



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BUS FARE RISE APPROVED

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BUS FARE INCREASES AVERAGING JUST OVER 40 PER CENT FOR KMB AND ABOUT 30 PER CENT FOR CMB WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 12.

IN APPROVING THE INCREASES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ACCEPTED A PACKAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AS THEY CURRENTLY APPLY TO THE BUS COMPANIES.

+A PROJECTION OF KMB'S PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT BY THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT SHOWS THAT IN ORDER TO BREAK EVEN IN 1981, THE COMPANY ACTUALLY REQUIRES AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ABOUT 50 PER CENT IN FARES WITH EFFECT FROM THIS MONTH,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE SMALLER INCREASE OF AROUND 40 PER CENT NOW APPROVED, WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED THE SAME RESULT, IF FARES HAD BEEN ADJUSTED ON FEBRUARY 1. HOWEVER, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES AND THE NEED TO GIVE FULL AND CAREFULL CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC REQUIRED A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF DELIBERATION THAN HAS NORMALLY BEEN THE CASE.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE IN THESE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES DECIDED TO MAKE A PAYMENT TO COVER THE ESTIMATED SHORTFALL IN KMB'S OPERATING ACCOUNT IN 1981 ARISING FROM THE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE LOWER LEVEL OF INCREASE. THIS SHORTFALL IS ESTIMATED AT \$40 MILLION,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THIS WILL SIMPLY PERMIT KMB TO BREAK EVEN, BUT NOT TO MAKE ANY PROFIT. THE 40 PER CENT FARE INCREASE WILL IN ANY CASE LEAVE KMB WITH A SUBSTANTIAL CASH FLOW PROBLEM BY THE END OF 1981,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE MAIN EFFECTS OF THE FARE INCREASES ON KMB'S SERVICES ARE THAT FARES ON URBAN ROUTES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL GO UP FROM 30 CENTS TO 50 CENTS AT THE BOTTOM END OF THE SCALE AND FROM \$1 TO \$1.50 AT THE TOP END.

FARES ON RURAL ROUTES WILL BE RAISED FROM 40 CENTS TO 60 CENTS AT THE BOTTOM AND FROM \$2 TO \$3 AT THE TOP.

FOR EXAMPLE, PASSENGERS TRAVELLING FROM STAR FERRY TO KOWLOON CITY WILL PAY 60 CENTS INSTEAD OF 40 CENTS AND FROM STAR FERRY TO LAI CHI KOK 70 CENTS INSTEAD OF 50 CENTS. THOSE USING THE JORDAN ROAD FERRY TO TSUEN WAN FERRY ROUTE WILL PAY \$1 INSTEAD OF 70 CENTS.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF CMB'S NEW SCALE ARE THAT FARES ON URBAN ROUTES WILL BE REVISED FROM 50 CENTS TO 60 CENTS AT THE BOTTOM END AND FROM 80 CENTS TO \$1 AT THE TOP END.

/THE LOWEST

THE LOWEST FARE ON CMB'S SUBURBAN ROUTES WILL ALSO BE RAISED FROM 50 CENTS TO 60 CENTS WHILE THE HIGHEST WILL GO UP FROM \$1.50 TO \$2.

THIS MEANS, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON THE URBAN ROUTE FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CLEVERLEY STREET WILL PAY 60 CENTS INSTEAD OF 50 CENTS AND THOSE FROM CHAI WAN TO WAN CHAI FERRY WILL PAY 80 CENTS INSTEAD OF 70 CENTS. THOSE TRAVELLING ON THE SUBURBAN ROUTE FROM WAH FU TO CENTRAL WILL PAY \$1.30 INSTEAD OF \$1.

FARES ON URBAN CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES OPERATED BY BOTH COMPANIES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1.50 TO \$2. 'BEYOND THE TUNNEL' FARES ON THESE ROUTES WILL REMAIN AT \$1.

STUDENT TRAVEL SCHEME

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A NEW SCHEME OF STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSIONS HAS BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL. THIS SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE HALF-FARE TRAVEL FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS AGED 12 AND OVER INCLUDING FIRST DEGREE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND WOULD APPLY TO TRAVEL ON ALL FRANCHISED MODES OF TRANSPORT AND THE MTR AND KCR. IT WOULD COVER TRAVEL ON MOST ROUTES WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS.

THE NEW SCHEME, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT AND TO FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL, WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER 1981.

MEANWHILE, INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WITH A VIEW TO EXTENDING THE EXISTING SCHEME ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THOSE OPERATORS NOT AT PRESENT TAKING PART IN IT. THE EXISTING SCHEME COVERS TRAVEL FOR FULLTIME SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL ON MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS ONLY (EXCLUDING PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS), USUALLY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM.

ON THE KMB AND CMB APPLICATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMPANIES SUBMITTED THESE LAST YEAR FOR AN UPWARD REVISION IN FARES AVERAGING 100 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE NEW FARES ARE REQUIRED TO MEET INCREASED OPERATING COSTS FOR FUEL, WAGES, MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS FOR THE EXISTING FLEET AS WELL AS FOR THE EXPANSION IN SERVICES. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CAPITAL COSTS OF EXPANSION, SUCH AS THE PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES, ARE MET BY THE COMPANIES' SHAREHOLDERS OR BY BORROWING, NOT FROM OPERATING REVENUE.

+IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATIONS THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT THE BUS COMPANIES SHOULD ULTIMATELY OPERATE AT A LEVEL OF PROFITABILITY WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A VITAL PUBLIC SERVICE WHICH CARRIED A TOTAL OF 3.4 MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY AND TO MAKE A REASONABLE RETURN ON THEIR ASSETS, + HE SAID.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SCALE OF THE INCREASE REQUIRED BY CMB WAS LESS THAN THAT REQUIRED FOR KMB, PARTLY BECAUSE THE BASIC CMB FARES WERE ALREADY HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING KMB FARES ON A PER KILOMETRE BASIS. HE POINTED OUT THAT, UNTIL 1980, KMB HAD MAINTAINED THE SAME FARE SCALE ON NON-CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES SINCE 1971 IN THE CASE OF URBAN ROUTES AND SINCE 1973 IN THE CASE OF NEW TERRITORIES ROUTES.

+THE LARGE INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS IN THE CASE OF KMB WAS ALSO AFFECTED BY THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF NEW ROUTES TO NEW TOWNS AND OTHER DEVELOPING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND NEW KOWLOON. SOME OF THESE ROUTES, UNTIL THEY ARE WELL ESTABLISHED, DO NOT COVER THEIR OWN COSTS,+ HE ADDED.

+NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE FARE INCREASE PROPOSED BY KMB, IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THIS APPLICATION CAREFULLY AND IN MORE DETAIL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BECAUSE OF THIS, THE TAC DID NOT MAKE FIRM AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON KMB'S FULL APPLICATION, BUT ADVISED THAT AN INTERIM FARE INCREASE SHOULD BE APPROVED TO ENABLE THE COMPANY TO BREAK EVEN IN 1981.

+THIS WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER LEVEL OF INCREASE NEXT TIME, ALTHOUGH IT IS HOPED THAT THE REVIEW WILL ENABLE THIS TO BE AS LOW AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

IN THE REVIEW OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, ATTENTION WILL BE PAID TO THE SPARE PARTS STOCK LEVELS, DEPOT REQUIREMENTS, THE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES AND THE PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINING BUSES. THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, WHICH ARE ROLLED FORWARD EVERY YEAR, WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED WITH BOTH BUS COMPANIES.

THE REVIEW OF THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEMES WILL INCLUDE A STUDY OF SOURCES OF INCOME CURRENTLY EXCLUDED FROM THE SCHEME, AND THE POSITION OF THE TYLEELORD COMPANY.

+THE GOVERNMENT VIEWS THESE STUDIES URGENTLY, AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO COMPLETE THEM AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE,+ HE CONCLUDED.

PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE CHANGES

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THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1980 WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON MAY 8.

THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) TO GIVE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AMPLE NOTICE AND TIME TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER.

TO ASSIST ORGANISERS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUBLISH A LEAFLET WHICH PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON THE MAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS.

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FREE OF CHARGE AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY (APRIL 15).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE AMENDING LEGISLATION REPRESENTED A RELAXATION OF EXISTING REQUIREMENTS IN THAT PUBLIC MEETINGS WOULD ONLY NEED TO BE NOTIFIED TO THE POLICE, INSTEAD OF BEING LICENSED.

HE ADDED THAT NOTIFICATION WOULD BE REQUIRED ONLY IN THE CASE OF SOME PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHEREAS THE EXISTING LICENSING REQUIREMENT APPLIED TO ALMOST EVERY TYPE OF PUBLIC MEETING.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ORGANISED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL, ACADEMIC, BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES WILL NOT HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED. ALSO EXEMPTED WILL BE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF UP TO 30 PEOPLE, MEETINGS HELD IN PRIVATE PREMISES WHERE UP TO 200 PEOPLE ARE ABLE OR EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND MEETINGS IN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS ORGANISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPRESSING VIEWS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, OR A SECTION OF IT, MUST BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING TO A POLICE STATION AT LEAST SEVEN WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE.

+ IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE POLICE WILL RETAIN THE POWERS TO PROHIBIT A POTENTIALLY UNRULY MEETING WHICH IS NOTIFIED AND TO DEAL WITH DISTURBANCES OR POSSIBLE BREACHES OF THE PEACE AT MEETINGS ALREADY UNDERWAY, + THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

ALSO PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY IS AN ORDER DESIGNATING PUBLIC AREAS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ORDINANCE. THEY ARE :

- THE HONG KONG STADIUM=
- THE BANDSTAND AREA IN VICTORIA PARK=
- THREE FOOTBALL PITCHES IN VICTORIA PARK=
- THE OPEN AIR THEATRE IN MORSE PARK=
- THE FOOTBALL PITCH IN KOWLOON PARK=
- TWO FOOTBALL PITCHES IN KOWLOON TSAI PARK.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THESE AREAS WILL STILL HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED BUT IT IS INTENDED THAT THEY COULD BE HELD MORE OR LESS AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE ON COMPLETION OF THE NORMAL BOOKINGS PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF THESE GROUNDS.

LION, DRAGON AND UNICORN DANCES AND ATTENDANT MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAYS HELD IN PUBLIC PLACES WILL NOT BE LICENSED UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE FROM MAY 8- UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1981, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ORGANISERS WILL INSTEAD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF THE GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM GROUPS MOVING ON THE HIGHWAY, PUBLIC PROCESSIONS WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE LICENSED.

THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE PUBLIC PROCESSIONS WHICH DO NOT TAKE PLACE ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY OR THOROUGHFARE, OR IN A PUBLIC PARK, AND THOSE WHICH CONSIST OF NO MORE THAN 20 PEOPLE.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR A LICENCE, OBTAINABLE FROM ANY POLICE STATION OR THE LICENSING OFFICE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

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PROPOSALS TO REVISE DEFINITION OF BANKING BUSINESS

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TWO BILLS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) CONTAINING DETAILS OF PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF BANKING BUSINESS AND TO DRAW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AS REFERRED TO IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S 1981 BUDGET SPEECH.

THEY ARE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981.

THE BILLS SEEK TO CREATE A NEW CLASS OF DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTION, SO THAT THE BUSINESS OF TAKING DEPOSITS WOULD IN FUTURE BE CARRIED OUT BY THREE DISTINCTIVE CATEGORIES OF INSTITUTIONS.

THE FIRST IS LICENSED BANKS, WHICH TAKE DEPOSITS OF ANY MATURITY IN THE COURSE OF THEIR RETAIL AND WHOLESALE BANKING BUSINESS, BUT WITH SUCH DEPOSITS SUBJECT TO THE INTEREST RATE AGREEMENT.

THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF LICENSING BANKS NOR IN THE FUNCTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY BANKS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION REDEFINES BANKING BUSINESS AS RECEIVING FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ANY DEPOSITS DUE IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS, OR PAYING OR COLLECTING CHEQUES, OR BOTH.

/WHILE THE

WHILE THE CARRYING ON OF BANKING BUSINESS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO LICENSED BANKS, DEPOSITS DUE IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS MAY ALSO BE RECEIVED BY THE SECOND, NEW CATEGORY OF DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTION TO BE KNOWN AS LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THERE WOULD BE NO LIMITATION TO THE TERM OF DEPOSITS SUCH COMPANIES COULD TAKE, BUT THE MINIMUM SIZE OF INITIAL DEPOSIT WOULD BE SET AT \$500 000. THESE COMPANIES WOULD NOT OPERATE CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

TO OBTAIN A LICENCE, A COMPANY WOULD HAVE TO BE REGISTERED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY AND HAVE PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL OF \$100 MILLION OR MORE.

LICENCES WOULD BE GRANTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR LICENCES REVOKED, WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

THE THIRD CATEGORY OF INSTITUTION WOULD BE REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, THAT IS, ANY WHICH ARE NOT LICENSED. THEY WOULD CARRY OUT THE EXISTING FUNCTIONS OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, EXCEPT THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE PERMITTED TO TAKE DEPOSITS WITH AN ORIGINAL TERM OF MATURITY OF LESS THAN THREE MONTHS.

THE MINIMUM INITIAL SIZE OF DEPOSIT WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY THESE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WOULD REMAIN AT \$50 000.

CERTAIN TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE PROPOSED TO ENSURE THAT COMPANIES WHICH ARE NOT GOING TO ACHIEVE LICENSED STATUS HAVE A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH TO RUN DOWN THEIR SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS. THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ALSO ALLOW COMPANIES WHICH APPEAR TO QUALIFY FOR THE STATUS OF A LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESS DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

THE TWO BILLS STATE THAT THE AMENDING LEGISLATION WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. IT IS FURTHER PROPOSED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW ORDINANCES SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON TWO DATES, 12 AND 24 MONTHS FROM THE OPERATIVE DATE.

BY THE END OF THE FIRST 12-MONTH PERIOD, ANY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WHICH WAS REGISTERED ON THE OPERATIVE DATE, AND HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED LICENSED STATUS, WOULD HAVE TO HAVE REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF ITS SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS TO 50 PER CENT OF THE AMOUNT IT HELD ON THE OPERATIVE DATE.

BY THE END OF THE SECOND 12-MONTH PERIOD, A REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO HOLD ON ITS BOOKS ANY DEPOSITS WITH AN ORIGINAL MATURITY PERIOD OF LESS THAN THREE MONTHS, AND FROM THAT DATE IT WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM ACCEPTING ANY MORE SUCH DEPOSITS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO REVOKE THE LICENCE AND REGISTRATION RESPECTIVELY OF A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY AT ITS OWN REQUEST IF THEY WERE SATISFIED THAT THE INTERESTS OF ITS DEPOSITORS WERE ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED.

/ADDITIONALLY, THE

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ADDITIONALLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO REVOKE THE LICENCE OF A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY ON CERTAIN SPECIFIED GROUNDS, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE COMPANY WAS NOT A FIT AND PROPER BODY TO REMAIN LICENSED.

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PUBLIC URGED TO USE LESS WATER

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WILLIAM TUCKER, TODAY APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE ECONOMY IN THE USE OF WATER.

THE APPEAL CAME IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT LOW LEVEL OF WATER STORAGE AND THE BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL FORECAST BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO BRING THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT INTO OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE SAID THE AIM WAS TO RE-ACTIVATE THE FIRST UNIT OF THE PLANT BY THE BEGINNING OF MAY WITH THE REMAINING UNITS BEING PHASED INTO OPERATION BY THE END OF AUGUST.

IN A FURTHER EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF OVERALL RESOURCES, MR TUCKER SAID, A REQUEST HAD ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF WATER, AND THEIR REPLY WAS AWAITED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT EVEN WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, THERE WAS STILL THE POSSIBILITY OF WATER RESTRICTIONS LATER IN THE YEAR, IF RAINFALL DURING THIS SUMMER WAS INSUFFICIENT.

MR TUCKER SAID: +THE OVERALL WATER SITUATION IS QUITE FAIR AT THIS STAGE, BUT THE POSITION IN REGARD TO HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, INCLUDING LANTAU, DOES GIVE RISE TO SOME CONCERN.

+THIS IS DUE TO THE SMALL STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE ISLAND RESERVOIRS WHICH PROVIDE PART OF THE SUPPLY TO THESE AREAS.+

DESPITE MEASURES INITIATED EARLY LAST YEAR TO REDUCE DRAWOFF FROM THESE RESERVOIRS BY MAXIMISING DELIVERIES OF WATER FROM MAINLAND SOURCES, HE ADDED, THE PRESENT STORAGE WAS STILL DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW.

/MR TUCKER

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MR TUCKER SAID: +THE STORAGE IN THE ISLAND RESERVOIRS AT THE END OF LAST SUMMER WAS NEAR THE MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR MAINTAINING A FULL SUPPLY THROUGHOUT THE DRY SEASON. THE QUANTITY OF THE WINTER YIELD LAST YEAR OR THE ADVENT OF SUFFICIENT RAIN BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THIS SUMMER WOULD THEREFORE DETERMINE WHETHER WE CAN CONTINUE FULL SUPPLY DURING THE EARLY SUMMER.

+THE WINTER YIELD AND THE PRE-SUMMER RAIN YIELD HAS BEEN VERY LOW AND IT IS NOW EVIDENT THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO BRING IN MILD RESTRICTIONS (A 16-HOUR DAILY SUPPLY WITH RESTRICTIONS FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY) FOR HONG KONG ISLAND BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, UNLESS SUFFICIENT RAINFALL IS RECEIVED BEFORE THEN.

+IF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY, THREE DAYS NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN.+

AS FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR TUCKER SAID, A FULL SUPPLY WOULD BE MAINTAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, WHEN THE SITUATION WOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF STORAGE, RAINFALL RECEIVED AND THE RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF WATER.

EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM AFFECTING SUPPLY IN HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, HE SAID: +THE ISLAND GETS MOST OF ITS WATER FROM THE MAINLAND VIA SUBMARINE PIPELINES AT NORTH POINT AND THE CENTRAL DISTRICT. THE YIELD OF THE ISLAND RESERVOIRS PROVIDES ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ITS REQUIREMENT.

+USUALLY THE YIELD FROM THE RESERVOIRS IS SUFFICIENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE CROSS-HARBOUR SUPPLIES, AND MEET THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT.

+SINCE THE BEGINNING OF LAST DRY SEASON, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED VERY LOW YIELD AT A PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE OF ONCE IN 50 YEARS.+

TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, WORK IS IN HAND ON THREE PUMPING STATIONS WHICH WILL BOOST THE CROSS-HARBOUR FEED AT NORTH POINT. THIS WORK IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMPLETION OF A FURTHER CROSS-HARBOUR PIPE IN MID-1983.

WHILE MILD RESTRICTIONS FOR HONG KONG ISLAND SEEM LIKELY, MR TUCKER SAID, THE ISLAND STORAGE POSITION IS ALWAYS VOLATILE AND A FEW HEAVY RAINSTORMS DURING THE NEXT FORTNIGHT COULD RENDER RESTRICTIONS UNNECESSARY.

+WATER,+ HE SAID, +IS A VERY PRECIOUS RESOURCE IN HONG KONG AND I WOULD URGE ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO SAVE WATER.+

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PRIVATE HIRE CAR OPERATORS MAY APPLY FOR PERMITS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATION FOR HIRE CAR PERMITS FOR PRIVATE CARS WHICH PROVIDE A PRIVATE HIRE CAR SERVICE.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE ISSUE OF PERMITS FOLLOWS AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS WHICH RELATE TO THE OPERATION OF PRIVATE HIRE CARS FOR PERSONALISED TRANSPORT SERVICES ON A CONTRACT HIRE BASIS.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, WHICH BECOMES EFFECTIVE TODAY, PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICES SUCH AS HOTEL HIRE CARS, TOUR HIRE CARS, AIRPORT HIRE CARS, SCHOOL HIRE CARS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS.

THE PRESENT INVITATION IS RESTRICTED TO PRIVATE HIRE APPLICATIONS ONLY. APPLICATIONS FOR OTHER CATEGORIES WILL BE INVITED AT A LATER DATE. ONLY ONE PERMIT AN APPLICANT WILL BE ISSUED AND THE APPLICANT MUST BE THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE PRIVATE CAR FOR WHICH A PERMIT IS SOUGHT.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAS THE DISCRETION TO ISSUE PERMITS IF HE IS SATISFIED THAT CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS SET OUT IN THE REGULATIONS ARE FULFILLED, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

GAZETTE NOTICES ISSUED TODAY (FRIDAY) GIVE DETAILS OF PROCEDURES, CLOSING DATES, ETC. AND SPECIFIES THE NUMBERS OF PERMITS TO BE ISSUED IN EACH CATEGORY.

PERMITS ARE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN OPERATOR TO KEEP A RECORD OF CAR SERVICE HIRING AT HIS REGISTERED OPERATING ADDRESS, TO DISPLAY THE PERMIT INSIDE THE VEHICLE, TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE GARAGING AND MAINTENANCE.

THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER TO REFUSE TO ISSUE A PERMIT, TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL PERMIT CONDITIONS AND TO CANCEL A PERMIT CAN BE REVIEWED BY A TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF EACH APPLICANT, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE IN THE AREA WHERE THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO OPERATE THE HIRE CAR SERVICE- WHETHER THE APPLICANT CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE AREA FROM WHICH HE PROPOSES TO OPERATE REQUIRES A HIRE CAR SERVICE.

IF THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF PERMITS AVAILABLE, A BALLOT WILL BE HELD.

THE PERMIT FEE IS \$1 000 PER ANNUM AND \$350 FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS. THE PERMIT WILL NOT BE TRANSFERABLE.

APPLICATION FORMS, WHICH CONTAIN DETAILED EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED ON PRESENTATION OF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION BOOK, OR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE BOOK, OR OTHER WRITTEN PROOF OF THE VEHICLE OWNERSHIP FROM:

/TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION,
MEZZANINE FLOOR,
MURRAY ROAD CAR PARK,
HONG KONG ISLAND

OR

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE,
9TH FLOOR, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE,
56 DUNDAS STREET,
KOWLOON

ANY ENQUIRIES ON HIRE CAR PERMITS CAN BE MADE BY CONTACTING
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PUBLIC VEHICLE SECTION, AT TELEPHONE
5-256527.

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JAPAN EXTENDS GSP TO TWO MORE HONG KONG PRODUCTS
* * * *

JAPAN HAS EXTENDED BENEFITS UNDER ITS GENERALISED SCHEME OF
PREFERENCES TO TWO MORE HONG KONG PRODUCTS - LEATHER FOOTWEAR AND
JEWELLERY OF PRECIOUS METAL.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND
CUSTOMS, MR BILL DORWARD SAID: +THIS IS A VERY WELCOME MOVE. HONG
KONG HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BENEFICIARY UNDER THE JAPANESE SCHEME, BUT
THERE HAS BEEN A SPECIAL LIST OF EXCLUSIONS FROM THE TIME IT BEGAN
10 YEARS AGO. ORIGINALLY THERE WERE ABOUT 90 PRODUCTS ON THE LIST
BUT THESE HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY REDUCED, AND THIS LATEST IMPROVEMENT
BRINGS THE NUMBER DOWN TO FIVE.+

THE FIVE ITEMS REMAINING ON THE EXCLUSION LIST ARE TRAVEL
GOODS, ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, GLASS BEADS, IMITATION JEWELLERY, AND
TOYS. EXPORTS OF THESE ITEMS TO JAPAN IN 1980 WERE WORTH OVER
HK\$200 MILLION, ABOUT NINE PER CENT OF TOTAL HONG KONG EXPORTS TO
JAPAN.

+ALTHOUGH I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT A SPECIAL HONG KONG EXCLUSION
LIST IS STILL BEING MAINTAINED, I APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL
DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME TO
MAKE THIS IMPROVEMENT.

+WE SHALL BE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM
TO EXTEND PREFERENCES ON THE REMAINING ITEMS IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY
DO FOR OUR CLOSE COMPETITORS,+ SAID MR DORWARD.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1981

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SHA TIN RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR SALE
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THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS TO AUCTION A LARGE, HIGH-CLASS RESIDENTIAL SITE IN SHA TIN AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE 9 451 SQUARE-METRE SITE, SITUATED NEAR KAU TO AND OVERLOOKING THE RACECOURSE, IS FOR TWO-STOREY PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE PLOT RATIO IS 0.4.

THE BUILDING COVENANT IS \$7.08 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

DETAILS OF THE AUCTION AND CONDITIONS OF SALE ARE OBTAINABLE AT NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND ISLANDS, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICES.

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SCHOOLS REMINDED TO RETURN JSEA FORMS
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ALL SCHOOLS ARE REMINDED TO RETURN BY MONDAY, APRIL 13, THE CHOICE OF SCHOOL FORMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED SCHOOLS TO CO-OPERATE TO AVOID UPSETTING THE TIMETABLE FOR ALLOCATION OF AIDED FORM 4 PLACES.

HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT PUBLIC MISCONCEPTION THAT THE JSEA WOULD DECIDE WHETHER A PUPIL COULD CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION.

+THE SYSTEM MERELY SERVES THE PURPOSE OF ALLOCATING AIDED FORM 4 PLACES WHERE SUCCESSFUL PUPILS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A STANDARD FEE.

+PUPILS NOT ALLOCATED SUCH AIDED PLACES, OR THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO TAKE UP AIDED PLACES ALLOCATED TO THEM FOR VARIOUS REASONS, MAY PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION BY APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN FACT, PRIVATE SCHOOL PUPILS ARE FREE TO INFORM THEIR SCHOOLS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION IN THE SAME SCHOOL.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1981

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PHOTOGRAPHY TALKS FOR ART TEACHERS

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EXPERTS WILL BE GIVING TALKS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL ART TEACHERS LATER THIS MONTH ON PHOTOGRAPHY AS A MEANS OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND AS A MIXED MEDIUM.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE PLACE OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE CURRICULUM OF ART AND DESIGN IN SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HOW IT CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH OTHER CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE ART SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE. IT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 22 AT THE RECITAL HALL ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG.

ART TEACHERS WISHING TO ATTEND THE ABOVE SEMINAR SHOULD APPLY THROUGH THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOL TO THE INSPECTOR (ART) OF THE ART SECTION.

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TWO NORTH POINT ROAD SECTIONS DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS

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FROM 10 AM ON APRIL 14, TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN NORTH POINT WILL BE DESIGNATED RESTRICTED ZONES, AND ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING ON AND SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS OR LOADING AND UNLOADING GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE TWO ROAD SECTIONS ARE SHU KUK STREET FROM TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD TO A POINT 71 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH JAVA ROAD- AND TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SHU KUK STREET TO A POINT 35 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

THE RESTRICTED ZONES WILL BE SHOWN BY TRAFFIC SIGNS.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1981

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NEW MAXICAB SERVICE FOR LAI KING RESIDENTS
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A NEW MAXICAB ROUTE WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM SUNDAY (APRIL 12) TO OPERATE BETWEEN LAI KING HEADLAND AND LAI CHI KOK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE ROUTES NO. 90, WILL START FROM LAI KING HEADLAND AND TRAVEL VIA LAI KONG STREET, LAI CHI LING ROAD, WAH YIU ROAD, LAI YIU STREET, LAI CHO ROAD, JOINT STREET, LAI KING HILL ROAD, LAI WAN ROAD, MEI LAI ROAD, LAI CHI KOK BEACH ROAD AND WILL RETURN TO LAI KING HEADLAND IN THE SAME MANNER.

THE SERVICE WILL EXTEND TO COVER WAH YUEN CHUEN WHEN RESIDENTS MOVE INTO THE ESTATE IN MAY.

IT WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 5.45 AM AND 11 PM DAILY AT A BASIC SIX-MINUTE FREQUENCY.

FARES WILL BE FIXED AT \$1 FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY WITH SECTIONAL FARE OF 50 CENTS AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

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