DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1985

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

QUARTERLY JOBLESS RATE DECLINES 1

RAINSTORM REMINDER FOR SCHOOLS, PARENTS 2

COUNCIL EMBARKS ON LARGE RANGE OF PROJECT 3

NEW I.D. CARD SCHEME ENTERS NEW PHASE 5

PC PUTS BELIEF INTO ACTION 6

LIBRARY IN FULL SWING BY MID-YEAR 7

STAFF OFFICER CALLS IT A DAY AFTER 34 YEARS 10

REQUIREMENTS ON TEXTILE CONSIGNMENT CHECKS 12

AWARD SCHEME OFFERED TO MARK YOUTH YEAR 13

WORK STARTS ON HK'S LARGEST SQUASH CENTRE 14

TENDERS CALLED FOR EXTENSION TO COLUMBARIUM 14

TUEN MUN MARKET STALLS FOR LEASE 15

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS 15

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1985

QUARTERLY JOBLESS RATE DECLINES

* * * * *

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVED WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN THE QUARTER DECEMBER 1984 - FEBRUARY 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1984, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1984 - FEBRUARY 1985 WAS 3.1 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.8 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1984. THE RATE FOR DECEMBER 1983 - FEBRUARY 1984 WAS 4.0 PER CENT. THE DECREASES OF 0.7 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 0.9 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE YEAR WERE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, THEY ARE GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 82 100, AS COMPARED WITH 99 800 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1984 AND 100 900 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING FEBRUARY 1984.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1984 - FEBRUARY 1985 WAS 1.2 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 1.0 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE RATE FOR DECEMBER 1983 - FEBRUARY 1984 WAS 1.6 PER CENT. THE DECREASE IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 WAS 31 800, AS COMPARED WITH 24 900 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1984. THE NUMBER FOR THE QUARTER ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 WAS 41 400.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON 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, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO SAID THAT BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WAS 3.1 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.3 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1984 - FEBRUARY 1985 WAS 3.1 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 53 000 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.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE 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 1985 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND JUNE 20.

----o----

RAINSTORM REMINDER FOR SCHOOLS, PARENTS

******

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE RAINY AND TYPHOON SEASON, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ONCE AGAIN REMINDED SCHOOLS AND PARENTS OF ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS AND PRECAUTIONS.

IN A RECENTLY ISSUED CIRCULAR TO ALL SCHOOLS, THE DEPARTMENT REMINDED ALL HEADS OF SCHOOLS OF THE NEED TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNAL TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS FOR THOSE PUPILS WHO MISS SCHOOL BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS.

THE CIRCULAR FURTHER STATED: +IT IS IMPORTANT TO REASSURE PARENTS THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE PENALISED UNDER THESE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. ALSO, STUDENTS LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS OR OUTLYING ISLANDS SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED FOR BEING LATE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.+

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE RADIO AND TELEVISION CHANNELS CLOSING ALL SCHOOLS WILL BE MADE ONLY IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS IT.

/+WHERE POSSIBLE, ...

+WHERE POSSIBLE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IN THE EVENING OR EARLY MORNING BEFORE CHILDREN SET OUT FROM THEIR HOMES. THE FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE MORNING FOR AM AND WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS WILL NOT BE LATER THAN 6.15 AM AND FOR PM SCHOOLS NOT LATER THAN 11 AM. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE REPEATED AT REGULAR AND FREQUENT INTERVALS,+ HE SAID.

WHERE RAINSTORMS ARE LOCALISED, IT WOULD BE UP TO PARENTS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL BEARING IN MIND WEATHER, ROAD AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS IN THEIR LOCALITY.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEAR, ALL KINDERGARTENS WILL CLOSE WITH THE HOISTING OF THE TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 3. ALL SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE WITH THE HOISTING OF TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR HIGHER.

+IF KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS ARE IN SESSION WHEN THE RELEVANT SIGNALS ARE HOISTED, HEADS OF SCHOOLS SHOULD ENSURE THAT SAFE AND ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR THEIR PUPILS TO RETURN HOME, SUCH AS COLLECTION BY THEIR PARENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER THE PASSAGE OF A TYPHOON FOLLOWED BY THE LOWERING OF ALL SIGNALS ENABLING ALL SCHOOLS TO RESUME WITH THE NEXT SESSION, AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

+NEVERTHELESS, PARENTS SHOULD USE THEIR DISCRETION IN SENDING CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL, IF IT SEEMS TO THEM THAT LOCAL WEATHER, ROAD OR TRANSPORT CONDITIONS HAVE NOT BY THAT TIME RETURNED TO NORMAL. HEADS OF SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM PARENTS OF THIS DISCRETION BY CIRCULAR LETTER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

----0----

COUNCIL EMBARKS ON LARGE RANGE OF PROJECT

****

THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, RANGING FROM SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO PUBLIC AMENITIES, IS NOW IN TOP GEAR.

AT PRESENT, 49 MAJOR AND MINOR WORKS PROJECTS ARE UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION AT AN OVERALL ESTIMATED COST OF $867 MILLION.

THE MAJOR PROJECTS ON THE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING SIDE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

+ THE KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND BEING BUILT ON RECLAIMED LAND IN KOWLOON BAY TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE OF KWUN TONG AND KOWLOON BAY.

/+ THE .....

+ THE CARPENTER ROAD PARK, STAGE II, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A 'GREEN LUNG' ON THE VERGE OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY.

+ THE TOK KWA WAN RECREATION GROUND, WHICH, LIKE THE KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND, WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

+ THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CHOI HUNG ROAD PLAYGROUND, WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN OUTLET FOR THE ENERGIES OF MANY CHILDREN LIVING IN THE NEARBY HOUSING AND OTHER ESTATES.

+ THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER OF THE HIGHLY POPULAR INDOOR GAMES HALLS TO THE BOUNDARY STREET SPORTS GROUND.

+ THE PROVISION OF ANOTHER URBAN COUNCIL SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AT SHAM SHUI PO, ON THE LAND FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY A REFUGEE CAMP.

+ A SUNKEN GARDEN AND FITNESS AREA IN KOWLOON PARK WHICH WILL BE POPULAR WITH TSIM SHA TSUI RESIDENTS.

+ THE CHOI SAI WOO PARK IN NORTH POINT WHICH WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN THE INTENSIVELY DEVELOPED AREA.

+ THE SQUASH COMPLEX AT VICTORIA BARRACKS WHICH WILL PROVIDE SQUASH ENTHUSIASTS WITH 18 COURTS, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE USED AS AN EXHIBITION COURT FOR MAJOR TOURNAMENTS.

+ THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE INTO A CHINESE-STYLE GARDEN AT HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

+ THE REPROVISIONING OF FOUNTAINS AND A REFRESHMENT KIOSK AT THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS TO TAKE IN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS, IN DESIGN AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC FACILITIES, IN VIEW OF ITS POPULARITY AMONG VISITORS.

OTHER NOTABLE PROJECTS INCLUDE A MULTI-STOREY COLUMBARIUM AT DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM AND SIX MULTI-STOREY MARKET COMPLEXES LOCATED RESPECTIVELY IN WAN CHAI, WESTERN, NGAU CHI WAN, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON CITY AND SHAM SHUI PO.

APART FROM THESE, A NUMBER OF SMALLER PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY INCLUDING SITTING-OUT AREAS, REST GARDENS, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, PUBLIC TOILETS AND IMPROVEMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO EXISTING FACILITIES.

- - - - o - - - -

/5 .....

NEW I.D. CARD SCHEME ENTERS NEW PHASE

* * * * * *

STARTING TOMORROW (APRIL 15), MEN BORN IN 1941, 1942, 1943 AND 1944 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS.

THIS PHASE WILL LAST UNTIL MAY 18, DURING WHICH THEY MAY APPLY TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9.30 PM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

THESE OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT:

HONG KONG	:	BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
EAST KOWLOON	:	AMOY GARDEN PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
WEST KOWLOON	:	CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2ND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.
TSUEN WAN	:	EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
SHA TIN	:	SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
YUEN LONG	:	HOP YICK CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TUEN MUN	:	CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
SHEUNG SHUI	:	TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE ISSUE OFFICES WERE BUSIER THAN USUAL ON THE FIRST AND LAST DAY OF EACH PHASE. HE THEREFORE ADVISED APPLICANTS TO AVOID THE RUSH ON THESE TWO DAYS.

+AT PRESENT, A NEW I.D. CARD SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION WITHIN 18 WORKING DAYS AFTER APPLICATION, BUT AS FROM APRIL 19, IT WILL TAKE 28 WORKING DAYS AS THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY BE MOVING OFFICE.

+FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE, APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICE,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - o - - - -

/6 .....

PC PUTS BELIEF INTO ACTION
******

POLICE CONSTABLE 590 BELIEVES IN KEEPING THE STREETS SAFE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

AND IN PUTTING HIS BELIEF INTO ACTION, CONSTABLE ALAN CHEUNG PING KUEN (27) HAS MADE ABOUT 50 ARRESTS BETWEEN MAY 1983 AND SO FAR THIS YEAR WHILE ON BEAT DUTY IN THE STREETS OF TAI KOK TSUI.

CONSTABLE CHEUNG HAS ALSO CONDUCTED MANY STOP AND SEARCHES AND FOUND MISSING AND WANTED PERSONS AMONG THOSE HE HAD STOPPED.

''THAT'S WHAT A POLICEMAN IS PAID FOR,'' MANY MAY REMARK.

BUT FOR A UNIFORMED OFFICER WALKING THE BEAT TO MAKE THAT MANY ARRESTS IS A FEAT WHICH DESERVES MENTION AND RECOMMENDATION AS MOST ARRESTS ARE MADE BY CRIME UNITS FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO CRIMES AND CRIME REPORTS.

AND CONSTABLE CHEUNG IN FACT RECEIVED THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENDATION LAST WEEK FROM REGIONAL COMMANDER, KOWLOON, MR JOHN SHEPPARD ''FOR ABILITY, ENERGY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY OF A VERY HIGH ORDER'' BETWEEN MAY 1983 AND DECEMBER 1984.

WITH THAT MANY ARRESTS AND STOPPING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE STREETS ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT CONSTABLE CHEUNG WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS.

''IN MY CAREER AS A CONSTABLE WHICH BEGAN IN 1976 THERE WERE ONLY TWO COMPLAINTS AGAINST ME - ONE WAS OVER A TRAFFIC TICKET AND THE OTHER WAS A SUSPECT WHOM I HAD ARRESTED FOR A DRUG OFFENCE. THE FIRST COMPLAINT AFTER INVESTIGATION WAS JUDGED UNSUBSTANTIATED AND AS FOR THE OTHER, THE MAN WAS CONVICTED AND JAILED,'' THE CONSTABLE SAID.

''THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY COMPLAINTS IF AN OFFICER KNOWS HIS DUTY AND, MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE LAW,'' HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO KNOW THE LAW AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, CONSTABLE CHEUNG IS A REGULAR CUSTOMER AT THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES' GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE.

''I GO THERE OFTEN TO BUY THE OFFPRINTS OF ORDINANCES. IF THERE ARE ONLY ENGLISH VERSIONS I WOULD BUY THAT, OTHERWISE I WOULD GO FOR THE CHINESE ONES. AND THE COST RANGES FROM ONE DOLLAR TO TENS OF DOLLARS,'' HE SAID.

/THE CONSTABLE .....

THE CONSTABLE WAS BRIEFLY POSTED TO TSIM SHA TSUI AFTER PASSING OUT FROM POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL IN 1976. AFTER THAT HE WAS WITH EMERGENCY UNIT KOWLOON WEST FOR FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH HE ANSWERED VARIED CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE THAT INCLUDED HELPING A YOUNG WOMAN GIVE BIRTH.

IN 1980 CONSTABLE CHEUNG RESIGNED TO TRY ANOTHER CAREER. HE WORKED AS AN INSURANCE SALESMAN DURING THAT PERIOD BUT RETURNED TO POLICE WORK A YEAR LATER - AS A BEAT DUTY OFFICER IN TAI KOK TSUI.

AND IT WAS IN JULY 1983 THAT CONSTABLE CHEUNG RECEIVED HIS FIRST COMMENDATION.

THIS WAS THE COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR RESCUING A WOMAN FROM THE STORMY WATERS OFF TAI KOK TSUI WATERFRONT.

----o----

LIBRARY IN FULL SWING BY MID-YEAR

******

HONG KONG'S LARGEST PUBLIC LIBRARY -- THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY -- WILL SWING INTO FULL OPERATION IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT LIBRARY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PHASES. THE FIRST PHASE, COMPLETED AND OPENED LAST NOVEMBER, REPROVISIONED THE WATERLOO ROAD LIBRARY. THE SECOND PHASE, DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR, WILL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE SERVICES, AUDIO-VISUAL FACILITIES AND AN ADULT EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ROOM.

THE $26.68 MILLION LIBRARY, AT PUI CHING ROAD IN HO MAN TIN, CONSISTS OF 12 FLOORS AND HAS A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 4 000 SQUARE METRES.

UPON FULL COMPLETION, THE LIBRARY WILL PROVIDE A BASIC STOCK OF 250 000 BOOKS, INCLUDING 50 000 REFERENCE BOOKS, 150 000 ADULT BOOKS AND 50 000 JUNIOR BOOKS, ACCORDING TO THE LIBRARIAN (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MR MAK KIN-LAM.

APART FROM OFFERING A LENDING AND REFERENCE SERVICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY ALSO INCLUDED AN AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY PROVIDING OVER 9 000 ITEMS OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS IN VIDEO-CASSETTE TAPES, AUDIO-CASSETTE TAPES, RECORDS, COMPACT DISCS, SLIDES AND MICROFILMS, MR MAK SAID. SOME 3 000 CASSETTE TAPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR HOME LENDING.

/TWO EXTENSION .....

TWO EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ROOMS, EACH EQUIPPED WITH HI-FI EQUIPMENT, ONE 1 500 MM VIDEO TELEVISION, A SLIDE PROJECTOR AND A 16 MM FILM PROJECTOR, ARE PROVIDED FOR LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR READERS OF VARIOUS INTEREST AND AGE GROUPS.

THERE IS ALSO A STUDENTS' STUDY ROOM WHERE MORE THAN 150 STUDENTS CAN STUDY IN A QUIET SURROUNDING.

+IF READERS WANT TO UPDATE THEMSELVES WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF CURRENT AFFAIRS, THE NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS READING ROOM PROVIDES SOME 700 CURRENT LOCAL AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS FOR THEM,+ MR MAK SAID.

+THE OPENING OF THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY IS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND WILL ENABLE THE URBAN COUNCIL TO PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

MR MAK SAID THAT IT WAS THE COUNCIL'S POLICY TO PROVIDE ONE DISTRICT LIBRARY FOR EVERY 200 000 PEOPLE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOOKSTOCK WAS TO REACH A STANDARD OF 0.7 BOOK PER CAPITA AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF BASIC AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL.

+AT PRESENT, THE URBAN COUNCIL OPERATES 13 DISTRICT LIBRARIES, 10 SMALL LIBRARIES AND TWO MOBILE LIBRARIES. A DISTRICT LIBRARY AIMS AT SERVING RESIDENTS OF A PARTICULAR DISTRICT. FACILITIES PROVIDED BY A DISTRICT LIBRARY INCLUDE A LENDING LIBRARY FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN, A NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS SECTION, A QUICK REFERENCE SECTION, A STUDENTS' STUDY ROOM, AN EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ROOM AND AN AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE A CENTRAL LIBRARY, IN ADDITION TO DISTRICT LIBRARY FACILITIES, PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE SERVICE, A LARGER BOOKSTOCK AND A CENTRAL STACK FOR THE POOL STOCK FOR SMALL LIBRARIES AND THE RESERVE COLLECTION FOR DISTRICT LIBRARIES.

+IT IS ALSO THE CENTRE OF THE NETWORK OF LIBRARY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN COUNCIL LIBRARIES AND HOUSES THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE INTER-LIBRARY LOAN SERVICE WITH OUTSIDE LIBRARIES,+ HE SAID.

+IN ADDITION TO THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY, THE COUNCIL PLANS TO DEVELOP THE CITY HALL HIGH BLOCK INTO A CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR HONG KONG ISLAND WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURAL CENTRE AND THE MUSEUM OF ART IS COMPLETED IN 1988,+ MR MAK SAID.

/IN ORDER .....

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL ALSO PLANS TO COMPUTERISE ITS LIBRARY NETWORK. IN 1983, A DELEGATION WAS SENT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY THEIR AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS.

HOWEVER, WITH A TOTAL STOCK OF SOME 1.3 MILLION VOLUMES AND THREE QUARTERS OF THEM IN CHINESE, IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO FIND A SUITABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF HANDLING BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE MATERIALS AND THE LARGE TRANSACTION VOLUME OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THE USAGE OF THE COUNCIL'S LIBRARIES HAS REMAINED HIGH SINCE THE FIRST LIBRARY WAS OPENED IN THE CITY HALL IN 1962. THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED READERS HAS INCREASED FROM 10 000 IN 1962 TO OVER 1.1 MILLION IN 1984. THE CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS HAS ALSO INCREASED THIRTY-FOLD DURING THE LAST 23 YEARS.

+THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION BORROWERS REGISTERED IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPERATED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF BOOKS BORROWED FROM THESE LIBRARIES PER DAY IS ABOUT 24 000 WHILE THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF BOOKS READ IN THESE LIBRARIES PER DAY IS ABOUT 46 000,+ MR MAK SAID.

+HOWEVER, IT IS THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY THAT GAINS THE HIGHEST RATE OF READERSHIP. EVERYDAY THERE ARE AROUND 10 000 PEOPLE USING THE LIBRARY AND ABOUT 3 100 BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS ARE BORROWED. THE HIGHEST DAILY ISSUE RECORDED IS 5 500,+ HE SAID.

+TO PROMOTE HEALTHY READING HABITS AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION, A READING PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY HELD IN ALL THE LIBRARIES,+ MR MAK SAID.

+LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BOOKS AND ART EXHIBITIONS, STORY HOURS, LIBRARY VISITS, COMPETITIONS ON CREATIVE WRITING, SUBJECT TALKS, INTEREST CLUBS, FILM SHOWS AND HI-FI CONCERTS ARE ORGANISED REGULARLY IN THE LIBRARIES TO FURTHER THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST IN THE LIBRARY SERVICES.

+THE PROGRAMMES ARE USUALLY SUPPLEMENTED BY READING MATERIAL TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE LIBRARY STOCK,+ HE SAID.

- - - - o - - - -

/10 .....

STAFF OFFICER CALLS IT A DAY AFTER 34 YEARS

* * * * *

WHAT DOES ONE MISS MOST ON THE LAST DAY OF A COLOURFUL 34-YEAR CAREER WITH THE GOVERNMENT DEALING MOSTLY IN FOOD INSPECTION, MARKET MANAGEMENT AND HAWKER CONTROL?

MR PONG KIN-HONG, WHO RETIRED AS STAFF OFFICER (ABATTOIRS, HAWKERS AND MARKETS) FROM THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 4, HAD THIS TO SAY : +WHAT STOOD OUT REALLY AS I LOOKED BACK WAS THE PRIMITIVE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES UNDER WHICH WE HEALTH INSPECTORS HAD TO WORK IN SOME 15-30 YEARS AGO.

+IN THOSE DAYS, THE HEALTH INSPECTORS LITERALLY HAD TO GO DOWN ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES TO INSPECT THE CARCASSES STREWN ALL OVER THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE GROUNDS WHICH WERE COMPLETELY EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS. THE CONDITIONS IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES WERE FAR FROM HYGIENIC AND SLAUGHTERING WAS NORMALLY DONE ON THE FLOOR. YOU REALLY HAD TO BE IN TIPTOP SHAPE TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION - OFTEN UNDER THE BROILING SUN AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

+REFRIGERATION, THE ASSEMBLY-LINE SET UP OF CARCASS INSPECTION AND THE ALMOST CLINICAL AND ORDERLY WORKING ENVIRONMENT THAT ARE NOW PART OF THE STANDARD FOR PRESENT DAY ABATTOIRS WERE NOT EVEN DREAMED OF,+ MR PONG SAID.

SO WHY THE SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR THE TOUGH OLD DAYS?

+IT WAS THE CAMARADERIE THAT WE SHARED IN TACKLING A DIFFICULT BUT MOST ESSENTIAL JOB UNDER VERY TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. I PERSONALLY DERIVED MY GREATEST SATISFACTION FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS PROTECTED AS A RESULT OF MY THOROUGH INSPECTION. ONLY MEAT THAT ARE FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL THEN BE RELEASED TO THE CONSUMER,+ SAID MR PONG, WHO TOOK A ONE-YEAR COURSE IN 1963-64 AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MEAT TECHNOLOGY ON A GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP.

BUT A GENERALLY REPUGNANT WORKING ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT ALL MR PONG AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD TO CONTEND WITH IN THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER AS AN URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEALTH INSPECTOR.

+WE ALSO HAD TO BE ALERT AGAINST TRIAD ELEMENTS WHO INFILTRATED THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES. A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, WHO TRIED TO STOP A TRIAD FROM REMOVING UNINSPECTED MEAT FROM THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE WAS SLASHED WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE. THE ATTACK SEVERED A TENDON IN ONE OF HIS HANDS WITH THE RESULT THAT HE CAN NO LONGER GRASP WITH THE INJURED HAND,+ MR PONG SAID.

/MR PONG .....

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL ALSO PLANS TO COMPUTERISE ITS LIBRARY NETWORK. IN 1983, A DELEGATION WAS SENT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY THEIR AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEMS.

HOWEVER, WITH A TOTAL STOCK OF SOME 1.3 MILLION VOLUMES AND THREE QUARTERS OF THEM IN CHINESE, IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO FIND A SUITABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF HANDLING BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE MATERIALS AND THE LARGE TRANSACTION VOLUME OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THE USAGE OF THE COUNCIL'S LIBRARIES HAS REMAINED HIGH SINCE THE FIRST LIBRARY WAS OPENED IN THE CITY HALL IN 1962. THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED READERS HAS INCREASED FROM 10 000 IN 1962 TO OVER 1.1 MILLION IN 1984. THE CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS HAS ALSO INCREASED THIRTY-FOLD DURING THE LAST 23 YEARS.

+THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION BORROWERS REGISTERED IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPERATED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF BOOKS BORROWED FROM THESE LIBRARIES PER DAY IS ABOUT 24 000 WHILE THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF BOOKS READ IN THESE LIBRARIES PER DAY IS ABOUT 46 000,+ MR MAK SAID.

+HOWEVER, IT IS THE KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY THAT GAINS THE HIGHEST RATE OF READERSHIP. EVERYDAY THERE ARE AROUND 10 000 PEOPLE USING THE LIBRARY AND ABOUT 3 100 BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS ARE BORROWED. THE HIGHEST DAILY ISSUE RECORDED IS 5 500,+ HE SAID.

+TO PROMOTE HEALTHY READING HABITS AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION, A READING PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY HELD IN ALL THE LIBRARIES,+ MR MAK SAID.

+LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BOOKS AND ART EXHIBITIONS, STORY HOURS, LIBRARY VISITS, COMPETITIONS ON CREATIVE WRITING, SUBJECT TALKS, INTEREST CLUBS, FILM SHOWS AND HI-FI CONCERTS ARE ORGANISED REGULARLY IN THE LIBRARIES TO FURTHER THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST IN THE LIBRARY SERVICES.

+THE PROGRAMMES ARE USUALLY SUPPLEMENTED BY READING MATERIAL TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE LIBRARY STOCK,+ HE SAID.

- - - - o - - - -

/10 .....

STAFF OFFICER CALLS IT A DAY AFTER 34 YEARS

* * * * *

WHAT DOES ONE MISS MOST ON THE LAST DAY OF A COLOURFUL 34-YEAR CAREER WITH THE GOVERNMENT DEALING MOSTLY IN FOOD INSPECTION, MARKET MANAGEMENT AND HAWKER CONTROL?

MR PONG KIN-HONG, WHO RETIRED AS STAFF OFFICER (ABATTOIRS, HAWKERS AND MARKETS) FROM THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 4, HAD THIS TO SAY : +WHAT STOOD OUT REALLY AS I LOOKED BACK WAS THE PRIMITIVE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES UNDER WHICH WE HEALTH INSPECTORS HAD TO WORK IN SOME 15-30 YEARS AGO.

+IN THOSE DAYS, THE HEALTH INSPECTORS LITERALLY HAD TO GO DOWN ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES TO INSPECT THE CARCASSES STREWN ALL OVER THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE GROUNDS WHICH WERE COMPLETELY EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS. THE CONDITIONS IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES WERE FAR FROM HYGIENIC AND SLAUGHTERING WAS NORMALLY DONE ON THE FLOOR. YOU REALLY HAD TO BE IN TIPTOP SHAPE TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION - OFTEN UNDER THE BROILING SUN AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

+REFRIGERATION, THE ASSEMBLY-LINE SET UP OF CARCASS INSPECTION AND THE ALMOST CLINICAL AND ORDERLY WORKING ENVIRONMENT THAT ARE NOW PART OF THE STANDARD FOR PRESENT DAY ABATTOIRS WERE NOT EVEN DREAMED OF,+ MR PONG SAID.

SO WHY THE SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR THE TOUGH OLD DAYS?

+IT WAS THE CAMARADERIE THAT WE SHARED IN TACKLING A DIFFICULT BUT MOST ESSENTIAL JOB UNDER VERY TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. I PERSONALLY DERIVED MY GREATEST SATISFACTION FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS PROTECTED AS A RESULT OF MY THOROUGH INSPECTION. ONLY MEAT THAT ARE FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL THEN BE RELEASED TO THE CONSUMER,+ SAID MR PONG, WHO TOOK A ONE-YEAR COURSE IN 1963-64 AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MEAT TECHNOLOGY ON A GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP.

BUT A GENERALLY REPUGNANT WORKING ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT ALL MR PONG AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD TO CONTEND WITH IN THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER AS AN URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEALTH INSPECTOR.

+WE ALSO HAD TO BE ALERT AGAINST TRIAD ELEMENTS WHO INFILTRATED THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES. A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, WHO TRIED TO STOP A TRIAD FROM REMOVING UNINSPECTED MEAT FROM THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE WAS SLASHED WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE. THE ATTACK SEVERED A TENDON IN ONE OF HIS HANDS WITH THE RESULT THAT HE CAN NO LONGER GRASP WITH THE INJURED HAND,+ MR PONG SAID.

/MR PONG .....

MR PONG HIMSELF ENTERED GOVERNMENT SERVICE VIA THE FORMER PRISONS DEPARTMENT AS A PRISONS OFFICER CLASS II IN 1951 WHEN HE WAS STILL AN 18-YEAR-OLD YOUTH.

+ON HINDSIGHT,+ MR PONG REMINISCED, +I MUST SAY THAT THE DISCIPLINE INSTILLED IN ME AS A PRISONS OFFICER ALSO SERVED ME RATHER WELL IN MY CAREER AS A HEALTH INSPECTOR.+

+BUT I DIDN'T FANCY SERVING A LIFE TERM IN THE PRISON,+ SAID MR PONG.

HIS KEEN INTELLECT AND CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK SOON FOUND HIM WEARING THE BADGE OF A PROBATIONARY HEALTH INSPECTOR IN 1957 AFTER +THE TOUGHEST EXAMINATION IN MY LIFE.+

+THE SYLLABUS COVERED SUCH A WIDE SCOPE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND CANDIDATES FOR THE HEALTH INSPECTOR GRADE EXAMINATION WERE VERY MUCH ON THEIR OWN IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR IT. THEY LEARNT WHAT THEY CAN DURING THEIR ONE-YEAR COURSE BY ATTENDING SCATTERED LECTURES GIVEN BY OUTSIDE INSTRUCTORS. THERE WAS NO USD TRAINING SCHOOL THEN AND THE PASSING RATE WAS LESS THAN 50 PER CENT,+ MR PONG SAID.

HIS TRAINING AND DEDICATION TO DUTY SOON HAD HIM MOVING STEADILY UP THE RANKS AND HE BECAME, AT VARIOUS TIMES, THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR FOODS, THE DEPUTY MANAGER FOR THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ABATTOIR, THE CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR CLEANSING, AND URBAN SERVICES OFFICER AND FINALLY STAFF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ABATTOIRS, HAWKERS AND MARKETS.

IN HIS LAST POST, HOLDING THE RANK OF SUPERINTENDENT, MR PONG WAS INVOLVED MAINLY IN THE PLANNING OF MARKETS AND OTHER URBAN SERVICES PROJECTS, ASIDE FROM ADVISING THE DIRECTORATE OF WHAT HAS NOW BECOME THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

REFLECTING ON HIS LAST JOB, MR PONG SAID : +THOUGH NO FAULT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND LIKE MANY OTHER JOBS, I FIND MY WORK RATHER FRUSTRATING AT TIMES BECAUSE OF THE MANY CONSTRAINTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FROM THE OPTIMUM SERVICE POINT OF VIEW, I WOULD RECOMMEND A MARKET COMPLEX TO BE DESIGNED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER. BUT DUE TO LAND AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, IT'S SELDOM THAT I SEE THE GREATER PART OF MY RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED OUT.+

THE MODEST MR PONG DECLINED TO OFFER ANY ADVICE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR BUT VOLUNTEERED THESE OBSERVATIONS : +TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY, YOU MUST HAVE MUTUAL TRUST WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING YOUR SUBORDINATES. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE PROMOTION PROSPECT IN THE HEALTH INSPECTOR RANK COMPARED SOMEWHAT UNFAVOURABLY WITH OFFICERS OF SIMILAR RANK IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR A HEALTH INSPECTOR TO REMAIN IN THE SAME RANK FOR 10-15 YEARS. I HOPE THIS SITUATION CAN BE RECTIFIED SOON TO BOOST MORALE AND ATTRACT MORE WELL QUALIFIED NEW RECRUITS INTO THE RANKS.+

- - - - o - - - -

/12 .....

REQUIREMENTS ON TEXTILE CONSIGNMENT CHECKS

* * * * * * *

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY), APPLICANTS FOR TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ON TEXTILE CONSIGNMENT CHECKS TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF MATERIAL PARTICULARS DECLARED ON EXPORT LICENCES.

IN THE EVENT THAT CONSIGNMENT CHECKS MAY BE CONDUCTED BY OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IN RELATION TO THE GOODS STIPULATED ON THE LICENCES OR THE APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES, THE DECLARED EXPORTERS OR MANUFACTURERS MUST MAKE THE GOODS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THEY SHOULD ALSO PRODUCE THE APPROPRIATE COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DOCUMENTATION TO SHOW THAT THE GOODS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE PROPERLY EXPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM AS STIPULATED IN THE QUOTA ALLOCATION LETTERS AND THE NOTICES TO EXPORTERS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IF THE GOODS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT A FIRST CONSIGNMENT CHECK, THE COMPANY MUST, WHEN REQUIRED, PROVIDE A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOODS TO BE INSPECTED BEFORE SHIPMENT. IF NECESSARY, THE COMPANY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOODS TO BE CHECKED AT THE POINT OF EXIT.

TO FACILITATE CUSTOMS CONSIGNMENT CHECKING AT THE POINT OF EXIT, THE COMPANY SHOULD PROVIDE SHIPPING INFORMATION WHICH WILL SUFFICIENTLY IDENTIFY THE LOCATION AND OR THE MOVEMENT OF THE GOODS.

SHOULD A COMPANY FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE CONSIGNMENT CHECK REQUIREMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUSPEND AND OR REVOKE THE RELEVANT LICENCE OR REFUSE TO ISSUE THE RELEVANT LICENCE. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY ALSO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE COMPANY.

- - - - o - - - -

/13 .....

AWARD SCHEME OFFERED TO MARK YOUTH YEAR

* * * * *

A +BEST OPPORTINITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME+ AWARD IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR 1985.

YOUTH GROUPS PLANNING ANY INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S +OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME+ (O.Y.S.).

THE MAXIMUM SUBSIDY FOR AN APPROVED PROJECT HAS BEEN RAISED FROM $4 000 TO $6 000.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS, EACH DISTRICT WILL SELECT ITS OUTSTANDING PROJECT TO COMPETE FOR THE HONG KONG BEST O.Y.S. AWARD IN DECEMBER.

APPLICATION FORMS AND EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL WORK OFFICERS (YOUTH AND COMMUNITY).

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS AND DETAILED PROJECT PROPOSALS SHOULD REACH THEM BEFORE MAY 15.

EACH PARTICIPATING GROUP SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 25 AND IS SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL, YOUTH AGENCY OR BUSINESS ORGANISATION.

GROUPS WITHOUT ANY SPONSORS MAY ALSO APPLY IF THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE SWD OFFICERS.

PROJECT PROPOSALS OF THIS ROUND WILL BE ASSESSED IN THE LIGHT OF THE THEMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR - +PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE+.

THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA ARE: THE EXTENT OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS, FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT, AND OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES AND INNOVATION.

----o----

/14 .....

WORK STARTS ON HK'S LARGEST SQUASH CENTRE

* * *

CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS STARTED ON THE LARGEST AND MOST MODERN SQUASH CENTRE IN HONG KONG.

SITUATED ON A 2 310 SQUARE-METRE SITE AT COTTON TREE DRIVE, CENTRAL, THE HONG KONG SQUASH CENTRE WILL PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE FACILITIES FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

THE THREE-STOREY CENTRE, WHICH COSTS $10 MILLION, WILL HAVE A THREE-SIDED GLASS EXHIBITION COURT, WITH A SEATING CAPACITY FOR 400 SPECTATORS AND 17 SQUASH COURTS.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE TWO CHANGING ROOMS, TWO STOREROOMS, A LOUNGE BAR, A PRO-SHOP AND OFFICES FOR THE HONG KONG SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION.

THE SITE WILL ALSO BE LANDSCAPED.

THE PROJECT DESIGNED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 1986.

- - - - o - - - -

TENDERS CALLED FOR EXTENSION TO COLUMBARIUM

* * *

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTING AN EXTENSION TO THE COLUMBARIUM OF THE CAPE COLLINSON CREMATORIUM AT CHAI WAN.

THE EXTENSION WILL BE A SIX-STOREY STRUCTURE PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 13 211 NICHES. THESE WILL INCLUDE +FAMILY NICHES+ AT A RATIO OF ONE FAMILY NICHE TO FOUR STANDARD NICHES.

FACILITIES, SUCH AS INCENSE-BURNER, TOILET FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPED SITTING-OUT AREA WILL BE PROVIDED.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

- - - - o - - - -

/15 .....

TUEN MUN MARKET STALLS FOR LEASE

* * * *

SEVENTY-SIX VACANT STALLS IN SIX MARKETS AND COOKED FOOD MARKETS IN TUEN MUN WILL BE PUT UP FOR LEASE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON FRIDAY (APRIL 19).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL IN TAI HING ESTATE, TUEN MUN, AT 10 AM.

THIRTY-EIGHT STALLS ARE LOCATED IN KWONG CHOI MARKET, 16 IN TSING YEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET, NINE IN SAN HUI MARKET, SEVEN IN YAN OI MARKET, FIVE IN HUNG CHEUNG COOKED FOOD MARKET AND THE REMAINING ONE IN KIN WING COOKED FOOD MARKET. THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL OF THE STALLS RANGES FROM $300 TO $4 688.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS CAN START BUSINESS ON MAY 1 ON A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTENDING TO BID FOR THE STALLS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS WHEN ATTENDING THE AUCTION.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 0-820800 EXT. 231.

----o----

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

* * *

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHAM SHUI PO FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 17) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

WING LUNG STREET BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND FUK WING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

THERE WILL BE NO LEFT TURN FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO TONKIN STREET NORTHBOUND; AND NO RIGHT TURN FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO TONKIN STREET SOUTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS ON CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR TONKIN STREET NORTHBOUND ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA WING LUNG STREET AND FUK WING STREET.

----o----