



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROTECTIONISM STILL BIG WORRY - SIR EDWARD
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THIS YEAR WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG'S TEXTILE AND APPAREL TRADE, WITH PROTECTIONISM IN THE MAJOR MARKETS REMAINING OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING JUST BEFORE OPENING THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S GALA FASHION PRESENTATION OF THE CASUAL APPAREL SHOW THIS EVENING, THE GOVERNOR ADDED: +PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS COULD ALSO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARISING FROM THE EXPIRY OF THE MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT IN JULY.

+PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VETO OF THE THURMOND-JENKINS BILL A FEW WEEKS AGO IS A WELCOME STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES ARE LIKELY TO PERSIST.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY ALERT TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS THREAT, AND WAS TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS.

HONG KONG WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE EASIER ACCESS TO THOSE MARKETS WHICH STILL REMAINED RESISTANT TO ITS EXPORT EFFORTS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS ITS CASE - THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATION ABROAD, COORDINATION WITH OTHER TRADING PARTNERS, AND THROUGH THE LAUNCHING OF TRADE MISSIONS OVERSEAS, HE SAID.

+THE TASKS WE FACE IN 1986 ARE GREAT. BUT, WE HAVE TALENTED DESIGNERS, EFFICIENT MANUFACTURERS AND RESOURCEFUL EXPORTERS. THROUGH THE CONCERTED EFFORT OF ALL THREE, I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT HONG KONG WILL GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF ITSELF,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE WIDE SELECTION OF THE LATEST AND BEST OF HONG KONG DESIGNED CASUAL WEAR ON SHOW WOULD REINFORCE HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A LEADING SUPPLIER OF HIGH QUALITY LEISURE WEAR.

HE CONGRATULATED ALL CONCERNED FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK IN ORGANISING THE SHOW.

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PLANS SET FOR BILINGUAL CIVIL SERVICE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS FORMULATING A SET OF PROGRAMMES AIMED AT ENSURING A FUNCTIONALLY BILINGUAL CIVIL SERVICE BEFORE THE CHANGEOVER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO EXTENDING TRANSLATION SERVICE, STEPS WOULD PROGRESSIVELY BE TAKEN WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE, SUBJECT TO FUNDS AND MANPOWER RESOURCES BEING AVAILABLE, TO GO FOR FULL BILINGUALISM AND TO IMPROVE SERVING OFFICERS' PROFICIENCY IN CHINESE.

+THE AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN BOTH LANGUAGES WITH EASE,+ HE SAID.

MR HSU WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AFFAIRS SOCIETY ON +LANGUAGE POLICY FOR HONG KONG DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD+, WHEN HE HIGHLIGHTED THE MAJOR TASKS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS AREA.

+IN MEETING TODAY'S NEW CHALLENGES, EXISTING POLICIES MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE TRENDS OF THE TIME AND SHOULD ALSO BE REVIEWED.

+IN THE YEARS TO COME, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT THERE WILL BE A WIDER USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS,+ HE SAID.

TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS HEADING, MR HSU CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE RECENT RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS WHEN APPLICANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICER POSTS WERE REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE TEST PAPER IN CHINESE.

HE REVEALED THAT PLANS WERE ALSO IN HAND FOR SERVING OFFICERS TO IMPROVE THEIR PROFICIENCY IN CHINESE: +DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, TRAINING COURSES GEARED TO THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GRADES WILL HAVE TO BE ORGANISED FOR OFFICERS WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF LINGUISTIC SKILL.+

+THE PRIMARY AIM IS TO ENSURE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DRAFT PAPERS AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER HE WARNED THAT ALL THESE PROGRAMMES, WHICH WERE BEING CARRIED OUT INITIALLY ON A TRIAL BASIS, MIGHT ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS IF IMPLEMENTED IN FULL.

/+THIS IS

+THIS IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL GIVING SERIOUS AND DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO THESE MATTERS. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS STILL INTENDED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF CIVIL SERVANTS CAN SPEAK AND WRITE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WITH FLUENCY BEFORE 1997,+ MR HSU SAID.

WITH REGARD TO THE TRANSLATION OF HONG KONG LAWS INTO CHINESE, MR HSU SAID A RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE COMMITTEE IN 1972 COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED RIGHT AWAY DUE TO DIFFICULTIES. HOWEVER, AS AN EXPEDIENT MEASURE, +EXPLANATORY NOTES-MEMORANDA ON BILLS ARE BEING PROVIDED IN CHINESE AND EXPLANATORY PAMPHLETS ARE BEING ISSUED IN CHINESE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THOSE ORDINANCES THAT ARE OF WIDE PUBLIC INTERESTS,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, MR HSU POINTED OUT THAT THE LAW TRANSLATION UNIT HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION IN EARLY 1984 TO EXPEDITE THE TRANSLATION WORK.

UP TO JANUARY 15 THIS YEAR, AS MANY AS 109 ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS HAD BEEN TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE, OF WHICH 17 WERE FOR PRIORITY TRANSLATION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UMELCO OFFICE.

+OF THESE 109 ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, 83 HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING FINALISED OR PROOF-READ. ALL OF THESE ARE OF WIDE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE SAID.

MR HSU EMPHASISED THAT THE TRANSLATION OF THE LAW FROM ONE LANGUAGE INTO ANOTHER WAS A COMPLICATED AND FORMIDABLE TASK.

HE SAID THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS A PLAN TO LAUNCH A PILOT SCHEME ON PARALLEL DRAFTING OF BILLS IN BOTH LANGUAGES.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SELECTED FROM THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION NINE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WITH POTENTIAL AND PROVEN ABILITY IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH TO JOIN ITS LAW DRAFTING DIVISION.

STARTING FROM THE END OF THIS MONTH, THESE OFFICERS WOULD BE UNDERGOING A FIVE-MONTH TRAINING COURSE.

+THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO RECRUIT A TEAM OF LAW DRAFTSMEN WITH LEGAL BACKGROUND AND GOOD LINGUISTIC SKILLS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE TO DRAFT AN AUTHENTIC VERSION OF THE LAW IN CHINESE.

+FOR THIS REASON, APART FROM SELECTING CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO INTENDS TO RECRUIT QUALIFIED LAWYERS WHO ARE WELL-VERSED IN BOTH LANGUAGES TO TAKE PART IN THE PROJECT, NOW ONLY AT ITS EXPERIMENTAL STAGE,+ HE SAID.

THE PLAN WAS TO HAVE ALL NEW BILLS DRAFTED IN BOTH LANGUAGES FIRST, AND TO PRODUCE AN AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSION OF ALL EXISTING LEGISLATION WHEN SUFFICIENT MANPOWER WAS AVAILABLE.

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MR HSU ALSO OUTLINED THE MEASURES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTING LANGUAGE TEACHING.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF HONG KONG'S STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AND ITS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, MR HSU BELIEVED THAT ENGLISH WOULD STILL BE IN POPULAR USE IN THE FUTURE.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LANGUAGE POLICY FOR HONG KONG DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IS TO AIM AT FULL BILINGUALISM.

+NOT ONLY DOES IT TIE IN WITH THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY, BUT IT ALSO MEETS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

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FURTHER PERIOD OF CONSIDERATION ON BNO

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THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER PERIOD OF CONSIDERATION AFTER THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER WAS DEBATED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE 1986 WAN CHAI FESTIVAL AT QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON REMARKS MADE BY THE UMELCO ON THE BNO DEBATE, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE OF TALKING TO THE UNOFFICIALS YET, SO HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT AT THIS STAGE.

+I THINK YOU ALL HEARD THE FIRST PART OF THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND WE ARE NOW WAITING FOR THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY,+ HE SAID.

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13 PER CENT MORE COMPANIES REGISTERED

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPANIES REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT TO 147 636, COMPARED WITH 130 722 AT THE END OF 1984, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON.

AND THE NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT OVER 1984, AT 18 465 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS FIGURE OF 13 434.

/MR GLEESON

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MR GLEESON ALSO REPORTED MAJOR INCREASES OF ACTIVITY IN MOST AREAS IN THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING 1985.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED BUSINESS IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER AT THE END OF 1984, INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT FROM 2 005 TO 2 092.

THE NUMBER OF NEW OVERSEAS COMPANIES ESTABLISHING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG DURING 1985 WAS 231, AN INCREASE OF SEVEN PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF SUCH COMPANIES IN 1984.

MR GLEESON SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OVERSEAS COMPANIES INCORPORATE LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OR TAKE UP A MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN HONG KONG COMPANIES, AND THIS WOULD NOT SHOW UP IN THE STATISTICS.

IN 1985, EXISTING COMPANIES INCREASED THEIR NOMINAL CAPITAL BY \$14 412 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT OVER THE INCREASE OF \$13 141 MILLION IN 1984, WHILE THE NOMINAL CAPITAL OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED DURING THE YEAR INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT FROM \$3 277 MILLION TO \$3 664 MILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED BY CHARGES REGISTERED ON THE ASSETS OF COMPANIES DECREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT DURING 1985, FROM \$30 495 MILLION TO \$30 455 MILLION, WHILE THE AMOUNT REPAID ON CHARGES, AS EVIDENCED BY CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION, DECREASED BY 58 PER CENT FROM \$14 513 MILLION TO \$6 123 MILLION IN THE SAME YEAR.

DURING 1985, A TOTAL OF 116 PROSPECTUSES OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, INCLUDING 68 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, WERE APPROVED AS AGAINST 90 PROSPECTUSES, INCLUDING 50 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED DURING 1985 WAS 462 418, AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT ON THE 1984 FIGURE OF 331 055.

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES FOR RESERVATION OF COMPANY NAMES DURING 1985 WAS 150 093 WHICH WAS A 39 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 107 996 IN 1984.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE WORK OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY LAST YEAR WAS THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT BY THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AGAINST COMPANIES AND THEIR DIRECTORS FOR BREACHES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, MAINLY FOR FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL RETURNS WITH ACCOUNTS.

A TOTAL OF 532 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED IN 1985, COMPARED WITH 441 DURING 1984. OF THESE 229 WERE WITHDRAWN FOR REASONS SUCH AS NON-SERVICE, 338 RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS COMPARED WITH 135 IN 1984, AND 201 REMAINED TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT.

/THE TOTAL

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THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES IMPOSED FOR CONVICTIONS IN 1985 WAS \$553 767, COMPARED WITH \$110 750 IN 1984.

MR GLEESON SAID IMPROVEMENT COULD BE MADE TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY REGISTRY AFTER ITS REMOVAL TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN QUEENSWAY THIS MONTH.

THIS WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY THE COMPUTERISATION OF COMPANY NAMES, DIRECTORS' NAMES AND COMPANY CHARGES, WHICH WOULD BEGIN IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1987, AND THE MICROFILMING PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT OCTOBER 1988.

THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY RECORDED AN INCREASE OF EIGHT PER CENT IN 1985 IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED -- 6 966, AS AGAINST 6 409 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AT 2 780 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW TRADE MARKS REGISTERED IN 1985 WAS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN IN 1984, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADE MARKS NOW REGISTERED IN HONG KONG TO 44 395.

IN THE PATENTS REGISTRY THE NUMBER OF UNITED KINGDOM PATENTS RE-REGISTERED LOCALLY DURING 1985 WAS 1 030, AS AGAINST 1 010 IN 1984.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF +LIVE+PATENTS RE-REGISTERED WAS NOW ABOUT 11 000. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A PRECISE FIGURE AS THIS DEPENDED ON THE LIVES OF THE PATENTS AS ORIGINALLY REGISTERED IN THE PATENTS OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN LONDON.

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN DEMAND

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THE CONTINUING DEMAND FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IS SHOWN IN THE NOVEMBER STATISTICS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

OF THE 43 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED DURING THE MONTH - COMPARED WITH 60 FOR OCTOBER - 24 WERE FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT-COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENCE DEVELOPMENT.

THE APPROVALS FIGURE BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER TO 418 FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1985.

THE PLANS PASSED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE INCLUDED A FIVE-STORY COMMERCIAL CENTRE AT TSUEN WAN FOR THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED, 15 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, NINE IN KOWLOON AND 19 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/THE BUILDINGS

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO AGREED TO WORK STARTING ON 48 PROJECTS, 13 OF WHICH WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 23 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF THESE 48 PROJECTS WAS 272 778.7 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 77 977.1 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR NON-DOMESTIC USE.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED A TOTAL OF 36 OCCUPATION PERMITS IN RESPECT OF NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS, TOTALLING 139 745.9 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 82 686.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC AND THE REMAINDER FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$741.5 MILLION.

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UNUSUALLY LESS SUNSHINE IN 1985

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THE YEAR 1985 WAS MARKED BY UNUSUALLY LOW AMOUNT OF SUNSHINE AND THE EARLIEST HAIL OCCURRENCE.

IN ITS SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WEATHER, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 1 711.2 HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE -- THE THIRD LOWEST VALUE SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884 -- WHICH IS 15 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL.

THE YEAR ALSO SAW THE EARLIEST OCCURRENCE OF HAIL IN HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 7. IT OCCURRED AGAIN IN APRIL AND JULY.

TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO 2 191.4 MM, VERY CLOSE TO THE NORMAL VALUE OF 2 224.7 MM.

THE GALE OR STORM SIGNAL WAS HOISTED TWICE WITH THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON HAL IN JUNE AND TYPHOON TESS IN SEPTEMBER. BOTH CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO HONG KONG.

FURTHERMORE, HOARFROST WAS REPORTED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN DECEMBER.

JANUARY WAS DRIER AND CLOUDIER THAN USUAL. THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 13.8 MM WAS 49 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL AND THE TOTAL DURATION OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE WAS 30 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL. HOWEVER, THE AIR TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH WAS NEAR NORMAL AND THE DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE FELL BELOW 10 DEGREES CELSIUS ONLY ONCE ON JANUARY 10 WHEN A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 8.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED.

THE WINTER MONSOON WAS LESS ACTIVE IN JANUARY AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS ONLY HOISTED ON ONE OCCASION.

/ABNORMAL, CHANGEABLE

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ABNORMAL, CHANGEABLE AND UNSETTLED WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE EXPERIENCED IN FEBRUARY WITH A NUMBER OF METEOROLOGICAL ELEMENTS GIVING EXCEPTIONAL RECORDS.

THE EARLIEST HAIL OCCURRENCE IN HONG KONG AND THE RECORD LOW OF THE MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE FOR FEBRUARY WERE SET IN THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 218.8 MM AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RAIN DAYS -- 25 ALTOGETHER -- WERE THE SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR FEBRUARY.

A FLOOD WARNING WAS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR. THE UNSETTLED WEATHER IN THE EARLY PART OF THE MONTH WAS DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF AN ACTIVE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE WHICH ALSO AFFECTED BROAD AREAS OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE REST OF THE MONTH WAS AFFECTED BY FREQUENT SURGES OF COLD AIR CAUSING CLOUDY WEATHER AND RAIN AT TIMES. AS A RESULT OF THE ADVERSE WEATHER, 10 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DURING THE MONTH.

MARCH WAS CLOUDIER AND COOLER THAN USUAL. THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 16.7 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS 1.8 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL.

IN MARCH, THE CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONE WAS STILL PREVALENT RESULTING IN THE SLIGHTLY COOLER WEATHER. A SURGE OF WINTER MONSOON IN MID-MARCH CAUSED THE TEMPERATURE TO DROP TO A MINIMUM OF 10.6 DEGREES CELSIUS. ANOTHER SURGE AT THE END OF THE MONTH BROUGHT SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AND PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN TO HONG KONG. HAILSTORMS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE WERE REPORTED IN THE NEARBY DISTRICTS OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

APRIL WAS WETTER THAN USUAL WITH SIX DAYS IN THE MONTH EACH RECORDING MORE THAN 30 MM OF RAINFALL. THE TOTAL RAINFALL WAS ALMOST TWICE THE NORMAL VALUE OF 139.4 MM.

MARBLE-SIZED HAILSTONES WERE REPORTED IN THE URBAN AREA AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ON APRIL 10. THE OCCURRENCE OF HAIL WAS ALSO REPORTED IN CANTON AND VARIOUS PARTS OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

THE CONTINUOUS WET SPELL IN THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL CAUSED FLOODING AND MINOR LANDSLIPS.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO COOLER THAN USUAL. THE MEAN TEMPERATURE WAS 1.6 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW THE NORMAL OF 22.1 DEGREES CELSIUS.

MAY WAS WARMER AND DRIER THAN USUAL. THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 26.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH RANKED THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MAY WAS 0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL.

/A SPELL

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A SPELL OF FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER LASTING 13 DAYS WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH. NO MEASURABLE RAINFALL WAS RECORDED FOR 20 DAYS IN THE MONTH. THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO ONLY ONE THIRD OF THE NORMAL VALUE.

JUNE WAS MUCH CLOUDIER THAN USUAL. THE MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE RANKED THE LOWEST ON RECORD FOR JUNE.

TYPHOON HAL CAME WITHIN 400 NAUTICAL MILES OF HONG KONG ON JUNE 22 AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO HOIST TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR. GALE FORCE NORTHWEST WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED OFFSHORE IN HONG KONG WITH THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON HAL. SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY SHOWERS OCCURRED EARLY ON JUNE 25 AS HAL MOVED INLAND.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE DOWNPOUR ON JUNE 25 AND THE SITUATION REQUIRED THE ISSUANCE OF THE LANDSLIP WARNING.

LAND, SEA AND AIR TRAFFIC WAS DISRUPTED AND THERE WERE FLOODING AND MINOR LANDSLIPS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

AT THE AIRPORT, 11 FLIGHTS WERE CANCELLED, 26 DELAYED AND ONE DIVERTED.

JULY WAS THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH WITH LESS THAN NORMAL RAINFALL.

THE STANDBY SIGNAL, NO. 1, WAS HOISTED FOR LESS THAN A DAY ON JULY 8 AS THE TROPICAL DEPRESSION OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA TURNED NORTHWARDS AND ACCELERATED TOWARDS THE SOUTH CHINA COAST TO THE EAST OF HONG KONG.

OVER 200 MM OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED IN SHA TIN DURING THE HEAVY SHOWERS AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS ON THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 9, CAUSING SERIOUS FLOODING AND MINOR LANDSLIPS IN THE REGION.

THE THIRD REPORT OF HAIL OCCURRENCE IN THE YEAR WAS ON JULY 26 AND IT WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS IN THE ACTIVE SOUTHWEST MONSOON. THE SIZE OF HAILSTONES WAS REPORTED TO BE ABOUT 2 MM IN DIAMETER.

AUGUST WAS WETTER AND CLOUDIER THAN USUAL. THE TOTAL RAINFALL WAS 21 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL. MOST OF THE SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE MONTH. IN PARTICULAR, THE SPELL OF RAINY WEATHER IN THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN HALF OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL.

SEPTEMBER WAS COOLER, CLOUDIER AND MORE HUMID THAN USUAL. THE MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 29.0 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL AND RANKED THE NINTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

/TYPHOON TESS

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TYPHOON TESS CAME CLOSE TO HONG KONG ON SEPTEMBER 6, CAUSING GALE FORCE WINDS AND FREQUENT SQUALLY HEAVY SHOWERS. DURING THE APPROACH OF TESS, TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND THERE WERE LANDSLIPS AND FLOODS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG.

FLOODING WAS MORE SERIOUS IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. AMONG THE WORST AFFECTED AREAS WERE KAM TIN, PAT HEUNG, NGAU TAM MEI, SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO.

LANDSLIPS OCCURRED IN SHEUNG WAN, SHAU KEI WAN, KWUN TONG, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN.

FERRY SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED AND AT THE AIRPORT, TWO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG, 10 FLIGHTS CANCELLED AND 50 DELAYED.

TROPICAL STORM VAL ENTERED THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON SEPTEMBER 17 BUT DISSIPATED THE FOLLOWING DAY ABOUT 240 NAUTICAL MILES EAST-SOUTHEAST OF HONG KONG WITHOUT CAUSING ANY DAMAGE TO THE TERRITORY. A WATERSPOUT WAS SIGHTED OVER THE SEA SOUTH OF WONG MA KOK, STANLEY PENINSULA, AT 9.35 AM ON SEPTEMBER 21.

OCTOBER WAS WARMER AND DRIER THAN USUAL. THE MONTH'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 25.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE SEVENTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR OCTOBER. THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO ONLY 56.1 MM, WHICH WAS 54 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL VALUE OF 121.2 MM.

TYPHOON DOT ENTERED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON OCTOBER 19 AFTER CROSSING LUZON. UNDER THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF DOT AND THE WINTER MONSOON, STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED OFFSHORE AND IN EXPOSED PLACES IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

NOVEMBER WAS AGAIN WARMER THAN USUAL. THE MONTH'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 22.4 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD WHILE THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 20.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR NOVEMBER.

DECEMBER WAS SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN USUAL. THE MONTH'S MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 19.7 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS 1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL. A PROLONGED SPELL OF DRY AND COLD WEATHER OCCURRED AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FELL TO 22 PER CENT ON DECEMBER 15 WHEN NUMEROUS HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED.

TEMPERATURES FELL TO 0 DEGREE CELSIUS AT TA KWU LING ON DECEMBER 17 AND HOARFROST WAS REPORTED AT TA KWU LING, SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1986

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ELECTION AMBASSADOR TO BOOST POLLS

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR TWO ENERGETIC AND AMIABLE YOUTHS TO BE AMBASSADORS TO ASSIST IN A SERIES OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 1986 URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION.

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 6 AND THE AMBASSADORS WILL WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR TWO WEEKS FROM FEBRUARY 24 UNTIL ELECTION DAY.

THEY WILL JOIN DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF TO MAN EXHIBITION CENTRES, TOUR THE DISTRICT ON A BROADCASTING VAN AND CONDUCT FAMILY VISITS TO URGE PEOPLE TO VOTE, ANSWER QUERIES AND DISTRIBUTE PUBLICITY HANDOUTS TO RESIDENTS.

TO PREPARE THEM FOR THEIR DUTIES, THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON VOTING PROCEDURES AS WELL AS THE OPERATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

EACH AMBASSADOR WILL BE GIVEN AN HONORARIUM OF \$5 000 UPON COMPLETION OF DUTIES.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JANUARY 31, AND FORMS AND DETAILED INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TAI KOK TSUI BRANCH OFFICE.

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WAN CHAI FESTIVAL STARTS WITH BIG SHOW

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THE 1986 WAN CHAI FESTIVAL WAS LAUNCHED TODAY (SUNDAY) WITH A SPECTACULAR SHOW FEATURING A COLOURFUL FLOAT PARADE, DRAGON AND LION DANCES, BAND PERFORMANCE AND A VARIETY SHOW AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES DOTTED THE EYES OF THE DRAGON TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE 10-DAY FESTIVAL.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM PRAISED WAN CHAI FOR ITS VITALITY AND DYNAMISM IN ADAPTING TO CHANGES AND MAINTAINING ITS HISTORICAL VALUES.

WAN CHAI, HE SAID, WAS A DISTRICT OF TRADITION AND HISTORY WITH SOME OF HONG KONG'S OLDEST DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, LIKE ALL OF HONG KONG, IT WAS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND EVOLVING, AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WOULD GRADUALLY TRANSFORM THE IMAGE OF OLD WAN CHAI.

/+YET, THESE

+YET, THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE WELL IN KEEPING WITH THE CHARACTER OF WAN CHAI -- VITAL AND DYNAMIC; IT IS A DISTRICT OF CHANGE,+ SAID MR WIGGHAM.

+I AM PLEASED TO SEE HOW WELL WAN CHAI HAS RESPONDED TO CHANGE AND PARTICULARLY THE WIDE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY TO THE EVER-EVOLVING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

+COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS, IN FACT, THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE DISTRICT FOR THAT IS HOW ITS RESIDENTS DEVELOP THEIR SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY AND FAMILIARITY WITH LOCAL ISSUES, AND HOW THEY CAN BEGIN TO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT.+

HE ALSO PRAISED THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES, DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR ORGANISING ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION.

+THIS FESTIVAL SYMBOLISES THE DYNAMISM OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT AND THE ENERGY OF ITS PEOPLE, AND ALSO GIVES THE COMMUNITY A SENSE OF PRIDE IN WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LEE KON, SAID THE AIM OF THE FESTIVAL WAS TO EMPHASISE THE DISTRICT'S CHARACTERISTICS THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES SO THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD HAVE A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF WAN CHAI.

+IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND HELP CULTIVATE A SENSE OF BELONGING,+ HE SAID.

WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRPERSON, MRS PEGGY LAM THANKED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN LAUNCHING THE FESTIVAL.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME INCLUDED A COLOURFUL FLOAT PARADE, BAND PERFORMANCES AND SINGING BY THE WAN CHAI CHILDREN'S CHOIR. THE HIGHLIGHT WAS A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING TVB PERFORMERS.

PART OF THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE TELECAST ON TVB'S +ENJOY YOURSELF TONIGHT+ SHOW TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AND THE WAN CHAI FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, AND SUPPORTED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL. ACTIVITIES DURING THE 10-DAY FESTIVAL INCLUDE COMPETITIONS, SPORTS EVENTS, AN EXHIBITION, AND A NUMBER OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, MOST OF WHICH ARE FREE-OF-CHARGE.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS REPORT
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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD REPORT.

AT THE SAME TIME, BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON HAWKER AND MARKET POLICIES. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR OWEN BROADLEY, AND URBAN COUNCILLORS MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT TU AND MR WALTER SULKE WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING, AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (MONDAY) IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2/F, MEI FUNG COURT, NO. 7-11, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN CENTRE, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SPECIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

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+MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME USEFUL+
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RESIDENTS MAY NOW MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

A ROSTER HAS BEEN DRAWN UP FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE +MEET THE PUBLIC+ SESSIONS FROM NOW TO END OF DECEMBER.

THERE ARE FOUR SESSIONS EACH WEEK WITH A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER AT EACH SESSION.

TWO SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S MAIN OFFICE IN ABERDEEN CENTRE ON TUESDAYS FROM 3 PM TO 5 PM, AND ON FRIDAYS FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM. ONE SESSION EACH WILL BE HELD AT THE WAH FU AND THE STANLEY SUB-OFFICES ON TUESDAYS FROM 8 PM TO 9 PM.

RESIDENTS MAY EITHER CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON 5-524429 OR THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE THREE OFFICES FOR APPOINTMENTS. BOOKINGS SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST ONE DAY BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE +MEET THE PUBLIC+ SCHEME HAD PROVED A USEFUL CHANNEL FOR RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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WINTER CLOTHES FOR THE ELDERLY IN SHA TIN
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STAFF MEMBERS OF SHA TIN DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE WILL DISTRIBUTE QUILTED JACKETS TO THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT TOMORROW (MONDAY) MORNING.

ONE THOUSAND JACKETS, VALUED AT \$60 000, WERE DONATED BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AND NEEDY PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF 60 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CLOTHING.

DISTRIBUTION WILL START AT WONG SIU CHING HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY AT GREEN HERON HOUSE, SHA KOK ESTATE AT 10 AM. SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL THEN MOVE ON TO SHA TIN HOUSE FOR THE ELDERLY AT BLOCK 20, FLAT E OF CITY ONE AND HOME OF LOVING KINDNESS IN TUNG LO WAN.

ELDERLY PEOPLE CAN ALSO COLLECT THEIR JACKETS AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL FIRST START AT THE WONG SIU CHING HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY AT GREEN HERON HOUSE, SHA KOK ESTATE AT 10 AM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 20).

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300 TAKE PART IN LONG-DISTANCE RUN
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MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE TODAY (SUNDAY) TOOK PART IN THE 10-KILOMETRE TAI PO DISTANT RUN FROM TAI MEI TUK TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE FUNG SHUI SQUARE.

THE RUN WAS ONE OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED DURING THE FIRST TAI PO FESTIVAL.

PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO THE FIRST 10 RUNNERS IN EACH OF MEN'S JUNIOR, MEN'S OPEN, MEN'S SENIOR AND WOMEN'S GROUPS.

A SPECIAL PRIZE WAS ALSO AWARDED TO 72-YEAR-OLD CHEUNG NGAI WAH, WHO WAS THE OLDEST PARTICIPANT TO COMPLETE THE COURSE.

TODAY'S DISTANT RUN WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. IT WAS SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

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TONNES OF REFUSE COLLECTED IN KWUN TONG DAILY
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REFUSE COLLECTED IN KWUN TONG IN A DAY IS EQUIVALENT TO THE WEIGHT OF 75 ELEPHANTS, KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CLEAN KWUN TONG CARNIVAL, MR MAK SAID: +THE 700 000 RESIDENTS AND 160 000 WORKERS IN KWUN TONG, ON THE AVERAGE, DISPOSE OF REFUSE AMOUNTING TO 345 TONNES A DAY.+

THE ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL FIGURE WOULD INCREASE FURTHER BY 50 PER CENT TO ABOUT 550 TONNES DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR, HE ADDED.

MR MAK URGED RESIDENTS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THEIR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND TIDY, ESPECIALLY DURING THE NEW YEAR PERIOD.

TURNING TO THE FORTHCOMING URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 6, MR MAK HOPED LOCAL PEOPLE WOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE TWO SEATS IN THE KWUN TONG EAST AND WEST CONSTITUENCIES.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS SHOULD ALSO TURN UP AT THE POLLING STATIONS AND CAST THEIR VOTES ON POLLING DAY, HE NOTED.

TODAY'S CARNIVAL WAS ORGANISED AS PART OF THE CURRENT CLEAN KWUN TONG CAMPAIGN BY THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL.

COSTING \$120 000, THE CAMPAIGN ALSO FEATURES A LYRIC-WRITING COMPETITION, A SLOGAN COMPETITION, DISTRIBUTION OF LITTER BAGS AND BINS TO SQUATTERS AND HAWKERS, AND PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE 14 LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES.

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POTTED VEGETABLE GROWING EXHIBITION
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AN EXHIBITION OF POTTED VEGETABLES GROWN BY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE URBAN AREA WILL BE HELD AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, FROM TUESDAY (JANUARY 21) AFTERNOON.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE MORE THAN 200 SELECTED ENTRIES OF THE 5TH URBAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN VEGETABLE GROWING (IN POTS) COMPETITION FROM 77 SCHOOLS.

THE COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE URBAN AREA TO LEARN THROUGH PARTICIPATION ABOUT THE GROWTH OF PLANTS.

/IT ALSO

IT ALSO AIMED AT ENCOURAGING THEM TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF PLANTS FOR BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVED SEEDS FROM A SPONSORING PRIVATE FIRM LAST SEPTEMBER AND SUCCESSFULLY GREW FIVE SPECIES INCLUDING TOMATO, BUSH BEAN, CHINESE KALE, LETTUCE AND EGG PLANT.

THEY ALSO TOOK ADVICE ON TECHNIQUES ON VEGETABLE GROWING FROM THE HORTICULTURIST (VEGETABLE) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.Y. HO.

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO WINNERS OF THE BEST CROP OF EACH SELECTED SPECIES ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 21).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR SO FAI-CHO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM UNTIL THURSDAY (JANUARY 23).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EXHIBITION AND THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE AT PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, AT 2.30 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 21).

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TENDER FOR BEACH KIOSK SOUGHT
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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT CLEAR WATER BAY (1ST BEACH) IN SAI KUNG.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE GRANTED A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT COMMENCING APRIL 1, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

TENDER FORMS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE RSD'S SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE PUT INTO THE TENDER BOX AT THE RSD HEADQUARTERS, 3/F, SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI, BEFORE 9 AM ON FEBRUARY 21.

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN TELEPHONE 3-2813680 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1986

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CAMP ON AVIATION
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YOUTHS IN KOWLOON CITY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT FLYING BY TAKING PART IN THE 5TH KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT AVIATION TRAINING CAMP.

THE THREE-DAY CAMP, SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY DISTRICT'S RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL, HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL BE HELD IN FANLING BETWEEN FEBRUARY 14 AND 16.

IT IS LIMITED TO 80 PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 25, WHO HAVE COMPLETED FORM 3 AND LIVE OR STUDY IN THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND LECTURES ON THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND HISTORY OF AVIATION.

THEY WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AFTER COMPLETION OF THE THREE-DAY CAMP. THE 10 MOST OUTSTANDING TRAINEES WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO FLY AN AIRCRAFT AT SEK KONG.

THE ENTRY FEE IS \$40 AND FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, ITS HUNG HOM SUB-OFFICE AT BULKELEY STREET, HO MAN TIN SUB-OFFICE IN HO MAN TIN ESTATE AND THE HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS AT SUNG WONG TOI ROAD. APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 10.

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BEST DANCE TEAMS TO COMPETE
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ELEVEN WINNING TEAMS IN THE 2ND CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT DANCE CONTEST WILL COMPETE IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL TOMORROW (MONDAY) EVENING.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), AND ASSISTED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE (RECREATION, SPORTS AND AMENITIES), URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

/ADMISSION IS

ADMISSION IS FREE AND RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO WATCH THE CONTEST STARTING AT 8 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SECOND CENTRAL AND WESTERN DANCE CONTEST AT 8 PM IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL.

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RESIDENTS LEARN ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION

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MORE THAN 50 OFFICE BEARERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS IN TAI PO TODAY (SUNDAY) ATTENDED A TRAINING COURSE AND SEMINAR ON FIRE PREVENTION AND GAS SAFETY, AT THE SHATIN FIRE STATION.

THE COURSE WAS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE GROUP THEN TOURED THE SHATIN FIRE STATION AND WATCHED A FIRE DRILL.

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HUNG HOM TRAFFIC CHANGES

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TRAFFIC CHANGES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HUNG HOM FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 22) IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, BETWEEN PAK KUNG STREET AND CHI KIANG STREET.

THE DETAILS ARE:

* SHEK TONG STREET AND THE EASTERN CARRIAGEWAY OF CHATHAM ROAD NORTH FROM CHI KIANG STREET TO SAN WAI STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

* KO SHAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

- * PAK KUNG STREET BETWEEN CHATHAM ROAD NORTH AND KO SHAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.
- * SHANSI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.
- * CHI KIANG STREET BETWEEN CHATHAM ROAD NORTH AND KO SHAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.
- * SAN WAI STREET WILL BE CONVERTED TO A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC WITH ACCESS ONLY FROM GILLIES AVENUE.
- * KMB BUS ROUTES NO. 2K, 5, 5A, 11, 13A, 14, 15, 26, 28, 85 AND 85B; CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL ROUTES NO. 101, 108, 111 AND 116; AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES NO. 7 AND 27M WILL BE DIVERTED AS A RESULT OF THE ROAD CLOSURE AND RE-ROUTEING MEASURES. BUS STOPS WILL BE SET UP ALONG KO SHAN ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH AND GILLIES AVENUE DUE TO THE BUS DIVERSIONS.

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NEW CONNAUGHT ROAD FLYOVER PLANNED

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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A FLYOVER ALONG CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND WEST BETWEEN GILMAN STREET AND SUTHERLAND STREET AND TO CARRY OUT ASSOCIATED ROADWORKS IN THE AREA.

THE NEW WORKS ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND UPGRADE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES OVER CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AT MORRISON STREET AND TUNG HING LANE.

THE WORKS ARE :

- * CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER ALONG CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND WEST FROM WEST OF GILMAN STREET TO EAST OF SUTHERLAND STREET;
- * MODIFICATIONS TO CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND WEST AND ITS ROAD JUNCTIONS BETWEEN HARBOUR VIEW STREET AND SUTHERLAND STREET;
- * MODIFICATIONS TO JUBILEE STREET, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, THE SECTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN POTTINGER STREET AND JUBILEE STREET, HARBOUR VIEW STREET, GILMAN STREET NORTH AND RUMSEY STREET;

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- * REALIGNMENT OF THE SERVICE ROADS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST OF THE NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS TERMINUS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF A FEEDER ROAD SYSTEM ON WESTERN RECLAMATION NEAR QUEEN STREET NORTH;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AT MORRISON STREET; AND
- * CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE AT TUNG HING LANE, ACROSS CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND LINKING TO THE NEW BUS TERMINUS WEST OF THE NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY MARCH 18.

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PARKING METERS FOR YAU YAT CHUEN

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THIRTY-TWO NEWLY-INSTALLED PARKING METERS ON MAGNOLIA ROAD AND DIANTHUS ROAD IN YAU YAT CHUEN WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL FROM 11 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 22), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE METERS ARE FOR TWO HOURS AND FOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, BUSES, MOTOR CYCLES AND BICYCLES.

THE CHARGE WILL BE \$1 FOR 30 MINUTES.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE IN SHAU KEI WAN

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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 22), THE EXISTING TRAM ONLY LANE RESTRICTION ON THE WESTBOUND TRAM TRACK OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 310 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH SUN SING STREET WILL BE LIFTED FOR ABOUT SIX DAYS FOR ROAD WORKS.

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