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HK AND U.S. HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS ON TRADE

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, CONCLUDED HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY (JUNE 23) WITH AN ADDRESS TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AT A BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

OTHER MEETINGS EARLIER IN THE WEEK INCLUDED BRIEFINGS WITH CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE AND CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY IN SACRAMENTO, AND WITH MAYOR TOM BRADLEY OF LOS ANGELES.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA IN SAN FRANCISCO, MR CHAN SAID HE FOUND IT ENCOURAGING THAT THE MAJOR EMPHASIS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S TRADE POLICY WAS TOWARDS FAIR TRADE.

HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NEW UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, MS CARLA HILLS, THAT HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES HELD VERY SIMILAR VIEWS OVER MANY TRADE ISSUES.

"BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND HONG KONG ARE PLAYING IMPORTANT AND ACTIVE ROLES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GATT AND BOTH OF US SHARE COMMON VIEWS ON MANY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED," MR CHAN SAID.

"AS A RESULT OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD BE TO BRING TRADE IN TEXTILES BACK UNDER THE GATT SYSTEM," MR CHAN TOLD REPORTERS.

MR CHAN FELT THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS THE WORLD'S LEADING TRADING NATION, HAD AGREEABLY BENEFITED MORE THAN ANY OTHER NATION FROM THE CURRENT SYSTEM.

"WE THEREFORE LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, TO DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY ITS COMMITMENT TO THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM BY ITS ACTIONS BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD."

MR CHAN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT, WITH A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK IN GENEVA OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, THE URUGUAY ROUND COULD BE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"AND I BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE PROCESS, DEMONSTRATING TO THE WORLD ITS AUTONOMY IN COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID HE FELT GRATIFIED THAT HE NO LONGER HAD TO TELL PEOPLE THAT HONG KONG PRACTISED FREE TRADE AS WAS THE CASE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. THREE YEARS AGO.

"I HAVE FOUND THERE IS MUCH MORE UNDERSTANDING AND MUCH MORE GOOD WILL TOWARDS HONG KONG. PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY ASSOCIATE THE WORD 'HONG KONG' WITH FREE TRADE AND OPEN ECONOMY," MR CHAN SAID.

MR CHAN WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG THIS EVENING.

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OMELCO STAND REMAINS UNCHANGED

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FOLLOWING IS THE CONTENT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING BY MRS ROSANNA TAM, CONVENER OF THE OMELCO SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON NATIONALITY, AND MR STEPHEN CHEONG, MR RONALD ARCULLI AND DR LEONG CHE-HUNG:

"MEMBERS OF THE OMELCO SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON NATIONALITY ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE TWO SENIOR MEMBERS' MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY. INDEED, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED HAD THE PRIME MINISTER TAKEN A GREATER STEP TOWARDS HONG KONG'S POSITION.

"THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE WORKING TO GIVE 'PRACTICAL EXPRESSION TO THEIR PROMISE TO INTRODUCE GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HK', AND HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION 'TO MAKE A STATEMENT REASONABLY SOON'.

"IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY BRITAIN WILL INDEED BOOST CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY.

"'FLEXIBILITY' IS NOT WHAT WE ASKED FOR. OUR STAND ON THIS ISSUE REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND THAT IS: BRITAIN HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF HONG KONG, AND A DIRECT MORAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RESTORE THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO ALL THE BRITISH SUBJECTS HERE.

"THE TWO SENIOR MEMBERS' VISIT TO LONDON IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR EFFORTS. WE WILL KEEP ON PRESSING FOR THE INTEREST OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND WE NEED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS AND WISHES TO HMG THROUGH ALL AVAILABLE CHANNELS.

"WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THIS ISSUE.

"THE TWO SENIOR MEMBERS WILL BRIEF OMELCO MEMBERS AT A SPECIAL IN-HOUSE MEETING ON MONDAY AT 11 AM. THEY WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT 12 PM. MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS TO COVER THE TWO SENIOR MEMBERS' ARRIVAL ON SUNDAY AT THE AIRPORT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.

"EARLIER THIS MORNING, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD TSANG, ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO LONDON.

"MR TSANG SAID HIS TRIP WAS AT THE INVITATION AND REQUEST OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR REVIEW OF THE CURRENT UK POLICY FOR ADMITTING HONG KONG BRITISH NATIONALS INTO THE UK.

"HE SAID THAT THE TALKS WERE TECHNICAL IN NATURE AND THAT THEY DEALT WITH THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT AND THE UK IMMIGRATION ACT AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

"HE REAFFIRMED THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS CLEAR THAT THE OBLIGATION OF HMG IS TOWARDS ALL BRITISH CITIZENS IN HONG KONG AND THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE CATEGORIZATION OF HONG KONG BRITISH NATIONALS. HE SAID THAT ANY CRUDE CATEGORIZATION WOULD TEND TO BE DIVISIVE."

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REGISTRATION OF IVORY STOCKS TO START

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON LOCAL IVORY TRADERS FOR THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION IN A GOVERNMENT EXERCISE TO REGISTER ALL IVORY STOCKS CURRENTLY HELD IN THE TERRITORY.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR M.K. CHEUNG, IN A CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL IVORY TRADERS ABOUT THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE BEING CONDUCTED IN AN EFFORT TO MONITOR THE EXISTING IVORY STOCKS AND THEIR TRADE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

"THE REGISTRATION WILL COVER ALL IVORY STOCKS INCLUDING RAW AND WORKED IVORY BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PERSONAL ITEMS OF WORKED IVORY," MR CHEUNG SAID.

"ALL IVORY TUSKS AND LARGE CUT PIECES WILL BE MARKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IVORY CONTROL PROCEDURE LAID DOWN BY THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)."

DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE REGISTRATION PROCESS, IVORY TRADERS WERE REQUESTED TO CHECK THEIR IVORY STOCKS AND MAKE A REPORT TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WITHIN 14 DAYS ON THE PRESCRIBED FORM PROVIDED, HE SAID.

"NIL RETURN IS REQUIRED," HE ADDED.

UPON RECEIPT OF RETURNS FROM TRADERS, PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF IVORY STOCKS HELD BY INDIVIDUAL TRADERS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY DEPARTMENT STAFF WHO WILL PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE MARKINGS REQUIRED FOR THE TUSKS AND CUT PIECES AT THE TIME OF THE INSPECTION.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE REGISTRATION WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO ENHANCE CONTROL ON THE IVORY TRADE.

"APART FROM THE MORATORIUM ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 16 ON IMPORTS OF RAW IVORY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, URGENT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A COMPUTER DATA BASE OF ALL REGISTERED IVORY," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR CHEUNG POINTED OUT, A PROPOSAL WAS BEING FORMULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE A POSSESSION LICENCE UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE FOR THE HOLDING OF ANY COMMERCIAL QUANTITY OF IVORY.

"DETAILS OF THIS NEW REQUIREMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE," HE ADDED.

MR CHEUNG ALSO ADVISED IVORY TRADERS NOT TO ARRANGE ANY IVORY SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY AS THEY HAD ALREADY IMPOSED A BAN ON IMPORTS OF IVORY IN ALL FORMS.

"NO IVORY EXPORT TO THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CONTEMPLATED UNLESS AND UNTIL CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED THAT THE IMPORT BAN HAS BEEN LIFTED," HE SAID.

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FERRY SERVICE HAS LONG TERM FUTURE

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID FERRY SERVICES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE LONG TERM.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE "GOLDEN STAR", A NEW VESSEL OF THE STAR FERRY COMPANY, TODAY (SATURDAY).

"AS AN OFF-ROAD MODE OF TRANSPORT, FERRIES HELP TO EASE PRESSURE ON THE ROAD NETWORK. THIS ROLE IS FULLY RECOGNISED IN THE 1989 GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW VESSEL'S ACQUISITION, MR LEUNG PRAISED THE WHARF GROUP FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PROVISION OF QUALITY SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AND ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

HE NOTED THAT THE "GOLDEN STAR" IS ONE OF THE TWO NEW VESSELS WHICH WILL BE DEPLOYED ON THE STAR FERRY COMPANY'S CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR.

THE COMPANY ALSO PLANS TO FIT NEW ENGINES TO 10 VESSELS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS FERRY OPERATION.

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PLANS FOR FIVE HOTELS APPROVED

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PLANS FOR FIVE HOTELS, HAVING A TOTAL OF 1,662 ROOMS, WERE APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN APRIL.

THEY WERE AMONG 58 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED BY THE OFFICE DURING THE MONTH.

ALSO APPROVED WERE 24 PLANS FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, 12 FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND FIVE FOR FACTORY OR GODOWN PROJECTS.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED, 23 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 15 FOR KOWLOON AND 20 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

CONSENT TO START WORK WAS GIVEN FOR 48 PROJECTS. THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF THESE PROJECTS WAS 382,928.55 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 261,216.35 SQUARE METRES WAS FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC USES.

/THE TOTAL .....

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS 229,618 SQUARE METRES. OF WHICH 158,867.3 SQUARE METRES WAS FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC USES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT $697 MILLION.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 42 OCCUPATION PERMITS -- 12 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, NINE FOR KOWLOON AND 21 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE ISSUED 40 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 105 BUILDINGS.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 642 COMPLAINTS REGARDING ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS DURING THE MONTH, CARRIED OUT 968 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 142 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 460 BUILDINGS. AND NO CLOSURES WERE REQUIRED.

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LIBERAL STUDIES FOR SIXTH FORM PROPOSED

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THE WORKING GROUP ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION WAS LIKELY TO INCLUDE AMONG ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS FIRST REPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL COURSE IN LIBERAL STUDIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A CONFERENCE ON "EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING", MR WINFIELD SAID THE COURSE CURRICULUM WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE FORM OF MODULES WHICH COULD INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, CHINA TODAY, THE MEDIA IN SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

"AN I-LEVEL LIBERAL STUDIES COURSE WOULD PROBABLY CONSIST OF TWO SUCH MODULES SELECTED BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS FROM THOSE AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

"WITH SUCH A SUBJECT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS IN THE SIXTH FORM TO PURSUE A COURSE OF STUDY WHICH INCLUDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MODULE, THE SYLLABUS OF WHICH COULD BE DESIGNED TO ENABLE SUCH STUDENTS TO BECOME MORE AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

"IT ALSO HELPS STUDENTS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SUCH AREAS AS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN COMMUNICATION, AND TO CONSIDER RELATED ETHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES."

/MR WINFIELD .....

MR WINFIELD SAID HE HOPED THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHICH WOULD BE BOTH STIMULATING AND EDUCATIONALLY REWARDING.

TURNING TO THE PROVISION OF FURTHER SCIENCE EDUCATION TO NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS IN SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS, MR WINFIELD SAID A BROAD-BASED MULTI-DISCIPLINE SCIENCE COURSE WOULD BE INTRODUCED AS AN ADDITIONAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE COURSE FOR STUDENTS IN SECONDARY 4-5 NOT SPECIALISING IN THE SUBJECT.

"APART FROM BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE COURSE AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL, THIS COURSE WOULD ENCOMPASS CONCEPTS, SKILLS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SCIENCE DISCIPLINES, WITH DUE EMPHASIS ON THE SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND EVERYDAY APPLICATION OF SCIENCE," HE SAID.

"IN DEVELOPING THIS IDEA, WE ENVISAGE THAT THE CURRICULUM CONTENT OF SUCH A COURSE WILL HAVE TO CATER FOR THE VARIED NEEDS OF STUDENTS OF A WIDE RANGE OF ABILITIES IF IT IS TO PROVIDE A BALANCED AND WORTHWHILE SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS BEYOND THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL."

MR WINFIELD SAID A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON THE PROPOSED COURSE WAS NOW BEING DRAFTED FOLLOWING STRONG SUPPORT GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE SUBJECT COMMITTEE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

THE PAPER WOULD OUTLINE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE RATIONALE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A SCIENCE COURSE FOR SECONDARY 4-5 STUDENTS IN NON-SCIENCE STREAMS, TOGETHER WITH A PROPOSED SKELETAL SYLLABUS.

IT WOULD BE SENT TO SCHOOLS IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR FOR VIEWS AND COMMENTS. A SERIES OF SEMINARS WOULD ALSO BE ORGANISED TO BRIEF SCIENCE TEACHERS ON THE PROPOSAL, MR WINFIELD SAID.

HE URGED PRINCIPALS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS TO STUDY THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER WHEN IT WAS READY AND TO RESPOND BY GIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK.

"I HOPE THAT PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS WILL RECOGNISE THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING ANOTHER SCIENCE ELECTIVE SUBJECT AVAILABLE TO THEIR NON-SCIENCE PUPILS AT SECONDARY 4-5 AND GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THIS PROPOSED COURSE," MR WINFIELD ADDED.

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION
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FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF $818,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER 389 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF $125,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER 535 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF $100,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS $1000 EACH FOR/FOR EA5292.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	$		$		$		$
EA708	5,000	EA128	19,000	DZ777	36,000	EA7889	3,000
EA8681	3,000	DA728	15,000	EA139	9,000	EA2516	WITHDRAWN
DF25	21,000	7832	45,000	EA9809	4,000	AK357	15,000
EA6378	3,000	EA2318	9,000	BK136	16,000	EB823	21,000
EA911	6,000	DZ9283	3,000	1986	40,000	DZ8	95,000
BV892	3,000	DY2	70,000	EA6618	6,000	BB6662	11,000
535	100,000	EA143	3,000	AA337	14,000	EA1398	16,000
EB339	15,000	EA688	25,000	DC735	2,000	EA5292	1,000
AA350	11,000	389	125,000	CD9000	11,000	AK1631	7,000
DZ111	20,000	EA776	3,000	EA7741	2,000	EA9899	5,000

EA2516 WAS WITHDRAWN AND DEPOSIT $1,000 WAS FORFIETED TO THE TOTAL REALIZED.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 138TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO $84,013,532.

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TSUEN WAN DB TO DISCUSS RIGHT OF ABODE

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF RIGHT OF ABODE OF HONG KONG BRITISH NATIONALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY (JUNE 26).

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE AND THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE REVIEW OF THE REHABILITATION SCHEME UNDER THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON MONDAY (JUNE 26) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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ISLANDS DB TO DISCUSS RURAL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RPIS), A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AT ITS MEETING ON MONDAY (JUNE 26).

OFFICIALS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON RECENT FINDINGS CONCERNING THE WATER QUALITY IN SILVERMINE BAY.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE 1989-90 TENTATIVE LAND SALES PROGRAMME, THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, THE 1989-90 WORK PLAN OF THE ICAC HONG KONG WEST/ISLANDS REGIONAL OFFICE, AND THE PROPOSED STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR THE USE OF DB LOGOS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY (JUNE 26) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, BEGINNING AT 2 PM.

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REHABILITATION SELF-HELP GROUPS BENEFICIAL TO COMMUNITY

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SELF-HELP GROUPS IN SOCIAL REHABILITATION NOT ONLY PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN HELPING THEIR MEMBERS BUT ARE ALSO BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR KWOK KA-CHI, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE "SELF HELP, BEST HELP" SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR KWOK SAID MEMBERS OF THESE SELF-HELP GROUPS COULD SOLVE THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS WITH A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL HELP.

"THROUGH MUTUAL CARE AND SUPPORT, MEMBERS DIRECTLY HELP OTHER MEMBERS AND INDIRECTLY BENEFIT THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND SOCIETY AT LARGE.

"THUS, THE REHABILITATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE DISABLED AND THE SELF-HELP GROUPS, WHICH COMPOSED OF DISABLED PERSONS ALONE OR WITH OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE, COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER IN THEIR FUNCTIONS."

MR KWOK NOTED THAT GOOD PLANNING, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS WERE ALSO IMPORTANT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNITY'S ACCEPTANCE, CARE AND SUPPORT FOR THE DISABLED AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE VITAL IN THE PROMOTION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES.

THERE ARE THREE COMMON TYPES OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN REHABILITATION SERVICES. THEY ARE SELF-HELP GROUPS FOR THE DEAF, PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP RUN BY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS.

THE SELF-HELP GROUPS FOR THE DEAF ENABLE THE DEAF TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND THE BARRIER IN MAKING VERBAL COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS, AND HELP THEM TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND BECOME USEFUL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IS ANOTHER TYPE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS. GROUP MEMBERS OFTEN DISCUSS WITH STAFF OF THE TRAINING CENTRES WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND CLASSES, ON METHODS AND PROBLEMS IN TAKING CARE OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

THROUGH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT AMONG GROUP MEMBERS, BOTH THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WOULD BE BENEFITED.

THE THIRD TYPE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS, THE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS RUN BY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS, PROVIDES SELF-SUFFICIENT WORK FOR PERSONS WITH SIMILAR DISABILITIES WHO ARE TRYING THEIR BEST TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT. MEMBERS ARE MAKING DEFINITE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SELF-HELP GROUP, THEIR FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 120 YOUNG PEOPLE

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ABOUT 120 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 26 WILL TAKE PART IN A 10-DAY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE WEST KOWLOON REGION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE PROGRAMME, "CONCERN, REALISE AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY", AIMS TO HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHOW THEIR CONCERN, TO REALISE THEIR IDEALS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WILL BEGIN ON JULY 7.

ALL THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE UNITS IN THE REGION WILL BE CO-ORDINATED TO ENABLE THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY PROJECTS DURING THE SUMMER VACATION.

APART FROM BRIEFINGS BY SOCIAL WORKERS ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES, THE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SMALL GROUPS TO CARRY OUT SERVICE PROJECTS AT VARIOUS WELFARE AGENCIES SUCH AS HALF-WAY HOUSES, AND HOMES FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY.

AFTERWARDS, A TRAINING CAMP WILL BE ORGANISED AT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING CAMP AT TAI PO FOR THE PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN CARRYING OUT THE VARIOUS PROJECTS.

THIS PROGRAMME IS ONE OF THE SERIES OF REGIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

THIS IS ACHIEVED BY FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PERSONALITY, SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBLITY AND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO USE THEIR LEISURE TIME BENEFICIALLY.

THE SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER CO-ORDINATING THE PROGRAMMES, MISS MAY CHUNG, REMARKED: "THESE PROGRAMMES WILL NOT ONLY BE FRUITFUL TO PARTICIPANTS BUT ALSO TO THE TARGET GROUPS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER EQUIP THEMSELVES IN ORGANISING PROJECTS IN FUTURE AFTER THEY HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FROM PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS."

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ROAD CLOSURES IN CHAU TAU, YUEN LONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL ROADS IN CHAU TAU, YUEN LONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 26) TO FACILITATE THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

THEY ARE THE UNNAMED ROAD (T-3) LINKING CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND THE SERVICE ROAD (SR-6) NEAR CHAU TAU; AND THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF THE MAIN CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (T-2) NEAR CHAU TAU.

MOREOVER, THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF THE MAIN CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (T-1) NEAR CHAU TAU WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY TO JULY 10.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING TOWARDS YUEN LONG ARE ADVISED TO USE EITHER ROAD D-3 (UP-RAMP), ROAD D-1 AND SR-6 OR ROAD D-3 (UP-RAMP) AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

FOR MOTORISTS TRAVELLING TOWARDS FANLING, THEY MAY USE SR-6, ROAD D-1 AND ROAD D-2 (DOWN-RAMP).

MEANWHILE, THOSE TRAVELLING ON EASTBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD FOR LOK MA CHAU ARE ADVISED TO USE SR-7, ROAD D-1 AND SR-6.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CONVENTION AVENUE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT CONVENTION AVENUE EASTBOUND BETWEEN FENWICK PIER STREET AND FLEMING ROAD, WAN CHAI, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MONDAY (JUNE 26) FOR THREE NIGHTS.

THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN FORCE BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 AM DAILY TO FACILITATE FOOTBRIDGE REPAIR WORK.

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON FENWICK PIER STREET HEADING FOR WAN CHAI FERRY PIER AND HUNG HING ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARBOUR ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SEVERN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE SECTION OF SEVERN ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS BETWEEN HOUSE NUMBERS 23 AND 26 WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MONDAY (JUNE 26) TO JULY 9 TO FACILITATE CABLE LAYING WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE SECTION OF SEVERN ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NUMBERS 28 AND 37 AND THAT BETWEEN HOUSE NUMBERS 20 AND 22 WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 26), RAMP A1 ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD LEADING TO PENFORD PARK, SHA TIN, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK OF RAMP A1.

MOTORISTS ON TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR PENFORD PARK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA RAMP D AND RAMP F.

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