



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989

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CHANGE OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY MUST BE LOOKED AT SERIOUSLY : GOVERNOR
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AS A COMMUNITY, HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT WHAT IT MEANS TO CHANGE THE POLICY OF PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WHAT THAT MEANS IN PRACTICE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"IT MEANS USING FORCE TO TURN PEOPLE AWAY AND IT MEANS TAKING ALL THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT PEOPLE MIGHT BE DROWNED IN THE PROCESS," SIR DAVID SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO WAN CHAI DISTRICT, HE SAID HONG KONG MADE ITS OWN DECISIONS ON MOST OF THE POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING THE BOAT PEOPLE.

"BUT DON'T LET'S PRETEND TO OURSELVES THAT THESE ARE SIMPLE DECISIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT SOUNDS VERY EASY TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD CEASE TO BE A PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM.

"IT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY EASY TO SAY BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING WHICH IS EASY TO DO."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO APPLY THE PRESENT POLICY OF ALLOWING PEOPLE TO LAND BUT SCREENING THEM.

"IT MEANS THAT THOSE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT AS NOT BEING REFUGEES MUST GO BACK TO THE PLACE THEY CAME FROM, AND THAT'S THE POLICY WE NEED TO WORK AT NOW," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"WE NEED TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT THAT'S THE RIGHT POLICY.

"WE NEED TO PERSUADE VIETNAM THAT THAT'S THE RIGHT POLICY AND THAT THEY SHOULD CO-OPERATE WITH IT LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD CO-OPERATE IN TAKING BACK ITS OWN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS," SIR DAVID SAID.

ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY PLANS TO ACCOMMODATE REFUGEES ON OUTLYING ISLANDS, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE'RE LOOKING AT A WHOLE SERIES OF OPTIONS. WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY RULED OUT ANYTHING AT ALL.

"WE FACE AT THE MOMENT A HUGE PROBLEM OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRIVING, SO WE HAVE TO LOOK AT A SERIES OF OPTIONS AND KEEP IN MIND A SERIES OF PLANS DEPENDING ON HOW MANY PEOPLE CONTINUE TO COME.

"ONE OF THE OPTIONS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT IS OUTLYING ISLANDS. IT'S NOT A SIMPLE OPTION, BUT THEN WE DON'T HAVE ANY SIMPLE OPTIONS."

THE GOVERNOR REFUTED SUGGESTIONS THAT HONG KONG WAS FORCING THE REFUGEES INTO CRAMPED CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO MAKE A BETTER CASE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN GENEVA.

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"WITH SO MANY PEOPLE COMING IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT WE CANNOT ACCOMMODATE EVERYBODY IN IDEAL CONDITIONS.

"WITH SO MANY PEOPLE COMING WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS," HE SAID.

"IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO FIND PLACES TO PUT THEM. THERE IS BOUND TO BE MORE CRAMPED POSITIONS. BUT IT IS QUITE WRONG TO ASSUME THAT WE DO THIS AS A DELIBERATE ACT OF POLICY IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE IN GENEVA.

"WE'RE FACING A VERY REAL PRACTICAL PROBLEM, AND THOSE WHO ASSUME THAT WE'RE DOING IT FOR SOME OTHER MOTIVES ARE TOTALLY WRONG.

"WE FACE A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. WE NEED TO FIND PRACTICAL ANSWERS TO IT." SIR DAVID ADDED.

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ADVICE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST RAINSTORMS AND TYPHOONS

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR PATRICK SHAM, TODAY (MONDAY) ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AGAINST RAINSTORMS AND TYPHOONS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

MR SHAM GAVE THIS ADVICE DURING A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION HELD AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS.

REITERATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS YEAR'S RAINFALL WAS LIKELY TO BE ABOVE NORMAL, HE SAID: "THE VARIOUS METHODS WE USE FOR PREDICTING ANNUAL RAINFALL SEEM TO BE CONSISTENTLY INDICATIVE OF A TOTAL RAINFALL THIS YEAR OF 10 TO 30 PER CENT ABOVE THE AVERAGE RAINFALL OF 2,224.7 MILLIMETRES.

"EARLIER THIS MONTH WE ALREADY HAD SOME HEAVY DOWNPOURS, AND ON MAY 2 WE HAD OVER 200 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WITHIN A PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS IN SOME LOCALISED AREAS IN EAST KOWLOON AND IN SOME PARTS IN HONG KONG CENTRAL.

"SEASONALLY, JUNE IS THE MONTH WITH THE HIGHEST RAINFALL AND WE HAVE HAD IN THE PAST SITUATIONS WHERE HEAVY AND PROLONGED RAINFALL IN JUNE CAUSED WIDESPREAD FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS," HE ADDED.

MR SHAM SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE NUMBER OF TROPICAL CYCLONES WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE TERRITORY THIS YEAR.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID IF HONG KONG WERE GOING TO HAVE THE EXPECTED RAINFALL THIS YEAR, AND SINCE ON AVERAGE TROPICAL CYCLONES CONTRIBUTED TO ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE YEAR'S RAINFALL, IT COULD BE DEDUCED THAT THE NUMBER OF TROPICAL CYCLONES THREATENING HONG KONG WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LARGER THIS YEAR THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

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"I AM AFRAID I CAN SAY NO MORE THAN THIS AS AN OUTLOOK FOR THE TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON," MR SHAM SAID.

"THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH A TYPHOON, I MAINTAIN, IS FOR US TO MONITOR ITS TRACK AND INTENSITY, KEEP THE PUBLIC CONSTANTLY INFORMED AND ISSUE WARNINGS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

"THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAS NOT EXPERIENCED THE FULL IMPACT OF A TYPHOON FOR ALMOST SIX YEARS WOULD MEAN THAT MANY OF US MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT DAMAGE A TYPHOON CAN DO TO US IF WE ARE TO HAVE ONE THIS YEAR.

"I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT MANY NEWCOMERS TO HONG KONG, INCLUDING VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME, MAY NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT A TYPHOON SITUATION IN HONG KONG IS LIKE," MR SHAM SAID.

HE SAID HE CONSIDERED IT VERY FITTING TO REMIND THE PUBLIC THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO TAKE GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING, SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AND HURRICANE FORCE WINDS ASSOCIATED WITH TROPICAL CYCLONES.

"IF WE ARE CAREFUL, I AM SURE WE CAN MINIMISE THE DAMAGE FROM THESE NATURAL DISASTERS," HE SAID.

MR SHAM ALSO REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS INTRODUCED TWO YEARS AGO WHEREBY A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE WHENEVER THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF HOISTING THE GALE SIGNAL NO. 8 WITHIN A COUPLE OF HOURS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD ADVISE EMPLOYERS OF LARGE ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, TO STAGGER THE RELEASE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES FROM WORK.

THIS WAS TO SPREAD THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OVER SEVERAL HOURS SO THAT THE PRESSURE ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM COULD BE SOMEWHAT LESSENER, HE SAID.

"SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, WE HAVE NOT HAD A NO. 8 SIGNAL AND THEREFORE WE HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF PROVING THAT THIS WILL WORK," MR SHAM NOTED.

ON THE PROVISION OF WEATHER SERVICE FOR THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG, MR SHAM SAID THAT EIGHT AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AT SHA TIN, LAU FAU SHAN, TA KWU LING, TAI PO, CHEK LAP KOK, ABERDEEN, TUEN MUN AND WAGLAN ISLAND.

"ALREADY IN OUR HOURLY BULLETINS BROADCAST TO THE PUBLIC, WE ARE GIVING THE TEMPERATURES OF TA KWU LING, SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, LAU FAU SHAN AND CHEUNG CHAU.

/ "RADIO LISTENERS

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"RADIO LISTENERS AND TELEVISION VIEWERS ARE NOW INFORMED OF THE VARIATION OF TEMPERATURE AT THESE PLACES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE PUBLIC COULD ALSO RING UP FOR THE LATEST TEMPERATURE NEAR HIS DISTRICT BY USING THE DIAL-A-WEATHER SYSTEM.

"THE GENERAL RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THIS SERVICE IS VERY FAVOURABLE AND IT IS OUR INTENTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC WEATHER REPORTING STATIONS TO COVER OTHER DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICTS IN THE TERRITORY," MR SHAM SAID.

"WE ARE WORKING ON THE PROBLEM OF GIVING INDIVIDUAL WEATHER FORECASTS FOR THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS BUT THIS IS A SLIGHTLY MORE COMPLEX PROBLEM," HE SAID.

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FIRST QUARTER UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS RELEASED

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BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY - MARCH 1989, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE TIGHT LABOUR MARKET SITUATION CONTINUED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1989 WAS 1.3 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988 BUT WAS LOWER THAN THE 1.6 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN JANUARY - MARCH 1989 WAS ESTIMATED AT 35,800, COMPARED WITH 36,200 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988 AND 44,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1988.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1989 WAS 0.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.7 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988 AND 0.9 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1989 WAS 21,300, COMPARED WITH 18,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1988 AND 25,200 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1988.

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CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

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

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE MONTHS PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1989 WAS 1.5 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.8 PER CENT.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD APPARENTLY EDGED UP, MORE OBSERVATIONS WERE REQUIRED BEFORE IT COULD BE SAID THAT A TREND HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 51,000 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.

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 MARCH 1989 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND JUNE 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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QUALITY OF LIFE IN WAN CHAI BEING IMPROVED: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN WAN CHAI AS THE DISTRICT IS MODERNISED AND ACQUIRES A NEW CHARACTER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AFTER HIS VISIT TO WAN CHAI, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND CREATE STRONGER COMMUNITY TIES."

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR DAVID LAN; WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, SIR DAVID STARTED HIS TOUR BY TAKING A WALK ALONG KING STREET, WARREN STREET AND SCHOOL STREET TO SEE THE CONDITION OF CAR REPAIR WORKSHOPS THERE.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT THE PROLIFERATION OF CAR REPAIRING ACTIVITIES IN WAN CHAI HAD BROUGHT ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE DISCHARGE OF OILY WASTE ONTO ROADS, OBSTRUCTION TO TRAFFIC AND EXCESSIVE NOISE.

THE SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SELF-REGULATION EXERCISED BY THE WORKSHOP OPERATORS.

SIR DAVID THEN PROCEEDED TO THE TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER TO LOOK AT THE WAY IN WHICH USE IS BEING MADE OF SPACE UNDER FLYOVERS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE.

THE GOVERNOR THEN ARRIVED AT THE JUNCTION OF JOHNSTON ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON A PLAN TO RESITE HAWKERS ALONG WAN CHAI ROAD SO AS TO RESTORE THE ROAD AS A MAJOR THOROUGHFARE FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN JOHNSTON ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

THE PROJECT, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1990, WILL IMPROVE TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE HEART OF WAN CHAI.

AFTER A BRIEF STOP AT THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WHICH IS THE OLDEST POST OFFICE IN HONG KONG AND WILL BE PRESERVED AS A HISTORICAL BUILDING, SIR DAVID VISITED THE NEW WU CHUNG HOUSE DEVELOPMENT.

IN A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND HOPEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED, THIS SITE IS BEING DEVELOPED TO CREATE A 36-STORY OFFICE BUILDING AND A PUBLIC PARK.

THE PROJECT ALSO INVOLVES THE WIDENING OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND SPRING GARDEN LANE, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATED WALKWAY LINKING YEN WAH STEPS AND SPRING GARDEN LANE TO THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID THEN WENT TO THE ROOFTOP OF HOPEWELL CENTRE FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT. HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HOPEWELL, MR GORDON WU, ON THE PROPOSED TOWER HOTEL DEVELOPMENT.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT HOPEWELL WOULD CONSTRUCT A 91-STORY TRIDENT-SHAPED HOTEL AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TOWER HOTEL, BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND KENNEDY ROAD.

A PUBLIC PARK OF ABOUT HALF A HECTARE WOULD ALSO BE BUILT AS PART OF THE PROJECT AND THE SECTION OF KENNEDY ROAD IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE HOTEL COMPLEX WOULD BE WIDENED TO IMPROVE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, SIR DAVID ATTENDED A TEA RECEPTION IN GREAT EAGLE CENTRE WHERE HE MET MEMBERS OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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HONG KONG REMEMBERS ITS HERITAGE

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HONG KONG HAS NOT FORGOTTEN WHERE IT COMES FROM OR HOW IT GOT HERE; NOR IS IT LACKING IN REMINDERS OF ITS YESTERDAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE A NEW PROGRAMME ON HONG KONG HERITAGE, MR CHUI SAID: "OUR ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1976 AND, THROUGH DILIGENT RESEARCH AND PERSEVERANCE, SO FAR SEEN 35 SITES DECLARED AS HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND MONUMENTS."

HE SAID THE PROGRAMME OF HISTORICAL PRESERVATION HAD BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM THE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

THE SCOPE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL COVER FIVE MAJOR AREAS, AS DETAILED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD, MR EDWARD HO.

THESE AREAS ARE: EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN THE METROPLAN AND URBAN RENEWAL SCHEMES; REVIEW OF POLICY ON MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES; APPLICATION FOR MORE RESOURCES FOR HERITAGE PRESERVATION; AND ACTUAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS.

SPEAKING FURTHER ABOUT THE EFFORTS MADE SO FAR, MR CHUI SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME STRUCTURES, THE MAJORITY OF SITES ADDED EACH YEAR TO THE GROWING STORE OF HONG KONG'S HERITAGE DID NOT MAKE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES.

/"NEVERTHELESS,

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"NEVERTHELESS, THEY EACH HAVE A FASCINATING HISTORY TO TELL, DESERVING OF A WIDER AUDIENCE AND GREATER INTEREST FROM THE PUBLIC THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE," HE SAID.

TO BRING EVERYTHING INTO PERSPECTIVE, THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM TODAY WOULD ENCOURAGE INTEREST IN THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO PROGRAMME PUBLICITY, MR CHUI SAID: "WITH THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, WHO HAVE IDENTIFIED OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AS ONE OF 13 MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS THEY WILL BE TACKLING THIS YEAR, WE WILL BE REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY WITH A RANGE OF MATERIALS TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN OUR HISTORICAL SITES.

"THE MAIN TARGET OF THIS EFFORT WILL BE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, IN WHOM WE WISH TO INSTILL A SENSE OF PRIDE IN HONG KONG WHICH DRAWS AS MUCH FROM PAST ACHIEVEMENT AS FROM FUTURE GOALS.

"TO THIS END, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE A KEY ROLE IN DISSEMINATING OUR MATERIALS AND IN PERSUADING SCHOOLS TO PUT THEM TO GOOD USE IN THEIR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES."

MR CHUI SAID THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE HERITAGE PROGRAMME WOULD BE A SERIES OF PICTORIAL WALL CHARTS, EACH DEALING WITH A DIFFERENT GROUP OF BUILDINGS AND EXPLAINING AND ILLUSTRATING THEIR MAIN FEATURES.

"THE FIRST OF THESE WALL CHARTS CONTRASTS EXAMPLES OF OUR BETTER KNOWN 'OFFICIAL' BUILDINGS ALONG WITH A COUPLE THAT MAY NOT BE SO FAMILIAR TO OUR CITIZENS, BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS POSSESS UNIQUE FEATURES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THIS WALL CHART ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL RECOGNISED BODIES WITH AN INTEREST IN SUCH MATERIAL AND ARE ALSO ON SALE AT \$5 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

A SECOND WALL CHART WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY, ILLUSTRATING SOME FINE TEMPLES.

MR CHUI ALSO SAID EIGHT MORE WALL CHARTS IN THE SERIES WOULD BE PRODUCED OVER THE NEXT YEAR. THE PAINTINGS IN THE CHARTS HAD BEEN SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED FROM A WELL-KNOWN HONG KONG ARTIST, MR BRIAN TILBROOK, HE NOTED.

A SERIES OF SHORT EDUCATIONAL FILMS WILL BE PRODUCED BY FUJI FILMS TO COMPLEMENT THE WALL CHART SERIES, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS OR GROUPS INTERESTED IN MAKING GOOD USE OF THEM.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE BESIDES MR CHUI AND MR HO WERE THE DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MRS KWONG LI CHI-HO; AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PUBLICITY) OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER MOSS.

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LATEST REVIEW SHOWS RISE IN AVERAGE NICOTINE YIELD OF CIGARETTES
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FIGURES FROM THE LATEST ANALYSIS ON THE AVERAGE NICOTINE YIELD OF CIGARETTES SHOW THAT IT HAS RISEN AGAIN TO A HIGH LEVEL AFTER A TEMPORARY DROP DURING THE LAST SURVEY SIX MONTHS AGO.

RELEASING THE FINDINGS OF THE LATEST (12TH) BI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF TAR AND NICOTINE YIELDS OF CIGARETTES TODAY (MONDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE AVERAGE NICOTINE YIELD AMONG THE 101 TOP BEST-SELLING CIGARETTES IN HONG KONG HAD RISEN BY 6.8 PER CENT TO 1.25 MG/CIG. COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 1.17 MG/CIG. IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

"WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DROP RECORDED IN THE LAST SURVEY WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY FALL INSTEAD OF THE START OF A DOWNWARD TREND," HE SAID.

THE AVERAGE NICOTINE CONTENT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AT 1.25 MG/CIG. OR ABOVE IN THE THREE SURVEYS PUBLISHED IN MAY 1987, NOVEMBER 1987 AND MAY 1988.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE TAR YIELD HAS DECREASED SLIGHTLY TO 15.0 MG/CIG., COMPARED WITH THE 15.2 MG/CIG. IN THE LAST SURVEY," HE SAID.

A FULL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINDINGS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE "CHOICE" MAGAZINE.

MEANWHILE, IN A CONSULTATION PAPER RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH (COSH) PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATE CEILING OF 1.2 MG/CIG. FOR NICOTINE AND 18 MG/CIG. FOR TAR, TO BE LOWERED TO 1 MG (NICOTINE) AND 15 MG (TAR) IN TWO YEARS' TIME, SUBJECT TO FUTURE REVIEW.

THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONSULTED ON THESE AND OTHER COSH RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE PAPER THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARDS UNTIL JUNE 30 THIS YEAR.

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DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME FOR IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATIONS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED IN A GAZETTE NOTICE PUBLISHED ON APRIL 28 THIS YEAR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME ON JULY 1 TO PROVIDE TRADERS WITH AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO SUBMIT IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS ON MICRO-COMPUTER DISKETTES.

DETAILS OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHEME, INCLUDING DECLARATION OUTPUT FORMATS, HAVE BEEN SPECIFIED IN AN EARLIER GAZETTE NOTICE PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 1988.

/TRADERS WHO

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TRADERS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS BY MEANS OF THE DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING TO ANY ONE OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S TRADE DECLARATION CHARGES COLLECTION OFFICES:

- (1) INDIVIDUAL DECLARATIONS IN THE FORM OF COMPUTER PRINTOUTS;
- (2) MICRO-COMPUTER DISKETTE(S) ON WHICH THE ABOVE DATA ARE RECORDED;
- (3) SUMMARY DECLARATION(S) SIGNED BY THE DECLARANT; AND
- (4) CASH OR CHEQUE OF AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF CHARGES.

THE FORMATS OF DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (1) TO (3) ABOVE ARE SPECIFIED IN THE GAZETTE NOTICE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 4, 1988.

TO JOIN THE SCHEME, A TRADER NEEDS A MICRO-COMPUTER SYSTEM (WITH HARD DISK AND PRINTER) WHICH RUNS ON MS-DOS OF VERSION 2.0 OR ABOVE.

A USER-FRIENDLY, MENU-DRIVEN MICRO-COMPUTER SOFTWARE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE TRADERS IN PREPARING IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS USING MICRO-COMPUTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME PRODUCING DECLARATION OUTPUTS THAT MEET ALL THE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIFIED FORMATS.

THE SOFTWARE TOGETHER WITH THE OPERATION MANUAL, AT A UNIT PRICE OF \$110, ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG. ENQUIRIES ON HOW TO ACQUIRE THE SOFTWARE CAN BE MADE ON 5-8234883.

ALTERNATIVELY, TRADERS CAN DEVELOP THEIR OWN SOFTWARES TO JOIN THE SCHEME SO LONG AS THE DECLARATION OUTPUTS ARE IN THE FORMATS AS SPECIFIED IN THE GAZETTE NOTICE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME IS TO FACILITATE TRADERS IN PREPARING TRADE DECLARATIONS IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND ACCURATE WAY THROUGH THE USE OF COMPUTERS.

THE PROCESSING TIME AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S TRADE DECLARATION CHARGES COLLECTION OFFICES CAN ALSO BE SHORTENED TREMENDOUSLY THROUGH THE USE OF COMPUTERS, WHICH MEANS LESS QUEUING TIME FOR TRADERS.

TRADERS WHO ARE SUBMITTING MANY DECLARATIONS AND ARE USING COMPUTERS OF SOME SORT IN HANDLING THEIR TRADE DOCUMENTATION WILL FIND THE SCHEME OF PARTICULAR CONVENIENCE TO THEM.

IN FACT, THE CONVENIENCE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE SCHEME HAS BEEN PROVEN THROUGH THE CONDUCT OF A PILOT SCHEME EARLIER THIS YEAR.

ABOUT 150 LARGE TRADING FIRMS, MOST OF WHICH SUBMIT HUNDREDS OF DECLARATIONS A MONTH, HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE PILOT SCHEME.

/THEY HAD

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THEY HAD FOUND THE SCHEME CONVENIENT TO THEM, AND HAD PROVIDED USEFUL FEEDBACK WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN OF THE SCHEME.

AT THE REQUEST OF SOME LARGE TRADING FIRMS WHICH COULD NOT JOIN THE FIRST PILOT SCHEME, A SECOND PILOT SCHEME IS BEING ORGANISED.

FIRMS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN IT ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS & STATISTICS,
(ATTN.: SENIOR STATISTICIAN (TRADE) 2)
WANCHAI TOWER I,
12 HARBOUR ROAD,
WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.
(REF.: DISKETTE SUBMISSION SCHEME)

TRADERS ARE REQUESTED TO INCLUDE IN THEIR APPLICATION LETTER A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPUTER FACILITIES THEY ARE USING AND THE NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS THEY NORMALLY SUBMIT EACH MONTH.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8234883.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 39.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 228.545 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 172.831 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 27.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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NIGHT CLOSURES OF ROAD IN TUEN MUN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, ROAD D9 IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1.30 AM TO 5.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (MAY 17 AND 18).

DURING THE CLOSURE, ALL VEHICLES INCLUDING PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD, SAN HUI.

AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SLIP ROADS LEADING TO ROAD P2; THE SLIP ROADS LEADING TO TUEN MUN ROAD AND TUEN FAT ROAD; PUI TO ROAD WEST OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD; AND TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD SOUTH OF TUEN MUN CLINIC.

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LANE CLOSURES IN SHA TIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK, THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN TSANG TAI UK AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM ON WEDNESDAY.

THE INNER-MOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM NEXT WEDNESDAY (MAY 24).

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