



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GETTING ON WITH THE JOB - GOVERNOR	1
TRADE CHIEF TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE	1
'REFUGE' CENTRE TO BE SET UP FOR WOMEN, GIRLS	2
BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED	4
JING YING PERFORMANCES HIGHLY RATED	7
POPULATION FIGURES RELEASED	8
INVESTMENT IN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY RISING	8
COMPULSORY PILOTAGE EXPECTED SOON	9
KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION TO BE IMPROVED	10
DELEGATES TOUR HOUSING ESTATES	10
LATEST TAXI TENDER RESULTS ANNOUNCED	11
\$750 000 FINES FOR LITTERBUGS	12
SPEED LIMIT REMINDER FOR MOTORISTS	12
LANTERN CARNIVAL FOR EASTERN	13
COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR ART TEACHERS	14

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 1 -

GETTING ON WITH THE JOB - GOVERNOR
* * * *

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR,
SIR EDWARD YOUDE, ON RETURN FROM PEKING TODAY:

+WELL, NOTHING DRAMATIC FOR YOU THIS MORNING I'M AFRAID.

+OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS WE'VE HAD QUITE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT
OF INFORMAL AS WELL AS FORMAL DISCUSSION. AND IN THE MEANTIME THE
WORKING GROUP ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS. THEY ARE WORKING THROUGH
THE DOCUMENTS THAT WE HAVE REMITTED TO THEM, AND I'M SURE THEY WILL
HAVE MADE A LOT MORE PROGRESS BY THE TIME I GO BACK TO PEKING,
WHICH IS, AS YOU KNOW, ON THE FIFTH AND SIXTH OF SEPTEMBER, WHEN
WE SHALL BE CONTINUING TO WORK THROUGH THE REMAINING ISSUES.

+SO NO DRAMATIC NEWS, BUT WE'RE GETTING ON WITH THE JOB.+

SIR EDWARD WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY,
SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
MR OSWALD CHEUNG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
DR HARRY FANG, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY
(HK BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

----- 0 -----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TRADE CHIEF TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE
* * * *

MR HAMISH MACLEOD, DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND LEADER OF HONG KONG'S
DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON TEXTILES TALKS, ACCOMPANIED BY
MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, AND MRS MAUREEN CHAN,
PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, WILL RETURN ON FLIGHT PAN AM 21 WHICH IS
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT 7.35 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY). TWO OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE DELEGATION, MR STEPHEN CHEONG AND MR KENNETH FANG, HAVE GONE
TO NEW YORK.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE
HELD IN THE VIP PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, HONG KONG
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING, 40 MINUTES AFTER
MR MACLEOD'S ARRIVAL. TELEVISION AND RADIO CREWS ARE ADVISED TO
HAVE THEIR EQUIPMENT SET UP BY 8 PM.

----- 0 -----

/2

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 2 -

'REFUGE' CENTRE TO BE SET UP FOR WOMEN, GIRLS
* * * * *

A +REFUGE+ CENTRE WILL SOON BE SET UP BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

THE CENTRE, THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR SO CALLED +BATTERED WIVES+, WILL PROVIDE A SHELTER FOR THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID OF GOING BACK TO THEIR MATRIMONIAL HOMES BUT HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT +WOMEN AND THE LAW+, AT THE KWUN TONG LIONESS CLUB THIS EVENING, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE LAYOUT PLANS FOR THE PREMISES HAD BEEN PREPARED AND DETAILS OF FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING WORKED OUT.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANOTHER CENTRE FOR BATTERED WIVES WOULD SOON BE SET UP BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR WOMEN.

MR THOMAS MENTIONED ALSO THAT THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE SOUGHT ON LEGISLATION DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

+THE PROPOSALS WILL AFFORD READY ACCESS TO THE COURTS TO OBTAIN FURTHER PROTECTION FROM A SPOUSE WHO IS VIOLENT, WHERE NO DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS ARE IN BEING,+ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

OFFERING THOUGHTS ON SOME TOPICS WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD NEED +A GOOD DEAL OF CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC DEBATE BEFORE ANY CHANGES IN THE LAW COULD BE INTRODUCED,+ MR THOMAS REFERRED FIRST TO THE AREA OF DIVORCE.

HE SAID ONE ASPECT OF DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS OF GREAT CONCERN TO WOMEN WAS THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE BREAKDOWN OF MARRIAGE. THIS ASPECT, HE SAID, WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WHEN THE INCIDENCE OF DIVORCE WAS INCREASING AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TREND OF LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL POLICY WAS TO PROMOTE A GREATER DEGREE OF EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES.

REFERRING TO RECENT PRESS COMMENT ABOUT THE INCREASE IN THE DIVORCE RATE IN HONG KONG, MR THOMAS QUOTED A FAMILY COURT JUDGE AS HAVING PLACED THE INCREASE FROM 2 497 IN 1980 TO 3 754 IN 1983 -- AN ANNUAL AVERAGE INCREASE OF 14 PER CENT.

HE SAID THAT GIVEN THESE FIGURES, THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE WERE +CLEARLY A MATTER OF CONTINUING AND GROWING IMPORTANCE.+

/THE FINANCIAL

THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE, TOGETHER WITH THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS EQUALITY, HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HAD RESULTED IN THE MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY PROCEEDINGS BILL 1984.

REFERRING TO ONE ASPECT OF THE BILL, HE SAID IT SEEKS TO INTRODUCE A +CLEAN BREAK,+ FINANCIALLY BETWEEN DIVORCED PARTIES AND TO TREAT THE PARTIES TO A MARRIAGE EQUALLY IN THAT REGARD. THE +CLEAN BREAK+ PHILOSOPHY ALREADY FORMED PART OF FAMILY LAW OF SOME OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND HAD COME INTO LAW IN AUSTRALIA IN THE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY LAW ACT 1975.

THIS, HOWEVER, DID NOT AFFECT THE ONGOING OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES TO MAINTAIN THE CHILDREN OF THEIR MARRIAGE.

+THE EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PARTIES BECOMING SELF-SUFFICIENT SO FAR AS IS POSSIBLE. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL TREND TOWARDS EQUALITY,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THERE WERE, HOWEVER, MANY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD TO BE PONDERED BEFORE SUCH LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG.

MR THOMAS SAID SOME CONSIDERATIONS ARE:

* IS IT APPROPRIATE IN HONG KONG, WHERE, HE WAS TOLD, CUSTOM AND TRADITION MAKE THE PROSPECTS OF A WOMAN REMARRYING AFTER DIVORCE MORE DIFFICULT THAN IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INTRODUCED SUCH LEGISLATION?

* IS THERE A NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG WHERE THE EXTENDED FAMILY (INVOLVING GRANDPARENTS AND RELATIVES) IS QUITE COMMON?

* IF SUCH LEGISLATION OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION IS APPROPRIATE, SHOULD IT, IN OUR COMMUNITY, PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC SPOUSE MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO SAY, FIVE YEARS, AFTER DIVORCE TO ENABLE THE WIFE, FOR EXAMPLE TO UNDERTAKE A COURSE OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING TO ESTABLISH HERSELF IN A BUSINESS OR OTHERWISE TO OBTAIN AN ADEQUATE INCOME?

* IS THE CONCEPT OF ONGOING PERIODIC SPOUSE MAINTENANCE, IN CONTRAST TO THIS +CLEAN BREAK+ TYPE OF LEGISLATION, ONE THAT IS PARTICULARLY SUITED AND APPLICABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY, BEARING IN MIND OUR COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND?

MR THOMAS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AT PRESENT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS.

+I AM PUTTING THEM FORWARD AT THIS STAGE TO AN AUDIENCE OF WOMEN TO INITIATE DEBATE,+ HE SAID

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THESE ISSUES IN CHAMBERS, BUT IT WAS FAR TOO EARLY FOR HIM TO SEE WHETHER CHANGES IN THE LAW SHOULD BE MADE, OR IS IF SO, WHAT FORM THESE CHANGES SHOULD TAKE, MR THOMAS SAID.

TOUCHING ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK, AS THE LAST MATTER IN HIS TALK, MR THOMAS SAID IT WAS +A FORM OF BEHAVIOUR WHICH MUST BE DISCOURAGED.+

+CERTAIN ACTS WHICH ARE PROBABLY OFFENCES WITHIN THE CRIMINAL LAW, QUESTIONING WOMEN ABOUT ASPECTS OF THEIR PRIVATE LIFE, AND REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL FAVOURS IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVANCEMENT ARE ALL SEEN AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF WOMEN WAS UNDERTAKING A SURVEY OF THE MATTER.

HE WAS INTERESTED TO KNOW THE RESULT OF THE SURVEY AND THAT IF THERE WAS A PROBLEM, HE WOULD CONSIDER WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT.

BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS ACCORDS WITH THEIR EXPECTATIONS REFLECTED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER SURVEY.

FIRMS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR WHICH HAD EXPECTED SOME RECOVERY IN BUSINESS IN THE LAST SURVEY REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE OF FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTOR VARIED AMONG DIFFERENT TRADES BUT ON BALANCE, A STABLE BUSINESS SITUATION WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

AS REGARDS FIRMS IN THE 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTOR, A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS ACROSS DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES.

RESPONDENTS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING', 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' AND 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTORS ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1984.

/FAVOURABLE BUSINESS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 5 -

FAVOURABLE BUSINESS CLIMATE CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS IS ANTICIPATED BY FIRMS.

RESPONDENTS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' BUSINESS ARE ALSO CONFIDENT OF AN IMPROVED BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

HOWEVER, COMPANIES IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR CONTINUE TO HOLD A PESSIMISTIC VIEW ABOUT THE BUSINESS PROSPECT. FURTHER DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS SITUATION WAS EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS ACROSS ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WITH THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT ACHIEVED BY FIRMS IN THE 'PLASTICS', 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'ELECTRONICS' INDUSTRIES. THEY EXPECT THE FAVOURABLE SITUATION TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE 'TEXTILES' INDUSTRY REPORTED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT THEY EXPECT THAT THE BUSINESS GROWTH WILL BE STABILISED IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

AS FOR THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, NAMELY 'FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO', 'WEARING APPAREL', 'PRINTING', 'FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS' AND 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRIES, RESPONDING FIRMS EXPERIENCED IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ARE FAVOURABLE, PARTICULARLY FOR FIRMS IN THE 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRY.

DURING THE SECOND QUARTER, RESPONDENTS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' BUSINESS EXPERIENCED A STABLE BUSINESS SITUATION, AND THEY PREDICT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS FOR THE COMING QUARTER.

A SEASONAL DOWNTREND IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS BUT THE BUSINESS IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS REPORTED A RISE IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT ANTICIPATE A DECLINE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, DUE MAINLY TO SEASONAL FACTORS.

FIRMS IN THE 'BANKING' AND 'TRANSPORTATION' BUSINESSES EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE MUCH MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED IN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY. RESPONDENTS PREDICT THAT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK IS EXPECTED TO FURTHER IMPROVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

/FOR THE

FOR THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR, THE INTENSITY OF THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIALS PRICES FURTHER EASED OFF IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT THE PROBLEM OF HIGH INTEREST RATES EMERGED.

AS FOR THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR, THE PERSISTENT PROBLEMS OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG WERE INDICATED BY RESPONDENTS AS THE PROMINENT PROBLEMS FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS.

PRICE COMPETITION STILL REMAINED AS THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND THIS PROBLEM IS EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE COMING QUARTER.

THE PROBLEM OF HIGH INTEREST RATES WAS REPORTED BY AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' BUSINESS, 'MANUFACTURING' AND 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTORS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AS A PROMINENT PROBLEM IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AND PRICE COMPETITION CONTINUED TO BE THE PREDOMINANT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING FIRMS IN THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF EASING IN THE NEXT QUARTER. HOWEVER, THE INTENSITY OF THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER EASED IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS, PRICE COMPETITION WAS AGAIN REGARDED AS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN BOTH THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED THE LATEST QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY IN JULY 1984.

ABOUT 800 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1984, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1984.

THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINIONS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE IMMEDIATELY PAST QUARTER AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WILL 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE'.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 7 -

THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED.

THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT FOR A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH AT 5-423401.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JING YING PERFORMANCES HIGHLY RATED
* * * *

FIFTEEN YOUNG MUSICIANS AND DANCERS OF THE HONG KONG JING YING HAVE EARNED HIGH PRAISE FOR THEIR CURRENT PERFORMANCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE GROUP, COMPRISING SEVEN MUSICIANS, EIGHT DANCERS AND FOUR OFFICIALS, LEFT ON AUGUST 1 TO REPRESENT THE TERRITORY AT INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVALS IN SIDMOUTH, BILLINGHAM AND MAIDSTONE.

THEY HAVE SO FAR COMPLETED TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR MONTH-LONG ITINERARY AND ARE DUE TO RETURN NEXT WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 29).

AN OFFICIAL OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON SAID, +THE MEMBERS ARE RATHER EXHAUSTED BUT THEIR SPIRITS ARE HIGH. HONG KONG SHOULD BE PROUD OF THEM.+

NEWSPAPERS COVERING THE FOLKLORE FESTIVALS ALSO GAVE PROMINENT HEADLINES SUCH AS: +CHINESE STEAL FESTIVAL HEARTS+, +JING YING - THE VERY BEST IN FOLK+ AND +CHINESE LION STEALS THE SHOW+.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE SIDMOUTH FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, MR JOHN DOWELL, DESCRIBED THE PERFORMANCES OF THE HONG KONG JING YING AS +ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT+.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, ALL SELECTED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, ARE PERFORMING AT MAIDSTONE THIS WEEK - THE LAST STOP OF THEIR U.K. TOUR - AND THE LONDON COMMISSIONER OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE, SIR JACK CATER, AND LADY CATER WILL ATTEND ONE OF THEIR SHOWS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 8 -

POPULATION FIGURES RELEASED

* * *

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE 1984 WAS 5 364 000, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THAT ESTIMATE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 19 578 PEOPLE OR 0.4 PER CENT OVER END-1983.

THE BALANCE OF MIGRATION, I.E. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TOTAL NUMBERS OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984, SHOWED A NET LOSS OF 1 858 PEOPLE.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984 WAS 35 165, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS WAS 13 729. NATURAL INCREASE, I.E. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BIRTHS AND DEATHS, AMOUNTED TO 21 436 AND WHOLLY ACCOUNTED FOR THE POPULATION GROWTH. THIS FACTOR HAS DOMINATED THE TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH EVER SINCE 1981.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INVESTMENT IN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY RISING

* * *

THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WAS WELCOMED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PETER JOHNSON.

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS GROWTH WAS THE OPENING THIS MORNING OF AN EXTENSION OF THE PRODUCTION AND FACILITIES OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES LTD.

+THIS SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT BY THE COMPANY IS WELCOME EVIDENCE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE, AND OF THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST AND ACTIVITY IN THE ELECTRONICS SECTOR,+ SAID MR JOHNSON.

AND THE COMPANY IS PLANNING FURTHER EXPANSION OF ITS FACILITIES IN ABERDEEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MR JOHNSON SAID THAT DURING RECENT VISITS TO ELECTRONICS FACTORIES, HE AND HIS STAFF HAD NOTICED CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT IN NEW MACHINERY AND AUTOMATED PROCESSES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF OVERSEAS MARKETS AND KEEP HONG KONG AHEAD OF OTHER MANUFACTURING CENTRES IN THE REGION.

HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR TOTALLED \$13 805 MILLION, UP 45 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 9 -

COMPULSORY PILOTAGE EXPECTED SOON

* * * *

LEGISLATION WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCED REQUIRING COMPULSORY PILOTAGE OF VESSELS IN HONG KONG HARBOUR.

THE REQUIREMENT WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN THREE STAGES, FOLLOWING WHICH ALL VESSELS OF 1 000 GROSS REGISTERED TONS AND ABOVE, NAVIGATING IN HONG KONG WATERS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A HONG KONG PILOT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE PRESENT PILOTAGE ORDINANCE WILL BE AMENDED TO BRING IT UP TO DATE AND MORE IN LINE WITH PRACTICE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PILOT'S JOB, HE EXPLAINED, IS TO GUIDE A SHIP IN A SAFE AND EFFICIENT MANNER BETWEEN THE BOARDING STATION AND THE WHARF, TERMINAL AND BUOY.

+THE PURPOSE OF PILOTAGE IS TO SATISFY TWO SIMILAR SETS OF CRITERIA — ONE BEING THE REQUIREMENT OF THE SHIPOWNER TO HAVE ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AVAILABLE, AND THE OTHER BEING THAT OF THE NAVIGATION AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE IN ENSURING SAFE NAVIGATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

+BOTH COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER IN THE PURSUIT OF OVERALL NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IS THE PILOTAGE AUTHORITY IN HONG KONG AND ALL LICENSED PILOTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION, WHICH ORGANISES THE PROVISION OF PILOTAGE SERVICES ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS. THE FEES CHARGED ARE GOVERNED BY STATUTE.

AS INDICATED IN A REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1981, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE INTENDS TO INTRODUCE COMPULSORY PILOTAGE IN THREE STAGES — EARLY 1985, IN 1987 AND IN 1989.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS, MEANWHILE, ALSO REVIEWING THE PILOTAGE (DUES) ORDER, WHICH GOVERNS THE CHARGES FOR STANDARD PILOTAGE DUES FOR THE PILOTAGE OF SHIPS IN HONG KONG.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, A STUDY IS BEING UNDERTAKEN TO UPDATE THE PILOTAGE ORDER WHICH CONTROLS THE TRAINING, EXAMINATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR CLASSES OF PILOTAGE AND FOR THE AMENDMENT OF A LICENCE TO A HIGHER CLASS OF PILOTAGE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 10 -

KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION TO BE IMPROVED
* * * *

WORK ON EXTENDING THE PODIUM AT KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH.

A \$18.56 MILLION CONTRACT FOR PART OF THE PROJECT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO KWAN ON BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD.

WORK INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION AND RE-LAYING 1 600 METRES OF TRACK AT THE STATION'S GOODS YARD.

IT FORMS THE FIRST STAGE OF A PLAN TO ENHANCE THE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE FACILITIES AT THE STATION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, THE AREA OF THE PODIUM WILL BE INCREASED BY ONE HECTARE TO ABOUT 6.5 HECTARES.

THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO AWARDED A \$3.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR IMPROVING THE INTERCHANGE FACILITIES AT THE STATION.

IT INVOLVES INSTALLING TWO ESCALATORS AND IMPROVING THE COVERED WALKWAYS UNDER THE STATION PODIUM.

THIS WILL INCLUDE LAYING NEW FLOOR COVERINGS, PAINTING WALLS, INSTALLING ADVERTISING PANELS AND IMPROVING THE LIGHTING SYSTEM.

THE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

DELEGATES TOUR HOUSING ESTATES
* * * *

ABOUT 120 DELEGATES FROM 16 COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE NINTH EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR PLANNING AND HOUSING INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS TOOK TIME OUT TODAY TO VISIT SOME OF THE HOUSING ESTATES IN HONG KONG.

ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE VISITORS SET OFF IN FOUR COACHES AND HEADED FOR THE MEI FOO SUN CHUEN IN LAI CHI KOK.

THEY LATER TOURED THE TWO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES OF LUNG HANG AND SUN CHUI IN SHA TIN.

/THE VISITORS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 11 -

THE VISITORS TOOK GREAT INTEREST IN THE HIGH-RISE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND WERE FASCINATED BY THE GREAT HEIGHTS OF THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

ONE OF THE DELEGATES, A PROFESSOR OF KINKI UNIVERSITY, JAPAN, MR HARUO NAGAMINE, SAID: +I AM IMPRESSED BY THE TREMENDOUS IMPROVEMENTS MADE SINCE I LAST VISITED HONG KONG 15 YEARS AGO.

+HOWEVER, DESPITE THE VARIOUS FAVOURABLE ARRANGEMENTS, THE PRICE FOR PURCHASING A FLAT IS STILL EXPENSIVE, AND HAS ALMOST REACHED THE JAPANESE STANDARD.+

AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS SEEING THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AT THE TWO ESTATES, INCLUDING THE HOME OWNERSHIP KING TIN COURT, THE VISITORS WENT TO LUNCH AT A RESTAURANT IN THE WO CHE COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

AFTER LUNCH, THE PARTY WAS TAKEN TO THE LIONS PAVILION IN SHA TIN WHERE THEY HAD A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LATEST TAXI TENDER RESULTS ANNOUNCED

* * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING THE LATEST TENDERS FOR 300 URBAN AND 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

A TOTAL OF 448 TENDERS FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES WERE RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON JULY 20, 1984.

THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS \$168 800 AND THE LOWEST, \$163 699.

THE AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$164 886 REPRESENTED A 4.9 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE AVERAGE OF THE PREVIOUS TENDERS.

A TOTAL OF 138 TENDERS WERE LODGED FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS RANGED FROM \$19 980 TO \$500, GIVING AN AVERAGE OF \$8 866, AN INCREASE OF 17.7 PER CENT ON THE PREVIOUS TENDERS.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 12 -

\$750 000 FINES FOR LITTERBUGS

* * *

MORE THAN 4 300 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR VARIOUS LITTER OFFENCES LAST MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 21 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 3 509 IN JUNE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE FINES, RANGING FROM \$25 TO \$1 000, TOTALLED \$750 000 IN JULY, COMPARED WITH \$599 545 COLLECTED IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

OF THE PROSECUTIONS, 2 839 PERSONS WERE CHARGED FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING OF LITTER, 1 209 FOR SPITTING IN STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES AND 318 FOR CAUSING OBSTRUCTION TO SCAVENGING AND CONSERVANCY OPERATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO DISPOSE OF ANY LITTER IN BINS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON PAVEMENTS.

+THOSE WHO WANT TO CLEAR THEIR THROATS WHILE IN THE STREETS SHOULD USE TISSUE PAPER WHICH IS TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE BINS PROPERLY.

+IN SO DOING, THEY WILL NOT ONLY AVOID BEING CHARGED AND FINED, BUT WILL ALSO HELP KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SPEED LIMIT REMINDER FOR MOTORISTS

* * * *

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT THE SPEED LIMIT THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE FIXED AT 50 KM/H FOR THREE DAYS FROM AUGUST 25 TO AUGUST 27 TO FACILITATE THE CHANGEOVER TO METRIC SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.

HE STRESSED THAT NO MOTORIST ON ANY ROAD IN THE TERRITORY SHOULD DRIVE IN EXCESS OF 50 KM/H FROM MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 24 TO MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 27, WHATEVER THE SIGNS INDICATE.

+HOWEVER, FROM AUGUST 28, MOTORISTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO OBSERVE A GENERAL SPEED LIMIT OF 50 KM/H, UNLESS THE SIGNS ERECTED SHOW A DIFFERENT SPEED LIMIT.+

HE ALSO ADVISED MOTORISTS TO DRIVE EXTRA CAREFULLY OVER THE THREE DAYS AS WORKMEN WOULD BE PUTTING UP NEW METRIC SPEED LIMIT SIGNS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 13 -

LANTERN CARNIVAL FOR EASTERN
* * * *

A LANTERN DESIGN COMPETITION WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN DISTRICT NEXT MONTH.

ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING INVITED FROM STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AS WELL AS PEOPLE WORKING THERE.

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.

AN EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE COMPETITION WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT AND AT ENABLING MORE PEOPLE TO SHARE THE FESTIVE FUN.

+THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES OR ON THE COLOUR, SHAPE AND MATERIALS USED,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, ANY ONE OF THE LANTERN'S DIMENSIONS SHOULD BE BETWEEN 30 CENTIMETRES AND 120 CENTIMETRES.

+ALSO, EACH LANTERN MUST HAVE A TITLE RELATED TO THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, AND THE NAME OF THE CONTESTANT.+

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS: THOSE BELOW SIX YEARS OLD; SIX TO 12; 12 TO 18, AND THOSE OVER 18.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 880-886 KING'S ROAD; ITS CAUSEWAY BAY SUB-OFFICE AT 9-11 WING HING STREET; THE SHAU KEI WAN SUB-OFFICE AT 243 SHAU KEI WAN ROAD; OR THE CHAI WAN SUB-OFFICE AT BLOCK 2 OF HING WAH ESTATE.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES AT A LANTERN CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE KING'S ROAD PLAYGROUND ON SEPTEMBER 11, STARTING AT 8 PM. ALL ENTRIES WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE PLAYGROUND FROM 3 PM THE SAME DAY.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS THREE AREA COMMITTEES IN CAUSEWAY BAY NORTH, NORTH POINT WEST, AND NORTH POINT EAST, AND SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

- 14 -

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR ART TEACHERS

* * * *

A NUMBER OF COURSES AND WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD FOR ART AND CRAFT TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

THERE WILL BE TWO IDENTICAL COURSES ON THE TEACHING OF PICTURE-MAKING IN UPPER PRIMARY CLASSES.

TEACHERS MAY ATTEND EITHER A FOUR HALF-DAY SESSIONS TO BE HELD EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON FROM OCTOBER 2 TO 23, OR A TWO-DAY SESSION ON OCTOBER 18 AND 25.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SEVERAL WORKSHOPS ON THE TEACHING OF ART AND CRAFT WITH THE OBJECTIVE TO PROVIDE FURTHER TRAINING IN CURRENT THEORIES AND PRACTICES IN THIS FIELD.

EACH WORKSHOP WILL CONSIST OF TWO SESSIONS ON SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

ALL COURSES AND WORKSHOPS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE.

HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO NOMINATE ART AND CRAFT TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE COURSES AND WORKSHOPS.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE INSPECTOR (ART), CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15.

- - - - 0 - - - -