



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1976

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STRONG RECOVERY IN HONG KONG ECONOMY

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THE STRONG RECOVERY THIS YEAR IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY IS SPELT OUT IN DETAIL IN THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE ON SALE. IT WILL REVIEW EVENTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE UPTURN IN THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, WHICH WAS LED INITIALLY BY HEAVY STOCK BUILDING, IS NOW +WELL ESTABLISHED, WITH GROWTH IN CONSUMPTION CONFIRMED AND SIGNS OF A RECOVERY IN INVESTMENT SPENDING ALREADY RECORDED+. THIS, THE REPORT ARGUES, HAS RESULTED IN NEARLY ALL THE MAJOR ECONOMIES RECOVERING FASTER THAN EXPECTED AND, IN TURN, HAS GENERATED AN UNEXPECTEDLY RAPID RECOVERY IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE REVISED FORECAST OF THE GROWTH OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1976 FROM 9 PER CENT TO 16 PER CENT WHICH WAS GIVEN A FEW DAYS AGO BY THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. C.P. HADDON-CAVE.

THE REPORT PREDICTS THAT THE ECONOMY SHOULD APPROACH FULL CAPACITY +FASTER THAN HAD BEEN CONSIDERED LIKELY+, AND ADDS THAT THE STRONG GROWTH IN TRADE AND THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE SUSTAINED.

IT SHOWS THAT THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AT HK\$14,800 MILLION, WAS HK\$4,996 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING SIX MONTHS IN 1975. A LARGE PROPORTION OF THIS INCREASE IN VALUE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR IN QUANTITY TERMS. THUS, THE QUANTUM INDEX OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 WAS 40 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING INDEX FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975, WHEREAS THE UNIT VALUE INDEX, WHICH MEASURES PRICE CHANGES, WAS ONLY 9 PER CENT HIGHER.

THE REPORT INDICATES THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 THE VALUE OF EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, WAS 74 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975. EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ALSO DID EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, THEIR VALUE BEING 41 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 THAN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975. EVEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MARKET, WHERE AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR IT WAS FORECAST THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REAL GROWTH IN 1976, THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 WAS 25 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR AGO AND THE QUANTITY OF EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 WAS 17 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975.

+ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING ARE MORE SUBJECT TO TRADE RESTRICTIONS THAN OTHER PRODUCTS, THE RECOVERY IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS LED BY AN UPSURGE OF DEMAND FOR CLOTHING ITEMS,+ THE REPORT SAYS. IT ADDS THAT THERE WERE ALSO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TRANSISTORISED RADIOS, TEXTILE YARN, TEXTILE FABRICS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

+THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 WAS 39 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, WITH LARGE INCREASES RECORDED IN IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES. THE REPORT COMPARES THE QUANTUM INDEXES OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND SUGGESTS THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME STOCK BUILDING OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR.

IT ADDS THAT +THE INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS, THOUGH NOT AS HIGH AS THE INCREASE RECORDED FOR IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, INDICATED CONFIDENCE IN THE NEED TO EXPAND CAPACITY+.

IMPORT PRICES, WHICH GREATLY AFFECT THE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC PRICES, REMAINED VERY STABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976. BUT THE REPORT INDICATES SLIGHT INCREASES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND ADDS THAT +WITH THE RECOVERY IN MOST MAJOR ECONOMIES WELL ON THE WAY, INCREASED DEMAND WILL ADD TO THE PROSPECT OF GENERAL PRICE INCREASES+.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT THE TERMS OF TRADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 HAD MOVED IN HONG KONG'S FAVOUR AND WERE COMPARABLE TO THE TERMS OF TRADE RULING IN 1973.

IN THE SECTION ON MONEY AND BANKING, THE REPORT INDICATES A CONTINUED INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS AND HENCE IN THE MONEY SUPPLY. THE LIQUIDITY RATIO OF THE BANKS REMAINED HIGH AND AT THE END OF JUNE 1976 IT WAS 49.8 PER CENT, PUTTING THE BANKS IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION TO EXPAND THEIR LOANS WITHIN HONG KONG WHEN DEMAND PICKS UP.

AS REGARDS THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THERE WERE DEFINITE SIGNS OF A STRONG RECOVERY IN PRIVATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO INCREASES IN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THIS MAY LATER LEAD TO EXCESS DEMAND ON THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. FLOOR AREA OF BUILDING PLANS WITH CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK, WHICH THE REPORT REGARDS AS A FAIRLY RELIABLE INDICATOR OF INVESTMENT CONFIDENCE, MEASURED 13,608 THOUSAND SQUARE FEET IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, THE HIGHEST RECORDED SINCE THE FIRST HALF OF 1971. THIS WAS 41 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1975 AND 80 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE TROUGH RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1974.

IN THE LABOUR MARKET, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MARCH 1976 WAS 5.6 PER CENT COMPARED TO 9.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1975. MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1976 WAS 18 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MARCH 1975, BUT WAS STILL BELOW THE AVERAGE LEVEL IN 1973. NEVERTHELESS, THE REPORT ADDS THAT THE AVERAGE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN 1976 IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHER THAN IN 1973. THE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT FIGURE OF 749,000 RELEASED TWO WEEKS AGO IS THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED AND IS THEREFORE CONSISTENT WITH THIS VIEW.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ORDERS-ON-HAND POSITION FOR LARGE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, WITH AVERAGE ORDERS-ON-HAND IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1976 BEING 21 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER A YEAR AGO. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT ORDERS-ON-HAND POSITIONS ARE GIVEN ON THE BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT LEVELS THAT WERE PREVAILING IN THE REPORTING MONTHS AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT THAT HAS ALSO BEEN TAKING PLACE.

THE REPORT ALSO SHOWS STEADY INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT IN NON-MANUFACTURING SECTORS SUCH AS THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL AND THE IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, BANKS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A RAPIDLY IMPROVING LABOUR MARKET, DIFFERENT MEASURES OF WAGE RATES SHOWED REAL INCREASES OF 13 TO 15 PER CENT BETWEEN MARCH 1975 AND MARCH 1976. THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT THESE WERE PROBABLY THE HIGHEST ANNUAL INCREASES EVER RECORDED IN REAL WAGE RATES.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE REPORT ADDS, THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, THE TEXTILES AND GARMENTS INDUSTRY, THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, AND THE WRIST WATCH BANDS INDUSTRY RECORDED HIGH INCREASES.

IN RESPECT OF CONSUMER PRICE MOVEMENTS, THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE VERY MODERATE INCREASES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (2 TO 3 PER CENT) IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1975 WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO VERY STABLE PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS, WHICH ARE MOSTLY IMPORTED.

PRICES OF IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, AS MEASURED BY THE IMPORT UNIT VALUE INDEX, ALSO REMAINED STABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 AT ROUGHLY THE SAME AVERAGE LEVEL AS IN 1975. HOWEVER, AS DEMAND IN THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIES PICKS UP FURTHER, PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN GENERAL MAY START TO INCREASE, AS IS EVIDENCED IN THE IMPORT UNIT VALUE INDEXES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1976.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY IN ADJUSTING TO EXTERNAL CHANGES HAS MADE POSSIBLE A RAPID RECOVERY FROM THE RECESSION. +IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT IN A SHORT PERIOD OF ROUGHLY ONE YEAR, THE ECONOMY APPEARS TO HAVE FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE WORST RECESSION EXPERIENCED SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR,+ HE SAID.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT A PRICE OF \$6 PER COPY.

80 PER CENT OF H.K.'S EXPORTS TO BE HANDLED
IN CONTAINERS BY 1980

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. DEREK JONES, TODAY PREDICTED THAT BY THE END OF THIS DECADE 80 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND 50 PER CENT OF ITS IMPORTS WOULD BE HANDLED IN CONTAINERS.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE ESCAP SEMINAR ON PORT DEVELOPMENT FOR UNIT LOADS AND CONTAINERISATION.

MR. JONES RECALLED THAT IN THE LATE 1960S, AND FOLLOWING AN INTENSIVE STUDY BY A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PORT USERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THREE SMALL CONTAINER TERMINALS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE INNER HARBOUR AREA.

+IN THE EARLY 1970S, THREE MORE MAJOR CONTAINER TERMINALS WERE DEVELOPED AT THE CONTAINER PORT OF KWAI CHUNG ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE HARBOUR,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LAST YEAR THESE FACILITIES HANDLED 5.25 MILLION DEADWEIGHT TONS OF CARGO IN OVER 800,000 CONTAINERS, REPRESENTING OVER 43 PER CENT OF ALL HONG KONG'S DRY IMPORT AND EXPORT CARGOES.

CURRENTLY, HE SAID, THREE FURTHER BERTHS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND, BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE COMPLEX AT KWAI CHUNG WOULD COMPRISE FOUR TERMINALS AND SIX BERTHS, ALL CAPABLE OF TAKING THE LARGEST CONTAINERSHIPS PRESENTLY IN USE OR NOW ENVISAGED.

+DESPITE THE RAPID GROWTH OF CONTAINERISATION, A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF THE CARGO MOVING THROUGH THE PORT IS STILL HANDLED, AT ONE STAGE OR ANOTHER, BY CONVENTIONAL OR TRADITIONAL MEANS,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+IT IS MAINLY DEALT WITH IN BREAKBULK FORM AND TRANSPORTED BY BARGE AND LORRY, FROM OCEAN-GOING SHIPS TO THE SEAWALL AND VICE VERSA.+

MR. JONES SAID THAT BY THE EARLY 1980S, THE PRESENT KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE SPARE CAPACITY AND THE DEMAND FOR BREAKBULK CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES MIGHT THEN AGAIN BEGIN TO INCREASE.

+IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DEMAND, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING A PROGRAMME OF CONTROL MEASURES AT PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WITH THE AIM OF MAXIMISING THE USE OF SEAWALLS, INCREASING CARGO THROUGHPUT RATES, REDUCING CARGO HANDLING COSTS, AND ALLEVIATING ROAD TRAFFIC CONGESTION,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE METHOD OF TURNING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PORT FACILITIES, MR. JONES SAID THAT THOUGH IT WAS PERHAPS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL IN THIS DAY AND AGE, IT HAD SO FAR PROVED VERY SUCCESSFUL.

NEED TO EXPAND MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY URGED PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW WING OF ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +IN RECENT YEARS, THE DEMAND FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN GROWING.+

+AS GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-AIDED SERVICES EXPAND TO MEET THIS DEMAND,+ HE SAID, +IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS DO SO TOO.+

THE GOVERNOR PRAISED THE MANAGEMENT OF ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL FOR ITS DETERMINATION TO EXPAND AND ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THUS +MAKE A BADLY NEEDED CONTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN EASTERN HONG KONG.+

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS LADY MACLEHOSE.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ATTEND THIS CEREMONY TO MARK BOTH THE OPENING OF A NEW EXTENSION, AND THE 60TH YEAR OF OPERATION OF ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL.

+SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1917 BY THE SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL DE CHARTRES, THIS HOSPITAL HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE TREATMENT OF THE SICK IN HONG KONG. IT PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF TREATMENT FACILITIES AND THE OPENING OF THE NEW EXTENSION WILL NOT ONLY ADD TO THESE FACILITIES BUT WILL ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEDS FROM 180 TO 430.

+THIS HOSPITAL IS AN ADMIRABLE EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH VOLUNTARY AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG SUPPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN SERVICES.

+THERE ARE AT PRESENT 11 PRIVATE HOSPITALS WITH A TOTAL OF 2,300 BEDS PROVIDING SERVICES FOR 73,000 PATIENTS ANNUALLY. WHILST SOME OF THESE HOSPITALS HAVE BENEFITED FROM GRANTS OF LAND AT REDUCED OR NIL PREMIUM OR FROM REFUNDS OF RATES, MOST, LIKE ST. PAUL'S, ARE FINANCIALLY ENTIRELY SELF-SUPPORTING.

+IN RECENT YEARS, THE DEMAND FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN GROWING. AS GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-AIDED SERVICES EXPAND TO MEET THIS DEMAND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS DO SO TOO.

+IT IS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL HAS SHOWN SUCH DETERMINATION TO EXPAND AND ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THUS MAKE A BADLY NEEDED CONTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN EASTERN HONG KONG.

+FINALLY, I CONGRATULATE THE SISTERS OF ST. PAUL AND ALL THEIR STAFF WHOSE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS HAS ENSURED THE SUCCESS OF THIS HOSPITAL.

+I DECLARE THIS NEW WING OPEN.+

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1976

SIX BURMESE PYTHONS RELEASED

OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAVE RELEASED SIX BURMESE PYTHONS IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 23 THIS YEAR.

THE ORDINANCE GIVES FULL PROTECTION TO THIS TYPE OF SNAKE AND IT IS AN OFFENCE TO TRAP, TO CATCH OR TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A BURMESE PYTHON.

TWO OF THE RELEASED PYTHONS WERE FORFEITED AFTER A MAN HAD PLEADED GUILTY IN COURT TO A CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF PYTHONS AND THE OTHER FOUR WERE GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISPOSAL AFTER BEING CAUGHT NEAR HUMAN HABITATIONS.

PYTHONS ARE NOW FURTHER PROTECTED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE AND IT IS AN OFFENCE TO IMPORT, EXPORT OR TO BE IN POSSESSION OF ANY SPECIES OF PYTHON WITHOUT A PERMIT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

THE BURMESE PYTHON, THE ONLY PYTHON WHICH IS INDIGENOUS TO HONG KONG, IS EASILY RECOGNISABLE BY ITS INTRICATE COLOUR PATTERN OF BROWN AND PALE STRAW-YELLOW. IT IS A NON-VENOMOUS SNAKE, AND IS NOT HARMFUL TO MAN. IT FEEDS MOSTLY ON RATS AND OTHER SMALL MAMMALS, THOUGH OCCASIONALLY IT EATS CHICKENS.

ANYONE FINDING A PYTHON SHOULD LEAVE IT ALONE. IF IT IS NEAR HUMAN HABITATION OR SUSPECTED OF TAKING CHICKENS A REPORT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OR THE PEST CONTROL UNIT OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHO WILL ARRANGE FOR ITS REMOVAL.

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LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE SUMMER PROGRAMME BENEFITS
OVER 2,000 CHILDREN

LADY MACLEHOSE TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THAT SHE IS CONFIDENT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES HAVE DEVELOPED SELF-CONFIDENCE, NEW INTERESTS AND ABOVE ALL A CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SUMMER PROGRAMME OF THE SING KUNG HUI LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE, LADY MACLEHOSE NOTED THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY THEY LIVE IN BY COMING FORWARD TO HELP ORGANISE THIS YEAR'S SUMMER PROGRAMME.

AS A RESULT, SHE SAID, MORE THAN 2,000 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF NORTH KWAI CHUNG HAVE BENEFITTED.

LADY MACLEHOSE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO OBSERVE THE WAYS IN WHICH THE CENTRE IS SEEKING TO MEET THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KWAI CHUNG.

THE ACTIVITIES, WHICH IT HAS ORGANISED, CATER FOR A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS AND DIFFERING AGE GROUPS, SHE ADDED.

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VISIT TO CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE REHABILITATION SERVICES OF THE PO LEUNG KUK WHEN HE VISITS ITS KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. MAXIM LI KWOK, CHAIRMAN OF PO LEUNG KUK- MR. PETER KAN, ASSISTANT CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (YAU TONG) AND OTHER KUK OFFICIALS, MR. WALDEN WILL TOUR ROUND THE CENTRE, WHICH IS THE LARGEST FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN HONG KONG.

THE CENTRE, CONSISTING OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A HOSTEL, A SHELTERED WORKSHOP, A CANTEEN AND RECREATION ROOM, IS THE ONLY ONE WITH MULTIPLE SERVICES FOR THE TRAINEES.

DURING HIS TOUR, MR. WALDEN WILL ALSO SEE SOME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN PROGRESS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

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DOWNING TO ATTEND AIR SERVICES TALKS IN LONDON

MR. ROY DOWNING, THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN BRITAIN, WILL ATTEND AIR SERVICES TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES IN LONDON ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10).

THIS IS THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE UK/US AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT.

THE AGREEMENT, KNOWN AS THE BERMUDA AGREEMENT, WAS THE FIRST MAJOR AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

ITS WORDING WAS LESS PRECISE THAN THAT OF OTHER MORE RECENT AGREEMENTS AND, AFTER 30 YEARS, IT NEEDS A COMPLETE REVISION TO REMOVE ANOMALIES IN MANY AREAS.

BRITAIN HAS SOUGHT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR A TOTAL RE-NEGOTIATION BY GIVING NOTICE ON JUNE 22 THIS YEAR TO TERMINATE THE PRESENT AGREEMENT IN A YEAR'S TIME.

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LANTERN PARADE AT TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE
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RESIDENTS OF THE TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE IN KOWLOON ARE IN FOR A TREAT WHEN THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY CENTRE IN THE AREA IS ORGANISING A LANTERN PARADE AND A VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD WITHIN THE ESTATE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) EVENING TO MARK THE FESTIVAL.

THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THE BASKETBALL COURT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE BEGINNING AT 8 P.M. THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES SINGING BY ARTISTES FROM RADIO HONG KONG, FOLK DANCE AND STAGE SHOW.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A LANTERN PARADE WHICH WILL START AROUND 9 P.M. ABOUT 500 CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS WILL PASS THROUGH AND AROUND THE BLOCKS OF THE TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE. THEY WILL BRING ALONG THEIR OWN LANTERNS, BUT CANDLES WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THEM.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARADE, THE CENTRE HAS ORGANISED A LANTERN-MAKING COMPETITION AND PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS ON THAT EVENING.

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HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 9), WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

ON THAT DAY, ALL POST OFFICES WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

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KOWLOON LANDSLIDE VICTIMS RECEIVE DONATIONS
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A TOTAL OF 3,121 VICTIMS OF THE RECENT LANDSLIDE ON KOWLOON SIDE WAS GIVEN \$40 EACH FROM DONATIONS BY THE PUBLIC THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

SCORES OF OFFICERS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS AND ARTISTES FROM COMMERCIAL RADIO HELPED DISTRIBUTE THE DONATIONS TO THE VICTIMS AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

THE DONATIONS, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$178,800, HAD BEEN MADE TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND COMMERCIAL RADIO SINCE THE LANDSLIDE OCCURRED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.

CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE VICTIMS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE MADE AT THE SAU KEI WAN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION RECREATION GROUND, SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, TOMORROW (TUESDAY) BETWEEN 2.30 P.M. AND 4 P.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID :
+FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES, ALL VICTIMS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND THEIR EMERGENCY RELIEF CHITS, THAT IS, THE 'RED CARD' ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.+

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