



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SOUND BASIS FOR HK TO FACE FUTURE -- FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, TODAY (SUNDAY) EXPRESSED HIS FIRM BELIEF THAT A SOUND BASIS EXISTED FOR HONG KONG TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

+POLITICALLY, UNCERTAINTY HAS BEEN REMOVED. HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS HUGE MAINLAND NEIGHBOUR IS FLOURISHING= THE MOVES TOWARDS A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WILL ENABLE HONG KONG'S YOUTHFUL POPULATION NOT ONLY TO FEEL THAT THEY BELONG TO HONG KONG, BUT THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY BUILDING ITS FUTURE,+ SIR JOHN SAID AT THE HONG KONG AFFAIRS SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE SOCIAL, MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER RESOURCES AS WELL AS TO MAINTAINING THE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL ENVIRONMENT REQUIRED FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

+ALL THE SIGNS ARE THAT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS APPRECIATE THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND ATTRACTIONS OF HONG KONG AS A PLACE IN WHICH BUSINESS CAN BE DONE EASILY AND PROFITABLY, AND IN WHICH THOSE WHO TAKE THE RISKS AND DO THE WORK ARE ABLE TO RETAIN THE FRUITS OF THEIR SUCCESS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS MAINLAND NEIGHBOUR HAD DRAWN MUCH ATTENTION IN RECENT YEARS, BUT THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP HAD AT THE SAME TIME DEVELOPED DRAMATICALLY.

THE TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP, BASED ON THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WATER TO HONG KONG AND THE PRESENCE IN HONG KONG OF CHINA-BASED BANKS, SHIPPING, RETAILING AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY RAPID GROWTH IN THE DIRECT AND ENTREPOT TRADE, AND BY EXTENSIVE HONG KONG INVESTMENT IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND FURTHER AFIELD.

WITH THE 60 PER CENT GROWTH LAST YEAR IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, CHINA BECAME HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET.

THE GROWTH IN THE ENTREPOT TRADE HAD BEEN EQUALLY REMARKABLE, SIR JOHN SAID. LAST YEAR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA SHOWED A 30 PER CENT GROWTH.

+IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE RATE OF GROWTH OF TWO-WAY TRADE IN THE YEARS AHEAD; I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE TREND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SHARPLY UPWARD,+ HE SAID.

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG INVESTMENT ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 PER CENT OF ALL INVESTMENT COMMITTED OR SPENT IN THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE: THERE WOULD IN THE YEARS TO COME NO DOUBT BE MANY FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE SEIZED BY HONG KONG IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND THE OTHER AREAS OF CHINA WHICH WERE OPENING THEIR DOORS TO OUTSIDE INVESTMENT.

AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, SIR JOHN SAID, THERE WERE ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED LINKS, PARTICULARLY WITH NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES IMMEDIATELY TO THE NORTH.

+THESE ARE A REFLECTION NOT ONLY OF THE HUGE INCREASE IN THE FLOW OF GOODS AND SERVICES, BUT ALSO OF THE EQUALLY DRAMATIC INCREASES IN THE FLOW OF PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

OVER THE 10 YEARS TO 1984, THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL PASSENGER MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE BORDER AT LO WU HAD GROWN FROM JUST OVER ONE MILLION TO OVER 12 MILLION.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AND IMPROVED BORDER CROSSING POINTS, WHICH HAD NECESSITATED CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WAS A REFLECTION OF THIS GROWTH.

APART FROM THE IMMEDIATE CONCRETE RESULTS OF THIS CO-OPERATION IN TERMS OF NEW BRIDGES, NEW STATION BUILDINGS AND SO ON, THESE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO MUTUAL COMPREHENSION AND A HABIT OF PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION WHICH WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS AS HONG KONG MOVED TOWARDS 1997.

HONG KONG HAD ALSO WELCOMED AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITORS FROM THE MAINLAND WHO COME TO STUDY OUR MODERN MANAGERIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PRACTICE AS PART OF CHINA'S AMBITIOUS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME, HE SAID.

+AS I HAVE INDICATED, HONG KONG IS A WORLD LEADER IN THESE RESPECTS. HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A SIGNIFICANT ASSET TO CHINA CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM HER ROLE AS A MAJOR MANUFACTURING, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL FORCE IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. THE ONE DEPENDS UPON THE OTHER. THIS TREND WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE, TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT HAD REMOVED THE QUESTION MARK OVER THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG BUT IT HAD NOT REMOVED, +NOR COULD ANY PIECE OF PAPER EVER DO SO, THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO DEVOTE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAINING ITS COMPETITIVENESS IN A DIFFICULT WORLD TRADING ENVIRONMENT.

+COMPETITION FROM SOME NEWLY-INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES, PROTECTIONIST REFLEXES AND RECESSION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS POSE A CONSTANT THREAT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF EXPORT GROWTH, ON WHICH HONG KONG'S FUTURE WELL BEING DEPENDS,+ HE SAID.

/FOR INVESTORS

FOR INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN OPERATING IN HONG KONG, SIR JOHN SAID FUTURE SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND ON CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE BY CONTINUING TO WRITE OFF THEIR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT OVER ITS REALISTIC ECONOMIC LIFE; TO CONTINUE SEARCHING FOR THE NEW PRODUCTS AND INCREASED ADDED VALUE WHICH WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS OF RISING LIVING STANDARDS AMONG HONG KONG'S POPULATION.

+THIS REQUIRES A JUDICIOUS MIXTURE OF PRUDENCE AND BOLDNESS, THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS BASED ON SOUND MARKET AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,+ HE SAID.

WHILE NOTING THAT HONG KONG HAD BEEN THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN THE LAST TWO TO THREE YEARS WHEN POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE AFFECTED CONFIDENCE, SIR JOHN SAID HONG KONG'S DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN MODEST WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TRADE DEFICIT, PUBLIC DEBT AND UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH HAD AFFECTED AND CONTINUED TO AFFECT MANY OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS.

IN SPITE OF A DRAMATIC DECLINE IN REVENUE FROM LAND SALES, SIR JOHN SAID HONG KONG'S BUDGET DEFICIT IN THE YEARS SINCE WE LAST ENJOYED A SURPLUS ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT HAD BEEN RELATIVELY MODEST AND HAD BEEN CONSTRAINED BY A SERIES OF MEASURES WHICH HAD NOT UNDERMINED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING LOW TAXATION AND STEADY IMPROVEMENTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES.

+INFLATION HAS BEEN CONTROLLED, THE CURRENCY HAS BEEN STABILISED, ALMOST FULL EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AND GROWTH IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAS AVERAGED 5.8 PER CENT EVEN DURING THE LAST THREE DIFFICULT YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHALL SOON AGAIN ENJOY BALANCED BUDGETS.

+IT IS A REMARKABLE TRIBUTE TO THE RESILIENCE AND DYNAMISM OF HONG KONG'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT ALL THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AT A TIME WHEN A QUESTION MARK HUNG OVER THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND WE FACED BOTH THE COLLAPSE OF THE PROPERTY BOOM AND THE TAIL END OF THE WORST WORLD RECESSION SINCE THE 1930S,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

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GOVERNMENT PLANNING AHEAD TO 21ST CENTURY
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RECLAMATIONS AT YAU MA TEI, GREEN ISLAND, WAN CHAI AND HUNG HOM BAY; NEW TRUNK ROAD LINKING AREAS LIKE SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN; A ROAD TUNNEL FROM SHA TIN TO DIAMOND HILL; A SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING FROM QUARRY BAY TO CHA KWO LING ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR SCHEMES OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AFFAIRS SOCIETY, MR CHAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUSLY PLANNING AHEAD TO THE 21ST CENTURY FIRMLY INTENDING TO PROVIDE THE BASIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG COULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND PROSPER.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE WAS THE VERY LIFE BLOOD OF THE ECONOMY, AND INCLUDED LAND SUPPLY, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS.

TWO MAIN PATTERNS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, MR CHAN SAID, BOTH OF WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL 900 000 PEOPLE TAKING THE TOTAL POPULATION OF HONG KONG UP TO 7.1 MILLION.

THEY WERE IDENTIFIED FOLLOWING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, WITH THE AIRPORT RETAINED AT KAI TAK.

THE PATTERNS CONTAIN SEVERAL COMMON COMPONENTS UPON WHICH EARLY ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSED IN THE SHAPE OF FURTHER FEASIBILITY STUDIES BEFORE THEY WOULD BE INCLUDED AS ITEMS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, MR CHAN SAID.

+RECLAMATIONS AT YAU MA TEI AND GREEN ISLAND TO ACCOMMODATE 310 000 PEOPLE AND AT WAN CHAI AND HUNG HOM BAY TO ACCOMMODATE A FURTHER 90 000 ARE COMMON TO BOTH PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENTS AS ARE SEVERAL TRUNK HIGHWAYS AND PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEMS.+

+AT 1982 PRICES, BOTH PATTERNS ARE ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$220 BILLION - A CONSIDERABLE BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE SUM PROVIDED IT CAN BE EVENLY SPREAD,+ HE SAID.

WHILE THESE WERE LONGER TERM PLANNING, MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE MORE IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR IMPROVING THE PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WOULD LINK WITH THE DEVELOPMENT BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE 1990S AND BEYOND.

/THE NEW

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THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WHICH HAD ALREADY BROUGHT ABOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND BY THE EARLY 1990S NEARLY THREE MILLION PEOPLE WOULD BE LIVING IN THE MODERN ENVIRONMENT OF NEW TOWNS. THE MAJORITY OF THESE WOULD BE IN TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, TAI PO AND FANLING WITH NEARLY 250 000 BEING HOUSED AT TIN SHUI WAI AND JUNK BAY WHERE DEVELOPMENT WAS JUST STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE.

BESIDES HOUSING, IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE WATER SUPPLIES, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND ROAD SYSTEMS FOR THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS PLUS IMPORTANT COMMUNITY FACILITIES LIKE SCHOOLS, CLINICS, FIRE STATIONS, POLICE STATIONS, MARKETS, PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND SPORTING FACILITIES WHICH MADE LIFE IN THE NEW TOWNS ATTRACTIVE TO PEOPLE MOVING FROM THE OLDER CENTRES OF POPULATION.

+GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE ON THE NEW TOWNS IS RUNNING AT ABOUT \$5 BILLION PER ANNUM AND THIS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SPENT OVER \$9 BILLION ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING SUCH MAJOR NEW ROADS AS TUEN MUN ROAD, TSUEN WAN BYPASS AND THE SOON-TO-BE OPENED SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL ROAD.

MR CHAN SAID THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD WAS TAKING SHAPE AND WORK WOULD COMMENCE LATER THIS YEAR ON THE SECTION FROM PAK SHEK AU TO MAI PO. FURTHER PHASES WOULD EXTEND THE ROAD TO JOIN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT AU TAU, THUS COMPLETING THE CIRCLE.

WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS OF CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC WITH CHINA, IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO MAN KAM TO AND FANLING/SHA TAU KOK ROADS AND A NEW ROAD HAD BEEN PLANNED TO LINK THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD TO THE NEW CROSSING POINT AT LOK MA CHAU WHICH IN TURN WOULD JOIN THE HIGHWAY TO GUANGZHOU ON THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE BORDER.

ON IMPROVEMENT TO BE MADE TO THE ROAD SYSTEM IN THE URBAN AREA, MR CHAN SAID THAT IT WAS PLANNED TO COMPLETE THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR THROUGH TO CHAI WAN AND TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF CONNAUGHT ROAD SO THAT TRAFFIC WOULD BE ABLE TO FLOW FREELY ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

IN KOWLOON, THE COMPLETION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR WOULD PROVIDE A FREE FLOW THROUGH TO LAI CHI KOK AND THE CONTAINER PORT AT KWAI CHUNG.

ALREADY UNDER PLANNING WAS A NEW ROAD - ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$1 BILLION - TO CONNECT SHA TIN WITH TSUEN WAN. A SECOND TUNNEL IN THE DIAMOND HILL AREA WAS BEING EXPLORED AND THERE WAS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER NEW ROAD LINKING TSUEN WAN WEST DIRECTLY WITH YUEN LONG.

/OTHER PLANS

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OTHER PLANS INCLUDED A SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING BETWEEN QUARRY BAY AND CHA KWO LING.

TURNING TO THE RAILWAY NETWORK, MR CHAN SAID THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED FOR A FREIGHT LINK FROM THE PRESENT KCR LINE TO THE CONTAINER PORT AT KWAI CHUNG. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WAS THE EXTENSION OF THE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM FROM TUEN MUN TO TSUEN WAN AND TO THE MTR SYSTEM.

+WITH THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND LINE FROM ADMIRALTY TO CHAI WAN SCHEDULED FOR MAY AND FROM ADMIRALTY TO SHEUNG WAN IN 1986, THE PRESENT PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MTR WILL BE COMPLETED, BUT WITH THE SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING A POSSIBILITY EXISTS TO LINK THE ISLAND LINE DIRECTLY WITH KWUN TONG AND THE DEVELOPMENT AT KOWLOON BAY,+ MR CHAN SAID.

WITH MORE RECLAMATIONS, THE AREA OF THE PRESENT HARBOUR WOULD DECLINE AND TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS THE POSSIBILITY WAS BEING CONSIDERED OF BUILDING A BREAKWATER BETWEEN PENG CHAU AND KAU YI CHAU TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL SHELTERED ANCHORAGE.

ON OTHER AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, MR CHAN SAID WORK CONTINUED ON THE MAJOR SCHEME TO BRING MORE WATER FROM CHINA TO MEET THE FUTURE THIRST OF HONG KONG. NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, SCREENING PLANTS AND OUTFALLS WERE PLANNED WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA AND TOLO HARBOURS.

+AS NEW DEVELOPMENT PROCEEDS SO PROPER FACILITIES FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL WILL BE PROVIDED AND STEPS TAKEN TO OVERCOME POLLUTION PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

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CHINA TRADE ROLE FOR HK STRESSED

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THE MAJOR FACTOR IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE INCREASED TRADE AND OTHER LINKS WITH CHINA, PARTICULARLY SOUTH CHINA, AND ESPECIALLY THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG AFFAIRS SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM, MR JACOBS SAID HE FELT THERE WOULD BE A CONTINUED INCREASE IN THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES IN THE ECONOMY, AND THIS COULD DEVELOP HANDSOMELY IN THE AREA OF EXPORT OF SERVICES TO CHINA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE REGION.

/+IF HONG

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+IF HONG KONG HAS ANYTHING TO OFFER CHINA, IT MUST SURELY BE IN RELATION TO EXPERTISE IN SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL AND RELATED SERVICES. WE HAVE EARNED OUR POSITION IN THE WORLD, LET US MAKE USE OF IT,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG HAD TO TRY TO UPGRADE ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. THE LESS SKILL INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES WOULD BECOME UNECONOMIC AND WERE LIKELY TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SHENZHEN AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA.

+IF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IS TO SURVIVE, AND, GIVE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD, THEN WE MUST UPGRADE OUR PRODUCTS, OUR METHODS AND OUR SKILLS.

+WE MUST CONTINUE TO LEARN NEW METHODS AND NEW TRADES, TO TAKE RISKS, TO SAVE, TO INVEST AND TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF OUR OUTPUT,+ HE SAID.

THERE WERE DANGERS. NEW AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES COULD TEND TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN BEFORE FOR BUSINESS TO CHANGE THEIR PRODUCTS QUICKLY OR TO SWITCH THEIR MARKETS.

+I CANNOT PRETEND THAT IT WILL NOT BE A TESTING TIME. I BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE TO PLAY, NOT BY WAY OF SUBSIDY OR INVESTMENT IN UNPRODUCTIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, BUT RATHER BY PROVIDING TRAINING AND INDUSTRY RELATED RESEARCH,+ HE SAID.

+THIS WE ALREADY DO THROUGH THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE. WE ARE IMPROVING,+ HE ADDED.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE EXISTING ECONOMIC POLICIES HAD SERVED US WELL AND THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT HAD COMMITTED THE SAR GOVERNMENT TO KEEPING THE CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN HONG KONG UNCHANGED, MR JACOBS SAID THE BEST INDICATORS OF FUTURE POLICIES WERE PRESENT POLICIES.

MR JACOBS BELIEVED THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF OUR CITY BECAUSE IT WAS THIS, PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THAT WAS PROVIDED FOR BY THE JOINT DECLARATION.

ECHOING THE CHIEF SECRETARY DESIGNATE, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES' SENTIMENT THAT ENGLISH WAS THE LANGUAGE OF HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL LINKS, MR JACOBS SAID WE SHOULD NOT ABANDON THE USE OF ENGLISH.

+IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT HONG KONG HAS NO NATURAL RESOURCES BEYOND ITS FINE HARBOUR AND ITS HARDWORKING PEOPLE. I SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A THIRD ASSET AND THAT IS THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,+ HE SAID.

/+IT IS

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+IT IS THE KEY TO OUR EXISTENCE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AND I BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE FOSTERED,+ HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT UNAWARE OF THE ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE OF THE CHINESE CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND THAT THIS BACKGROUND WAS AND MUST ALWAYS BE A FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S LIFE.

+BUT WE CAN HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, AND WE SHOULD CERTAINLY DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT WE DO SO IF WE WISH TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE,+ HE SAID.

REVIEWING THE HONG KONG ECONOMY OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAD GROWN ON AVERAGE AT OVER EIGHT PER CENT PER ANNUM IN REAL TERMS FROM 1961 TO DATE. GDP PER CAPITA HAD GROWN AT OVER SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM.

+GROWTH RATES OF THIS ORDER SUSTAINED OVER SUCH A LONG PERIOD ARE ALMOST WITHOUT PARALLEL,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD SEEN ITS ROLE AS BEING THE PROVIDER OF A FRAMEWORK FOR HONG KONG'S ENTREPRENEURIAL FLAIR.

MR JACOBS SAID THE POLICY ROUTE CHOSEN AND CONSISTENTLY ADHERED TO HAD BEEN TO ALLOW, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE FREE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES.

AND THE FISCAL SYSTEM, HE SAID, HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO MINIMISE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE INTERNAL COST-PRICE STRUCTURE, ON THE SUPPLY OF HUMAN EFFORT AND ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT DECISIONS.

ANOTHER FACTOR RELEVANT TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS WAS CONFIDENCE, MR JACOBS SAID.

+IT IS NOT ENOUGH MERELY TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK; PEOPLE MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO MAKE USE OF IT. THIS THEY WILL ONLY DO IF THEY HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY ON THEIR BUSINESSES IN AN ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

THERE WAS THEREFORE A NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ADHERE TO A STABLE POLICY WHICH INCLUDED A COMMITMENT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FREE FLOW OF GOODS AND CAPITAL.

MR JACOBS FELT THAT THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE TWO SPECIFIC EFFECTS IN THE SHORT TERM AND PROBABLY BEYOND, BOTH WITH POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY.

THE ASSURANCES OF STABILITY AND CONTINUITY SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE PERCEPTION OF HONG KONG HELD BY INVESTORS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS.

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AS A RESULT, MR JACOBS SAID HE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE HIGHER INVESTMENT BOTH IN PLANT AND MACHINERY, AND IN BUILDINGS AND WORKS.

+BEING SO CLOSE TO CHINA HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD AN EFFECT ON OUR PATTERN OF TRADE, CHINA HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RETAINED IMPORTS, AFTER JAPAN, AND ALSO ITS MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF AND MARKET FOR RE-EXPORTS.

+IN ADDITION, IT HAS RECENTLY BECOME HONG KONG'S SECOND MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AFTER THE UNITED STATES. THIS GREATLY EXPANDED TRADE HAS HELPED MAKE HONG KONG LESS VULNERABLE TO THE VAGARIES OF TRADE IN THE REST OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE ROLE CHINA APPEARED TO ENVISAGE FOR HONG KONG WENT BEYOND DIRECT TRADE AND REQUIRED HONG KONG TO REMAIN SUCCESSFUL AS A FULLY COMPETITIVE PARTICIPANT IN WORLD TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES.

MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CHINA AND IN ITS CAPACITY AS A LINK BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT HE SAW SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES WOULD HAVE TO ALLOW FOR THE CHANGES IN THE PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IMPLICATED IN THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF CHINA.

+NOW THAT THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG HAS BEEN SIGNED, THE SCENE IS SET FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT AND A NORMAL BUSINESS CLIMATE, WITH ALL ITS OPPORTUNITIES, AND ALL ITS CONSTRAINTS AND VAGARIES.

+WE WILL HAVE TO WEATHER THE BAD TIMES AS WELL AS ENJOY THE GOOD,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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GATT, MFA AFFECT FUTURE INTERNATIONAL TRADE
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THE MAJOR FACTOR LIKELY TO AFFECT HONG KONG'S FUTURE INTERNATIONAL TRADE WAS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) CHANGE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG AFFAIRS SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM, MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS ASSUMING HERE THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGREEMENTS, AS THIS WAS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GATT WAS QUITE WIDELY DISREGARDED, WE WOULD BE VERY MUCH WORSE OFF WITHOUT IT, HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO RESIST ENTERING INTO ANY SO CALLED 'GREY AREA MEASURES' - THAT IS, DISCRIMINATORY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GATT; AND ONE OF THE REASONS, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT THE ONLY REASON, IS THE EXISTENCE OF THE GATT.

ANOTHER REASON IS THAT HONG KONG HAS A UNIQUELY GOOD RECORD IN NOT ITSELF IMPOSING TARIFF OR QUANTITY RESTRAINTS ON TRADE, THOUGH SOMETIMES IT IS NOT AS APPARENT AS WE WOULD LIKE THAT WE ARE GIVEN FULL CREDIT FOR THIS, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE MFA, WHICH EXPIRED IN MID-1986, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN TEXTILES AND APPAREL WAS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG BECAUSE SUCH GOODS STILL CONSTITUTED OVER 40 PER CENT OF OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS DESPITE DIVERSIFICATION.

WHAT CONCERNED US PARTICULARLY, PERHAPS, WAS THE ABSENCE OF A REASONED DIALOGUE, BASED ON FACTS, IN CURRENT DEBATE ON THE GATT AND THE MFA, MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN THE U.S.A. AT THIS TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE RATIONALE FOR THE BILL BEING PUSHED BY THE U.S. TEXTILE LOBBY, REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE GROWTH IN 'IMPORTS' TO JUSTIFY YET MORE CURBS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

HOWEVER, MR MACLEOD SAID THE FIGURES USED WERE CLEARLY MISLEADING: THEY INCLUDED BOTH PRODUCTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE MFA AND PRODUCTS WHICH DID NOT, AND THEY INCLUDED PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM SUPPLIERS WHICH WERE RESTRAINED AND FROM SUPPLIERS WHICH THE U.S. HAD CHOSEN NOT TO RESTRAIN, MOST NOTABLY THE EEC.

AND NEEDLESS TO SAY THEY USED AS A BASE FOR ESTABLISHING NEW, LOWER RESTRAINT LIMITS THE YEAR IN WHICH IMPORTS WERE THE LOWEST FOR YEARS, HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT ONE OF OUR IMPORTANT TASKS WAS TO CORRECT THIS SORT OF MISLEADING INFORMATION, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT U.S. IMPORTS OF MFA TEXTILES AND APPAREL FROM HONG KONG IN 1984 WERE ONLY 7.6 PER CENT UP (IN VOLUME) OVER 1978, GIVING AN ANNUAL RATE OF AROUND ONE PER CENT, RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THE PICTURE GIVEN BY THE BILL'S APOLOGISTS OF ANNUAL GROWTH OF 19 PER CENT.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1985

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'NEW LOOK' LEGCO SET FOR SEPTEMBER
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A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL UNFOLD THIS AUTUMN, WHEN INDIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS WILL JOIN THE DECISION-MAKING BODY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE +NEW LOOK+ LEGCO WILL CONDUCT ITS PROCEEDINGS IN ITS OWN PREMISES IN THE OLD SUPREME COURT BUILDING ON JACKSON ROAD.

THE COUNCIL WILL THEN HAVE 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ELECTED FROM AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE, ANOTHER 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ELECTED FROM NINE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, 22 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND 10 OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+IT WILL HAVE GONE A LONG WAY SINCE IT WAS FIRST CONSTITUTED IN 1843,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS THEN MADE UP BY THREE OFFICIAL MEMBERS, AND ITS FIRST MEETING WAS HELD, IN CAMERA, IN 1844.

+IT WAS SIX YEARS LATER - IN 1850 - WHEN THE FIRST TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+THE NUMBER INCREASED TO THREE IN 1855, AND MEETINGS WERE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1858,+ HE ADDED.

MORE UNOFFICIALS JOINED THE COUNCIL STEADILY OVER THE YEARS, AND THEY OUTNUMBERED OFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1976.

WHEN THE NEW LEGCO IS ASSEMBLED THIS AUTUMN, UNOFFICIALS WILL OUTNUMBER OFFICIALS BY MORE THAN FOUR TO ONE.

BUT ALTHOUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP WILL CHANGE, ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION.

+LEGISLATION IS ENACTED IN THE FORM OF BILLS, WHICH GO THROUGH THREE READINGS AND A COMMITTEE STAGE WITH A QUESTION BEING PUT AT EACH STAGE AND DECIDED BY THE MAJORITY OF VOTES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IF A CLEAR MAJORITY EITHER FOR OR AGAINST ANY MOTION IS NOT APPARENT FROM A VOICE VOTE, THE PRESIDENT MAY ORDER THE COUNCIL OR THE COMMITTEE TO PROCEED TO A DIVISION, WHEN VOTES WILL THEN BE TAKEN FROM MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY AND RECORDED BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

ALL BILLS, AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, RECEIVE THE ASSENT OF THE GOVERNOR AND ARE THEN GAZETTED AS ORDINANCES.

/APART FROM

APART FROM THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDES TWO MAJOR DEBATES IN EACH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - A WIDE-RANGING DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY WHICH FOLLOWS THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER EACH YEAR, AND THE BUDGET DEBATE ON FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WHICH TAKES PLACE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

+QUESTIONS MAY ALSO BE ADDRESSED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE GOVERNMENT RELATING TO PUBLIC ISSUES FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE, EITHER SEEKING INFORMATION ON SUCH ISSUES OR ASKING FOR OFFICIAL ACTION ON THEM,+ HE SAID.

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDES MOTIONS ON SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, STATEMENTS AND POLICY PAPERS FOR DEBATE.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETS IN PUBLIC ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EXCEPT FOR A RECESS OF ABOUT TWO MONTHS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. PROCEEDINGS ARE BILINGUAL AND MEMBERS MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN ENGLISH OR CANTONESE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANOTHER CONSTITUTIONAL FUNCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS TO CONTROL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THROUGH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

+AT SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH AND AT REGULAR MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, WITH ALL 29 UNOFFICIALS AS MEMBERS BUT ONLY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS FROM THE OFFICIAL SIDE, SCRUTINISE ALL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND VOTE OR REFUSE FUNDS AS IT WILLS,+ HE SAID.

UNDER THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THERE ARE THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE.

THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, INCLUDES THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS AND 18 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REVIEWS THE PROGRESS AND PRIORITY OF CAPITAL WORKS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME.

THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 13 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ONE OF WHOM IS THE CHAIRMAN, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY. IT EXAMINES STAFFING PROPOSALS FOR DIRECTORATE POSTS AND FOR THE CREATION OF NEW RANKS OR CHANGES IN SALARY SCALES IN DETAIL, AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON THEM TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. IT ALSO EXAMINES REPORTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ALSO QUESTIONS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THROUGH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON MAY 10, 1978, IT EXAMINES AND REPORTS ON THE FINDINGS IN THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT PREPARED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, AND +ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AND THE EXERCISE OF HIS POWERS+ UNDER THE AUDIT ORDINANCE.

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THE MAN WHO TRACKS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
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HONG KONG IS NOT THE "BLACK SHEEP OF THE WORLD FINANCIAL COMMUNITY." NOR CAN IT CLAIM MORE WHEELER-DEALERS PER SQUARE METRE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

SO SAYS A MAN WHO TRACKS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS THROUGH MILES OF DENSE PAPERWORK AND OFTEN CATCHES THEM RIGHT ON HIS DESK.

AS THE HEAD OF HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MIKE FARNHAM HAS PROBED THE INNER WORKINGS OF SOME HUGE MULTI-NATIONAL FRAUDS. HE HAS ALSO SEEN THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY LOSSES SOAR IN RECENT YEARS.

IN 1980, HIS BUREAU WORKED ON CASES INVOLVING REPORTED LOSSES OF \$108 MILLION. IN 1981, THIS JUMPED TO \$151 MILLION; 1982 SAW IT TOP \$258 MILLION; 1983, \$440 MILLION; AND LAST YEAR IT REACHED A STAGGERING \$620 MILLION.

"THIS WAS NOT AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES," HE QUICKLY ADDS "BUT ONLY IN THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED."

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE COMMERCIAL CRIME SITUATION IN HONG KONG WAS ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE. BUT TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS -- NEITHER OF THEM EXCLUSIVE TO THE TERRITORY -- COMBINED TO BRING ABOUT A DRAMATIC CHANGE.

INCREASED CAPABILITIES IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC ARE PROVIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WORLDWIDE, WITH NEW AND BIGGER HEADACHES EVERY DAY.

ADDED TO THIS, HONG KONG IS THE THIRD LARGEST FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD -- AFTER ROTTERDAM AND NEW YORK -- AND IT HAS THE LARGEST AIR-FREIGHT TERMINAL AND THE THIRD LARGEST CONTAINER PORT, IN TERMS OF THROUGHPUT.

/CONSIDERING HONG

CONSIDERING HONG KONG'S SOPHISTICATED BANKING AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES, IT WOULD BE SURPRISING INDEED IF MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESS DEALS WITH OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES DID NOT INVOLVE HONG KONG IN SOME WAY.

"THE SCOPE OF FRAUD IS VERY MUCH WIDER NOW AND ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS," SAID MR FARNHAM. "MY OFFICERS ARE FREQUENTLY TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD INVESTIGATING CASES, LOCATING WITNESSES AND ARRANGING EXTRADITION ORDERS."

CO-OPERATION FROM THE 137 MEMBER-COUNTRIES OF INTERPOL ALSO PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THESE ENQUIRIES AND ENABLES INFORMATION, PHOTOGRAPHS AND FINGERPRINT IMAGES TO BE FLASHED AROUND THE WORLD VERY QUICKLY.

IN RECIPROCATATION, ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE CCB'S WORKLOAD INVOLVES INVESTIGATING ENQUIRIES FROM ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OVERSEAS.

ANY COMMERCIAL FRAUD OF OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS SATISFIES THE BUREAU'S CRITERION FOR ACTION, EXPLAINED MR FARNHAM. "WE'RE REALLY LOOKING AT THE BIG STUFF."

"BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO PROVE THERE IS CRIMINAL INTENT. THE LINE BETWEEN FRAUD AND MISMANAGEMENT CAN BE VERY THIN."

HE CITED BOUNCING CHEQUES AS AN EXAMPLE, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH THE COMMERCIAL CRIME LABEL COVERS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF OFFENCES, ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE BUREAU'S WORK INVOLVES DISHONOURED CHEQUES IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

UNFORTUNATELY, AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF HONG KONG'S FRENETIC BUSINESS ACTIVITY IS CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF POST-DATED CHEQUES. AT THE TIME A CHEQUE IS MADE OUT, THE WRITER MAY BE UNDER THE LEGITIMATE IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL SOON HAVE FUNDS COMING INTO THE ACCOUNT TO COVER IT. IF THERE IS A DELAY OR DEFAULT BY ANOTHER PARTY IN PAYING HIM THESE FUNDS, THE WRITER OF THE CHEQUE COULD FACE A CLAIM FOR FRAUD.

"IN THAT SORT OF CASE THERE WOULD BE NO CRIMINAL INTENT," SAID MR FARNHAM. "ALTHOUGH THAT WOULDN'T STOP A CIVIL ACTION BY THE CREDITOR TO SUE."

THE SECOND BRANCH OF THE BUREAU'S CHARTER IS THE INVESTIGATION OF COUNTERFEIT, INCLUDING CURRENCIES OF ANY NATIONALITY, AND THE FORGERY OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES AND CREDIT CARDS.

COMMENTING ON THE UPSURGE OF CREDIT CARD CRIMES IN RECENT YEARS, MR FARNHAM SAID THAT MOST OF THIS ACTIVITY INVOLVED CARDS WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN OR LOST, RATHER THAN FORGED. THERE HAD ONLY BEEN TWO CASES LAST YEAR IN WHICH COUNTERFEIT CARDS WERE USED AND BOTH RACKETS HAD BEEN SMASHED BY POLICE.

AS IN MANY FIELDS OF MODERN POLICING, VERY SPECIALISED TRAINING IS NEEDED FOR COMMERCIAL CRIME INVESTIGATION WORK.

"PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN BANKS AND COMPUTERS IS HELPFUL, BUT NOT ESSENTIAL, AS WE RELY VERY HEAVILY ON OUR OWN IN-HOUSE TRAINING," SAID MR FARNHAM. "ALL OF OUR OFFICERS ARE VOLUNTEERS AND THEY ARE ALL CAREFULLY SCREENED.

"THIS WORK IS NOT EVERYONE'S CUP OF TEA."

FOR ONE THING, CASES CAN BE EXTREMELY COMPLEX. UNRAVELLING A DEVIANT CRIMINAL PATTERN CAN SOMETIMES TAKE UP TO TWO YEARS OF PAINSTAKING EFFORT.

OFFICERS PREPARE FOR THE WORK THROUGH INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSES HERE AND OVERSEAS. THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE COMPUTER INVESTIGATOR'S COURSE IN OTTAWA AND THE U.S. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION COURSE IN COMPUTER FRAUD ARE TWO WELL-KNOWN COURSES WHICH ARE HIGHLY-VALUED BY THE HONG KONG BUREAU.

"WE ALSO HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG BANKS AND THEY RUN COURSES FOR US AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN IN-HOUSE TRAINING SESSIONS, SAID MR FARNHAM.

"WE MUST KEEP PACE WITH CHANGES IN SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES — AND I'M SURE THAT WE DO."

BESIDES EXPERTISE, MANPOWER IS CRUCIAL AND HIS STAFF OF 164 POLICE OFFICERS HAS HAD TO KEEP DOUBLING, ANNUALLY, FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH THE WORKLOAD.

ABOUT 1980, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT REALISED THE GROWING POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIAL FRAUD IN THE FAST-DEVELOPING REGION AND SET UP ITS STANDING LIAISON COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL CRIME TO DRAW TOGETHER ALL RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

THESE INCLUDED THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR BANKING, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

CONVENING EVERY TWO MONTHS, THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES MATTERS OF POLICY AND NEW LEGISLATION, AND IS THE OVERALL WATCHDOG ON COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORY.

ON A LOWER RUNG IS THE OPERATIONAL TARGETTING COMMITTEE, WHICH DISCUSSES TACTICS AND TARGETTING. IT ALSO SUPERVISES THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCES WHICH ARE SET UP WITHIN THE CCB WHEN A FRAUD CASE MERITS SPECIAL ATTENTION BY ITS COMPLEXITY, INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE, OR AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED.

AT PRESENT, FOUR TASK FORCES ARE OPERATING — THE LONGEST OF WHICH HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON ITS CASE FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS.

/ADDITIONALLY, A

ADDITIONALLY, A COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT OPERATES WITHIN THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AND CONSISTS OF 16 LAWYERS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO EXPOSING CASES OF FRAUD. THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE TO THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU RIGHT FROM THE INCEPTION OF A CASE UNTIL THEY TAKE IT THROUGH COURT TO A CONCLUSION.

OFFICERS OF THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU HAVE ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGED BY A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO HONG KONG LEGISLATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. NOTABLE AMONG THESE WERE CHANGES IN THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND IN PROCEDURES TO MAKE IT EASIER TO SUBMIT OVERSEAS DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN COURT.

TWO WORKING PARTIES ARE PRESENTLY LOOKING INTO CONTROL OF TRAVEL AGENCIES (ON WHICH DRAFT LEGISLATION IS ABOUT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL), AND LAWS TO PREVENT AND PROSECUTE COMPUTER FRAUD.

GIVEN HONG KONG'S FREE ENTERPRISE PHILOSOPHY AND FORMAL SYSTEM OF LAWS (GENERALLY MODELLED ON THE COMMON LAW OF ENGLAND), A DEFT TOUCH IS NEEDED TO BALANCE THE TWO AND NOT TO OVER-LEGISLATE AND STRANGLE THE ECONOMY.

MIKE FARNHAM AND HIS STAFF HAVE LONG YEARS OF EXPERIENCE OPERATING IN THE SENSITIVE HUB OF ASIA'S FINANCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE. THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT DEFT TOUCHES.

THEY ALSO KNOW THE COUNTLESS HOURS SPENT GATHERING AND EVALUATING EVIDENCE WILL ULTIMATELY PAY OFF. AND THAT PAPERWORK CAN PACK A DEVASTATING PUNCH.

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LICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE UP

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THE NUMBER OF LICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING IN THE URBAN AREAS CONTINUES TO GROW THIS YEAR.

AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD ISSUED 3 047 GENERAL RESTAURANT LICENCES, COMPARED WITH 2 861 FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

LIGHT REFRESHMENT RESTAURANT LICENCES WENT UP FROM 790 LAST YEAR TO 846 THIS YEAR.

OTHER FOOD BUSINESSES TO REGISTER AN INCREASE THIS YEAR, WITH LAST YEAR'S FIGURES IN BRACKETS, ARE: FRESH PROVISION SHOPS - 1 630 (1 534), FOOD FACTORIES - 750 (710), FACTORY CANTEENS - 172 (150), BAKERIES - 554 (522) AND FROZEN CONFECTION FACTORIES - 95 (61).

/THERE WERE

THERE WERE 316 SIU MEI AND LO MEI SHOPS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, THE SAME AS LAST YEAR.

APART FROM THE CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE, PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR THE OPERATION OF MILK FACTORIES, COLD STORES, COMMERCIAL BATH HOUSES, PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS, FUNERAL PARLOURS, UNDERTAKERS, AND OTHER OFFENSIVE TRADES. THE NUMBER OF SUCH PERMITS ISSUED TOTALLED 229.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL SAID THAT ALL FOOD BUSINESSES MUST BE RUN UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUISITE LICENCE OR PERMIT FROM THE COUNCIL.

+A LICENCE OR PERMIT IS ISSUED ONLY AFTER THE PREMISES HAVE CONFORMED TO THE PRESCRIBED HYGIENE STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN THE VARIOUS BY-LAWS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE AND TO THE APPROVED LICENSING POLICY OF THE COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

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MEDICAL PLAN FOR ELDERLY EXTENDED
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ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM A LOW-COST MEDICAL PLAN LAUNCHED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

THE +SHAM SHUI PO COMMUNITY MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY+ WAS PROPOSED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD IN APRIL LAST YEAR, WITH THE IDEA OF PROVIDING PRIVATE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT REDUCED RATES TO AGED RESIDENTS.

DURING THE SIX-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD OF THE PLAN, 35 REGISTERED DOCTORS VOLUNTEERED THEIR SERVICES TO IT.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS SINCE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PLAN BE SET UP ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

UNDER ANOTHER PROPOSAL, COLLECTIVE REGISTRATION WILL ALSO BE ARRANGED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OR WELFARE CENTRES WITH 30 OR MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE INTENDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME.

ANY PERSON, AGED 60 OR ABOVE, LIVING OR WORKING IN SHAM SHUI PO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PLAN.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR SUB-OFFICES AT 3-704251, 3-7280283, 3-7775161, 3-7440610 OR 3-7282301.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1985

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SPORTS GROUP OFFICE BEARERS CHOSEN
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OFFICE-BEARERS HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION, WHICH AIMS AT CO-ORDINATING AND PROMOTING SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AMONG NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS.

MR WONG YUEN-CHEUNG, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN AND MR CHIU YUK-CHUEN, WERE ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMEN, MR TAN TUNG-CHIU, WAS ELECTED SECRETARY, AND MR LEE KWONG, TREASURER.

THE NT REGIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, AND IS MADE UP OF ALL THE DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION IS DR JAMES HAYES, REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE ORGANISING A NUMBER OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS DURING THIS YEAR.

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ACTION TAKEN AGAINST LIFT ENGINEER
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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S DISCIPLINARY BOARD HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST A REGISTERED LIFT ENGINEER FOR MISCONDUCT.

IT WAS THE BOARD'S FIRST CASE AFTER IT WAS ESTABLISHED LAST OCTOBER UNDER THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE (CAP. 327) TO SANCTION THOSE FOUND TO BE NEGLIGENT IN THEIR WORK.

AT A RECENT HEARING THE BOARD WAS TOLD THAT MR WONG MING-LEE OF SANFORD ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED CLAIMED BY SIGNING THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATES THAT HE HAD EXAMINED AND TESTED THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT OF 33 LIFTS BETWEEN MAY 27, 1983 AND NOVEMBER 25, 1983 WHEN IN FACT HE WAS NOT IN HONG KONG.

HAVING BEEN SATISFIED THAT MR WONG WAS GUILTY OF THE MISCONDUCT, THE BOARD ORDERED THAT HIS NAME BE REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER OF LIFT ENGINEERS FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS.

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MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES FOR WONG TAI SIN

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES IN WONG TAI SIN AS THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL HOUSING ESTATES AND A FEW OTHER AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

THIS WAS MADE KNOWN BY THE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR KWOK KA-CHI, WHEN HE OPENED THE W.F.B. WONG SHING TSANG NURSERY TODAY (SUNDAY) AT THE WONG TAI SIN SHOPPING CENTRE.

HE SAID AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 246 CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG, PROVIDING MORE THAN 24 000 PLACES.

IN WONG TAI SIN AND SAI KUNG, THERE ARE 17 AIDED DAY NURSERIES WITH A CAPACITY OF 2 314 PLACES.

MR KWOK SAID: +APART FROM PROVIDING PHYSICAL CARE, NURSERIES PLACE MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE EMOTIONAL AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

+THE SURROUNDINGS, THE FACILITIES AND THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN A NURSERY ARE ALL DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ABILITIES.+

MR KWOK SAID THAT THE NEWLY OPENED W.F.B. WONG SHING TSANG NURSERY, WHICH PROVIDED 100 PLACES FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX, HAD BEEN SUPPORTED WITH A GRANT FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND AND WAS NAMED AFTER MR WONG SHING-TSANG, IN APPRECIATION OF HIS GENEROUS DONATION.

THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS (W.F.B.), HONG KONG AND MACAU REGIONAL CENTRE LIMITED, MR KWOK SAID, HAD A LONG HISTORY IN HONG KONG. IT STARTED TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE SERVICES IN 1981 BY RUNNING A DAY CRECHE IN KWAI CHUNG.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1985

- / 20 -

YOUNG MUSICIANS, PARENTS GET TOGETHER
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SOME 1 000 YOUNG MUSIC-MAKERS SHOWED THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS BEFORE PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS AND GUESTS AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM TODAY (MARCH 31).

PERFORMING AT THE SECOND CONCERT OF THE ANNUAL TRAINEES' GALA 1985 THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON WERE TRAINEES UNDER THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

MRS DORIS HO, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR SAID IN HER WELCOME REMARKS THAT THE ANNUAL GALA WAS ORGANISED MAINLY AS A 'FAMILY GET-TOGETHER' FOR PARENTS TO HEAR THEIR CHILDREN PERFORM AND TO SEE THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF MUSIC TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

+WE ARE AT PRESENT CONDUCTING OVER 700 TRAINING CLASSES FOR OVER 4 000 TRAINEES AND THE GALA HAS HAD TO BE HELD IN TWO PARTS,+ MRS HO ADDED.

A CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT HAD BEEN HELD LAST SATURDAY AT SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE ARTS CENTRE, FEATURING MORE ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINEES.

+THE PERFORMERS THIS AFTERNOON, THOUGH MOSTLY BY STUDENTS, ALSO INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE, AND TOGETHER, THEY REPRESENT A FAIR CROSS SECTION OF OUR TRAINEES IN TERMS OF AGE, LENGTH OF MUSICAL TRAINING AND STANDARD OF ACHIEVEMENT,+ SHE SAID.

MRS HO ALSO THANKED THE PARENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT AND INSTRUCTORS, TRAINEES, ORCHESTRAL AND BAND MEMBERS AND CHOIR MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.

FIFTEEN OUTSTANDING TRAINEES WERE GIVEN AWARDS AND 200 OTHER TRAINEES WERE PRESENTED THE CERTIFICATES OF MERIT AT A CEREMONY PRECEDING THE CONCERT.

SPEAKING AT THE AWARD-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON SAID THAT THE OCCASION WAS IMPORTANT AS DILIGENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT WERE BEING GIVEN DUE RECOGNITION.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID THAT THE PRIZE-WINNERS WERE FINE EXAMPLES FOR OTHER TRAINEES BECAUSE THEY HAD CHOSEN FOR THEMSELVES VERY DEMANDING ACTIVITIES - LONG HOURS OF MUSIC PRACTICES AND REHEARSALS, IN PREFERENCE TO OTHER LESS DEMANDING PURSUITS.

+THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME IS NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR AND ATTRACTING GREATER INTEREST THAN EVER.

/+A RECRUITMENT

+A RECRUITMENT EXERCISE CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR ATTRACTED OVER 4 000 APPLICATIONS AND IT WAS UNFORTUNATE BUT UNAVOIDABLE THAT MANY APPLICANTS HAD TO BE DISAPPOINTED.

+THE LUCKY ONES NOW IN THE SCHEME MUST VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY AND DO THEIR PART TO JUSTIFY THEIR PLACE IN THE SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

APART FROM PERFORMANCES BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND, THE MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR, THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA, THE MUSIC OFFICE TRAINEES' CHINESE ORCHESTRA, AND VARIOUS DISTRICT-BASED YOUTH SYMPHONIC BANDS AND CHINESE ORCHESTRAS, THE CONCERT ALSO FEATURED A VIOLIN AND STRING CONCERTO BY A 300-MEMBER YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA AND THE 'MUSIC FOR THE MILLIONS' THEME SONG BY ALL PERFORMERS.

MR MARTIN ROWLANDS, SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE; AND MR GORDON SIU, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE; MR MICHAEL LEUNG, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION; DR BASIL DEANE, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS; MR SAMUEL WONG, URBAN COUNCILLOR AND MR CLIVE OXLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING WERE AMONG SOME 2 000 PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE CONCERT.

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CAS SETS UP OFFICE IN SAI KUNG
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THE SAI KUNG DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE FIRST ONE IN THE NORTH DISTRICT OF KOWLOON, WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (SUNDAY) MAKING IT EASIER FOR THE CAS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO AN AREA WHICH HAS GROWN RAPIDLY.

THE CAS HELPS WITH EMERGENCY RELIEF, CROWD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND RESCUE WORK, DURING ITS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

THERE ARE NOW 13 CAS DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WAN-HEI, INSPECTED A PARADE OF CAS MEMBERS AND THE CAS REGIONAL COMMANDER OF KOWLOON, MR NORMAN LEUNG, DOTTED THE EYES OF A LION.

OTHER GUESTS ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY INCLUDED THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MR KEVIN HO, THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, MR CHAN KWAI-SANG AND THE CAS DEPUTY COMMANDER (ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT), MR SO YUN-LAM.

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TEACHING RESOURCES ON DISPLAY

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A DISPLAY OF TEACHING MATERIAL FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE KOWLOON UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE FROM APRIL TO AUGUST.

SAMPLED CHINESE LANGUAGE EXERCISES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ON DISPLAY, TOGETHER WITH MATERIAL ON THE USE OF PICTURES IN THE TEACHING OF CHINESE LANGUAGE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO TEACHERS ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4.30 PM, AND ON SATURDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 11.45 AM.

MEANWHILE, THERE IS ALSO A PERMANENT DISPLAY OF TEACHING MATERIALS ON SUPPLEMENTARY READING AND PUTONGHUA TEACHING AT THE HONG KONG UNIT OF THE CENTRE.

THIS DISPLAY IS OPEN ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4.30 PM.

IF SCHOOLS WISH TO ARRANGE FOR VISITS OF LARGE GROUPS TO THE EXHIBITIONS AND HOLD ON-THE-SPOT DISCUSSIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE CENTRES, THEY SHOULD MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN ADVANCE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE KOWLOON UNIT IS 3-7128404, AND THAT FOR THE HONG KONG UNIT IS 5-485348.

THE KOWLOON UNIT IS LOCATED AT THE TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7/F, 165 MA TAU WAI ROAD; AND THE HONG KONG UNIT IS AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, 1/F, HONG KONG.

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PRIZES FOR POSTER DESIGN WINNERS

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WINNERS OF THE 17TH ANNUAL INDUSTRIAL SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE PRIZES AT 10 AM TOMORROW (MONDAY), IN THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE, 3/F, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KOWLOON.

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE BY MR A.J. BISLEY, PRINCIPAL LECTURER OF SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

MORE THAN 450 ENTRIES FROM 52 SCHOOLS WERE SUBMITTED AND SELECTION OF THE BEST ENTRIES WAS HELD EARLY THIS MONTH.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1985

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SPORTS GROUNDS FROM RESERVOIR ROOFS
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THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO CONVERT THE ROOFS OF TWO RESERVOIRS INTO SPORTS GROUNDS FOR TWO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN KOWLOON.

ONE OF THESE ROOFS, AT PIPER'S HILL, WILL BE SURFACED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TENNIS, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL AND HANDBALL COURTS.

THE OTHER ONE IS AT TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION OF CALDECOTT ROAD. IT WILL BE LEVELLED AND CONVERTED INTO A FOOTBALL FIELD WITH RUNNING TRACKS.

CHANGING FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED ON BOTH SITES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26. LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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NT LIFE SAVERS BACK ON APRIL 1
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LIFE-SAVING AND FIRST-AID SERVICES WILL RESUME TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT 26 GAZETTED BATHING BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

LIFE-GUARDS WILL BE ON DUTY DAILY AT THE PUBLIC BATHING BEACHES BETWEEN 9 AM AND 6 PM, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, HE ADVISED BATHERS TO SWIM WITHIN THEIR LIMITS AND STAY IN THE SAFE SWIMMING AREAS CLEARLY MARKED WITH BUOY LINES AND WITH LIFE-GUARDS NEARBY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BEACHES ARE APPROACH BEACH, TING KAU BEACH, CASAM BEACH, LIDO BEACH, GEMINI BEACH AND HOI MEI BEACH IN TSUEN WAN, NEW AND OLD CAFETERIA BEACHES AND KADOORIE BEACH IN TUEN MUN, FIRST AND SECOND BEACHES OF CLEAR WATER BAY, HAP MUN BEACH, KIU TSUI BEACH, PAK SHA CHAU BEACH, CAMPERS BEACH, SILVERSTRAND BEACH AND TRIO BEACH IN SAI KUNG, UPPER AND LOWER CHEUNG SHA BEACHES, PUI O BEACH AND SILVERMINE BAY AT LANTAU ISLAND, HUNG SHING YEH BEACH AND LO SO SHING BEACH AT LAMMA ISLAND, TUNG WAN BEACH AND KWUN YAM WAN AT CHEUNG CHAU AND TUNG WAN BEACH AT MA WAN ISLAND.

HOWEVER, HE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO STAY OUT OF WATER AT CASTLE PEAK BEACH, ANGLERS' BEACH AND THE NON-GAZETTED BEACH OF BUTTERFLY BAY IN TUEN MUN, WHICH WERE STILL NOT SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.

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