



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1988

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CHO YIU STUDENTS AND PARENTS VISIT KAI TAK TRANSIT CENTRE

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ABOUT 30 KWAI TSING PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDYING AT CHO YIU CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL TODAY (SUNDAY) VISITED THE HONG KONG BORN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN AT KAI TAK TRANSIT CENTRE AND MET THEIR PARENTS IN ORDER TO FOSTER GOOD WILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND TO FACILITATE THE CHILDREN'S ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL.

THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE SCHOOL TOMORROW.

THE VISIT WAS ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE FOLLOWING A MEETING HELD BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARENTS OF THE LOCAL STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 31) TO DISCUSS THE ADMISSION OF HONG KONG BORN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN TO CHO YIU CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

IT WAS AGREED AT THE MEETING THAT A PROGRAMME SHOULD BE DRAWN UP TO HELP BOTH THE NEW CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO ASSIMILATE INTO THE KWAI TSING COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

THE VISITORS WERE GREETED BY THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AT THE CENTRE. THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE FACILITIES AND DAILY LIFE THERE.

STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOL AND THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN THEN SANG TOGETHER, LAUGHED AND PLAYED GAMES HARMONIOUSLY.

ORGANISER OF THE VISITING PARTY, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK SAID THAT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD CONSIDER ARRANGING SIMILAR VISITS FOR OTHER PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF THE CHO YIU CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS ALSO PLANNING A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AMONG THE KWAI TSING COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THEM AND OTHER RESIDENTS, MR COAK ADDED.

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A FUN DAY IN MID-SEPTEMBER, TENNIS AND MINI-TENNIS DEMONSTRATION IN MID-OCTOBER, FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO THE DISTRICT'S COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL.

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SWD DELEGATION TO ATTEND CONGRESS ON REHABILITATION

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A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION WILL BE ATTENDING THE 16TH WORLD CONGRESS OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL TO BE HELD IN TOKYO BETWEEN TOMORROW (MONDAY) AND SEPTEMBER 9.

THE OCCASION WILL SEE ABOUT 2,500 PARTICIPANTS FROM MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CONGRESS THEME - "REALISTIC APPROACHES - LOOKING AHEAD TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION".

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WILL SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF "EXTENDING PRINCIPLES OF REHABILITATION IN SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE" AT A SECTORAL SESSION ON TUESDAY.

"HONG KONG, AS IS THE CASE WITH MANY OTHER PLACES OF THE WORLD, IS FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF AN AGING POPULATION," SHE SAID.

"ELDERLY PEOPLE HAVE TO COPE WITH MANY CHANGES - PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC - THAT ARE BROUGHT ABOUT BY OLD AGE AND IMPORTANT QUESTIONS MUST BE ASKED AND ANSWERS BE FOUND NOW SO AS TO ENABLE SOCIETY TO ADAPT TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE.

"WAYS AND MEANS HAVE TO BE FOUND TO ENABLE THEM TO REMAIN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE INTEGRAL AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO SOME VERY ANIMATED AND INSPIRING DISCUSSIONS ON HOW THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED, NOT ONLY IN THEORY, BUT ALSO IN PRACTICE," MRS WONG ADDED.

SHE ALSO EXPECTED TO LEARN FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS THE LATEST TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN REHABILITATION FOR THE DISABLED.

"REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL PLACES MUCH EMPHASIS ON EQUALISATION OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SOCIETY ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHICH IS ALSO AN AREA THAT IS GETTING MORE AND MORE ATTENTION IN HONG KONG.

"FOR EXAMPLE, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE EXPLORING ENERGETICALLY HOW MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE FOUND FOR THE DISABLED IN THE OPEN JOB MARKET RATHER THAN CONFINING THEM TO THE SHELTERED SETTING," SHE SAID.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SWD DELEGATION ARE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (REHABILITATION), MR LAU KAI-CHUEN, AND SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (ELDERLY), MRS ELEANOR LAU.

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HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRY STUDY COMPLETED

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A STUDY REPORT ON HONG KONG'S HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SUGGESTED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD IMPROVE ITS MARKET SHARE BY REMAINING COMPETITIVE IN LOW MARGIN, LOW TECHNOLOGY CONTENT ITEMS WHILE CONTINUING TO EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION OF UPPER-END QUALITY PRODUCTS.

THE STUDY IS THE FOURTH OF A SERIES OF STUDIES OF SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WHICH AIMS TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRY AND TO SUGGEST LIKELY FUTURE TRENDS.

IT POINTED OUT THAT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS STARTED TO SHIFT THE MORE LABOUR INTENSIVE PORTION OF THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES TO CHINA WHERE LABOUR AND LAND ARE AVAILABLE AT LOW COSTS.

BUT IT ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPING HONG KONG AS A SERVICE AND SUPPORT CENTRE FOR THE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE TRADE WHICH PROVIDES SERVICES LIKE RESEARCH AND DESIGN, FINANCING, MARKETING, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS.

THE REPORT ATTRIBUTED THE IMPRESSIVE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY IN THE PAST DECADES TO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO MEET EVER CHANGING MARKET NEEDS AND TO TAKE QUICK ADVANTAGE OF MAJOR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES.

IN THE STUDY, A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS FACING THE INDUSTRY WERE IDENTIFIED. THEY INCLUDE LABOUR SHORTAGE, OVER-DEPENDENCE OF MATURE PRODUCTS, LOW VALUE-ADDED CONTENT, INADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES AND INSUFFICIENT INTERNAL CO-OPERATION.

TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS, LOCAL MANUFACTURERS HAVE KEPT DOWN PRODUCTION COSTS BY SHIFTING THE LESS SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO CHINA AND PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION WAS FOUND TO BE A VERY POPULAR MEANS TO ACHIEVE GREATER SALES TURNOVER.

PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION WAS LARGELY MADE POSSIBLE BY ADVANCES IN PLASTICS PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY, WHICH RESULTED IN AN EVER WIDENING RANGE OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE USING PLASTICS INSTEAD OF METAL AS THE MAJOR MATERIAL.

WITH REGARD TO THE MARKETS, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE ABSORBED ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE INDUSTRY'S EXPORTS, WITH THE USA ACCOUNTING FOR 52.1 PER CENT.

/THE STUDY

THE STUDY ALSO SHOWED THAT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT HAS PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE INDUSTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY THE COFFEE MAKER SEGMENT, BY INTRODUCING THE LOCAL INDUSTRY TO NEW TECHNOLOGY AND NEW MARKETS.

TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AS AT END OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO \$231 MILLION, REPRESENTING 1.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

SIXTEEN FACTORIES WITH OVERSEAS INVESTMENT PRODUCED A WIDE RANGE OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING COFFEE MAKERS/GRINDERS, HAIR DRYERS/CURLERS, VACUUM CLEANERS, CEILING FANS, TOASTERS AND SMOOTHING IRONS, ETC. THEY ARE HIGHLY EXPORT-ORIENTED, WITH EXPORTS ACCOUNTING FOR 98 PER CENT OF THEIR TOTAL SALES.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES RANKED NINTH IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, EMPLOYING 21,200 PERSONS OR 2.4 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE IN 392 ESTABLISHMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 1987.

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WHITTY STREET COMPOUND TO BE GIVEN FACE-LIFT

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THE WHITTY STREET COMPOUND, A RESIDENTIAL AREA IN SAI YING PUN THAT HAS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND POOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, WILL SOON BE GIVEN A FACE-LIFT.

THE COMPOUND, COMPRISING 18 MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, WAS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE 1960'S, AND ITS COMMON AREAS AND BACK LANES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS WERE JOINTLY OWNED BY HUNDREDS OF SMALL LANDLORDS, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO DRAW A LINE WITH REGARD TO MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, ILLEGAL STRUCTURES USED FOR COMMERCIAL, STORAGE AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES MUSHROOMED IN THE BACK LANES.

THE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN COMPOUNDED BY UNLICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS OPERATING DAY AND NIGHT IN THE AREA AND BY VEHICLES PARKED ILLEGALLY IN THE LANES AND ON A VACANT SITE AT THE CENTRE OF THE COMPOUND.

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS, AND SUGGESTED THAT REMEDIAL ACTION BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD, THE GOVERNMENT RESUMED OWNERSHIP OF THE BACK LANES AND COMMON AREAS IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR TO FACILITATE WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING HOUSING, BUILDINGS AND LANDS, URBAN SERVICES AND THE POLICE, RECENTLY STARTED A CLEARANCE OPERATION TO DEMOLISH 33 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, 10 SHOP EXTENSIONS AND CHAINS OF CANOPIES.

AMONG THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, EIGHT WERE USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSE, 22 FOR STORAGE PURPOSE, TWO FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSE AND ONE AS A SHRINE.

SIX SHOP OPERATORS HAVE RECEIVED AN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE, WHILE A RESIDENT HAS BEEN GIVEN A SINGLETON ALLOWANCE. THE TWO ALLOWANCES TOTALLED \$142,747.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL SET UP BOLLARDS AND CRASH GATES AT VARIOUS ENTRANCES TO PREVENT ILLEGAL PARKING IN THE COMPOUND, AND WILL RE-SURFACE THE LANES.

THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL DEVELOP A VACANT SITE AT THE CENTRE INTO A GARDEN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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TSUEN WAN DB TO DISCUSS EDUCATION REPORT
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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO.3 AT A MEETING ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 6) AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON THE LAW OF LOITERING AND THE CONSULTATION PAPER REGARDING THE LAW ON HOMOSEXUAL OFFENCES.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TING KAU, SHAM TSENG, MA WAN AND TSING LUNG TAU WILL BE RAISED IN THE MEETING.

/OTHER ITEMS

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BE PRESENTED BY DR LAI SUNG-LUNG, A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO BE PRESENTED BY MR CHAN LAU-FONG, A REPORT OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND REPORTS BY THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 6) 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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YOUTH POLICY REPORT ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 6) TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MR LEE CHUNG-TAK, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO PRESENT THE REPORT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE ON JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 6). THE MEETING WILL START AT 9.30 AM.

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FUNDS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WISHING TO ORGANISE CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR ISLANDERS COULD NOW SEND IN APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"ACTIVITIES SEEKING SPONSORSHIP SHOULD BE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR SO THAT FORMALITIES CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS CAN BE SETTLED BEFORE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS," HE SAID.

/APPLICATION FORMS

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APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE. THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 10.

ALL THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE VETTED BY THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULT BY THE END OF NOVEMBER.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8524325.

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SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DISABLED
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A FIVE-STORY SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED WILL BE BUILT IN TUEN MUN.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE NEAR YAU OI ESTATE.

THE CENTRE WILL CATER FOR BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABLED.

IT WILL CONSIST 14 WORKSHOPS, FOUR CLASSROOMS, A LIBRARY, AN AUDIO VISUAL ROOM, DORMITORIES, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, A GYMNASIUM AND A CANTEEN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN OCTOBER AND BE COMPLETED IN MAY, 1990.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 16.

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I.D. REMINDER FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1965-66
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN IN 1965 OR 1966 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE OCTOBER 2.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID : "TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, WOMEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW I.D. CARD SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT DELAY.

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"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW I.D. CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW I.D. CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO RENEW THEIR I.D. CARDS.

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS. TO AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP FOR A LONG TIME AT THE ISSUE OFFICES OR TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO TO THESE OFFICES IN THE MORNINGS AND THE AFTERNOONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

- HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
TEL. NO. 5-747070
- EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 3-7553679
- WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.
TEL. NO. 3-7232424
- TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-4981259
- SHA TIN : SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-6059108
- YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 0-793291
- TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
TEL. NO. 0-4580862
- SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.
TEL. NO. 0-927155

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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