



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1982

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/PENALTY FOR



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CONTROL OF TRAVEL AGENTS APPROVED
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST FRAUDULENT TRAVEL AGENTS.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID THE MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS OF THE OUTBOUND TRAVEL INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE CONSUMER AWARENESS OF THE PRACTICES OF THE INDUSTRY.

AFTER CONSIDERING PROPOSALS MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES ON THE ADVICE OF A WORKING PARTY, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO REQUIRE TRAVEL AGENTS, WHETHER CORPORATE OR INDIVIDUAL, TO BE REGISTERED AND LICENSED. THE WORKING PARTY, COMPRISING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, WAS SET UP TO ADVISE ON MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AFFORD MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC A REASONABLE DEGREE OF PROTECTION AGAINST FRAUD IN GENERAL, AND ABSCONDMENT IN PARTICULAR, HAVING DUE REGARD TO THE NEED TO MAINTAIN COMPETITION WITHIN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY.

+THE BASIC AIM OF THE PROPOSALS IS TO REQUIRE TRAVEL AGENTS TO CONFORM WITH FINANCIAL AND OPERATING STANDARDS SUFFICIENT TO GIVE THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC A DEGREE OF ASSURANCE THAT THEY ARE DEALING WITH A BONA FIDE BUSINESS AND WITH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO JUDGE THE NATURE OF THEIR PURCHASES,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

BASIC CRITERIA WOULD GOVERN THE GRANTING OF LICENCES TO BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF SERVICES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. THESE COULD INCLUDE A MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL, THE USE OF OFFICE PREMISES DEVOTED WHOLLY AND EXCLUSIVELY TO THE BUSINESS, A MINIMUM NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE AND THE GOOD STANDING OF APPLICANTS (E.G. WITHOUT A CRIMINAL RECORD, FINANCIALLY SOUND, ETC.).

THE CONDITIONS ARE SIMILAR TO THE EXISTING MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, THE CONDITIONS ON WHICH THE AIRLINES APPOINT TICKETING AGENTS AND THE INTERNAL RULE BY WHICH THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION QUALIFIES TRAVEL AGENTS AS MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

MR YEUNG SAID ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS IN HONG KONG WERE SMALL BUSINESSES WHICH ACTED ESSENTIALLY AS BROKERS.

+IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A SEPARATE CLASS OF LICENCE TO ENABLE THESE TRAVEL AGENTS TO STAY IN BUSINESS BECAUSE OF THE VALUABLE SOURCE OF RETAIL BUSINESS THEY PROVIDE TO THE ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES AND IN ORDER TO KEEP COMPETITION ALIVE AND, THEREFORE, PRICES AT REASONABLE LEVELS.+

HE ADDED THAT TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO ALLOW SMALLER BUSINESSES TO MEET THE CRITERIA WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, AFTER WHICH ANY TRAVEL AGENT FOUND OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENCE WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

/IT IS

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE POWER OF REGISTRATION AND LICENSING WOULD BE VESTED IN A REGISTRAR OF TRAVEL AGENTS AND THAT LICENCE FEES WOULD BE PITCHED TO COVER THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE SYSTEM.

ONCE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DRAFTED IT WILL BE PUT TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MEANWHILE, MR YEUNG SAID, ACTION IS ALREADY BEING TAKEN BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A PROGRAMME OF PUBLICITY BEFORE CHINESE NEW YEAR IN FEBRUARY.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE MOUNTED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR CORRESPONDING TO PEAK TRAVEL PERIODS,+ HE SAID.

THE OBJECT OF THE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC GENERALLY ABOUT THE TRAVEL BUSINESS AND HOW TRAVEL AGENTS CONDUCT THEMSELVES, TO WARN THEM ABOUT SHARP PRACTICES, AND TO INFORM THEM OF REASONABLE PRACTICES AND OF THE TYPE OF SERVICES THEY CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO OBTAIN FROM RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL AGENTS.

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BREMIDGE EXPRESSES FAITH IN CONTINUED PROSPERITY
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMIDGE SAID TODAY THAT HE WAS UNPERTURBED BY THE CHATTERING GOING ON AT PRESENT, AS HE BELIEVED PROFOUNDLY IN THE CONTINUED STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS MY OBSERVATION THAT THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW, THE MORE THEY TALK. AND GOD KNOWS HOW SOME TALK NOW AT THE SLIGHTEST INVITATION -- AND ARE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FAR EAST EXCHANGE THIS EVENING, MR BREMIDGE SAID HE PREFERRED THE APPROACH OF THE MAJOR HONG KONG BANKS.

+THEY TALK LITTLE BUT DO MUCH. THANK GOODNESS FOR THEIR CONTINUED AND RESPONSIBLE STAND. WE OWE THEM A GREAT DEAL,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE GOOD ORDER WHICH THE STOCK MARKET HAD SHOWN IN THESE DIFFICULT AND NOVEL TIMES.

+THERE HAS BEEN A REVISION IN THE MARKET ASSESSMENT OF OUR ECONOMY, BUT THE MARKET HAS NOT HAD TO MEET ANYTHING LIKE PANIC SELLING.+

HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT BEFORE TOO LONG THE ACTIVITIES IN THE FAR EAST EXCHANGE WOULD SHOW THAT, AS ALWAYS IN HONG KONG, +WE HAVE TOGETHER SOLVED OUR TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES+.

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MR BREMRIDGE'S SPEECH:

+CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

+WHEN YOU KINDLY INVITED ME TO ATTEND YOUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION I WONDERED MILDLY WHAT SORT OF MARKET YOU AND YOUR MEMBERS WOULD BE TOASTING THIS EVENING.

+LOOKING AROUND THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD I SUPPOSE ONLY THE BROKERS IN NEW YORK AND LONDON HAVE LARGE PROFITS TO CELEBRATE. THEIR VOLATILITY HAS IN FACT NOT PRODUCED MUCH TURNOVER. THERE HAS BEEN A REVISION IN THE MARKET ASSESSMENT OF OUR ECONOMY, BUT THE MARKET HAS NOT HAD TO MEET ANYTHING LIKE PANIC SELLING.

+I AM IMPRESSED BY THE GOOD ORDER WHICH THE MARKET HAS SHOWN IN THESE DIFFICULT AND INDEED NOVEL TIMES. I WAS ENCOURAGED, MR CHAIRMAN, WHEN YOU CALLED THE ATTENTION OF YOUR MEMBERS TO THE DANGERS OF A BEAR SELLING IN THIS MARKET. WE CAN DO WITHOUT BEAR SELLING IN EITHER THE PHYSICAL OR METAPHORICAL SENSE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AS THE LARGEST OF OUR EXCHANGES, YOU HAVE THE MAIN ROLE IN SETTING STANDARDS BEFORE UNIFICATION.

+ON THAT POINT AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE I WOULD EXPRESS MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW EXCHANGE. MR WOO HON FAI HAS RENDERED STERLING SERVICE IN WELDING THE COMMITTEE TOGETHER IN ITS FIRST YEAR. YOU BECOME LEADER WHEN MAJOR DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN AND I WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR TASK.

+AS FOR THE FAR EAST EXCHANGE, I WISH ALL ITS MEMBERS A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. I AM SURE THAT BEFORE TOO LONG THE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR MARKET WILL SHOW THAT, AS ALWAYS IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE TOGETHER SOLVED OUR TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES.

+AS I BELIEVE PROFOUNDLY IN THE CONTINUED STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, I AM UNPERTURBED BY THE CHATTERING GOING ON AT PRESENT.

+IT IS MY OBSERVATION THAT THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW, THE MORE THEY TALK. AND GOD KNOWS HOW SOME TALK NOW AT THE SLIGHTEST INVITATION - AND ARE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY.

+LET US PREFER THE APPROACH OF THE MAJOR HONG KONG BANKS. THEY TALK LITTLE BUT DO MUCH. THANK GOODNESS FOR THEIR CONTINUED AND RESPONSIBLE STAND. WE OWE THEM A GREAT DEAL.

+MAY I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE PROSPERITY AND CONTINUED GOOD ORDER OF YOUR EXCHANGE AND YOUR MEMBERS.+

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OCTOBER SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED STATISTICS FROM THE MONTHLY SURVEY FOR OCTOBER 1982.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES (CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979) AS WELL AS OF THE 43 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, BUT SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED TAKEN TOGETHER, EMPLOYMENT DECLINED IN OCTOBER 1982 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

EMPLOYMENT DROPPED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY ON ACCOUNT OF LESS DEMAND FOR SOFT DRINKS AFTER THE SUMMER SEASON.

EMPLOYMENT ALSO DECLINED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES AS A RESULT OF THE RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS BY A FEW FACTORIES SURVEYED.

TAKING ALL OF THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED AS A WHOLE, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. HOWEVER, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DROPPED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BECAUSE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF SEVERANCE PAY WAS GIVEN OUT IN THE PRECEDING MONTH.

PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ALSO DROPPED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AS BONUSES WERE AWARDED BY A FACTORY IN THE PRECEDING MONTH, AND LESS OVERTIME WORK WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE CURRENT MONTH IN SEVERAL OTHER FACTORIES SURVEYED.

THE DECLINE IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR WORKERS IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY WAS CAUSED BY THE SLACKENED DEMAND FOR SOFT DRINKS AFTER SUMMER.

IN THE CASE OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES, THE DROP IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WAS DUE TO THE AWARD OF BONUSES AND BACK PAY BY TWO OF THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IN THE PRECEDING MONTH.

THE OVERALL VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) AS REPORTED BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED FOR OCTOBER 1982 DECLINED SLIGHTLY AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. LESS ORDERS-ON-HAND WERE RECORDED FOR THE PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, PER CAPITA EARNINGS AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLE.

/THE SURVEY

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1982 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1.50 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7221914).

A. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

<u>INDUSTRY/SERVICE</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED</u>			<u>PER CAPITA EARNINGS</u>			<u>PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR OCTOBER 1982 (HK\$)</u>
	<u>(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)</u>						
	<u>AUG. 1982</u>	<u>SEP. 1982</u>	<u>OCT. 1982</u>	<u>AUG. 1982</u>	<u>SEP. 1982</u>	<u>OCT. 1982</u>	
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	-4	-3	-1	1	2	*	2 211
FOOD AND DRINKS	1	2	-3	3	-2	-4	2 959
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-1	-2	*	*	-2	2	1 902
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-6	-1	1	1	-1	3	2 102
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-8	-9	*	*	6	-8	1 822
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-2	-5	-2	3	24	-17	1 989
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-6	-5	-3	2	3	3	2 148
OTHERS	-2	-1	-1	*	1	*	3 026
<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>	*	*	*	1	1	*	3 385
<u>SERVICES</u>	1	*	*	-2	6	-4	4 012
BANKS	*	*	*	7	-3	*	3 585
HOTELS	-1	-1	*	2	1	*	2 439
PUBLIC UTILITIES	1	1	1	-6	17	-10	4 054
OTHERS	1	1	*	-2	-3	2	5 735

B. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR OCTOBER 1982</u>
	<u>AUG. 1982</u>	<u>SEP. 1982</u>	<u>OCT. 1982</u>	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	3	*	4.60
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-4	-3	-3	2.10
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	-1	-10	2.88
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-8	5	-7	2.27
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	-5	-3	4.35
OTHERS	*	-1	1	3.42
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	*	-1	-2	3.73

* CHANGES WITHIN + 0.5%

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RAILWAY AREA PLANS FOR ISLAND LINE AMENDED

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THE EXISTING RAILWAY AREA PLANS FOR THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BETWEEN SHEUNG WAN AND SHAU KEI WAN HAVE BEEN AMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

THE AMENDED PLANS, WHICH REPLACE ALL PREVIOUSLY GAZETTED RAILWAY AREA PLANS FOR THIS SECTION OF THE ISLAND LINE, HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND COPIES OF THE PLANS MAY BE INSPECTED FREE OF CHARGE AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG; AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT OFFICES, MURRAY BUILDING (5TH FLOOR), GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICE.

FOLLOWING THIS ACTION, THE RAILWAY AREA, WITHIN WHICH LAND MAY BE RESUMED OR EASEMENTS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND OPERATING THE ISLAND LINE, IS DELINEATED ON THREE RAILWAY AREA PLANS; NO. 12A AND 15A, WHICH SUBSTITUTE ALL PREVIOUS PLANS BETWEEN SHEUNG WAN AND SHAU KEI WAN, AND NO. 20 WHICH COVERS THE SECTION FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CHAI WAN AND WHICH REMAINS UNCHANGED. THIS WILL ASSIST PROPERTY OWNERS, WHOSE LAND MAY BE AFFECTED BY RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, IN IDENTIFYING THE EXTENT OF THE LAND INCLUDED IN THE RAILWAY AREA.

THE NEW PLANS INCORPORATE ALL LAND PREVIOUSLY SHOWN ON THE SUPERSEDED RAILWAY AREA PLANS AND, IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RECENTLY INCLUDED WITHIN THE GAZETTED RAILWAY AREA.

THE ISLAND LINE IS BEING DEVELOPED BY GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO A STRICT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME, IN ORDER TO RELIEVE COMMUTER TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL URBAN AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. BECAUSE OF THE EXIGENCIES THAT THIS PROGRAMME IMPOSES, PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE RAILWAY AREA WHERE A POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THESE MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE RAILWAY WORKS. WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPERTIES ARE ACTUALLY AFFECTED DEPENDS UPON GROUND CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED AS TUNNELLING AND STATION CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS AND THE STRUCTURAL ABILITY OF OLDER BUILDINGS TO WITHSTAND NEARBY UNDERGROUND WORKS.

OCCUPIERS OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR RAILWAY PURPOSES WILL, WHERE ELIGIBLE, BE OFFERED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

/THE ALIGNMENT

THE ALIGNMENT OF THE RAILWAY AND THE LOCATION OF BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH IT HAVE, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM AND THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION, BEEN CHOSEN WITH GREAT CARE SO THAT THE EFFECT ON PROPERTIES IS KEPT TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. IT IS THE INTENTION THAT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE OWNERS OF AFFECTED PROPERTIES WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDEVELOP THEIR PROPERTIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME SO THAT NOT ALL THE AFFECTED SITES WILL NEED TO BE RESUMED BY GOVERNMENT. UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, THE OWNERS OF LAND AND PROPERTIES RESUMED OR OVER OR UNDER WHICH EASEMENTS ARE CREATED MAY CLAIM COMPENSATION.

AS WELL AS GIVING THE GOVERNOR THE POWER TO ORDER RESUMPTION OR THE CREATION OF EASEMENTS, THE ORDINANCE ALSO EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT TO REQUIRE THE OWNER OF ANY BUILDING IN THE RAILWAY AREA TO REMOVE ANY OBJECT OR STRUCTURE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO, OR PROJECTS FROM, A BUILDING IF HE CONSIDERS ITS REMOVAL IS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING THE RAILWAY.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LINE DOES NOT MEAN THAT REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITES ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY AREA WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE +FROZEN+, SINCE IN ALL BUT A FEW CASES REDEVELOPMENT CAN BE PERMITTED UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RAILWAY WORKS AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS THE POWER TO REFUSE APPROVAL TO BUILDING PLANS IF IT CONSIDERS THEY ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY.

OWNERS MAY BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH CLAIMS TO COMPENSATION WHERE THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES LEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE REMOVED, OR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY REFUSES CONSENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF BUILDING WORKS.

ALL CLAIMS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT. THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS IS IN MOST CASES ONE YEAR, AS LAID DOWN IN THE SAID ORDINANCE. GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE RAILWAY AREA PLANS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO DISTRICT OFFICES.

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URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS
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NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS ON MARCH 8 NEXT YEAR, WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 7 AND CLOSE ON JANUARY 28.

SPECIAL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS, SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE FOR THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN THE URBAN AREAS, ARE GAZETTED TODAY UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDER 1982.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALLOW FOR CLOSING THE POLL ONE HOUR LATER AT 11 PM, FOR THE DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH TO AUTHORISE PERSONS TO ENTER A POLLING STATION ON OFFICIAL DUTY, AND FOR COMMISSIONERS OF OATHS, IN ADDITION TO RETURNING OFFICERS AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, TO TAKE DECLARATIONS OF SECRECY.

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AMENDMENTS TO HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF THE AMENDMENTS RECENTLY MADE TO THE HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST, JANUARY 1982.

THE AMENDMENTS, WHICH ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY, WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1983. TRADE DECLARATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS MADE ON OR AFTER THIS DATE MUST BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED CLASSIFICATION.

FROM JANUARY 1, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, WHEN LODGING THEIR TRADE DECLARATIONS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE SEPARATE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR HANDBAGS, WALLETTS AND PURSES, TRUNKS AND SUITCASES, TRAVELLING BAGS, SHOPPING BAGS, BRIEF CASES AND OTHER TRAVEL GOODS MADE OF LEATHER, PLASTIC AND OTHER MATERIALS. FUR CLOTHING WILL ALSO BE SEPARATELY CLASSIFIED BY MINK SKINS, RABBIT FURSKINS, FOX FURSKINS AND OTHER FURSKINS.

APART FROM THESE EXAMPLES, FURTHER BREAKDOWNS WILL ALSO BE MADE OF CERTAIN ITEMS SUCH AS CEILING FANS, WALL FANS, VENTILATING FANS, DOMESTIC FOOD GRINDERS AND MIXERS, FRUIT-JUICE EXTRACTORS, RICE COOKERS, KETTLES, TOASTERS, COFFEE MAKERS AND PERCOLATORS, RADIO CONTROLLED TOYS, T.V. GAMES' CARTRIDGES, HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC GAMES, PEN-WATCHES, METAL BUTTONS AND ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS OF TEXTILE MATERIAL.

/IN LINE

IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICE OF HONG KONG'S TRADING PARTNERS, A UNIT OF QUANTITY WILL BE SPECIFIED FOR SOME COMMODITY ITEMS WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN WITHOUT A SPECIFIED UNIT OF QUANTITY. +THE ADDITION OF A UNIT OF QUANTITY TO COMMODITY ITEMS WILL ENABLE UNIT VALUES TO BE CALCULATED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED.

+THE AMENDMENTS ARE BASED LARGELY ON SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MAJOR USERS OF EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, BUSINESS FIRMS, AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THERE IS A NEED FOR SOME ITEMS TO BE SEPARATELY CLASSIFIED IN VIEW OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE TRADE IN SUCH ITEMS. THE AMENDMENTS WILL ALSO ENABLE HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS TO BE COMPARED EASILY WITH THOSE PUBLISHED BY OTHER TRADING PARTNERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE URGED IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING TRADE DECLARATIONS ARE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THESE AMENDMENTS.

COPIES OF THE FULL LIST OF AMENDMENTS ARE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT:

- * GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE,
GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR,
CONNAUGHT PLACE,
HONG KONG;
- * CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT,
COLLECTION OFFICES, GROUND FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE,
KOWLOON; AND
FIRST FLOOR, ASIAN HOUSE,
HONG KONG;
- * CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT,
TRADE CLASSIFICATION SECTION,
KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR,
317 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL,
HONG KONG

CORDLESS TELEPHONES TO BE PROHIBITED

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THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR H.G. ARDLEY, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN TO PROHIBIT RETAIL SALES OF CORDLESS TELEPHONES IN HONG KONG AS FROM APRIL 1, NEXT YEAR.

RADIO DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION.

+THE EFFECT OF THE MOVE WILL BE TO MAKE IT ILLEGAL FOR ANY RADIO DEALER TO SELL CORDLESS TELEPHONES IN HONG KONG. THIS DIFFERS FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS ONLY ILLEGAL TO SELL SUCH APPARATUS FOR USE IN HONG KONG. IT WILL NOT, HOWEVER, AFFECT MANUFACTURERS OR EXPORTERS WHO HOLD STOCKS FOR EXPORT,+ HE SAID.

+OVER THE PAST MONTHS IN HONG KONG THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN COMPLAINTS CONCERNING RADIO INTERFERENCE FROM UNLICENSED CORDLESS TELEPHONES CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK.

+THE INTERFERENCE HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED MAJOR USERS OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND IT ARISES BECAUSE THEIR ASSIGNED FREQUENCIES ARE CLOSE TO THOSE USED BY THE CORDLESS TELEPHONES AT PRESENT ON SALE IN HONG KONG.

+IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT CORDLESS TELEPHONES ARE IN FACT RADIO EQUIPMENT AND, AS SUCH, REQUIRE A LICENCE.

+OWNERS OF THESE TELEPHONES WHO USE THEM IN HONG KONG ARE THEREFORE ACTING ILLEGALLY AND, IN ADDITION, BY CONNECTING NON-APPROVED APPARATUS TO THE LINE, ARE IN THE BREACH OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE CO. LTD.

+THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY RECOGNISES THAT CORDLESS TELEPHONES ARE A USEFUL FACILITY AND A SPECIFICATION IS NOW BEING PRODUCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE CO. LTD. FOR CORDLESS TELEPHONES WHICH ARE SUITABLE FOR CONNECTION TO THE TELEPHONE NETWORK AND WHICH OPERATE ON AN ACCEPTABLE RADIO FREQUENCY.

+WHEN THIS WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED THE PROHIBITION ON SALES OF CORDLESS TELEPHONES THAT MEET THE ABOVE CONDITIONS WILL BE LIFTED,+ HE SAID.

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SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL START RUNNING SPECIAL PASSENGER TRAINS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE GOING TO CHINA FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT DURING THE NINE-DAY PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 18 TO 26, ONE SPECIAL UP-TRAIN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION AT 7.14 AM DAILY.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 16 NORTHBOUND AND 17 SOUTHBOUND TRAINS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND LO WU EACH DAY.

TO COPE WITH PASSENGERS RETURNING FROM CHINA AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, FOUR SPECIAL TRAINS WILL OPERATE FROM DECEMBER 26 TO JANUARY 3, 1983, LEAVING LO WU STATION AT 1.22 PM, 4.34 PM, 6.17 PM AND 7.37 PM.

TIMETABLES FOR THE SPECIAL TRAINS ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS.

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PUBLIC FINANCE BILL

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES OF HONG KONG IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

THE NEED FOR THE BILL, AS EXPLAINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN RECENT BUDGET SPEECHES, WAS IDENTIFIED AS A RESULT OF AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRESENT SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES.

THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION IS DERIVED FROM THE LETTERS PATENT, THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND COLONIAL REGULATIONS. BUT TO A LARGE EXTENT THE SYSTEM ALSO REFLECTS CONVENTIONS AND PRACTICES ADOPTED OVER THE YEARS AND FOR WHICH NO FORMAL AUTHORITIES CAN NOW BE TRACED.

THE PUBLIC FINANCE BILL 1982 IS DESIGNED TO CLARIFY THE FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES AND TO BRING THEM TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANY BASIC CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM, WHICH IN ESSENCE MEETS CURRENT NEEDS,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILL STIPULATES, FOR INSTANCE, THAT MONEY RECEIVED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE GOVERNMENT SHALL FORM PART OF THE GENERAL REVENUE AND LAYS DOWN THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT NO EXPENDITURE MAY BE CHARGED ON THE GENERAL REVENUE WITHOUT STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

THE GENERAL REVENUE IS DESCRIBED IN THE BILL AS BEING PART OF THE +PUBLIC MONEYS+, THE CUSTODY OF WHICH IS GOVERNED BY DETAILED PROVISIONS.

AT PRESENT THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTIMATES OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE TO BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL AND FOR AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE AND REFLECTED IN THE APPROPRIATION BILL. THE PUBLIC FINANCE BILL 1982 PROVIDES THAT THE ESTIMATES SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN APPROVED UPON THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE BILL FORMALISES THE EXISTING PRACTICE WHEREBY APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IS TAKEN AS SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED. WHILE THIS REMOVES THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK THE SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IS DONE AT PRESENT BY WAY OF A MOTION INTRODUCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, THE PROVISIONS WILL REMAIN IN THE STANDING ORDERS AS AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IS ALSO EMPOWERED BY THE BILL TO APPROVE NOT ONLY SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS BUT ALSO CHANGES TO THE ESTIMATES. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT PRESENT WHOSE AUTHORITY IS REQUIRED FOR CHANGES TO THE ESTIMATES, WHICH DO NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS.

THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELEGATION OF FINANCIAL POWERS ARE COMPLICATED AND, GIVEN THE PACE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN RECENT YEARS, THE NEED HAS ARISEN FOR THE LIMITS OF FINANCIAL DELEGATION TO BE EXTENDED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT IS NECESSARY, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY TO REDEFINE CLEARLY THE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AUTHORITY BUT ALSO TO SIMPLIFY THE CHAIN AND METHOD OF DELEGATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT DEVOLVE UPON PUBLIC OFFICERS, AND THIS THE BILL SEEKS TO DO,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT IN LATE 1978 OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXAMINING ANNUALLY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS, AND THE INTRODUCTION IN 1979 OF THE CONCEPT OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE PUBLIC FUNDS WHICH THEY CONTROL WERE SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES. BUT ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ENJOYS LEGAL STATUS, THERE IS NO STATEMENT IN LAW OF THE AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS.

THE BILL LAYS DOWN THE MAIN DUTIES OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND MAKES THEM PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR EXPENDITURE UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

ANOTHER SECTION OF THE BILL DEALS WITH THE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SURCHARGE OF PUBLIC OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR A LOSS OF PUBLIC MONEY OR PROPERTY OR FOR THE FAILURE TO COLLECT REVENUES.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS ALREADY EXIST IN FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING REGULATIONS AND NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES ARE PROPOSED. DEDUCTIONS OF SURCHARGE WILL, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED TO 50 PER CENT OF AN OFFICER'S MONTHLY SALARY OR PENSION.

MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL SET UP
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN SET UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN ITS 4TH REPORT ON +CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE+.

THE COUNCIL IS TO BECOME THE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM BETWEEN THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF AND THE ADMINISTRATION. ITS AIM IS TO ACHIEVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES THROUGH REGULAR DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF, WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THEIR WELFARE AND IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SPEAKING AFTER THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THIS MORNING, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MARTIN ROWLANDS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT TO HAVE THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED.

+THERE ARE MORE THAN 45 000 MODEL SCALE I STAFF IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND A CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM TO DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THESE STAFF IS ESSENTIAL.

+THE COUNCIL HAS A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON MUTUAL TRUST AND COOPERATION OF EVERYONE SERVING ON IT,+ HE SAID.

THE COUNCIL IS STRUCTURED SIMILARLY TO THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH FIVE OTHER OFFICIAL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

THE STAFF SIDE IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING FIVE UNIONS HAVING A LARGE MEMBERSHIP OF MODEL SCALE I STAFF: THE HONG KONG CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS' GENERAL UNION, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WATERWORKS CHINESE EMPLOYEES UNION, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT KOWLOON WORKERS GENERAL UNION AND HONG KONG URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF GENERAL ASSOCIATION, EACH NOMINATING TWO REPRESENTATIVES WHO MUST BE SERVING MEMBERS OF THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF.

IN ADDITION, MR IP WING-HONG OF HONG KONG URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF GENERAL ASSOCIATION AND MR MA WING-WOON OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT KOWLOON WORKERS GENERAL UNION HAVE BEEN INVITED AS ADVISORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1982

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

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THE TOWN CENTRE OF CHAI WAN WILL GLITTER WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DECORATIONS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING FOLLOWING A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY AT THE WAN TSUI COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST MAJOR FESTIVE DISPLAY PUT ON IN CHAI WAN WITH MORE THAN 6 000 BULBS SET AGLOW OVER THE SITTING-OUT AREA OUTSIDE THE COMPLEX.

EASTERN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY AT 6.30 PM.

IN SHA TIN, MORE THAN 90 WORKERS HAVE BEEN WORKING 10 HOURS DAILY FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE DECORATIVE LIGHTINGS WILL SHINE IN THE NEW TOWN NEXT WEEK.

A TOTAL OF 25 000 LIGHT BULBS TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ARE BEING PUT ON ALONG THE SHING MUN RIVER.

THE SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, WILL SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS AT 7 PM AT SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD BRIDGE ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 21).

A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE LIGHTING DISPLAY IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AS PART OF THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION PROGRAMME.

MEANWHILE, AT A BRIEF CEREMONY TODAY, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ELAINE CHUNG RECEIVED ABOUT 1 500 PACKETS OF GIFTS, CONTAINING TOYS AND CANDIES DONATED BY LOCAL FIRMS, FOR DISTRIBUTION AS SOUVENIRS TO RESIDENTS ATTENDING A CHRISTMAS EVE VARIETY SHOW.

THE SHOW, SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND A TELEVISION STATION, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND STARTING AT 9 PM. IT WILL BE OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

THREE GRAND PRIZES, TOTALLING MORE THAN \$10 000, WILL ALSO BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF A GAME COMPETITION TO BE HELD DURING THE THREE-HOUR SHOW. THE PRIZES INCLUDE ONE HONG KONG-LONDON RETURN AIR TICKET PLUS ONE WEEK HOTEL ACCOMMODATION, A SUCKLING PIG AND A SHARKS FIN DINNER FOR 12 PEOPLE, AND A CASHMERE JUMPER.

TICKETS TO THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S PUBLIC ENQUIRIES COUNTERS STARTING ON MONDAY.

IN KWUN TONG, AN OPEN DANCE CONTEST, ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ORGANISATIONS AS PART OF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES, WILL BE HELD AT 7 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE LEUNG SHEK CHEE COLLEGE, HIU KWONG STREET, SAU MAU PING.

/THE DEPUTY

THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID TSUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

THE CONTEST, WITH COMPETING TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS EVENTS INCLUDING ORIENTAL FOLK DANCE, ORIENTAL CLASSICAL DANCE AND WESTERN DANCE, WILL CONTINUE ON DECEMBER 19, 20, 21 AND 23 AT THE NING PO COLLEGE ON KUNG LOK ROAD.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS TO THE EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE INFORMATION COUNTER OR BY TELEPHONING 3-416315.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY AT CHAI WAN'S WAN TSUI COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT 6.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

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TAXI DRIVERS TO HOST TREAT FOR AGED
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ABOUT SIXTY DRIVERS EMPLOYED BY A TAXI COMPANY HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO DONATE THEIR SUNDAY SHIFT INCOME - EARNED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM - TO FUND ACTIVITIES FOR OLD PEOPLE LIVING IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT.

THE DRIVERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FREE CARRIAGE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN CO-ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, THE WAN CHAI (EAST) AREA COMMITTEE AND SEVERAL LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

AT 9 AM ON SUNDAY THEY WILL GATHER IN THEIR TAXIS AT THE TANG SHIU KIN VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

AFTER A LION DANCE AND A BRIEF PENNANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT WHICH THE WAN CHAI ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRANCIS HO, WILL OFFICIATE, THE TAXIS, DISPLAYING SPECIALLY-DESIGNED POSTERS, WILL SET OFF ON THEIR CHARITABLE MISSION.

THE MONEY RAISED WILL BE COUNTED AND THE TOTAL ANNOUNCED DURING A DINNER PARTY FOR THE AGED TO BE HELD AT THE CHINA RESTAURANT ON THE SAME EVENING, WHEN 200 OF THE OLDEST PEOPLE LIVING IN WAN CHAI WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FREE CARRIAGE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN PENNANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19) AT TANG SHIU KIN VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT 9 AM.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE EXPANDED

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FROM MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 SPEEDPOST SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TO THE NETHERLANDS WILL BE FURTHER EXPANDED, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

IN ADDITION TO THE 16 CITIES IN CHINA ALREADY BEING SERVED, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO SHIJIAZHUAN AND SHUZHOU. SPEEDPOST ITEMS POSTED TO THESE TWO CITIES BEFORE 10 AM FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE NEXT WORKING DAY.

ON THE SAME DATE, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO ALL DESTINATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS. ITEMS POSTED TO THE NETHERLANDS WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE SECOND WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU ON TELEPHONE 5-2671222.

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FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE DELIVERED TO DOORSTEP

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FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE WAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BROUGHT TO PEOPLE'S DOORSTEPS WITH THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF METAL POSTERS TO MAJOR SQUATTER AREAS.

THE NEW PUBLICITY MEASURE AIMED AT SQUATTER RESIDENTS FORMS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR.

COLOURFUL METAL POSTERS ON STEEL POLES HAVE BEEN RAISED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCES OF MORE THAN 40 SQUATTER AREAS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH CARTOONS, THEY CARRY THE FOLLOWING FIRE PREVENTION TIPS:

- * AVOID OVERLOADING POWER POINTS,
- * DON'T LEAVE COOKING UTENSILS IN USE UNATTENDED,
- * SWITCH OFF ALL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES BEFORE GOING OUT,
- * DO NOT REFILL KEROSENE APPLIANCES WHEN THEY ARE IN USE,
- * STORE KEROSENE AND PETROL IN SEALED METAL CONTAINERS AWAY FROM ANY SOURCE OF HEAT, AND
- * RAISE AN ALARM AT THE FIRST SIGN OF A FIRE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP SAID TODAY (FRIDAY), +DUE TO THE INFLAMMABLE NATURE AND HIGH DENSITY OF THE STRUCTURES, SQUATTER AREAS ARE MORE PRONE TO FIRE ATTACKS.

/+DURING THE

+DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 79 SQUATTER FIRES WERE REPORTED, RESULTING IN ABOUT 10 000 PEOPLE HOMELESS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THESE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS AND NEGLIGENCE AND A LITTLE MORE CARE COULD HAVE SAVED NUMEROUS LIVES AND PROPERTY.

+THE PRESENCE OF THESE POSTERS WILL SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE ON-THE-SPOT REMINDER TO THE RESIDENTS AND HOPEFULLY BRING DOWN THE NUMBER OF FIRES IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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'SAFETY AT WORK' TV SHOWS
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THE SECOND +SAFETY AT WORK+ TELEVISION PROGRAMME JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, RTHK AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES WILL START ON SUNDAY.

THE 13-EPIISODE PROGRAMME WILL THEN CONTINUE TO BE SCREENED ON HK-TVBS JADE CHANNEL EVERY SUNDAY FROM 5 TO 5.30 PM.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT RTHK THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG, POINTED OUT THAT THE PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF WORK SAFETY AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE THROUGH TELEVISION AND PARTICIPATION BY WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION BY WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROMOTING SAFETY AT WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE PROGRAMME IS AN EXCELLENT TELEVISION PRODUCTION AND ITS CONTENTS ARE BOTH ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL. EVEN WORKERS WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE PROGRAMME HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A QUIZ-FOR-HOME VIEWERS.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION MANY PARTICIPANTS TRIED HARD TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF WORK SAFETY AND SAFETY REGULATIONS IN A BID TO WIN THE FIRST PRIZE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROGRAMME CARRIES PRIZES WORTH MORE THAN \$300 000, MANY OF WHICH ARE BY COURTESY OF COMMERCIAL FIRMS.

WINNERS OF THE FIRST PRIZE WILL RECEIVE AIR TICKETS TO ENGLAND, BY COURTESY OF SHUI ON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MR STANISLAUS TSAO, POINTED OUT AT THE CONFERENCE THAT THE FEDERATION'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAMME FORMED PART OF ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

/THE FEDERATION,

THE FEDERATION, HE SAID, REALISED THAT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REQUIRED CO-OPERATION AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED. IT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH PUBLICITY PROGRAMME AND TO ENACT LEGISLATION. IT ALSO REQUIRED EFFORTS BY EMPLOYERS TO INSTALL SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND TO MONITOR ITS USAGE AS WELL AS CO-OPERATION BY EMPLOYEES IN OBSERVING SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A TRIPARTITE EFFORT BY GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES,+ HE NOTED.

THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF SHUI ON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, MR M.C. LAO, SAID THAT AS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE PROGRAMME, HIS COMPANY HELD THE FIRM BELIEF, WHICH WAS ALSO SHARED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND MANY MEMBERS OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY, THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WOULD HELP UPGRADE PRODUCTIVITY.

IT WAS HOPED THAT THROUGH THE PROGRAMME INDUSTRIALISTS AND WORKERS WOULD BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE MEANINGFUL CAUSE OF, AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN, UPGRADING THE STANDARDS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN HONG KONG.

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PENALTY FOR LATE PAYMENT PROPOSED

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A BILL PROPOSING TO DISCOURAGE LATE PAYMENTS OF LEVY TO THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND, SET UP TO HELP QUARRY AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WORKERS, IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, A LEVY OR SURCHARGE NOT PAID WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD WILL LEAD TO A PENALTY OF FIVE PER CENT OF THE AMOUNT UNPAID.

IF THIS OUTSTANDING SUM IS NOT SETTLED WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DEADLINE, THE CONTRACTOR OR QUARRY OPERATOR WILL HAVE TO PAY, IN ADDITION, A FURTHER PENALTY OF FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SUM.

THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 ALSO ALLOWS THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO IT.

IF THE BILL IS ENACTED, THE INTENTION IS TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR SUCH DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, AND TO PEOPLE AUTHORISED OR EMPLOYED BY THE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHECKING THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS WOULD ALSO RAISE THE EXISTING PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT THE START AND END OF CONSTRUCTION OR QUARRY WORKS, THE RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS BY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS, AND THE MONTHLY PRODUCTION VOLUME OF QUARRY PRODUCTS.

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DANGER OF 'PASSIVE SMOKING' STRESSED

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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF A STUDY ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CANCER INDICATE THAT PASSIVE SMOKING CAN CAUSE LUNG CANCER IN NON-SMOKERS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, WARNED TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY, DR THONG SAID THAT WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCOURAGE CIGARETTE SMOKING, SOME PEOPLE WOULD ARGUE THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO DEVELOPED LUNG CANCER WERE NON-SMOKERS.

+THIS ARGUMENT IGNORES THE POSSIBILITY OF PASSIVE SMOKING FROM HUSBANDS, RELATIVES AND WORKMATES WHO SMOKE AND WHO MIGHT THEREFORE CONTRIBUTE TO CARCINOMAGENESIS IN THESE WOMEN,+ HE SAID.

A JOINT STUDY ON THESE ASPECTS OF CANCER IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY AND THE INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY.

DR THONG SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE INCREASING EFFORTS AT EVERY LEVEL TO CONTROL CANCER, IT REMAINS A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM IN THE WORLD AND IN HONG KONG, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY RISE IN THE DEATH RATE FROM THIS DISEASE.

IN MEN, THE DEATH RATE HAS RISEN FROM 120 PER 100 000 IN 1971 TO 152.3 PER 100 000 IN 1980, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT, AND IN WOMEN IT HAS GONE UP FROM 88.9 PER 100 000 TO 100.7 PER 100 000 DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A RISE OF 11 PER CENT.

THE MAJORITY OF THE DEATH RATE FROM CANCER IS MAINLY REFLECTED IN DEATHS CAUSED BY CANCER OF THE LUNG, WHICH IS BY FAR THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF DEATH FROM THE DISEASE IN BOTH SEXES.

THE DEATH RATE IN LUNG CANCER IN MEN HAS RISEN FROM 26 PER 100 000 IN 1971 TO 46.6 PER 100 000 IN 1980, AND IN WOMEN FROM 18.9 PER 100 000 TO 24 PER 100 000 DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

+THE CURE RATE FOR THIS DISEASE IS LOW AND OUR EFFORTS THEREFORE HAVE TO BE CONCENTRATED ON THE PREVENTIVE ASPECT AS CIGARETTE SMOKING IS NOW RECOGNISED AS THE MAJOR RISK FACTOR IN LUNG CANCER,+ SAID DR THONG.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY HAVE INCREASED EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CIGARETTE SMOKING THROUGH HEALTH EXHIBITIONS.

CANCER EDUCATION MESSAGES ARE BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH CAMPAIGNS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS, PARTICULARLY IN SCHOOLS WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WARNED OF THE HAZARDS OF CIGARETTE SMOKING.

+IT IS NOW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO DISCOURAGE CIGARETTE SMOKING BY REQUIRING WARNINGS TO BE INCLUDED IN CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS AS WELL AS ON TV PRESENTATIONS,+ SAID DR THONG.

+THE CANCER PROBLEM IS IMMENSELY COMPLICATED AND I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT WE IN HONG KONG ARE EARNESTLY TACKLING THIS WITH ALL AVAILABLE FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL,+ HE ADDED.

STUDENTS URGED TO LOOK TO EXAMPLES OF PREDECESSORS

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT TOLD GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THEY WERE LEAVING SCHOOL AT A TIME OF A CERTAIN LACK OF CONFIDENCE BY THE COMMUNITY, BUT URGED THEM TO LOOK TO THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR PREDECESSORS.

+IMAGINE, FOR A MOMENT, HOW THE DBS GRADUATES OF 1970 EVALUATED THEIR PROSPECTS: DURING THE 1960'S, WHILE THEY WERE AT SCHOOL, HONG KONG HAD EXPERIENCED ENORMOUS GROWTH IN ITS POPULATION BY WAVES OF IMMIGRATION; HAD BEEN STAGGERED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES SUCH AS TYPHOONS AND WATER SHORTAGES; HAD PASSED THROUGH A BANKING CRISIS, AND MOST TESTING OF ALL, THE DISTURBANCES OF 1966 AND 1967.

+BUT WHAT, IN FACT, WAS THEIR EXPERIENCE? - THEY AND THEIR CONTEMPORARIES WITNESSED AND CONTRIBUTED TO A DECADE OF EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH AND PROGRESS IN THE 1970'S - WHICH DID SO MUCH FOR HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE - IN THE SPHERES OF HOUSING, EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND TRANSPORT; THE COMMUNITY'S DETERMINED ATTACK ON CRIME, AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURAL LIFE OF HONG KONG,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, THE 1970'S SAW HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AS A WORLD RANKING CENTRE OF BANKING AND COMMERCE, WITH SUPERB COMMUNICATIONS. IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE DECADE, A PARTICULAR FEATURE WAS THE RAPID GROWTH IN COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION IN INVESTMENT WITH CHINA.

HE TOLD THE STUDENTS AT THEIR ANNUAL SPEECH DAY THAT +PROBLEMS+, AFTER ALL, IS OFTEN, IF NOT ALWAYS, A SYNONYM FOR +CHALLENGES+, AND THE PRESENT CHALLENGE FACED BY HONG KONG IS BUT ONE IN A LONG SERIES IN THE LAST 40 YEARS.

HE THOUGHT THE CHANGE OF MOOD OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE FUTURE FROM ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO WAS IN PART A REFLECTION OF THE HONG KONG CAPACITY FOR FOCUSING VIGOROUSLY ON A PROBLEM.

HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD KEEP A PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND A TRUER PERSPECTIVE COULD BE GAINED BY LOOKING AT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

+AND YET DESPITE ALL THIS ACHIEVEMENT, AND DESPITE DURING A WORLD RECESSION HAVING VIRTUALLY FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE AND CONTINUING GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY, SOMEHOW WE FEEL WE LACK CONFIDENCE.

+THIS IS A STRANGE BUT UNDERSTANDABLE PHENOMENON - BUT WITH THE FIRM ASSURANCES FROM CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED AND WITH THE SKILLS AND RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AS ONE NEWSPAPER RECENTLY EXPRESSED IT: 'IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP IN MIND WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST, IN ORDER TO REALISE THAT THIS IS YET ANOTHER PHASE IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY WHICH WE SHALL OVERCOME,'+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HOW TO MAKE THE SCHOOL A HAPPIER PLACE - HAYE

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GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING SCHOOLS HAPPIER PLACES FOR ALL WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THEM, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY). +BUT STRESS IS A PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE FACED,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO 250 SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ENTITLED +TOWARDS A HAPPIER LIFE IN SCHOOL+, MR HAYE OUTLINED VARIOUS LONG AND SHORT TERM MEASURES WHICH COULD HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TACKLE PRESSURES.

+IN HANDLING STRESS IN SCHOOLS WE HAVE TO SPOT IT EARLY, DEAL WITH IT PROMPTLY, AND, MOST IMPORTANT, TRY TO PREVENT IT,+ MR HAYE SAID.

HE SAID THE LONG TERM MEASURES LOOKED FAIRLY OBVIOUS - MORE TEACHERS, SMALLER CLASSES, REVISED SYLLABUSES BETTER GEARED TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN, WITH WIDER OPTIONS FOR SUBJECTS, BETTER STANDARDS ACROSS THE BOARD AND PUBLICITY TO CHANGE PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND ESTABLISH A GREATER AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

ON A SHORTER-TERM BASIS, MR HAYE ASKED SCHOOL HEADS TO EXPLORE:

- * HOW TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM TEACHER/PUPIL CONTACT - MORE INFORMALITY, MORE +APPROACHABILITY+;
- * A RE-CONSIDERATION OF PRESENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES - LESS ACADEMICALLY ORIENTED, MORE SOCIETY/WORLD OF WORK RELATED;
- * ATTEMPTS WITHIN SCHOOL TO PLAY DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINATIONS - LESS APPARENT EMPHASIS ON THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BEING THE +END+;
- * HOW TO IMPROVE PRESENT SYSTEMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOLS BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS; AND,
- * WHAT MIGHT BE DONE FOR TEACHERS UNDER STRESS.

MR HAYE STRESSED THAT PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE SHOWED THAT THE PRESENT PICTURE WAS NOT SO BLEAK AS SOME WOULD PAINT.

+WE THINK OUR SCHOOLS ARE HAPPY PLACES IN WHICH MUCH OF THE PRESSURE HAS BEEN RELIEVED BY EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN RECENT YEARS. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN THE THEME 'TOWARDS A HAPPIER LIFE IN SCHOOL',+ HE SAID.

UNDERLINING THE VALUE OF SUCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MR HAYE SAID THEY BROUGHT TOGETHER THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH MAKING EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND IMPLEMENTING IT.

+SEMINARS ARE NOT ALL TALKS. THEY LEAD TO TANGIBLE RESULTS SUCH AS MORE TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS,+ MR HAYE SAID.

WAYS TO STEM OUT DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL
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DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS WILL BECOME RARE, AND DISCONTENT AND ANXIETY WILL NOT FLOURISH IF SCHOOLS CAN ESTABLISH A SITUATION IN WHICH STAFF AND PUPILS ALL WORK TOGETHER IN MUTUAL RESPECT AND FRIENDLINESS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR ON +TOWARDS A HAPPIER LIFE IN SCHOOL+ ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS, MR LEUNG SAID MANY WHO TOOK PART IN THE SEMINAR HAD EXPRESSED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE IN SCHOOLS IF STUDENTS' STRAIN WAS TO BE RELIEVED.

HE SAID: + THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE IF TENSION EXISTS BETWEEN PUPILS AND STAFF, BETWEEN SENIOR AND JUNIOR STAFF, AND AMONG STAFF IN GENERAL.+

MR LEUNG SAID SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE, GENERALLY KNOWN AS +ETHOS+ OF A SCHOOL, COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH FIRM AND ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP GIVEN BY THE HEADS, THROUGH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCHOOLS' OBJECTIVES BY THE STAFF, WHO WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT THIS SENSE OF PURPOSE TO PUPILS DURING THEIR DAY-TO-DAY TEACHING AND CONTACT WITH THEM.

HE SAID YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY COULD FEEL SECURE AND IN WHICH THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE PURPOSEFUL.

+THEY ARE QUICK TO NOTICE AND CATCH TENSIONS OR UNCERTAINTIES AMONG THE TEACHING STAFF. YOUNG PEOPLE, TOO, NEED TO FEEL RESPECTED, TO HAVE THEIR OPINIONS SOUGHT AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

+THIS IS WHY I HAVE REFERRED EARLIER TO FIRM AND ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP. BY 'ENLIGHTENED' I MEAN LEADERSHIP WHICH TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE VALUE OF CONSULTATION OF THE 'LED',+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HEATED POOL AT FANLING RE-OPENING TOMORROW

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ONE OF THE HEATED POOLS AT THE FANLING PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX WILL BE RE-OPENED TOMORROW (SATURDAY) ON COMPLETION OF ANNUAL MAINTENANCE WORK.

THE POOL WILL BE OPEN FOR THREE SESSIONS DAILY -- FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM, FROM 12.30 PM TO 3 PM AND FROM 3.30 PM TO 6 PM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

MEANWHILE, AN AIR SUPPORT STRUCTURE IS BEING PUT UP OVER THE HEATED MAIN POOL AT THE COMPLEX.

THE STRUCTURE, WHICH WILL SHELTER SWIMMERS FROM THE COLD WIND IN WINTER, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TAC MEMBERS INSPECT AIRPORT TUNNEL AND ROADS

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE THIS AFTERNOON INSPECTED THE AIRPORT TUNNEL AND ITS APPROACH ROADS, WHICH FORM A FAST COMMUNICATION LINK BETWEEN SOUTH KOWLOON AND THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF KWUN TONG. THIS LINK IS BEING COMPLETED IN STAGES, THOUGH THE TUNNEL ITSELF WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR F.E. SHORT, AND THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR H.C. BEATON TOGETHER WITH THE PROJECT ENGINEERS, EXPLAINED THE LAY-OUT PLANS AND FACILITIES TO THE VISITORS.

THE 1 260-METRE AIRPORT TUNNEL ROAD IS ABOUT 9 METRES BELOW THE RUNWAY AND EMERGES IN KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION. IT IS LINKED AT THE OTHER END TO THE TRAFFIC STREAM IN TOKWA WAN.

ACCESS TO THE TUNNEL IS HELPED BY A SERIES OF ROAD INTERCHANGES, GROUND-LEVEL AND ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAYS, FOOTBRIDGES, AND PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR SUBWAYS.

WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS ARE HOUSED SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WHICH CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR AND CONTROL TRAFFIC USING THE TUNNEL AND THE APPROACH ROADS.

VISUAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS, WHILE THE ACTUAL NUMBER AND SPEED OF VEHICLES IN THE TUNNEL ARE FED IN BY ELECTRICAL DETECTORS SET INTO THE ROAD SURFACE.

MOTORISTS ARE GUIDED BY DIRECTION SIGNS, LANE SIGNALS AND AUTOMATIC BARRIERS WHICH CAN BE VARIED INSTANTLY TO HELP THEM GET OUT OF THE WAY OF BREAKDOWNS OR ACCIDENTS.

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BUILDINGS IN DANGEROUS CONDITION

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NOS. 2 AND 6 SAI WOO LANE, HONG KONG TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE TWO-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS AND ROOFS, HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE 1969.

A RECENT INSPECTION OF THESE BUILDINGS INDICATED THAT THE FRACTURED BRICKWORK HAS NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK OF A COLLAPSE. IT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THESE BUILDINGS.

ACCORDINGLY, NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON JANUARY 14, 1983 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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TACKLING CRIME IN WONG TAI SIN

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A LARGE GROUP OF WONG TAI SIN'S MOST INFLUENTIAL RESIDENTS WILL BECOME +POLICEMEN FOR A DAY+ THIS WEEKEND.

THEY WILL BE AMONG MORE THAN 300 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE AND AREA COMMITTEE OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING A SEMINAR WITH THEIR LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND MEN AT THE WONG TAI SIN POLICE STATION ON SUNDAY.

THE POLICE AND THE CITIZENS THEY PROTECT ARE COMING TOGETHER UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN BEST ASSIST EACH OTHER.

THE IDEA IS TO GIVE THE RESIDENTS FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THE LOCAL FORCE WORKS WITH EMPHASIS ON CRIME REPORTING PROCEDURES, HOW TO ASSIST POLICE IN IDENTIFYING SUSPECTS AND THE ROLE OF MACS IN TACKLING CRIME.

SENIOR OFFICERS FROM UNITS SUCH AS THE MARINE POLICE, THE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU AND THE POLICE CADET SCHOOL WILL BE ATTENDING THE SEMINAR TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE DISTRICT.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN STRACHAN, AND THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR K.H. CHING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT-POLICE COMMUNITY FIGHT CRIME SEMINAR DAY AT THE WONG TAI SIN POLICE STATION IN SHA TIN PASS ROAD AT 2 PM THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19).

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1982

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NEW ELEVATED LINK ROAD PLANNED

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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ELEVATED ROAD LINKING THE EXISTING SECTIONS OF PAK FUK ROAD BETWEEN BRAEMAR TERRACE AND TANNER HILL ROAD POLICE MARRIED QUARTERS, IT IS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT COMPRISES THE BUILDING OF THE SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY, 150 METRES LONG AND 10.75 METRES WIDE, INCLUDING FOOTWAYS AND ASSOCIATED SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

A SHORT SECTION OF THE EXISTING PAK FUK ROAD AT BOTH ENDS WILL ALSO BE RE-CONSTRUCTED TO LINK WITH THE NEW ROAD, WHICH WILL COMPLETE THE ROAD LINK BETWEEN TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND THE EASTERN PART OF NORTH POINT, THUS EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

A NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE, THE HONG KONG (NORTH) DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 3RD FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 884-886 KING'S ROAD.

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS NOT LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN TUEN MUN

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MING KUM ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REPEATED ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 21).

DURING THE CLOSURES, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PUI TO ROAD, TSUN WEN ROAD AND SHEK PAI TAU ROAD.

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WATER LEAKAGE TEST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 20) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JARDINE'S BAZAAR, KAI CHIU ROAD, LEE GARDEN ROAD, LAN FONG ROAD, YUN PING ROAD AND THE SECTION OF PENNINGTON STREET BETWEEN YUN PING ROAD AND JARDINE'S BAZAAR.

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