



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1985

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GOVERNOR OPENS NEW CHINA FLEET CLUB
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING DOTTED THE EYES OF TWO LIONS AND CUT A RIBBON TO DECLARE OPEN THE NEW PREMISES OF THE CHINA FLEET CLUB IN WAN CHAI.

SIR EDWARD WAS GREETED ON ARRIVAL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB, CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER GOTTO, RN, AND THE GENERAL MANAGER, MR PHIL BALDWIN.

AFTER UNVEILING A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CLUB, SIR EDWARD MET THE CLUB'S TRUSTEES, MR MARTIN BARROW AND MR MICHAEL SANDBERG.

SIR EDWARD, WITH THE TRUSTEES, THEN WENT INTO THE RECEPTION HALL TO CUT A CAKE AND TO OFFER A TOAST.

THE CLUB STARTED AS A NAVAL CANTEEN IN 1934. IT NOW OCCUPIES NINE FLOORS IN A 26-STORY BUILDING DEVELOPED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE IN GLOUCESTER ROAD, AND PROVIDES ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES, RESTAURANTS, BARS, A THEATRE AND A SWIMMING POOL. IT HAS MORE THAN 2 500 MEMBERS, INCLUDING SERVICEMEN AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

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LETTER FROM LOWER ALBERT ROAD
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(TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, AT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB TODAY.)

+WHILST I WAS MOST GRATIFIED TO BE INVITED TO BE HERE TODAY, AND WHILST I AM CONSCIOUS THAT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB HAS CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS THAT A FREE LUNCH WILL BE PAID FOR, I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR AT THE OUTSET THAT I AM STANDING UP HERE AS A MATTER OF COURTESY. I FEAR I HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO SAY OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE: I SHALL NOT BE AIRING A POLICY INITIATIVE I SHALL NOT BE DEFENDING A POLICY DECISION I SHALL NOT BE TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT A FASHIONABLE SUBJECT OF THE DAY I SHALL NOT BE CONTRIBUTING TO ONE OF THE POPULAR CONTROVERSIES THAT HAS ENGAGED YOUR ATTENTION RECENTLY, OFTEN VERY SPECULATIVELY, SOMETIMES QUITE FRANTICALLY AND, ABOVE ALL, I SHALL NOT BE MAKING A FAREWELL SPEECH IN AN ATTEMPT TO LEAVE BEHIND A LEGACY OF WISDOM. I SHAN'T EVEN CONSCIOUSLY TRY TO AMUSE YOU. THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THAT. IF I'VE LEARNED ONE LESSON OVER THE YEARS, IT IS THIS: NEVER TAKE ANYONE'S SENSE OF HUMOUR FOR GRANTED. I'VE LEARNED THAT LESSON THE HARD WAY, THAT IS TO SAY, VIA THE ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT OF DEATHLY SILENCE WHEN A CLEVER CRACK, OR AN ANECDOTE, OR A SHAGGY DOG STORY SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT IF NOT THE HOUSE DOWN AT LEAST A RIPPLE OF POLITE LAUGHTER.

/+MIND YOU,

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+MIND YOU, I MIGHT HAVE PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS OCCASION MORE AMBITIOUSLY BUT A FRIEND OF MANY YEARS STANDING, DEREK DAVIES NO LESS, TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY OVER A DOUBLE GIN GIMLET AND WITH SCANT REGARD FOR MY BLOOD PRESSURE, THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF MY MANY SPEECHES OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS OR SO HAVE SUFFERED FROM A LACK OF SUB-EDITING BY WHAT HE QUAINLY DESCRIBED AS A PROFESSIONAL SPEECH WRITER. WELL, I DON'T EMPLOY SUCH AN ANIMAL AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING SO IN THE FUTURE (ASSUMING, RASHLY, THAT THIS IS NOT THE LAST SPEECH I SHALL EVER MAKE).

+I HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO SAY OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IS WHAT I TOLD ALAN HARGREAVES WHEN I WENT FOR THE FREE LUNCH AND THAT IS WHAT I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU. SO PLEASE DON'T TAKE ME TOO SERIOUSLY. BUT I'M UP HERE AND AM NOT ALLOWED TO SIT DOWN FOR 20 MINUTES AND EVEN THEN I MAY NOT GET OUT ALIVE, PARTICULARLY AS MY STARTING POINT IN THIS LETTER FROM LOWER ALBERT ROAD IS CICERO'S IMMORTAL ADVICE TO ALL GOOD JOURNALISTS IN BC 61: IF YOU HAVE NO NEWS, WRITE THE FIRST THING THAT COMES INTO YOUR HEAD (THAT BEING A FAIR TRANSLATION OF QUOD IN BUCCAM VENERIT IN BOOK 1 OF AD ATTICUM). A CONVENIENT ADAPTATION OF THIS ADVICE MEANS THAT I SHALL SAY WHATEVER COMES TO MIND, MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO BE PROFOUND OR INFORMATIVE OR ACCURATE OR FAIR OR REASONABLE OR OBJECTIVE OR OBLIGING OR COURTEOUS, LET ALONE STRUCTURED, WHICH WILL REMIND MOST OF YOU OF YOUR OWN DAILY OR WEEKLY LABOURS, INCLUDING THOSE OF YOU WHO BROADCAST IN RTHK'S LETTER FROM HONG KONG SERIES.

+EVEN SO, THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY OCCUR TO YOU AS, INDEED, IT OCCURRED TO ME, IS THAT IF I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE, DON'T SAY IT AND GIVE UP THE FREE LUNCH. BUT AS DIOGENES PROCLAIMED 300 YEARS BEFORE CICERO WAS BORN: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE WORLD IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH. AND AS MANY HAVE BEEN EXERCISING THIS FREEDOM RECENTLY - OFTEN WITHOUT REGARD TO THE CONSEQUENCES, LET ALONE THE FACTS - IT IS AT LEAST ARGUABLE THAT IT IS SOMEONE ELSE'S TURN. AS THE ROMAN POET CATO WROTE SOME TIME BETWEEN CICERO AND DIOGENES IN ABOUT 175 BC: HE WILL HEAR WHAT HE DOESN'T LIKE WHO PERSISTS IN SAYING WHAT HE LIKES.

+THE CARDINAL SIN, OF COURSE, THAT JOURNALISTS MUST AVOID IS TO BE LATE WITH THEIR COPY. THEY CAN, THEREFORE, SOMETIMES JUSTIFY GETTING THINGS WRONG. BUT THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF OTHER COMMENTATORS SUCH AS ACADEMICS AND WOULD-BE ACADEMICS ARE INEXCUSABLE FOR, GIVEN THE LEISURELY WAY THEY CAN GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, THEY REALLY HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR NOT DOING THEIR HOMEWORK PROPERLY. (+ACTUALLY, TO WRITE A SPEECH ON CATO'S OBSERVATION IS SOMETHING I WOULD QUITE LIKE TO DO SOMETIME FOR THE FRUSTRATION I HAVE FOUND QUITE TIRESOME IN THE PAST 14-15 YEARS OR SO AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THEN AS CHIEF SECRETARY HAS BEEN THAT WHICH STEMS FROM THE INTENSE DISLIKE OF MOST COMMENTATORS TO BE ANSWERED BACK. AS A RESULT, THE ADVICE SO OFTEN TENDERED BY MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, THE POLITICAL ADVISERS' OFFICE AND ELSEWHERE IS, FORGET IT.

/+SOUND ADVICE,

+SOUND ADVICE, I'M SURE, FOR IF ONE DOES SNAP BACK, ONE IS ACCUSED OF BEING OVER-SENSITIVE OR DEFENSIVE AS ONLY A +BUREAUCRAT+ CAN BE AND, SOMEHOW, THE COMMENTATOR ALWAYS HAS THE LAST SAY AND, ANYWAY, THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE ALWAYS LIES WITH THE ACCUSER. YET, IF ONE DOESN'T ANSWER BACK ONE IS ACCUSED OF BEING INDIFFERENT TO PUBLIC OPINION AS ONLY A +BUREAUCRAT+ CAN BE (AS IF THE MEDIA AND FREE-STANDING COMMENTATORS REFLECTED PUBLIC OPINION: THAT REALLY IS, OF COURSE, ONE OF THE GREAT MYTHS OF OUR DAY AND AGE).

+BUT I'M GRADUALLY DIGGING A GREAT HOLE FOR MYSELF OUT OF WHICH I SHALL BE UNABLE TO SCRAMBLE AND IN WHICH SOME OF YOU WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO BURY ME. THAT WOULD MEAN I MIGHT NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO ENJOY THE PEACE AND QUIET OF RETIREMENT AND PURSUE A LIFE LONG AMBITION TO WRITE A DEFINITIVE WORK ON THE SEX LIFE OF THE BLACK BUTTERFLIES OF WESTERN MADAGASCAR. HOWEVER, AS I HAVE NOW INADVERTENTLY DRIFTED INTO A DISSERTATION ON GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDIA INCLUDING FREE-STANDING COMMENTATORS, LET ME SAY THIS, EVEN AT THE AWFUL RISK OF BEING SERIOUS FOR A MOMENT. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SO FOND OF HAMMERING THE SYSTEM AND RESURRECTING OLD SHIBBOLETHS CONVENIENTLY TO SUSTAIN THE ARGUMENT OF THE DAY, SHOULD BEAR THIS IN MIND: IF THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG IS TO BE SUCCESSFULLY CONVERTED INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR - AND, BY SUCCESSFULLY, I MEAN WITH THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS RETAINED - THEN THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF DEROGATORY SARCASM AND NEGATIVE CRITICISM THAT THE SYSTEM CAN WITHSTAND, WITHOUT PARTIALLY DISINTEGRATING BEFORE THE CONVERSION PROCESS GETS UNDER WAY.

+THAT IS TO SAY, GIVEN YOUR PREDILECTION TO AMBIVALENCE - DEFINED FOR THIS PURPOSE AS A SIMULTANEOUS ADHERENCE TO CONTRARY VALUES - GIVEN YOUR MADDENING HABIT OF PUTTING TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND MAKING FIVE, OR SIX, OR EVEN SEVEN, GIVEN THE CASUAL WAY IN WHICH YOU DEAL WITH CAUSE/EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS, GIVEN THE CARELESS WAY IN WHICH YOU TEAR SUBJECTS OUT OF THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXT, AND GIVEN YOUR FREQUENT LOVE FOR SEMANTICS RATHER THAN A CONCERN FOR SUBSTANCE, GIVEN ALL THESE MANY SHORTCOMINGS OF JOURNALISTS AND OTHER COMMENTATORS, THERE IS A RISK THAT THE SYSTEM - OR AT ANY RATE THE MORALE OF THE SYSTEM - WILL SUFFER REAL DAMAGE JUST AT THE TIME WHEN THE CONVERSION PROCESS MUST BEGIN.

+NOW ALL THAT SOUNDS RATHER HARSH AND DEEP DOWN I'M OF A KINDLY DISPOSITION. SO LET ME PUT THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE ANOTHER WAY. IT IS THE JOB OF GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. THERE IS SELDOM A CLEAR-CUT CHOICE BETWEEN WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG. AS ELSEWHERE, IT IS THE TASK OF THE PRESS HERE TO EXAMINE WHAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DO, AND HOW IT DOES IT, OBJECTIVELY; BUT THIS EXAMINATION OFTEN AMOUNTS TO LITTLE MORE THAN INSTANT CRITICISM. GOVERNMENT BASHING AND STORIES OF PROTEST, REAL OR IMAGINARY, MAKE GOOD COPY. CAREFUL, DISPASSIONATE EXAMINATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF A PROBLEM SENDS READERS TO SLEEP. ALL THIS IS PART OF LIFE, AND CIVIL SERVANTS LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD (AND, IN ACTUAL FACT, THAT IS PRECISELY WHERE CIVIL SERVANTS DO LIVE, AT ANY RATE MOST OF US FOR MOST OF THE TIME). BUT GIVEN THE COMPLICATED AND SENSITIVE TASKS FACING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG OVER THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS, GIVEN YOUR ROLE AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND AS THE BENEFICIARIES, AS WELL AS THE GUARDIANS, OF DIOGENES' PROCLAMATION, I FELL BOLD ENOUGH TO ASK YOU TO TRY WHAT MAY BE A NOVEL, BUT CERTAINLY COULD BE AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT: PUT YOURSELVES IN OUR SHOES, PREFERABLY BEFORE SETTING PEN TO PAPER.

/+I AM

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+I AM NOT SUGGESTING FOR A MOMENT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS AND UNOFFICIALS CAN'T PUT UP WITH YOU, ALTHOUGH MORALE IN THIS SENSITIVE AND VOLATILE CITY OF OURS CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED= AND, AS REGARDS UNOFFICIALS, SOME MIGHT ARGUE THAT OUR TRADITION OF VOLUNTARY PUBLIC SERVICE IS SOMETIMES PUT AT RISK BY YOUR LITERARY EFFORTS. HOWEVER, WITH DIOGENES, I BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF SPEECH, IN THE WRITTEN AS WELL AS THE SPOKEN FORM BUT, HAVING SAID THAT, I WILL SAY THIS AS WELL: HONG KONG AND HONG KONG-BASED JOURNALISTS ARE IN THE FORTUNATE POSITION OF BEING OBSERVERS OF A UNIQUE GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION REQUIRING A UNIQUE PROCESS OF CHANGE WHICH MUST BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN A FEW YEARS' TIME TO THE SATISFACTION, MOREOVER, OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. QUITE UNCHARTED WATERS HAVE TO BE NAVIGATED AND SO I PUT IT TO YOU THAT YOU HAVE A UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE TEMPERATE.

+UNUSUALLY, BUT UNDERSTANDABLY, THE CLASSIC COLONIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT CHARACTERISED BY THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR HAS PERSISTED IN HONG KONG TO THE PRESENT DAY, IN FORM, OF COURSE, RATHER THAN IN PRACTICE, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER STORY AND IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT POINT NOW YOU NEVER WILL. THE DE-COLONISATION PROCESS SO FAR AS THE BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE IS CONCERNED REALLY BEGAN QUITE A LONG TIME AGO. IT BEGAN, IN FACT, WITH THE DEVONSHIRE DECLARATION OF 1922, FOR THIS SET THE TONE OF MODERN (IF YOU LIKE POST-VICTORIAN) BRITISH COLONIAL POLICY. THAT DECLARATION STATED THAT 'THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE ON WHICH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S COLONIAL POLICY IS BASED IS THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE ARE PARAMOUNT.' EVENTUALLY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE PERCEPTION OF THOSE BEST INTERESTS LED TO A PROGRESSIVE WITHDRAWAL OF THE QUEEN'S WRIT FROM ONE CONSTITUENT PART OF HER OVERSEAS REALMS AFTER ANOTHER.

+TO THIS END, BEGINNING WITH MY IMMEDIATE POST-WAR GENERATION OF COLONIAL CIVIL SERVANTS THERE WAS AN EMPHASIS ON THE VALIDITY OF A VERY NON-IMPERIAL IDEA WHICH, IN EFFECT, ADDED AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION TO THE MEANING OF THE DEVONSHIRE DECLARATION: THAT IS TO SAY, IT WAS IMPRESSED UPON US BY ONE SECRETARY OF STATE AFTER ANOTHER, OF EVERY POLITICAL COMPLEXION, THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF COLONIAL POSSESSIONS DID NOT JUST LIE IN ENSURING THAT POLICIES WERE PURSUED WHICH FOSTERED THEIR WELFARE RATHER THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMERCIAL OR STRATEGIC INTERESTS OF THE METROPOLITAN POWER. BEYOND THAT, THEIR INTEREST LAY IN BRITAIN PROGRESSIVELY HANDING OVER POWER VIA A PROCESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE TO INDIGENOUS AUTHORITIES. THIS PROCESS CONSISTED OF A SERIES OF STEPS UP TO FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BASED ON UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE UNTIL, BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, FULL INDEPENDENCE WAS GRANTED, THE LAST POWERS SURRENDERED BEING DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

/+IF THE

+IF THE INDEPENDENCE ROUTE HAD BEEN POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG, THEN I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HONG KONG WOULD HAVE BECOME AN INDEPENDENT CITY STATE AT LEAST 25 YEARS AGO, BUT FOR HMG TO PURSUE THAT ROUTE WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR WELL KNOWN AND ACCEPTED GEO-POLITICAL REASONS. NOR WAS CONTINUING BRITISH ADMINISTRATION UNDER CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY AN ACCEPTABLE ROUTE, NOT BECAUSE THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY HAS TO BE COUPLED WITH TITULAR SOVEREIGNTY - THERE HAVE BEEN MANY EXAMPLES OF THAT SITUATION IN THE PAST 200 AND MORE YEARS - BUT BECAUSE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS UNWILLING TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVEREIGNTY AND ULTIMATE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. AT THE SAME TIME, A SIMPLE STRAIGHTFORWARD INCORPORATION OF HONG KONG - AND FOR PRACTICAL REASONS THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE THE CEDED AND LEASED TERRITORIES TOGETHER - WAS SEEN TO BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO CHINA'S INTERESTS AND UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, 60 PER CENT OF WHOM WERE BORN HERE AND THE REMAINING 40 PER CENT CAME TO LIVE HERE VOLUNTARILY.

+SO, THE ONLY REMAINING ROUTE OPEN WHICH, CONCEIVABLY, WOULD ENABLE AT LEAST PARTIAL OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE ENUNCIATED BY THE DEVONSHIRE DECLARATION, WAS THE SO-CALLED AUTONOMY ROUTE. THIS ROUTE WAS OPENED UP, AS IT WERE, BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGINATIVE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY/TWO SYSTEMS'. NOW, ALTHOUGH THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT COMPRISING THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED ANNEXES, WAS EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATED, SIGNED AND HAS JUST BEEN RATIFIED, THE AUTONOMY ROUTE WILL BE A DIFFICULT ROUTE TO TRAVERSE AND WOULD BE SO EVEN IF IT WAS NOT SUCH A UNIQUE SOLUTION TO SUCH A UNIQUE PROBLEM (IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF THERE WAS CASE LAW TO GUIDE ALL CONCERNED). SPECIFICALLY, THE AUTONOMY ROUTE WILL INVOLVE CONVERTING THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG - COMPRISED AS IT IS OF CERTAIN FORMAL INSTRUMENTS INTERPRETED IN PRACTICE OVER MANY YEARS BY A COMPLEX OF CONVENTIONS AND PRACTICES, WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN - INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR. THE SMOOTH REMOVAL OF THE BRITISH LINK AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN 'AUTONOMOUS', YET NOT 'INDEPENDENT', GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE EASY AND ALL THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS HAVE TO BE PUT IN HAND AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS OBLIGATED TO CONTINUE TO MANAGE THE PLACE EFFECTIVELY AND THAT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED SIMPLY VIA DECLARATIONS OF INTENT. A CREDIBLE REGIME MUST BE MAINTAINED MEANWHILE AND ALL PARTIES CONCERNED MUST BE SUPPORTIVE OF IT.

+WHILST THE POLICIES TO BE PURSUED BY THE SAR GOVERNMENT ARE LAID DOWN IN FAIRLY CLEAR TERMS IN ANNEX II TO THE AGREEMENT, THERE IS RELATIVE SILENCE ON THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT AND ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL SECURE HONG KONG AS A CAPITALIST ENCLAVE WITHIN THE SOCIALIST MOTHERLAND. YET THIS CONVERSION EXERCISE CANNOT WAIT UPON THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW IN 1990 OR THEREABOUTS. WE MUST BEGIN NOW TO DEVISE A STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT AND SEE THAT IT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM HONG KONG'S PRESENT STATUS AS A BRITISH COLONY TO THAT OF A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA.

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+ALTHOUGH THE CONTENT OF THE BASIC LAW, SO FAR AS THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, IS STILL UNKNOWN TO US WE DO HAVE A STARTING POINT: A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CONTINUITY OF EXISTING SYSTEMS - LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, FISCAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL. THIS IS PROMISED BY THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR. IF IT IS LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE TO START DEVELOPING A STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH AND, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, REINFORCES THIS PROMISED HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY (AND WHICH IS SELF-GENERATING AND MORE OBVIOUSLY REPRESENTATIVE FOR GUBERNATORIAL PATRONAGE OBVIOUSLY MUST FADE AWAY GRADUALLY), THEN EXISTING SYSTEMS MUST BE LOOKED AT, IF NOT SYMPATHETICALLY, AT LEAST DISPASSIONATELY, AND THIS IS WHERE I COULD PICK UP A WHOLE HOST OF EXAMPLES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT STORIES BASED ON CICERO'S ADVICE IS YOUR STOCK IN TRADE RATHER THAN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS. BUT BEING, AS I SAID EARLIER, OF A KINDLY DISPOSITION, I SHALL REFRAIN FROM DOING SO.

+MOREOVER, IF I GO ON, YOU MAY BE TEMPTED - IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY - TO TAKE ME TOO SERIOUSLY DESPITE MY DISCLAIMERS AND I HAVE NOW FULFILLED MY OBLIGATION TO SPEAK FOR 20 MINUTES. SO LET ME END ON A FRIENDLY NOTE: MOST OF YOU - AND HERE I AM SPEAKING OF THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS - LIVE AND WORK IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD AND YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD FOR YOUR COPY. THAT YOU DO AND I ADMIRE YOU IMMENSELY FOR THAT. THE SPEED WITH WHICH YOU CATCH UP WITH THOSE TRYING TO ELUDE YOU AND THE HOURS YOU PATIENTLY WAIT AROUND FOR THEM HAVE EARNED YOU MANY PLAUDITS. SO HAVE THE EDITORIALS OF MANY OF OUR NEWSPAPERS WHICH OFTEN REVEAL A PERCEPTION OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE WHICH DOES THE WRITERS GREAT CREDIT= AND WHICH ARE READ WITH CARE, I MIGHT ADD, IN LOWER ALBERT ROAD. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU ARE NOT ALL THAT GENEROUSLY REWARDED: AS A PASSIONATE BELIEVER IN A HIGH WAGE ECONOMY AND A LIMITED ROLE FOR THE SOCIAL WAGE, I WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT AT LEAST SOME OF YOU ARE GROSSLY UNDERPAID= AND ON THAT HOPEFULLY WELCOME NOTE I THANK YOU FOR AN EXCELLENT LUNCH AND BID YOU ALL A FOND FAREWELL.+

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WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS 'MORE SENSITIVE'
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THE SUGGESTION THAT WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS HAD THE EDGE OVER THEIR MALE COLLEAGUES BECAUSE OF THEIR GREATER SENSITIVITY, WAS MADE TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO.

+WE MEN ARE NOT EXACTLY INSENSITIVE. IT IS JUST THAT WOMEN HAVE REFINED SENSITIVITY ALMOST INTO A SIXTH SENSE.

+MANY A TIME I HAVE FOUND THAT A PROPOSITION THAT HAS SEEMINGLY BEEN EXAMINED FROM ALL ANGLES, AND FAIRLY EXHAUSTIVELY ASSESSED, CAN YIELD UP AN UNEXPECTED FACET TO THE MORE DISCERNING EYE OF A FELLOW OFFICER WHO HAPPENS, IN NEARLY ALL CASES, TO BE A WOMAN.

+IT WILL INVARIABLY BE AN EXTREMELY SUBTLE POINT THAT MAY NOT SWAY THE DECISION ALREADY REACHED - AND IN FACT MAY NOT AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF A COURSE OF ACTION AT ALL - BUT IT NEVERTHELESS WAS THERE AND WAS ONLY VISIBLE TO HER,+ MR TSAO SAID.

MR TSAO, SPEAKING PERSONALLY AT A MEETING OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST, SAID HE HAD TO ADMIT IT WAS EASIER TO LIVE WITH THE MORE ATTRACTIVE IMAGE OF THE SO-CALLED TYPICAL GOVERNMENT SERVANT NOWADAYS.

+I FIND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY COLLEAGUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION WHO, SHALL I SAY, HAVE GREATLY ENHANCED MY WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

+BUT FOR FEAR OF BEING ACCUSED OF SUCH REACTIONARY MALE CHAUVINIST TENDENCIES AS SEXUAL STEREOTYPING, LET ME ADD THAT I AM BY NO MEANS MISLED BY APPEARANCES. I RECOGNISE THAT UNDER THE GLAMOROUS LOOK AND THE DECEPTIVELY SOFT EXTERIOR DWELLS A HEART OF STEEL AND A WILL OF IRON.

+THESE WOMEN WHO NOW SHARE THE CORRIDORS OF POWER ARE STRIDING IT WITH AN UNMISTAKABLE SENSE OF PURPOSE. THEY KNOW, AS WE ALL DO, THAT THEY HAVE ARRIVED THERE NOT BECAUSE OF FEMININE CHARM BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR SKILL AND INTELLECT,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING ALL CIVIL SERVANTS, MALE AND FEMALE, OLD AND YOUNG, MR TSAO SAID THEY HAD ENTERED UPON A NEW AGE, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY UPON THE GREATEST CHALLENGE THE ADMINISTRATION HAD EVER FACED.

+WE ARE LIVING IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO 1997, WHEN HONG KONG IS TO BECOME AN SAR WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

+THE IRONY IS THAT THE VERY FOUNDATION ON WHICH HONG KONG HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED IN THE PAST IS ONE WHICH WILL SPELL THE TOTAL FAILURE OF THE SYSTEM WE MUST DEVELOP FOR THE FUTURE.

/+YEARS AGO,

+YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS A MUCH YOUNGER, MORE JUNIOR OFFICER IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, I WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS LEFT TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNING PRECISELY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE MUCH TOO BUSY PURSUING THEIR FORTUNES TO CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH THE WIDER SOCIAL ISSUES.

+TODAY ALL THAT HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY, TO THE POINT WHERE OUR ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS ALREADY PROGRESSED LIGHT YEARS TOWARDS MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT, IS ACCUSED OF NOT MOVING FAST ENOUGH FOR THE PUBLIC TASTE,+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD MOVED FROM A POSITION OF APATHY AND INDIFFERENCE TO ONE OF OBSERVATION AND CONFRONTATION, BUT HAD YET TO SHIFT TO A THIRD AND MORE DESIRABLE STAGE OF PARTICIPATION AND CO-OPERATION.

+I PUT IT TO YOU THAT THIS NEXT STAGE IS ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SOCIETY WE ARE SEEKING TO DEVELOP. IT MUST BE NOT ONLY A POLITICALLY EDUCATED SOCIETY, BUT ALSO AN ACTIVELY INVOLVED ONE,+ HE SAID.

HE APPEALED FOR AN EROSION OF THE OLD DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN 'THEM' AND 'US', BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNED. +WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, WITH A COMMON CAUSE AND A COMMON PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE FINE EDGE OF SENSITIVITY THAT WOMEN BRING TO THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE CAREERS WOULD BE A QUALITY WHICH COULD STAND THE GOVERNMENT IN GOOD STEAD IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

+FOR WE MUST BE EXTRA SENSITIVE - SHOULD I PERHAPS SAY SUPER SENSITIVE - TO PUBLIC ISSUES AND TO PUBLIC CONCERN. AND, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE MUST EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO US TO GUIDE THAT CONCERN INTO POSITIVE CHANNELS OF EXPRESSION,+ MR TSAO SAID.

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APRIL MONETARY STATISTICS RELEASED

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW STEADILY IN APRIL, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY).

SO DID THE MONEY SUPPLY, APART FROM HK\$M1 WHICH FELL AS A RESULT OF SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC'S HOLDING OF CASH.

THE MONETARY STATISTICS ALSO SHOWED A CONTINUATION OF WEAK LOAN DEMAND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LOANS FOR FINANCING VISIBLE TRADE.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE FURTHER, BY 1.2 PER CENT IN APRIL, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.4 PER CENT IN MARCH. THESE DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 3.3 PER CENT OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL AND BY 19.3 PER CENT OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ALSO ROSE BY 1.2 PER CENT, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 4.8 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THESE DEPOSITS WERE 8.0 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE LATEST THREE MONTHS AND 23.5 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE 12 MONTHS. PART OF THESE INCREASES WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS.

THESE DEPOSITS, WHICH ARE BASICALLY HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 2.0 PER CENT, FROM \$24.6 BILLION AT THE END OF MARCH TO \$25.1 BILLION AT THE END OF APRIL.

ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS SHOWED HIGHER GROWTH RATES, AT 1.3 PER CENT IN APRIL AND 4.0 PER CENT OVER THREE MONTHS.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWED LOWER GROWTH RATES AT 1.0 PER CENT AND 7.6 PER CENT OVER THE RESPECTIVE PERIODS AFTER SWAP DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED.

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE BY 1.3 PER CENT IN APRIL, COMPARED WITH 2.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ALSO ROSE, BUT BY ONLY 0.5 PER CENT FOLLOWING A SIGNIFICANT RISE OF 4.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH THE LATTER, AT 7.7 PER CENT, WAS STILL HIGHER THAN THAT WITH THE FORMER, AT 5.0 PER CENT, REFLECTING AT LEAST IN PART THE INFLUENCE OF THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN MONEY MARKET RATES AND HKAB RATES.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

A FURTHER POST LUNAR NEW YEAR AND EASTER REDUCTION IN THE PUBLIC'S HOLDING OF CASH CAUSED HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, HK\$M1, TO FALL FURTHER BY 0.2 PER CENT IN APRIL, AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE OF 5.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 (THE BROADER DEFINITIONS), HOWEVER, ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN MARCH WERE 0.1 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, HK\$M1 ROSE BY 2.9 PER CENT, HK\$M2 BY 2.8 PER CENT AND HK\$M3 BY 3.7 PER CENT. THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES OVER THE 12 MONTHS WERE 14.7 PER CENT, 18.6 PER CENT AND 18.7 PER CENT.

THE GROWTH RATES OF HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3, AFTER ADJUSTING FOR SWAP DEPOSITS, WERE HIGHER AT 1.0 PER CENT AND 1.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FOR THE MONTH, AND 3.7 PER CENT AND 4.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FOR THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY REGISTERED INCREASES ON ALL DEFINITIONS. TOTAL M1 ROSE MARGINALLY BY 0.2 PER CENT, AFTER A FALL OF 6.2 PER CENT IN MARCH. TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, COMPARED WITH 2.1 PER CENT AND 2.5 PER CENT IN MARCH. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL WERE 3.0 PER CENT, 5.1 PER CENT AND 5.7 PER CENT, AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS WERE 15.2 PER CENT, 20.4 PER CENT AND 21.1 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO GROW SLOWLY, BY 0.5 PER CENT FOLLOWING 0.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, THESE GREW BY 1.7 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 7.1 PER CENT.

WITHIN THE TOTAL, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE GREW MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, BY 3.7 PER CENT AFTER A RISE OF 2.6 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, THESE GREW BY 9.1 PER CENT BUT ONLY BY 6.4 PER CENT OVER THE 12 MONTHS REFLECTING DECREASES IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1984.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWING ZERO GROWTH IN MARCH. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, THEY ROSE BY 1.6 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 7.2 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

THE SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY POSITION OF THE MONETARY SECTOR SHOWED A DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM \$7.4 BILLION AT THE END OF MARCH, TO \$5.9 BILLION AT THE END OF APRIL.

SIMILAR STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (ON THE BASIS OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS) SHOWED A DECREASE IN NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF \$1.0 BILLION TO \$3.8 BILLION. NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS, HOWEVER, ROSE BY \$1.0 BILLION TO \$24.0 BILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS WAS 49.7 PER CENT, SOMEWHAT BELOW 50.2 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS ALSO LOWER AT 44.7 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 53.0 PER CENT A MONTH EARLIER.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN APRIL, WITH 140 LICENSED BANKS, 33 LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AND 306 REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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JUNK BAY TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED ANOTHER CONTRACT IN THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR JUNK BAY.

THE \$74.7 MILLION CONTRACT IS FOR RECLAMATION AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT AP TSAI PENINSULA ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF JUNK BAY TO PROVIDE LAND AND ACCESS FOR A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

IT ALSO INCLUDES THE LAYING OF A TRUNK SEWER, PART OF WHICH WILL BE A SUBMARINE PIPE ACROSS HANG HAU BAY. THIS WILL CONNECT TO A SEWER TUNNEL AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT THE SOUTHERN END OF JUNK BAY.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE JUNK BAY PROJECT MANAGER, MR T.D. ARMOUR, AND THE SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AOKI CORPORATION, MR SUNAO HORII.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE MOVING OF ABOUT 1.8 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF FILLING MATERIAL FROM AP TSAI PENINSULA TO RECLAIM 14 HECTARES OF LAND.

ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECLAMATION WILL BE MAJOR DRAINAGE WORKS INCLUDING 550 METRES OF STORMWATER CULVERT, 1 500 METRES OF TRUNK SEWER, 400 METRES OF WHICH WILL BE A SUBMARINE PIPE.

/THERE WILL

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THERE WILL ALSO BE 600 METRES OF ROAD CONNECTING THE HOUSING ESTATE WITH THE REST OF THE ROAD SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE BUILT AT THE SAME TIME.

THE AP TSAI PENINSULA WILL BE LANDSCAPED WHEN FILL MATERIAL HAS BEEN MOVED AND THE SLOPES WILL BE PART OF THE URBAN FRINGE PARK.

CONSTRUCTION WILL START SOON AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 30 MONTHS.

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SEMINAR ON SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

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MORE THAN 200 SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS WILL BE ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS ON SATURDAY (JUNE 1).

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING AT HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE SEMINAR WOULD PROVIDE A VENUE FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND VIEWS ON HOW SEX EDUCATION COULD BE PROMOTED IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), DR KONG YUN-FUN, WILL GIVE AN INTRODUCTORY TALK AT THE SEMINAR.

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION AND YOUTHWORK SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, MRS K. YAU= THE PRINCIPAL OF COGNITIO COLLEGE (KOWLOON), MR C.K. CHEUNG= THE PRINCIPAL OF YUEN LONG PAK KAU ENGLISH COLLEGE, MR M.K. TAM= THE PRINCIPAL OF KEI YUEN COLLEGE, MR Y.W. CHOW= AND THE PRINCIPAL OF HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, MRS E. MA.

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NEW COMPUTER FOR BETTER TEXTILE SERVICE

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTALLED A \$12.3 MILLION COMPUTER TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE TEXTILE TRADE IN HONG KONG.

KNOWN AS THE +PHASE III+ COMPUTER SYSTEM, IT IS AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE SYSTEM PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED FOR QUOTA ADMINISTRATION AND PROCESSING OF TEXTILE LICENCES.

USING AN IBM 4341 COMPUTER IT IS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM TO COVER EXPORTS TO ALL RESTRAINT MARKETS (INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, EEC, CANADA, SWEDEN, FINLAND, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND AND NORWAY).

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 1986, THE COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL BE LINKED TO 73 WORK-STATIONS WHICH CAN PROCESS OVER A MILLION LICENCES A YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE NEW SYSTEM TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID: +THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL IMPROVE THE SPEED AND ACCURACY OF LICENCE PROCESSING SO THAT BETTER SERVICE CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE TEXTILE TRADE.

+IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON QUOTA BALANCES SO THAT HONG KONG'S QUOTA UTILISATION CAN BE MAXIMISED.

+AND WITH THE SUPPLY OF MORE DETAILED EXPORT DATA, TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CAN NEGOTIATE BETTER EXPORT RIGHTS FOR HONG KONG TEXTILE GOODS.+

AMONG THE GUESTS AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE DATA PROCESSING MANAGER, MR STEPHEN LAU, PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILE TRADE, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM IBM WORLD TRADE CORPORATION.

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GRANTS OFFERED FOR SPORTS, OTHER PROJECTS

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APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FOR GRANTS FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION, FOR NON-CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS DEALING WITH RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR - 1985-86 - TO ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO INITIATE PROJECTS WHICH WILL OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE AND LONG-TERM BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC.

THE FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

/A SPOKESMAN

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID THAT THE FUND IS TO ENCOURAGE RECREATIONAL AND RELATED PROJECTS WHICH PROMOTE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, PURPOSEFUL USE OF LEISURE, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ESPECIALLY OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT PROJECTS SHOULD BE SPECIFIC AND ALLOCATIONS MUST BE ONCE-FOR-ALL GRANTS MADE FOR PARTICULAR ITEMS.

REQUESTS FOR CAMPING, CANOEING AND PHYSICAL EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, OR AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND THE LIKE WILL USUALLY BE CONSIDERED, HE SAID.

PROJECTS MUST ALSO CATER FOR A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE POPULATION.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO NEW PROJECTS AND ORGANISATIONS UNABLE TO OBTAIN FUNDS ELSEWHERE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES SECTION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY, COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, 11/F., WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT 5-458511.

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FUNDS OFFERED FOR SPECIAL STUDIES
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEAD OFFICE ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AND FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE RETURNED FROM SATURDAY (JUNE 1).

/+THE FUNDS

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+THE FUNDS ARE TO HELP PEOPLE WISHING TO SERVE THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES OR RELATED TRADES ON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES, AND THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIES, WHO WISH TO PURSUE FURTHER TRAINING,+ A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE FUNDS ARE ALSO AIMED AT ASSISTING CHILDREN OF FARMING AND FISHING FAMILIES TO COMPLETE THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLING AS A PREREQUISITE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION,+ HE ADDED.

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHEME IN 1978, MORE THAN \$1.78 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO DESERVING STUDENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO ATTAIN ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AT VARIOUS LEVELS.

+THIS YEAR, SOME \$640 000 HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE TO ASSIST STUDENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATIONS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDIES WILL CLOSE ON JULY 19 WHILE THOSE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 16.

THE AWARDS WILL BE TENABLE AT ANY UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC, ANY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, ANY ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS INSTITUTION AND AT ANY SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION SHOULD BE HONG KONG RESIDENTS, PREFERABLY UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE WHILE SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE STUDENTS IN FORMS 4 TO 7.

APPROVED COURSES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION INCLUDE THOSE ON AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, MARINE BIOLOGY OR ANY APPLIED SCIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OR FISHERIES INDUSTRIES AND RELATED TRADES.

+GRANTS TO COVER TUITION FEES AND PURCHASE OF BOOKS, AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO BE USED AS LIVING EXPENSES MAY BE AWARDED TO DESERVING NEEDY CANDIDATES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT STUDENTS APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS MAY ALSO APPLY FOR GRANTS AND/OR INTEREST-FREE LOANS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FUNDS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES SHOULD BE MADE BY TELEPHONING THE SECRETARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT 3-688111 EXT 510.

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BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS TACKLED
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THE REAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS LAY NOT IN MEASURES TO DEAL WITH SEPARATE AREAS OF CONCERN, BUT IN PROVIDING A SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT MET THE FULL RANGE OF NEEDS, ABILITIES AND INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING A GATHERING AT THE HONG KONG PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL DINNER, MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS TO THIS END THAT ALL INVOLVED IN EDUCATION HAD TO CONTINUE TO WORK.

GOVERNMENT HAD RECOGNISED IN 1981 THAT BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS AMONG STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS WERE INCREASING. THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS AND TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON REMEDIAL MEASURES, HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, AND MET REGULARLY. ITS MAIN WORK WAS TO TRY TO IDENTIFY THE KINDS AND EXTENT OF BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS, AND TO TAKE STEPS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION, MR LEUNG SAID.

TWO SURVEYS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS AMONG STUDENTS AND TWO REPORTS COVERING THE 1982-83 AND 1983-84 YEARS HAD THEN BEEN ISSUED, HE SAID.

A THIRD SURVEY WAS NOW IN PROGRESS.

IN ADDITION, A WORKING GROUP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP IN 1983 TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXISTING SERVICES IN COMBATING UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AND TO SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS.

THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED LAST YEAR AND WAS ENDORSED BY BOTH THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

FOLLOWING THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION, A DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET ON SERVICES TO HELP PUPILS WITH PROBLEMS, WAS PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SCHOOLS THIS MONTH AND A 'LEAFLET' VERSION OF THE PAMPHLET WAS BEING PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

AND A START WOULD BE MADE NEXT YEAR IN SETTING UP A SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM OF SPECIALLY TRAINED TEACHERS, SUPPORTED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS, COUNSELLORS AND INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AN OUTREACHING SERVICE TO HELP SCHOOLS EXPERIENCING BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS AMONG STUDENTS.

MR LEUNG SAID ALSO THAT THE ALLOCATION OF STAFF TO GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS BEING INCREASED TO ENABLE THEM TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES, AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

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TRAINING COURSE ON COMMUNITY SERVING
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APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FROM YOUNG PEOPLE IN KOWLOON CITY TO TAKE PART IN A TRAINING COURSE ON HOW TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE HEALTHY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TRAINING SCHEME IS AIMED AT PROVIDING A TWO-DAY COURSE ON JUNE 15 AND 16 FOR 100 YOUTHS AGED OVER 18 AND OTHERS WITH FORM 3 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE THE DEFINITION OF HEALTHY COMMUNITY, PROBLEM SOLVING, EFFECTIVE WORKING, AND SKILLS ON BODY CHECKING, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE.

+PARTICIPANTS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE FIELD PRACTICES IN JULY AND AUGUST,+ HE SAID.

+ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THEY WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.+

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON CITY YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OFFICE, OR ANY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT. COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 7.

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TO STRESS PEDESTRIAN NEEDS
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THE NEEDS OF PEDESTRIANS SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER EMPHASIS IN FUTURE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES, A STUDY ON PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED.

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENDORSED THIS RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS REVIEW 1984 AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN INVESTIGATING PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT SITES AND THE REMEDIAL MEASURES IMPLEMENTED AT SUCH SITES.

THE TAC ALSO NOTED THAT IN CONGESTED URBAN AREAS IT MIGHT SOMETIMES BE NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE CAPACITY OF THE ROADS FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN ORDER TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR PEDESTRIANS.

THE CAUSEWAY BAY PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME, WHICH IS NOW BEING INTRODUCED, TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THIS POLICY.

/HOWEVER,

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HOWEVER, BEFORE SUCH MEASURES ARE UNDERTAKEN, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL CONSULT OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICT BOARDS TO ENSURE THAT THE REASONS FOR THE MEASURES ARE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED.

THE PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS REVIEW 1984, WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR INFORMATION, IS THE 14TH IN THE SERIES.

IT LISTS OUT THE LOCATIONS OF PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES IN EACH DISTRICT BOARD AREA, IDENTIFIES THE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS, REMEDIAL MEASURES TAKEN AND ASSESSED THE EFFECTS OF THESE MEASURES AT SOME OF THE PROBLEM SPOTS.

+PROBLEM SPOTS+ ARE DEFINED AS LOCATIONS WHERE SIX OR MORE PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED IN A 12-MONTH PERIOD.

ALTHOUGH PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS CONTINUE TO DECLINE, THE REVIEW IS CONCERNED OVER THE HIGH FATALITY RATE. STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN 1983, PEDESTRIAN DEATHS ACCOUNTED FOR 70 PER CENT OF THE FATALITIES FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS FOR 45 PER CENT OF ALL RECORDED INJURY ACCIDENTS ON THE ROADS.

PEDESTRIANS FACED OTHER PROBLEMS APART FROM ACCIDENTS. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON, PARTICULARLY IN THE OLDER PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA, FOR PEDESTRIANS TO HAVE TO PUT UP WITH NARROW, CONGESTED PAVEMENTS WITH SLIPPERY OR UNEVEN SURFACES. THE REVIEW EMPHASISED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS EXAMINING A NUMBER OF AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE IN ABERDEEN, WHICH HAVE PARTICULAR PEDESTRIAN FLOW PROBLEMS AND VARIOUS SOLUTIONS RANGING FROM AREA-WIDE PLANS TO SMALLER SINGLE LOCATION IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE RECOMMENDED.

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20 COMPLETE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING COURSE
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TWENTY ASSISTANT OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHO HAVE COMPLETED A SOCIAL WORK TRAINING COURSE AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC RECENTLY, WERE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SIX-WEEK PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE TRAINING COURSE IS TO ENABLE OFFICERS TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY WHEN PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES TO PRISONERS AS WELL AS AFTER-CARE SERVICES TO ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE INMATES AND YOUNG INMATES.

IN ADDITION TO THEORETICAL TRAINING, OFFICERS PAID VISITS TO VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING A HALF-WAY HOUSE, A BOYS' HOME, A SKILL CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED AND THE HONG KONG DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY.

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, DR ROBERT ANDRY, AND THE ACTING HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OF HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR FOO TAK-NAM, OFFICIATED AT THE PRESENTATION.

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ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR RACE DAY
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TO COPE WITH THE FIRST RACE MEETING AFTER THE OPENING OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE, ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND HAPPY VALLEY ON SATURDAY (JUNE 1).

THESE ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BESIDE THE USUAL RACE DAY TRAFFIC MEASURES, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * A NUMBER OF ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM ABOUT 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE LAST RACE UNTIL RACEGOERS HAVE DISPERSED. THESE INCLUDE MATHESON STREET; YIU WA STREET; THE SECTION OF PERCIVAL STREET BETWEEN LOCKHART ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD (EXCEPT TRAMS); THE SECTION OF RUSSELL STREET BETWEEN LEE GARDEN ROAD AND PERCIVAL STREET.
- * ALL PARKING SPACES IN YIU WA STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 3 PM AND 7 PM.
- * BUSES ON CMB ROUTES 5B, 63 AND 81, AND GREEN MINIBUSES ON ROUTES 4, 5, 25, 28 AND 30 WILL BE DIVERTED AS A RESULT OF THE ROAD CLOSURES.

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NEW OFFICE FOR SELLING T.D. FORMS
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS THAT NO TRADE DEPARTMENT FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S COLLECTION OFFICE FROM JUNE 1 (SATURDAY).

THESE FORMS WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW FORM-SELLING AND COLLECTION OFFICE AT ROOM 822, EIGHTH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON; THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW OFFICE WILL ALSO BE USED FOR COLLECTING MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES.

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MEET THE MEDIA
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T.H. CHAU, AND THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR P.R. HOLMES, WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, TO EXPLAIN A SET OF DRAFT REGULATIONS ON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL.

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ISLAND TRAFFIC CHANGES
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MID-LEVELS AND CENTRAL FOR SLOPE AND ROAD WORK.

IN THE MID-LEVELS, ROBINSON ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN GLENEALY AND MOSQUE STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 2 AM AND 6 AM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 2). DURING THE CLOSURE TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CONDUIT ROAD.

IN CENTRAL, D'AGUILAR STREET, LAN KWAI FONG AND WO ON LANE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM UNTIL 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY ON JUNE 2 AND 9.

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1985

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR 20 DAYS IN JUNE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

FIRING PRACTICE WILL BE HELD FROM 8.30 AM TO 5 PM ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS: JUNE 4-7, 11-15, 17-21 AND 24-29.

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY TRADE LOBBYIST
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THE VISITING TRADE LOBBYIST FOR HONG KONG IN THE UNITED STATES, MR VERRICK FRENCH, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR LEN DUNNING, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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GRASS PITCHES CLOSED FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
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A NUMBER OF GRASS PITCHES IN URBAN COUNCIL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE CLOSED AS FROM SATURDAY (JUNE 1) TO FACILITATE ANNUAL RENOVATION AND RETURFING WORK.

THESE INCLUDE TWO PITCHES AT THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND AND ALL THESE AT THE HAPPY VALLEY SPORTS GROUND AND THE HO MAN TIN EAST SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND. THE TWO PITCHES AT THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND WILL BE REOPENED ON AUGUST 1 WHILE THE REST WILL BE READY A MONTH LATER.

MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG STADIUM AND THE GRASS PITCHES AT MORSE PARK AND TAI HANG TUNG RECREATION GROUND WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON JUNE 17 FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE. THEY WILL BE REOPENED FOR PUBLIC USE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

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