



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR TO JOIN DELEGATION IN PEKING .....	1
GOVERNMENT BOND TENDER FORMS OUT MONDAY .....	1
INCREASED WATER CHARGES START SUNDAY .....	3
APRIL 1 REMINDER TO DRIVERS .....	4
TIGHTER CONTROL OVER 'LOAN SHARKS' PLANNED .....	5
BILL REQUIRES REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS IN BUILDINGS .....	6
ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO BE CONSULTED ON FINDINGS OF REPORT ..	7
HK OFFERS GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT .....	10
NEW CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION OPENED .....	12
BUSES WILL CONTINUE VITAL ROLE: SCOTT .....	13
HONG KONG SPARED 'RAVAGES OF DISEASES' .....	14
EYE CLINIC SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY .....	15
SECONDARY SCHOOL SYLLABUSES ON SALE .....	15
U.S. PREFERENCE SCHEME DETAILS ANNOUNCED .....	16
RAILWAY AREA PLANS AMENDED .....	17
NORTH POINT STREET CHANGES FOR MTR WORK .....	17
BILL SEEKS TO FACILITATE TRIBUNAL WORK .....	18

/GRAVES IN .....

GRAVES IN FIVE CEMETERIES TO BE EXHUMED .....	19
PUBLIC WARNED OF FIRE RISKS DURING CHING MING .....	19
EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL SURVEY FOR FIRST QUARTER ..	20
PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL BEING LANDSCAPED .....	21
DRAGON BOAT ROWERS SOUGHT .....	22
FIRE SERVICES FEES INCREASED .....	23
CONTEST TO WOO VOTERS WITH SONG .....	23
NEW COLLECTION OFFICE SET UP .....	24
TWO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS AMENDED .....	25
FOUR N.T. SITES FOR RENT .....	26
WAN CHAI CLEARANCE WORK STEPPED UP .....	27
FIRING PRACTICE DATES .....	28
NO RIGHT TURN .....	29
STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER .....	29
COACH SERVICE WITHDRAWN .....	29

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 1 -

GOVERNOR TO JOIN DELEGATION IN PEKING  
\* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING THE FCO'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON SIR GEOFFREY HOWE'S FAR EAST TOUR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS THAT THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL REMAIN IN PEKING AFTER THE 12TH ROUND OF TALKS ON APRIL 11 AND 12, TO JOIN SIR GEOFFREY'S DELEGATION.

SIR EDWARD WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG WITH SIR GEOFFREY ON APRIL 18.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNMENT BOND TENDER FORMS OUT MONDAY  
\* \* \*

ONE BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER.

TENDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY (APRIL 2) AND SHOULD BE RETURNED ON MONDAY (APRIL 9).

THESE HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATED BEARER BONDS HAVE A FACE VALUE OF \$50 000 AND A TERM OF FIVE YEARS AND WILL ATTRACT INTEREST AT 10 PER CENT PER ANNUM. THE MINIMUM PRICE AT WHICH TENDERS WILL BE CONSIDERED IS \$49 000 FOR EACH BOND.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCTIVE CAPITAL INVESTMENT, SUCH AS THE BUILDING OF SCHOOLS, ROADS AND HOSPITALS.

THE PROPOSAL TO ISSUE THESE BONDS WAS ENDORSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 14. IN MAKING THE PROPOSAL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE BONDS WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO THE DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

HE SAID: +THEY RANK AS LIQUID ASSETS UNDER THE BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES. INTEREST PAYMENTS, AS WELL AS PROFITS ON THE SALE OF THE BONDS, WILL BE EXEMPT FROM HONG KONG PROFITS TAX AND INTEREST TAX, PRESENT AND FUTURE.+

/IN CONSIDERING .....

IN CONSIDERING TENDERS, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, THOSE OFFERING THE HIGHEST PRICES WILL BE ACCEPTED TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED TO ATTAIN THE AMOUNT REQUIRED. THE ISSUE PRICE OF THE BONDS WILL BE THE LOWEST OFFERED PRICE ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE IF \$0.5 BILLION WORTH OF BONDS WERE TENDERED AT \$52 500, ANOTHER \$0.5 BILLION AT \$52 000 AND A FURTHER \$0.5 BILLION AT \$51 500, THE LOWEST OFFER ACCEPTED TO ATTAIN A TOTAL ISSUE OF \$1 BILLION OF BONDS WOULD BE \$52 000. TENDERS AT \$52 500 AND \$52 000 WOULD THEREFORE RECEIVE ALLOCATION AND THOSE AT \$51 500 WOULD BE REJECTED. ALL SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS WOULD PAY \$52 000 FOR EACH BOND ALLOCATED TO THEM.

REFUNDS TO UNSUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THOSE WHO RECEIVE A PARTIAL ALLOCATION WILL BE BY CHEQUE. INTEREST PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE HALF-YEARLY ON APRIL 9 AND OCTOBER 9, AND THE BONDS WILL BE REPAID AT PAR ON APRIL 9, 1989.

TENDER FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

- \* CENTRAL COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE OF THE TREASURY, GRD FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET;
- \* CAUSEWAY BAY SUB-TREASURY, 2ND FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, 20 ELECTRIC ROAD;
- \* YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, 4TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;
- \* KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, 1ST FLOOR, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON;
- \* TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO MARKET, N.T.;
- \* YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, N.T.;
- \* TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, WEST SUB-OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, TSUEN HOI KING BUILDING, 93 HOI PA STREET, TSUEN WAN, N.T.;
- \* SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, 6TH FLOOR, KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION, SHA TIN, N.T.;
- \* TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, 201 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN, N.T.;
- \* NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, SHEUNG SHUI SUB-OFFICE, 24 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEUNG SHUI, N.T.;
- \* TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, KWAI CHUNG SUB-DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, 5/F KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, N.T.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 3 -

INCREASED WATER CHARGES START SUNDAY  
\* \* \* \*

A NEW SCALE OF WATER CHARGES COMES INTO EFFECT ON SUNDAY (APRIL 1) - THE START OF THE 1984/85 FINANCIAL YEAR - WHICH WILL ADD NO MORE THAN \$1 PER WEEK TO THE BILLS OF NINE OUT OF 10 DOMESTIC CONSUMERS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON, SAID THE INCREASE WAS NECESSARY TO COVER HIGHER OPERATING COSTS ARISING FROM INFLATION, BUT HAD BEEN KEPT TO THE +BARE MINIMUM+.

AS FOR TRADE USERS, MR TOMLINSON SAID 66 PER CENT WOULD PAY LESS THAN \$1 PER WEEK EXTRA. OF THE REMAINING 34 PER CENT, ONLY 0.5 PER CENT WOULD PAY MORE THAN \$130 PER WEEK EXTRA.

MR TOMLINSON SAID ALMOST 20 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE IN PUBLIC HOUSING, WOULD STILL NOT HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING FOR THEIR WATER UNDER THE FREE UNITS ARRANGEMENT.

+OF CONSUMERS WHO ARE BILLED,+ HE SAID, +OVER NINETY ONE PER CENT WILL ONLY HAVE TO PAY AN EXTRA \$1 PER WEEK OR LESS AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE.+

HE SAID IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING NEED TO CONSERVE WATER, LARGE USERS IN THE DOMESTIC FIELD WOULD BE OBLIGED TO PAY MORE, BUT EVEN SO THIS WOULD ONLY AMOUNT TO SOME \$2 A WEEK EXTRA IN MOST CASES.

MR TOMLINSON SAID THE INCREASE WAS SMALLER IN PERCENTAGE TERMS THAN THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS AND WOULD NOT SHOW UP UNTIL BILLS PAYABLE IN AUGUST WERE ISSUED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN SPENDING LARGER SUMS EACH YEAR ON WATER PROJECTS.

THE CAPITAL WORKS NEEDED TO BRING INCREASED SUPPLIES FROM CHINA ALONE WERE EXPECTED TO COST \$1.75 BILLION OVER A 12-YEAR PERIOD AND THERE WERE MANY OTHER COSTLY PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR ABOUT TO START.

MR TOMLINSON SAID SOME CONNECTION CHARGES WOULD ALSO BE REVISED.

IN THESE CASES, HE SAID, THE AMOUNT CURRENTLY CHARGED WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF THE ACTUAL COST ONLY.

FROM APRIL 1, SMALL DIAMETER CONNECTIONS UNDER 30 METRES IN LENGTH WOULD COST \$280, \$400 AND \$600, DEPENDING ON THE DIAMETER OF THE PIPING USED.

THERE WOULD ALSO BE REVISIONS TO THE CHARGE PER ADDITIONAL METRE LENGTH IN EXCESS OF 30 METRES FOR ALL SIZES OF CONNECTION.

/IN THE .....

IN THE CASE OF LARGER DIAMETER CONNECTIONS, CHARGES MORE CLOSELY REFLECTED ACTUAL COSTS AND WOULD THEREFORE REMAIN UNCHANGED.

MR TOMLINSON SAID THE WATER TARIFF AND CHARGES WOULD, IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY, GO METRIC. INITIALLY, BILLING WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY PRECISE CONVERSIONS OF THE OLD IMPERIAL UNITS BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME TO REPLACE ALL THE 1.25 MILLION METERS IN USE.

MR TOMLINSON SAID SALT WATER FOR FLUSHING WOULD REMAIN FREE OF CHARGE AND, AS FAR AS THOSE PREMISES USING FRESH WATER FOR FLUSHING WERE CONCERNED, THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED, WITH METRICATION, VIRTUALLY THE SAME QUANTITY OF FREE WATER AS IN THE PAST.

SHIPPING SUPPLIES CURRENTLY BILLED AT \$7.60 PER IMPERIAL UNIT FOR NON-OCEAN-GOING VESSELS AND \$16.60 PER UNIT FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WOULD RISE BY 10 PER CENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### APRIL 1 REMINDER TO DRIVERS

\* \* \*

THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1981 AND THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1981 WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM APRIL 1.

THESE AMENDMENT ORDINANCES, ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, ARE AIMED AT THE SMALL MINORITY OF PARKING OR TRAFFIC OFFENDERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE, BUT NEITHER PAY THEIR FIXED PENALTY ON TIME NOR CONTEST THE OFFENCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF MOTORISTS WHO COMMIT OFFENCES RESULTING IN A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE WILL BE UNAFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION.

THERE IS A VERY HIGH COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM, AND MOST OFFENDERS PAY THE FINE ON TIME.

THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCES PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED ON PERSONS WHO DO NOT PAY THE FIXED PENALTY WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD, AND FAIL TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT THEY WISH TO DISPUTE THE OFFENCE. THE ADDITIONAL PENALTY WILL BE EQUAL TO THE ORIGINAL FIXED PENALTY. THUS FOR PARKING OFFENCES, THE ADDITIONAL PENALTY WILL BE \$140, AND IT COULD BE AS HIGH AS \$200 FOR THE MORE SERIOUS MOVING TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

THE ORDINANCES ALSO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MAY REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW THE DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES OF APPLICANTS UNTIL THEY HAVE SETTLED ALL OUTSTANDING FIXED PENALTIES AND ADDITIONAL PENALTIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT GIVEN THE NEED FOR FIXED PENALTY SYSTEMS, THEY SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCES SHOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH THE MINORITY WHO TRY TO AVOID PAYING THEIR PENALTIES.

TO GIVE MOTORISTS A FAIR WARNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONS FOR COLLECTING ADDITIONAL PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENT, A WARNING IS INCLUDED IN THE APPROPRIATE STATUTORY FORMS, INCLUDING THE FIXED PENALTY NOTICES TO BE USED FROM APRIL 1.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS INTRODUCING THESE REVISED FORMS WERE ALSO GAZETTED TODAY.

THE LEGISLATION WILL STILL CATER FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO GENUINELY DID NOT RECEIVE A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE OR SUBSEQUENT DEMAND NOTICE.

IF THEY CAN SATISFY A MAGISTRATE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE, THEY NEED PAY ONLY THE ORIGINAL FIXED PENALTY AND NOT ANY ADDITIONAL PENALTY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TIGHTER CONTROL OVER 'LOAN SHARKS' PLANNED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO STRENGTHEN CONTROL OVER +LOAN SHARKS+ BY EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT FOR INSTITUTING PROSECUTIONS FOR CHARGING EXCESSIVE INTEREST FROM THE PRESENT SIX MONTHS TO TWO YEARS.

THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THE MONEY LENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

EXPLAINING THE MOVE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONEY LENDERS REGISTRY OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR ANYONE TO LEND MONEY AT AN INTEREST RATE IN EXCESS OF 60 PER CENT PER ANNUM. AS NO TIME LIMIT FOR PROSECUTION IS LAID DOWN IN THE ORDINANCE, THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE APPLIES, AND THE TIME LIMIT FOR INSTITUTING PROCEEDINGS IS, THEREFORE, SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE COMMISSION OF THE OFFENCE.

EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT NUMEROUS CASES OF THIS NATURE ONLY CAME TO LIGHT, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE LAW ENFORCING AUTHORITIES, AFTER MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. OF THE CASES THAT HAD BEEN PROSECUTED WITHIN THE EXISTING STATUTORY PERIOD, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN HALF HAD ONLY BEEN DETECTED BECAUSE THEY WERE CONNECTED WITH OTHER CRIMINAL CASES, SUCH AS BLACKMAIL AND ASSAULT.

+IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE OFFENCE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT IS OFTEN COMMITTED, TWO YEARS IS CONSIDERED TO BE A REASONABLE PERIOD FOR SUCH CASES TO BE DETECTED AND PROSECUTED,+ HE NOTED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IF THE AMENDMENT IS PASSED INTO LAW, IT WILL NOT AFFECT CASES WHERE THE SIX-MONTH LIMIT HAS ALREADY EXPIRED AND NO PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN COMMENCED PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS ON APRIL 25 AND TO PROCEED THROUGH THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE STAGES ON MAY 2.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, IN SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 10TH FLOOR, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL REQUIRES REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS IN BUILDINGS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED, THROUGH AN AMENDMENT BILL, TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS TO BE PROVIDED IN NEW BUILDINGS.

THE OBJECT OF THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, IS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS, UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, REQUIRING THIS PROVISION.

+THE PROPOSAL IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE HYGIENE CONDITIONS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY COLLECT REFUSE DIRECTLY FROM BUILDINGS IF THERE ARE REFUSE STORAGE FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE TO REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

IN BUILDINGS WITHOUT SUCH FACILITIES, THE OCCUPANTS, USUALLY THROUGH AGENTS, REMOVE THEIR REFUSE TO THE USD COLLECTION POINTS FOR COLLECTION BY REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

ABOUT 27 240 CUBIC METRES OF REFUSE IS COLLECTED IN THIS WAY EACH DAY.

HOWEVER, BASKETS OF REFUSE ARE OFTEN LEFT IN ODD CORNERS WITHIN BUILDINGS BEFORE BEING REMOVED TO THE COLLECTION POINTS.

/+THIS IS .....

+THIS IS DETRIMENTAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND IS ENVIRONMENTALLY OFFENSIVE, AND THEREFORE IT IS PROPOSED THAT, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS SUCH AS CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, THE PROVISION OF PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR ALL NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH EXCEED A CERTAIN SIZE.

+THE INTENTION IS THAT THE CHAMBERS WILL BE USED FOR THE TEMPORARY STORAGE OF REFUSE BEFORE IT IS TAKEN TO REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

+IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT IN THE CASE OF VERY LARGE BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS, PROVISION OF VEHICULAR ACCESS IS TO BE MANDATORY SO THAT REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES CAN GAIN ACCESS AND PROVIDE A DIRECT COLLECTION SERVICE,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 16 AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ON MAY 30.

REGULATIONS REQUIRING MANDATORY PROVISION OF REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS WILL BE MADE IF THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW BUT WILL ONLY COME INTO OPERATION ON JANUARY 1, 1985.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO BE CONSULTED ON FINDINGS OF REPORT  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB), CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, DECIDED AT ITS MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON TO CONSULT THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AND THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ON THE FINDINGS OF TWO REPORTS.

THE TWO REPORTS ARE: THE STUDY ON THE HONG KONG ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY PREPARED BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND THEIR EXTERNAL CONSULTANT ARTHUR D. LITTLE INTERNATIONAL INC., AND THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT STUDY.

IN AUGUST 1981, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE THEN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO CARRY OUT A STUDY ON HOW THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY CAN DIVERSIFY INTO HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS. TEN RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE IN THE STUDY WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN MAY 1983.

/THE STUDY .....

THE STUDY WAS CONSIDERED BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN JULY 1983 FOLLOWING WHICH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WAS APPOINTED IN AUGUST 1983 TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE GIVEN PRACTICAL EFFECT WITHIN EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY.

OF THE TEN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE STUDY, THREE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES. THEY ARE:

- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ETDC);
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRECISION METAL-WORKING INSTITUTE (PMI); AND
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPUTER INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE (CIMI).

THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP SUPPORTED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN PRINCIPLE BUT FELT THAT THE CIMI PROPOSAL SHOULD BE PURSUED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION PROPOSAL. THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE FUNDING OF THE ETDC AND THE PMI COULD BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF AN AD VALOREM LEVY ON ELECTRONICS EXPORTS WHICH COULD BE AT A RATE OF 0.03 PER CENT AS IN THE CASE OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING LEVY.

THE WORKING GROUP FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE VIEWS OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AND THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON THE PROPOSED FACILITIES AND METHODS OF FINANCING.

OTHER MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- \* THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SHOULD OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO DEVELOP THE VARIOUS ASPECTS TO A PROPOSAL FOR A STUDY ON VENTURE CAPITAL.
- \* THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SHOULD BE INVITED TO WORK WITH THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WITH A VIEW TO SUBSCRIBING TO OVERSEAS MARKET STUDIES AND LOCALIZING THE FINDINGS TO MAKE THEM DIGESTIBLE TO THE LOCAL INDUSTRY.
- \* TO EXPEDITE FOREIGN CERTIFICATION: GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO SPEED-UP APPROVAL PROCEDURE.
- \* TO USE DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR THE STIMULATION OF TECHNOLOGY-INTENSE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.
- \* TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY ON A REGULAR BASIS.

- 9 -

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL THEREFORE BE SENDING COPIES OF THE TWO REPORTS TO THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR COMMENTS. THEY WILL HAVE THREE MONTHS IN WHICH TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS, INCLUDING THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED LEVY, TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE IDB.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE'S STUDY TOGETHER WITH THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP'S REPORT ON IT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN DUE COURSE.

#### BACKGROUND ON THE ETDC AND THE PROPOSED LEVY

THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ON THE HONG KONG ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY SUBMITTED IN MAY 1983 INDICATED THAT WHILST THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED A COMPOUND ANNUAL EXPORT GROWTH RATE OF 25 PER CENT BETWEEN 1971 AND 1981, THE VALUE-ADDED PER UNIT SALE DROPPED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 30 PER CENT IN 1973 - 1977 TO 25 PER CENT IN 1980.

THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS HEAVILY BIASED TOWARDS PRODUCTION AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY IN, FOR EXAMPLE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCT ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, ETC. THIS COULD RESULT IN THE INDUSTRY NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCUMULATE FOR ITSELF THE EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITY TO MOVE UP MARKET.

THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP THEREFORE ACCEPTED THAT AN ETDC, WHICH DIFFERED ONLY IN NAME FROM THE PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY BY THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, +APPEARS THE MOST PRACTICAL AND FEASIBLE APPROACH+ TO GIVE A STRONG IMPETUS FOR THE LOCAL INDUSTRY TO UPGRADE PRODUCTION AND TO EXPLOIT MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ETDC IS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF +TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE+ INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG THROUGH A MECHANISM OF TECHNOLOGY SCREENING, SELECTION, ADAPTATION, DEMONSTRATION, CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING FOR THE DESIGN OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND UPGRADING OF PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY TO MEET INTERNATIONAL MARKET DEMANDS.

THE PROPOSED LEVY IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE INITIAL FUNDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ETDC).

THE PROPOSED LEVY IS INTENDED TO COVER DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ALL ITEMS WHICH ARE EITHER NORMALLY REGARDED AS ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS, OR ARE DEDICATED FOR USE IN ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS, OR CONTAIN AN ELECTRONICS CONTENT, HOWEVER SMALL. THIS COULD VIRTUALLY COVER ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. A FUND CREATED ON THIS BASIS MIGHT THEN BE DEVELOPED TO COVER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERALLY, INCLUDING ALL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, RECOMMENDED BY THE IDB.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 10 -

HK OFFERS GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTRONICS, LIGHT TO MEDIUM ENGINEERING AND METAL INDUSTRIES OFFER CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERSEAS COMPANIES WHICH INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY MAJOR C.G. BERNARD, PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME SEMINAR ORGANISED BY A SWEDISH COMPANY, MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME I LUND, FOR A GROUP OF SENIOR SWEDISH BUSINESS EXECUTIVES VISITING THE FAR EAST.

+WE BELIEVE THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS ONE OF THE MAIN KEYS TO DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE, AND THUS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WITH SKILLED ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES AND SOPHISTICATED QUALITY CONTROLS HAD SPREADED INTO SUCH AREAS AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CONTROLS FOR INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, EDUCATIONAL AIDS, AND BUSINESS SYSTEMS.

+PERSONAL, MICRO AND MINI COMPUTERS AND MANY OF THEIR PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENTS ARE NOW MADE IN HONG KONG, AS WELL AS A WIDE RANGE OF SOPHISTICATED COMPONENTS, INCLUDING SILICON CHIP WAFERS AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AT THREE NEW PLANTS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED IN THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION ESTATES AT TAI PO.+

+ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR WITH REGARD TO THE ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTER INDUSTRIES IS THE NEED FOR ADVANCED SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION.

+HONG KONG ALREADY HAS A NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN THIS FIELD AND IT APPEARS TO BE AN AREA AT WHICH OUR LOCAL PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY ADEPT, AND WHICH ALSO OFFERS TO THE SWEDISH ELECTRONICS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ROBOTICS INDUSTRIES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO-OPERATION IN BOTH PRODUCTION AND MARKETING,+ HE SAID.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN THE LIGHT TO MEDIUM ENGINEERING AND METALS INDUSTRIES, MAJOR BERNARD POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG ALREADY HAD A STRONG BASE WITH ITS SHIP AND BOATYARDS.

+DEVELOPMENT IN THESE AREAS HAS BEEN LIMITED IN THE PAST BY THE SCARCITY AND HIGH PRICE OF LAND, AND THE LACK OF, FOR EXAMPLE, AN AUTO INDUSTRY WHICH IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PROVIDES THE BASIC DEMAND FOR THE OUTPUT OF THEIR ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

+HOWEVER, THE PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, AND THE SKILLS ACQUIRED THROUGH OUR SHIP BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES IN ENGINEERING, WELDING AND STEEL FABRICATION, LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN AREA WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION,+ HE SAID.

- 11 -

HE CITED THAT THE OUTBOARD MARINE PLANT, MAKING EVINRUDE AND JOHNSON OUTBOARD ENGINES, AND THE EUROASIA SHIPYARDS NOW CONSTRUCTING, REPAIRING, AND FITTING OUT OFFSHORE OIL RIGS, ARE EXAMPLES OF ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN HONG KONG.

+BOTH THESE OPERATIONS ARE LOCATED ON LAND OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. ONE OF THE FACTORS WORKING IN OUR FAVOUR HERE IS THE HIGH COST OF FREIGHT FOR THE DELIVERY OF LARGE FABRICATED METAL EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES TO MARKETS IN THE FAR EAST.

+OUR ABILITIES IN THIS FIELD ALSO ENABLE US TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN THE FABRICATION AND ASSEMBLY OF THEIR EQUIPMENTS ENABLING THEM TO OVERCOME THEIR DISADVANTAGES OF HIGH LABOUR COSTS AND ONEROUS OCEAN FREIGHT CHARGES. WE ARE IN FACT NOW DEALING WITH A NUMBER OF SUCH PROPOSALS,+ MAJOR BERNARD SAID.

OTHER INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE SHOWN GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION AND FOR WHICH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS NOW ACTIVELY ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS ARE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING, DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, FOOD AND DRINK PACKAGING AND PROCESSING.

THERE ARE ALSO GOOD PROSPECTS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, WHILE OPPORTUNITIES ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MACHINERY EQUIPMENT AND VESSELS TO THE OFFSHORE OIL INDUSTRY.

+WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT THERE ARE SOME LINKAGE AND SUPPORT INDUSTRIES WHICH WE LACK AND WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO HELP US DEVELOP OTHER SECTORS OF INDUSTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE STILL DO NOT POSSESS ANY SOPHISTICATED HIGH QUALITY FOUNDRIES AND STILL HAVE TO IMPORT CASTINGS FROM OVERSEAS.

+ONE SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF A SUPPORT INDUSTRY PRODUCING BASIC MANUFACTURERS SUPPLIES, HOWEVER, IS THE DOW CHEMICAL PLANT ON TSING YI WHICH ENSURES THAT WE ARE SUPPLIED WITH THE BASIC RAW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PLASTICS INDUSTRY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.

+WE WELCOME OTHER PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE TO HELP US ENSURE THE RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY OF MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS AND HELP REDUCE COSTS OF PRODUCTION,+ HE SAID.

BESIDE THOSE WELL-KNOWN FACTORS WHICH MAKE HONG KONG AN IDEAL PLACE AS AN OFF-SHORE MANUFACTURING BASE, MAJOR BERNARD REMINDED OVERSEAS INDUSTRIALISTS NOT TO NEGLECT THE POTENTIAL OF THE HONG KONG MARKET.

+A RECENT SURVEY OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY SHOWED THAT LOCAL SALES FORM THE LARGEST SINGLE SECTOR BY VALUE AND ACCOUNT FOR A THIRD OF THEIR TOTAL SALES, EVEN EXCEEDING THOSE TO OUR LARGEST EXPORT MARKET - THE UNITED STATES,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 12 -

NEW CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION OPENED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAI SUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION ON HEI LING CHAU WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NEWLY BUILT MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON PROVIDES ACCOMMODATION FOR 276 YOUNG MALE OFFENDERS BETWEEN 14 AND 21 YEARS OF AGE SERVING MEDIUM TO LONG SENTENCES.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT THE OPENING OF THE INSTITUTION WAS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH ALSO MARKED AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEI LING CHAU AS AN OPERATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES RUN BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

NOTING THAT THE NUMBERS OF YOUNG OFFENDERS ADMITTED TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCREASED FROM 1 200 IN 1980 TO 1 800 IN 1983, AND NOW REPRESENTED MORE THAN 18 PER CENT OF TOTAL ADMISSIONS, HE SAID THAT THE NEW INSTITUTION WOULD ENABLE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH THE TREND AND RELEASE MUCH-NEEDED ACCOMMODATION IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS AS WELL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, SAID THAT THE INSTITUTION WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS AN EXTENSION TO THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE ON HEI LING CHAU, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL DORMITORY ACCOMMODATION WITH KITCHEN AND WORKSHOPS.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT WITNESSED A DROP IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH A MORE INTENSIVE BUT SHORTENED TREATMENT PERIOD. MEANWHILE, THE DEMAND FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS INCREASED, AND WAS CAUSING IN PARTICULAR, OVERCROWDING IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY AT PIK UK.

+PLANS WERE THEREFORE CHANGED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS SITUATION,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT EIGHT INSTITUTIONS FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, A SIZABLE PROPORTION OF DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL RESOURCES.

+FOR THIS REASON, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, THERE WILL BE AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AT HEADQUARTERS WITH THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING THE PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT IN THE INSTITUTIONS SET ASIDE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS,+ MR GARNER ANNOUNCED.

THIS ALSO ILLUSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE TRAINING OF YOUNG OFFENDERS, HE SAID.

/AT THE .....

- 13 -

AT THE INSTITUTION, YOUNG OFFENDERS ARE GIVEN SCHOOL COURSES, PHYSICAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, TAILORING, CARPENTRY AND PRINTING. THEY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN REGULAR COUNSELLING AND THOSE WHO SERVED SENTENCES OF MORE THAN THREE MONTHS WILL ON DISCHARGE BE SUBJECT TO 12 MONTHS' AFTERCARE.

ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE INSTITUTION IS THE INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR ENERGY PLANT ON THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, SUPPLYING HOT WATER FOR THE KITCHEN AND SHOWERS. IT ALSO PROVIDES HOT WATER TO THE SHOWER ROOM AND LAUNDRY OF THE ADJACENT HEI LING CHAU ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE.

THE PLANT, COMPLETED AT A COST OF \$1.7 MILLION, HAS A HEAT-ABSORBING COLLECTOR WHICH HAS A SOLAR PANEL AREA OF 430 SQUARE METRES. AN OIL-FIRED BOILER IS ALSO USED ALONG WITH THE SYSTEM WHEN THERE IS INSUFFICIENT SUNSHINE.

IN ADDITION, ITS KITCHEN IS CAPABLE OF CATERING FOR 1 200 PERSONS AND NOW PROVIDES MEALS FOR THE INSTITUTION AND FOR THE ADJACENT ADDICTION CENTRE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUSES WILL CONTINUE VITAL ROLE: SCOTT  
\* \* \* \*

BUSES WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE LOCAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM BY BEING THE BIGGEST SINGLE CARRIER, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MILLIONS OF PASSENGERS EVERY DAY WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPECT RELIABLE, FLEXIBLE AND REASONABLY PRICED TRAVEL BY BUS, AND THE KMB'S OVERHAUL CENTRE IN TUEN MUN WOULD HELP KMB TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE CENTRE'S OPENING CEREMONY, MR SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KMB SHARED THE COMMON GOAL OF PROVIDING SATISFACTORY PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEW TOWNS.

+BUT THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT HONG KONG MUST HAVE AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM= AND IN OUR SYSTEM, BUSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE BIGGEST SINGLE CARRIER, AND THUS TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE, AS FAR INTO THE FUTURE AS WE CAN SEE,+ MR SCOTT NOTED.

EARLIER, MR SCOTT SAID THAT THE KMB OVERHAUL CENTRE WAS PURPOSE-BUILT TO ENABLE 600 EMPLOYEES TO OVERHAUL SOME 200 BUSES A MONTH, REFLECTING GREAT CREDIT ON THE KMB AND ON HONG KONG.

HE ADDED: +THE CENTRE WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE COMPANY'S POLICY OF CONTINUALLY IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF ITS SERVICE TO NEARLY THREE MILLION PASSENGERS EACH DAY. THE COMPANY WELL UNDERSTANDS THAT BETTER MAINTENANCE LEADS TO MORE RELIABLE SERVICE, AND IN THE LONG RUN HELPS TO REDUCE UPWARD PRESSURE ON FARES.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG HAS BEEN SPARED THE RAVAGES OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CAUSED BY PARASITES, BACTERIA AND VIRUSES ALTHOUGH IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD THESE DISEASES CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM. THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (MEDICAL SERVICES), DR S.F. LAM AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS HAD REDUCED THE INCIDENCE OF ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES LIKE TYPHOID, PARATYPHOID AND GASTRO-INTESTINAL INFECTIONS, HONG KONG WAS EXPERIENCING A RESURGENCE OF MALARIA (A PARASITIC DISEASE) AND HEPATITIS (A VIRAL DISEASE).

+THIS IS WITHOUT DOUBT DUE TO MORE LOCALS TRAVELLING ABOUT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES,+ DR LAM SAID.

ON THE CURATIVE SIDE, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A PROGRESSIVE DECLINE IN THE PROPORTION OF DEATHS IN INFANCY, CHILDHOOD AND EARLY ADULT LIFE OVER THE LAST FIVE DECADES.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF DEATHS WOULD NOW BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR BETWEEN THE AGE OF 70 AND 80. THIS DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT HAS LED MANY TO INQUIRE WHETHER HUMANS MIGHT, UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS, LIVE TO BE 100, HE SAID.

+IN THE PAST 50 YEARS, SOME CHANGES OF IMPORTANCE IN THE INCIDENCE OF DISEASE MAY BE RELATED TO SOCIAL CHANGES.

+THESE ARE: THE INCREASED USE OF ALCOHOL, ADDICTIVE DRUGS AND MOTORCYCLES BY BOTH SEXES AND OF CIGARETTES BY WOMEN, INCREASED INDUSTRIAL EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS, PARTICULARLY IN MEN, AND A GREATER NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS OF OPPOSITE OR THE SAME GENDER,+ THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID.

TOUCHING ON THE EFFECT OF SMOKING ON PEOPLE'S HEALTH, DR LAM SAID AVOIDANCE OF SMOKING ALONE WOULD REDUCE THE MORTALITY FROM ALL CANCERS BY ABOUT A THIRD.

ON THE QUESTION OF DIET, DR LAM SAID WHETHER THE 20TH CENTURY DIET WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTAIN DISEASES WAS STILL A MATTER FOR DEBATE.

+HOWEVER, A HOST OF SUCH DISEASES LIKE GASTRIC AND INTESTINAL CANCERS, CORONARY HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, DIVERTICULITIS, DUODENAL ULCER AND CONSTIPATION HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO IMPROPER DIET,+ HE SAID.

DR LAM ALSO SAID THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL WERE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THE PRODUCTION OF DISEASE IN THE DRINKER HIMSELF AS THEY INCLUDED INJURIES INFLICTED UNDER ITS INFLUENCE INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE ON OTHERS.

- 15 -

+ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, THERE IS NOW STRONG IF NOT QUITE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT A DAILY PINT OR TWO OF BEER OR A FEW GLASSES OF WINE WOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH FROM HEART AND HEART-VESSEL DISEASE.

+THUS WE SHOULD AIM TO REDUCE HEAVY DRINKING AND ENCOURAGE LIGHT DRINKING,+ DR LAM SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EYE CLINIC SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
\* \* \* \*

A NEW APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE EYE SESSIONS AT FOUR GOVERNMENT CLINICS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM SUNDAY (APRIL 1).

ALTHOUGH THE CONSULTATION HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME, ALL PATIENTS WILL NOW BE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

NEW CASES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY REFERRAL FROM PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND GOVERNMENT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE FOUR CLINICS ARE THE YAN OI CLINIC IN TUEN MUN, THE YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN YUEN LONG, THE SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN SHEUNG SHUI AND THE TAIPO JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN TAI PO.

ALL BOOKINGS ARE TO BE MADE IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, CASES REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION WILL BE REFERRED TO THE YAU MA TEI EYE CLINIC.

EMERGENCY CASES CAUSED BY INJURIES WILL BE SENT TO THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SECONDARY SCHOOL SYLLABUSES ON SALE  
\* \* \*

THE LATEST EDITION OF SYLLABUSES FOR GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CENTRAL.

THE SYLLABUSES ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY CLASSES (FORMS I TO III), HISTORY (FORMS I TO V), AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (FORMS I TO VI).

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYLLABUSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTIONS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, AT 5-8392495, 5-8392497 AND 3-884111 EXT. 272 RESPECTIVELY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

U.S. PREFERENCE SCHEME DETAILS ANNOUNCED  
\* \* \* \*

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) NOTIFIED THE TRADE OF DETAILS OF THE 1984 UNITED STATES GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) SCHEME ANNOUNCED BY THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE ON MARCH 27.

IN THE 1984 U.S. GSP SCHEME, 22 NEW ITEMS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST OF OVER 3 000 PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT. THREE PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE ITEMS (WATERBED MATTRESSES, WATERBED MATTRESS LINERS AND FISHING REELS) HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ELIGIBLE LIST. THESE CHANGES APPLY TO ALL BENEFICIARIES INCLUDING HONG KONG. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THE THREE EXCLUDED ITEMS WAS US\$1.3 M. IN 1983.

APART FROM THE ABOVE THREE ITEMS, HONG KONG HAS ALSO BEEN EXCLUDED FROM GSP DUTY-FREE TREATMENT IN 52 OTHER U.S. TARIFF SCHEDULE ITEMS. THE NEWLY EXCLUDED ITEMS INCLUDE FIXED-FOCUS CAMERAS, PORTABLE AIR-PURIFIERS, PLAYING CARDS, TOY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SCALE MODEL RAILROAD EQUIPMENT, TELEPHONIC APPARATUS, CB RADIOS. IN 1983, HONG KONG WAS EXCLUDED IN 44 ITEMS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HONG KONG IS REDESIGNATED ELIGIBLE FOR TWO ITEMS WHICH WERE EXCLUDED IN 1983. THESE ARE STUFFED TOY FIGURES AND SKINS FOR TOY FIGURES. THE VALUE OF U.S. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THESE TWO ITEMS WAS US\$1.2 M IN 1983.

THESE CHANGES IN PRODUCT ELIGIBILITY FOR 1984 U.S. GSP WILL TAKE EFFECT ON MARCH 30, 1984.

THE VALUE OF U. S. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN 1983 OF GSP ITEMS WAS US\$3 036 M, OF WHICH US\$1 934 M WAS EXCLUDED FROM GSP BENEFITS AND US\$1 102 M WAS GRANTED DUTY-FREE TREATMENT. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THE 55 ITEMS INCLUDED NOW AMOUNTED TO US\$ 2 011 M IN 1983.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. GSP PRODUCT LIST IS REVIEWED EVERY YEAR.

A PRODUCT MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SCHEME UNDER EITHER A +COMPETITIVE NEED+ CRITERION OR THE +GRADUATION+ CRITERION, OR AS A RESULT OF PETITIONS MADE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BY UNITED STATES PRODUCERS. HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE GRADUATION POLICY ADOPTED BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1981, BECAUSE EXCLUSION UNDER THIS POLICY IS NOT BASED ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA AND COULD LEAD TO DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION. HONG KONG HAS EXPRESSED THIS VIEW ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

RAILWAY AREA PLANS AMENDED  
\* \* \*

RAILWAY AREA PLANS NOS. 12A AND 15B FOR THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BETWEEN SHEUNG WAN AND SHAU KEI WAN HAVE BEEN AMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE SUBSTITUTE RAILWAY AREA PLANS NOS. 12B AND 15C, WHICH REPLACE THE PREVIOUSLY GAZETTED RAILWAY AREA PLANS NOS. 12A AND 15B RESPECTIVELY FOR THIS SECTION OF THE ISLAND LINE, HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND COPIES OF THE SAID SUBSTITUTE PLANS MAY BE INSPECTED FREE OF CHARGE AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG; AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT OFFICES, MURRAY BUILDING (5TH FLOOR), GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICE.

RAILWAY AREA PLAN NO. 12B INCORPORATES ALL THE LAND SHOWN ON THE REPLACED RAILWAY AREA PLAN NO. 12A AND ADDITIONAL AREAS OF LAND KNOWN AS 258-262 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND 541-543 HENNESSY ROAD. RAILWAY AREA PLAN NO. 15C INCORPORATES ALL THE LAND PREVIOUSLY SHOWN ON THE REPLACED RAILWAY AREA PLAN NO. 15B AND ADDITIONAL AREAS OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED NORTH POINT STATION AND AT NO. 6 MARBLE ROAD.

THE SUBSTITUTE PLANS WILL ASSIST PROPERTY OWNERS, WHOSE LAND MAY BE AFFECTED BY RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, IN IDENTIFYING THE EXTENT OF THE LAND INCLUDED IN THE RAILWAY AREA.

IF LAND WITHIN THE RAILWAY AREA IS RESUMED OR EASEMENTS ARE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF BUILDING AND OPERATING THE ISLAND LINE, COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID TO THOSE ELIGIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NORTH POINT STREET CHANGES FOR MTR WORK  
\* \* \* \* \*

A NUMBER OF STREET ALTERATIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN NORTH POINT TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN MTR ENTRANCE AND FOOTBRIDGE ALONG FUK YUEN STREET, ACROSS ELECTRIC ROAD AND KING'S ROAD FOR THE FORTRESS HILL STATION.

THE ENTRANCE AND FOOTBRIDGE WILL PROVIDE A GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR MTR COMMUTERS AND PEDESTRIANS FROM NORTH OF KING'S ROAD TO THE FORTRESS HILL STATION CONCOURSE.

NOTICE OF THIS IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE STREET ALTERATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER, AND THAT ALTERNATIVE TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE.

/DURING CONSTRUCTION .....

- 18 -

DURING CONSTRUCTION WORK, THE EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAYS OF KING'S ROAD NEARBY AND THEIR ADJACENT FOOTPATHS WILL BE TEMPORARILY REDUCED IN WIDTH. THE WHOLE LENGTH OF FUK YUEN STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. THE CARRIAGEWAY AND THE FOOTPATHS OF ELECTRIC ROAD NEARBY WILL ALSO BE TEMPORARILY REDUCED IN WIDTH.

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK, PERMANENT ALTERATIONS WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT. THESE INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF THE SECTION OF THE FOOTPATH OF KING'S ROAD ADJACENT TO THE FOOTBRIDGE, THE PEDESTRIANISATION OF FUK YUEN STREET, AND THE PROVISION OF NEW FOOTPATHS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES STORE IN ELECTRIC ROAD, LEADING TO THE ACCESS STAIRS OF THE FOOTBRIDGE.

DETAILS OF THE AFFECTED AREA ARE SHOWN ON PLAN MT/G/279. COPIES OF THE PLAN AND THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER AUTHORIZING THE STREET ALTERATIONS MAY BE INSPECTED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9.30 AM AND 4.30 PM ON ANY DAY OTHER THAN SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AT THE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) AT CGO WEST WING; THE DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) AT 884-886 KING'S ROAD; OR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION IN MURRAY BUILDING, COTTON TREE DRIVE.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE ALTERATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT AND MUST REACH HIS OFFICE WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE ROAD IS REINSTATED IN THE CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ALTERATION OR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF ONE YEAR FROM THE COMPLETION OF THE ALTERATION IN THE CASE OF PERMANENT ALTERATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## BILL SEEKS TO FACILITATE TRIBUNAL WORK

\* \* \* \*

MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE ARE PROPOSED IN A BILL PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

THE AMENDMENTS AIM AT INTRODUCING MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL BY PROVIDING FOR

- (A) THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CHIEF ADJUDICATOR; AND
- (B) THE MAKING OF REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL.

THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 25 AND IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ITS THIRD READING ON MAY 2.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12/F., CHATER ROAD, HONG KONG OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GRAVES IN FIVE CEMETERIES TO BE EXHUMED

\* \* \* \*

ALL HUMAN REMAINS IN THE GRAVES OF FIVE PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND AT OUTLYING ISLANDS IN 1977 ARE DUE FOR EXHUMATION.

A TOTAL OF 8 922 GRAVES AT THE PUBLIC CEMETERIES WILL BE AFFECTED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

OF THE GRAVES, 7 326 ARE AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY, 647 AT SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY, 493 AT SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY, 402 AT CHEUNG CHAU CEMETERY AND 54 AT TAI O CEMETERY.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM THESE FIVE PUBLIC CEMETERIES IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE ANNUAL RECYCLE OF RECOVERY OF GRAVE SPACE FROM THESE PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR RE-USE PURPOSE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE BURIED IN THESE GRAVES ARE ADVISED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXHUMATION BEFORE APRIL 30 (MONDAY), THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THEY CAN APPLY FOR EXHUMATION AT THE CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA OFFICE OF THE NTSD AT 6 CHEONG HANG ROAD, IN HUNG HOM.

REMAINS NOT REMOVED OR DISPOSED OF AFTER APRIL 30, WILL BE EXHUMED AND CREMATED AT A GOVERNMENT CREMATORIUM AND THE ASHES WILL BE REBURIED AT THE SANDY RIDGE URN CEMETERY OR OTHER URN CEMETERY.

----- 0 -----

PUBLIC WARNED OF FIRE RISKS DURING CHING MING

\* \* \* \*

GRAVE-SWEEPERS AND PICNICKERS WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTION AGAINST HILL FIRES DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON APRIL 4 (WEDNESDAY).

+IN VIEW OF THE RECENT SCARCITY OF RAINFALL, CARELESS HANDLING OF BURNING ITEMS COULD EASILY CAUSE FIRES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP WARNED.

+FIRE RISKS CAN BE GREATLY REDUCED IF THE PUBLIC OBSERVE A FEW SIMPLE RULES,+ HE ADDED.

/THESE RULES.....

THESE RULES ARE :

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

ANYONE WHO CAUSES A FIRE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED.

+ON CONVICTION, HE COULD BE FINED A MAXIMUM OF \$5 000 AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A TOTAL OF 28 HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TO SPREAD THE FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGE, ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGH TV AND RADIO AND AT THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY STATIONS SHORTLY BEFORE AND DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAM OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE MOBILE UNIT OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES WILL ALSO VISIT MAJOR BUS TERMINALS AND COUNTRY PARK AREAS TO GIVE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE.

----- 0 -----

EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL SURVEY FOR FIRST QUARTER  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING IN APRIL 1984 A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 83 000 ESTABLISHMENTS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS) AND THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS), WITH FULL ENUMERATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON MARCH 30, 1984 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JANUARY - MARCH 1984.

/ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED .....

- 21 -

ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THE SERVICES SECTOR WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR KIND OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOW BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 82), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

IF RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS (PRINTED AT THE BACK OF QUESTIONNAIRES) : 5-436551, 5-444301, 5-455661 AND 5-455668.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL BEING LANDSCAPED  
\* \* \* \* \*

WORK HAS STARTED ON LANDSCAPING THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND STAFF QUARTERS AT SHA TIN.

A \$695 000 CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT WAS AWARDED RECENTLY BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO TARZAN LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS LIMITED.

THE WORK INCLUDES PLANTING 1 000 TREE SEEDLINGS, SHRUBS AND PLANTS AND PROVIDING FLOWER BEDS IN OPEN AREAS SURROUNDING BUILDINGS IN THE HOSPITAL COMPLEX.

OVER 30 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF TREE SEEDLINGS WILL BE PLANTED AND MUCH OF THE PLANTING AREA WILL BE TURFED.

THE LANDSCAPING WORK WILL BE FINISHED IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS.

THE 1 448-BED PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL OPEN IN MAY AND WILL BE THE FIRST FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN HONG KONG, PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE INCREASING POPULATION OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FACILITIES INCLUDE A SPECIALIST CLINIC, STAFF QUARTERS AND A NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE COMPLEX, WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 10.22 HECTARES, WILL ALSO PROVIDE TEACHING FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

IT COSTS \$645 MILLION TO BUILD AND EQUIP.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DRAGON BOAT ROWERS SOUGHT  
\* \* \* \*

ROWERS ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FIRST-EVER DRAGON BOAT RACE ALONG SHING MUN RIVER TO CELEBRATE THE FORTHCOMING TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

THE RACE, TO BE HELD ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 3 - A DAY BEFORE THE FESTIVAL - WILL COVER 1 000 METRES, FROM THE SHING MUN RIVER MOUTH TO THE EASTERN COURSE OF THE RIVER NEAR THE SHA TIN FLOATING RESTAURANT.

THIRTEEN FIBRE-GLASS DRAGON BOATS, DONATED BY THE SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES COMPANY LIMITED, WILL BE USED IN THE RACE.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE RACE TODAY, THE ORGANISER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR ROGER LAU, SAID ABOUT \$250 000 WOULD BE SPENT ON THE EVENT AND THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD HAD CONTRIBUTED \$43 000 TOWARDS IT.

+THE SECTION OF THE 200-METRE-WIDE SHING MUN RIVER BETWEEN THE SHA TIN FLOATING RESTAURANT AND THE RIVER MOUTH HAS THE BEST WATER COURSE AND IS IDEAL FOR ROWING COMPETITIONS,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST EVENT OF ITS KIND IN THE DISTRICT, WE EXPECT A LARGE CROWD OF SPECTATORS WILL TURN UP ON THAT DAY.+

AS A RESULT, HE SAID, A VACANT SITE LOCATED NEXT TO SHA TIN CITY ONE AND OPPOSITE TO THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, WOULD BE USED TO ACCOMMODATE THE SPECTATORS.

FOR THE RACE, APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO TEAMS OF 32 MEMBERS EACH.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE FROM MONDAY (APRIL 2).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 14.

THE TEAMS SELECTED WILL EACH HAVE TO PAY AN APPLICATION FEE OF \$500 AND A DEPOSIT OF \$1 000.

+TRAINING SESSIONS WILL THEN BE ARRANGED FOR EVERY PARTICIPATING TEAM,+ HE SAID.

ANY ENQUIRIES ON THE RACE CAN BE MADE TO THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT 0-611465 AND 0-616871, OR THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 0-6048087 EXT 331.

FIRE SERVICES FEES INCREASED  
\* \* \*

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE OF CHARGES FOR CERTIFICATES, REPORTS AND LICENCES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASES ARE FOR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED IN CONNECTION WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS, FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OR FOR PERMISSION TO OPERATE A TIMBER STORE.

THE NEW CHARGES ARE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

+THE LAST REVISION FOR SUCH DOCUMENTS WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID.

INCLUDED AMONG THE INCREASES ARE FEES FOR FOUR TYPES OF REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES, FROM THE PRESENT \$50 TO \$120, AND THE FEE FOR THE TIMBER STORE LICENCE, FROM \$300 TO \$750.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONTEST TO WOO VOTERS WITH SONG  
\* \* \* \*

THE FIRST EVENT OF THE 18-DISTRICT AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST WILL BEGIN IN SHA TIN ON SUNDAY (APRIL 1) EVENING.

TWELVE YOUNG AMATEURS CHOSEN FROM AMONG 255 CONTESTANTS THROUGH A SERIES OF AUDITIONS, WILL COMPETE IN THE DISTRICT'S CONTEST AT THE SHA TIN CARITAS CENTRE STARTING AT 8 PM.

THE CHAMPION OF THE NIGHT WILL REPRESENT SHA TIN IN A SEMI-FINAL TO BE HELD AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON AUGUST 11.

MORE THAN 5 000 PEOPLE HAVE ENTERED THE TERRITORY-WIDE SINGING CONTEST, WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ORGANISATION AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO REGISTER MORE VOTERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

RESPONSE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY GOOD IN KWUN TONG, SHAM SHUI PO AND TSUEN WAN, EACH HAVING MORE THAN 500 CONTESTANTS.

IN THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS, SINGING COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD IN ALL 18 DISTRICTS AND THE WINNER OF EACH DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART IN THE SEMI-FINAL.

NINE FINALISTS WILL BE SELECTED IN THE SEMI-FINAL FOR A GRAND FINAL TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8 AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 24 -

THE BEST PERFORMER IN THE GRAND FINAL WILL WIN A RECORDING CONTRACT WITH A LEADING LOCAL COMPANY, WHILE OTHER WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES WORTH MORE THAN \$40 000.

A SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID 1 000 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED FOR SUNDAY'S SHOW WHICH WILL BE RECORDED AND SHOWN ON ASIA TELEVISION AT 10.30 PM ON MAY 7. THE FIRST THREE WINNERS WILL APPEAR ON A RTHK SHOW ON CHANNEL TWO AT 5 PM ON APRIL 8.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG, AND MR RAYMOND NG AND MR CHU PUI-HING OF RTHK WILL BE OFFICIATING GUESTS FOR THE SHOW.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST TO BE HELD AT 8 PM ON SUNDAY (APRIL 1) IN THE SHA TIN CARITAS CENTRE ON MAN LAI ROAD, TAI WAI.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW COLLECTION OFFICE SET UP  
\* \* \*

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT A NEW LICENCE FEES COLLECTION OFFICE WILL BE SET UP AT THE SHA TIN EXCISE SUB-OFFICE IN KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY (KCR) HOUSE ON MONDAY (APRIL 2).

THE COLLECTION OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF THE KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION, WILL COLLECT DUTIABLE LICENCE FEES FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

SATURDAY HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO NOON.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE PAYMENT OFFICE AT TELEPHONE NO. 0-6065680 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/25 .....

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 25 -

TWO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS AMENDED  
\* \* \* \*

THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS FOR TSING YI AND WANG TAU HOM AND TUNG TAU ARE BEING AMENDED.

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE WANG TAU HOM AND TUNG TAU PLAN INVOLVED DELETION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT FROM A 1 600-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT FUK LO TSUN ROAD.

THE SITE, WHICH IS DESIGNATED FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USE, ALSO INCLUDES COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK.

THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WILL NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE PLANNED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE NEARBY KOWLOON CITY MARKET COMPLEX.

UNDER THE AMENDMENT TO THE TSING YI PLAN, A PROPOSED RECLAMATION OF SEVEN HECTARES ON THE EAST COAST OF THE ISLAND IS TO BE DELETED DUE TO OBJECTIONS. THE RECLAMATION WAS DESIGNATED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE.

THE AMENDED PLANS CAN BE SEEN AT CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG; THE TOWN PLANNING DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WONG TAI SIN, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 4TH AND 5TH FLOORS, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON; AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FOU WAH CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR, 210, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT AMENDMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, AT \$10 PER UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$60 PER COLOURED COPY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/26 .....

FOUR N.T. SITES FOR RENT  
\* \* \* \*

FOUR NEW TERRITORIES SITES ARE BEING OFFERED ON SHORT-TERM TENANCIES BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THREE ARE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

TWO OF THESE ARE FOR STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT OWNED BY BUILDING CONTRACTORS. THEY MEASURE 10 000 AND 2 100 SQUARE METRES.

THE OTHER SHA TIN SITE HAS AN AREA OF 2 017 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR PARKING, AND FOR MINOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF GOODS VEHICLES.

THE REMAINING SITE IS AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA IN YUEN LONG AND COVERS 473 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR STORAGE AND REPAIR OF GOODS.

IT CAN ALSO BE USED FOR THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND PAINT-SPRAYING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE INITIAL TENANCIES FOR THE SHA TIN SITES ARE THREE YEARS AND FOR THE YUEN LONG SITE TWO YEARS, ALL RENEWABLE AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS APRIL 13.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE:

- \* LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON WEST), YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (SHA TIN) FOR THE SHA TIN SITES; AND
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (YUEN LONG) FOR THE YUEN LONG SITE.

TENDER PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE ABOVE LOCATIONS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 27 -

WAN CHAI CLEARANCE WORK STEPPED UP

\* \* \* \* \*

CLEARANCE WORK IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT WILL BE CARRIED OUT MORE FREQUENTLY FROM NEXT MONTH, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID CLEARANCE SCHEDULES FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPILED AND OPERATIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT TWO TO THREE TIMES EACH MONTH, INSTEAD OF ONCE A MONTH.

+THE TARGET AREA WILL COVER WAN CHAI EAST, WAN CHAI WEST, CAUSEWAY BAY AND HAPPY VALLEY AND 155 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WILL BE CLEARED,+ HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID THAT SINCE THE MONTHLY STREET-BY-STREET CLEARANCE WORK WAS IMPLEMENTED LAST MAY, ABOUT 110 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WERE PULLED DOWN IN 13 OPERATIONS - NINE IN TAI HANG AND FOUR IN WAN CHAI PROPER.

+THE MAJORITY OF THESE STRUCTURES ARE SHOP EXTENSIONS MAINLY FOR STORAGE AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, WITH ONLY 15 PER CENT OF THEM FOR DOMESTIC USE,+ HE SAID.

+BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION AGAINST THOSE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN QUESTION, SUFFICIENT TIME WILL BE ALLOWED FOR THE AFFECTED PERSONS TO RECTIFY ANY IRREGULARITIES OR MAKE NECESSARY ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

+ALL CLEARANCES WERE CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY.

+THE FACT THAT MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WERE DEMOLISHED BY THE OWNERS THEMSELVES BEFORE THE CLEARANCE DAY CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE RESIDENTS' WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE,+ HE ADDED.

TODAY, THE FINAL PHASE OF THE TAI HANG CLEARANCE WAS CARRIED OUT, INVOLVING THE DEMOLITION OF SEVEN ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE BACKLANES OF SUN CHUN STREET AND BROWN STREET.

THE STREET-BY-STREET CLEARANCE WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, AND JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE POLICE, THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, THE LANDS, HOUSING, URBAN SERVICES, FIRE SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/28 .....

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 28 -

FIRING PRACTICE DATES  
\* \* \* \*

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 16 DAYS IN APRIL, AND THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DAYS AND TIMES OF THE PRACTICE :

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
APRIL 2 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 3 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 7 (SATURDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 9 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 10 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 11 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 12 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 13 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 16 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 17 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
APRIL 18 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 19 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 24 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 25 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 26 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 27 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

- 29 -

NO RIGHT TURN

\* \* \*

FROM 11 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 31), THE RIGHT TURNS FROM CHEUNG CHING ESTATE ACCESS ROAD ONTO TSING YI ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE BANNED TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

TRAFFIC FROM THE ACCESS ROAD HEADING FOR TSING YI ROAD WESTBOUND WILL HAVE TO USE THE TSING YI BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT BEFORE REJOINING TSING YI ROAD WESTBOUND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

\* \* \*

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE CHING MING FESTIVAL ON APRIL 4 IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY FOR ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$8 500 A MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN SAID EMPLOYEES MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

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

- - - - 0 - - - -

COACH SERVICE WITHDRAWN

\* \* \*

RESIDENTIAL COACH ROUTE 401 BETWEEN POKFULAM VILLAGE AND CENTRAL WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SUNDAY (APRIL 1) DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -