



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK RESPONDING TO PACIFIC BASIN'S ECONOMIC GROWTH: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG'S PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, AND BUILDING OF OTHER MAJOR FACILITIES ARE A RESPONSE TO THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMY WHICH INEVITABLY WILL TIE THE TERRITORY MORE CLOSELY TO THE UNITED STATES. THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY, LOS ANGELES TIME).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL IN LOS ANGELES, SIR DAVID SAID THE LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES WERE ALREADY STRONG WITH SOME 900 AMERICAN FIRMS AT WORK IN THE TERRITORY, 54 OF THEM CALIFORNIA-BASED MULTINATIONALS.

BOTH HONG KONG AND LOS ANGELES WERE PART OF THE NEW PHENOMENON OF PACIFIC RIM GROWTH. THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"THE US NOW DOES MORE TRADE ACROSS THE PACIFIC THAN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. THIS IS AS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN OUR OWN TRADE FIGURES AS IT IS IN THE VOLUME OF CARGO THAT PASSES THROUGH LONG BEACH," HE SAID.

HONG KONG WAS NOW THE NUMBER ONE CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD. ITS CONTAINER TERMINALS WERE OWNED AND MANAGED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES, ONE OF THEM AMERICAN.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT TRADE PATTERNS WERE CHANGING, AND HONG KONG WAS NO LONGER QUITE SO DEPENDENT ON ITS TRADITIONAL MARKETS IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE.

"TRADE WITH THE ASIAN REGION NOW REPRESENTS ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL TRADE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FIGURES ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE HUB ROLE WHICH HONG KONG NOW PLAYED IN THE REGION -- A HUB POSITION PARTLY DETERMINED BY GEOGRAPHY AND PARTLY BY ITS DETERMINATION TO REMAIN THE SUPER PORT OF ASIA.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AMERICAN FIRMS WERE THE BIGGEST FOREIGN INVESTORS IN HONG KONG, ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN 36 PER CENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING, EMPLOYING 36,000 WORKERS IN 162 FACTORIES.

"THEY PRODUCE MORE THAN SEVEN PER CENT OF OUR EXPORTS. THEIR TOTAL SALES WERE ESTIMATED AT US\$2.2 BILLION IN 1988," HE SAID.

"INDEED, JOINT INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IS BIGGER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA EXCEPT JAPAN," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINED HONG KONG'S BIGGEST MARKET, TAKING ONE THIRD OF OUR EXPORTS.

"AND, WHILE WE ARE ONLY YOUR 14TH LARGEST MARKET, WE BUY MORE FROM YOU PER HEAD THAN ANYONE ELSE. ON AVERAGE, EACH PERSON IN HONG KONG BUYS JUST UNDER US\$1,000 IN AMERICAN GOODS EACH YEAR.

/"COMPARE THIS

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"COMPARE THIS WITH JUST OVER US\$300 BY THE JAPANESE AND ONLY US\$234 BY THE EUROPEANS," THE GOVERNOR TOLD HIS AUDIENCE.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT WHILE CALIFORNIA WAS THE SIXTH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, HONG KONG WAS THE STATE'S SIXTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.

"YOU ALSO KNOW THAT HONG KONG IS LITERALLY HUNGRY FOR YOUR EXPORTS. WE TAKE ONE TENTH OF ALL THE FRESH PRODUCE EXPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES. MOST OF IT COMES FROM CALIFORNIA," HE SAID.

"LAST YEAR CALIFORNIANS SOLD HONG KONG \$2.4 BILLION WORTH OF GOODS," THE GOVERNOR SAID, NOTING THAT THE TERRITORY WAS THE NUMBER ONE MARKET FOR CALIFORNIA ORGANGES AND IN THE TOP THREE FOR VARIOUS OTHER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

"SMALL WONDER THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IS TO OPEN A TRADE OFFICE IN HONG KONG. WE WELCOME YOU WARMLY. WE KNOW YOU WILL DO GOOD BUSINESS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PACIFIC RIM ECONOMIES HAD LED THE WAY IN MULTIPLE SOURCE MANUFACTURING AND THAT EVERYONE HAD BENEFITTED FROM THIS.

"THE POSSIBILITIES FOR TRADE EXPANSION ARE LIMITLESS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT AS CHINA'S ECONOMY HAD OPENED UP SO HAD THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES.

NOTING THAT MANY HONG KONG FIRMS HAD ALREADY ADJUSTED TO THIS NEW COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE, SIR DAVID SAID: "OUTWARD PROCESSING IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY AND THE TRADE IN COMPONENTS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY.

"THERE IS A PARALLEL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS. HONG KONG HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS AND THE MODERNISATION OF THE CHINESE ECONOMY WHICH WILL FLOW FROM IT," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE THE EVENTS OF JUNE 4 HAD A TRAUMATIC EFFECT ON HONG KONG, ECONOMICALLY THE IMPACT WAS SHORT AND SHARP WITH EQUITIES LOSING 30 PER CENT OF THEIR VALUE, PROPERTY PRICES DROPPING BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PER CENT, CONSUMER SALES FALLING, AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY AND TOURIST SALES SUFFERING FROM WHOLESALE CANCELLATION OF CHINA TOURS.

LONG QUEUES HAD FORMED OUTSIDE FOREIGN CONSULATES AS PEOPLE SOUGHT APPLICATION FORMS FOR EMIGRATION, AND THERE WERE STRONG CALLS ON THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GRANT RIGHT OF ABODE TO HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"BUT HONG KONG IS A VERY RESILIENT PLACE. SINCE JUNE 4 WE HAVE BEEN PICKING UP THE PIECES," HE SAID.

RECENT SUBSTANTIAL PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG PROJECTS HAD RESULTED FROM THE DECISIONS OF RATIONAL, PRUDENT BUSINESSMEN, HE NOTED.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THAT SINCE JUNE, SOME HAD CALLED FOR A RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, BUT HE DID NOT SEE THIS AS A REALISTIC OPTION.

"HONG KONG'S FUTURE LIES WITH CHINA. THE WAY IN WHICH IT WILL KEEP ITS AUTONOMY IN MOST OF WHAT IT DOES IS LAID DOWN IN A SOLEMN AND BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

"THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR A NEW LEASE ON FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT TERMS. WHAT WE MUST STRIVE FOR IS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN BOTH SPIRIT AND LETTER," HE SAID.

ON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM, THE GOVERNOR RESTATED THAT HONG KONG UNDERSTOOD AMERICAN SENSITIVITIES ON THE ISSUE OF RETURNING BOAT PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMELAND.

HE SAID THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT GENEVA IN A MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF EXACTLY HOW TO HANDLE THE QUESTION OF RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES THOSE WHO WERE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

"YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM. BUT, AS YOU LOOK AT THE PROBLEM WE AND THE OTHERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FACE IN DEALING WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COME HERE TO THE UNITED STATES BUT WILL NEVER GET HERE, I ASK YOU TO LOOK AT HOW WE ARE TRYING TO DEAL WITH THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY WITH SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING," SIR DAVID SAID.

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HK MUST ULTIMATELY TAKE OWN DECISIONS ON VBP

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HONG KONG MUST ULTIMATELY TAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND GO AHEAD IN A WAY THAT IT THINKS IS RIGHT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 18).

HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO DO SO EVEN IF IT DID NOT HAVE "TOTAL 100 PER CENT AGREEMENT" FROM EVERYONE IN THE WORLD, SIR DAVID TOLD REPORTERS IN A PRESS BRIEFING BEFORE FLYING TO CALIFORNIA.

"WE HAVE TO FACE IT, WE HAVE TO TAKE THE DECISIONS," HE SAID.

HONG KONG HAD TO EXPLAIN, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, WHY IT WAS TAKING THESE DECISIONS.

"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT INDEED THAT WE SHOULD EXPLAIN OUR THINKING AS CAREFULLY AS WE CAN TO PEOPLE LIKE THE UNITED STATES, BUT ULTIMATELY WE HAVE TO TAKE THE DECISION BASED ON WHAT WE THINK IS THE RIGHT POLICY FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS BY NO MEANS A UNANIMOUS VIEW OPPOSED TO THE ORDERLY RETURN OF BOAT PEOPLE TO VIETNAM.

/"THERE'S A

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"THERE'S A WHOLE RANGE OF VIEWS. I HOPE AS A RESULT OF BEING HERE THAT I HAVE PERSUADED MORE PEOPLE OF THE NEED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE POLICY THAT WE THINK IS RIGHT, WHICH IS A POLICY OF ORDERLY RETURN OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NON-REFUGEES AND DEFINED AS BEING NON-REFUGEES," HE SAID.

ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON US/BRITISH RELATIONS IF HONG KONG PROCEEDED WITH THE ORDERLY RETURN OF BOAT PEOPLE, SIR DAVID SAID COUNTRIES LIKE BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WERE VERY MATURE.

"THEY ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF REALISING THAT THEY TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH ON A CERTAIN ISSUE WITHOUT LETTING THAT DAMAGE RELATIONS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SUMMED UP THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AS BEING "TO PUT HONG KONG, OR TO KEEP HONG KONG, ON THE MAP IN WASHINGTON".

IN HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON HE HAD FOUND AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF INTEREST IN HONG KONG, EVEN MORE SO THAN DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISIT TWO YEARS AGO.

SIR DAVID EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT, MR DAN QUAYLE, WOULD NOW BE UNABLE TO MEET HIM BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT HE HAD SENT THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA A MESSAGE EXPRESSING DEEP SYMPATHY ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OVER THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE IN THE EARTHQUAKE.

HE SAID HE WOULD BE GOING AHEAD WITH HIS VISIT TO LOS ANGELES, AND THEN SEE IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO KEEP TO THE SCHEDULE FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

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GOVT AIMS TO START ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME THIS YEAR
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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL AIMING TO START AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

"WE HAVE SET OURSELVES A TARGET OF THE END OF THE YEAR, AND NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED AT THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA CHANGES THAT," HE SAID ON HIS RETURN FROM THE MEETING.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ENDORSED IN JUNE MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IF IT IS TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION.

"WITHOUT AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME, THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IS UNBALANCED AND UNTENABLE.

/"THE BILATERAL

"THE BILATERAL AND THE MULTILATERAL APPROACHES ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE OR MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS THROUGH BOTH CHANNELS.

"WE ARE GOING BACK TO GENEVA IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER TO RECONVENE THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND WE HOPE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS THERE," HE SAID.

MR HANSON SAID THAT AT THE MEETING THERE WAS A GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME WAS NEVER GOING TO BE A SUFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

"THERE WAS ALSO A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT EVERYONE WHO IS NOT A REFUGEE MUST RETURN TO VIETNAM," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THOSE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WHO HAD COME TO HONG KONG WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS, MR HANSON SAID IT WAS ALREADY AGREED IN JUNE IN GENEVA THAT THERE WOULD BE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH THESE PEOPLE.

"WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE UNHCR TO SET UP A SPECIAL PROCEDURE. NOT TO DETERMINE THEIR STATUS. BUT TO DETERMINE WHERE THEIR BEST INTERESTS LIE. NORMALLY THEIR INTERESTS LIE WITH THEIR PARENTS, AND THEIR PARENTS ARE IN VIETNAM.

"WE HAVE NOT CONCLUDED ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE UNHCR, BUT THERE WILL BE A COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT IS THE DURABLE SOLUTION FOR THESE CHILDREN," HE SAID.

"EACH CHILD WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED ON AN INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS," HE ADDED.

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TOP GOVT OFFICIALS TO VISIT CANTON AND PEARL RIVER DELTA

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A DELEGATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS TO LEAVE ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 23) FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT OF MAJOR COASTAL PORTS AND CITIES OF GUANGDONG AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THE 11-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, AND THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN. THE MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE SENIOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL, MARINE, TOWN PLANNING AND AIR TRAFFIC OFFICIALS.

THEY WILL VISIT CANTON, SHENZHEN, ZHUHAI, SHEKOU, DONGGUAN, FOSHAN, ZHONGSHAN AND SHUNDE TO SEE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT THERE.

/THE DELEGATION

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THE DELEGATION WILL BE LOOKING AT THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA, WITH WHICH THE ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF HONG KONG ARE CLOSELY TIED.

IN PARTICULAR THEY WILL SEE PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS, FACILITIES FOR SHIPPING TO HONG KONG, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAJOR TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

IN CANTON, THE DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO MEET GUANGDONG ECONOMIC AND PLANNING OFFICIALS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON THE PHYSICAL PLANNING OF THE REGION AND OF HONG KONG.

THE HONG KONG OFFICIALS WILL ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF GUANGDONG OFFICIALS ON THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACADEMY OF MEDICINE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SOON

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A HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WILL SOON BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO UNDERTAKE THE PLANNING AND PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FORMATION OF THE ACADEMY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ELABORATING ON THE GOVERNOR'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY, MR CHAU SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE PREPARATORY WORK WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE AND NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE ACADEMY'S OPERATIONS.

"THE COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR DAVID TODD, FORMERLY THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

"SOME MEMBERS WILL BE NOMINATED BY THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND BY RELEVANT MEDICAL BODIES, AND OTHERS WILL BE APPOINTED IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD ALSO BE ON THE COMMITTEE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPAL ROLE OF THE ACADEMY WOULD BE TO SET STANDARDS, DEFINE THE CONTENT AND DURATION OF TRAINING COURSES AND ACCREDIT THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THE REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.

"THE ACADEMY WOULD ORGANISE AND SUPERVISE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS IN DIFFERENT MEDICAL SPECIALTIES AND ORGANISE OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES.

"IT WOULD HAVE AS ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE," HE SAID.

/NOTING THAT

NOTING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY WAS THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR CHAU SAID THE WORKING PARTY RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO ESTABLISH FORMALISED, LOCALLY BASED POSTGRADUATE AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES GEARED TOWARDS STANDARDS DEFINED IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH PROGRAMMES WOULD ENABLE DOCTORS TO ACQUIRE SPECIALIST TRAINING MORE EASILY, HELPING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED STANDARDS OF PATIENT CARE.

"BETTER TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS WOULD HELP TO RETAIN DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

"IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO HAVE MEDICAL STANDARDS OF SPECIALISATION DEFINED IN HONG KONG INSTEAD OF ENTIRELY RELYING ON STANDARDS IN OTHER COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE STRUCTURE OF THIS STATUTORY BODY, MR CHAU SAID: "IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE ACADEMY BE MADE UP OF COLLEGES, FACULTIES AND SPECIALTY BOARDS AND WITH A COUNCIL AS ITS GOVERNING BODY."

HE SAID THE ACADEMY COUNCIL WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS, THE SETTING OF STANDARDS, CO-ORDINATION OF POLICIES AND INTER-COLLEGIATE LIAISON.

"THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING AND EXAMINATION IN INDIVIDUAL SPECIALTIES WOULD REST WITH THE COLLEGES AND THEIR FACULTIES AND SPECIALTY BOARDS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE WORKING PARTY HAD RECOMMENDED THAT AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMY, THERE SHOULD BE SEVEN COLLEGES AND SIX FACULTIES.

"THE SEVEN COLLEGES WOULD BE - MEDICINE, SURGERY, ANAESTHESIOLOGY, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, RADIOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY; AND THE SIX FACULTIES WOULD BE - COMMUNITY MEDICINE, PAEDIATRICS, OPHTHALMOLOGY, ORTHOPAEDICS, OTOLARYNGOLOGY AND GENERAL PRACTICE.

"THIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE FURTHER EXAMINED DURING THE FORMATION OF THE ACADEMY. IT IS EXPECTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE NUMBER OF COLLEGES AND FACULTIES WOULD NOT REMAIN FIXED.

"NEW COLLEGES AND FACULTIES WOULD BE ADDED TO THE LIST AS INDIVIDUAL SPECIALTIES DEVELOP AND GROW," HE POINTED OUT.

ON FINANCING, MR CHAU SAID THE WORKING PARTY HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE ACADEMY SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT.

"WHILE IT MAY STILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST WITH SETTING UP COSTS, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT RECURRENT COSTS OF THE ACADEMY WILL BE MET BY THE DOCTORS THEMSELVES AND FROM OTHER SOURCES OF PRIVATE FUNDING," HE SAID.

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HONG KONG ENJOYS HIGH STANDARD OF HEALTH

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THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH IN HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BE GOOD.

ELABORATING ON POINTS IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR LEE SAID THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY IN HONG KONG WAS 74.5 YEARS FOR MALES AND 79.9 YEARS FOR FEMALES.

"THESE ARE HIGHER THAN IN MANY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN," HE ADDED.

"AS FOR THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE, IT HAS DROPPED FROM 37.7 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS IN 1961 TO 7.6 IN 1988, WHILE THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE FOR THE SAME PERIOD DROPPED FROM 0.45 PER THOUSAND TOTAL BIRTHS TO 0.04," HE SAID.

DR LEE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MANY CHILDHOOD INFECTIOUS DISEASES HAD EITHER BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL OR VIRTUALLY ERADICATED.

IN 1961, 1,334 CASES OF DIPHTHERIA, AND 184 CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS WERE REPORTED, WHEREAS IN 1988 NONE OF THESE DISEASES WERE NOTIFIED.

"THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN HIGH VIGILANCE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND DEVELOP FURTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROMOTION OF GOOD HEALTH AND THE PREVENTION OF DISEASES," HE SAID.

ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC), HE SAID MEMBERS OF A WORKING PARTY, SET UP IN AUGUST TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S PHC SERVICES, WAS COLLECTING DATA AND OPINIONS, AND A SURVEY WOULD BE CARRIED OUT NEXT MONTH ON THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES TO FIND OUT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF THE PROVIDERS AND USERS.

IN ADDITION, DR LEE SAID, THE WORKING PARTY WAS LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF DELIVERING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG.

THIS WOULD INCLUDE VISITS BY MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO STUDY THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS THERE.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY WERE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

IN THE MEANTIME, DR LEE SAID, A CLINIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE DEPARTMENT TO LOOK INTO THE VARIOUS AREAS OF THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICE TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO THE PILOT SCHEME TO INTRODUCE MEDICAL RECORDS FOR INDIVIDUAL PATIENTS, WHICH HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN FOUR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS SINCE APRIL, HE SAID THE FEEDBACK SO FAR HAD BEEN FAVOURABLE.

THE SCHEME WOULD BE EVALUATED SHORTLY WITH A VIEW TO DRAWING UP A PLAN TO EXTEND THE SERVICE TO OTHER CLINICS EARLY NEXT YEAR, IN STAGES.

DR LEE SAID A COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE TRAINING OF DOCTORS IN CLINICS WAS SET UP RECENTLY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO ORGANISE POSTGRADUATE TRAINING COURSES TO UPDATE THE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE STAFF IN THE CLINICS AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY MEDICINE.

AS A RESULT, HE ADDED, A SERIES OF REFRESHER COURSES FOR GOVERNMENT CLINIC DOCTORS HAD JUST BEGUN.

ON NEW PROJECTS, THE DIRECTOR SAID FIVE NEW CLINICS, COSTING A TOTAL OF JUST OVER \$100 MILLION, WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1990-91 AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION OF THE CLINIC SERVICES.

TURNING TO HEALTH EDUCATION, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE, DR LEE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS TO LAUNCH A MAJOR HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN NEXT MONTH.

AMONG THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED WOULD BE AN EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO 24, WORKSHOPS AND A POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION.

TO MARK THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S SECOND WORLD AIDS DAY ON DECEMBER 1, A RADIO CONCERT WOULD BE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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MEASURES TO IMPROVE HOSPITAL SERVICES

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THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, DR T.Y. CHAU, TODAY (THURSDAY) OUTLINED MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS AND TO IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ELABORATE ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, FOLLOWING THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS, DR CHAU SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING WHICH WERE LOCAL ISSUES AND WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO PURSUE WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

/"THESE INCLUDE

"THESE INCLUDE MORE OBSERVATION BEDS AND SCREENING OF ADMISSIONS THROUGH THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, AND RE-ALLOCATION OF BEDS WITHIN AND AMONG HOSPITALS."

DR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THESE MEASURES HAD IN FACT BEEN IMPLEMENTED, BUT THESE HAD BEEN PUSHED TO THE LIMIT OF EFFICIENCY AND COULD ONLY PRODUCE MARGINAL IMPROVEMENTS UNLESS THERE WAS A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE STRUCTURE.

"THIS IS ACHIEVABLE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WHICH BRINGS GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TOGETHER UNDER AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM AND ENSURES AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES," HE SAID.

DR CHAU SAID THAT ANOTHER AREA OF IMPROVEMENT WAS THE BUILDING OF MORE HOSPITALS AND THE PROVISION OF MORE HOSPITAL BEDS.

"TO THIS END, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL BEDS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG VARIOUS HOSPITALS, INCLUDING THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL, THE SHA TIN INFIRMARY, THE SHA TIN CHESHIRE HOME AND THE QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND VAN CHAI HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS.

"THERE SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLE ALLEVIATION OF OVERCROWDING IN THE EXISTING HOSPITALS AFTER ALL THESE PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED," HE SAID.

CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE, DR CHAU SAID THAT HONG KONG SUBSCRIBED TO THE MODERN TREND IN A PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY APPROACH DIRECTED TOWARDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WAS AN APPROPRIATE RANGE OF SERVICES FROM INSTITUTIONAL CARE, OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND DAY HOSPITALS TO ACCOMMODATION AND DOMICILIARY SERVICES SUCH AS LONG-TERM CARE HOMES AND HALF-WAY HOUSES AND VARIOUS SUPPORT SERVICES TO MAINTAIN AND REHABILITATE PATIENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

"AT PRESENT, HONG KONG HAS 4,100 BEDS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL AND 475 DAY PLACES, AND IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THESE WILL BE INCREASED TO 5,000 BEDS AND 630 PLACES.

"AS FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE, WE HAVE AT THE PRESENT TIME SEVEN CENTRES, AND THESE WILL BE INCREASED TO 11 IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, DR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A TERRITORIAL STRATEGY IN THE FORM OF A "PROGRAMME PLAN FOR THE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY" AND TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF OLD PEOPLE THROUGH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY.

"WE HAVE A FULL RANGE OF IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT FACILITIES, DAY HOSPITALS AND INFIRMARY PLACES.

"THERE ARE GERIATRIC UNITS INTEGRATED WITH THOSE OF OTHER DISCIPLINES IN ALL NEW GENERAL HOSPITALS WHILE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICES ARE ALSO PROVIDED TO BENEFIT OUR ELDERLY WHO HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITALS FOR EARLY INTEGRATION INTO THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETY," DR CHAU ADDED.

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DSW OUTLINES SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT BASED ON THE GOOD FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL SERVICES WE HAVE BUILT, WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK BEYOND THIS DECADE INTO THE 1990'S SO AS TO CATER TO THE CHANGE IN DEMOGRAPHY AND THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF A MODERN AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, AND ELABORATING THE SOCIAL WELFARE ASPECT IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS, MRS WONG SAID: "THE CURRENT SYSTEM HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND WE HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY NET TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO IS VULNERABLE IS DENIED APPROPRIATE SUPPORT."

ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THESE HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. THE DEPARTMENT HAD COMPLETED A REVIEW ON HOUSING NEEDS FOR THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES. DETAILS OF THE REPORT WERE SUBMITTED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND WERE BEING EXAMINED IN DETAIL AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

ON THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, MRS WONG DESCRIBED THE RESPONSE AS VERY ENCOURAGING. THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR TO ENCOURAGE OPERATORS OF THESE HOMES TO RAISE THEIR STANDARD OF SERVICES TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

"AS AT TODAY, A TOTAL OF 91 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. OF THESE, 11 HOMES HAVE BEEN GRANTED REGISTRATION. THE REMAINING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING PROCESSED.

"WHILE SOME APPLICANTS HAVE NOT REACHED THE REGISTRATION STANDARD, IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT MORE HOMES ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD SO AS TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION. THE RESPONSE FROM PRIVATE HOMES IS VERY ENCOURAGING INDEED," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT A TOTAL OF \$31.6 MILLION HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FOR A BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT TO ALLOW THE PURCHASE OF 500 PLACES FROM REGISTERED PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

"A TOTAL OF 57 APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. OF THESE, 18 HOMES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE SCHEME, AND 171 PLACES WILL BE BOUGHT FROM THESE HOMES," MRS WONG NOTED.

AS REGARDS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, MRS WONG SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE, JOINTLY WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, TO STEP UP EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.

/"PROPOSALS TO

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"PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE ARE IN TRAIN AND WILL INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS TO WIDEN THE DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE TO INCLUDE 'PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE' AND 'NEGLECT' CASES.

"FURTHERMORE, THE SWD ALSO PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR PERSONS WHO MIND CHILDREN FOR REWARD.

"THIS REGISTRATION IS TO FACILITATE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WILL WISH TO MAKE REFERENCE TO THE REGISTRATION LIST BEFORE THEY HIRE CHILD MINDERS SO AS TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF ENTRUSTING CHILDREN TO UNSUITABLE PERSONS. THE PRACTICALITY OF THE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS, IS NOW BEING WORKED OUT," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A SHORT-TERM DAY CARE SERVICE WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. THE DEPARTMENT HAD OBTAINED A GRANT OF \$1.7 MILLION TO CARRY OUT AN OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS. UP TO NOW, A NUMBER OF AGENCIES HAD INDICATED INTEREST AND THREE NURSERIES WOULD START THE SERVICE IN NOVEMBER.

"BESIDES, THE SWD ALSO INTENDS TO PROVIDE BETTER INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE THE FOSTER CARE SERVICE. A REVIEW ON THE THREE COMPONENT PARTS OF FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES IS BEING CARRIED OUT," SHE SAID.

ON A RELATED ISSUE, MRS WONG SAID THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, JOINTLY WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WOULD STEP UP PUBLICITY EFFORTS TO AROUSE BETTER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD PARENTING.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES, MRS WONG SAID IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE THIS YEAR IN BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY.

"STAFFING IMPROVEMENTS IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO ENHANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN SELF CARE AND COMMUNITY LIVING SKILLS. SIMILAR STAFFING IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO HOSTELS.

"TO MEET THE NEED TO MOVE TOWARDS SPECIALISATION, OTHER MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONALS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE CENTRAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SERVICE AND ALSO CENTRAL PARA-MEDICAL SUPPORT SERVICES."

MRS WONG ADDED THAT OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN REHABILITATION SERVICES INCLUDED:

HOME-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME:

THIS PROGRAMME FACILITATES TRAINING OF CLIENTS IN HOME SURROUNDINGS AWAITING PLACEMENT IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE SO THAT THEIR SKILLS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN;

/RESPITE SERVICE

RESPIRE SERVICE PILOT SCHEME:

THE SERVICE IS AIMED AT ALLOWING FAMILIES WITH MENTALLY HANDICAPPED MEMBERS TO TAKE A RESPIRE FROM THEIR CARING DUTIES.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE:

THIS SERVICE FOR DISABLED PERSONS, IN THE FORM OF SMALL GROUP LIVING, IS INTRODUCED SO THAT DISABLED PERSONS WITH HIGHER SKILLS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN MORE HOME-LIKE SURROUNDINGS. THE FIRST LONG STAY CARE HOME FOR CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IS TARGETTED FOR OPERATION IN DECEMBER IN TUEN MUN, WITH A CAPACITY OF 200 PLACES.

"OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO DISABLED PEOPLE, THE SWD IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS IN STIMULATING DIFFERENT TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT; FOR INSTANCE THE MOBILE CREW FOR CLEANSING SERVICES, BENCH WORK MODEL, SUPPORT ENCLAVE MODEL. ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO EMPLOY MORE DISABLED PERSONS ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS.

"FINALLY, WE HAVE ALL RECOGNISED AND EXPERIENCED STAFF SHORTAGES. WITH THE APPROVAL OF \$160 MILLION BY FINANCE COMMITTEE, A PROGRAMME WILL BE LAUNCHED BY FIVE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE STARTING FROM THIS ACADEMIC YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 320 STUDENTS IN SOCIAL WORK STUDIES," MRS WONG CONCLUDED.

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PUBLIC URGED TO WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY

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THE HYGIENE ADVISER OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DR M.B. ALI, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO WASH AND BLANCH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING THEM.

DR ALI AGAIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING THIS PRECAUTION FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF FOOD POISONING -- BELIEVED CAUSED BY VEGETABLES CONTAMINATED BY PESTICIDE -- IN SHEUNG SHUI AND MA ON SHAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE OUTBREAK INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 30 PEOPLE FROM 14 FAMILIES. ALL HAD EATEN EITHER LEAF MUSTARD OR CHINESE FLOWERING CABBAGE.

FOUR OF THE PEOPLE WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL, AND ALL HAD BEEN DISCHARGED BY THIS MORNING.

OF THE 129 SAMPLES OF VEGETABLES AND ONE SAMPLE OF FOOD REMNANT TESTED, ONLY THE FOOD REMNANT PROVED POSITIVE IN TESTING FOR METHAMIDOPHOS, A TOXIC AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE. THE OTHER SAMPLES YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS.

/"IT IS

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"IT IS BELIEVED THE OUTBREAK WAS CAUSED BY VEGETABLES IMPORTED FROM SHENZHEN," DR ALI SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR COOKING, PEOPLE SHOULD DISCARD THE OUTER LEAVES, AND THEN IMMERSE THE VEGETABLES INTO CLEAN WATER FOR SOME TIME TO LEACH OUT ANY PESTICIDE RESIDUE THAT MIGHT REMAIN.

"ANY BOILING WATER THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR BLANCHING SHOULD BE Poured OUT, AS IT MAY CONTAIN DISSOLVED RESIDUES," HE POINTED OUT.

"PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO AVOID BUYING VEGETABLES THAT GIVE OFF ANY STRANGE SMELL," HE ADDED.

STAFF OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH ARE ON FULL ALERT, AND VIGILANCE ON VEGETABLES FROM SHENZHEN WILL BE MAINTAINED AT THE MAN KAM TO BORDER CONTROL POINT.

SCREENING AND SAMPLING OF VEGETABLES WILL ALSO CONTINUE AT ALL WHOLESALE OUTLETS.

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RHKAAF TO MARK 40TH ANNIVERSARY
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THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE WILL CELEBRATE ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, A FUNCTION WILL BE HELD THAT DAY AT THE RHKAAF'S HEADQUARTERS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

"THE RHKAAF WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM ANY OF ITS PAST MEMBERS WHO OVER THE YEARS MAY HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH THE FORCE, AND WHO MIGHT WISH TO ATTEND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY GET-TOGETHER TO REMINISCE AND LET THE FORCE'S YOUNGER MEMBERS KNOW JUST HOW DIFFERENT THINGS WERE IN THE OLD DAYS," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID EX-MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A RELAXING AFTERNOON WITH THEIR CONTEMPORARIES AND SUCCESSORS ON NOVEMBER 26 SHOULD CONTACT MR JOHNNY SO ON TEL. 3-7698418, OR WRITE TO THE RHKAAF, HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AIRPORT TUNNEL EAST EXIT, KOWLOON.

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NEW KWAI TSING DB MEMBER ELECTED

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A CANDIDATE FOR THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TSING YI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION, MR TSE WAI-MING, WAS ELECTED TO THE DISTRICT BOARD WITH 1,108 VOTES TODAY (THURSDAY). MR TSE, 36 YEARS OLD IS A SALES EXECUTIVE.

THE OTHER CANDIDATE, MR CHAN KIU-ON, OBTAINED 400 VOTES.

WITH 1,524 OUT OF A TOTAL OF 9,343 REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE TSING YI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY CASTING THEIR VOTES, THE TURNOUT RATE REPRESENTED ABOUT 16.3 PER CENT.

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CFPA APPROVES GRANTS TO LOCAL ARTS GROUPS

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THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) HAS APPROVED A "SEEDING GRANT" OF ABOUT \$500,000 TO THE EXPLORATION THEATRE TO ASSIST ITS DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

FORMED IN 1982 WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING INTEREST IN DRAMA ACTIVITIES AMONG YOUTHS AND PROMOTING ORIGINAL SCRIPT-WRITING, THE THEATRE HAS A CORE OF PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED MEMBERS WHO ARE MOSTLY GRADUATES OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

ITS PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE "PINK LADY", "THE STORY OF MR X", "MAGIC POWER", "HARD CHAMBER" AND "BUFFET".

APART FROM STAGING ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS AND PERFORMANCES, THE THEATRE ALSO ORGANISES SCHOOL TOURS, TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS ON PERFORMANCE SKILLS AND SCRIPT-WRITING.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, ITS SUMMER STUDENT THEATRE PROJECT, COMPRISING 52 PERFORMANCES IN SCHOOLS AND AT VARIOUS PUBLIC VENUES, HAD ATTRACTED AN AUDIENCE OF NEARLY 20,000 PEOPLE.

OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, THE COUNCIL HAS ALSO APPROVED 13 PROJECT GRANTS TOTTALLING \$300,000 TO 12 PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISATIONS.

THEY ARE THE HONG KONG COMPOSERS' GUILD, THE HONG KONG ORATORIO SOCIETY AND THE LEARNERS CHORUS IN THE MUSIC FIELD; AND THE MANY-LEVELS IN PERFORMANCE AND ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON IN THE DANCE FIELD.

IN THE DRAMA FIELD, THERE ARE THE SCHOOL DRAMA PROJECT, THE HOK YAU CLUB, THE CHINESE REFORM CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE, THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THE EXPLORATION THEATRE, THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN YOUTH THEATRE AND THE SAND AND BRICKS.

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APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT GRANTS CAN BE MADE ANY TIME IN THE YEAR BUT THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE PLANNED PERFORMANCE DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ASSESSMENT BY THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES.

THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION MUST BE AN APPROVED CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR A REGISTEED NON-PROFIT-MAKING BODY.

THE NEXT ROUND OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. THOSE WISHING TO HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS ASSESSED SHOULD SUBMIT THEM NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 27.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COUNCIL'S SECRETARIAT AT 25TH FLOOR, SHUI ON CENTRE, 6-8 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8660649.

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AUGUST ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED

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THE ORDERS POSITION IN AUGUST 1989 AS REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, BUT INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARING AUGUST 1989 WITH JULY 1989, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY. A SLIGHT DECREASE IN ORDERS WAS RECORDED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY AND SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988, THE ORDERS POSITION IN AUGUST 1989 INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, AND SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A SLIGHT DECREASE IN ORDERS WAS RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WHILE ORDERS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN AUGUST 1989 DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, AND BY 9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988.

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST 1989 DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. EMPLOYMENT IN ALL THE OTHER INDUSTRIES SURVEYED DECREASED SLIGHTLY. THESE DECREASES WERE MAINLY CAUSED BY THE LEAVING OF SUMMER WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE PRECEDING TWO MONTHS.

COMPARING AUGUST 1989 WITH AUGUST 1988, EMPLOYMENT DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, SLIGHT DECREASES IN EMPLOYMENT WERE RECORDED IN ALL OTHER INDUSTRIES SURVEYED.

IN AUGUST 1989, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED, IN MONEY TERMS, BY 5 PER CENT OVER JULY 1989 AND BY 18 PER CENT OVER AUGUST 1988.

COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN AUGUST 1989 INCREASED MODERATELY IN MOST INDUSTRIES SURVEYED. THIS WAS PARTLY DUE TO THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL BONUSES IN SOME INDUSTRIES SURVEYED AND PARTLY DUE TO THE LEAVING OF SUMMER WORKERS WHOSE WAGE RATES WERE RELATIVELY LOWER.

COMPARING AUGUST 1989 WITH AUGUST 1988, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE RECORDED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST 1989 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988. PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN AUGUST 1989 DROPPED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, BUT INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER AUGUST 1988.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS SECTOR COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST 1989 IN THE COMPANIES SURVEYED WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN JULY 1989, BUT INCREASED MODERATELY OVER AUGUST 1988. IN AUGUST 1989, PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER JULY 1989, WITH A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE RECORDED IN HOTELS FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF BONUSES IN SOME HOTELS IN JULY 1989. COMPARING AUGUST 1989 WITH AUGUST 1988, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY FOR THE SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY IS NOT BASED ON A SCIENTIFICALLY SELECTED SAMPLE, THE MAGNITUDES OF CHANGE INDICATED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE MERELY A REFLECTION OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPANIES SURVEYED. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR AUGUST 1989 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$2 PER COPY.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234820.

TABLE 1: ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND	
	AS AT THE END OF AUGUST 1989 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JUL. 89 AUG. 88 (%) (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.30	-1 +1
WEARING APPAREL	4.79	+1 +1
TEXTILES	2.34	-7 *
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.87	-12 +7
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.61	-1 +8
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.06	* -1
OTHERS	4.13	-1 -1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5 PER CENT

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT

PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF AUGUST 1989

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	JUL. 89	AUG. 88
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	-3	-9
FOOD AND DRINKS	-6	-3
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-9
TEXTILES	-1	-1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-8	-21
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-2	-3
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-5	-13
OTHERS	-1	-2
CONSTRUCTION #	*	-2
SERVICES	*	+4
BANKS	*	+4
HOTELS	-2	+1
PUBLIC UTILITIES	+1	*
OTHERS	*	+9

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5 PER CENT

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3: PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS	
	AVERAGE AS IN AUGUST 1989	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH
	(HK\$)	JUL. 89
		AUG. 88
		(%)
		(%)

/ALL MANUFACTURING

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ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	5,202	+5	+18
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FOOD AND DRINKS	6,277	+7	+25
WEARING APPAREL	4,469	+7	+19
TEXTILES	5,097	+6	+11
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	5,011	+8	+16
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	5,011	+2	+16
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	4,896	+4	+16
OTHERS	6,676	+1	+21
CONSTRUCTION #	7,389	-1	+16
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SERVICES	8,941	+3	+16
-----	-----	--	---
BANKS	8,363	+1	+19
HOTELS	5,675	-15	+17
PUBLIC UTILITIES	8,729	-1	+7
OTHERS	10,603	+12	+24

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5 PER CENT

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTES TO TABLES 1-3: UNLIKE "ORDER-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE FIRMS SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE FIRMS SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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HEROIN TAKING MAY LEAD TO ACUTE POISONING

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DRUG ABUSERS ARE WARNED THAT HEROIN TAKING MAY LEAD TO ACUTE POISONING WHICH IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND CAN BE LETHAL.

THE WARNING WAS ISSUED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), DR GERALD CHOA, DURING A DRUG EDUCATION TALK FOR ABOUT 400 TEACHERS, STUDENT COUNSELLORS AND OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORKERS AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

DR CHOA SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS WHEN ADDICTS MIXED NO. 3 HEROIN WITH NO. 4 HEROIN TO SATISFY THEIR DRUG HABITS.

"NO. 4 HEROIN CAN HAVE A PURITY LEVEL OF ABOUT 90 PER CENT WHILE NO. 3 HEROIN ONLY STANDS ON FIVE TO SIX PER CENT.

"HOWEVER, IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN FOUND THAT THE PURITY OF NO. 3 HEROIN HAS DROPPED TO LOWER THAN FIVE PER CENT PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS TRYING TO MAKE HUGE PROFITS FROM THE ILLICIT DEALS," HE SAID.

DR CHOA POINTED OUT THAT THE ACAN HAD LONG ACCORDED PRIORITY AND GREAT EFFORTS IN DRIVING HOME THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGES.

"THE ACTION COMMITTEE IN RECENT YEARS HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO EDUCATE THE YOUNG GENERATION WITH A PROPER KNOWLEDGE ON DRUGS AND THE ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT DRUG ABUSE WILL POSE TO INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

"THE SETTING UP OF THE SCHOOL TALKS TEAM BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION IN 1984 IS A GOOD INSTANCE.

"SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE TEAM HAS GIVEN MORE THAN 1,000 TALKS TO SOME 350,000 STUDENTS FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY."

DR CHOA NOTED THAT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE IMPETUS OF THE ANTI-DRUG DRIVE AND TO MAINTAIN STUDENTS' INTERESTS AND ATTENTION CONCERNING THE PROBLEM.

WITH THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL POPULAR ARTISTES AND COMMUNITY DIGNITARIES, THE NARCOTICS DIVISION HAS JUST COMPLETED THE PRODUCTION OF A NEW SLIDE SHOW TO ACCOMPANY THE SCHOOL TALKS.

THE NEW VISUAL AID IS A COMPUTERISED MULTI-IMAGE PRODUCTION WITH SYNCHRONISED BACKGROUND MUSIC AND VOICE-OVER DEPICTING THE TERRITORY'S OVERALL DRUG SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY, THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF DRUGS AND THEIR HARMFUL EFFECTS AND EXPLAINING HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS.

THE NARCOTICS DIVISION IS ALSO PLANNING TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE EXISTING DRUG EDUCATION TEACHING MATERIALS BY PRODUCING A VIDEO TEACHING KIT.

A WORKING COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE TEACHING PROFESSION HAS BEEN SET UP IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE VIDEO TEACHING KIT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED LATE NEXT YEAR FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE TERRITORY.

ORGANISED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, TODAY'S TALK FOCUSED ON THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF ABUSING OPIATE DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, THUS GIVING THE PARTICIPANTS AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THE PERILS OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES ABUSE.

OTHER SPEAKERS IN THE TALK WERE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MISS ANNETTE LEE; SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE NARCOTICS AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DR H.T. YEUNG; ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE (GENERAL) OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS, MRS VIRGINIA LO; AND THE SERVICE SUPERVISOR OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH SERVICES OF THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE, MR TSUI MING-SUM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING THE DRUG EDUCATION TALK WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE AND BOXED.

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SEMINAR ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SEMINAR ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR ABOUT 1,400 SECONDARY AND PRIMARY TEACHERS AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 21) MORNING.

THE SEMINAR IS INTENDED TO MAKE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY ATHLETICS MEETINGS, SWIMMING GALAS AND GAMES DAYS.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR AT 9.15 AM.

/TALKS WILL

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TALKS WILL BE GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, THE SWIMMING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (HONG KONG) AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 21). IT WILL BEGIN AT 9.15 AM.

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FIREMAN RECEIVES COMMENDATION

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A 26-YEAR-OLD FIREMAN WHO APPREHENDED A ROBBER IN KOWLOON IN MARCH THIS YEAR RECEIVED HIS REWARD TODAY (THURSDAY) -- A COMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF HONG KONG COMMAND.

AT A CEREMONY AT THE SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION THIS MORNING, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER TAM YUK-FAN PRESENTED THE COMMENDATION TO FIREMAN TO FOR-CHAI FOR BRINGING CREDIT TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT BY HIS BRAVE, PROMPT AND PUBLIC SPIRITED ACTION IN THE ARREST OF THE CULPRIT.

THE CASE OCCURRED AT ABOUT 9 PM ON MARCH 19 WHEN FIREMAN TO, OF POK FU LAM FIRE STATION, WAS ON HIS WAY HOME. HE HEARD A HUE AND CRY WHEN ARRIVING AT THE JUNCTION OF CANTON ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD IN YAU MA TEI AND SAW A MAN DASHING OUT OF A NEARBY STORE.

FIREMAN TO IMMEDIATELY GAVE CHASE AND LATER ARRESTED THE SUSPECT. A BOTTLE OF BRANDY STOLEN FROM THE STORE WAS RECOVERED AT THE SCENE.

THE ARRESTED MAN WAS RECENTLY CONVICTED OF A CHARGE OF ROBBERY.

AT THE SAME CEREMONY, MR TAM ALSO PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO A SENIOR STATION OFFICER, THREE SENIOR FIREMEN AND SIX FIREMEN.

THE RECIPIENTS HAVE TOTALLY RECORDED UP MORE THAN 240 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

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ARTS FESTIVAL IN YUEN LONG
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YUEN LONG RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF LARGE-SCALE AND TOP QUALITY ARTS PERFORMANCES AT LOW PRICES DURING THE 10TH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL BETWEEN NOVEMBER 3 AND 12.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL'S CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHOW YIU-WING, SAID THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME WOULD BE VERY RICH AND ENTERTAINING.

HE SAID THERE WOULD BE LARGE-SCALE PERFORMANCES BY TOP CLASS AND HIGHLY POPULAR ARTISTES.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO ENABLE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO ENJOY HIGH STANDARD ARTS PERFORMANCES AT RELATIVELY LOW PRICES IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT," HE ADDED.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL INCLUDE A DRAMA BY FAMOUS TELEVISION ARTISTES, A CANTONESE OPERA BY THE CHOR FUNG MING CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE, AN OPEN AIR POP CONCERT AND A NOSTALGIC CONCERT BY FAMOUS TAIWANESE PERFORMERS.

THERE ARE ALSO CHILDREN'S DRAMA, CHINESE AND WESTERN ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES AND A "SOCIAL DANCE NIGHT".

ALSO, A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE, SUCH AS AN EXHIBITION JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE ON CARTOONS BY CONTEMPORARY HONG KONG CARTOONISTS.

ADMISSION WILL ALSO BE FREE TO OTHER EVENTS SUCH AS A SEMINAR ON CARTOONS, AN EXHIBITION ON CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY, AN EXHIBITION ON IMPRESSIONIST AND POST-IMPRESSIONIST WORKS, AND A CHINESE ARTS CARNIVAL.

THE 10TH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT ARTS COMMITTEE, AND THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

A TOTAL OF 22 EVENTS WILL BE HELD DURING THE 10-DAY FESTIVAL WHICH COSTS OVER \$1 MILLION.

ADMISSION TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 23) AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND NANYANG COMMERCIAL BANK'S TAI TONG ROAD BRANCH. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-4764003 OR 0-4792261.

SINCE IT WAS FIRST HELD IN 1981, THE FESTIVAL HAS BECOME THE LARGEST ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENT IN THE DISTRICT.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

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DB COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON REHABILITATION SERVICES

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A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WILL BRIEF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD ON REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS A SURVEY REPORT ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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ROAD SAFETY SLOGAN COMPETITION IN EASTERN

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EASTERN DISTRICT STUDENTS MAY EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS ABOUT ROAD SAFETY IN SLOGANS AND WIN THEMSELVES PRIZES IN A COMPETITION BEING ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE CHINESE SLOGAN COMPETITION, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN, HAS THE DUAL OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CREATIVE TALENT AND HEIGHTENING THEIR AWARENESS OF SAFETY ON THE ROADS.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTIONS.

THE THREE MAIN WINNERS IN EACH SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BOOK COUPONS OF \$500, \$250 AND \$150 RESPECTIVELY, IN ADDITION TO TROPHIES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE FIVE CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS IN BOTH SECTIONS, AND EACH WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS THREE SUB-OFFICES.

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SEND IN THEIR ENTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE COMPLETED FORMS, TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BEFORE NOVEMBER 10.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

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AREA COMMITTEE SEMINARS FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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THE STANLEY, SHEK O AND BAYS AREA COMMITTEE, AND THE POK FU LAM AREA COMMITTEE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL HOLD A SEMINAR TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 24) RESPECTIVELY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON DISTRICT MATTERS.

AT BOTH SEMINARS, THE AREA COMMITTEES WILL REPORT ON THEIR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THE PROBLEMS THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED.

THE FIRST SEMINAR IS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RESIDENTS' BODIES IN STANLEY, SHEK O AND BAYS AREA. IT WILL BEGIN AT 7 PM IN THE NG WAH HALL OF ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, 30-32 WONG MA KOK ROAD, STANLEY.

SOUTHERN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID LEUNG, WILL GIVE A WELCOMING SPEECH, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A REPORT FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN YAU-YUE, AND A 15-MINUTE SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF AREA COMMITTEES IN GENERAL.

THERE WILL ALSO BE GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS. ALL THE ISSUES RAISED WILL BE FOLLOWED UP BY THE AREA COMMITTEE AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE POK FU LAM AREA COMMITTEE, TAKING A SIMILAR FORMAT, WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF CHI FU FA YUEN ON TUESDAY, BEGINNING AT 8 PM.

THE TWO SEMINARS ARE AMONG A SERIES JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATIONS AND TIES BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO SEMINARS TO BE ORGANISED BY AREA COMMITTEES FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

THE FIRST SEMINAR, BY THE STANLEY, SHEK O AND BAYS AREA COMMITTEE, WILL BEGIN AT 7 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE NG WAH HALL OF ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, 30-32 WONG MA KOK ROAD, STANLEY.

THE SECOND ONE, BY THE POK FU LAM AREA COMMITTEE, WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 24) AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF CHI FU FA YUEN.

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DRAWING CONTEST FOR CHILDREN IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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CHILDREN WITH DRAWING TALENT ARE INVITED TO JOIN A CONTEST TO BE HELD AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 22) AFTERNOON.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONTEST'S SEVEN TO 12 YEAR-OLD SECTION WILL BE REQUIRED TO DRAW A PICTURE WITH "THE LOVABLE HONG KONG" AS ITS THEME WHILE THOSE IN THE THREE TO SIX YEAR-OLD SECTION WILL BE REQUIRED TO COLOUR A PRE-DRAWN PICTURE.

ENROLMENT FOR THE CONTEST WILL START AT NOON THAT DAY AT THE PROMENADE BEHIND NEW WORLD CENTRE. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR COLOUR PENCILS WHILE PAPER WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISER.

ADJUDICATION AND PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE CONTEST AT 4.30 PM. ATTRACTIVE GIFTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP THREE WINNERS AND 20 OUTSTANDING ENTRIES IN THE TWO SECTIONS.

THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY THE TSIM SHA TSUI AREA COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD.

ADDING FUN TO THE CONTEST WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY A MARCHING BAND.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONTEST CAN BE MADE TO THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE'S TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-OFFICE ON TEL. 3-661908.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE DRAWING CONTEST WHICH WILL BEGIN AT NOON ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 22) AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE BEHIND NEW WORLD CENTRE.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN YUEN LONG TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN YUEN LONG SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURE IS LOCATED AT FLAT B, SECOND FLOOR, UN LONG HOP YICK COMPANY LIMITED BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON SEPTEMBER 12 LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE.

/NOTICE OF

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 14 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURE TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS MADE.

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PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT SHANGHAI STREET DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED THE BUILDINGS AT NOS. 451 AND 541 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON TO BE DANGEROUS AND THE BUILDING AT NO.449 OF THE SAME STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BUILDINGS, WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SOME TIME, WERE ALL BUILT BEFORE THE WAR.

THE TWO AT NOS. 451 AND 541 WERE IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF DILAPIDATION AND WERE CONSIDERED TO BE BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR AND SHOULD BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

THE STATEMENT SAID THAT NOS. 449 AND 451 WERE TWO ADJOINING BUILDINGS SHARING A COMMON STAIRCASE OF COMPOSITE CONSTRUCTION, CONCRETE IN NO. 449 AND TIMBER IN NO. 451.

WITH THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 451 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE TIMBER PORTION OF THE COMMON STAIRCASE, NO. 449, ALREADY IN A DILAPIDATED CONDITION ITSELF, WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT MEANS OF ESCAPE. IT WAS THEREFORE CONSIDERED TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND MUST BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED WITH NO. 451 IN A JOINT OPERATION, THE STATEMENT SAID.

ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE TWO FOUR-STOREY BUILDINGS OF NOS. 449 AND 451, THE STATEMENT SAID THE FLOORS AND ROOF OF NO. 451 WERE CONSTRUCTED OF TIMBER BOARDS ON CHINA-FIR JOISTS RESTING ON LOAD-BEARING BRICK AND MASONRY WALLS, WHICH THE FLOORS AND ROOF OF NO. 449 WERE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE RESTING ON LOAD-BEARING BRICK AND MASONRY WALLS.

OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE ROOF, SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR JOISTS OF NO. 451 WERE DEFECTIVE AND A MINOR COLLAPSE OF THE ROOF HAD OCCURRED IN JULY. FRACTURES IN THE BRICKWALLS HAD BEEN NOTED AND THE ROOF AND TIMBER STAIRCASE WERE IN A PARTICULARLY POOR CONDITION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN RESPECT OF THE TWO BUILDINGS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 4 WERE POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS TODAY.

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IN THE CASE OF NO. 541, THE THREE-STOREY BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED OF LOAD-BEARING BRICK AND MASONRY WALLS WITH CHINA-FIR FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS. IT HAS BEEN EXHIBITING SIGNS OF MOVEMENT. SOME OF THESE OCCURRED VERY RECENTLY WHILE AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF THE ROOF JOISTS ARE DEFECTIVE, THE STATEMENT EXPLAINED.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON NOVEMBER 20 WAS POSTED ON THE BUILDING TODAY.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 21), VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HARBOUR VIEW STREET EASTBOUND FROM THE VEHICULAR FERRY CONCOURSE IN CENTRAL.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING FROM THE VEHICULAR FERRY CONCOURSE TO CONNAUGHT PLACE WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARBOUR VIEW STREET SOUTHBOUND AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 21), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SPRING GARDEN LANE TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHIP STREET, EXCLUDING THE LAY-BYS OUTSIDE HOUSE NOS. 131 TO 147 AND HOPEWELL CENTRE;
- * TAI WONG STREET EAST BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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CLOSURE OF UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/NAM CHEONG STREET VEHICULAR UNDERPASS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 21) TO FACILITATE CLEANING WORKS IN THE UNDERPASS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA LUNG PING ROAD FLYOVER AND NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

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