



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1988

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HANOI TAKES NOTE OF HK'S NEW POLICY

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THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE DETAILS OF HONG KONG'S NEW POLICY ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, MR EMRYS DAVIES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT, HE SAID THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAD REACTED CAUTIOUSLY.

"THEY HAVE EXPLAINED AGAIN THEIR ATTITUDE, WHICH I THINK I SPOKE ABOUT WHEN I WAS HERE LAST SEPTEMBER, WHICH WAS THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE BACK PEOPLE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

"BUT THEY SAW ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES IN TAKING LARGE NUMBERS."

MR DAVIES, WHO IS ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE UK FOR LEAVE, SAID THE REFUGEE ISSUE MADE HIS SHORT VISIT TO HONG KONG PARTICULARLY TIMELY.

"I SPOKE TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, JUST BEFORE LEAVING, ABOUT THE NEW POLICY, AND SO I HAVE NOW COME TO EXPLAIN TO THE GOVERNOR WHAT THEIR REACTION WAS," HE SAID.

MR DAVIES NOTED THAT THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED SINCE HIS PREVIOUS VISIT, AND DRAMATICALLY SO IN TERMS OF THE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS COMING TO HONG KONG FROM VIETNAM.

"I WAS ABLE TO SHOW THEM THE FIGURES, AND TO TALK AT SOME LENGTH WITH THEM ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM.

"THEY SAID THEY WOULD LOOK AT THIS MATTER AND WE WOULD HAVE DISCUSSIONS WHEN I GOT BACK, OR POSSIBLY BEFORE THAT."

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, MR DAVIES SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION AT THIS STAGE THAT VIETNAM WOULD TAKE PEOPLE BACK IN BATCHES IN THE EARLY 1990'S.

HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT VIETNAM HAD NOT ACTUALLY SAID NO.

AS TO WHETHER ANY ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO MIGHT BE SENT BACK, HE SAID: "WE HAVEN'T GOT TO THAT STAGE YET. CERTAINLY THE ONES WHO HAVE GONE BACK SO FAR, THE INDIVIDUAL CASES, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS -- NO PROBLEMS AT ALL."

MR DAVIES ADDED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN WELCOMED BACK, AND THEY HAD NOT SUFFERED ANY PROBLEMS.

"WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BACK AND CATERED FOR IN A PERFECTLY CIVILISED MANNER."

/HOWEVER, GUARANTEES

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HOWEVER, GUARANTEES FOR ANY LARGE NUMBERS WHO MIGHT GO BACK HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT THIS STAGE.

MR DAVIES SAID HE THOUGHT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON IT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

"THEY ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF IT. AND THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY GOING TO CONSIDER IT SERIOUSLY -- THEY HAVE TO CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE," HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER VIETNAM WAS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION, MR DAVIES SAID HANOI STATED THAT IT DID SO, AND IT CERTAINLY HAD BEEN PUNISHING THOSE WHO HAD BEEN ORGANISING THE EXODUS.

THE GOVERNMENT PUNISHED THOSE WHO ACTUALLY TRIED TO MAKE MONEY OUT OF IT, AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME CORRUPTION WHICH THE AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN TRYING TO DEAL WITH, HE SAID.

"BUT THEY SAID TO ME THAT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE LENGTH OF COASTLINE, AND THE NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS WHICH PLY AROUND THE VIETNAMESE SHORES EVERY DAY, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO POLICE IT TO THE POINT WHERE THEY COULD ACTUALLY PREVENT ANYONE LEAVING," HE SAID.

"THEY SAID TO ME RECENTLY THAT THEY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THE BEST THING THEY COULD DO IN THE SHORT TERM AT LEAST, WAS TO FACILITATE WHAT THEY CALL THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME.

"AND I WAS TOLD THE INSTRUCTION HAD GONE OUT VERY FIRMLY TO ALL THE PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO GET RID OF ANY UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES.

"AND IT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE WORKING IN THE SENSE THAT THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME IS DEVELOPING.

"AS FAR AS THE UK IS CONCERNED, WE'VE HAD MORE PEOPLE FROM THE ODP LIST GETTING TO THE UK THIS YEAR ALREADY THAN THE WHOLE OF LAST YEAR.

"BUT WHETHER THAT IS THEN HAVING A KNOCK-ON EFFECT ON THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS ANOTHER QUESTION," MR DAVIES SAID.

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EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT PUBLISHED

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 3 WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS, HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL WELCOME COMMENTS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE REPORT DURING THE TWO MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, WHICH MEETS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR Q.W. LEE, HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE REPORT SINCE LATE 1986. THE REPORT MAKES 53 RECOMMENDATIONS ON TWO MAJOR ISSUES.

IT ALSO SUMMARISES PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS IN EARLIER REPORTS AND MENTIONS THE SUBJECTS WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL TACKLE IN FUTURE.

THE FIRST MAJOR SUBJECT DEALT WITH IN THE REPORT IS THE STRUCTURE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION.

"THE COMMISSION HAS EXAMINED A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF OPTIONS," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT HAS CONCLUDED THAT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ACCEPT STUDENTS INTO DEGREE COURSES ONLY AFTER THE TWO YEAR SIXTH FORM COURSE RECENTLY ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," HE ADDED.

THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE LENGTH OF FIRST DEGREE COURSES SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES, SUBJECT TO THE EXISTING PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH THEY MUST APPROACH THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE WITH PROPOSALS.

THE COMMISSION HAS, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT COURSES SHOULD BE OF THE SAME LENGTH AT ALL INSTITUTIONS FOR ANY GIVEN SUBJECT.

THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSE THAT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ADOPT COMMON ADMISSION PROCEDURES AND THAT, IN DUE COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY OF A CREDIT UNIT SYSTEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NOT TRIED TO INFRINGE ON THE AUTONOMY OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS BY LAYING DOWN A "BASIC" LENGTH FOR DEGREE COURSES.

"THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ALLOW FOR COURSES TO BE AS LONG AS IS EDUCATIONALLY NECESSARY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"THE COMMISSION

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"THE COMMISSION RECOGNISES THAT SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND HOPES THAT THE UNIVERSITIES WILL CO-OPERATE IN A WAY THAT IS FAIR TO ALL HONG KONG'S STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

THE SECOND MAJOR SUBJECT IN THE REPORT IS THE FUTURE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

THE COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF A STRONG INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOL SECTOR SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED.

THE COMMISSION ALSO BELIEVES THAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS SHOULD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, OPERATE FREE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS, IN PARTICULAR OVER FEES.

"THE COMMISSION HOPES THAT THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVOLVE INTO A GENUINE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO ACHIEVE THIS THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT A NEW "DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME" (DSS) SHOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHICH ATTAIN A HIGH EDUCATIONAL STANDARD.

ADMISSION TO THE DSS WILL BE OPEN TO ALL EXISTING PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHICH REACH THE REQUISITE STANDARDS AS WELL AS TO AIDED SCHOOLS.

"THE COMMISSION EXPECTS THAT THE NEW SCHEME WILL WIDEN PARENTAL CHOICE AND IMPROVE THE STATUS AND STANDARDS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE TO THAT IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSALS, SCHOOLS IN THE DSS WILL BE FREE TO SET THEIR OWN CURRICULA.

TO HELP PARENTS TO DECIDE WHICH SCHOOLS BEST SUIT THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS, EACH SCHOOL IN THE SCHEME WILL BE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH AN ANNUAL PROSPECTUS, GIVING DETAILS OF THE SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM, ACADEMIC RESULTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DSS WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE PLACES OF AN INCREASINGLY HIGH STANDARD AT GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS TO ALL THOSE WHO REQUIRE THEM.

UNDER THE DSS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL NO LONGER BE USED AS A BUFFER AGAINST FLUCTUATION IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES.

/THE EXISTING

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THE EXISTING BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME, UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT BUYS PLACES AT A RELATIVELY LOW COST FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO HELP MEET SHORTFALLS IN DEMAND FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, WOULD BE PHASED OUT BY THE YEAR 2000.

IN THE INTERIM, THE STANDARDS OF SCHOOLS IN THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME WOULD BE PROGRESSIVELY RAISED TO LEVELS COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN THE AIDED SECTOR.

"THIS WILL ENABLE SCHOOLS NOW IN THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME TO ACHIEVE THE STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR JOINING THE DSS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSES THE SETTING UP OF A PRIVATE SCHOOLS REVIEW COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PRIVATE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE COMMITTEE, TO BE CHAIRED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, WOULD MONITOR ENTRY TO THE DSS AND ENSURE THAT THE SUPPLY OF DSS PLACES DID NOT EXCEED THE DEMAND.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR VIEWS ON THE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH, 12TH FLOOR, WEST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND FROM LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES.

ALL VIEWS RECEIVED WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A DECISION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

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GOVERNOR VISITS UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

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THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL WOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING POPULATION OF EAST KOWLOON WITH THE NEW EXTENSION NOW BEING BUILT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE HOSPITAL - AN ACUTE HOSPITAL COMMISSIONED IN 1973 AND SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT - WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEDS FROM 640 TO 1,400 WITH ANCILLIARY FACILITIES, BY THE TIME THE NEW EXTENSION IS COMPLETED IN 1991.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON TODAY VISITED THE INSTITUTION TO SEE THE OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL WHICH SERVES THE COMMUNITY OF EAST KOWLOON, INCLUDING KWUN TONG.

AT PRESENT IT PROVIDES IN-PATIENT FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL, SURGICAL, PAEDIATRIC, GYNAECOLOGICAL, ORTHOPAEDIC AND PSYCHIATRIC CASES.

IT ALSO OPERATES GENERAL AND SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT SERVICES AS WELL AS 24-HOUR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

AFTER THE VISIT, SIR DAVID SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE HOSPITAL PLAYED IN PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED SERVICES FOR ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A CAPITAL SUBVENTION OF \$1,032 MILLION OUT OF A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$1,100 MILLION FOR THE HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROGRAMME.

THE HOSPITAL BOARD HAS ALSO RAISED A TOTAL OF OVER \$70 MILLION IN DONATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION PROGRAMME. OF THIS SUM, \$25 MILLION CAME FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, \$30 MILLION FROM THE SHAW BROTHERS' FOUNDATION AND \$5 MILLION FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG IN RESPONSE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD'S FUND-RAISING EFFORTS.

SIR DAVID PRAISED THE HOSPITAL FOR PUTTING GREAT EMPHASIS IN PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL IN THE FORM OF COMMUNITY NURSING CARE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY DR LAWRENCE LAI, REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR KOWLOON, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THEY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL BY UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES LED BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN, THE RT REV PETER KWONG.

AFTER A BRIEF SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE HOSPITAL, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WERE TAKEN ON A TOUR OF SOME OF THE MAIN DEPARTMENTS OF THE HOSPITAL, INCLUDING THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT, THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND THE SURGICAL DEPARTMENT.

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LEGCO ELECTIONS VOTER REGISTRATION ATTRACTS 16,592 APPLICATIONS

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THE FIRST PHASE OF THE 1988 VOTER REGISTRATION FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAS DRAWN 16,592 APPLICATIONS.

APART FROM A NUMBER OF DUPLICATE APPLICATIONS AND THOSE SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT YET REGISTERED ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL (FOR DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS), 9,569 NEW ENTRIES ARE INCORPORATED IN A PROVISIONAL REGISTER TO BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ANOTHER 5,804 APPLICANTS WHO ARE NOT YET REGISTERED ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL BUT ARE OTHERWISE QUALIFIED WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REGISTER.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN MAY THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL ONE-OFF CONCESSION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO BE BUT ARE NOT YET REGISTERED AS ELECTORS ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL, TO BE REGISTERED AS ELECTORS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

THE FIRST PHASE OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE LEGCO ELECTIONS BEGAN ON APRIL 15 AND LASTED UNTIL MAY 6.

FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO FAILED TO MEET THE CLOSING DATE, THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO JULY 1 IN THE SECOND PHASE FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REGISTER.

"THERE IS A REASONABLY SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE PROSPECTIVE ELECTORATE OF ALL ESTABLISHED FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES," MR LAI KWAN-TAT, REGISTRATION OFFICER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE EXPANDED MEDICAL ELECTORAL DIVISION HAS DRAWN 893 APPLICATIONS (499 FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER) FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND DENTISTS.

APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN THE NEW HEALTH CARE ELECTORAL DIVISION AND THE ACCOUNTANCY CONSTITUENCY HAVE COME IN RATHER SLOWLY, MR LAI SAID.

THERE ARE ONLY 9,390 APPLICATIONS (4,813 FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER) IN THE HEALTH CARE ELECTORAL DIVISION AGAINST A POTENTIAL ELECTORAL OF 20,417.

APPLICATIONS IN THE ACCOUNTANCY CONSTITUENCY STANDS AT 981 (812 FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER) AGAINST A POTENTIAL ELECTORATE OF 3,223.

/ "AS PROSPECTIVE

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"AS PROSPECTIVE ELECTORS MAY TAKE A WHILE TO BECOME FULLY ALERTED, A FURTHER APPEAL HAS BEEN SENT OUT BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION, AND THEY WILL HAVE UP TO JULY 1 TO SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS.

"THEY CAN HAVE THEIR NAMES INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REGISTER FOR PUBLICATION IN LATE JULY AND THEREBY BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS," MR LAI EXPLAINED.

THERE ARE NOW 52,088 ELECTORS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL, A NET INCREASE OF 9,069 OVER THE 1987 REGISTRATION FIGURE. THE OVERALL REGISTRATION RATE STANDS AT 53 PER CENT.

FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN BY TYPES OF ELECTORS WITH THE 1987 FIGURES SHOWN IN BRACKETS:-

ELECTORS IN ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES 467 (438);

CORPORATE ELECTORS IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES 5,249 (5,215);

INDIVIDUAL ELECTORS IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES 46,373 (37,366).

THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION (HARBOUR CENTRE, WAN CHAI), CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS (WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI), CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE (HARBOUR BUILDING, CENTRAL), KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE (TUNG YAN STREET, KWUN TONG), SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE (KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN) AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE (TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING).

THE PUBLIC MAY RAISE OBJECTIONS, ON VALID GROUNDS, TO THE INCLUSION IN THE REGISTER OF THE NAME OF ANY ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL. SUCH OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE PUT ON SPECIFIED FORMS AND LODGED WITH THE REGISTRATION OFFICER BY JULY 6.

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SIR DAVID FORD TO OFFICIATE AT TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACES

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID, AND LADY FORD WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1988 TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACES ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) AMID THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF THE LEGENDARY TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

THE RACE IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES WHICH INCLUDE THE LARGE BOAT, PHOENIX BOAT, MEDIUM BOAT INVITATION, AND MEDIUM BOAT OPEN SECTIONS, PLUS AN INVITATION RACE INVOLVING REPRESENTATIVES FROM TVB, TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/PRIZES WILL

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PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS IN EACH CATEGORY AND A LARGE COLOURFUL BANNER WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO EACH PARTICIPATING TEAM OF THE LARGE BOAT AND MEDIUM BOAT INVITATION CATEGORIES.

THE RACE, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CASTLE PEAK BAY TYPHOON SHELTER FACING SAM SHING ESTATE.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN; PRESIDENT OF THE TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT; AND CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SHU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, AND LADY FORD WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACE AT 12.30 PM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) IN THE CASTLE PEAK BAY TYPHOON SHELTER FACING SAM SHING ESTATE, TUEN MUN. YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT AND PRESS BADGES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE VENUE.

AS THE RACE WILL START AT 9 AM ON THAT DAY, GIS STAFF WILL BE ON THE SPOT TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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STUDY TOUR ON REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A DELEGATION TO VISIT CHINA'S JUDICIAL, SOCIAL AND PENAL SERVICES IN HER CAPACITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS, HONG KONG (SROHK).

AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINA LAW SOCIETY, THE DELEGATION, LED BY THE SROHK CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, WILL BE VISITING PEKING, HANGZHOU AND CANTON BETWEEN SATURDAY AND JUNE 27.

IT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR FAN RUI-FANG, SECRETARY OF THE CO-ORDINATION DEPARTMENT OF THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH).

THE DELEGATION COMPRISES MRS WONG; MR CHAN YING-LUN, SROHK VICE-CHAIRMAN; MR LAU CHING-MING OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND MEMBER OF THE SROHK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF SROHK.

/MRS WONG

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MRS WONG SAID THAT THE TOUR WOULD ENABLE THE DELEGATION TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS IN CHINA.

"IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO EXCHANGE WITH OUR HOSTS EXPERIENCE AND IDEAS IN THIS FIELD AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES.

"I HOPE TO SHARE WITH OUR FRIENDS IN CHINA SOME OF OUR CONCEPTS AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND DESCRIBE OUR LATEST SCHEMES, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SCHEME AND THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ASSESSMENT PANEL IN HONG KONG SINCE EARLY LAST YEAR," SHE SAID.

"OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN HOW THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS IS DONE IN THE PENAL SETTING AND THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR," SHE ADDED.

THE SROHK WAS FOUNDED IN 1957 TO UNDERTAKE THE CARE AND SUPERVISION OF THE REHABILITATION IN HONG KONG OF OFFENDERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED IN COURTS AND OF PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISONS THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING CASEWORK, COUNSELLING, ACCOMMODATION, EMPLOYMENT REHABILITATION AND RECREATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS, HONG KONG DELEGATION TO CHINA WILL BE LEAVING FOR PEKING BY FLIGHT CA 102 ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18).

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, A PRESS CONFERENCE, TO BE CHAIRED BY MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY AND LEADER OF THE DELEGATION AND MRS ELIZABETH WONG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, WILL BE HELD AT THE AIRPORT VIP PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, AT 10.45 AM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. TELEVISION AND RADIO CREWS PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO SET UP EQUIPMENT.

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NT REGIONAL SECRETARY VISITS SAI KUNG

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOURED SAI KUNG DISTRICT TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN, HANG HAU AND THE SAI KUNG TOWN AREA.

MR SUEN WAS MET BY SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRISTOPHER MUNN, AND WENT TO A VANTAGE POINT TO HAVE A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AREA.

AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE'S TEMPORARY SUB-OFFICE IN THE PO LAM ESTATE. MR SUEN WAS BRIEFED ON THE POPULATION INTAKE INTO JUNK BAY. HE THEN VISITED ONE OF THE FAMILIES WHO HAD MOVED INTO THE ESTATE RECENTLY.

ON THE WAY TO HANG HAU TOWN, MR SUEN WAS ABLE TO SEE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDING THE YAU YUE WAN RESITE VILLAGE, A SITE FOR THE HANG HAU CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE YAN MING COURT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE KING LAM ESTATE.

IN HANG HAU TOWN, HE WAS MET BY MEMBERS OF THE HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE WHO DISCUSSED WITH HIM PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE CLEARANCE OF THE TOWN.

MR SUEN PROCEEDED TO THE PAK SHA WAN PIER AND MET THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL PERSONALITIES. THERE THEY BOARDED THE GOVERNMENT BOAT "CLEMENTI" FOR NGAU MEI HOI (PORT SHELTER) AND SAI KUNG HOI (INNER PORT SHELTER).

THE SEA CRUISE ENABLED HIM TO HAVE A LOOK AT SOME ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY FISH CULTURISTS AT TAI TAU CHAU AND THE PICTURESQUE SCENERY OF THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK.

LATER, MR SUEN VISITED PO LO CHE AND NAM SHAN AREA TO SEE A NUMBER OF LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE.

HE THEN TOURED SAI KUNG TOWN AND MET MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE AND KAIFONG'S ASSOCIATION.

HE ALSO STOPPED BY THE OLDER PIER AT SAI KUNG OLD TOWN TO VIEW THE CHUNG MEI TUK AREA AND THE FISHING AND DWELLING BOATS THERE. HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE SAI KUNG PACKAGE FIVE DEVELOPMENTS BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER.

BEFORE WINDING UP THE VISIT, MR SUEN VISITED THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE OFFICE.

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NEW GENERATION PH BLOCKS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE TODAY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING (PH) DESIGN TO MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS IN THE 1990s.

APART FROM CHANGES IN THE BLOCK DESIGN, THE NEW GENERATION CONCEPT ALSO PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN FLAT SIZES OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT OVER EXISTING DESIGNS, A HOUSING SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE NEW ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS WILL HELP THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN ENSURING THAT ALL TYPES OF HOUSING NEEDS STIPULATED IN THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY IS SATISFIED WITH MINIMUM DELAY, HE SAID.

"TO MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE EARLY 1990s, THE FIRST PROJECTS USING THE NEW BLOCKS WILL NEED TO GO OUT TO TENDER IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989. THEREAFTER, THE NEW BLOCKS WILL BE USED IN ALL NEW PROJECTS WHEREVER PRACTICABLE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED NEW BLOCKS, ONE A SLAB BLOCK WITH 26 STOREYS AND TWO TOWER BLOCKS, HAVE YET TO BE GIVEN NAMES.

EACH SLAB BLOCK WILL HAVE 390 UNITS, WHILE THE TOWER I AND II BLOCKS, WITH 39 AND 37 STOREYS, WILL HAVE 683 AND 642 FLATS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ALL THE NEW BLOCKS WILL BE MODULAR IN CONCEPT TO PROVIDE THE RIGHT MIX AND SIZE OF FLATS REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE AND, INSTEAD OF CLASSIFYING THEM AS ONE-PERSON, TWO-PERSON OR THREE-PERSON UNITS AS PRACTISED NOW, THEY WILL BE CALLED ONE-BEDROOM, TWO-BEDROOM AND THREE-BEDROOM FLATS.

THE FLOOR AREA FOR A SINGLE-BEDROOM UNIT WILL BE ABOUT 32 SQ METRES, AND 43 AND 52 SQ METRES FOR THE TWO AND THREE-BEDROOM UNITS.

"THIS IS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT OVER A COMPARABLE UNIT IN A LINEAR OR TRIDENT BLOCK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT THERE IS ALSO A BATHTUB IN ALL FLATS PLUS MORE SPACE FOR A WASHING MACHINE IN THE UTILITY AREA.

IN DESIGNING THESE NEW BLOCKS, HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARCHITECTS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SIMPLIFICATION OF STRUCTURAL DESIGN TO FACILITATE MECHANISED CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS STANDARDISATION OF BASIC BUILDING COMPONENTS.

"A GREATER DEGREE OF MECHANISATION IS NECESSARY FOR THE SAKE OF BETTER QUALITY CONTROL AND ALLEVIATING THE EFFECT OF ANY FUTURE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AN ADVANTAGE OF STANDARDISING BUILDING COMPONENTS IS TO FACILITATE MASS PRODUCTION OFF SITE.

/HE NOTED

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HE NOTED THAT THE NEW DESIGNS WILL ALSO ENABLE A SLIGHT INCREASE IN FLAT SIZES, TAKE ACCOUNT OF FALLING FAMILY SIZES AND INTER-CHANGEABILITY BETWEEN RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS.

IN VIEW OF THE MASSIVE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE NEW BLOCKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO FIT THE REDEVELOPED SITES.

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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL
* * * * *

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL IN THE THREE MONTHS FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS HAVE REMAINED TIGHT, WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE FULLY EMPLOYED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988 WAS 1.7 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.8 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988 AND 2 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, AVERAGED OVER THE THREE MONTHS, WAS DUE TO THE RATHER LOW RATE FOR FEBRUARY 1988, WHICH PROBABLY RESULTED FROM FEWER JOB-SEEKERS LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 46,200, COMPARED WITH 48,900 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988 AND 54,100 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988 WAS 0.9 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988 AND FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

/THE ESTIMATED

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1988 WAS 24,700, COMPARED WITH 26,000 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988 AND 24,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1987.

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 (E.G. 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 TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1988 WAS 1.7 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.8 PER CENT.

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 50,000 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 1988 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND JUNE 20, AT \$10 PER COPY.

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RESULTS OF 1986 SURVEY ON TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES
* * * * *

ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE 1986 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 34,304 TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION DURING THE WHOLE OR PART OF 1986, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF ONE PER CENT OVER 1985.

THEY ENGAGED, IN TOTAL, 138,255 PERSONS, AN INCREASE OF ONE PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN 1986, THESE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED \$67,688 MILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME; AND SPENT \$7,928 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND \$52,834 MILLION ON OPERATING EXPENSES.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1985, BUSINESS RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT; COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES BY 12 PER CENT, AND OPERATING EXPENSES BY 19 PER CENT.

THE SECTOR'S VALUE ADDED (REPRESENTING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT) GREW BY 17 PER CENT TO \$16,258 MILLION IN 1986, FROM \$13,933 MILLION IN 1985.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRANSPORT GROUP, THE SURVEY REVEALED THAT, IN 1986, "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (SUCH AS ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN AIR FREIGHT/SHIPPING FORWARDING, PACKING AND CRATING GOODS FOR TRANSPORTATION, TRAVEL AGENTS AND SHIPBROKERS) HAD THE LARGEST SHARE OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AT \$29,557 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT OF THE SECTOR TOTAL.

"OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" ACCOUNTED FOR ANOTHER 19 PER CENT, "AIR TRANSPORT" TOOK UP 15 PER CENT; "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" 11 PER CENT; "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" 4 PER CENT; "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" 4 PER CENT; "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" 2 PER CENT AND "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" 1 PER CENT.

"LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" CONTRIBUTED 29 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THE SECTOR. THE SECTOR'S REMAINING CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE BY "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" (17 PER CENT); "AIR TRANSPORT" (17 PER CENT); "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (13 PER CENT); "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (11 PER CENT); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" (7 PER CENT); "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" (4 PER CENT); AND "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" (2 PER CENT).

/WHEN COMPARED

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1985, "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" SHOWED THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME (31 PER CENT); FOLLOWED BY "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (29 PER CENT); "AIR TRANSPORT" (22 PER CENT); "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (15 PER CENT); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" (13 PER CENT); "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" (8 PER CENT); "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" (7 PER CENT); AND "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" (5 PER CENT).

IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED, "AIR TRANSPORT" RECORDED THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER 1985 (42 PER CENT); FOLLOWED BY "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" (29 PER CENT); "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (27 PER CENT); "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (14 PER CENT); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" (13 PER CENT); "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" (11 PER CENT); AND "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" (4 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" SHOWED A DECREASE OF 4 PER CENT.

AN ACCOMPANYING TABLE COMPARES SOME SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS BY MAJOR GROUP FOR 1985 AND 1986.

THE 1986 SURVEY WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF ANNUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, AND UPDATING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF HONG KONG.

DATA COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDED TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES, OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, TOGETHER WITH ANALYTICAL TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR GROUP AND ANALYSED BY VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, ARE INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED "1986 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES".

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE AROUND MID-JULY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19/F., WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT WILL BE USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY FORMULATION, AND TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234925).

COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1985 AND 1986

MAJOR GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISH- MENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSA- TION OF	OPERATING	BUSINESS	GROSS	VALUE
					EMPLOYEES	EXPENSES	RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	ADDED
					\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1986	20 944	50 304	29 211	1 892	4 080	7 307	3 741	4 720
	1985	20 947	51 317	29 764	1 822	3 837	6 782	10 609	4 247
	% change	*	-2	-2	+4	+6	+8	-65	+11
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1986	9 391	25 250	15 821	686	1 714	3 131	302	1 744
	1985	9 870	25 095	14 890	605	1 469	2 718	187	1 534
	% change	-5	+1	+6	+13	+17	+15	+61	+14
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1986	77	1 212	1 182	60	206	581	4	369
	1985	79	1 098	1 063	51	179	513	12	327
	% change	-3	+10	+11	+17	+15	+13	-64	+13
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1986	347	14 047	14 021	1 383	9 886	12 775	90	2 784
	1985	401	15 097	15 081	1 352	9 555	12 121	718	2 690
	% change	-13	-7	-7	+2	+3	+5	-87	+4
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1986	656	5 965	5 020	282	831	1 367	107	581
	1985	747	6 738	5 640	299	729	1 275	133	603
	% change	-12	-11	-11	-6	+14	+7	-20	-4
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1986	953	8 037	7 276	497	1 618	2 506	156	1 189
	1985	758	6 836	6 154	347	1 243	1 917	313	923
	% change	+26	+18	+18	+43	+30	+31	-50	+29
AIR TRANSPORT	1986	54	10 224	10 224	1 818	7 047	10 464	393	2 733
	1985	50	9 388	9 388	1 470	6 218	8 571	199	1 922
	% change	+8	+9	+9	+24	+13	+22	+97	+42
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1986	1 882	23 216	22 583	1 311	27 451	29 557	331	2 138
	1985	1 960	21 875	20 956	1 114	21 141	22 838	342	1 685
	% change	-4	+6	+8	+18	+30	+29	-3	+27
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1986	34 304	138 255	105 337	7 928	52 834	67 688	5 125	16 258
	1985	34 811	137 445	102 935	7 060	44 372	56 734	12 513	13 933
	% change	-1	+1	+2	+12	+19	+19	-59	+17
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES	1986	3	1 185	1 185	179	291	1 335	94	933
	1985	3	1 179	1 179	162	257	1 206	47	851
	% change	0	+1	+1	+11	+13	+11	+101	+10

Notes : (1) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

(2) Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding.

(3) * denotes change of less than 0.5%.

(4) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "1986 Survey of Transport and Related Services" report.

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RADIO SERIES TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR SHOWED A DECREASE OF ABOUT 14 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCHING A 40-EPIISODE RADIO SERIES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

MR MAK SAID THAT BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH, 6,654 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE RECORDED IN ALL INDUSTRIES COMPARED WITH 7,783 ACCIDENTS FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES ALSO DECLINED - FROM 19 IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 TO 11 FOR THE CORRESPONDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD THIS YEAR.

"INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE ACCIDENTS REPORTED WERE OF A MINOR NATURE CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF EITHER EMPLOYERS OR EMPLOYEES," MR MAK SAID.

"THIS CLEARLY INDICATES THAT EFFORTS MUST BE SUSTAINED TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY STANDARDS AND SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG ALL CONCERNED AT THE WORK PLACE."

MR MAK SAID THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, APART FROM CARRYING OUT FACTORY INSPECTIONS, ALSO PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROMOTION.

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO, IS ORGANISING A 40-EPIISODE RADIO SERIES FEATURING SAFETY HINTS IN INDUSTRY.

THE SERIES WHICH LAUNCHES THIS YEAR'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN, WILL BE AIRED ON COMMERCIAL RADIO ONE AT 2.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, STARTING NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 20).

IT WILL FEATURE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR SUMMER JOB WORKERS, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENTS, CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND HANDLING AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE TODAY WAS THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL RADIO ONE, MISS KITTY IP.

SHE SAID A NUMBER OF POPULAR SINGERS WOULD BE TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAMME.

THEY INCLUDE ALEX TO TAK-WAI, ANDY HUI CHI-ON, BENNETT PANG KIN-SUM, ANN BRIDGEWATER, K.K. CHEUNG, HACKEN LEE AND MARIA CORDERO.

A QUIZ WITH PRIZES TOTTALLING \$20,000 WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED FOR THE AUDIENCE.

THE PROGRAMME IS SPONSORED BY GOLDEN ELEPHANT THAILESE FRAGRANT RICE.

PROPOSED HOSTEL FOR STREET SLEEPERS

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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD IS PLANNING TO SET UP A HOSTEL FOR STREET SLEEPERS IN TUNG KUN STREET, YAU MA TEI.

THE PLAN, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON STREET SLEEPERS, WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE HOSTEL, TO BE MANAGED BY THE SALVATION ARMY, CATERS FOR MALE STREET SLEEPERS WHO ARE AGED 55 AND ABOVE, AND ARE CAPABLE OF SELF-CARE.

EACH PERSON WILL BE CHARGED ABOUT \$400 PER MONTH WHICH IS BELOW THE MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THE HOSTEL IS AN EXPERIMENT AIMED AT ACCOMODATING STREET SLEEPERS WHO HAVE DECLINED OTHER REHOUSING SERVICES DUE TO THEIR PLACES OF WORK, PECULIAR WORKING HOURS AND OTHER REASONS.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION ARE THE POLICY OF FIRST PORT OF ASYLUM FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER TIME IN HONG KONG, TARGET LIST FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AND THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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SECOND METROPLAN EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW

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THE SECOND METROPLAN EXHIBITION WILL OPEN AT THE NEW WORLD CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED DAILY AT THE LEVEL TWO ARCADE FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM UNTIL TUESDAY (JUNE 21).

ON DISPLAY WILL BE 24 ILLUSTRATED PANELS EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO AND THE AIMS OF THE METROPLAN. ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION WAS HELD AT THE LANDMARK IN CENTRAL EARLIER THIS MONTH.

A THIRD EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE NEXT MONTH.

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FORTNIGHTLY GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THE E. COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A PERIOD OF TWO AND A HALF MONTHS ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF BEACHES, AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY.

SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

/AT PRESENT,

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AT PRESENT, FIVE BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS. THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTE AND FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE FIVE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADE ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 2.6.88)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 16.6.88)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	B	B
CHUNG HOM KOK	B	B
DEEP WATER BAY	A	A
HAIRPIN	C	B
MIDDLE BAY	B	C
REPULSE BAY	B	B
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	A	A
ST STEPHEN'S	B	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	C	C
ROCKY BAY, SHEK O	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A

/ISLANDS DISTRICT

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ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	B
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A
KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	A	B
SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	A
TUNG O*	A	A

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	A	A
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	A	A
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

/TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1988

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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	B	B
CASAM	B	B
GEMINI	B	B
HOI MEI WAN	B	B
LIDO	B	B
TING KAU	C	C
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	A	A
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE BEACH	B	B
BUTTERFLY	B	A

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

ST STEPHEN'S AND BUTTERFLY, FROM "B" TO "A"; AND PUI O, FROM "A" TO "B".

THE CHANGE FROM "B" TO "A" OR VICE VERSA IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

HAIRPIN, FROM "C" TO "B"; AND MIDDLE BAY, FROM "B" TO "C".

THE FLUCTUATION BETWEEN "B" AND "C" IS NORMAL FOR THESE TWO BEACHES.

/HAIRPIN BEACH

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HAIRPIN BEACH IS OCCASIONALLY POLLUTED BY SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT DISCHARGED FROM THE BUILDINGS IN ITS HINTERLAND.

THE WATER QUALITY OF MIDDLE BAY BEACH IS BORDERLINED BETWEEN "B" AND "C" GRADES. IT IS AFFECTED BY A STORMWATER DRAIN DISCHARGING IMPROPERLY TREATED EFFLUENT FROM THE NEARBY BUILDINGS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL HOLMES, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF THE EPD, ON 3-7211044.

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OUTSTANDING CHILDREN TO GET REWARDS

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OUTSTANDING CHILDREN WHO HAVE WORKED HARD DURING A CAMPAIGN UNDER THE GOOD CHILDREN MOVEMENT IN WAN CHAI WILL BE REWARDED AT A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING IN THE HALL OF THE ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT.

THE MOVEMENT WAS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE WAN CHAI HEADMASTERS' CONFERENCE, ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT, WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, BAPTIST OI KWAN SOCIAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (WAN CHAI) AS PART OF THE EFFORT TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION AMONGST CHILDREN IN WAN CHAI.

THE PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED THE PARTICIPATION OF 19,000 PUPILS FROM 30 SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

DURING THE 12-WEEK CAMPAIGN NEARLY 7,000 CHILDREN WERE AWARDED WITH "GOOD CHILDREN CERTIFICATES" WHILE 17,000 PARTICIPANTS WERE GIVEN NOTE PADS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE, DR DANIEL TSE, WILL OFFICIATE AT TOMORROW'S CEREMONY IN WHICH 180 BOYS AND GIRLS WILL RECEIVE THE "OUTSTANDING CHILDREN AWARDS".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE GOOD CHILDREN MOVEMENT TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 7.30 PM IN THE HALL OF THE ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT AT 85 STONE NULLAH LANE.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1988

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SHAM SHUI PO DB TO RESUME MEETING

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL RESUME MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LEFT OVER FROM LAST THURSDAY'S MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON A PREFERENTIAL SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL DISCUSS A STUDY VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND THIS YEAR.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA WILL BE THE REVISED DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37-39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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SPEEDPOST CHANGE

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THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (JUNE 20), THE MAXIMUM SIZE FOR A SPEEDPOST ITEM TO BRAZIL AND THE SULTANATE OF OMAN WILL BE EXTENDED TO 1.05 METRES IN LENGTH AND TWO METRES FOR THE LENGTH AND WIDTH COMBINED.

THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS AND A FREE PICK-UP SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8683868.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1988

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SPECTATORS ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR DRAGON BOAT RACES
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SPECTATORS GOING TO ONE OF THE TERRITORY'S LARGEST DRAGON BOAT RACES IN SHA TIN ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONGESTION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHA TIN DRAGON BOAT RACE ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE RACES, COMPRISING 136 TEAMS, ARE THE LARGEST-SCALE IN THE TERRITORY AND WE EXPECT LOTS OF VISITORS FROM THE URBAN AREAS TO WATCH THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE RACES, FROM 7 AM TO 1 PM, CONSIST OF EIGHT DIVISIONS, NAMELY, NORMAL-SIZE DRAGON BOAT OPEN, NORMAL-SIZE DRAGON BOAT FRIENDLY, NORMAL-SIZE DRAGON INVITATION, SMALL-SIZE DRAGON BOAT OPEN, WOMEN'S DRAGON BOAT OPEN, THE AIRPORT INVITATION, BANKS INVITATION, AND ATV INVITATION RACES," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE HAD SPENT MORE THAN \$80,000 TO BUY THREE NEW DRAGON BOATS OF NORMAL-SIZE, SMALL-SIZE AND ONE DESIGNED FOR WOMEN IN THIS YEAR'S RACES.

THE RACES WILL BE HELD ON THE SHING MUN RIVER BETWEEN SAND MARTIN BRIDGE AND BANYAN BRIDGE.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, WILL BE THE OFFICIATING GUEST.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF PO ON ROAD SOUTHBOUND IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN TONKIN STREET AND FAT TSEUNG STREET HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC SO THAT A BROKEN SALT WATER MAIN CAN BE REPAIRED.

VEHICLES ON PO ON ROAD SOUTHBOUND ARE BEING DIVERTED VIA FAT TSEUNG STREET, KWONG LEE ROAD AND TONKIN STREET.

THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN FORCE UNTIL THE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS ARE COMPLETED.

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