED IN AN UNEXPECTED FLUSH OF LAND REVENUE.

EVEN ON CONSERVATIVE PROJECTIONS, HE SAID, THE ESTIMATE OF LAND REVENUE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET IS NOW LIKELY TO BE EXCEEDED BY AT LEAST \$1 600 MILLION.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE PROPOSED INJECTION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGETARY SITUATION.

+THE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR 1985-86 WILL NOT, THEREFORE, BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED,+ HE SAID.

WHILE THE TOTAL INJECTION FIGURE IS \$5 000 MILLION, ONLY HALF IS TO BE FULLY COMMITTED IN ADVANCE. INJECTION OF THE REMAINDER WILL DEPEND ON FUTURE INTEREST RATES AND THE MTRC'S ACTUAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH AFFECTED THE MTRC'S PROFITABILITY, HE SAID, WAS CHANGES IN INTEREST COSTS.

+A MOVEMENT OF ONE PER CENT A YEAR IN FLOATING RATE COSTS WOULD VARY THE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL PROFITS BY WELL IN EXCESS OF \$100 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE MTRC WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF SHORTFALLS IN ANTICIPATED PATRONAGE AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

PATRONAGE AND REVENUE HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF EARLIER PREDICTIONS PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE BUSES OPERATING ON ROADS WHICH BECAME LESS CONGESTED AFTER THE MTR COMMENCED OPERATING HAVE TRIPLED THEIR CARRIINGS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, AND MTR FARES HAVE BEEN INCREASED LESS RAPIDLY THAN FORECAST.

THE 1984 REVENUE SHORTFALL, COMPARED WITH PREDICTIONS MADE IN 1977, WAS 37 PER CENT AND THE AGGREGATE SHORTFALL SINCE THE MTR FIRST STARTED CARRYING PASSENGERS AMOUNTED TO NEARLY \$1 000 MILLION.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ISLAND LINE HAD YIELDED MUCH LESS THAN FORECAST IN 1980. EVEN WITH RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN LAND PRICES INCOME IS LIKELY TO FALL SHORT OF PROJECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSALS FOR THE ADDITIONAL INJECTION OF EQUITY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY), AND WOULD BE PUT TO THE OPEN SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 26.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: +IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS NEW SUPPORT WILL ENSURE THAT THE MTRC MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY WHICH IT HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED.+

BASED ON A PASSENGERS-PER-ROUTE KILOMETER MEASURE, THE MTR IS THE MOST DENSELY UTILISED URBAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IN THE WORLD, HE SAID.

IT WAS THE ONLY MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM WHOSE UNSUBSIDISED FARE REVENUES WERE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL COSTS, INCLUDING DEPRECIATION, PLUS A USEFUL OPERATING PROFIT MARGIN.

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FRANCE URGED TO REMOVE TRADE RESTRICTIONS
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED FRENCH BUSINESSMEN TO REFLECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENT THE IMPORTANCE HONG KONG ATTACHES TO THE REMOVAL OF ALL RESIDUAL RESTRICTIONS ON ITS PRODUCTS.

HE SAID THE REMOVAL OF RESIDUAL AND DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS AGAINST HONG KONG COULD ONLY INCREASE THE FUND OF GOODWILL FOR FRANCE, AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO EVEN MORE BUSINESS.

MR HO MADE THESE REMARKS WHEN HE ADDRESSED A GROUP OF FRENCH BUSINESSMEN AT A DINNER MEETING ORGANISED BY THE FRENCH TRADE COMMISSIONER AT THE REGAL MERIDIAN HOTEL.

MR HO SAID: +HONG KONG LIVES ON TRADE AND OBSERVES SCRUPULOUSLY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), INCLUDING THE PROHIBITION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS. IT IS THEREFORE DISHEARTENING TO SEE THAT SOME OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS ARE NOT RECIPROCATING OUR FREE TRADE PRACTICES.+

HONG KONG'S THREE MAJOR EXPORTS TO FRANCE ARE CLOTHING, WATCHES AND TOYS, ALL SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

ON CLOTHING, MR HO SAID HE HAD RECENTLY VISITED A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS INCLUDING PARIS AND HAD URGED MINISTERS THERE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE OPTION OF FULL LIBERALISATION WHEN THE MFA EXPIRES IN JULY NEXT YEAR.

ON WATCHES, MR HO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF DIGITAL WATCHES TO FRANCE HAD BEEN INCREASING UNTIL 1981 WHEN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IMPOSED A QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION ON THESE PRODUCTS CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GATT.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE RESTRICTION ON HONG KONG ANALOGUE QUARTZ WATCHES WAS REMOVED LAST YEAR WHILE THE RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS OF HONG KONG DIGITAL QUARTZ WATCHES WAS REPLACED BY A GLOBAL QUOTA COVERING ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS.

+THESE RESTRICTIONS PERHAPS EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF DIGITAL WATCHES TO THE WORLD HAVE INCREASED BY 56 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 224 PER CENT IN QUANTITY, BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984, THOSE TO FRANCE DECLINED BY 78 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

+INCIDENTALLY, THERE IS AN INTERESTING PIECE OF STATISTICS: HONG KONG WAS THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR FRENCH CLOCK AND WATCH PARTS IN 1983,+ MR HO SAID.

NOTING THAT TOYS FROM HONG KONG HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS 1957, MR HO SAID THESE RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT JUSTIFIED UNDER THE GATT AND HAD BEEN A CAUSE OF CONCERN TO HONG KONG.

+WE WERE SLIGHTLY PLEASED WHEN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECIDED LAST YEAR TO LIBERALISE SOME OF THE RESTRICTIONS. BUT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY UNDERTAKEN TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTION ON TOYS BY 1987 AND HAS SET NO DATE FOR RADIO RECEIVERS, ANOTHER RESTRICTED PRODUCT FROM HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR HO POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE WAS HONG KONG'S NUMBER ONE SUPPLIER OF BRANDY, WINES, PERFUMES AND COSMETICS AND A MAJOR SUPPLIER IN HANDBAGS, FASHION CLOTHING, FURSKINS, ELECTRIC TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND HELICOPTERS. AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES HAD INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY SEVEN TIMES DURING THE PAST DECADE, WITH THE BALANCE IN FRANCE'S FAVOUR, NINE OUT OF TEN YEARS.

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TEXTILE QUOTA TRANSFER RULES REVISED
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A MAJOR REVISION OF THE QUOTA TRANSFER RULES WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE REVISION, WHICH HAD ALSO RECEIVED THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD.

THE REVISED RULES PROVIDE THAT:

- (A) THE AMOUNT OF A QUOTA WHICH A HOLDER CAN TRANSFER OUT TO SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE A REDUCTION IN HIS QUOTA IS TRIGGERED IS REDUCED FROM 50 PER CENT TO 35 PER CENT.

- (B) THE NEW PERCENTAGE WILL APPLY TO INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES OR TO GROUPS AVERAGING THREE OR FOUR CATEGORIES. AT PRESENT ALL GARMENT CATEGORIES ARE IN ONE GROUP AND ALL NON-GARMENT CATEGORIES IN ANOTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE USA PREVIOUSLY HAD ONLY TWO GROUPS - NOW IT WILL HAVE 15.
- (C) THE REVISED RULES WILL BE APPLIED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, INSTEAD OF TWO-YEARLY AS AT PRESENT.
- (D) TEMPORARY TRANSFERS-OUT WILL BE CALCULATED ON A GROSS BASIS. TEMPORARY TRANSFERS-IN OF QUOTA WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO BE OFFSET AGAINST TRANSFERS-OUT.

IN ORDER TO GIVE SUFFICIENT NOTICE TO THE TRADE, THE REVISED RULES WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE START OF THE 1986 TEXTILES YEAR. DATES OF INTRODUCTION FOR VARIOUS RESTRAINED MARKETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| USA, CANADA, EEC AND FINLAND | JANUARY 1, 1986 |
| AUSTRIA | FEBRUARY 1, 1986 |
| NORWAY | JULY 1, 1986 |
| SWEDEN | SEPTEMBER 1, 1986 |

THE REVISION HAS BEEN MADE AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE MANY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE IN RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ISSUED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IN DECEMBER 1984, SAID THE SPOKESMAN. THE ADVICE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD HAD ALSO BEEN SOUGHT.

+THE REVISED RULES AIM TO CURB EXCESSES OF QUOTA TRANSFERS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING THE FLEXIBILITY GENUINELY NEEDED BY THE TRADE IN THE USE OF QUOTA,+ HE SAID.

A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE REVISED RULES TO THE TRADE IS BEING ISSUED.

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, AS THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT OTB ASSURANCE LIMITED, WHOSE MAJOR SHAREHOLDER IS THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK LIMITED (48%) WHICH HAS NOW BEEN TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT, IS CONTINUING WITH ITS BUSINESS IN THE NORMAL WAY.

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SUSPENSION LIFTED

THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION OF O.T.B. FINANCE LIMITED AND EXPRESS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT LIMITED UNDER SECTION 45 OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE CEASED YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

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HK PLANS ROLE IN CANADIAN EXPOSITION

HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD EXPOSITION IN VANCOUVER, CANADA, NEXT YEAR WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE A COMMITMENT OF UP TO \$3 MILLION TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION FOR HONG KONG TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPOSITION.

THE TOTAL COST FOR HONG KONG IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$10 MILLION, AND PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT AT LEAST \$7 MILLION WILL BE RAISED THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP.

EXPO 86 WILL BE HELD IN VANCOUVER FROM MAY 2 TO OCTOBER 13 NEXT YEAR, AND IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT SOME 14 MILLION VISITORS. THIRTY-FIVE NATIONS, INCLUDING HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND REGIONAL COMPETITORS, ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO TAKING PART.

THE THEME OF THE EXPOSITION WILL BE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION.

IT WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL AND TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS A VIABLE AND PROSPEROUS TERRITORY, AND AS THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE.

ITS ORGANISERS HAVE RESERVED A 500-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR HONG KONG.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A LEAD AND TO ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF ORGANISATIONS ALREADY INVOLVED AND THOSE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO COMMIT A SUM NOT EXCEEDING \$3 MILLION TOWARDS THE PROJECT, SUBJECT TO THE DIFFERENCE BEING MADE UP BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

/OTHER TOPICS

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OTHER TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TOMORROW INCLUDE:

- * SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION,
- * A NEW FLIGHT INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEM FOR THE AIRPORT,
- * INCREASED COMMITMENT AND A NEW CAPITAL SUBVENTION FOR THE POK OI HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROGRAMME,
- * INCREASED COMMITMENT TO VALIDATE 17 NEW DEGREE COURSES AT THE POLYTECHNICS AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE,
- * NEW AND INCREASED COMMITMENTS FOR BUILDING PROGRAMMES AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE,
- * THE SUPPLY OF STORES TO THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY,
- * INCREASED COMMITMENTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO COMMERCIAL CRIMES,
- * CAPITAL GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND FOR A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE BLIND, A SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND MULTI-HANDICAPPED ADULTS, A SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL FOR MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS, AND A WORK ACTIVITY CENTRE AND HOSTEL FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS,
- * INCREASED RATES OF EX-GRATIA DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCES FOR CULTIVATORS AND MARICULTURISTS, AND
- * CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984-85.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE AT TOMORROW'S MEETING.

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JANUARY-APRIL EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY-APRIL 1985, VALUED AT \$147 407 MILLION, INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT COMPARED WITH TRADE FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1984, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 0.2 PER CENT TO \$38 635 MILLION, RE-EXPORTS BY 47 PER CENT TO \$34 973 MILLION AND IMPORTS BY 10 PER CENT TO \$73 798 MILLION.

/DOMESTIC EXPORTS

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

COMPARING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. DECREASED BY THREE PER CENT. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$535 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$385 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$561 MILLION OR NINE PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$42 MILLION OR FIVE PER CENT), AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$33 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO CHINA INCREASED RAPIDLY IN VALUE, PARTICULARLY OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$767 MILLION OR 1 660 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$539 MILLION OR 145 PER CENT), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$296 MILLION OR 202 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$101 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY \$16 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$112 MILLION OR NINE PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$83 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$80 MILLION OR 101 PER CENT), SANITARY, PLUMBING, HEATING AND LIGHTING FIXTURES AND FITTINGS (BY \$3 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (BY \$3 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$446 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$91 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT), AS DID DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN (BY \$44 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$47 MILLION OR 359 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$29 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT) AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF TEXTILES (BY \$15 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT).

/IMPORTS

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IMPORTS

DEMAND FOR GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN INCREASED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 197 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY \$783 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$665 MILLION OR 122 PER CENT), MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$238 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT) AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$100 MILLION OR 122 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$282 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY \$135 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, LARGE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$927 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$165 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (BY \$186 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (BY \$160 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. WERE MOSTLY OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$212 MILLION OR 54 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$182 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT), AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY \$67 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD AND AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$465 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$301 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT).

MEANWHILE, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$565 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT) AND IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$258 MILLION OR 237 PER CENT). HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT FROM TAIWAN DECREASED (BY \$25 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT), AS DID IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$150 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT).

/RE-EXPORTS

RE-EXPORTS

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$10 081 MILLION OR 158 PER CENT), U.S.A. (BY \$788 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY \$404 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT), MACAU (BY \$192 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), ITALY (BY \$85 MILLION OR 105 PER CENT), PHILIPPINES (BY \$76 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT), FRANCE (BY \$68 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (BY \$62 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY \$368 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (BY \$259 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2 039 MILLION OR 221 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1 342 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 278 MILLION OR 216 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$1 056 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT). DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$124 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (NOT INCLUDING UNMILLED CEREALS) (BY \$58 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT) AND FERTILIZERS MANUFACTURED (BY \$64 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT).

(RELEVANT TABLES ARE SET OUT BELOW)

THE APRIL 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$5 PER COPY. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN APRIL 1985 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY JULY 1985 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$13 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-214375). ENQUIRIES CONCERNING TRADE STATISTICS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-444436).

FOLLOWING ARE THE TABLES:

/TABLE 1:

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

| MAJOR MARKET | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| U.S.A. | 16 180 | 16 734 | - 555 | - 3 |
| CHINA | 5 331 | 2 748 | +2 583 | + 94 |
| U.K. | 2 516 | 2 880 | - 365 | - 13 |
| F.R. OF GERMANY | 2 313 | 2 905 | - 592 | - 20 |
| JAPAN | 1 362 | 1 427 | - 65 | - 5 |
| CANADA | 1 159 | 1 223 | - 64 | - 5 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1 083 | 1 137 | - 55 | - 5 |
| SINGAPORE | 728 | 841 | - 113 | - 13 |
| NETHERLANDS | 672 | 713 | - 41 | - 6 |
| FRANCE | 512 | 529 | - 17 | - 3 |

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

| COMMODITY DIVISION | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 12 664 | 12 734 | - 70 | - 1 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS, JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND PLASTIC ARTICLES) | 5 683 | 5 509 | + 173 | + 3 |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES AND SEMI- CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS) | 3 441 | 3 400 | + 41 | + 1 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 2 969 | 2 912 | + 57 | + 2 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 2 841 | 3 037 | - 196 | - 6 |
| OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT | 2 645 | 2 521 | + 124 | + 5 |

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES

| MAJOR SOURCE | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE (+)/ DECREASE (-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| JAPAN | 18 513 | 15 506 | +3 006 | + 19 |
| CHINA | 16 599 | 17 151 | - 551 | - 3 |
| U.S.A. | 7 386 | 7 302 | + 84 | + 1 |
| TAIWAN | 6 990 | 4 924 | +2 066 | + 42 |
| SINGAPORE | 3 740 | 3 606 | + 134 | + 4 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA | 3 085 | 2 106 | + 979 | + 47 |
| U.K. | 2 652 | 2 815 | - 163 | - 6 |
| F.R. OF GERMANY | 2 098 | 1 569 | + 529 | + 34 |
| ITALY | 1 103 | 928 | + 176 | + 19 |
| FRANCE | 1 092 | 959 | + 132 | + 14 |

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY SECTION

| COMMODITY SECTION | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE (+)/ DECREASE (-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT | 22 317 | 16 341 | +5 975 | + 37 |
| MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER) | 19 370 | 20 039 | - 668 | - 3 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL) | 12 845 | 11 335 | +1 511 | + 13 |
| FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD | 6 024 | 6 404 | - 380 | - 6 |
| CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 4 816 | 4 747 | + 70 | + 1 |
| MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS | 3 412 | 3 697 | - 285 | - 8 |

/TABLE 5:

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

| MAJOR MARKET | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE (+) / DECREASE (-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| CHINA | 16 459 | 6 378 | +10 081 | +158 |
| U. S. A. | 4 313 | 3 525 | + 788 | + 22 |
| JAPAN | 1 874 | 1 470 | + 404 | + 27 |
| TAIWAN | 1 502 | 1 593 | - 92 | - 6 |
| SINGAPORE | 1 274 | 1 533 | - 259 | - 17 |
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA | 1 157 | 1 095 | + 62 | + 6 |
| MACAU | 935 | 743 | + 192 | + 26 |
| INDONESIA | 931 | 1 300 | - 368 | - 28 |
| PHILIPPINES | 488 | 412 | + 76 | + 18 |
| SAUDI ARABIA | 408 | 403 | + 4 | + 1 |

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

| COMMODITY DIVISION | JAN-APR 1985 (\$ MN) | JAN-APR 1984 (\$ MN) | INCREASE (+) DECREASE (-) (\$ MN) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 4 666 | 3 610 | +1 056 | + 29 |
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES | 3 738 | 2 396 | +1 342 | + 56 |

/TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND

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| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|------|
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 2 960 | 921 | +2 039 | +221 |
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 2 200 | 1 933 | + 266 | + 14 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES | 1 996 | 1 251 | + 744 | + 59 |
| OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT | 1 869 | 591 | +1 278 | +216 |

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MAY WAS WARMER THAN USUAL
* * * *

MAY WAS WARMER THAN USUAL WITH THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 25 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MAY. BOTH THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 26.8 DEGREES CELSIUS AND THE MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 29.7 DEGREES CELSIUS RANKED THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTED TODAY.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO ONLY 103.3 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS 65 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL 298.1 MILLIMETRES.

THE WEATHER WAS OVERCAST WITH A FEW ISOLATED SHOWERS ON MAY 1. OVERCAST CONDITIONS CONTINUED ON MAY 2 WITH PERIODS OF RAIN, HEAVY AT TIMES. THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH, 21.6 DEGREES CELSIUS, WAS RECORDED ON MAY 1 AND AGAIN ON MAY 2.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A MOIST SOUTHEASTERLY AIRSTREAM, FOG OCCURRED OCCASIONALLY FROM MAY 3 TO 7. HOWEVER, NO DISRUPTION TO SEA AND AIR TRAFFIC WAS REPORTED. APART FROM THE OCCURRENCE OF FOG, IT WAS CLOUDY WITH ISOLATED SHOWERS ON MAY 3 BUT SUNNY WEATHER PREVAILED FROM MAY 4 TO 7 EXCEPT FOR A TRACE OF RAINFALL ON MAY 5.

/A RIDGE

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A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE BECAME ESTABLISHED OVER THE SOUTH-EASTERN COAST OF CHINA ON MAY 8.

A SPELL OF FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER WAS EXPERIENCED FROM MAY 8 TO MAY 16 APART FROM SOME LIGHT RAIN ON MAY 8 AND 10. ON MAY 12 AND AGAIN ON MAY 16, THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 31.9 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

ON MAY 12, A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FORMED OVER CENTRAL CHINA AND MOVED STEADILY SOUTHWARDS. IT WEAKENED AS IT REACHED SOUTH CHINA ON MAY 16. ONLY SOME SCATTERED SHOWERS WERE REPORTED ON MAY 17 WHEN THE TROUGH FINALLY DISSIPATED TO THE NORTH OF HONG KONG.

FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER AGAIN PREVAILED FROM MAY 18 TO 20. HOWEVER, A COLD FRONT FORMED OVER CENTRAL CHINA ON MAY 18 AND MOVED RAPIDLY SOUTH, CROSSING HONG KONG EARLY ON MAY 21. THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY WITH SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS ON MAY 21. IT REMAINED CLOUDY IN THE MORNING OF MAY 22 BUT THE WEATHER IMPROVED AND BECAME FINE AND SUNNY IN THE AFTERNOON. FINE WEATHER CONTINUED ON MAY 23.

CLOUDY WEATHER SET IN ON MAY 24 AND THERE WERE ISOLATED SHOWERS ON MAY 25 AND 26.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FORMED OVER SOUTH CHINA ON MAY 26 AND MOVED SOUTHWARDS CROSSING HONG KONG LATE ON MAY 28. THERE WERE ONLY ISOLATED SHOWERS ON MAY 27 BUT SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AND OCCASIONAL HEAVY SHOWERS OCCURRED ON MAY 28. SCATTERED SHOWERS CONTINUED FROM MAY 29 TO 31 WITH ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS AND OCCASIONAL HEAVY SHOWERS ON MAY 31.

TYPHOON GAY WAS THE ONLY TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH. IT FORMED ABOUT 630 NAUTICAL MILES EAST-SOUTHEAST OF MANILA ON MAY 21 AND MOVED NORTH-NORTHWESTWARDS FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS BEFORE RECURVING NEAR THE RYUKYU ISLANDS ON MAY 24. GAY FINALLY BECAME AN EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONE ABOUT 280 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTH OF TOKYO ON MAY 26.

DURING THE MONTH ONE AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 21, 27, 28, 30 AND 31. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 28 AND 31. NO FIRE DANGER WARNINGS WERE ISSUED AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS NOT HOISTED DURING THE MONTH.

/THE MONTH'S

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| SUNSHINE | 206.2 HOURS = 43.6 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL |
| RAINFALL | 103.3 MM = 194.8 MM BELOW NORMAL |
| CLOUDINESS | 63 PER CENT = 10 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL |
| RELATIVE HUMIDITY | 83 PER CENT = NORMAL |
| MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE | 29.7 DEGREES CELSIUS = 0.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN TEMPERATURE | 26.8 DEGREES CELSIUS = 0.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE | 25.0 DEGREES CELSIUS = 1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN DEW POINT | 23.6 DEGREES CELSIUS = 0.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| TOTAL EVAPORATION | 130.5 MM = 16.5 MM BELOW NORMAL |

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 31.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MAY 12 AND 16.

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 21.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MAY 1 AND 2.

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UC LUNCH FOR XINHUA NEWS AGENCY DIRECTOR
* * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY HOSTED A LUNCH FOR MR XU JIATUN, DIRECTOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, AND SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICIALS OF XINHUA.

IN A SPEECH OF WELCOME, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID: +THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO THE URBAN COUNCIL IN ORGANISING OUR MANY CULTURAL AND SPORTS EVENTS WHERE PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN REQUIRED FROM VARIOUS CITIES, SUCH AS BEIJING, SHANGHAI AND GUANGZHOU ETC.

+THIS HAS HELPED TO ENRICH THE CULTURAL, RECREATION AND SPORTS LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENABLED HONG KONG RESIDENTS TO APPRECIATE THE RICHNESS OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION, THUS STRENGTHENING HONG KONG'S IMPORTANCE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY.

/+RECENTLY, MR

+RECENTLY, MR XU MADE THE SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE IN MAINLAND CHINA TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HONG KONG AND ITS WAY OF LIFE. THIS IS A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL AND I HOPE THAT THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WILL IMPLEMENT IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+EQUALLY, HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING FRIENDS AND DOING BUSINESS AS WELL AS PROMOTING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH THE RESIDENTS OF MANY PROVINCES AND CITIES ON MAINLAND CHINA, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE.

+HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE NATURALLY KEEN TO RETAIN THEIR PRESENT LIFESTYLE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM, AND OF COURSE TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE. SUCH CHANGES SHOULD BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE SO AS TO IMPROVE AND ENRICH THEIR LIFESTYLE, NOT ONLY MATERIALLY BUT INTELLECTUALLY AND SPIRITUALLY AS WELL.

+AT THE PRESENT TIME, LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO SUPPORT CHINA'S MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME AND OPEN DOOR POLICY, IN LINE WITH CHINA'S OWN UNIQUE STYLE OF SOCIALISM, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL DO MUCH TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS AND ENRICH THE LIVES OF 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE WHO WILL BE LIVING IN CHINA BY THE END OF CENTURY.+

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COUNCIL FULLY CONSULTED ON CULTURAL CENTRE DESIGN
* * * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS CONSULTED REGULARLY BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EITHER IN COMMITTEE OR THROUGH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON THE DESIGN OF BUILDINGS OF WHICH THE COUNCIL IS THE ULTIMATE USER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE, MR LAWRENCE FUNG, WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR WALTER SULKE AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

MR FUNG TOLD THE MEETING THAT UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING, FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIC CENTRES, MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES, STADIA, ABATTOIRS, CREMATORIA AND CEMETERIES WHICH UPON COMPLETION WILL BE MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL ON THE OTHER HAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCING OF OTHER PROJECTS LIKE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

/BUT WHETHER

BUT WHETHER A PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR THE COUNCIL, MR FUNG SAID, THE ONUS IS ON THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT ITS DESIGN OR TO SUPERVISE THE PRIVATE ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS ENGAGED TO CARRY OUT ITS DESIGN.

HE SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURAL CENTRE, THE SCALE OF THE PROJECT WAS SUCH THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH MORE FREQUENT CONSULTATION.

+A MODEL AND SKETCH PLANS WERE FIRST PRESENTED TO THE FORMER CULTURAL COMPLEX AND INDOOR STADIA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL IN AUGUST 1977, PRIOR TO THE UPGRADING OF THE PROJECT FROM CATEGORY B TO CATEGORY A IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, ON ANOTHER FIVE OCCASIONS, THE COUNCIL WAS ALSO CONSULTED ON REFINEMENTS OR CHANGES TO THE PLANS THROUGH THE SAME SUB-COMMITTEE IN JULY 1978, MAY 1980 AND FEBRUARY 1981 THE CAPITAL WORKS SELECT COMMITTEE IN MAY 1981 AND THE CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT SELECT COMMITTEE IN 1983.

+ADDITIONALLY THERE WERE PRESENTATIONS OF THE SCHEDULE OF FINISHES IN 1983 AND THE ACOUSTIC MODELS OF THE AUDITORIA IN JANUARY 1984.+

MR FUNG ADDED THAT A CIVIC CENTRES PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN APRIL THIS YEAR UNDER THE CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE.

AND THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS REPRESENTED ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE TO ADVISE COUNCILLORS ON THE PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION AND ANY SPECIAL POINTS RELATING TO THE FITTING-OUT OF THE CENTRE, HE ADDED.

+IT CAN BE SEEN THEREFORE THAT THE COUNCIL HAS IN FACT BEEN FULLY CONSULTED ON THE DESIGN OF THE CULTURAL CENTRE,+ MR FUNG SAID.

HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE REGULAR LIAISON AND MONITORING OVER PROGRESS OF THIS PROJECT WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GROUP AND THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE CONSULTED AND APPRISED AS APPROPRIATE.

SCENTED GARDENS UNDER PLANNING FOR BLIND
* * * *

TO PROVIDE ENJOYMENT FOR THE BLIND THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO SET ASIDE AREAS WITHIN VICTORIA PARK AND KOWLOON PARK AS SCENTED GARDENS WHERE STRONGLY SCENTED FLOWERS AND TREES WILL BE PLANTED.

THIS WAS STATED BY MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR WALTER SULKE AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

MR YOUNG SAID THAT AT PRESENT SOME 30 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF STRONGLY SCENTED FLOWERS AND TREES ARE PLANTED IN THE COUNCIL'S VARIOUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

+HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE QUITE POSSIBLE TO DESIGN AND PLANT UP SMALL GARDENS IN SOME OF OUR PARKS AND SITTING-OUT AREAS WITH AN ASSEMBLAGE OF THESE SPECIES ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT, PERHAPS, BE CALLED SCENTED GARDENS RATHER THAN SPECIAL GARDENS FOR THE BLIND SO THAT THEY CAN ALSO BE ENJOYED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS LABELLING OF THE PLANTS WITH BRAILLE PLAQUES, MR YOUNG FELT THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION WOULD BE REQUIRED ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS SUCH AS THE APPROPRIATE SIZE AND FORMAT, AND ON A LOCATION WHICH CAN BE EASILY REACHED BY THE BLIND.

HE ADDED THAT THE SOCIETIES FOR THE BLIND WILL BE CONSULTED AND, IF FOUND PRACTICABLE, BRAILLE PLAQUES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE GARDENS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES.

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'SMILE A BIT MORE', SAYS CHEONG-LEEN
* * *

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, TODAY CALLED ON HONG KONG PEOPLE TO +SMILE A BIT MORE, GET A BIT MORE ENJOYMENT OUT OF LIFE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANIFOLD OPPORTUNITIES ON THE CULTURAL AND SPORTING FRONTS.+

SPEAKING AT THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETING, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THERE WAS PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT NOW BECAUSE OUR FORESEEABLE FUTURE WAS ASSURED, THE MARKET WAS UP, THE ECONOMY WAS BOOMING AGAIN AND JOBS WERE PLENTIFUL.

/+ALTHOUGH THE

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+ALTHOUGH THE MAN IN THE STREET SEEMS NOT TO REALISE IT, HONG KONG IS TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT A CITY OF FESTIVALS,+ HE SAID.

+HARDLY A MONTH GOES BY WITHOUT A FESTIVAL TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT HAS BEEN ORGANISED, SPONSORED OR SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL.+

IN HIS SPEECH, MR CHEONG-LEEN REVIEWED THE URBAN COUNCIL'S VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PROMOTING FESTIVALS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO BRING A BETTER, HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER LIFE TO THE LOCAL POPULATION.

IN PROMOTING THE ARTS AND CULTURE THROUGH FESTIVALS, THE URBAN COUNCIL IS PARTICULARLY MINDFUL OF THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE YOUNGER POPULATION. IT WAS WITH THIS OBJECTIVE IN MIND THAT THE COUNCIL DECIDED IN 1982 TO ORGANISE AN INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL IN SUMMER TO PROVIDE SUITABLE CULTURAL PROGRAMMES AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

SAID MR CHEONG-LEEN: +THIS YEAR, THE COUNCIL WILL ORGANISE THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL IN JULY AND AUGUST TO MARK THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

+THE AIM OF THIS FESTIVAL IS TO BRING TOGETHER YOUNG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONS, RACES, BACKGROUNDS AND RELIGIONS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING AND TO ENCOURAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL MEDIUM OF PERFORMING ARTS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT OTHER HIGHLY-POPULAR FESTIVALS ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL INCLUDE THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.

IN ADDITION, THE URBAN COUNCIL ORGANISES FESTIVITIES TO MARK THE MAJOR TRADITIONAL CHINESE FESTIVALS INCLUDING LANTERN CARNIVALS DURING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AND THE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

+WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, THE URBAN COUNCIL IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH VARIOUS URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS TO FURTHER DEVELOP HONG KONG'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TO ORGANISE DISTRICT FESTIVALS,+ ADDED MR CHEONG-LEEN.

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DETAILS ON LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE BEING SOUGHT
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS SEEKING MORE DETAILS ON THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SAID DR DENNY HUANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MRS MARGARET LI, DR HUANG SAID LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE IS AN ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION CAUSED BY A NEWLY-RECOGNISED DISTINCTIVE ORGANISM THAT WAS FIRST ISOLATED FROM CASES OF PNEUMONIA AMONG VETERANS ATTENDING AN AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1976.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS ORGANISM IN NATURE IS INCOMPLETE BUT SEVERAL OUTBREAKS OF THIS DISEASE HAVE BEEN LINKED TO CONTAMINATED CONDENSATES FROM AIR CONDITIONING COOLING TOWERS.

+THE COUNCIL WILL CERTAINLY ATTEMPT TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH VENTILATING SYSTEMS,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS DISEASE IN HONG KONG, SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE IF NECESSARY IN PREVENTING IT FROM OCCURRING AND SPREADING TO THE EXTENT OF MAKING USE OF APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL OF VENTILATING SYSTEMS ESPECIALLY IN SCHEDULED PREMISES.+

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USD REVIEWS HAWKER CONTROL MEASURES
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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RECONVENED A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW HAWKER CONTROL MEASURES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE EXISTING TACTICS, STRATEGY, HOURS OF WORK AND OTHER RELATED OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

THE ISSUE HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW HAWKER POLICIES AND RELATED MATTERS AS ONE OF THE MANY SUBJECTS EXAMINED IN THE COURSE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS.

/THIS WAS

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THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE, MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR LAM CHAK-PIU AT THE OPEN MEETING TODAY.

AT PRESENT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS 12 GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS (GDTS), EACH COMPRISING ABOUT 150 MEMBERS. THEY CARRY OUT ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNLICENSED HAWKERS AT ALL KNOWN HAWKER BLACKSPOTS, FOOTBRIDGES, SUBWAYS AND AT MAJOR THOROUGHFARES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE POLICE.

THE TEAMS ARE WORKING TWO SHIFTS DAILY, FROM 7 A.M. TO 4 P.M. AND FROM 3 P.M. TO 11 P.M.

+TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE TIME REQUIRED FOR BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING OF THE TEAMS BEFORE AND AFTER EACH DAY'S WORK, THE ACTUAL COVERAGE ON THE GROUND IN RESPECT OF HAWKER CONTROL EXTENDS FROM SHORTLY AFTER 7 A.M. TO SHORTLY BEFORE 11 P.M.,+ MRS ELLIOTT SAID.

+THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE SINCE RELATIVELY FEWER HAWKERS TRADE OUTSIDE SUCH HOURS AND HENCE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED THEN ARE MUCH LESS.+

MR ELLIOTT NOTED THAT MEASURES TAKEN BY GDT MEMBERS TO DETER ILLEGAL HAWKING INCLUDE PATROLLING, WARNING AND ARRESTING OF HAWKERS, AS WELL AS SEIZURE OF GOODS AND HAWKING PARAPHERNALIA.

+THERE IS OF COURSE NO WAY TO STOP HAWKERS FROM FLEEING FROM THE GDTS DURING AN OPERATION, THUS POSING A POTENTIAL DANGER TO BYSTANDERS,+ SHE STRESSED.

+BUT OUR GDT STAFF HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXERCISE DUE CARE IN CARRYING OUT AN ARREST OPERATION AND NOT TO GIVE CHASE WHEN TRY SO DOING THEY MIGHT CREATE A HAZARDOUS SITUATION.+

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JUNK REMOVAL IN SQUATTER CLEARANCES +ACCEPTABLE+
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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF JUNK OR DEBRIS IN SQUATTER CLEARANCES, SAID THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, DR DENNY HUANG.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR LAM CHAK-PIU AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY, DR HUANG EXPLAINED THAT CLEARANCE OF SQUATTERS IN LANES IS DONE BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS WHILE A LARGE SCALE CLEARANCE IS CARRIED OUT AND CO-ORDINATED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

+THE CLEARANCE OF JUNK OR RUBBLE IS THEREFORE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CO-ORDINATING ORGANISATION,+ HE SAID.

+FOR SMALL SCALE CLEARANCES, NORMALLY THE DEBRIS AND JUNK ARE CLEARED AWAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE OPERATION.

+IN CASE OF LARGE OPERATIONS, TOTAL CLEARANCE WILL TAKE A LONGER TIME AND THE DISTRICT BOARD AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT OFFICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK.+

TURNING TO THE ROLE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DR HUANG SAID THAT BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF A CLEARANCE OPERATION, ACTION ON RODENT ERADICATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY USD PEST CONTROL STAFF TO PREVENT THE MIGRATION OF RATS ELSEWHERE.

FOLLOWING THE CLEARANCE, CLEANSING STAFF WILL MOVE IN TO CLEAR ALL ORGANIC REFUSE ON SITE SO AS TO PREVENT VERMIN SUCH AS FLIES OR MOSQUITOES BREEDING, AND TO ERADICATE ANY BAD SMELL.

PEST CONTROL STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ENSURE THE SITE REMAINS FREE FROM RODENT AND VERMIN BREEDING.

DR HUANG FELT THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE USD WOULD CO-ORDINATE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLEARANCE OPERATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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SIX WAYS TO MEET TRANSPORT NEEDS OF DISABLED
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A WORKING PARTY CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS, HAS PROPOSED SIX WAYS TO MEET THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST TODAY (TUESDAY), MR LEWIS SAID: +BY DISABLED, I MEAN NOT JUST THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, BUT IN THIS CONTEXT, THE BLIND, THE DEAF AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT CENTRE-BASED TRANSPORT SHOULD REMAIN.

MR LEWIS WAS REFERRING TO THE 30-MORE VEHICLES NOW OPERATED BY THE AGENCIES TO CONVEY PEOPLE TO AND FROM THE CENTRES, AND FOR OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

THE WORKING PARTY FELT IT WAS RIGHT THAT SUCH CENTRES SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR OWN VEHICLES, WHICH PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN A DISABLED PERSON'S INTEGRATION INTO NORMAL LIVING PATTERNS.

THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT A DISABLED PERSON'S TRAVEL SCHEME SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, CONCURRENT WITH AN IMMINENT REVIEW OF THE STUDENTS TRAVEL SCHEME, WHICH OFFERS CONCESSIONS ON MOST FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THIRDLY, THE WORKING PARTY SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL TRANSPORT SCHEME SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY VEHICLES CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING WHEELCHAIRS.

THESE VEHICLES SHOULD HAVE A REGULAR SCHEDULE OF OPERATION, IDEALLY ON A DOOR-TO-DOOR BASIS, TO MEET THE TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISABLED. SUCH SERVICES SHOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED TO OFF-PEAK HOURS TO FULFIL THE CLIENTS' SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS.

+THIS WILL PROBABLY MEAN UPGRADING THE REHABUS SYSTEM, PUTTING IT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, THE POINT BEING THAT AN INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR THE DISABLED SHOULD FORM PART OF HONG KONG'S OVERALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

THE FOURTH PROPOSAL WAS THAT A SCHEME SHOULD BE INITIATED TO ENABLE THE WHEELCHAIR BOUND AND THOSE WITH SEVERE WALKING DIFFICULTIES TO TRAVEL MORE INDEPENDENTLY IN TAXIS.

+THIS COULD BE DONE IN THE FORM OF A CASH GRANT, BUT CASH MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE SPENT ON TRAVEL, SO A NON-MEANS-TESTED TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME IS FAVOURED, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$660 000 A YEAR,+ MR LEWIS EXPLAINED.

/THERE ARE

THERE ARE ABOUT 1 000 PERSONS WHO ARE WHEELCHAIR BOUND AND WHO HAVE SEVERE WALKING DIFFICULTIES THAT PREVENT THEM FROM USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, OTHER THAN TAXIS.

THE FIFTH RECOMMENDATION CONSISTED OF A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, MAKING THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE DISABLED, OF WHICH COURTESY TO THE DISABLED COMMUTERS WAS ONE.

+SADLY THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE WITH THE MTR WHICH, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, WAS NEVER DESIGNED TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE SEVERELY PHYSICALLY DISABLED.

+WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TO REALISE THAT IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO EXPAND THE OTHER AREAS OF SPECIAL TRANSPORT THAT I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO ENSURE THAT WE NEVER AGAIN PLACE OURSELVES IN A POSITION OF PLANNING A NEW TRANSPORT SYSTEM THAT IS NOT GEARED TO THE DISABLED,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

THE KCRC, HE ADDED, SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR MAKING THE TUEN MUN LIGHT RAIL ACCESSIBLE TO THE DISABLED.

AND SIXTH, THE WORKING PARTY FELT THAT SOME PERIPHERAL SERVICES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

CITING THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMME AS AN EXAMPLE, MR LEWIS SAID THAT THIS PROGRAMME WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TEACHES THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED HOW TO IMPROVE THEIR TRAVEL SKILLS, SUCH AS CROSSING ROADS SAFELY AND TRAVELLING TO NEW DESTINATIONS, COULD BE EXPANDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ESCORT SERVICES, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN A MODEST MANNER UNDER THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S UNIFIED HOME HELP SERVICE, COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED UNDER THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE. AS FOR THE BLIND, IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE IN THE ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING SERVICES.

MR LEWIS SAID ALL THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOW ONLY JUST BEING FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON REHABILITATION MATTERS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE ADVICE OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, WILL CONSIDER THE SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE COMING MONTHS,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

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NEW POLICE STATION FOR SHA TIN
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SHA TIN WILL SOON HAVE ANOTHER DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION TO SERVE THE FAST-DEVELOPING TIN SUM AREA.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$7.8 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT WHICH WILL TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE POLICE STATION, LOCATED BETWEEN HIN KENG AND LUNG HANG ESTATES, WILL COMPRISE A COMPOSITE BUILDING PARTLY 10-STOREY AND PARTLY TWO-STOREY, AND AN ANCILLARY BLOCK SURROUNDING A COMPOUND.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEW POLICE STATION INCLUDE A DUTY-LECTURE ROOM, AN ARMOURY, REPORT ROOM, CELLS, BARRACKS, MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICE AND OTHER OFFICES, CANTEENS, DOG KENNELS AND STORES.

PROVISION WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR LAUNDRY SERVICE AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

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REMINDER ON FLOATING HOLIDAYS
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EMPLOYERS WERE REMINDED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY FIXED THE DATES OF THE TWO FLOATING HOLIDAYS FOR THIS YEAR AND THEIR EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT REQUESTED THAT THESE HOLIDAYS BE ADDED TO THEIR PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, THEY SHOULD GIVE EMPLOYEES THE FIRST FLOATING HOLIDAY ON JUNE 17, THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

AND IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE SECOND FLOATING HOLIDAY SHOULD FALL ON AUGUST 26, THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, EMPLOYERS HAVE TO FIX THE TWO FLOATING HOLIDAYS AND NOTIFY EMPLOYEES BEFORE THE END OF THE PRECEDING YEAR.

HE SAID ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$9 500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAYS AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

/WHERE EARNINGS

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WHERE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS TO 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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CHILDREN URGED TO GIVE TIME TO COMMUNITY
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CHILDREN OF KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO GIVE THEIR TIME THIS SUMMER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN WORTHWHILE AND MEANINGFUL PROJECTS.

CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 12 CAN JOIN THE CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

THE SCHEME, WHICH RUNS FROM JULY TO AUGUST, WILL PROVIDE TRAINING FOR CHILDREN IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICES.

+PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GROUPED INTO TEAMS OF EIGHT TO 16 AND WILL BE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS,+ A COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+EACH TEAM WILL BE GIVEN AN ALLOWANCE OF \$300 TO SUBSIDISE PRODUCTION COSTS OF VARIOUS PROJECT REPORTS, WHICH WILL BE EXHIBITED AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON CITY YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OFFICE, AND A NUMBER OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 29.

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SEMINAR ON MUSIC ACTIVITIES IN KINDERGARTENS
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TO ORGANISE A SEMINAR ON MUSIC ACTIVITIES IN KINDERGARTENS FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS ON JULY 23.

THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR, TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG LING LIANG CHURCH HALL OF THE LING LIANG WORLD-WIDE EVANGELISTIC MISSION AT 40A LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, IS TO FAMILIARISE TEACHERS WITH THE ORGANISATION OF MUSIC ACTIVITIES IN KINDERGARTENS AS ADVOCATED IN THE +GUIDE TO THE KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM+.

THERE WILL BE TALKS AND DEMONSTRATION SESSIONS. ENGLISH-SPEAKING KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ALTHOUGH THE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE.

HEADS OF KINDERGARTENS WHO WISH TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (KINDERGARTEN), KINDERGARTEN SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 507, LEE GARDENS, FIFTH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 25.

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TIN SHUI WAI ROAD LINK TO BE BUILT
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1.25-KILOMETRE ROAD LEADING TO THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

THE SINGLE-LANE, ONE-WAY ROAD WILL BE BUILT BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT HUNG SHUI KIU AND PING HA ROAD. ON COMPLETION, THE ROAD WILL HELP RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON PING HA ROAD NEAR KIU TAU WAI AND TONG FONG TSUEN.

A CYCLE TRACK WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED PARALLEL TO THE ROAD AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORK WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS JUNE 28.

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HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS FOR RSD LIBRARIES
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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL REMAIN OPEN BUT FOR SHORTER HOURS DURING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ON JUNE 15, 17 AND 22.

ON JUNE 15 AND 22, BOTH SATURDAYS, THE NORTH KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN, TAI O, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN (YAU OI) AND YUEN LONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM, AND THE PENG CHAU PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM.

ON JUNE 17 (MONDAY), THE PENG CHAU, NORTH KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN, TAI O, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN (YAU OI) AND YUEN LONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED.

DURING THESE THREE DAYS, THE CHEUNG CHAU, SAI KUNG, SHEUNG SHUI, SOUTH KWAI CHUNG, TAI PO AND TUEN MUN (TAI HING) PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM WHILE THE MUI WO PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM. THE SOUTH LAMMA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE MOBILE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS PART-TIME MUSICIANS
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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH IS OFFERING LOCAL MUSICIANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS, PERFORMERS OF BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS OR SCORE COPIERS.

APPLICANTS FOR PART-TIME WESTERN MUSIC INSTRUCTORS SHOULD EITHER BE GRADUATES OF THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OR HAVE A DIPLOMA IN MUSIC FROM A REGISTERED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE, OR POSSESS LRSM, OR LRAM, OR ARCM, OR GRSM OR EQUIVALENT.

THOSE INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO BE PART-TIME CHINESE MUSIC INSTRUCTORS SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED MUSICAL TRAINING IN AN ACCEPTABLE INSTITUTION, OR HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN AN ACCEPTABLE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUP OR ACADEMY.

CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF PART-TIME PERFORMER SHOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY AN ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT UP TO LRSM, LRAM, ARCM, LGSM, LTCL LEVEL OR EQUIVALENT, PREFERABLY WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN A PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA.

THOSE WHO POSSESS GRADE VIII IN THE ASSOCIATED BOARD OF RSM THEORY OR EQUIVALENT AND CAN UNDERSTAND CHINESE NUMERICAL SCORE NOTATIONS ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR THE POST OF PART-TIME SCORE COPIERS.

/APPLICATION FORMS

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APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 11TH FLOOR, WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, BY JUNE 25.

CANDIDATES NOT INVITED FOR AN AUDITION OR AN INTERVIEW WITHIN FOUR WEEKS FROM THE CLOSING DATE MAY ASSUME THEIR APPLICATION UNSUCCESSFUL.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT THE PERSONNEL REGISTRY OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AT 5-458791 EXT. 43 FOR DETAILS CONCERNING DUTIES AND REMUNERATION.

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NEW SITTING-OUT AREA AND RCP FOR ABERDEEN

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THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 370-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD INTO A SITTING-OUT AREA AT A COST OF \$3 MILLION.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE A PERMANENT REFUSE-COLLECTION POINT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING OFF-STREET ONE AT TSUNG MAN STREET.

AT PRESENT THE SITE IS BEING OCCUPIED BY SQUATTERS. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO CLEAR THE SITE TO ENABLE CONSTRUCTION WORK TO START IN MID-1986 FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1987.

THE RCP WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH A CARBON FILTRATION SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN MINIMISING ANY BAD SMELL.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR THE ISLAND
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NO MOTOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CUL-DE-SAC AT LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH YEE KING ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 14).

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, THE WESTBOUND TRAM TRACK AT KING'S ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SHU KUK STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A TRAM-ONLY LANE.

IN WAN CHAI, OI KWAN ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON JUNE 14 TO ALLOW A JOINT SCHOOL FUNCTION TO BE HELD. DURING THE PERIOD, PARKING SPACES ON OI KWAN ROAD OPPOSITE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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KOWLOON BAY PLB BAN
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ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING WANG CHIU ROAD NORTH OF KAI LOK STREET AND THE EXTENSION OF KAI LOK STREET WEST OF WANG CHIU ROAD FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 14).

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