



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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LEGCO TO BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY ON UK RESPONSE

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INFORM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SOON AS RESPONSE ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986 IS RECEIVED FROM THE U.K. GOVERNMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO THE SPEECH BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 8, WHICH ASKED FOR A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DELIBERATIONS BY THE U.K. GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS, HOWEVER, NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE ANY INTERMEDIATE STATEMENT AT THIS STAGE.

+AS MINISTERS MADE CLEAR DURING THE DEBATES ON THE HONG KONG BILL LAST YEAR, THE PURPOSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON JANUARY 16 IS TO LISTEN TO VIEWS EXPRESSED IN PARLIAMENT ON THE DRAFT ORDER.

+UNTIL THIS DEBATE HAS TAKEN PLACE AND MINISTERS HAVE TAKEN ALL THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THAT DEBATE, AND MISS DUNN'S LETTER, INTO CONSIDERATION IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO MAKE ANY INTERMEDIATE STATEMENT AT THIS STAGE,+ HE SAID.

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LEGAL AID INCOME LIMIT RAISED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADOPTED A MOTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEGAL AID ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE LIMIT OF DISPOSABLE INCOME FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FROM \$1 500 TO \$2 200 PER MONTH.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE INCREASE WAS TO SET A FIGURE WHICH FULLY REFLECTED INFLATION AS INDICATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI (A)) SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGAL AID IN 1966, AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE OF LIMITED MEANS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN COURTS.

SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS AN INTERIM MEASURE PENDING THE REPORT OF THE LEGAL AID WORKING PARTY AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION, WHICH WAS PLANNED TO COMMENCE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

A REVISED SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS AN AIDED PERSON'S OWN LEGAL COSTS AND BASED UPON THE NEW LIMIT OF DISPOSABLE INCOME WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT CONTEMPORANEOUSLY, HE SAID.

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NUMBER OF FUTURE ELIGIBLE ELECTORS ESTIMATED
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THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTAINING THE AGE OF 21 IN THE COMING 12 YEARS AND QUALIFIED AS AN ELECTOR WILL BE BETWEEN 811 800 AND 1 018 800, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, SIR DAVID SAID THE BEST ESTIMATE AVAILABLE FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT 1 018 800 PEOPLE WOULD REACH THE AGE OF 21 IN THE NEXT 12 YEARS AND AMONG THEM 811 800 WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE COMING 12 YEARS ATTAINING THE AGE OF 21 AND QUALIFIED AS ELECTORS EITHER THROUGH HAVING BEEN BORN IN HONG KONG OR THROUGH HAVING SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE WOULD BE BETWEEN THOSE TWO FIGURES.

WHEN ASKED FOR THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION RATE FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE YOUNG PERSONS WHO BECAME 21 IN THE IMMEDIATE PAST 12 MONTHS, SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS NOT AVAILABLE AS NEW APPLICANTS FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ELECTOR WERE NOT REQUIRED TO STATE THEIR EXACT AGE.

+THEY ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO DECLARE THAT THEY ARE OVER 21 IN THE YEAR OF REGISTRATION.

+HAVING SAID THIS WE BELIEVE THAT THE RATE FOR YOUNG PERSONS AS A WHOLE IS BELOW THE OVERALL REGISTRATION RATE OF 47 PER CENT; AND THIS MUST BE A MATTER FOR CONCERN,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE APPLICATION FORM FOR INCLUSION IN A REGISTER OF ELECTORS SHOULD REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO STATE THEIR DATE OF BIRTH.

ON THE PLAN TO ENHANCE THE REGISTRATION RATE FOR THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED THAT ALL THOSE ELIGIBLE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS TO BE REGISTERED.

+TO THIS END PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS ARE CONDUCTED BEFORE EACH ANNUAL PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION.

+THE CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ALSO SERVES TO INFORM AND REMIND YOUNG PEOPLE OF THEIR RIGHTS TO REGISTER AS ELECTORS,+ HE SAID.

+THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SEND ALL PERSONS WHEN THEY REACH THE AGE OF 21 A LETTER SETTING OUT THE FACTS AND PROCEDURES IN REGARD TO REGISTRATION AS ELECTORS,+ SIR DAVID ADDED.

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POINTS ON EXCHANGE FUND CLARIFIED
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THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXCHANGE FUND IN TERMS OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES WAS CONFIDENTIAL, FOR IT WAS VERY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND ANY DISCLOSURE WAS AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, SIR JOHN HOWEVER NOTED THAT THE BULK OF THE EXCHANGE FUND WAS HELD IN U.S. DOLLARS, DEUTCHMARKS, SWISS FRANCS, DUTCH GUILDERS, YEN, STERLING AND CANADIAN DOLLARS.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO UPPER LIMIT TO THE FUND. +AT PRESENT BORROWING FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO A LIMIT OF \$30 BILLION AS DETERMINED BY THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE FUND WAS NOT MANIPULATED TO INTERFERE WITH THE INTEREST RATE.

+DEPOSIT RATES ARE SET BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS. THE PRIME RATE IS DETERMINED BY INDIVIDUAL BANKS,+ HE SAID.

SIR JOHN POINTED OUT THAT PROVISION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF ITS ASSETS IN HONG KONG WAS SET OUT IN THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN 1935 AND LAST AMENDED IN 1984.

CITING THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE, SIR JOHN SAID THE FUND +SHALL BE USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THINKS FIT AFFECTING, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE CURRENCY OF HONG KONG AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES INCIDENTAL THERETO+.

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NEW TDC FUNDING TO BENEFIT TRADE-RELATED ACTIVITIES
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THE NEW FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, THIS YEAR, MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ANY SURPLUS OVER THE SUM VOTED FOR THE TDC IN A YEAR, OUT OF REVENUE FROM THE AD VALOREM LEVY IN THE PRECEDING YEAR, LESS THE COST OF COLLECTION, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FUNDING OTHER TRADE RELATED ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON THOMAS CLYDESDALE, MR HO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT THE TDC ON WHICH TRADE RELATED ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE FINANCED FROM THE SOURCE.

+ACCORDINGLY, THE PRIORITIES WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE TDC,+ HE NOTED.

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SEA WATER FOR FLUSHING AN ONGOING PROGRAMME
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AN ONGOING PROGRAMME TO SUPPLY SEA WATER TO THE PUBLIC FOR FLUSHING OF TOILETS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON JOHN TODD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO THE HON MRS PAULINE NG, MR TODD SAID WHERE A SEA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM WAS AVAILABLE, FRESH WATER FROM THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM WAS USUALLY NOT PERMITTED FOR FLUSHING PURPOSES.

IN AREAS WHERE A SEA WATER SYSTEM WAS PLANNED, BUT NOT YET CONSTRUCTED, FRESH WATER WAS USED AS AN INTERIM MEASURE.

THERE WERE ALSO SOME PREMISES AND RURAL AREAS WHICH HAD THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER, GENERALLY DERIVED FROM WELLS.

+IN GENERAL, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES EXCEPT IN SAI KUNG AND IN SOME REMOTE VILLAGES, MAINLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ MR TODD SAID.

IN THE CASE OF SAI KUNG, THE PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS WHEN THE NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT PAK KONG WAS COMPLETED.

+IN RESPECT OF VILLAGES WHICH ARE AT PRESENT BEYOND REACH OF THE GOVERNMENT MAINS SYSTEM, A PROGRAMME IS IN HAND TO EXTEND SUPPLY TO MANY OF THESE AREAS,+ MR TODD SAID.

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NEW LABELLING REGULATIONS TO BE INTRODUCED
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE IDENTIFICATION AND LABELLING OF POTENTIALLY HARMFUL SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY BEING USED IN INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY PROFESSOR THE HON C.K. POON AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT UNDER THE PROPOSAL, INFORMATION TO BE CLEARLY SHOWN ON THE CONTAINER WOULD INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE SUBSTANCE OR SOME OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS AND ITS MAIN PROPERTIES.

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED THAT FOR HARMFUL SUBSTANCES, POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THOSE COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE CONTAINER AND BASIC PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WOULD ALSO BE CLEARLY STATED.

+THE COMMISSIONER IS HOPING TO PUT THE PROPOSAL TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR ITS CONSIDERATION IN DUE COURSE,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE PROVISIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE IN THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.

+SECTION 7 (4) OF THE ORDINANCE EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO PRESCRIBE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN ANY SPECIFIC INSTANCE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MORE GENERALLY, THERE WERE REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF HARMFUL DUST OR FUMES FROM THE WORKPLACE AND CONTROLLING CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES INVOLVING USE OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS.

MR HENDERSON SAID THAT TWO FURTHER SETS OF REGULATIONS, CONTROLLING THE USE OF ASBESTOS AND CERTAIN CARCINOGENIC SUBSTANCES, WERE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DRAFTING.

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GERIATRIC PATIENT PROBLEM TACKLED TWO WAYS
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THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE INFIRMARIES AND THE EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE ARE TWO WAYS USED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF CHRONIC GERIATRIC PATIENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAMBERS SAID PLANS WERE IN HAND TO INCREASE THE PRESENT TOTAL OF 1 040 INFIRMARY BEDS TO 3 290 OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT INFIRMARIES WERE INTENDED TO CATER FOR THE LONGER TERM AND CHRONICALLY ILL WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE HAD TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN CROWDED GENERAL HOSPITALS.

+INFIRMARIES ARE EQUIPPED AND STAFFED TO THE LEVEL OF CARE APPROPRIATE TO THESE PATIENTS AND ARE THEREFORE LESS LABOUR-INTENSIVE AND LESS EXPENSIVE TO OPERATE,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THUS MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO PROVIDE BEDS FOR SUCH PATIENTS IN INFIRMARIES, THEREBY RELEASING THE ACUTE BEDS FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE THEM.+

/MR CHAMBERS

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MR CHAMBERS ALSO SAID THE EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE, FROM THE PRESENT 45 CENTRES TO 60 OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, HAD BEEN PLANNED TO HELP REDUCE PRESSURE ON ACUTE HOSPITAL BEDS.

+THE SERVICE PROVIDES CARE IN THE HOME FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL AFTER TREATMENT BUT ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM AN ACUTE ILLNESS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT IN 1984-85, A TOTAL OF 12 059 PATIENTS, OF WHOM 40.5 PER CENT WERE ELDERLY, WERE TREATED BY COMMUNITY NURSES AND MORE THAN 213 000 HOME VISITS WERE MADE.

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O NEGATIVE BLOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM EXPLAINED

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IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE TO KEEP SUPPLIES OF O NEGATIVE BLOOD IN ALL HOSPITALS AS ONLY ABOUT 0.3 PER CENT OF THE CHINESE POPULATION OF HONG KONG HAD THIS TYPE OF BLOOD AND VERY SMALL QUANTITIES WERE DONATED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM CONCERNING THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A WOMAN IN THE OBSTETRICAL UNIT OF POK OI HOSPITAL, HE SAID THAT THE CORONER DID NOT FIND THAT THE DEATH WAS DUE TO A LACK OF EMERGENCY BLOOD TRANSFUSION FACILITIES IN THE HOSPITAL.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT THE CORONER HAD ADDED THREE RIDERS.

COMMENTING ON THE FIRST RIDER THAT O NEGATIVE BLOOD SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ALL HOURS AT THE HOSPITAL, HE SAID THAT +IN A DIRE EMERGENCY O POSITIVE BLOOD, WHICH IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE, CAN BE USED EVEN FOR A PATIENT WHOSE BLOOD IS RHESUS NEGATIVE+.

REGARDING THE OTHER TWO RIDERS -- THAT DOCTORS AUTHORISING TRANSFERS TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE TRANSFER WAS EFFECTED WITHOUT DELAY, AND THAT TRANSFERRED PATIENTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FULL MEDICAL RECORDS IN ADDITION TO THE DOCTOR'S REFERRAL NOTE -- MR CHAMBERS SAID THEY PRESENTED NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY AND WERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING PROCEDURES.

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ANNUAL CHECK OF GOODS VEHICLES PLANNED
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IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE THAT ALL GOODS VEHICLES SHOULD BE EXAMINED ANNUALLY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT SATISFACTORY THAT GOODS VEHICLES LESS THAN NINE YEARS OLD WERE NOT EXAMINED ANNUALLY.

+HOWEVER, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT VEHICLE EXAMINATION FACILITIES AT PRESENT TO ACHIEVE THIS. SO, IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE EXAMINATION OF PASSENGER CARRYING PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES,+ HE SAID.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF ALL GOODS VEHICLES WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN ABOUT FOUR YEARS WHEN A NEW VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE WAS COMPLETED.

IT WAS CURRENTLY IN CATEGORY AB OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL INSPECTION OF NINE-YEAR-OLD GOODS VEHICLES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT INSPECTED ANY VEHICLES WHICH APPEARED TO BE DEFECTIVE OR WERE IN A STATE OF POOR REPAIR, HE SAID.

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TUNNEL TAX DETERRENT +WEARING OFF+
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THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL PASSAGE TAX WAS WEARING OFF, AND THE SITUATION MIGHT BE BACK TO PRE-PASSAGE TAX LEVELS BEFORE LONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIM OF INTRODUCING THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL PASSAGE TAX IN JUNE 1984 WAS TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF TUNNEL TRAFFIC BY 10 PER CENT, AND IN THE THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX, THERE WAS AN AVERAGE DROP IN TRAFFIC OF 13 PER CENT.

IN 1983, AN AVERAGE OF 110 194 VEHICLES USED THE TUNNEL EACH DAY.

/IN JUNE,

IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 1984, THE THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PASSAGE TAX, THE DAILY AVERAGE WAS 92 155, 96 670 AND 96 436 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE DROP IN TRAFFIC OF 13 PER CENT.

+AS EXPECTED, USAGE OF THE TUNNEL HAS SINCE THEN INCREASED STEADILY,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

+BY DECEMBER 1984 THE DAILY AVERAGE WAS 104 198 VEHICLES, AND BY NOVEMBER 1985, 106 036 VEHICLES, WHICH IS ONLY 3.8 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE 1983 ANNUAL DAILY AVERAGE OF 110 194.+

MR NGAI HAD ASKED FOR +THE LATEST STATISTICS AND THE TRAFFIC FLOW CONDITIONS IN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL SINCE THE LAST TOLL INCREASE.+

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CLOSURE OF STUDENTS CENTRE EXPLAINED * * * * *

LIMITED PRESENCE, DECREASING OCCUPANCY RATE AND UNJUSTIFIED HIGH RUNNING COSTS WERE THE REASONS FOR CLOSING THE HONG KONG STUDENTS CENTRE IN LONDON, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR HENDERSON SAID THE CENTRE PROVIDED ACCOMMODATION FOR ONLY 90 STUDENTS IN LONDON OUT OF A TOTAL OF OVER 12 000 IN THE UK.

OCCUPANCY RATE HAD ALSO BEEN DECREASING STEADILY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS DUE LARGELY TO COLLEGE MAINTAINED ACCOMMODATION BEING MORE READILY AVAILABLE ESPECIALLY TO OVERSEAS STUDENTS, HE SAID.

+THIRDLY, COSTS CONTINUED TO EXCEED INCOME AND THE 50 PER CENT SUBSIDY COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED FOR THE SMALL NUMBERS INVOLVED.

+GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR THE CENTRE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS WAS \$6.9 MILLION AND THE ANNUAL RUNNING COSTS ARE EXPECTED TO RISE FURTHER IN FUTURE YEARS BECAUSE OF THE AGE OF THE BUILDING.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED JUSTIFIABLE TO KEEP THE CENTRE OPEN AT THIS COST TO THE HONG KONG TAXPAYER,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

HE SAID MAJOR INTERNAL ALTERATIONS HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1977 TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES OF THE CENTRE BEFORE DECISION OF ITS CLOSURE WAS MADE.

/MAIN IMPROVEMENTS

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MAIN IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED IN 1978 INCLUDED 15 EXTRA SINGLE BEDROOMS AND EXTRA BATHS AND SHOWERS, A NEW FIRE PRECAUTION SYSTEM AND FIRE ESCAPES, A NEW READING ROOM WITH 60 STUDY PLACES, A SELF-CATERING KITCHEN AND A DINING ROOM, A NEW OPEN-PLAN RECEPTION ROOM, A NEW TABLE-TENNIS ROOM AND TWO NEW TELEVISION ROOMS.

AFTER THE ALTERATIONS, THERE HAD BEEN A UPTURN IN THE OCCUPANCY RATE FROM 1978/79 FOR THREE YEARS, FOLLOWED BY A RETURN TO THE LEVEL BEFORE THE ALTERATIONS FOR TWO YEARS AND A GRADUAL DECLINE SINCE THEN, HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO SET UP AN ALTERNATIVE TO REPLACE THE STUDENTS CENTRE.

+THE NEED FOR THE CENTRE HAS DIMINISHED BECAUSE STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN THE UK ARE NOW COLLEGE ORIENTED.

+THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE HONG KONG STUDENTS IN BRITAIN,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE CENTRE ALL HONG KONG STUDENTS WOULD BE IN THE SAME POSITION AS REGARDS ACCOMMODATION BUT THEY WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO APPROACH THE STUDENTS DIVISION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON FOR ASSISTANCE, HE ADDED.

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LU PING TO CALL ON GOVERNOR

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MR LU PING, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL, WILL PAY AN INFORMAL CALL ON THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3.30 PM.

MR LU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION. A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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OVERNIGHT STOP FOR FCO MINISTER

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THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR TIMOTHY RENTON, WILL MAKE AN OVERNIGHT STOP IN HONG KONG ON JANUARY 23 AFTER HIS VISIT TO CHINA.

THIS WILL BE MR RENTON'S SECOND VISIT TO THE TERRITORY SINCE TAKING UP THE POST WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER 1985. HE LAST VISITED HONG KONG IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THE MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BY TRAIN FROM CHINA IN THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 23. DURING HIS SHORT STAY IN HONG KONG, HE WILL ATTEND A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE JOINING THE GOVERNOR AND UMELCO MEMBERS FOR DINNER AT THE UMELCO OFFICE.

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MR RENTON WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THAILAND TO CONTINUE THE VISIT WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR, MR RICHARD LUCE, HAD PLANNED TO MAKE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF MR RENTON'S PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN DETAILS ARE FINALISED.

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HONG KONG VOICES CONCERN OVER U.S. GSP MOVE
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THE GOVERNMENT TOLD A GROUP OF VISITING AMERICAN SENATORS TODAY THAT IT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROPOSALS TO EXCLUDE HONG KONG FROM THE UNITED STATES GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES (GSP).

A GROUP OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, HELD TALKS THIS MORNING WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION HEADED BY SENATOR JOHN DANFORTH. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT TEAM INCLUDED THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, AND THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROPOSALS IN THE TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1985 WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF HONG KONG FROM THE U.S. GSP.

MR DANFORTH AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE VISITING DELEGATION, MR MAX BAUCUS, ARE CO-SPONSORS OF THE ACT.

IT WAS STRESSED THAT HONG KONG IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO AN OPEN MARKET POLICY. THE TERRITORY ACCORDS TARIFF-FREE TREATMENT TO ALL U.S. IMPORTS, AND INDEED TO IMPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THIS IMPORTANT FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT. U.S. IMPORTS INTO HONG KONG AMOUNTED TO US\$3.1 BILLION IN 1984.

ABOUT 16 PER CENT OF THE UNITED STATES' TOTAL IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG, REPRESENTING US\$1 326 MILLION, ENTERED DUTY FREE IN 1984.

THE OFFICIAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ONLY ABOUT FOUR PER CENT OF TOTAL U.S. IMPORTS ENTERED DUTY FREE SO THAT EVEN IF SOME BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES ARE EXCLUDED THE BENEFITS TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE MINIMAL AND IT WILL IN NO WAY HELP TO SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S DEFICIT PROBLEMS.

APART FROM THE GSP ISSUE, THE OFFICIALS ALSO REITERATED THEIR STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE PROTECTIONIST JENKINS BILL WHICH SEEKS TO CURB HONG KONG'S TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED TO GAIN GREATER ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS RELEASED
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE IN THE QUARTER SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1985 COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1985, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1985 WAS 3.4 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.3 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1985.

THE RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1984 WAS 3.8 PER CENT. WHILE THE INCREASE OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, THE DECREASE OF 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984 IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, THE CHANGE IS GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1985 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 88 900, COMPARED WITH 88 100 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1985 AND 99 800 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1985 WAS 1.1 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 1.4 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1985. THE RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1984 WAS ONE PER CENT.

THE DECREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE INCREASE OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984 ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1985 WAS 30 100, COMPARED WITH 36 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1985 AND 24 900 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), 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 ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS (THAT IS, PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIED 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.

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HE ADDED 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.

THESE PROVIDED AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION. THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1985 WAS 3.4 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.1 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1985 WAS 3.7 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (GHS) CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TO CONFORM TO THE LATEST STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO, THE GHS DEFINITIONS OF +UNEMPLOYMENT+ AND +UNDEREMPLOYMENT+ HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1985.

HOWEVER, A COMPLETE CONVERSION WILL ONLY BE INTRODUCED IN MAY 1986 WHEN A SUFFICIENTLY LONG SERIES OF THE STATISTICS UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS IS AVAILABLE. USING THE NEW DEFINITIONS THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1985 WAS 3.3 PER CENT, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.3 PER CENT.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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KOWLOON CITY ROAD SAFETY FORTNIGHT LAUNCHED
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A SPECIALLY DECORATED PUBLICITY BUS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOURED KOWLOON CITY TO PUT ACROSS THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE.

THE BUS, CARRYING BANNERS AND EQUIPPED WITH LOUDSPEAKERS, IS PART OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY FORTNIGHT WHICH OPENED TODAY.

ON BROAD THE BUS WERE ROAD SAFETY AMBASSADORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY FORTNIGHT ORGANISING COMMITTEE, WHO DISTRIBUTED ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY SOUVENIRS TO PASSERS-BY.

THE BUS ALSO STOPPED AT VARIOUS TRAFFIC BLACKSPOTS TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF RESIDENTS TO ROAD SAFETY RULES.

A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD FROM TODAY UNTIL JANUARY 29 AT FOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS -- TANG KING PO SCHOOL, TIN KWONG ROAD (FROM JANUARY 15 TO 17), SKH ST TIMOTHY'S SCHOOLS, HOK YUEN STREET (FROM JANUARY 18 TO 21), HOLY CARPENTER SCHOOL, KWEI CHOW STREET (JANUARY 22 TO 24) AND PUI CHING MIDDLE SCHOOL, PUI CHING ROAD (FROM JANUARY 25 TO 29).

THE DISPLAYS INCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHS, SLOGANS, STATISTICS AND INFORMATION ON ROAD ACCIDENTS AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS.

ROAD SAFETY CODES ON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, BICYCLE RIDING ARE ALSO ILLUSTRATED.

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

THE ASSISTANT KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TOMMY YUEN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR MAK KING-LUN, OFFICIATED AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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LEISURE FACILITIES FOR NORTH DISTRICT

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TWO NEW SPORTS FACILITIES, UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HAVE BEEN OPENED TO THE PUBLIC, THE DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER (NORTH DISTRICT) OF THE RSD, MR CHU KWONG-MAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, HE SAID THE KWU TUNG GRASS SOCCER PITCH WAS OPENED ON DECEMBER 8 AND THE CHEUNG WAH SPORTS CENTRE ON JANUARY 6.

MR CHU SAID THE NEW SOCCER PITCH IN THE WESTERN SECTOR OF THE NORTH DISTRICT WAS CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF \$547 000. OCCUPYING 7 700 SQUARE METRES, IT HAS A 5 000 SQUARE METRE GRASS PITCH, WITH THE REMAINING AREA TAKEN UP BY OPEN SPACE AND SERVICE BUILDINGS. IT IS OPEN BETWEEN 8 AM AND 6 PM DAILY.

THE CHEUNG WAH SPORTS CENTRE, LOCATED IN CARPARK NO. 1 CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 430 SQUARE METRES. OPEN FOR USE DAILY FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM, IT HAS A FITNESS ROOM AND A DANCE ROOM.

MR CHU SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ORGANISE A TOTAL OF 27 RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

+THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A WELL-BALANCED AND COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE PARTICIPANTS. ADDITIONALLY, AN ORIENTEERING COMPETITION WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE RSD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE HONG KONG ORIENTEERING CLUB ON MARCH 23,+ HE ADDED.

ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH, THE CULTURAL SERVICES OFFICER, MR LO YIU-CHUNG, SAID THESE CONSIST MAINLY OF LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES HELD AT THE SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THEY INCLUDE BOOK EXHIBITIONS, INTEREST GROUPS, HI-FI CONCERTS AND EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

MR LO ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PLANNED CULTURAL SHOWS FOR PRESENTATION AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL SUCH AS AN ACROBATIC SHOW BY THE GUANGSHOU ACROBATIC TROUPE, AN ANNUAL DANCE PERFORMANCE BY THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION DANCE TROUPE, AN ORCHESTRAL CONCERT BY THE HONG KONG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, AND CARTOON SHOWS BY A FILM DISTRIBUTOR.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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KEEN BIDDING FOR LAST LUNAR FAIR SITE
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THE AUCTIONING OF THE LAST LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITE -- THE FA HUI PARK STALLS -- WAS HELD TODAY AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL WITH THE HIGHEST BID FOR A WET GOODS STALL BEING \$6 600 (UPSET PRICE \$1 500) AND THAT FOR A DRY GOODS STALL \$500 (UPSET PRICE \$340).

A TOTAL OF 236 WET GOODS STALLS AND 27 DRY GOODS STALLS WERE LET IN THE AUCTION.

UNLET LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES IN THE URBAN AREA WILL BE PUT UP FOR LEASE AT A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS PROVIDING FIVE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS THIS YEAR AT VICTORIA PARK, KOWLOON PARK, KAI TAK EAST PLAYGROUND, KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND AND FA HUI PARK BETWEEN JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 9.

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LBAC TO HOLD THIRD MEETING
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THE THIRD MEETING OF THE LAND AND BUILDINGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC) WILL BE HELD IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO INTERVIEW THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LBAC, MR BILL BROWN, AFTER THE MEETING. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE GROUND FLOOR LOBBY OF CGO AT 3.45 MPM.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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PASSING-OUT PARADE

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A PASSING-OUT PARADE FOR 30 CUSTOMS INSPECTORS AND 69 CUSTOMS OFFICERS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 18) AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL IN TAI LAM CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR DAVID FORD, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE DURING THE CEREMONY WHICH BEGINS AT 10.30 AM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

A DEPARTMENTAL VAN (AM 2970) TAKING MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO AND RETURN FROM THE TRAINING SCHOOL WILL DEPART FROM HUNG HOM FERRY PIER BY 9.15 AM.

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SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL PRESENT THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOLARSHIPS TO SIX OUTSTANDING YOUTH LEADERS OF THE 1985 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 17) AT 2.30 PM.

THE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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MEET THE MEDIA

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THE PRINCIPAL CONSULTANTS IN CHARGE OF THE FOUR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL MEET THE MEDIA TO TALK ABOUT THEIR WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 17) IN GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MEET

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THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROPOSED USE OF ANGLER'S BEACH AND GEMINI (WEST) BEACH IN TSUEN WAN FOR BARGE-LOADING OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH RECLAMATION FOR THE CONTAINER TERMINAL EXPANSION AND SHAM TSENG DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DECIDE ON SENDING A HYGIENE ADVISER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND WORLD CONGRESS FOODBORNE INFECTIONS AND INTOXICATIONS IN WEST BERLIN FROM MAY 26 TO 30 THIS YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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TENANCIES FOR TWO SITES SOUGHT
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES OF TWO STORAGE SITES.

THE FIRST, AT CONCORDE ROAD, KOWLOON CITY, MEASURES ABOUT 3 175 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS, INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH TRAILERS.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR EIGHT MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND LOT ON MOUSE ISLAND, TUEN MUN, IS FOR STORAGE, SALE AND DISPOSAL OF FOODSTUFFS.

THE TENANCY FOR THE 21.38-SQUARE-METRE SITE WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING BOTH TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 31.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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FIGHT CRIME GROUP VISITS PIK UK
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A GROUP OF FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED PIK UK PRISON AND THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

DURING THE TOUR, THEY WERE BRIEFED BY HEADS OF THE INSTITUTIONS ABOUT THE CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES, AND SAW ADULT INMATES WORKING IN THE LAUNDRY, CARPENTRY AND TAILORING WORKSHOPS OF THE PRISON.

WHILE AT THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, THEY SAW YOUNG INMATES ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES CONDUCTED BY QUALIFIED TEACHERS.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN WESTERN, CHAI WAN
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A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN WESTERN DISTRICT AND CHAI WAN FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY.

DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE WESTBOUND TRAM TRACK ON DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES WEST OF KA ON STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 68 METRES WEST OF THE SAME STREET.
- * VEHICLES WILL ALSO BE BANNED FROM THE EASTBOUND TRAM TRACK ON DES VOEUX ROAD WEST FROM A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF HILL ROAD TO WHITTY STREET.
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH WHITTY STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY. WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION, NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR GOODS OR PASSENGERS.
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 42 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WHITTY STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 48 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.
- * THE HONG MAN STREET BUS TERMINUS IN CHAI WAN WILL BE MADE A 24-HOUR PROHIBITED ZONE WHICH DENIES ENTRY TO ALL VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1986

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NAM CHEONG STREET TRAFFIC CHANGE

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THE UNDERPASS LEADING FROM EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD TO SOUTHBOUND NAM CHEONG STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM ON SATURDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD HEADING FOR SOUTHBOUND NAM CHEONG STREET WILL DIVERTED VIA EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO BEACON HEIGHTS IN TAI WO PING, NAM CHEONG STREET FLYOVER AND SOUTHBOUND NAM CHEONG STREET.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY, THE 24-HOUR DAILY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF NAM CHEONG STREET FLYOVER ABOVE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WILL BE LIFTED UNTIL 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 8.

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