



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1982

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1982

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TRANSPORT RESOURCES - A MATTER OF PRIORITIES
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT, IN REPLY TO ALLEGATIONS THAT NOT ENOUGH WAS ACHIEVED IN THE TRANSPORT FIELD, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THE FIRST TO AGREE THAT MORE COULD HAVE BEEN DONE, BUT POINTED OUT THAT PRIORITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IF IT HAD DONE SO.

+THE TOP PRIORITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 1970'S, WAS GIVEN TO HOUSING. THE REASON FOR THAT WAS OBVIOUS, AND STILL IS OBVIOUS.

+THE CLAIM FOR A BIGGER SHARE OF RESOURCES TO BE ALLOCATED TO TRANSPORT WAS PUT FORWARD AND ARGUED THOROUGHLY IN THE ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, ALONG WITH THE CLAIMS OF OTHER PROGRAMMES.

+THE RESULT WAS A DELIBERATE ORDERING OF PRIORITIES, AS BETWEEN HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL, SOCIAL WELFARE, WATER, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, AND SO ON.

+AND IN THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED THE BUDGETS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1975/79, I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE BALANCE OF PRIORITIES SHOULD BE ALTERED IN FAVOUR OF TRANSPORT, OR ANY EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE RELATIVE PRIORITY ACCORDED TO TRANSPORT,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

IN A LUNCH TALK TO THE PO LEUNG KUK TODAY, MR SCOTT SAID HE DID NOT THINK MANY PEOPLE HAD MUCH PATIENCE WITH THOSE WHO CLAMOUR FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO BE DIVERTED INTO MASSIVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION SCHEMES TO PROVIDE FOR UNRESTRICTED GROWTH AND MOVEMENT OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

+THEY KNOW PERFECTLY WELL, OR WOULD IF THEY STOPPED TO THINK, THAT IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD A ROAD SYSTEM IN HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CIRCUMSTANCES SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE UNRESTRAINED GROWTH AND MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES- AND THAT EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD PRE-EMPT OTHER VITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS HOUSING, EDUCATION AND MEDICAL- AND FURTHER, THAT TO PUT SUCH ADDITIONAL DEMANDS ON THE LABOUR FORCE AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE VERY SEVERE INFLATIONARY EFFECTS,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, MR SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT IN THE SIX YEARS FROM 1976-82, \$3.6 BILLION WERE SPENT ON ROAD PROJECTS, \$9.7 BILLION SPENT ON THE MTR, AND \$1.5 BILLION ON THE KCR.

THE BUDGET FOR 1982/83 PROVIDES FOR \$1.2 BILLION TO BE SPENT ON ROADWORKS, AND FOR \$730 MILLION MORE ON THE MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OF THE KCR. THE MTR WILL CONTINUE ITS DEVELOPMENT TO THE TUNE OF \$1.8 BILLION OF EXPENDITURE TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LINE.

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THESE ARE ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY, REFLECTING GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT POLICY: THE PRIORITY BEING TO IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND GOODS VEHICLES BY IMPROVING ON-ROAD TRANSPORT, EXTENDING OFF-ROAD TRANSPORT, EXPANDING THE ROAD SYSTEMS, AND MAKING SURE THAT THE PRIORITY OF USAGE GOES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND GOODS VEHICLES, FOLLOWED BY PRIVATE VEHICLES, MR SCOTT SAID.

HE SAID THAT SINCE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN A SEPARATE TRANSPORT BRANCH IN THE SECRETARIAT WITH ITS OWN SECRETARY AND SUPPORTING STAFF AND MOST IMPORTANT THE TRANSPORT PLANNING UNIT.

+THIS GIVES TRANSPORT POLICY AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLANNING ITS OWN SEPARATE EXISTENCE FROM LAND MATTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,+ HE SAID.

OPERATIONAL, AND IN PARTICULAR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES ARE CENTRALISED IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO WHICH MOST OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BRANCH OF THE PWD HIGHWAYS OFFICE HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED IN ORDER TO SET UP REGIONAL OFFICES, EACH WITH AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE, SUPPORTED BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT STAFF. CO-ORDINATION WITH TRAFFIC HEADQUARTERS OF THE POLICE HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND FURTHER STRENGTHENED, HE SAID.

+IN SHORT, TRANSPORT POLICY VIEWS AND NEEDS ARE BEING CO-ORDINATED INTO OVERALL PLANNING AND PROGRAMMES- TRANSPORT HAS A FULL VOICE IN THE NECESSARY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES. AND THE OPERATIONAL SIDE IS MUCH STRONGER - INCLUDING, VERY IMPORTANTLY, BEING ABLE TO RESPOND AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO THE GROWING INTEREST OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

+IN THE FORMATION OF POLICY, WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNSEL AND WIDE EXPERIENCE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE ADVICE AND OPINIONS OF DISTRICT BOARDS IS BECOMING MORE AVAILABLE AS THE BOARDS GET INTO THEIR STRIDE. THEIR PART IN THIS INTERPLAY OF NEEDS AND IDEAS, RESOURCES AND POSSIBILITIES WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

'FRONT DESKS' HANDLE 10 MILLION ENQUIRIES
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THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES (PEC'S) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HANDLED 10.1 MILLION ENQUIRIES IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION) OF CNTA, MR HAIDER BARMA, SAID THE MOST COMMON ENQUIRIES INCLUDED EDUCATIONAL MATTERS, GOVERNMENT JOBS AND VACANCIES, THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND TENANCY PROBLEMS AND DISPUTES.

IN A LUNCHEON TALK ON +PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE+ TO THE LIONS CLUB OF VICTORIA, HE DESCRIBED THE PEC'S AS THE GOVERNMENT'S +FRONT DESKS+ IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO AND IN DEALING WITH THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD SUCCEEDED IN ENCOURAGING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO UTILISE THIS SERVICE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1961 AND THAT THE PEC NETWORK WAS EXTENDED EVERY YEAR IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR THESE SERVICES.

+THE PEC'S ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO OUR DISTRICT OFFICES WHICH SERVICE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND DISTRICT BOARDS,+ HE SAID.

THERE ARE NOW 53 PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE 18 DISTRICTS IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, DEALING MAINLY WITH ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND STATUTORY DECLARATIONS.

MR BARMA POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES WAS THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, SOONER OR LATER, WOULD HAVE SOME DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

+THE AVERAGE CITIZEN COULD, QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, FIND THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY AND PROCEDURES TO BE COMPLICATED -- HE MAY NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO OR, BECAUSE OF HIS MANY COMMITMENTS, WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM MORE READILY.+

OUTLINING THE VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED, HE SAID THE PEC'S TRIED TO ANSWER BASIC ENQUIRIES CONCERNING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THEIR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, AND OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES LIKE THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND THE TRANSPORT COMPANIES.

THEY ALSO PROVIDED A FRONT LINE SERVICE BY MAKING AVAILABLE ALL GOVERNMENT APPLICATION FORMS, SUCH AS THOSE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, PASSPORT OR RE-ENTRY PERMIT, BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND OTHERS.

ON COMPLAINTS, HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE PEC STAFF DID NOT HAVE ANY EXECUTIVE POWERS THEY PROVIDED ONE OF THE MANY CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE PUBLIC COULD SEEK REDRESS.

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FOR EXAMPLE, IF A CLIENT HAD PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPORT OR WATER SUPPLY, THE STAFF WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

+IN THIS RESPECT, AN IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE IS THAT, WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, COMPLAINTS RECEIVED THROUGH OUR PEC'S CAN BE REFERRED TO, AND INDEED ARE PURSUED BY, DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT BOARDS.+

TURNING TO ANOTHER POPULAR SERVICE, MR BARMA SAID THERE WERE STAFF AT ALL OFFICES WHO WERE COMMISSIONERS FOR OATH AND WHO COULD ADMINISTER STATUTORY DECLARATIONS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.

THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME AND THE FREE LEGAL AID SCHEME WERE ALSO LINKED TO THE PEC'S, HE SAID.

+APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE AT PEC'S AND OUR COUNTER STAFF PROVIDE BACK-UP ASSISTANCE TO SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS DURING EVENING SESSIONS AT SOME OF OUR MAIN OFFICES.+

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FIFTY PER CENT MORE ON TRAINS

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FIFTY PER CENT MORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING BY TRAIN SINCE THE OPENING OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY'S STAGE 1 ELECTRIFIED INNER SUBURBAN SERVICE EARLY LAST MONTH.

A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 60 000 PASSENGERS USED THE TRAINS EACH DAY LAST MONTH, COMPARED WITH A DAILY AVERAGE OF 40 000 IN APRIL AND 36 000 IN MARCH.

ON SUNDAYS, ABOUT 100 000 PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN USING THE TRAINS.

THE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE INCREASE IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC AS 'VERY ENCOURAGING'.

+WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE INCREASE IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE ELECTRIFIED SERVICE AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE NUMBER WILL STEADILY INCREASE FURTHER WHEN PEOPLE ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED TO THE NEW SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

THE KCR EXPECTS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 150 000 PASSENGERS WITH THE FULL ELECTRIFICATION OF SERVICES FROM HUNG HOM TO LO WU NEXT SUMMER.

BY THE MID-1980'S, IT EXPECTS SOME 250 000 PASSENGERS A DAY AND ABOUT 500 000 A DAY BY 1990.

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ROAD DEATHS CAN BE PREVENTED, SAFETY EXPERT SAYS
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A +DISEASE+ OF EPIDEMIC PROPORTION IS KILLING AND MAIMING 23 000 PEOPLE IN HONG KONG EVERY YEAR.

ROUGHLY, ABOUT 40 PEOPLE ARE KILLED EACH MONTH - THAT IS WHAT ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AMOUNT TO IN THE TERRITORY.

HOWEVER, MR D.G. WILLDAY, CHIEF ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S ROAD SAFETY DIVISION, WAS VERY EMPHATIC IN HIS BELIEF THAT THIS WAS A +PREVENTABLE DISEASE+.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON THIS AFTERNOON, MR WILLDAY POINTED OUT THAT THOSE MOST AT RISK WERE PEDESTRIANS, WHO MADE UP 60 PER CENT OF THE DEATHS AND ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE INJURIES IN THE ACCIDENTS.

FOR THIS REASON, HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE WHOLE TERRITORY RELIES ON VEHICLES TO MOVE GOODS, SAFE FACILITIES MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO PEDESTRIANS.

HE NOTED THAT IN PARTS OF CENTRAL AND NEW TOWNS, PEDESTRIANS WERE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION +BUT VERY OFTEN, UNFORTUNATELY, THE FACILITIES PROVIDED ARE NOT SUFFICIENT.+

HE QUESTIONED: +HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SEEN FOOTPATHS BARELY WIDE ENOUGH FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO USE THEM, AND EVEN IF WIDE ENOUGH, THE PAVEMENT MIGHT BE TAKEN UP BY HAWKERS, BUILDING WORKS, STREET FURNITURE.+

+EVEN WHERE FOOTBRIDGES ARE PROVIDED THESE ARE SOMETIMES TO MINIMAL STANDARD AND CAN ONLY BE USED BY THE YOUNG AND THE FIT,+ HE ADDED.

ADDED TO THIS IS THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEDESTRIANS+... SOME PEOPLE LOOK ON THEM AS A NUISANCE, THEY HOLD UP TRAFFIC - THEY GET IN THE WAY.+

THIS GENERAL ATTITUDE MUST CHANGE, MR WILLDAY EMPHASISED, IF THE RATE OF PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS WERE TO DROP.

IN A FURTHER BID TO REDUCE SUCH CASUALTIES, THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A ROAD SAFETY DIVISION LAST YEAR.

THE DIVISION IS BASED ON SIMILAR UNITS WHICH HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER COUNTRIES - PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM - TO LOOK INTO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS HIS UNIT HAS ALREADY LOOKED INTO 130 SITES COVERING AREAS WHERE PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS ARE PREDOMINANT AS WELL AS SPOTS INVOLVING OTHER TYPES OF ACCIDENTS.

+WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED AND ARE IMPLEMENTING LOW PRICE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE APPEARED TO OVERCOME PARTICULAR PROBLEMS AND I AM PLEASED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING IN THE INVESTIGATION SIDE AND IN THE REMEDIAL MEASURE SIDE,+ MR WILLDAY SAID.

/HE REMARKED

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HE REMARKED THAT PRIMARY SCHOOL - CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 11 WERE MOST AT RISK AND HIS UNIT HELPED BY PROVIDING TEACHING KITS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SIMILAR MATERIAL IS ALSO SUPPLIED TO THE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION SCHOOL PROGRAMMES TO +HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF SAFETY.+

+THIS IS NOT ENOUGH - PARENTS MUST ALSO BE REACHED AS A LARGE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS HAPPENS, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WHEN THE CHILDREN ARE ACCOMPANIED,+ MR WILLDAY STATED.

THIS HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SMALL AMOUNT OF ROAD SAFETY LITERATURE AT PRESENT. BUT THIS IS BEING RECTIFIED AS THE HIGHWAY CODE IS BEING REDRAFTED TO INCLUDE THE NECESSARY DETAILS.

+THIS WILL THEN BE USED AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER LEAFLETS AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS IN THE FUTURE,+ MR WILLDAY SAID.

NOTING THAT FATALITIES AMONG THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WERE ALSO HIGH, HE SAID FUTURE CAMPAIGNS WILL BE TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT.

MR WILLDAY ALSO INDICATED THAT MORE DISTINCTIVE MARKINGS WILL BE INTRODUCED AT SIGNALLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS TO MAKE THEM MORE CONSPICUOUS AND MEASURES INTRODUCED TO DISCOURAGE MOTORISTS FROM BLOCKING THESE FACILITIES.

HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT WAS MOVING IN MANY DIRECTIONS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THERE WERE LIMITS TO WHAT IT COULD ACHIEVE ALONE.

AND HE BELIEVED THAT REAL LASTING PROGRESS WOULD ONLY BE MADE WHEN PUBLIC ATTITUDE IS CHANGED CONCERNING PEDESTRIANS AND THE NEEDS OF PEDESTRIANS.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO PEDESTRIANS TO BE CONSCIOUS OF UNSAFE FACILITIES AND TO AGITATE TO GET THINGS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

BORROWING A QUOTE, HE CONCLUDED WITH THIS ADVICE,+ IT IS DIFFICULT TO CURE A PATIENT UNLESS HE ACCEPTS HE IS ILL.+

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON CHAI WAN ROAD
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WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, EASTBOUND VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE U-TURNS AT THE JUNCTION OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND CHAI WAN ROAD.

WESTBOUND VEHICLES FROM SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST HAVE TO ENTER SHAU KEI WAN ROAD DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF VIA CHAI WAN ROAD.

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FIRE SERVICES' SPECIAL MTR STRIKE FORCE READY

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RE-ACTIVATED ITS SPECIAL UNIT TO DEAL WITH ANY FORM OF EMERGENCY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT ISLAND LINE.

CALLED THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STRIKE FORCE, THE UNIT IS UNDER THE COMMAND OF A DIVISIONAL OFFICER.

THE STRIKE FORCE WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR BUT WAS 'STOOD DOWN' WHEN PRESSURISED TUNNEL WORK WAS COMPLETED IN KOWLOON.

TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPERATIONAL COVER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LINE, ANOTHER UNIT, MTR STRIKE FORCE TWO WAS FORMED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

+OUR DUTIES ARE TO ATTEND FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS IN COMPRESSED AIR TUNNELS, SHAFTS AND CHAMBERS AND TO INSPECT COMPRESSED AIR TUNNELS REGULARLY IN RESPECT OF FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATION REGULATIONS,+ SAID HSU KING-PING, DIVISIONAL OFFICER IN-CHARGE OF THE STRIKE FORCE.

THE MTR STRIKE FORCE WORKS DIRECTLY UNDER HONG KONG FIRE COMMAND WITH STRIKE FORCE ONE OPERATING AT HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION AND STRIKE FORCE TWO AT SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION.

THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF THE TWO FORCES WILL BE MADE UP OF 85 MEN, INCLUDING ONE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, SIX ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICERS, SIX SENIOR STATION OR STATION OFFICERS AND 72 OTHER RANKS.

MEMBERS OF THE STRIKE FORCE HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE YOUNGER MEN WHO ARE IN FIRST CLASS PHYSICAL CONDITION.

BEFORE THEY ARE CERTIFIED FIT FOR MTR WORK UNDER COMPRESSED AIR CONDITIONS, THEY HAVE TO UNDERGO MEDICAL AND RADIOGRAPHY EXAMINATIONS, AND LOCK TESTS. THEREAFTER, THEY HAVE TO UNDERGO MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

THE STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR WORK IN COMPRESSED AIR ARE SO RIGID THAT ANY PERSON FOUND SUFFERING FROM A COMMON COLD OR OTHER SIMILAR MINOR AILMENT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM STRIKE FORCE DUTIES AND WILL HAVE TO BE RE-EXAMINED BY AN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR STANDARD OF FITNESS.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED BY THE MTR STRIKE FORCE, INCLUDING BREATHING APPARATUS WHICH CAN BE USED BY TWO PERSONS AT THE SAME TIME FOR RESCUE PURPOSES DURING AN EMERGENCY, AND SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WHICH CONSISTS OF A PERSONAL RADIO WITH AN EARPHONE AND THROAT MICROPHONE. OFFICERS WORKING INSIDE THE TUNNEL CAN TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM COMPRESSED AIR ENVIRONMENT TO NON-PRESSURISED AREA. DISTRESS SIGNAL UNITS ARE ATTACHED TO BREATHING APPARATUS SETS AND NON SLIP SAFETY BELTS ARE ALSO USED BY THE STRIKE FORCE MEMBERS WHEN WORKING IN VERTICAL SHAFTS.

+WE ARE READY TO TACKLE ANY INCIDENTS THAT MAY ARISE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE,+ SAID MR HSU.

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'IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS' BY YAN OI TONG
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A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AUTHORITIES HAS ENABLED THE YAN OI TONG TO CO-OPERATE IN PROVIDING SOME OF THE MUCH-NEEDED FACILITIES AND SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE FAST EXPANDING TOWNSHIP OF TUEN MUN.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE YAN OI TONG THIRD TERM BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, ADMINISTERED THE OATH TO THE DIRECTORS.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THE TONG, WITH ITS 50 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, HAD LAID A SOLID FOUNDATION AND COMPLETED A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS IN QUICK SUCCESSION RECENTLY.

THESE INCLUDED THE TAI HING INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE LAST SEPTEMBER, THE YAN OI TONG KINDERGARTEN IN FEBRUARY AND THE YAN OI POLYCLINIC BUILT WITH A \$4 MILLION DONATION BY THE TONG IN MARCH.

+THE COMING YEAR WILL BE AN EVEN MORE EXCITING ONE IN THE TONG'S HISTORY,+ HE SAID.

THE YAN OI TONG CHAN WONG SUK FONG SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL BE OPENED IN SEPTEMBER WHILE THE MAJOR PROJECT, THE \$40 MILLION MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED YAN OI TONG COMMUNITY AND INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

+WORK IS ALSO IN HAND WITH A \$5 MILLION DONATION FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB TO BUILD A LEISURE SWIMMING POOL NEAR TAI HING FOR COMPLETION NEXT YEAR.

+A FURTHER PROJECT, A MODERN, IMAGINATIVELY DESIGNED COLUMBARIUM PARK IS ALSO BEING PLANNED AND TALKS ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE TONG AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE CERTAINLY IMPRESSIVE AND DEMONSTRATE WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH FORESIGHT AND DETERMINATION.

+NOW THAT THE FOUNDATIONS HAVE BEEN LAID, THE TONG SHOULD CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITION= FURTHER PROJECTS MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED HAVING REGARD TO THE HEAVY CAPITAL AND RECURRENT COMMITMENTS INVOLVED AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE FACILITIES,+ MR MACPHERSON ADDED.

MR DAVID CHAN CHUNG-HANG WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE TONG FOR THE YEAR 1982/83.

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HIGHER EDUCATION FEE PROPOSALS FOR 1985/86

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO ASSUME CERTAIN LEVELS OF TUITION FEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING GRANTS FOR THE THREE INSTITUTIONS FOR 1985/86.

THE FEES TO BE ASSUMED ARE \$4 200 FOR DEGREE COURSES, AND \$3 200 FOR FULL-TIME NON-DEGREE COURSES AT THE POLYTECHNIC. THE ACTUAL FEES TO BE CHARGED WILL BE A MATTER FOR THE INSTITUTIONS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FEE LEVELS ASSUMED FOR 1985/86, WHICH WERE \$600 ABOVE THOSE USED FOR CALCULATING GRANTS FOR 1984/85, WERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF GRADUALLY INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF RECURRENT COSTS MET BY TUITION FEES. THE PROPOSALS ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT AN ESTIMATED \$1 200 MILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS WILL BE SPENT IN 1985/86 TO MEET A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE RECURRENT COSTS OF THE THREE INSTITUTIONS, WHEREAS THE REVENUE OF THE INSTITUTIONS FROM THE FEES ASSUMED WILL AMOUNT TO ONLY \$90 MILLION,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

+THESE CALCULATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE THE CONSIDERABLE COSTS ARISING FROM EXISTING PLANS FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT. SO FAR, APPROXIMATELY \$890 MILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS IS EXPECTED TO BE SPENT ON CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE YEARS 1981-86,+ HE ADDED.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE STUDENTS IN THE THREE INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE TOWARDS FEES, IN FULL OR IN PART, IN THE FORM OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME. THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE SCHEME, WHICH ENSURES THAT NO STUDENT IS DEPRIVED OF A PLACE FOR FINANCIAL REASONS, WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY TO REFLECT THE INCREASE IN FEES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS CURRENT PRACTICE FOR AN ANNUAL DECLARATION TO BE MADE OF THE FEES TO BE CHARGED FOUR YEARS IN ADVANCE, SO THAT STUDENTS ENROLLING FOR A COURSE OF THAT DURATION OR LESS WOULD BE AWARE OF THE FEES PAYABLE THROUGHOUT THE COURSE.

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ESSAYS AT AN EXHIBITION

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VISITORS TO THE RECENT CLEAN HONG KONG VISUAL PRESENTATION AT THE CITY HALL MIGHT HAVE NOTICED GROUPS OF STUDENTS BUSILY TAKING NOTES AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY FROM EXHIBIT TO EXHIBIT.

THE STUDENTS WERE THERE BECAUSE THE EXHIBITION HAD BECOME PART OF THE CURRICULA FOR MANY SCHOOLS DURING ITS SIX-DAY SHOWING.

MR H.F. YEUNG, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT TANG KING PO SCHOOL SENT HIS FORM TWO CLASS THERE ON THE SECOND DAY, JUNE 3.

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+I SAW A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE PRESENTATION,+ MR YEUNG EXPLAINED, +AND REALISED THAT IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING AND RELEVANT TOPIC FOR AN ESSAY ASSIGNMENT.+

+I INSTRUCTED MY PUPILS TO GO THERE, AND WRITE SOMETHING ON THE CONTENTS OF THE EXHIBITION AND THEIR IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN AS PRESENTED BY THE EXHIBITION.+

MR YEUNG SAID THAT HE LATER DISCOVERED THAT MANY OTHER TEACHERS HAD THE SAME IDEA.

IT WAS EVEN MORE ENCOURAGING TO LEARN THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY UPPER FORM STUDENTS, HAD CHOSEN THE EXHIBITION AS A TOPIC FOR STUDY ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

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SHA TIN CAREERS EXHIBITION

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AN INFORMATION-PACKED CAREERS EXHIBITION WILL BE PUT ON FOR THREE DAYS FROM FRIDAY (JUNE 11) TO GIVE STUDENTS AND OTHER PEOPLE IN SHA TIN A FULL PICTURE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW TOWN.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THREE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM IN THE WO CHE ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR FRANKLIN SHAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ORGANISED STUDENT GROUPS WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION.

EIGHTEEN DISPLAY STALLS WILL BE SET UP BY LOCAL INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS, BANKING CORPORATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SLIDE SHOWS AND VIDEO TAPE SHOWS EXPLAINING DIFFERENT KINDS OF TRADES.

IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT TALKS ON SUCH TOPICS AS +JOB OPPORTUNITY IN GARMENT INDUSTRY+, +KNOWING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC+ AND +SELECTION OF YOUR CAREER+.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE JOINTLY OPENED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE= ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS SOO MOK SAU-HA= DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (SHA TIN), MR LAU KAI-CHUEN= AND CHAIRMAN OF SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN CAREERS EXHIBITIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM IN THE LOBBY OF WO CHE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX ON FRIDAY (JUNE 11).