



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CHINA NOW HK'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER
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CHINA NOW RANKS AS HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, EVEN BIGGER THAN THE UNITED STATES, AND HAS RISEN TO BECOME THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE HON LYDIA DUNN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

MISS DUNN SUPPORTED THE BILL AND SAID SINCE 1979, HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TRADE WITH CHINA HAD GROWN FROM \$17 BILLION TO \$95 BILLION IN 1984 AND \$98 BILLION IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

AS A MARKET FOR OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, CHINA HAD RISEN FROM 37TH PLACE IN 1978 TO SECOND PLACE IN 1984, SHE ADDED.

IN ASSISTING THE HONG KONG TRADING COMMUNITY TO REALISE THE POTENTIAL THAT THIS IMPORTANT MARKET OFFERED, MISS DUNN SAID, THE TDC MUST HAVE ACCESS TO AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE THAT WAS AVAILABLE ON THE PRACTICALITIES OF DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA.

+THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS THIS INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE, AND THE MAIN PROVISION IN THIS BILL THAT IT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCIL IS VERY TIMELY INDEED,+ SHE SAID.

+THE WELL-ESTABLISHED CONTACTS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS WHICH THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER HAVE WITH CHINA AND THEIR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF TRADING CHANNELS IN THAT MARKET WILL BE INVALUABLE IN THE TDC'S WORK,+ SHE ADDED.

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WORK AGAINST TRADE PROTECTIONISM CONTINUES
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THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER TRADE ORGANISATIONS TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AGAINST TRADE PROTECTIONISM.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN SHE TABLED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TDC FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1984-85 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MISS DUNN SAID ALTHOUGH THE JENKINS' BILL WAS VETOED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN, PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT REMAINED STRONG IN THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET.

/SHE ADDED

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SHE ADDED THAT THE TDC HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE GROWING THREAT OF PROTECTIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WAS ALREADY FINANCING THREE FIRMS OF LOBBYISTS TO WORK FOR HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN WASHINGTON.

MISS DUNN REPORTED THAT WORK ON THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE WAS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE AND COMPLETION WAS EXPECTED IN 1988.

SHE SAID THE DECISION TO BUILD THE CENTRE WAS A MAJOR MILESTONE EVENT IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE.

+THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS FELT THE NEED FOR SUCH A FACILITY FOR MANY YEARS, BUT IT WAS ONLY AFTER GOVERNMENT PASSED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROJECT TO THE TDC IN 1984 - TOGETHER WITH A GENEROUS LAND GRANT - THAT THE IDEA HAS BECOME A REALITY,+ SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE TRADE PROMOTIONS PROGRAMME MOUNTED BY THE TDC DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, MISS DUNN SAID EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO CAPITALISING ON THE IMPROVED DEMAND IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES.

+IN PARALLEL WITH THIS, THE TDC CONTINUED TO PURSUE ITS ON-GOING CAMPAIGN IN THE JAPANESE MARKET AND TO BUILD UP ITS ROLE AS A CATALYST FOR HONG KONG'S RAPIDLY EXPANDING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA,+ SHE SAID.

REPORTING ON TDC'S OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES, MISS DUNN SAID IN ADDITION TO DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS WITH BUYERS AND SELLERS BY ITS NETWORK OF 20 OVERSEAS OFFICES, OVER 60 OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTIONS WERE ORGANISED.

+SOME 1 300 HONG KONG COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN THESE EVENTS. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF BUSINESS NEGOTIATED AND CONCLUDED ON THE SPOT DURING THESE PROMOTIONS REACHED ALMOST \$1.5 BILLION.

+IN ADDITION, NEARLY 25 000 TRADE ENQUIRIES WERE PROCESSED AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS,+ SHE SAID.

ON TDC'S LOCAL ACTIVITIES, MISS DUNN SAID IN ADDITION TO HIGH PROFILE EVENTS SUCH AS THE WOMEN'S SPORTSWEAR SHOW, THE COUNCIL HANDLED 190 INWARD MISSIONS FROM 34 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 49 FROM CHINA.

+OUR TRADE ENQUIRY SERVICE PROCESSED OVER 130 000 INDIVIDUAL ENQUIRIES; AND AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF EXPORT SEMINARS, INCLUDING MAJOR SEMINARS ON WEST GERMAN, CANADIAN AND JAPANESE MARKETS WERE CONDUCTED FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS,+ SHE SAID.

+IN SUPPORT OF OUR VARIOUS PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS, OUR PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION COPIES OF ALL TYPES OF PUBLICATIONS ABOUT HONG KONG PRODUCTS TO BUYERS IN 175 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD,+ SHE ADDED.

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BALANCED BUDGET FOR URBCO IN SIGHT
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A NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE HAS BEEN DRAWN UP TO ENSURE THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WAS GRADUALLY BUT INEXORABLY SLIPPING INTO AN EVER-INCREASING DEFICIT POSITION.

HE SAID THAT THIS, IN A FEW MORE YEARS, WOULD HAVE JEOPARDISED THE HIGH STANDARD OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AT PRESENT PROVIDED FOR THE FOUR MILLION URBAN DWELLERS OF HONG KONG.

+TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE WITH ITS LONG-TERM AND MEANINGFUL TASK, THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A WORKING PARTY EARLY LAST YEAR TO FORMULATE A NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE AND FURTHERMORE DEVISE PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE OUTDATED MEMORANDUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNCIL WHICH WAS DRAWN UP IN 1973,+ MR CHEONG-LEEN EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THAT A NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE HAD BEEN DRAWN UP WHICH NECESSITATED THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RATES PERCENTAGE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

+ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION AS A RESULT OF THE NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, I MUST EMPHASISE THAT URBAN COUNCILLORS AND THE URBN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE VER CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED T ECONOMISE,+ HE SAID.

+I WOULD FURTHERMORE ASSURE THE RATEPAYERS OF HONG KONG THAT THE HIGH STANDARD OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES THEY HAVE COM TO EXPECT AND TAKE FOR GRANTED WILL BE MAINTAINED,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHEONG-LEEN ALSO NOTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE, THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME WITH ANTICIPATED CASH EXPENDITURE OF \$1.57 BILLION FOR THE PERIOD 1985-86 TO 1989-90 TO PROVIDE STILL MORE MODERN FACILITIES FOR THE CITY, AND THUS MEET THE RISING ASPIRATIONS OF THE DYNAMIC COMMUNITY.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SALARY GRANT FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OFFSET BY A 0.5 PER CENT INCREASE IN RATES INCOME FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF THE GENERAL RATES= AND ANOTHER 0.5 PER CENT INCREASE IN RATE REVENUE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE URBAN COUNCIL TO MEET NORMAL GROWTH AND INFLATION.

+THIS WILL FREE THE URBAN COUNCIL FROM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES FOR A FEW YEARS TO COME,+ MISS TAM SAID.

NOTING THAT THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE YEARS, SHE SAID ITS SERVICES WERE EXPANDING BOTH IN SCOPE AND VOLUME.

+I TRUST THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN ITS FIRST CENTENARY YEAR IN 1985 WILL AGREE THAT HONG KONG IS NO LONGER A CULTURAL DESERT.

+AND THOSE OF US WHO FREQUENTLY HAVE TO DRIVE OR WALK IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA SHOULD NOTICE THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CASES OF SITTING-OUT AREAS AND PLANTING AREAS WHICH SOFTEN THE LANDSCAPE OF THIS 'CONCRETE JUNGLE',+ MISS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL WAS STILL TACKLING THE OLD PROBLEM OF HAWKER CONTROL AND WOULD HAVE TO TACKLE NEW PROBLEMS SUCH AS BILLIARD-SALOON LICENSING.

+BUT WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS MANAGED TO PROVIDE EXPANDING SERVICES WHILE REDUCING ITS STAFF,+ MISS TAM ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE SPEECHES BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMIDGE SAID THAT THE DIFFICULT APPROACH TO A SENSITIVE RATING AMENDMENT BILL HAD BEEN MUCH EASED BY THE UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH COUNCILS IN GENERAL, AND THEIR CHAIRMEN IN PARTICULAR.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS AWARE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS LOOMING FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN THE LATE 1980'S, AND THAT ADVANCED CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION WOULD CERTAINLY BE NEEDED IN 1987.

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EARLY CONSIDERATION OF RC'S FINANCIAL NEEDS URGED
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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION TO THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND REVIEW THE PROPOSED INTERIM MEASURE AT THE BEGINNING OF 1987 AT THE LATEST, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MUST BE PROVIDED WITH SUFFICIENT REVENUE TO COVER THE COST OF ITS ACTIVITIES IF IT WAS TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AND TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA WITH ALL THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES THEY REQUIRED.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE PROPOSAL AS CONTAINED IN THE BILL INVOLVED A SMALL INCREASE IN THE RATES IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

+UNDER THE SAME PROPOSAL, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL RECEIVE ALL THE REVENUE ARISING FROM THIS INCREASED RATES PERCENTAGE,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO MEET THE COUNCIL'S EXPENDITURE FOR CAPITAL WORKS FOR THE TWO YEARS 1986-87 AND 1987-88 WITHIN THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF SPENDING IN THIS AREA DURING RECENT YEARS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO PROCEED WITHIN THIS PERIOD.

MR CHEUNG NOTED THAT THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS THAT IT WOULD ENABLE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MEET ALL ITS RECURRENT EXPENDITURE WITH A SMALL INCREASE IN THE RATES.

+IT IS ACCEPTABLE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE.

+THE ARRANGEMENT FOR 1988-89 AND THEREAFTER WOULD CLEARLY HAVE TO BE MADE DIFFERENTLY IF LARGE INCREASES IN THE INCIDENTS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL RATES ARE TO BE AVOIDED,+ HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE NEW TOWNS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA WERE MUCH MORE RAPID GROWTH AREAS THAN THE REST OF THE TERRITORY, MR CHEUNG SAID THE PRESSURE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO PROVIDE MORE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DEMAND ON THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IT.

+I, THEREFORE, THINK THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE PRUDENT FOR GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ADVANCE CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER AND TO COMMENCE WITH A REVIEW OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF 1987 AT THE LATEST,+ HE SAID.

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FIRST GROUP OF DENTAL GRADUATES FULLY EMPLOYED
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ALL OF THE FIRST GROUP OF 59 DENTAL GRADUATES, WHO FINISHED THEIR STUDIES EARLY IN 1985, HAD FOUND EMPLOYMENT EITHER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT SERVICE, OR THE UNIVERSITY DENTAL FACULTY, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE APPOINTMENTS SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE ANNUAL INTAKE INTO THE DENTAL SCHOOL WAS REDUCED FROM 76 TO 60 IN 1984, LARGELY BECAUSE THE WASTAGE RATE PROVED TO BE LOWER THAN EXPECTED.

+NO FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IS PROPOSED FOR THE PRESENT BUT THE SITUATION WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED, AND CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO REDUCING THE INTAKE IF THIS APPEARS TO BE APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

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SPECIAL MEASURES TO EASE LO WU TRAFFIC
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ADOPTS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AT THE LO WU BORDER CROSSING DURING PEAK TIMES AND FESTIVAL PERIODS TO REDUCE THE WAITING TIME, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR THOMAS SAID THE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYED STAFF FROM OTHER DUTIES TO LO WU TO MAN 14 TEMPORARY CLEARANCE COUNTERS IN ADDITION TO THE 35 REGULAR COUNTERS.

SECONDLY, HE SAID, RE-ENTRY PERMIT HOLDERS WHO DID NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CARDS AND THEREFORE REQUIRED LESS PROCESSING TIME THAN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON OTHER DOCUMENTS WERE SEGREGATED AND DIRECTED TO SPECIAL COUNTERS FOR CLEARANCES.

+THIRDLY, THE CONTROL POINT OPERATES FROM 3 AM TO 10.30 PM DURING THE BUSIEST PERIODS, AND FOURTHLY, AN ADDITIONAL FOURTH THROUGH TRAIN DAILY FROM KOWLOON TO CANTON AND EXTRA EXPRESS TRAINS TO LO WU ARE RUN. PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON ALL THESE TRAINS ARE PROCESSED AT KOWLOON STATION, THUS HELPING TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION AT LO WU.+

MR THOMAS SAID ALL THOSE MEASURES WERE ADOPTED IN THE LAST FESTIVAL PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 2 AND THEY PROVED TO BE REASONABLY EFFECTIVE.

+A SURVEY OF THE PASSENGER WAITING TIME DURING THAT PERIOD SHOWED THAT FOR THE 90 PER CENT OF THE TIME PASSENGERS HAD TO WAIT FOR LESS THAN 30 MINUTES EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE 23 PER CENT MORE PASSENGERS THAN AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE LONG WAITING TIMES AT LO WU WERE DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF SPACE AND A STEEP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.

+THERE CAN BE NO DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT UNTIL THE NEW TERMINAL AT LO WU HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND PROPERLY STAFFED,+ HE SAID.

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CODE DRAWN UP FOR CAR TESTING CENTRES
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TO ENSURE AN EVEN STANDARD OF INSPECTION OF PRIVATE CARS AT DESIGNATED CAR TESTING CENTRES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS DRAWN UP A CODE OF PRACTICE WHICH BY LAW THE OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR MACPHERSON SAID EACH CENTRE HAD TO NOMINATE A RESPONSIBLE PERSON, TO BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, TO SUPERVISE ALL VEHICLE INSPECTIONS, WHICH COULD ONLY BE DONE BY SIMILAR APPROVED TESTERS.

+THE INSPECTIONS MUST FOLLOW PRECISELY THE PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN A TESTER'S MANUAL ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAD ESTABLISHED A MONITORING UNIT TO MAKE RANDOM VISITS TO THE CENTRES TO CHECK COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND THE TESTER'S MANUAL.

+IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT INCONVENIENCE WILL BE CAUSED BY THESE RANDOM CHECKS TO CAR OWNERS, AS RE-TESTS WILL BE DONE ON THE SPOT,+ HE SAID.

MR MACPHERSON SAID CAR OWNERS WHO MIGHT BE AGGRIEVED BY THE WORK OF ANY DESIGNATED CENTRE MIGHT APPEAL TO THE UNIT, WHICH ACTED AS A FURTHER CHECK AGAINST ABUSES BY THE CENTRES.

AS REGARDS THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION, MR MACPHERSON STRESSED THAT THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME AND, WHEREVER PRACTICABLE, PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN ADOPTED.

HE SAID ALL DESIGNATED CAR TESTING CENTRES WERE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY A NOTICE WARNING THEIR STAFF AGAINST THE COMMISSION OF OFFENCES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, THE ICAC ORDINANCE AND THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICE ORDINANCE.

PROPRIETORS OF THE CENTRES WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO SIGN AN UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SOLICIT OR ACCEPT ANY ADVANTAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR WORK, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

+IF SERIOUS ABUSES OR MALPRACTICES ARE PROVED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MAY EXERCISE HIS POWERS UNDER SECTION 88D OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND REVOKE THE DESIGNATION GRANTED.

+FURTHERMORE, SHOULD ANY STAFF OF ANY DESIGNATED CAR TESTING CENTRE BE FOUND TO HAVE ACTED IN A CORRUPT MANNER, IT IS FOR THE COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION TO INVESTIGATE AND THEN AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO CONSIDER REVOKING THE DESIGNATION GRANTED TO THE CENTRE,+ HE SAID.

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TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOSTELS EXPECTED

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THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO IMPLEMENT THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBVENTING AND MONITORING CAMPS AND HOSTELS OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH DURING THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE NECESSARY RESOURCES IT HAD NOT YET PROVED POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THAT DECISION.

+THE PRESENT POSITION IS NOT SATISFACTORY AND I INTEND TO TAKE UP THIS QUESTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BRANCH, WITH THE HOPE OF IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE SAID.

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PLANS TO IMPROVE, EXTEND AIRPORT FACILITIES

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THE GOVERNMENT DID HAVE PLANS FOR IMPROVING AND EXTENDING THE FACILITIES AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN, HE SAID PLANS INCLUDED A MAJOR EXTENSION OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING; CONSTRUCTION OF FLYOVERS BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING; IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RUNWAY AND TAXIWAYS; EXTENSION OF BOTH PASSENGER AND CARGO AIRCRAFT APRON AND PARKING AREAS; AND A MAJOR MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OF EQUIPPING THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES WITH ADVANCED ELECTRONICS RADAR, DISPLAY AND RADIO NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT, TO OPTIMISE RUNWAY UTILISATION.

SIR JOHN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ACTIVELY PLANNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT, BUT A POSSIBLE NEED FOR IT REMAINED UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

+ACCORDINGLY, TWO POSSIBLE SITES ARE BEING SAFEGUARDED - AT CHEK LAP KOK AND DEEP BAY,+ HE SAID.

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NEW ELECTRICITY BILL UNDER PREPARATION
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AN ELECTRICITY BILL ON THE SAFETY ELECTRICITY APPLIANCES AND INSTALLATION IS NOW UNDER PREPARATION, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON JOHN TODD, REVEALED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING QUESTIONS BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR TODD SAID THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE TO DEFINE THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS AND HOW THEY WOULD BE REGISTERED AND DISCIPLINED.

REGULATIONS WOULD ALSO BE MADE TO SET DOWN MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WIRING OF FIXED INSTALLATIONS IN BUILDINGS.

MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLIANCES, LIGHTING FITTINGS AND ACCESSORIES WOULD ALSO BE SPECIFIED IN DUE COURSE.

+IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY ITS PUBLICITY PROGRAMME TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AT HOME AND WORK.+

MR TODD SAID AGENTS OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES WERE NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION TO EMPLOY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS TO TAKE CHARGE OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION WORK.

+THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE ELECTRICIANS EMPLOYED ARE INCOMPETENT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS RATHER A REFLECTION OF THE FACT THAT UNDER THE EXISTING LAW THERE IS NO DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS OR ELECTRICAL WORKERS.+

ASKED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF UNSAFE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND INSTALLATIONS, MR TODD SAID 46 SUCH ACCIDENTS WERE REPORTED TO THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, OF WHICH 19 WERE FATAL.

THE MAJORITY OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, HE SAID.

THERE WERE EIGHT CASES, INCLUDING FIVE FATAL ONES, IN DOMESTIC PREMISES.

OF THE EIGHT CASES, THREE WERE DIRECTLY CAUSED BY FAULTS IN THE APPLIANCES AND ACCESSORIES USED, WHILE THE REMAINDER WERE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS OR FAULTY CONNECTIONS.

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JPC TO CONTINUE IMPROVING POLICE-COMMUNITY TIES
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THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL (JPC) WILL CONTINUE TO BRING ABOUT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR THOMAS SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE, THE JPC MOVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS PRESENT THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES.

THESE ARE:

- * TO PROVIDE RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO GIVE THEM AN ALTERNATIVE TO PLAYING IN THE STREETS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FALLING INTO BAD COMPANY;
- * TO TEACH MEMBERS TO BECOME GOOD CITIZENS AND TO ENCOURAGE A GOOD COMMUNITY SPIRIT; AND
- * TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO LOOK UP MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE AS THEIR FRIENDS AND TO BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG AND THEIR POLICE FORCE.

MR THOMAS NOTED THAT MOST JPC MEMBERS CAME FROM THE POORER SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THESE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE SECTORS AT WHICH THE MOVEMENT WAS MAINLY DIRECTED.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE SPENT IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR ON JPC WOULD BE SOME \$2.1 MILLION, \$1.1 MILLION ON ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR JPC MEMBERS AND THE REST ON RENTING CLUB HOUSES AND BUYING RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

IN COMPARING THIS WITH JUST OVER \$1 MILLION SPENT IN 1981-82, MR THOMAS SAID THAT AT THE END OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL EXPENDITURE WOULD BE DOUBLED OVER FIVE YEARS.

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CONTROL OF ASBESTOS IN THE PIPELINE
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A SET OF REGULATIONS HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO CONTROL THE USE OF ASBESTOS AND ANY SUBSTANCE CONTAINING ASBESTOS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR HENDERSON SAID THE REGULATIONS, TO BE INTRODUCED UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, WOULD BAN THE USE OF BLUE ASBESTOS (CROCIDOLITE), BROWN ASBESTOS (AMOSITE) AND ANY SUBSTANCE CONTAINING EITHER OF THESE MINERALS.

+USE OF LESS DANGEROUS ASBESTOS MATERIALS WOULD BE CLOSELY CONTROLLED AND THE PROCESS OF SPRAYING WITH A SUBSTANCE CONTAINING ANY FORM OF ASBESTOS WOULD BE PROHIBITED,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON ADDED THE REGULATIONS WERE MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR YESTERDAY AND WOULD BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

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ESCALATORS REGULARLY INSPECTED TO ENSURE SAFETY
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ESCALATORS ARE SUBJECT TO REGULAR INSPECTION TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE IN SAFE WORKING ORDER, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON JOHN TODD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM ON ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ESCALATORS, MR TODD SAID ALL ESCALATOR OWNERS AND CONTRACTORS HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE GAP BETWEEN ESCALATOR BALUSTRADES AND ADJOINING PARAPET WALLS SHOULD NOT BE WIDER THAN 100 MILLIMETRES.

HE SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF ESCALATORS WAS GOVERNED BY THE BUILDING (ESCALATORS) REGULATIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WHILE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WERE GOVERNED BY THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE.

+CERTIFICATES FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ESCALATOR WILL ONLY BE ISSUED IF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS GOVERNING THE SAFE USE OF ESCALATORS ARE COMPLIED WITH,+ HE SAID.

MR TODD SAID THERE WAS NO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO REPORT ESCALATOR ACCIDENTS AND HE COULD GIVE DETAILS ONLY OF THE EIGHT CASES INVESTIGATED IN THE LAST YEAR BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND OF THOSE INCLUDED IN REGULAR REPORTS MADE BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID OF THE EIGHT CASES THREE INVOLVED ADULTS, OF WHICH TWO WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO INFIRMITY.

THE THIRD INVOLVED A 60-YEAR OLD WOMAN WHO DIED OF A HEART ATTACK WHILE WALKING UP AN ESCALATOR WHICH WAS STATIONARY AT THE TIME.

THE OTHER ACCIDENTS ALL INVOLVED SMALL CHILDREN AND WERE MAINLY CAUSED BY INADEQUATE ADULT SUPERVISION, MR TODD SAID.

ONE OF THESE ACCIDENTS WAS FATAL WHEN AN 18-MONTH OLD GIRL FELL TO HER DEATH THROUGH A GAP BETWEEN THE ESCALATOR AND THE ADJOINING PARAPET WALL.

+ALL THE ESCALATORS CONCERNED WERE FOUND ON SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION TO BE IN SAFE WORKING ORDER,+ MR TODD SAID.

HE SAID THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WITH ALMOST 400 ESCALATORS WAS MUCH THE LARGEST OPERATOR OF ESCALATORS IN HONG KONG.

THE MOST RECENT FIGURES AVAILABLE RELATED TO THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1985, THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND LINE.

DURING THAT QUARTER, 104 PASSENGERS WERE INVOLVED IN ESCALATOR-RELATED ACCIDENTS, OF WHOM 10 REQUIRED HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

THE MAIN CAUSE OF THESE ACCIDENTS, HE SAID, WAS PEOPLE LOSING THEIR BALANCE WHEN USING THE ESCALATOR.

AGAIN THE ESCALATORS WERE IN SAFE WORKING CONDITION AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENTS.

+TO PUT THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE I SHOULD ADD THAT DURING THE PERIOD 127 MILLION PASSENGERS TRAVELLED ON THE RAILWAY,+ MR TODD SAID.

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INDUSTRIAL BANK NOT NECESSARY -- FS
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THE SETTING UP OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD INEVITABLY BE BOTH EXPENSIVE FOR THE TAX-PAYER AND WHOLLY OPPOSED TO LONG-STANDING POLICY, WHICH HAS DEMONSTRABLY SERVED HONG KONG WELL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON NGAI SHU-KIT, SIR JOHN SAID A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE GOVERNOR IN 1959 TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND IT ADVISED THAT NO SUCH NEED EXISTED.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT NEARLY ALL HONG KONG'S FLOURISHING INDUSTRIAL SECTOR HAD BEEN CREATED SINCE 1949 AND THE MAJOR SOURCE OF FUNDS HAD BEEN BANK LOANS.

HE SAID: +I AM UNAWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT INDUSTRIALISTS WITH SOUND BUSINESS PROPOSITIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE NOW UNABLE TO GET APPROPRIATE LOANS.

+THE BANKS INDEED HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VERY HELPFUL, FREQUENTLY LENDING MONEY BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF PERSONAL CHARACTER RATHER THAN FULL COLLATERAL.

+INDEED, I KNOW OF MANY INDUSTRIALISTS WHO HAVE SECURED LOANS BUT WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE.+

SIR JOHN NOTED THAT APART FROM THE NUMEROUS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SECURING OFFSHORE LOANS, THERE WERE NOW 143 HIGHLY COMPETITIVE BANKS IN HONG KONG AND THERE WAS AMPLE LIQUIDITY.

HE ADDED THAT THE PRIME RATE HERE WAS LOWER THAN IN THE US, CANADA OR UK AND THE STOCK EXCHANGES, LEASING AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENT OF VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS INDICATED OTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

+I SEE NO GOOD REASON TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN A NEW FORM OF VENTURE BANKING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE US TO COMPETE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+IT WOULD INCIDENTALLY BE A DISASTROUS VENTURE FOR THE HANG LUNG OR OVERSEAS TRUST BANKS, WHICH WE SEEK TO RETURN TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRICE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

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BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION ORDINANCE BEING CONSIDERED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE NEED FOR A BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION ORDINANCE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON JOHN TODD.

THIS WAS TO REMEDY DEFICIENCIES IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF BOUNDARY DEFINITION OF LAND FOR TITLE PURPOSES, HE SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN.

/MR TODD

MR TODD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS, CONSIDERING THE NEED FOR A BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE LEASE BOUNDARIES TO BE RECTIFIED OR AUTHENTICATED AND LAND TITLE DISPUTES SETTLED BY SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES.

+IN PARALLEL, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING THE PROPOSAL FOR A LAND SURVEY ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE QUALIFIED LAND SURVEYORS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO UNDERTAKE SOME OF THE WORK THAT WOULD ARISE FROM THE ENACTMENT OF THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

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MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE CYCLING ACCIDENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT APART FROM THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF PROSECUTIONS, PUBLICITY, EDUCATION AND THE PROVISION OF PROPERLY DESIGNED FACILITIES FOR CYCLISTS CAN FURTHER REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CYCLING ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE CYCLIST HAD BEEN INCLUDED AS ONE OF THE TARGET GROUPS FOR ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY IN 1984-85.

+AN 'ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST' ON 'SAFE RULES FOR CYCLING' WAS PRODUCED AND REGULARLY SHOWN ON TELEVISION. A DOCUMENTARY ON ROAD SAFETY WAS INCLUDED IN THE 'COMMON SENSE' SERIES, AND PART OF IT WAS DEDICATED TO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CYCLISTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY.

+POSTERS ON SAFETY IN CYCLING WERE DISPLAYED AND LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE EDUCATION FRONT, MR MACPHERSON SAID SAFETY IN CYCLING WAS INCLUDED IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY TEACHING KIT WHICH WAS BEING WIDELY USED IN SCHOOLS.

+THE REVISED ROAD USERS' CODE, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR, WILL INCLUDE A SECTION GIVING GUIDANCE TO CYCLISTS.+

HE ADDED THAT SPECIALISED FACILITIES SUCH AS CYCLE TRACKS AND CYCLE PARKS WERE BEING PROVIDED WITH THE OBJECTIVE TO SEGREGATE CYCLISTS FROM MOTORISTS TO REDUCE CHANCE OF ACCIDENTS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THESE MEASURES WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

/MR MACPHERSON

MR MACPHERSON SAID THERE WERE 820 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING BICYCLES IN 1984 AND 460 IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

+ARISING FROM THESE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, 234 PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN AGAINST CYCLISTS IN 1984 AND 172 IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1985,+ HE SAID.

THERE WERE 3 808 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST CYCLISTS NOT INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN 1984 AND 8 096 IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1985,+ HE ADDED.

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THIRD UNIVERSITY PROPOSALS BEING EXAMINED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE ON THE POSSIBLE ACADEMIC PROFILE AND ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS PERTAINING TO THE THIRD UNIVERSITY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HENDERSON SAID PROPOSALS WOULD VERY SHORTLY BE SUBMITTED TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR ADVICE.

+A PLANNING COMMITTEE WOULD THEN BE ESTABLISHED TO PLAN AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROPOSED SITE FOR THE NEW UNIVERSITY, MR HENDERSON SAID A NUMBER OF SUITABLE SITES HAD BEEN EARMARKED, ALL OF WHICH WERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE, UNDER ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON THE CHOICE OF THE MOST SUITABLE SITE WHEN THE TYPE AND SIZE OF THE NEW INSTITUTION HAS BEEN DECIDED.

+THE FINAL SELECTION OF THE SITE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE MADE FOR SOME TIME,+ MR HENDERSON ADDED.

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STRICT CONTROLS ADOPTED OVER LPG STORAGE
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE STORAGE OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) FOR SALE OR OTHER PURPOSES IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR LIAO SAID ANY PERSON WISHING TO STORE QUANTITIES OF LPG IN EXCESS OF 50 KILOGRAMS, OR 25 KILOGRAMS IN GAS CARTRIDGES OR LIGHTER REFILLS, HAD TO APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES FOR A LICENCE TO DO SO.

+BEFORE ISSUING SUCH A LICENCE THE DIRECTOR ENSURES THAT ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN, AND HE ALSO SPECIFIES IN THE LICENCE THE MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF LPG THAT MAY BE STORED BY THE LICENSEE,+ HE SAID.

+LPG STORES ARE INSPECTED ANNUALLY PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL OF LICENCES,+ HE ADDED.

+IN ADDITION, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKES AREA SURVEYS FROM TIME TO TIME SUBJECT TO MANPOWER AVAILABILITY, DURING WHICH CHECKS ARE MADE TO ENSURE THAT PERSONS STORING LPG HAVE VALID LICENCES AND THAT QUANTITIES STORED DO NOT EXCEED PERMITTED LIMITS,+ MR LIAO SAID.

HE NOTED THAT ANYONE IGNORING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT WERE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION, WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A FINE OF \$25 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 25 PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES ARISING FROM THE STORAGE OF LPG, HE SAID.

MR LIAO ADDED THAT IN 1985 THERE WERE ONLY 22 FIRES (0.15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL) WHERE THE CAUSE OF IGNITION WAS IDENTIFIED AS LPG, AND OF THESE ONLY THREE (0.02 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL) TOOK PLACE IN SHOPS.

THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1984 WERE 23 AND NIL.

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TDC ACTIVELY PROMOTING TRADE

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THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS THE STATUTORY BODY SET UP TO PROMOTE, ASSIST AND DEVELOP HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE, ESPECIALLY EXPORTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HO SAID DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORT MARKETS FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT PROMOTIONAL OBJECTIVE OF THE COUNCIL.

+ITS PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY IS TO FOCUS ON THOSE MARKETS WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING TRADE IS GREATEST AND ITS SUPPORT CAN BE OF GREATEST VALUE IN COMPLEMENTING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S OWN MARKETING EFFORTS. PRIORITY IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO DEVELOPING THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

MR HO WAS SPEAKING IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI ON WHAT STEPS THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS HAD TAKEN TOWARDS ACHIEVING DIVERSIFICATION OF MARKETS FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY IN SUCH REGIONS AS THE MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

+AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED, THE COUNCIL HAS OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS ORGANISED OVER 40 BUSINESS GROUPS TO THE AREA.

+IN 1985-86, THE COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED TWO BUSINESS GROUPS TO AND RECEIVED FIVE INCOMING TRADE MISSIONS FROM THIS REGION. IT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE MORE MIDDLE EAST BUSINESSMEN TO COME TO HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE.+

AS REGARDS CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, MR HO SAID THE COUNCIL HAD A BRANCH OFFICE IN PANAMA WHICH LIAISED CLOSELY WITH IMPORTERS IN THE REGION, KEPT IN CONTACT WITH BUYERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND MAINTAINED AN UP-TO-DATE DATA BANK TO ANSWER TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS.

MR HO SAID THE OFFICE ALSO PARTICIPATED AND PUBLICISED HONG KONG AMONG CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA BUYERS IN MAJOR TRADE FAIRS IN THE REGION AS WELL AS IN NORTH AMERICA.

+ALTHOUGH MARKET CONDITIONS IN THE REGION ARE STILL GENERALLY UNFAVOURABLE, THE COUNCIL IS READY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ANY PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE.+

MR HO NOTED THAT BESIDES ACTIVE TRADE PROMOTION, HONG KONG NEEDED TO HAVE ITS OWN COMPETITIVE INDUSTRIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE DIVERSIFICATION OF MARKETS FOR ITS PRODUCTS.

AS REGARDS PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TAKING ACTIVE MEASURES TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE, PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TRAINED MANPOWER, ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES.

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SHA TIN-MEISHA FERRY TERMINAL UNDER-UTILISED
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THE UTILISATION RATE OF THE SHA TIN-MEISHA FERRY TERMINAL HAS SO FAR NOT COME UP TO EXPECTATION AND THE FACILITIES ARE AT PRESENT UNDER-UTILISED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW WONG, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE PROVISION OF THE SERVICE WAS, HOWEVER, PART OF THE 1982 AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO WITH THE SHENZHEN MUNICIPALITY TO FACILITATE CROSS-BORDER COMMUNICATION.

HE SAID THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF PASSENGERS USING THE SHA TIN-MEISHA FERRY TERMINAL SINCE IT HAD COME INTO OPERATION IN AUGUST 1984 HAD BEEN 2 100 AND 2 230 IN 1984 AND 85 RESPECTIVELY, NOTING THAT THE SERVICE WAS NOT OPERATED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

ON STEPS TO SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEISHA RESORT AREA, MR MACPHERSON SAID DEVELOPMENTS IN SHENZHEN WERE A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

+HOWEVER IT IS KNOWN THAT A 300-ROOM HOTEL IN XIAO MEISHA WAS DUE TO OPEN TOWARDS THE END OF 1985, A HOTEL IN DA MEISHA IS BEING REDEVELOPED, AND PLANS FOR A SECOND HOTEL THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, WITH CONSTRUCTION STARTING THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE UTILISATION OF THE TERMINAL FACILITIES BY TOLO HARBOUR AND TAP MUN FERRY SERVICES, MR MACPHERSON SAID IT WAS SOMETHING WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED IF SATISFACTORY WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO SEPARATE PASSENGERS USING EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SERVICES.

+INTERNAL FERRY SERVICES AT PRESENT USE THE TWO FERRY PIERS AT NEARBY MA LIU SHUI WHICH, ALTHOUGH ADEQUATE IN TERMS OF CAPACITY, ARE SOMEWHAT INCONVENIENTLY LOCATED,+ HE SAID.

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REQUEST MADE FOR EARLY RETURN OF BOAT BRIDES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, ARGUING STRONGLY FOR PRIORITY TO BE GIVEN TO APPLICATIONS FROM THE BOAT BRIDES FOR ONE-WAY EXIT PERMITS TO RETURN TO HONG KONG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM, MR THOMAS SAID THAT AS PROMISED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ON JULY 10 LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT MADE THE REQUEST VIA THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY FOLLOWING THE VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE OF THE BOAT BRIDES.

/+WE ARE

+WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR PROSPECTS FOR RETURNING TO HONG KONG IN DUE COURSE ARE GOOD,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR EACH OF THE BOAT BRIDES TO BE RETURNED TO HONG KONG, MR THOMAS SAID THAT WAS A MATTER FOR THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN CHINA.

+IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING POLICY, WIVES IN CHINA OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS MAY BE ADMITTED FOR SETTLEMENT IN HONG KONG ONLY IF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN CHINA ISSUE THEM WITH ONE-WAY EXIT PERMITS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID 13 BOAT BRIDES RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO CHINA IN AUGUST 1985 FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF THEIR PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO STAY. A 14TH BOAT BRIDE WAS ALLOWED TO REMAIN TO GIVE BIRTH IN HONG KONG BUT LEFT FOR CHINA IN OCTOBER 1985.

+OF THESE 14 BOAT BRIDES, ONE HAS COME BACK TO HONG KONG ON A ONE-WAY CHINESE EXIT PERMIT. ANOTHER ONE IS NOW IN HONG KONG ON A TWO-WAY EXIT PERMIT,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE OTHER 12 BOAT BRIDES, MR THOMAS SAID THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE IN CHINA.

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE BOAT BRIDES TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, EIGHT OF THEM CAME FROM ZHONGSHAN AND FOUR CAME FROM ZHUHAI, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CHILDREN OF THE BOAT BRIDES, MR THOMAS SAID THAT OF THE CHILDREN WHO HAD RETURNED TO CHINA WITH THEIR MOTHERS, ONLY THREE WOULD NEED TO OBTAIN A ONE-WAY EXIT PERMIT TO RETURN TO HONG KONG FOR SETTLEMENT.

+THE OTHER CHILDREN HAVE LEGAL RESIDENT STATUS IN HONG KONG AND COULD COME BACK HERE AT ANY TIME,+ HE SAID.

+ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, TWO CAME FROM ZHUHAI AND ONE CAME FROM ZHONGSHAN.

+THEIR PROSPECTS FOR RETURNING TO HONG KONG ARE PRESUMABLY THE SAME AS FOR THEIR MOTHERS,+ HE ADDED.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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TWO BILLS, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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TUEN MUN IMAGE ENHANCING EXHIBITION ON FRIDAY

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THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TUEN MUN - ITS PRESENT AND PAST SUCCESSES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT - AT A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION TO BE OPENED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24).

ENTITLED '+TUEN MUN - A NEW CITY FOR NEW PEOPLE+', THE EXHIBITION IS AIMED AT HIGHLIGHTING TUEN MUN'S INFRASTRUCTURE, GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT PROJECTS BEING PLANNED AND BOOSTING THE IMAGE OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO CONCENTRATE ON THE DISTRICT'S POTENTIAL AS A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, AND ITS TRANSPORT LINKS WITH OTHER NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS, WHICH ARE ATTRACTIONS FOR MORE INVESTMENT TO THE NEW TOWN.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE MODELS OF LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE FUTURE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, REGIONAL HOSPITAL, AND THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT - AS WELL AS GRAPHICS, PHOTOGRAPHS, LAYOUT PLANS OF FUTURE PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY THE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN INTRODUCTION TO SCENIC AREAS IN TUEN MUN.

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL FEBRUARY 2, WILL BE STAGED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE. IT WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 9 PM AND IS FREE.

COUNTER STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INVESTORS SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TUEN MUN.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SINO LAND COMPANY LIMITED, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE EXHIBITION IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, COMMERCIAL FIRMS AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES.

THE EXHIBITION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS - THE PRESENT TUEN MUN AND ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOCUSING ON HOUSING, TRANSPORT, INDUSTRY AND JOB AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDE A TOWN CENTRE COMPLEX, PHASE TWO OF THE TOWN PARK, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MARINER AT SO KWUN WAT, AND A TOWN PLAZA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION AT 11.30 AM ON FRIDAY AT THE LOWER BASEMENT OF TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

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TUEN MUN DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO MEET
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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE ORGANISING OF CULTURAL, RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE PROVISION OF NEW CULTURAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

AMONG THE NEW FACILITIES ARE THE BUTTERFLY ESTATE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND NEW CULTURAL COMPLEXES AT SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DECIDE THE NAMING OF A NEW INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 11.30 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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FIRST LAND AUCTION OF 1986
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THE FIRST LAND AUCTION OF 1986 WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM.

A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE AT SOUTH BAY ROAD, REPULSE BAY, ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND THREE INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

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PRESS BRIEFING
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, DR STEPHEN TANG, WILL HOLD A PRESS BRIEFING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON MATTERS DISCUSSED AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152-172 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO MARKET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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TOUR OF POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES
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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL INSPECT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES DURING A TOUR OF THE DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL VISIT THE KING YIP STREET SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND THE PILOT OXYGEN INJECTION SCHEME FOR THE KAI TAK NULLAH AND KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER OF THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, MR C.S. LEUNG, DURING THE TOUR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1986

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PRESENTATION CEREMONY

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, WILL RECEIVE TWO SILVER-PLATED SHIELDS FROM +LACOSTE+ AND CROCODILE GARMENTS LIMITED FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST COUNTERFEIT ACTIVITIES.

A PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24) AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE SENIOR OFFICERS' MESS, RUMSEY STREET CAR PARK BUILDING, NINTH FLOOR, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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GREATER CONCERN ATTACHED TO THE ELDERLY

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HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON THE PROVISION OF BALANCED SERVICES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TAI PO EYE-CARE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY AT THE TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE, DR HAYES NOTED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD ATTACHED GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE RENDERING OF ELDERLY SERVICES AS THE NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE INCREASED.

+THE EYE-CARE CAMPAIGN NOT ONLY PROVIDES ACTUAL BENEFIT TO THE AGED, BUT ALSO AROUSES PUBLIC CONCERN TOWARD ELDERLY SERVICES AND PROMOTES THE TRADITION OF RESPECTING THE OLD,+ DR HAYES SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, WITH THE SUPPORT FROM THE HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION.

DURING THE TWO-WEEK CAMPAIGN, WHICH STARTS TODAY UNTIL FEBRUARY 4, SENIOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FREE EYE CHECK-UPS AND FREE SPECTACLES WHEN NECESSARY. THEY WILL ALSO BE REFERRED TO THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT IF REQUIRED.

DR HAYES COMMENDED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CHARITABLE SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD FOR ATTACHING GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES.

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SAI KUNG CLEAN-UP TO START

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A CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN AIMED AT EDUCATING BOAT PEOPLE IN SAI KUNG ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE WILL BE LAUNCHED AT CHUNG MEI TUK AT THE WATERFRONT OF SAI KUNG TAI STREET ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24).

THE TWO-WEEK CAMPAIGN WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES. THE MAIN THEME FOR THE FIRST WEEK IS TO EDUCATE BOAT PEOPLE AND PROMOTE THE IDEA OF MAINTAINING A CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

THE SECOND WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL AIM AT ENCOURAGING BOAT PEOPLE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS.

SAI KUNG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LI; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAU WAN-HEI; DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (SAI KUNG), MR TANG PING-TO, AND A MARINE OFFICER, MR TAM PAK-LOK WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EVENT AT 10.30 AM.

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COOKING CONTEST FOR ELDERLY ORGANISED

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A COOKING CONTEST IS BEING ORGANISED TO PROVIDE SENIOR RESIDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEIR SKILL AND TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE IN COOKING.

THE CONTEST, TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, IS SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE AND RECREATION OF THE ELDERLY, THE KOWLOON WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

TWENTY TEAMS, EACH OF TWO MEMBERS WITH ONE BEING AGED 60 OR ABOVE, ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION.

A PARTICIPATING TEAM IS REQUIRED TO COOK A SPECIAL DISH FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AT A COST OF NOT MORE THAN \$40 WHICH WILL BE REIMBURSED AFTER THE CONTEST.

/THE CRITERIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1986

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THE CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION INCLUDE COOKING SKILL, RECIPE DESIGN, TASTE, TIDINESS AND TEAM COOPERATION.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS AND SOUVENIRS WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO ALL PARTICIPATING TEAMS.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FEBRUARY 17 AND FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, ITS HUNG HOM SUB-OFFICE IN BULKELEY STREET, HO MAN TIN SUB-OFFICE IN HO MAN TIN ESTATE AND THE KOWLOON WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB AT SHING TAK STREET.

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LUNCH-TIME ENTERTAINMENT FOR OFFICE WORKERS
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OFFICE WORKERS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TREATED TO FREE LUNCH-TIME ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK FEATURING MAGIC AND ACROBATIC PERFORMANCES.

THE FIRST SHOW, STAGED EARLIER THIS WEEK OUTSIDE THE HOPEWELL CENTRE, DREW LARGE CROWDS. THE LUNCH-TIME ENTERTAINMENT IS PART OF THE WAN CHAI FESTIVAL.

THERE WILL BE ONE SHOW TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE OPEN SPACE OUTSIDE THE HOPEWELL CENTRE AND ANOTHER ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 24) IN THE LOBBY OF TAI YAU BUILDING AT 181 JOHNSTON ROAD. BOTH SHOWS WILL START AT 1 PM AND LAST FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES.

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