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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1985

SIR DAVID INSPECTS FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS

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SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF SECRETARY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH TO INSPECT THE FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS FOR THE COMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE FINAL REGISTER WAS PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 2 AND CONTAINED THE PARTICULARS OF 433 MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND 46 653 ENTRIES OF ELECTORS REGISTERED IN THE 11 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

THERE ARE 5 137 CORPORATE ELECTORS AND 41 516 ELECTORS WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS. ALL THESE ELECTORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26.

ON HAND TO RECEIVE SIR DAVID WERE THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ELECTORAL SERVICES), MR LEE LAP-SUN, AND THE REGISTRATION OFFICER, MR LAI KWAN-TAT. SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED ON THE DIVISION'S ROLE AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS AND ON PROGRESS MADE IN RELATION TO NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

ABOUT 450 CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE RECRUITED TO MAN 50 POLLING STATIONS AND ONE CENTRAL COUNTING STATION.

UP TO THIS AFTERNOON 17 PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO STAND AS CANDIDATES IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BUT ONLY SIX FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE HAVE HANDED IN THEIR NOMINATION PAPERS.

THE INSPECTION OF THE FINAL REGISTER BY SIR DAVID IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) (REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS AND APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES) REGULATIONS.

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TWO MORE CANDIDATES NOMINATED

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TWO NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH WERE RECEIVED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER RECEIVED SINCE THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS TO 23.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED TODAY:

ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
1. WONG TAI SIN	LAM KUI-SHING, CONRAD	M	50	GENERAL PRACTITIONER (MEDICAL)	3-202121 OR 3-253030

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
1. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	TAO LIANG-TE	M	61	SENIOR RESIDENT PARTNER OF A CONSULTING MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING FIRM	5-747321

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY (NO. OF SEATS IN BRACKETS)	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1. URBAN COUNCIL (1)	1
2. PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL (1)	
DISTRICT BOARDS:	
3. HK ISLAND (EAST) (1)	2
4. HK ISLAND (WEST) (1)	1

/5. KWUN TONG (1) .....

5.	KWUN TONG (1)	
6.	WONG TAI SIN (1)	1
7.	KOWLOON CITY (1)	1
8.	SHAM SHUI PO (1)	
9.	SOUTH KOWLOON (1)	
10.	NEW TERRITORIES (EAST) (1)	
11.	NEW TERRITORIES (WEST) (1)	
12.	NEW TERRITORIES (SOUTH) (1)	
	SUB-TOTAL	6

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY

1.	COMMERCIAL I (1)	1
	COMMERCIAL II (1)	1
2.	INDUSTRIAL I (1)	1
	INDUSTRIAL II (1)	
3.	FINANCIAL (1)	1
4.	LABOUR (2)	2
5.	SOCIAL SERVICES (1)	2
6.	MEDICAL (1)	1
7.	TEACHING (1)	3
8.	LEGAL (1)	2
9.	ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING (1)	3
	SUB-TOTAL	17

TOTAL: 23

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SIX-MONTH EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY-JUNE 1985, VALUED AT $225 822 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984, ACCORDING TO TRADE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY FOUR PER CENT TO $60 408 MILLION, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 41 PER CENT TO $52 642 MILLION AND IMPORTS BY SEVEN PER CENT TO $112 772 MILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. DECREASED BY SIX PER CENT. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $918 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $658 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $314 MILLION OR THREE PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $113 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT) AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY $33 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO CHINA INCREASED RAPIDLY IN VALUE, PARTICULARLY OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $832 MILLION OR 861 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $733 MILLION OR 109 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $352 MILLION OR 134 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $136 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY $29 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $282 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $115 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY $65 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $573 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $123 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN ALSO FELL (BY $148 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY $29 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $15 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT) AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $10 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT).

/DEMAND FOR .....

DEMAND FOR GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN INCREASED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $1 360 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY $979 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $757 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT), MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY $358 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT), AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $326 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $577 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY $153 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, LARGE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY $1 336 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT) AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY $236 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT). HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY $229 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT) AND NON-FERROUS METALS (BY $142 MILLION OR 92 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. WERE MOSTLY OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $603 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (BY $288 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN INORGANIC CHEMICALS (BY $233 MILLION OR 316 PER CENT), PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $170 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $142 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT).

MEANWHILE, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $783 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT) AND IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $290 MILLION OR 181 PER CENT). HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL FROM TAIWAN DECREASED (BY $77 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), AS DID IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM SINGAPORE (BY $151 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR MARKETS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 5. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY $14 378 MILLION OR 140 PER CENT), U.S.A. (BY $1 100 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY $491 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT), MACAU (BY $227 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT), ITALY (BY $135 MILLION OR 116 PER CENT), FRANCE (BY $90 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT), CANADA (BY $73 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY $69 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY $516 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (BY $372 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (BY $191 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT).

/MOST COMMODITIES .....

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $2 784 MILLION OR 193 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $1 655 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $1 518 MILLION OR 158 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $1 326 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT). DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $138 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT), FERTILIZERS MANUFACTURED (BY $83 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (NOT INCLUDING UNMILLED CEREALS) (BY $72 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT).

THE JUNE 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $5 PER COPY. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JUNE 1985 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1985 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $13 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-214375). ENQUIRIES CONCERNING TRADE STATISTICS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-444436).

FOLLOWING ARE SIX TABLES ILLUSTRATING THE FOREGOING:

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	26 125	27 927	- 1 802	- 6
CHINA	7 918	4 533	+ 3 385	+ 75
U.K.	3 898	4 633	- 735	- 16
F.R. OF GERMANY	3 572	4 468	- 896	- 20
JAPAN	2 053	2 308	- 255	- 11
CANADA	1 914	2 039	- 124	- 6
AUSTRALIA	1 585	1 731	- 145	- 8

/SINGAPORE .....

SINGAPORE	1 106	1 324	- 219	- 17
NETHERLANDS	970	1 088	- 117	- 11
SWITZERLAND	815	973	- 158	- 16

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	20 025	20 981	- 956	- 5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS, JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND PLASTIC ARTICLES)	9 346	9 326	+ 20	+ *
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES AND SEMI-CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS)	5 175	5 485	- 311	- 6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4 730	4 631	+ 99	+ 2

/TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND .....

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4 430	4 855	- 425	- 9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	3 743	4 014	- 271	- 7

* LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES

MAJOR SOURCE	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
JAPAN	27 644	24 553	+ 3 092	+ 13
CHINA	25 666	26 911	- 1 245	- 5
U.S.A.	11 585	11 559	- 26	- *
TAIWAN	10 664	8 001	+ 2 663	+ 33
SINGAPORE	5 805	5 294	+ 511	+ 10
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4 630	3 369	+ 1 262	+ 37
U.K.	3 936	4 378	- 442	- 10
F.R. OF GERMANY	3 176	2 427	+ 749	+ 31
ITALY	1 623	1 372	+ 251	+ 18
AUSTRALIA	1 554	1 649	- 95	- 6

* LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

/TABLE 4 : .....

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY SECTION

COMMODITY SECTION	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	32 595	25 807	+ 6 789	+ 26
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	30 374	31 458	- 1 084	- 3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	20 298	18 100	+ 2 197	+ 12
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	9 144	9 775	- 630	- 6
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7 579	7 396	+ 183	+ 2
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	5 440	5 754	- 314	- 5

/TABLE 5 : .....

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	24 638	10 260	+14 378	+140
U.S.A.	6 716	5 617	+ 1 100	+ 20
JAPAN	2 675	2 185	+ 491	+ 22
TAIWAN	2 239	2 430	- 191	- 8
SINGAPORE	1 961	2 333	- 372	- 16
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1 710	1 731	- 21	- 1
INDONESIA	1 439	1 954	- 516	- 26
MACAU	1 385	1 157	+ 227	+ 20
PHILIPPINES	680	643	+ 37	+ 6
SAUDI ARABIA	658	666	- 8	- 1

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-JUN 1985 ($ MN)	JAN-JUN 1984 ($ MN)	INCREASE(+) ($ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7 359	5 704	+ 1 655	+ 29
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	5 158	3 832	+ 1 326	+ 35

/TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND .....

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4 227	1 443	+ 2 784	+193
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3 417	3 059	+ 357	+ 12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	3 127	2 083	+ 1 134	+ 54
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2 699	2 315	+ 385	+ 17

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COMPROMISE PROPOSED FOR HKU REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF PEDESTRIAN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY'S BONHAM ROAD ENTRANCE AND NEW BUILDINGS BEING PROVIDED AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY REDEVELOPMENT, A COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE RECALLED THAT AN EARLIER SCHEME BY THE UNIVERSITY TO LINK THE BONHAM ROAD ENTRANCE AND THE REDEVELOPMENT WITH THREE ESCALATORS COVERING A VERTICAL ELEVATION OF SOME 31 METRES HAD BEEN FEATURED IN THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1984.

THE COMMITTEE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PUBLIC MONEY SHOULD BE USED FOR THE PROVISION OF ESCALATORS FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUNG AND HEALTHY STUDENTS WHO SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF WALKING AROUND THE CAMPUS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE.

/THE COMMITTEE .....

THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE ESCALATOR PROJECT SHOULD BE DEFERRED SO THAT IT COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF A THOROUGH REVIEW.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A REVIEW HAD NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD VISITED THE SITE AND HAD ACCEPTED THAT, IN VIEW OF ITS UNUSUAL FEATURES AND THE NEED TO MOVE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS, THERE WAS A CASE FOR THE USE OF MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LIFTING STUDENTS OVER PART OF THE DISTANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMPROMISE SCHEME HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY. IT INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCRETE STAIRWAY FROM THE BONHAM ROAD ENTRANCE AT A HEIGHT OF 50 METRES TO A HEIGHT OF 64.5 METRES AND OF VERTICAL ELEVATORS TO TRAVEL THE REMAINING DISTANCES UP TO A HEIGHT OF 81 METRES.

THE CAPITAL COST OF THIS SCHEME HAD BEEN ESTIMATED AT $6.45 MILLION AS AGAINST $11.9 MILLION FOR THE ORIGINAL PROJECT. THERE WOULD THUS BE A SAVING OF OVER $5.4 MILLION.

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JOBLESS RATE +LARGELY STABLE+

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN THE QUARTER APRIL-JUNE 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1985 WAS THREE PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.3 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985. THE RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1984 WAS 3.5 PER CENT. WHILST THE DECREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, THE DECREASE OF 0.5 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE YEAR IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT -- THAT IS, IT IS GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1985 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 78 500, AS COMPARED WITH 84 500 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985 AND 91 900 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1985 WAS ONE PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 1.3 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1984 WAS ALSO ONE PER CENT. THE DECREASE IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IS MARGINALLY STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

/THE ESTIMATED .....

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1985 WAS 27 700, AS COMPARED WITH 34 100 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985 AND 25 600 FOR APRIL-JUNE 1984.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS ADDED THAT BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION. THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR MAY-JULY 1985 WAS 3.1 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.2 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1985 WAS THREE PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (GHS) CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TO CONFORM TO THE LATEST STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO, THE GHS DEFINITIONS OF +UNEMPLOYMENT+ AND +UNDEREMPLOYMENT+ HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1985. HOWEVER, A COMPLETE CONVERSION WILL ONLY BE INTRODUCED IN MAY 1986 WHEN A SUFFICIENTLY LONG SERIES OF THE STATISTICS UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS IS AVAILABLE. USING THE NEW DEFINITIONS THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL-JUNE 1985 WAS 2.9 PER CENT, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5 PER CENT.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1985 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND SEPTEMBER 19.

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ANOTHER CASE OF TOXIC WINE

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CONFIRMED THAT ONE MORE BRAND OF AUSTRIAN WINE WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN DIETHYLENE GLYCOL, BRINGING TO 19 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AUSTRIAN WINES FOUND TO CONTAIN THE TOXIC CHEMICAL.

THE NAME OF THE AUSTRIAN WINE IS MONCHHOFER KAISERGARTEN 1977 GEWURZTRAMINER BEERENAUSLESE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO ESTABLISH HOW MANY BOTTLES OF THE WINE HAVE REACHED THE MARKET.

SO FAR, THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECOVERED A TOTAL OF 3 110 BOTTLES OF VARIOUS BRANDS OF AUSTRIAN WINES IDENTIFIED AS CONTAINING THE ANTI-FREEZE CHEMICAL, HE SAID.

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NO PLANS TO SHELVE REGULATIONS

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DENIED A TELEVISION NEWS REPORT THAT IF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (GENERAL) REGULATIONS CONTINUED TO BE DISAPPOINTING THE REGULATIONS WOULD BE +SHELVED+.

+THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE REGULATIONS BEING DROPPED BECAUSE THE RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC WAS NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC AS WE MIGHT HAVE WISHED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN. +WE WANT TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THEM.+

THE GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH A SIX-WEEK CONSULTATION PERIOD AND THE RESULTS SHOULD BE KNOWN AROUND THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THE REGULATIONS. BUT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE IMPLICATION THAT WE ARE THREATENING TO SHELVE THEM IF THE RESPONSE IS LOW.+

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MORE UC PROJECTS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEED

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FIVE URBAN COUNCIL WORKS PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED LAST MONTH AT A TOTAL COST OF OVER $11 MILLION.

THEY INCLUDED SIX TENNIS COURTS AND THREE SQUASH COURTS AT MORSE PARK, KING'S PARK GARDEN EXTENSION, THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC TOILET/BATHHOUSE AT WING HING STREET, NORTH POINT, AND TWO SITTING-OUT AREAS - ONE AT WAN TSUI LANE IN CHAI WAN AND THE OTHER AT MAN CHEONG STREET IN YAU MA TEI.

MEANWHILE, AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO BETTER LIFE STYLE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, 55 CAPITAL AND MINOR WORKS PROJECTS ARE NOW UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

THESE PROJECTS WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO COST MORE THAN $1.1 BILLION, INCLUDE MARKET COMPLEXES, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, SITTING-OUT AREAS, PARKS AND GARDENS, INDOOR GAMES HALLS, PUBLIC TOILETS AND BATHHOUSES, PLAYGROUNDS, AND A SQUASH COMPLEX AT VICTORIA BARRACKS.

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TENANCY SOUGHT FOR CONTAINER CAR PARK

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A PARKING SITE AT SAI LAU KOK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN.

COVERING ABOUT 2 033 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS WITHOUT CONTAINERS.

TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 30.

TENDER FORM, NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLAN AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT, THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

* LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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'BORROWED' FIRE STATION RETURNED

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THE ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF HONG KONG FIRE COMMAND, MR RAY BRUCE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED THE KEYS OF A FIRE STATION +BORROWED+ FROM THE RESIDENTS OF TAI O 38 YEARS AGO.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE, MR YU YUEN-HAI, RECEIVING THE KEYS SAID THAT FOLLOWING A FIRE IN THE TOWN LOCATED AT THE WESTERN END OF LANTAU ISLAND, VILLAGERS ORGANISED A FIRE-FIGHTING SQUAD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A FIREMAN IN 1925.

THE TAI O FIRE POST REMAINED IN COMMISSION DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR UNTIL VILLAGERS IN 1947 PROVIDED A BUILDING ON WING ON STREET TO BE USED AS A FIRE STATION.

WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF ITS OWN MODERN FIRE STATION COMPLEX, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO RETURN THE +BORROWED+ PREMISES TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN.

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RESERVOIR FISHING LICENCES AVAILABLE

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HONG KONG'S RESERVOIR FISHING SEASON FOR THIS YEAR WILL START ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND RESIDENTS MAY APPLY FOR A FISHING LICENCE FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT STARTING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED RESIDENTS THAT ONLY LICENCE HOLDERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO FISH IN THE 16 RESERVOIRS OPEN FOR THE SPORT THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY UNTIL MARCH 31.

LICENCES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE AT ITS HEADQUARTERS, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY; AND ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAINLAND DEPOT IN ARGYLE STREET, MONG KOK.

LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED IMMEDIATELY TO THOSE WHO APPLY IN PERSON WITH THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND PAY A $20 FEE.

APPLICATION CAN ALSO BE MADE BY POST GIVING THE NAME, ADDRESS, AGE AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBER OF THE APPLICANT TOGETHER WITH A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR $20 MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THIS SHOULD BE SENT TO WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE FISHING LICENCE WILL BE MAILED TO THE APPLICANT.

ANGLERS ARE REMINDED TO OBSERVE ALL THE RULES IN RESERVOIR FISHING, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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RETIRING 32 PRESENTED SOUVENIRS

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THIRTY-TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS WILL BE RETIRING AFTER AN AVERAGE OF 27 YEARS OF SERVICE EACH.

AT A CEREMONY HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID THAT DURING THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE THEY HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF BOTH THE FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS.

+THEY CAN NOW LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE AND SATISFACTION ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE PART THEY HAVE PLAYED IN THIS.+

DR RIDDELL-SWAN ALSO PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO THEM AND WISHED THEM A HAPPY RETIREMENT.

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OFFICES SET TO MOVE

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THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS MOVING.

NOW AT 13 TAT YAN SQUARE, TUEN MUN, IT WILL MOVE TO THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT 1, TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 16) AND SATURDAY.

THE NEW OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON MONDAY (AUGUST 19) AND CAN BE CONTACTED BY PHONE ON 0-451184.

MEANWHILE, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, ISLANDS, TOGETHER WITH THE DISTRICT SURVEY OFFICE, THE DISTRICT LANDS REGISTRY AND THE LEGAL ADVISORY SECTION OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT WILL MOVE TO HARBOUR BUILDING AT 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THEY WILL BE ACCOMMODATED ON THE 18TH AND 19TH FLOORS FROM AUGUST 21 (WEDNESDAY).

LAND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, SUCH AS LEASE MODIFICATIONS, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES, LEASE ENFORCEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED IN THE NEW OFFICE.

MAP SALES AND SURVEY DATA INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY OFFICE ON THE 18TH FLOOR WHILE SEARCHES OF LANDS RECORDS IN THE DISTRICT LANDS REGISTRY WILL BE RE-OPENED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (AUGUST 22).

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SUPPORT FOR POST OFFICE COURTESY DRIVE

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID A VISIT TO THE LEK YUEN ESTATE POST OFFICE IN SHA TIN IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL COURTESY DRIVE UNDERTAKEN BY A NUMBER OF +FRONT-LINE+ GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS IN SHA TIN, MR CHEUNG WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DAVID LAN.

HE WAS TOLD THAT UNLIKE OTHER COURTESY OR SMILE CAMPAIGNS, IN THE LATEST EXERCISE STAFF WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING A COURTEOUS SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

MR CHEUNG SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO FIND THE POST OFFICE MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TOWARDS PROMOTING THE DRIVE.

HE SAID THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD STAND TO GAIN BY RECEIVING A VERY EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERED IN +A MORE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE MANNER+.

MR LAN TOLD THE VISITORS THAT THE POST OFFICE, WITH EXTREMELY WIDE DAILY CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, WAS TAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO MAKE THE DRIVE A SUCCESS.

MORE THAN 300 STAFF MEMBERS IN THE 30 POST OFFICES WITH COUNTER FACILITIES WERE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE, HE ADDED.

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TECHNICAL STUDENTS EXCEL IN UK EXAMS

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TWO STUDENTS FROM THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TOOK TOP-CLASS HONOURS IN LAST YEAR'S LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (LCCI) TWO EXAMINATIONS.

ANOTHER STUDENT FROM THE SAME INSTITUTE CAME SECOND IN ANOTHER LCCI EXAMINATION. ALL THREE ARE STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTE'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES.

MR WAN SIU-FAI WAS PLACED FIRST IN THE SCORE LIST OF THE HIGHER BUSINESS STATISTICS PAPER IN THE LCCI EXAMINATION FOR SPRING 1984.

/MISS KWOK .....

MISS KWOK YUEN-YING ALSO GAINED THE HIGHEST MARKS IN THE INTERMEDIATE ARITHMETIC PAPER IN THE SUMMER 1984 EXAMINATION. AND MISS LAU SAU-CHING CAME SECOND IN THE INTERMEDIATE BUSINESS STATISTICS EXAMINATION FOR SPRING 1984.

ALL THREE HAVE BEEN AWARDED MEDALLIONS AND CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT.

MR WAN ENROLLED FOR BUSINESS STUDIES AND THE TWO GIRLS WERE FROM THE CLASS OF OFFICE STUDIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES DURING THE 1983-84 ACADEMIC SESSION.

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR C.K. YEUNG, SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTE HAD EXCELLED IN STATISTICS AND ARITHMETIC, ALTHOUGH ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STUDENTS HAD BEEN AWARDED HIGH HONOURS IN ACCOUNTANCY AND OTHER COMMERCIAL DISCIPLINES.

LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS ONE OF FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OPERATED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL PROVIDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN LEVELS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS.

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NO SALT WATER

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO THE WHOLE OF KWUN TONG AND PART OF NGAU TAU KOK WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9.30 AM TO 3 PM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 17) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREAS WILL INCLUDE THE HOUSING ESTATES OF KWUN TONG (LEI YUE MUN ROAD), KWUN TONG (TSUI PING ROAD), UPPER NGAU TAU KOK AND WO LOK.

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