DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGCO TO MEET WEEKLY

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM THE COMING 1985-86 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WILL NORMALLY MEET WEEKLY RATHER THAN FORTNIGHTLY AS IN THE PAST.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE VOLUME OF BUSINESS WHICH IS ANTICIPATED WITH THE INCREASE OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP FROM 45 TO 56, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ELECTED ELEMENT.

ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT IT WILL ALLOW THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION TO BE SPREAD MORE EVENLY OVER THE LEGISLATIVE YEAR: IN THE PAST THIS TENDED TO BE CONCENTRATED INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS BETWEEN THE COMPLETION OF THE BUDGET DEBATE IN LATE APRIL AND THE RECESS IN AUGUST.

IN THE NEW SESSION IT IS PLANNED TO HOLD 33 SITTINGS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF TWO-DAY SITTINGS FOR THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS AND FOR THE BUDGET DEBATE AND AN EXTRA SITTING MAY BE HELD AT THE END OF THE SESSION TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING BUSINESS. THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE 22 SITTINGS PLANNED IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE FREQUENCY OF FINANCE COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO MEET FORTNIGHTLY AND THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE MONTHLY.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS:

DATES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTINGS FOR THE 1985-86 SESSION

(WEEKLY MEETINGS)

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 1985	OPENING OF THE 1985-86 SESSION (GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS)
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 1985 THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 1985	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (UNOFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 1985	"
WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING

/WEDNESDAY 4TH .....

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1985 THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1985 (IF NECESSARY)	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (OFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 1985	,,
(THREE WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS)	
WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 1986	,,
(THREE WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS)	
WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 1986	1ST BUDGET SITTING (FINANCIAL SECRETARY PRESENTS BUDGET)
WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 1986 THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 1986	2ND BUDGET SITTING (UNOFFICIALS SPEAK)
(TWO WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR EASTER HOLIDAYS)	
WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 1986 THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 1986 (IF NECESSARY)	3RD BUDGET SITTING (OFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 1986	4TH BUDGET SITTING (COMMITTEE STAGE AND 3RD READING OF APPROPRIATION BILL)

/WEDNESDAY 14TH .....

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 1986	,,

(THREE WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY)

WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 1986 (IF NECESSARY)	,,

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AUGUST MONETARY STATISTICS RELEASED

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS SHOWED SLOWER GROWTH IN AUGUST, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO BE MORE RAPID THAN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS. FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS FELL DURING THE MONTH.

MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS INCREASED FURTHER, WITH HONG KONG DOLLAR COMPONENTS SHOWING SLOWER GROWTH.

LOAN DEMAND PICKED UP MARGINALLY IN AUGUST. LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG FELL FURTHER, BUT OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

A TABLE SETTING OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1985 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE LATER.

/DEPOSITS .....

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW 0.1 PER CENT IN AUGUST FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.4 PER CENT IN JULY. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.3 PER CENT, AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE GROWTH RATE WAS 19.9 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE BY 3.2 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AFTER HAVING INCREASED BY 4.3 PER CENT IN JULY. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 10.3 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE GROWTH RATE WAS 27.7 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO FALL, BY 4.9 PER CENT, IN AUGUST FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 2.5 PER CENT IN JULY. ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.4 PER CENT IN AUGUST BUT GREW BY 0.3 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, GREW AT HIGHER RATES OF 4.3 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND 13.0 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST.

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS SHOWED A SLIGHTLY SLOWER GROWTH OF 1.8 PER CENT IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.9 PER CENT IN JULY. TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ALSO SHOWED SLOWER GROWTH OF 1.2 PER CENT IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 4.2 PER CENT IN JULY.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, THE GROWTH OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS, AT 5.0 PER CENT, WAS LOWER THAN THAT WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 8.7 PER CENT.

BUT OVER THE 12 MONTHS TO AUGUST, THE GROWTH OF DEPOSITS WITH BANKS, AT 28.0 PER CENT, WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THAT WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 8.4 PER CENT.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS GREW FURTHER. HK$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) ROSE BY 2.2 PER CENT, HK$M2 ROSE BY 0.8 PER CENT AND HK$M3 BY 0.6 PER CENT IN AUGUST. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN JULY WERE 2.0 PER CENT, 0.6 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, HK$M1 GREW BY 9.4 PER CENT, HK$M2 BY 2.4 PER CENT AND HK$M3 BY 2.2 PER CENT. OVER THE 12 MONTHS TO AUGUST, THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 40.2 PER CENT, 26.7 PER CENT AND 20.9 PER CENT.

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR SWAP DEPOSITS, HK$M2 GREW BY 0.1 PER CENT WHILE HK$M3 RECORDED ZERO GROWTH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, THEY GREW AT THE SAME RATE OF 1.2 PER CENT.

/TOTAL MONEY .....

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS CONTINUED TO RISE IN AUGUST. TOTAL M1 INCREASED BY 2.8 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 1.9 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 1.8 PER CENT. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN JULY WERE 1.4 PER CENT, 1.9 PER CENT AND 2.3 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 9.4 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 5.2 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 5.9 PER CENT. OVER THE 12 MONTHS TO AUGUST, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 38.6 PER CENT, 27.8 PER CENT AND 24.0 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES RECORDED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT, MAKING UP THE DECLINE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN JULY. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST THESE GREW BY 0.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 5.4 PER CENT.

WITHIN THE TOTAL, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG DECLINED FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH, BY 0.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING A FALL OF 1.8 PER CENT IN JULY. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, THESE LOANS FELL BY 4.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 6.9 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO GROW BY 0.1 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A 0.7 PER CENT INCREASE IN JULY. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO AUGUST, THEY ROSE BY 1.6 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 7.4 PER CENT.

LIQUIDITY RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS FELL MARGINALLY TO 49.1 PER CENT IN AUGUST FROM 49.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ALSO FELL TO 40.5 PER CENT FROM 41.8 PER CENT A MONTH EARLIER.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBERS OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WERE UNCHANGED AT 141 AND 34 RESPECTIVELY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 2 TO 284.

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CENTRAL BANK FUNCTIONS ALREADY COVERED - BLYE

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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS BLYE TODAY EXPLAINED WHY HE DID NOT FAVOUR SETTING UP A CENTRAL BANK, IN A SPEECH ON HONG KONG'S MONETARY SYSTEM HE GAVE TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

+MANY OF THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF A CENTRAL BANK ARE CLEARLY ADEQUATELY COVERED ALREADY BY ONE PART OF THE HONG KONG SYSTEM OR ANOTHER; AND TO CREATE A CENTRAL BANK OR OTHER NEW AUTHORITY OF SOME KIND WOULD NOT ONLY PROVOKE A GREAT DEAL OF DISRUPTION BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY COULD HINDER HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR BLYE POINTED OUT THAT AN ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG'S REQUIRED US TO BE VERY QUICK ON OUR FEET AND NOT TO GIVE EXCESSIVE WEIGHT TO MONETARY ISSUES. WITH OUR COMPLETE LACK OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEPENDENCE ON TRADE, +POLICIES IN THE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AREAS NEED TO BE CO-ORDINATED CENTRALLY TO A DEGREE WHICH IS POSSIBLY NOT NECESSARY IN OTHER PLACES. I BELIEVE THAT THIS CO-ORDINATION WOULD BE HINDERED WERE A CENTRAL BANK TO BE SET UP,+ HE SAID.

HE REFERRED TO A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE LLOYDS BANK REVIEW WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF A CENTRAL BANK COULD PROBABLY BE PERFORMED BY A VARIETY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. +THIS,+ MR BLYE NOTED, +IS THE HONG KONG PATTERN.+

HE ADDED THAT THE NOTE ISSUING BANKS IN HONG KONG WERE THE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS THAT PLAYED SOME OF THE CENTRAL BANK FUNCTIONS. SOME OTHER FUNCTIONS WERE ALSO BEING SATISFACTORILY PERFORMED WITHIN HONG KONG'S EXISTING MONETARY SYSTEM, THROUGH THE EXCHANGE FUND AND THROUGH THE WORK OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AND THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, MR BLYE SAID IT PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MONETARY SYSTEM, GENERALLY AS A VEHICLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF MONETARY POLICY.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE EXCHANGE FUND, AS DEFINED IN THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE, IS +USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THINKS FIT AFFECTING, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE CURRENCY OF HONG KONG AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES INCIDENTAL THERETO.+ IT IS ALSO GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT MANAGER, MANAGING THE BULK OF GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL ASSETS, MR BLYE SAID.

/+ITS LIABILITIES .....

+ITS LIABILITIES COMPRISE CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS ISSUED TO THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS, COINS IN CIRCULATION, AND DEBT CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO THE TREASURY. ITS ASSETS ARE DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SECURITIES, HELD IN VARIOUS CURRENCIES: US DOLLARS, CANADIAN DOLLARS, DEUTSCHEMARKS, SWISS FRANCS, GUILDERS, YEN, STERLING AND, OF COURSE, HONG KONG DOLLARS. THE SECURITIES ARE MOSTLY IN A FORM WHICH CAN BE RELATIVELY EASILY CONVERTED INTO CASH,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S RESERVES AND ALL OF EXCHANGE FUND'S ASSETS BELONG TO HONG KONG AND ARE EMPLOYED FOR THE BENEFIT OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE THREE VERY GOOD REASONS FOR HOLDING THE BULK OF THE FUND IN FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS: SUITABLE HONG KONG DOLLAR ASSETS WERE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE SCALE REQUIRED; THE FUND MUST HAVE FOREIGN CURRENCIES TO INTERVENE IN THE MARKET TO COUNTER EXCHANGE RATE PRESSURE IF REQUIRED= AND THE EFFECT OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE FUND'S SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEED FOR A MECHANISM TO CONTROL MONEY SUPPLY IN HONG KONG, WHICH APPEARS TO BE ABSENT IN OUR SYSTEM, MR BLYE SAID ADVOCATES OF SUCH A MECHANISM FOR HONG KONG OFTEN OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAD LITTLE GOVERNMENT DEBT, AND DID NOT PAY SUFFICIENT REGARD TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR ECONOMY AND THOSE OF COUNTRIES WITH SUCH MECHANISMS.

+HONG KONG HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL PARTLY BECAUSE ITS ECONOMY IS AND HAS TO BE FLEXIBLE. THE BIG QUESTION IS WHETHER THIS FLEXIBILITY COULD EXIST SIDE BY SIDE WITH THIS TYPE OF MONETARY CONTROL WHICH MUST FROM TIME TO TIME INHIBIT THE GROWTH OF NEW ENTERPRISES: THE LIFE BLOOD OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

ON THE NOTE ISSUE MECHANISM IN HONG KONG, MR BLYE SAID THAT THE PRESENT LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SCHEME WAS NOT A RECENT INVENTION AND WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THE STERLING LINKED SCHEME WHICH RULED FROM 1935 TO 1972 AND EVEN BEFORE 1935 WHEN THE NOTE ISSUE WAS BACKED BY SILVER.

THERE WERE HOWEVER TWO MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRESENT US DOLLAR LINKED SCHEME AND THE STERLING LINKED SCHEME: UNDER THE PRESENT SCHEME CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD AT THE SAME RATE OF HK$7.80 TO US$1 WHEREAS UNDER THE STERLING SCHEME A MARGIN OF ONE EIGHTH OF A PENNY PER DOLLAR WAS CHARGED WHEN CERTIFICATES WERE REDEEMED; FURTHERMORE, UNDER THE STERLING LINKED SCHEME, THE STERLING HAD TO BE PROVIDED BY THE NOTE ISSUING BANKS WHILE OTHER BANKS COULD ACQUIRE NOTES WITH HK DOLLAR BALANCES.

/MR BLYE .....

MR BLYE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S NOTE ISSUE MECHANISM WORKED WELL AND THAT CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT LACK OF CONSTRAINT ON HOW MUCH CASH THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS CAN ISSUE WAS NOT WELL-FOUNDED. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS LACK OF CONSTRAINT MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE MONEY SUPPLY AND CREDIT, PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES, WITH CONSEQUENT RAPID INFLATION AND DEPRECIATION OF THE HK DOLLAR.

+FIRST,+ MR BLYE SAID, +THERE IS A CONSTRAINT ON NOTE ISSUE BECAUSE CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS ARE NON-INTEREST BEARING. IT IS, THEREFORE, TO THE ADVANTAGE OF NOTE-ISSUING BANKS TO MINIMIZE THE VOLUME OF NOTES IN CIRCULATION.

+SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANT,+ HE ADDED, +I KNOW OF NO MODERN ECONOMY, NOT EVEN AMONG THOSE MOST ARDENTLY COMMITTED TO MONETARY TARGETS, WHERE THE AUTHORITIES SEEK TO CONTROL THE AMOUNT OF CASH IN CIRCULATION.+

+CASH IS SIMPLY A SMALL COMPONENT, THE SMALL CHANGE, OF THE MONEY SUPPLY, PARTICULARLY NOW WITH THE GREATER USE OF CHEQUES, CREDIT CARDS AND ELECTRONIC BANKING,+ HE SAID.

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SHIPBUILDING, SHIP REPAIR INDUSTRY GROWTH EXPECTED

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THE DEMAND FOR SKILLED MANPOWER IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR INDUSTRY WILL GREATLY INCREASE IF DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OIL INDUSTRY RESULTED IN BUSINESS FOR LOCAL SHIPYARDS, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF A 1984 MANPOWER SURVEY.

THE REPORT, BY THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, REVEALED THAT THE LOCAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY WAS HIT HARD BY THE WORLDWIDE RECESSION IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND THE LABOUR FORCE OF THE INDUSTRY HAD DROPPED BY 27.2 PER CENT FROM 10 739 IN 1982 TO 7 815 IN 1984.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF TECHNOLOGISTS GREW AT 5 PER CENT PER YEAR, AND THE BOARD BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW SLOWLY AS THE INDUSTRY IN GENERAL MOVED INTO MORE TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES.

EVEN THOUGH THE PRESENT LOW DEMAND FOR THE INDUSTRY'S SERVICES WOULD CONTINUE FOR A FEW YEARS, THE REPORT NOTED THAT EMPLOYERS FORECAST NO FURTHER GREAT REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF POSTS.

/+HOWEVER, MANPOWER .....

+HOWEVER, MANPOWER TRAINING MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED OTHERWISE THE INDUSTRY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ANY UP-TURN IN BUSINESS,+ THE REPORT SAID.

DETAILED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ON THE MANPOWER STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN EACH PRINCIPAL JOB, AND A FORECAST OF THE TRAINING NEEDS ARE ALL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $12 PER COPY.

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ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION

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THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY FOR ITS CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORIES.

+HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY AND RESOURCEFULNESS, ATTRIBUTES WHICH THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FIRST TO DRAW UPON IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN GROWTH AND TO EXPAND ITS MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG ELECTRONICS FAIR 1985, MR TSAO NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRY HAD DEVELOPED ENORMOUSLY SINCE HE OPENED THE SAME FAIR THREE YEARS AGO.

+AT THIS YEAR'S FAIR IT IS NOTICEABLE HOW THE INDUSTRY HAS CONTINUED TO MOVE UP MARKET WITH ITS EXISTING PRODUCTS, AND TO DIVERSIFY INTO NEW AND MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS TOO.

+APART FROM THE TRADITIONAL ELECTRONIC GOODS FOR WHICH HONG KONG IS WELL KNOWN, WE CAN I HOPE ANTICIPATE FURTHER SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN SUCH THINGS AS COMPUTERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY-INTENSE AREAS,+ MR TSAO SAID.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS HAD BEEN VERY TESTING FOR THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, MR TSAO SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT JUST AS HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SELF-CONFIDENCE HAD FLOURISHED AGAIN SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, SUCH RENEWED OPTIMISM WOULD BE MORE THAN MATCHED BY AN EVEN GREATER BUOYANCY AND GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S LEADING INDUSTRIES.

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STOCKBROKER NAMED TO SECURITIES COMMISSION

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, MR ARCHIBALD ZIMMERN QC TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED A PROFESSIONAL STOCKBROKER AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1.

HE IS MR LINCOLN SOO HUNG-LEUNG, 40. HIS APPOINTMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY AND IS FOR TWO YEARS.

MR SOO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE SINCE 1970, AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF THAT EXCHANGE SINCE 1979. HIS LATE FATHER, SOO PEI-SHAO, WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS, FROM 1922 TO 1982.

MR LINCOLN SOO QUALIFIED WITH THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY, AND HAS A MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. WHILST IN THE UNITED STATES, HE ALSO QUALIFIED AS A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL ANALYST.

BETWEEN 1979 AND 1985, HE WAS A COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG STOCKBROKERS ASSOCIATION.

HE IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.

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FRENCH LEARN OF HK'S PHENOMENAL DEVELOPMENT

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LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS IN FRANCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HEARD ABOUT HONG KONG'S PHENOMENAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FROM THE MAN IN CHARGE OF MOST OF IT.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, WAS SPEAKING ON +MAJOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN HONG KONG+ TO THE FEDERATION OF FRENCH INDUSTRIES (CNPF) IN PARIS THIS MORNING.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH HONG KONG HAD BEEN THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD A RETURN OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM WAS ALREADY REFLECTED IN AN UPSWING IN THE PROPERTY MARKET AND RENEWED INTEREST IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

/+THE GOVERNMENT'S .....

+THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING LOOKS BEYOND 1997 AND WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. THE NEED FOR MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR WILL CONTINUE AND THIS OPENS UP ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ENTERPRENEURS TO PARTICIPATE,+ HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE TERRITORY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OVER RECENT YEARS MR CHAN TOLD FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS : +OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS ALONE THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MORE THAN HK$58 BILLION ON ITS CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND A FURTHER $8.5 BILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THIS YEAR.

+THE TOTAL VALUE OF PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ALONE IS SOME $50 BILLION WITH OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS OF SOME $20 BILLION ON WORKS NOW IN PROGRESS.+

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NEW INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY SEEN

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STATISTICS RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION PROVIDE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SATISFACTORY LEVELS OF NEW INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

SINCE APRIL 1 THERE HAS BEEN +A HEALTHY INCREASE+ IN THE AMOUNT OF LAND GRANTED BY THE CORPORATION TO INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CORPORATION SAID.

NEW GRANTS TOTALLING 8.25 HECTARES HAVE BEEN MADE OF WHICH 6.25 HECTARES ARE AT TAI PO ESTATE AND 2 HECTARES AT THE YUEN LONG ESTATE.

OF THE 54.5 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND AVAILABLE AT THE TAI PO ESTATE, 45.25 HECTARES (83 PER CENT) HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLD, LEAVING ONLY 8.25 HECTARES CURRENTLY DISPOSABLE. NO ADDITIONAL LAND WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY 1987 WHEN 13.25 HECTARES NOW BEING RECLAIMED FROM TOLO HARBOUR WILL COME ON STREAM.

AT THE YUEN LONG ESTATE, ONLY 3.07 HECTARES OF THE TOTAL INDUSTRIAL LAND AREA OF 67.27 HECTARES HAS ACTUALLY BEEN GRANTED, OF WHICH 2.71 HECTARES (88 PER CENT) WAS LEASED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS. HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO 6.7 HECTARES ARE CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED.

IN RESPONSE TO THE STRONG DEMAND FOR THE SMALL AMOUNT OF LAND AVAILABLE AT TAI PO, THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION HAS INCREASED THE PREMIUM FOR LAND AT THAT ESTATE FROM $800 TO $900 PER SQUARE METRE BUT HAS LEFT THAT FOR LAND AT THE YUEN LONG ESTATE UNCHANGED AT $800 PER SQ. METRE.

/THE BOARD .....

THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION HAS ALSO MADE CHANGES TO THE TERMS UNDER WHICH LAND PREMIUM MAY BE PAID BY INSTALMENTS.

FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 1985, 10 PER CENT OF THE FULL LAND PREMIUM WILL BE PAYABLE ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL OFFER, A FURTHER 15 PER CENT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR LEASE AND THE REMAINING 75 PER CENT PAYABLE BY QUARTERLY INSTALMENTS OVER 10 YEARS COMMENCING THREE MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT FOR LEASE WITH INTEREST AT ONE PER CENT OVER PRIME RATE.

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HK GAINS FROM EXPO PARTICIPATION -- URBCO CHAIRMAN

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HONG KONG STANDS TO GAIN IN STATURE AND EXPOSURE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY BY ITS DECISION TO TAKE PART IN EXPO '86 IN VANCOUVER NEXT YEAR, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SAID IN VANCOUVER TODAY.

MR CHEONG-LEEN, NOW HEADING A FIVE-MEMBER URBAN COUNCIL DELEGATION ON A TWO-WEEK WORKING VISIT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE THE SECOND TIME THAT HONG KONG HAD TAKEN PART IN SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, THE LAST TIME BEING SOME 15 YEARS AGO AT EXPO '70 IN OSAKA.

HE SAID: +THE THEME OF EXPO '86, 'WORLD IN MOTION -- WORLD IN TOUCH', IS PARTICULARLY APT FOR HONG KONG BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE THAT WE ARE TODAY HAD OUR PEOPLE STOOD STILL AND KEPT ALOOF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

+HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '86 WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE WORLD HOW HONG KONG, FROM A POPULATION OF HALF-A-MILLION PEOPLE JUST AFTER WORLD II, HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN INTERNATIONAL CITY OF 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE AND HOW THEIR VITALITY, DRIVE AND CREATIVITY WILL CARRY HONG KONG FORWARD WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.+

TURNING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT THE TWO TERRITORIES HAD FOR MANY YEARS ENJOYED A CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

+VANCOUVER HAS A PARTICULARLY THRIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH HONG KONG THROUGH CONTACTS SUCH AS TRADE, CULTURE, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND OF COURSE IMMIGRATION,+ HE SAID.

/+A GROWING .....

+A GROWING NUMBER OF CANADIAN EXPORTERS HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE IMMENSE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG.

+THERE ARE MORE THAN 50 REGIONAL AND BRANCH OFFICES MAINTAINED BY CANADIAN FIRMS IN HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, OVER 300 CANADIAN COMPANIES HAVE DISTRIBUTORS, AGENTS OR SOME OTHER FORM OF REPRESENTATION IN OUR TERRITORY.+

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT LAST YEAR TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG INCREASED BY ABOUT 19 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO $6 760 MILLION WITH HONG KONG HAVING A TRADE SURPLUS OF $4 152 MILLION. THIS PLACED CANADA AS HONG KONG'S 10TH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN THE WORLD.

+SO IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT CANADA AND HONG KONG ENJOY A CLOSE TRADING AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. BUT WE WOULD LIKE CANADIANS TO SELL MORE TO HONG KONG AND TO INVEST MORE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+HONG KONG HAS BECOME AN ATTRACTIVE AND CONVENIENT GATEWAY FOR CANADIAN FIRMS DOING BUSINESS OR INTENDING TO DO BUSINESS WITH CHINA.+

MR CHEONG-LEEN EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE HONG KONG WAS SITUATED CLOSE TO CHINA AND BLESSED WITH ITS SOPHISTICATED COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, A FINE NATURAL HARBOUR, AND AN EXCELLENT NETWORK OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION LINKS WITH CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

IN CONCLUSION, HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CANADIANS AND HONGKONGIANS WOULD HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

+THIS FIRST VISIT OF THE HONG KONG URBAN COUNCIL DELEGATION TO VANCOUVER IS A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR ALREADY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP,+ HE ADDED.

DURING THE URBAN COUNCIL GROUP'S FOUR-DAY VISIT TO VANCOUVER, THEY ARE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HONG KONG, TO LOOK AT MUNICIPAL FACILITIES THERE -- INCLUDING THE EXPO '86 SITE -- AND TO RENEW CULTURAL AND OTHER LINKS WITH THE CANADIAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS WITH FORMER HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO CANADA.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP COMPRISE URBAN COUNCILLORS MESSRS AUGUSTINE CHUNG, JOSEPH CHAN AND TONG KAM-BIU, AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR ROY SPENCER.

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TWO COMPANIES GET TAI PO ESTATE SITES

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TWO COMPANIES HAVE BEEN GRANTED SITES FOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AT THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CORPORATION SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TO COPE WITH DEMAND FROM LOCAL AND EXPORT MARKETS, COATES BROTHERS (HK) LTD HAS LEASED A SITE OF 2 200 SQUARE METRES AT THE ESTATE.

THE PURPOSE-BUILT FACTORY WILL MANUFACTURE, OTHER THAN TRADITIONAL INKS AND COATINGS, SPECIALISED PRODUCTS TO MEET THE HI-TECH DEMANDS IN THE PRINTING AND PACKAGING INDUSTRIES.

THE PLATING ENGINEERING AND CHEMICALS COMPANY LIMITED, WHICH IS A BACK-UP FACTORY OF THE METAL AND SURFACE FINISHING INDUSTRIES, HAS BEEN GRANTED A SITE OF 3 800 SQUARE METRES.

THE COMPANY PRODUCES INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, ELECTRO-PLATING PRODUCTION LINES INCLUDING ROBOTS, AND METAL CLEANERS AND ELECTRO-PLATING PROCESSES.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY SUSPENDED THE REGISTRATION OF ASIA ALLIANCE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ON THE GROUND THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY IS BEING CARRIED ON IN A MANNER DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF ITS DEPOSITORS.

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ACAN CHIEF SEES VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AT WORK

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, PROFESSOR GERALD CHOA, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED A NUMBER OF HONG KONG'S VOLUNTARY DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AGENCIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ISAAC CHOW AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.L. CHAN, PROF. CHOA STARTED HIS VISIT PROGRAMME WHEN HE LANDED BY A ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE HELICOPTER AT SHEK KWU CHAU TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRE.

HE TOURED THE CENTRE AND WAS BRIEFED ON IN-PATIENT TREATMENT AND ON FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THE ADDICTS.

THE CENTRE, OPERATED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA), PROVIDES IN-PATIENT TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR MALE ADDICTS. ABOUT 350 ADDICTS LIVING IN THE CENTRE UNDERGO A THOROUGH TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDES INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELLING, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AND SOCIAL EDUCATION.

HE THEN VISITED THE WOMEN TREATMENT CENTRE OF SARDA IN WAN CHAI, WHERE 33 ADDICTS UNDERGO A SIMILAR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME AS THAT PROVIDED IN THE CENTRE ON SHEK KWU CHAU.

FROM THE TWO TREATMENT CENTRES, PROF. CHOA WENT TO SEE THE AFTER-CARE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY TUNG FOOK HOUSE, ONE OF THE HALF-WAY HOUSES OPERATED BY SARDA FOR DISCHARGEES FROM SHEK KWU CHAU TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRE.

PROF. CHOA ENDED HIS PROGRAMME BY VISITING THE TUNG TAU SOCIAL THERAPY CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY.

THE SOCIETY IS A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION FOR THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF DISCHARGED PRISONERS IN HONG KONG. IT ALSO PROVIDES A REHABILITATION AND AFTER-CARE PROGRAMME FOR CLIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF DRUG ABUSE.

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VAST AREA CLEARED FOR CHINA ROAD LINK PROJECT

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OVER 53 FISH PONDS COVERING AN AREA OF 32 HECTARES IN LOK MA CHAU, SAN TIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LOK MA CHAU VEHICULAR BORDER LINK WITH CHINA.

ABOUT 230 STRUCTURES SCHEDULED TO BE CLEARED TOMORROW, HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED BY THE OCCUPANTS THEMSELVES WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE SAN TIN RURAL COMMITTEE.

YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON, SAID: +THE RURAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES TO THE VILLAGERS, AND THIS HAS MADE THE WORK OF ALL DEPARTMENTS MUCH EASIER.+

FORTY-FIVE FAMILIES, COMPRISING 203 PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN REHOUSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING SET BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES AMOUNTING TO $8 MILLION HAVE BEEN PAID FOR FISH PONDS, WORKSHOPS AND AGRICULTURAL UNDERTAKINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIXED RATES FOR DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS WILL START THIS SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5), AND WILL TAKE FOUR WEEKS TO COMPLETE. WORK ON THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD WILL COMMENCE NEXT MONTH.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE BORDER LINK WILL FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE VEHICULAR BORDER LINK AT LOK MA CHAU IS NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING VOLUME OF TRAFFIC TO AND FROM CHINA. IT WILL SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING CROSSINGS AT MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK.

THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST $260 MILLION, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1988 TO TIE IN WITH THE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT IN SHENZHEN.

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COMMITTEE HEARS ABOUT RSD ISLANDS WORK

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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS A WORK FORCE OF 461 TO LOOK AFTER THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AND ANOTHER 135 TO PROMOTE RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND MANAGE FACILITIES.

THIS WAS REPORTED TODAY AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (ISLANDS), MR IP KI-TIT, SAID THAT 360 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN PUBLIC CLEANSING WORK IN THE DISTRICT, COLLECTING AN AVERAGE OF 45 TONNES OF REFUSE DAILY. EIGHTY PER CENT OF THE REFUSE WAS CONVEYED BY HIRED BARGES TO THE KWAI CHUNG INCINERATION PLANT FOR DISPOSAL.

MR IP ALSO SAID HIS ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SECTION HAD SIX DISTRICT HEALTH INSPECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING PERIODICAL INSPECTION OF LICENSED PREMISES, DETECTION AND ABATEMENT OF SANITARY NUISANCES, RODENT AND PEST CONTROL, WATER HYGIENE, FOOD ENFORCEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION. THERE WERE 292 ESTABLISHMENTS THAT WERE LICENSED OR ISSUED WITH PERMITS, MOST OF THEM RESTAURANTS OR FOOD FACTORIES.

THE DISTRICT HAS TWO PUBLIC MARKETS - THE TAI O MARKET AND THE PENG CHAU MARKET - UNDER THE RSD'S MANAGEMENT.

THE DISTRICT ALSO HAS FIVE PUBLIC LIBRARIES - ON CHEUNG CHAU, TAI O, SOUTH LAMMA, PING CHAU AND MUI WO.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS PORNOGRAPHY

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THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY ON THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS WILL BE REPORTED IN THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

AN OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN SET UP IN JUNE TO STUDY THE PROBLEM IN DETAIL AND TO FORMULATE SOLUTIONS.

THE WORKING GROUP INTERVIEWED A TOTAL OF 1 500 YOUTHS AND ADULTS INCLUDING PARENTS, TEACHERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

/PROPOSALS ON .....

PROPOSALS ON WAYS TO CONTROL SUCH PUBLICATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION AT THE MEETING.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT (PILOT SCHEME) WORKING GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP TO IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND THE SECURITY OF THE BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE GREEN PAPER ON THE SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSINGS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPORARY MARKET FACILITIES IN TAI KOK TSUI, THE REVIEW OF THE MEET-THE-PUBLIC SESSIONS, AND COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, 2ND FLOOR, MONG KOK.

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SAI KUNG DB TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER

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SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON +HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING+ AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 4).

BEFORE THE DISCUSSION, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER, MR MOK YIU-KWONG, AND SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER, MR WONG WAH-KAI, ON DETAILS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE PROPOSED DOCUMENT.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN SAI KUNG EXCEPT THE TUI MIN HOI RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING RUN BY HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY. HOWEVER, CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR IN JUNK BAY NEW TOWN.

CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR CHEUNG WING-KAN, HAS BEEN INVITED TO BRIEF DB MEMBERS ON THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTATE IN JUNK BAY.

/THE SCHOOL .....

THE SCHOOL AGE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT WILL GRADUALLY INCREASE AFTER THE INTAKE OF RESIDENTS OF THE NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE. THREE NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE BEING PROPOSED FOR JUNK BAY BY THE YEAR 1990. A PAPER ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE FIRE SERVICES IN SAI KUNG; ICAC SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT; A REPORT BY PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, MR WAN YUET-KAU; THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL; AND THE PROPOSED ROAD WORKS FOR PAK KONG VILLAGE EXTENSION, PHASE 1.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 4).

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YUEN LONG DB TO DISCUSS SCHOOL PLACES

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO REFLECT THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND THE BROADCASTING REVIEW REPORT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF THE YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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FANLING DEVELOPMENT GOES A STEP FURTHER

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING NEW TOWN TOOK A STEP FURTHER WITH THE SIGNING OF AN $84.5 MILLION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE KOREA SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION RECENTLY.

THE CONTRACT, SIGNED BY THE TAI PO AND FANLING PROJECT MANAGER, MR BOB HANNA, AND A DIRECTOR OF THE KOREAN FIRM, MR B.K. KOO, IS FOR SITE FORMATION, ROADS AND DRAINAGE IN FANLING SOUTH.

EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 27 MONTHS, THE SITE IS FOR A HOUSING ESTATE THAT WILL ACCOMMODATE 20 000 PEOPLE BY 1990.

IT WILL ALSO CONTAIN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING 10 000 PEOPLE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT AFFECTED BY CLEARANCES.

UNDER THE PRESENT PROJECT, THE CONTRACTOR WILL FORM ABOUT 12 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE WO HOP SHEK AREA, BUILD TWO LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR ROADS, IMPROVE THE EXISTING WO HOP SHEK ROAD AND THE WEST ACCESS TO THE WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY AND PROVIDE FOOTPATHS, CYCLE TRACKS AND DRAINAGE.

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INTELPOST EXTENDED TO SPAIN

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INTELPOST SERVICE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SPAIN, BRINGING TO 33 THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE INTELPOST NETWORK SERVED FROM HONG KONG, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

INTELPOST ITEMS POSTED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY THE ADDRESSEE AT THE INTELPOST CENTRES IN SPAIN OR DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE THE SAME DAY.

+INTELPOST IS IDEAL FOR SENDING VERY URGENT LETTERS, REPORTS, CHARTS, DRAWINGS, QUOTATIONS OR CONTRACTS OVERSEAS.

+THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH ARE HANDLED WITH CARE AND CONFIDENTIALITY, ARE SCANNED, CONVERTED INTO HIGH SPEED ELECTRONIC IMPULSES AND TRANSMITTED DIRECT TO THE RECEIVING STATION IN THE DISTANT COUNTRY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE TO SPAIN ARE:

* $65 FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER

* $30 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME

/CUSTOMERS WISHING .....

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE SHOULD HAND IN THEIR DOCUMENTS AT ANY OF THE 22 ACCEPTANCE OFFICES.

THOSE HAVING FACSIMILE MACHINES IN THEIR OFFICES CAN MAKE USE OF INTELPOST TO RETRANSMIT MESSAGES TO OVERSEAS ADDRESSEES WHO DO NOT HAVE FACSIMILE MACHINES. SPECIAL MESSENGER WILL DELIVER THE MESSAGE WITHIN HOURS.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE SHOULD CALL THE INTELPOST MANAGER ON 5-2671148.

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FIRST DIPLOMA COURSE IN HORTICULTURE BEGINS

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THE FIRST LOCAL DIPLOMA COURSE IN HORTICULTURE AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE STUDY VISITS TO CHINA, BEGAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR 21 GOVERNMENT AMENITIES OFFICERS.

IN AN OPENING ADDRESS TO THE TRAINEES IN THE TWO-YEAR, PART-TIME COURSE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THE COURSE IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE CONDUCTED LOCALLY TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING IN HORTICULTURE AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT TO SERVING OFFICERS AT MANAGERIAL LEVEL IN THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SERVICES OF BOTH THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+IT PROVIDES NOT ONLY A REALISTIC BALANCE OF HORTICULTURE AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT STUDIES, BUT ALSO INCLUDES LOCAL FIELD TRIPS AND STUDY VISITS TO GUANGZHOU, SUZHOU AND HANGZHOU. AS A RESULT, WE NOW HAVE A TAILOR-MADE COURSE WHICH COVERS VARIOUS TOPICS OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS,+ MR SUEN SAID.

IN THE PAST, HE SAID, AMENITIES OFFICERS WERE SENT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM TO UNDERGO TRAINING IN EITHER HORTICULTURE OR RECREATION MANAGEMENT.

+HOWEVER, OVERSEAS TRAINING BEING FAIRLY EXPENSIVE COULD ONLY BE PROVIDED TO A FEW SELECTED OFFICERS. NOW WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS LOCAL DIPLOMA COURSE WHICH DEMANDS A STANDARD COMPARABLE TO THE HORTICULTURE AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT COURSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE TRAINING CAN BENEFIT MORE OFFICERS AT THE SAME TIME AND AT A LOWER PER CAPITA COST,+ MR SUEN SAID.

+AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THIS NEW DIPLOMA COURSE AND TO CATER FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING, THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT TO SEND OFFICERS ON OVERSEAS TRAINING COURSE WILL CONTINUE.+

THE FIRST BATCH OF TRAINEES ARE MOSTLY AMENITIES OFFICER I AND II FROM THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, THE RSD AND THE USD. THEY WILL ATTEND LECTURES ORGANISED BY THE EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN SHEUNG WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHEUNG WAN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

VEHICLES ON WING LOK STREET WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO MORRISON STREET FOR ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS WHILE VEHICLES OVER 5.5 TONNES GROSS ON WING LOK STREET WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO BONHAM STRAND FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

MEANWHILE, HOI PA STREET BETWEEN HEUNG CHE STREET AND KAI HONG CLOSE WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY STARTING FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5).

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

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TAXIS PERMITTED AT MOUNT PARKER ROAD

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TAXIS WILL BE PERMITTED FROM 9 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5) TO ENTER THE SECTION OF MOUNT PARKER ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH QUARRY BAY STREET UP TO WOODSIDE ON WEEKDAYS (EXCEPT FROM 5 AM TO 9 AM) AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (EXCEPT FROM 5 AM TO 5 PM).

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WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY TRAFFIC CHANGES

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HEARD STREET BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5) TO FACILITATE THE LAYING OF A POWER CABLE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON HENNESSY ROAD HEADING FOR WAN CHAI ROAD MAY TRAVEL VIA BURROWS STREET.

IN ADDITION, SHELTER STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CLOSED FROM 3 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5) TO 6 AM ON OCTOBER 7 FOR ROAD WORK.

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