



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1984

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PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT HK

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THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING MADE SIMULTANEOUSLY
IN LONDON:-

+AT THE INVITATION OF MR ZHAO ZIYANG, PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PEKING BETWEEN 18 AND 20 DECEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HER VISIT, SUBJECT TO THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT, WILL BE TO SIGN THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ALSO HOLD TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL VISIT HONG KONG ON DECEMBER 20 AND 21. THEY WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ADDRESS A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.+

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BUSY TIME FOR PM HERE

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THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, WILL VISIT HONG KONG ON DECEMBER 20 AND 21 FOLLOWING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PEKING.

SHE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND LADY HOWE.

THIS WILL BE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECOND VISIT TO HONG KONG. SHE VISITED THE TERRITORY IN SEPTEMBER 1982.

ON DECEMBER 20, MRS THATCHER WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH MEMBERS OF UMELCO AND THEN TOUR AP LEI CHAU TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS.

IN THE EARLY EVENING, SHE WILL HOST A RECEPTION FOR ABOUT 500 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

SHE WILL THEN ADDRESS A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

EARLY IN THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MRS THATCHER WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. SHE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG LATER THE SAME MORNING.

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TSIM SHA TSUI EAST SITE SOLD FOR \$190 M
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HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TURNED UP FOR THE AUCTION OF THE REMAINING SITE IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WHICH WAS SOLD FOR \$190 MILLION.

BIDDING WAS HECTIC FOR THE 2 850-SQUARE METRE SITE DURING THE AUCTION AT A CENTRAL HOTEL, WITH THE UPSET PRICE SET AT \$100 MILLION.

THE SITE WAS BOUGHT BY QUINNOLEX LIMITED AT \$66 666 PER SQUARE METRE.

IT HAS A BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTION OF 51.82 METRES.

THE BUYER OF THE SITE, WHICH IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING A HOTEL, HAS THE OPTION TO PAY THE PREMIUM IN THE FORM OF MONETISED LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A/B).

UNDER THE SALES CONDITIONS, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE AT LEAST 13 500 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA ON THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD SITE BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1988.

ANOTHER SITE AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION WAS KEENLY BID BETWEEN MR LI KAR-SHING AND ANOTHER BUYER.

THE SITE, MEASURING 2 058 SQUARE METRES, WAS EVENTUALLY BOUGHT BY MR LI AT \$30 MILLION - AN INCREASE OF 200 PER CENT OVER THE OPENING PRICE OF \$10 MILLION.

DURING THE 20 MINUTE CONTEST, THE TWO BIDDERS RAISED THEIR HANDS FOR A TOTAL OF 53 TIMES.

ALTHOUGH EACH INCREASE WAS SET AT \$100 000, MR LI RAISED THE SET INCREASE TO ALMOST \$1 MILLION ON AT LEAST 10 OCCASIONS.

THE SITE IS TO BE USED FOR STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF CEMENT, SAND AND OTHER SIMILAR BUILDING MATERIALS AS WELL AS FOR CONCRETE OR ASPHALT BATCHING.

THE THIRD SITE, AT SHA TIN, MEASURING 2 200 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO THE BANK OF CHINA (HONG KONG BRANCH) FOR \$3.85 MILLION.

THE SITE IS AT THE JUNCTION OF WONG CHUK YEUNG STREET AND KWEI TEI STREET IN FO TAN.

THE DEVELOPER OF THE SITE, WHICH IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN DEVELOPMENT OR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DATA PROCESSING CENTRE, ALSO HAS THE OPTION TO PAY THE PREMIUM IN THE FORM OF MONETISED LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A/B).

COMMENTING ON THE SALE, THE AUCTIONEER, GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROBERT POPE, SAID THE RESULTS OF THIS AFTERNOON'S AUCTION WERE EXTREMELY GOOD AND SHOWED THAT THERE WAS INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

MORE STRESS ON CARE FOR ELDERLY
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SERVICES AND HOUSING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WOULD BE AMONG THE MAJOR AREAS OF GROWTH IN THE WELFARE FIELD IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE (DESIGNATE), MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG TODAY.

+WE OWE IT TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS, WHO HAVE THEMSELVES PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG TO WHAT IT IS TODAY, TO SEE THAT THEY CAN SPEND THEIR LATER YEARS IN A COMFORTABLE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPER PLANNING RATIOS WOULD BE THE FIRST STAGE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARING TO MEET SHORTFALLS IN ALL TYPES OF GROUP ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+WHILE WE HAVE PLANNING RATIOS FOR SOME TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS HOMES FOR THE AGED AND CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, THESE ARE FAIRLY ARBITRARY AND NEED RE-EXAMINATION,+ HE SAID.

+IN ADDITION WE HAVE NO REAL PLANNING RATIOS FOR BASIC HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION AND HAVE LARGELY RELIED ON THE SIZE OF THE WAITING LIST WHICH IS NOT NECESSARILY AN ACCURATE INDICATOR OF DEMAND.+

MR CHAMBERS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HOMES GROUPED TOGETHER SO THAT PEOPLE COULD BE CARED FOR APPROPRIATELY WITHOUT BEING UPROOTED AND MOVED AROUND.

+IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO THIS WITHIN HOUSING ESTATES OR ALTERNATIVELY IN SPECIALLY BUILT COMPLEXES, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT NOT BE VERY EASY TO FIND LARGE ENOUGH SITES FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING GENERALLY ON RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT FOR A VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS, THERE WAS A NEED IN HONG KONG TO PROVIDE A RANGE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.

AT ONE END OF THE SCALE WERE A NUMBER OF SCHEMES BY WHICH ELDERLY PEOPLE COULD OBTAIN ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HOUSING AREAS.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD A QUOTE OF 800 FLATS A YEAR FOR ALLOCATION TO ELDERLY PEOPLE IN GROUPS OF THREE OR MORE, NOT NECESSARILY RELATED, WHO HAD PRIORITY ON THE WAITING LIST.

THERE WERE ALSO ARRANGEMENTS TO GIVE PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TO COMPASSIONATE CASES OF PEOPLE WITH PARTICULAR WELFARE PROBLEMS, AND MANY OF THESE WERE ELDERLY PEOPLE.

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MR CHAMBERS SAID A SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT WAS THE SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, CONSISTING OF PRIVATE FLATS BOUGHT WITH MONEY RAISED BY THE SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR GOLD COINS. THE FIRST SCHEME, OPENED IN SHA TIN OVER A YEAR AGO, CONSISTED OF 80 FLATS HOUSING ABOUT 480 PEOPLE. A SECOND SCHEME OF 23 FLATS FOR 115 PEOPLE HAD BEEN RECENTLY OPENED IN WAN CHAI.

+WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR MORE FLATS TO BUY, PREFERABLY IN KOWLOON,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

REFERRING TO HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, MR CHAMBERS SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT OVER 1 300 HOSTEL PLACES.

THESE HOSTELS WERE OPERATED BY WELFARE AGENCIES WITH GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS. THEY HAD A SMALL STAFF AND SOME FAIRLY MINIMAL WELFARE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED.

TURNING TO THE MORE TRADITIONAL HOMES FOR THE AGED, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT SUCH HOMES WERE CLASSIFIED WITH A NUMBER OF HOSTELS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES THAT PROVIDED MEALS.

ALTOGETHER THERE ARE JUST OVER 4 000 PLACES IN THIS CATEGORY - ABOUT 1 400 IN HOSTELS IN HOUSING ESTATES AND THE REST IN PURPOSE-BUILT HOMES.

+ANOTHER 269 PLACES ARE PLANNED FOR THE PRESENT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

REFERRING TO CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES WHICH PROVIDED GENERAL PERSONAL CARE AND A LIMITED AMOUNT OF NURSING CARE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE EIGHT HOMES OF THIS TYPE PROVIDING 880 PLACES.

+THERE IS A LARGE SHORTFALL IN THIS CATEGORY AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID, +BUT QUITE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ARE IN THE BUILDING OR PLANNING STAGE AND WE HOPE THAT THE POSITION WILL IMPROVE GREATLY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.+

SPEAKING OF INFIRMARIES, MR CHAMBERS SAID THIS TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND WAS INTENDED TO CATER FOR THE BED-RIDDEN AND THOSE WHO NEEDED REGULAR NURSING AND MEDICAL CARE.

ON THE QUESTION OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CHAMBERS NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REGULATE SUCH HOMES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD +PREFER NOT TO HAVE TO SET UP AN ELABORATE AND EXPENSIVE CONTROL SYSTEM UNLESS THIS IS REALLY NECESSARY+.

/THE SOCIAL

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THESE HOMES AND SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO REAL INDICATION OF ANY ABUSES, HE SAID.

+UNLESS THESE OCCUR WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THEM,+ HE SAID.

+AT PRESENT THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THESE PRIVATE HOMES PROVIDE A USEFUL SERVICE FOR RATHER BETTER-OFF PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY THE FEES NECESSARY TO MEET THE OPERATING COSTS,+ HE ADDED.

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MASSIVE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN FOR KOWLOON CENTRAL ESTATES
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS EMBARKED ON A \$1 500 MILLION PLAN TO TRANSFORM THE ENTIRE KOWLOON CENTRAL ESTATES DISTRICT INTO A MODERN URBAN COMMUNITY. THE REDEVELOPMENT IS ON A SCALE RARELY SEEN IN ANY CITY IN THE WORLD IN RECENT TIMES.

THE DISTRICT ENCOMPASSES THE FOUR FORMER RESETTLEMENT ESTATES OF WONG TAI SIN, TUNG TAU, WANG TAU HOM AND LOK FU. IT WAS IN THESE ESTATES THAT SQUATTERS CLEARED FROM DEVELOPMENT SITES DURING THE 1958/64 PERIOD WERE REHOUSED IN MARK I/II BLOCKS. THESE BLOCKS ARE NOW OBSOLESSENT IN TERMS OF SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIVING CONDITIONS.

UNDER THE RENEWAL PROGRAMME, NOT ONLY WILL ALL THE OLD HOUSING BLOCKS BE DEMOLISHED AND REDEVELOPED, BUT ALSO THE ENTIRE DISTRICT WILL BE RE-PLANNED AND MODERNISED AROUND DISTRICT PARKS. NEW DOMESTIC BLOCKS WILL BE OF THE LATEST STANDARDS WITH PROVISION OF ALL ESSENTIAL FACILITIES.

MR DAVID FORD, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SAID TODAY: +THE ENTIRE RENEWAL PROGRAMME WILL INVOLVE AN ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE IN THE ORDER OF \$1 500 MILLION ON CONSTRUCTION ALONE. THE AIM IS THAT BY 1991/92, ALL THE MARK I/II ESTATES WILL HAVE BEEN REPLACED AND THE PEOPLE REHOUSED. THE SPEED OF REDEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN STEPPED UP CONSIDERABLY BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE MARK I AND II BLOCKS ARE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF HOUSING FOR THE 1990. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PLAN IS PROVISION FOR THREE AREAS TO BE SET ASIDE FOR HOS ACCOMMODATION. THIS IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME OF THE PRIME LOCATIONS AND SITES IN THE LATER PHASES WHICH WILL BE RELEASED UNDER THE SCHEME.+

/THE SCHEME &.....

THE SCHEME WILL ACCOMMODATE SOME 136 000 PERSONS UPON COMPLETION OF REDEVELOPMENT. A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE EXISTING POPULATION WILL BE REHOUSED IN THE SAME ESTATE. THIS MEANS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW FLATS WILL BE USED AS RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION. HOWEVER, SOME 10 TO 15 PER CENT COULD BE DEVELOPED FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IN LINE WITH THE LATEST POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERSHIP AND TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY. NO MAJOR NEW COMMERCIAL CENTRES ARE PROPOSED FOR THE FOUR ESTATES, AS THEY WILL BE WELL SERVED BY THE DISTRICT SHOPPING CENTRES AT LOK FU/WANG TAU HOM AND THE LOWER WONG TAI SIN.

IN THIS MAMMOTH REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE PROBLEMS OF RELOCATION OF THE RESIDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN NEGLECTED. EXISTING TENANTS OF THE ESTATES INVOLVED ARE BEING GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE TO ESTATES OF THEIR OWN LIKING AND AMPLE TIME IS ALLOWED FOR THE MOVE TO TAKE PLACE IN ORDER THAT AS LITTLE INCONVENIENCE AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE CAUSED. THE PROBLEMS OF DISPLACEMENTS OF SHOPS, MARKET STALLS AND OTHER FACILITIES ARE ALSO CAREFULLY PLANNED AND CO-ORDINATED.

FOLLOWING DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, A NUMBER OF NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE FOUR ESTATES WHICH INCLUDE AN AREA CENTRE, NURSERIES, AND CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED BY CONSULTANTS. TO LINK THE ESTATES INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, SAFER AND MORE CONVENIENT TRANSPORT AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORKS HAVE BEEN PLANNED WITH MORE OPEN SPACES TO BE PROVIDED TO FORM AN ATTRACTIVE SYSTEM OF LINKED PARKS AND LANDSCAPED WALKWAYS.

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS AGREED THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE OVER ALL THE PLAYGROUNDS NOW UNDER URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONTROL INCLUDING THE DISTRICT OPEN SPACE IN WANG TAU HOM IN EXCHANGE FOR 2.8 HECTARES OF DISTRICT OPEN SPACE IN LOK FU.

MR FORD RECALLED THAT REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF OLDER ESTATES WAS INITIATED IN 1972. EARLIER IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE IN THE FORM OF INSITU-CONVERSIONS OF THE OLD BLOCKS TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING. AND LATER, NEW 'PUMP-PRIMING' HOUSING BLOCKS WERE BUILT TO PROVIDE RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE DISTRICT. THE POPULATION OF THE FOUR ESTATES HAS STEADILY REDUCED FROM 262 000 IN 1967 TO THE CURRENT FIGURE OF 137 000.

HE SAID THE PRESENT PLANS ALLOW FOR THE REHOUSING OF 136 000 PEOPLE TO MODERN STANDARDS AND PROVIDE A FAR MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND PRACTICAL APPROACH FOR IMPLEMENTATION MORE RAPIDLY.

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MR FORD SAID: +IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AN OVERALL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED WITH ALL THE INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.+

THIS COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATED AND ADVISED ON THE PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDED A THOROUGH TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY BY CONSULTANTS.

+ITS PROPOSALS AS OUTLINED ABOVE HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN PRESENTED TO AND ACCEPTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD. A BRIEFING SESSION HAS ALSO BEEN HELD WITH MEMBERS OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD WHO WELCOME THE PROPOSALS,+ MR FORD SAID.

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UK EXPERTS STUDY HK PUBLIC HOUSING
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TWO TOP OFFICIALS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF HOUSING IN BRITAIN TODAY GAINED AN INSIGHT INTO HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS DURING A TOUR OF AN EXHIBITION IN THE CITY HALL.

PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE, MR GEORGE SMITH, AND DIRECTOR, MR PETER MCGURK, ARE HERE ON AN EIGHT-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (ESTATE MANAGEMENT), MR FUNG TUNG, THEY TOOK A LOOK INTO THE MODERN LIFESTYLE TO BE FOUND IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AT THE +BETTER LIVING IN ESTATES+ EXHIBITION.

THEY SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE EXHIBITION'S SPECIAL SOUND AND VISUAL EFFECTS WHICH HAD BEEN ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS TO VISITOR SINCE THE EXHIBITION OPENED LAST WEEK.

THEY THEN WENT ON AN INSPECTION TOUR OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP CHUN MAN COURT AND THE RENTAL OI MAN ESTATE IN HO MAN TIN, LOOKING AT THE WIDE-RANGING FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR TENANTS.

THE VISITORS HAD EARLIER HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO, AND THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR DAVID FORD, ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

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FACELIFT FOR ESTATE

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SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE IS TO CELEBRATE ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30) THE COMPLETION OF A REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME WHICH HAS GIVEN THE ESTATE A FACELIFT AND UPGRADED THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

ORGANISED AS PART OF THE HOUSING FESTIVAL '84, THE CELEBRATIONS WILL FEATURE A VARIETY SHOW, A LION DANCE AROUND THE ESTATE AND AN EXHIBITION DEPICTING THE CHANGING FACES OF THE ESTATE.

OFFICIATING AT THE CELEBRATION CEREMONY WILL BE MR F.K. LI WHO SOME 30 YEARS AGO WAS IN CHARGE OF PLANNING REHOUSING FOR VICTIMS OF THE BIG SHEK KIP MEI FIRE WHICH TRIGGERED OFF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

MR LI, NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A SOUVENIR BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO.

SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE IS THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE BUILT, AND THE FIRST IN WHICH REDEVELOPMENT WORKS HAVE BEEN FULLY COMPLETED.

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PROBLEMS OF SINGLE ELDERLY PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTED

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WELFARE AGENCIES AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SINGLE ELDERLY PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAD RECENTLY LOST THEIR SPOUSES.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' PONG WING SHIU SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AT PING SHEK ESTATE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD A VERY LARGE GROUP OF SINGLE ELDERLY PEOPLE.

THE 1981 CENSUS SHOWED THAT ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S ELDERLY POPULATION WERE EITHER NOT MARRIED, WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR SPOUSES OR WERE WIDOWED AND THAT ABOUT 90 000 OF THEM WERE LIVING ALONE, SHE SAID.

+AS THEY GROW OLDER,+ SHE SAID, +THEY BECOME INCREASINGLY ALONE AS THEIR FRIENDS DIE OFF AND THE NUMBER OF SURVIVORS IN THEIR OWN GENERATION DECLINES.+

+FOR THE ESTIMATED 200 000 OR SO ELDERLY WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS IN OUR MIDST, THE PROBLEM IS MUCH MORE ACUTE,+ SHE ADDED.

/MRS GOODSTADT

MRS GOODSTADT SAID WHEN DEATH DEPRIVED AN ELDERLY PERSON OF HIS OR HER SPOUSE, THE RESULTS WERE OFTEN HARDER TO ADJUST TO THAN WAS THE CASE WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE. +BEREAVEMENT FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE CANNOT BE CURED,+ SHE SAID.

BEREAVEMENT FOR AN ELDERLY PERSON ALSO MEANT A DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE HABITS OF A LIFETIME.

+IN ADDITION TO THEIR DEEP LOSS AND NEED FOR EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT, THEY ARE FACED WITH THE NECESSITY FOR A MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THEIR WAY OF LIFE AT A TIME WHEN SUCH RECONSTRUCTION IS PARTICULARLY HARD TO ACHIEVE,+ MRS GOODSTADT SAID.

ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH USUALLY MUST BE FACED BY A SURVIVING SPOUSE, SHE SAID, WAS THE DIFFICULT ONE OF WHETHER TO LIVE WITH THE CHILDREN'S FAMILY, WITH A FRIEND, OR ALONE.

+EVEN IF THEY WERE TO MOVE IN TO LIVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN, PROBLEMS WOULD STILL ARISE,+ MRS GOODSTADT SAID.

+RARELY DO THE ELDERLY SHARE ENOUGH OF THE OUTLOOK AND THE INTERESTS EVEN OF THEIR CHILDREN - LET ALONE THEIR GRANDCHILDREN - TO BE ABLE TO TOTALLY RELAX WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE.+

ANOTHER PROBLEM OF THE WIDOW OR WIDOWER CONCERNED FINANCE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SINGLE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD. +THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL IS OFTEN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE ELDERLY MARRIED COUPLE,+ SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, MRS GOODSTADT SAID THAT OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WERE NOT ENOUGH BY THEMSELVES TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES.

SHE SAID SOCIAL CENTRES COULD BE A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND STRENGTH AT THIS DESOLATE TIME.

+THEY PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SINGLE ELDERLY TO INCREASE COMPANIONSHIP, TO WORK FOR OTHERS THROUGH VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TO START NEW HOBBIES AND SPORTS,+ SHE SAID.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THERE WOULD BE 67 MORE SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

+OUR PLAN IS TO PROVIDE ONE SUCH CENTRE FOR A POPULATION OF 30 000. IN OTHER WORDS, WE SHALL EVENTUALLY HAVE 200 SOCIAL CENTRES TO LOOK AFTER THE EMOTIONAL, RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF ELDERLY,+ SHE SAID.

MRS GOODSTADT PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP FOR ITS FINE TRADITION OF MEETING COMMUNITY'S MEDICAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS AND SAID IT HAD EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE GROUP WILL ESTABLISH TWO MORE CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES, THREE HOSTELS, TWO SOCIAL CENTRES AND ONE DAY-CARE CENTRE. AS A PIONEER PROJECT, IT WILL ALSO RUN A SELF-FINANCING HOME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PRIVATE MEANS.

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BORDER LIAISON GROUPS MEET

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AT THE INVITATION OF VICE-GOVERNOR YANG LI AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, DELEGATIONS FROM HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG MET IN GUANGZHOU YESTERDAY (NOVEMBER 27) FOR THE FIFTH IN A SERIES OF REGULAR MEETINGS TO REVIEW BORDER LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND INCLUDED THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER. THE GUANGDONG DELEGATION WAS LED BY FU FEN, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE.

THE BORDER LIAISON SYSTEM WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1981 AS A CHANNEL OF CONTACT FOR POLICE, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COOPERATE IN MONITORING AND CONTROLLING CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER.

THE DELEGATIONS HELD DETAILED AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES SINCE THE LAST MEETING. THE TWO SIDES WELCOMED THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS AND THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE CONTACTS IN MANY AREAS, WHICH FULLY REFLECTED THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS AND VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER.

AMONG THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE MEASURES TO COORDINATE THE INTERCEPTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INCLUDING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHILDREN, AND SMUGGLING AND MEASURES TO FACILITATE FURTHER THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP TOURS VISITING HONG KONG. THE TWO SIDES ALSO CONSIDERED ARRANGEMENTS FOR FACILITATING TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS AT PEAK TIMES SUCH AS FESTIVAL PERIODS.

VICE-GOVERNOR YANG LI HOSTED A BANQUET AT THE GUANGDONG GOVERNMENT GUESTHOUSE TO WELCOME THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, WHICH WAS RECIPROCATED BY MR MCLAREN WITH A BANQUET AT THE GARDEN HOTEL WHERE THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS ACCOMMODATED.

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PARK TRAIL FOR HANDICAPPED OPENED

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A NEW TRAIL, BUILT TO HELP PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THEIR STRENGTH, BODY BALANCE AND CO-ORDINATION, WAS OPENED TODAY BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR JOHN WHOLEY, AT THE ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK.

THE 200 METRE LONG FITNESS COURSE CONSISTS OF 15 STATIONS EQUIPPED WITH SUCH THINGS AS PURPOSE-BUILT PARALLEL AND CHIN-UP BARS AND CLIMBING ROPES.

/SIGNBOARDS AT

SIGNBOARDS AT EACH OF THE STATIONS SHOW HOW DIFFERENT EXERCISES SHOULD BE PERFORMED.

AND ALONG THE NETWORK OF FOOTPATHS IS A MINI NATURE TRAIL WHERE PLANTS ARE IDENTIFIED FOR THE BENEFIT OF VISITORS.

THE WHEELCHAIR TRAIL FORMS PARTS OF THE ABERDEEN P.H.A.B. BARBECUE SITE, WHICH COVERS JUST OVER HALF A HECTARE NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK.

AMONG THE FACILITIES AT THE BARBECUE SITE ARE BARBECUE PITS, TABLES, BENCHES AND TOILETS, ALL SUITABLE FOR USE BY THE HANDICAPPED AS WELL.

MR WHOLEY SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THE P.H.A.B. SITE WAS TO INTEGRATE THE HANDICAPPED INTO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE SHARING OF FACILITIES IN COUNTRY PARKS.

THE IDEA HAD BEEN INITIATED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BUT TECHNICAL ADVICE HAD BEEN SOUGHT FROM RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS.

MR WHOLEY SAID THAT THE ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK HAD BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE P.H.A.B. SITE BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSE TO THE URBAN AREA AND WAS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

IN ADDITION, IT WAS NEAR A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE P.H.A.B. SITE WILL PROVE TO BE VERY POPULAR,+ HE SAID.

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TWO DB'S TO DISCUSS WHITE PAPER
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE REPROVISIONING OF SMITHFIELD CATTLE DEPOT IN KENNEDY TOWN AND THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SCHEME.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE SCHEME.

AT THE MEETING, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

/OTHER ITEMS

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF WELFARE FACILITIES IN THE URBAN COUNCIL WESTERN COMPLEX AND PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH MEETINGS. THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF WILLIE BUILDING, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30) AT 10.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 2ND FLOOR, 37-39 TONKIN STREET.

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DB TO DISCUSS WHITE PAPER ON GOVERNMENT
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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30) AFTERNOON.

AT THE MEETING, THE BOARD WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A TYPHOON SHELTER IN CHAI WAN, AND A REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE BOARD WILL BE ASKED TO ENDORSE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING IN CHAI WAN, AND THE STAGING OF A LARGE-SCALE CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL IN VICTORIA PARK ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO SET UP WELCOME SIGNS IN THE DISTRICT, THE URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 1ST FLOOR, 880-886, KING'S ROAD.

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WORK TO BEGIN ON EASTERN HOSPITAL
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A RIBBON-CUTTING AND GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) MORNING TO MARK THE START OF SITE FORMATION WORK FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, IN CHAI WAN.

THE HOSPITAL WILL BE THE FIRST FULLY-EQUIPPED GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT AND WILL HAVE 1 450 BEDS. IT IS BEING BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER CHAI WAN COTTAGE AREA SECTION ONE, AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1989.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF JAPAN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION, MR KUNISUKE KUGE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE RIBBON-CUTTING AND GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL AT 11 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) OPPOSITE THE CHAI WAN POLICE STATION IN LOK MAN ROAD, CHAI WAN.

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MORE POST OFFICES FOR INTELPOST
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NINE MORE POST OFFICES WILL BE ACCEPTING INTELPOST FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 3), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THESE ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE.

THEY ARE:

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| BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE | - | 4 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL |
| HENNESSY ROAD POST OFFICE | - | 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI |
| QUEEN'S ROAD POST OFFICE | - | 160-164 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL |
| WYNDHAM STREET POST OFFICE | - | 69 WYNDHAM STREET, CENTRAL |
| GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE | - | 2-6 GRANVILLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI |

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INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE POST OFFICE	- 80 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE	- 405 NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE	- 6 TUNG YAN STREET, KWUN TONG
MONG KOK POST OFFICE	- 37 BUTE STREET, MONG KOK

FACILITIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMERS TO OPEN DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS WITH THE POST OFFICE FOR PAYMENT OF INTELPOST, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FACILITIES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTELPOST REPRESENTATIVE ON TELEPHONE 5-2671148.

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SPECIAL EXEMPTION FOR SMALL HARBOUR CRAFT
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS GIVEN SPECIAL EXEMPTION WHICH WILL NOW ENABLE SOME 2 000 SMALL VESSELS OR SAMPANS FITTED WITH OUTBOARD PETROL ENGINES TO GO ABOUT THEIR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES LAWFULLY IN HONG KONG HARBOUR.

THIS FOLLOWS A RECENT DETAILED STUDY UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT WHICH SHOWED THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH SMALL VESSELS, PREVIOUSLY NON-MECHANISED, HAD BEEN FITTED WITH THE PETROL ENGINES TO ENABLE THEM +TO MEET PRESENT DAY TRADE REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF SPEED, ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVENESS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THESE SMALL CRAFT RANGE FROM ABOUT 3.3 TO 10 METRES IN LENGTH AND ARE FITTED WITH OUTBOARD PETROL ENGINES OF 2.9 AND 11.2 KILOWATTS (BETWEEN FOUR AND 15 HORSEPOWER). SOME OF THEM ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN FISHING ACTIVITIES, WHILE MANY OTHERS ARE SERVING AS LOGISTIC AND WORK BOATS FOR THE MARINE FISH CULTURE AND OYSTER REARING BUSINESS.

HOWEVER, LEGISLATION ENACTED ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO PRECLUDES LICENSING OF SUCH VESSELS.

/RECOGNISING THE

RECOGNISING THE PROBLEM OF THESE CRAFT OPERATORS, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE STUDY, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS GRANTED EXEMPTIONS TO EVERY SAMPAN OF LESS THAN 10 METRES IN LENGTH AND FITTED WITH A PETROL OUTBOARD ENGINE OF POWER NOT EXCEEDING 12 KILOWATTS, FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF REGULATIONS 10 (1), 10 (3) AND 48 (A) OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (MISCELLANEOUS CRAFT) REGULATIONS.

SUCH EXEMPTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON EACH VESSEL BEING SURVEYED AND ISSUED WITH A +CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION+, AND THE OPERATOR OBTAINING THE REQUIRED +RESTRICTED CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY+ WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE SIGNING OF THE EXEMPTION ORDERS ON AUGUST 30 THIS YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WAS ASSESSING THE NEED TO PROVIDE SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES FOR THOSE WHO INTEND TO OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE, HE SAID.

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THAI OFFICIALS STUDY HK CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
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SEVEN SENIOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICIALS FROM THAILAND ARE IN HONG KONG TO STUDY THE VARIOUS TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

DURING THEIR FOUR-DAY VISIT, THEY HAVE TOURED SEVERAL ADULT INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING AN ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE ON HEI LING CHAU, A MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON AT PIK UK AND THE MAXIMUM SECURITY STANLEY PRISON AND SHEK PIK PRISON.

THEY WERE SHOWN THE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, INCLUDING THE DETENTION CENTRE PROGRAMME AT SHA TSUI= THE TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAMME AT TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION= THE LAI SUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

IN ADDITION, THEY TOURED THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, AND WATCHED PROFESSIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS BEING TRAINED.

TODAY, THEY HELD TALKS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER.

THEY ARE DUE TO LEAVE FOR BANGKOK THIS EVENING.

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REFRESHER COURSE FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH COUNCIL TO RUN A SERIES OF REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE FULL, 90-HOUR COURSES WILL BE HELD ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, FROM JANUARY 7 TO APRIL 4 NEXT YEAR.

THE COURSES ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUAINTING TEACHERS WITH THE USE OF THE REVISED PRIMARY ENGLISH SYLLABUS AND INTRODUCING THEM TO COMMUNICATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES, AND ALSO AT IMPROVING THEIR FLUENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH.

THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 25 TEACHERS IN EACH COURSE AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL, 253-261, HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG, FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM OR 2 PM TO 4.30 PM.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO FURTHER IMPROVE PARTICIPANTS' ORAL PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE FOR TEACHERS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE REFRESHER COURSE TO ENROL, FREE OF CHARGE, FOR A TERM, OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS IN THE ENGLISH CLASSES AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THE NOMINATION FORMS TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 5/F., HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 8.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8392442.

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TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC CHANGES

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE IN TSUEN WAN FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAYS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION:

- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET BETWEEN YAN CHAI STREET AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET.
- * THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAN MUN HAU STREET BETWEEN TSUEN WAH STREET AND TAK WAH STREET.
- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAN MUN HAU STREET BETWEEN TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET AND TSUEN WAH STREET.

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- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAN MUN HAU STREET BETWEEN TAK WAH STREET AND TSUEN LOK STREET.
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAK WAH STREET.
- * A SHORT SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAK WAH STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH KWAN MUN HAU STREET.
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HAM TIN STREET NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TSUI ROAD.

WITHIN THESE RESTRICTED ZONES, NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

TWO ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS - KWAN MUN HAU STREET BETWEEN TAK WAH STREET AND TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET, AND THE SECTION OF TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET BETWEEN YAN CHAI STREET AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30), AN 80-METRE SECTION AT THE MIDDLE OF YAN CHAI STREET IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC TO ALLOW FOR THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECT.

THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF YAN CHAI STREET WILL THEN BE REROUTED TWO WAYS, AND ALSO MADE A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY.

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TIME CHANGE FOR LEARNER DRIVERS

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THE PROHIBITION HOURS DURING WHICH ALL LEARNER DRIVERS ARE BANNED FROM STADIUM PATH IN HAPPY VALLEY WILL BE REVISED AS FROM 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

THE NEW PROHIBITION HOURS WILL BE 7.30 AM TO 7.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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TAI PO PROHIBITED ZONE

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KWONG FUK ESTATE BUS TERMINUS AT TAI PO WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE KWONG FUK ESTATE BUS TERMINUS.

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