



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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\$3.6 BILLION PUT INTO NEW PUBLIC WORKS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INJECTED \$3.6 BILLION WORTH OF NEW WORK INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THIS SUM EXCLUDED THE COST OF LAND.

HE HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THIS LEVEL OF NEW COMMITMENTS WOULD BE MAINTAINED, IF NOT INCREASED, IN 1985-86.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE 12TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING.

MR CHAN SAID, BEARING IN MIND THE PROJECTED FINANCIAL DEFICIT OF \$2.1 BILLION IN THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1984-85, THE INJECTION OF \$3.6 BILLION WORTH OF NEW WORK INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WAS A COMMENDABLE EFFORT ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT AND A FIRM INDICATION OF ITS COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE INJECTION OF PUBLIC FUNDS WOULD ALLOW A START TO BE MADE ON 120 NEW ITEMS OF WORKS.

INCLUDED AMONG THESE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING A MAGISTRACY BUILDING AT TUEN MUN, THE MUSEUM OF ART, AND A HOSPITAL AT SHAU KEI WAN.

IN ADDITION TO THE NEW WORKS THERE WERE ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF MAJOR ON-GOING BUILDING PROJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HARBOUR BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD, 168 TYPE II NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS, DISTRICT COURT-MAGISTRACY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING ON THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, CULTURAL CENTRE AT TSIM SHA TSUI - AUDITORIA COMPLEX, TUEN MUN HOSPITAL AND QUARTERS AND A FIFTH NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL, TUEN MUN CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPLEX, AND SHA TIN CULTURAL COMPLEX AND LIBRARY.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THESE 10 PROJECTS ALONE WOULD AMOUNT TO +A STAGGERING \$3.8 BILLION+, MR CHAN SAID.

+I HAVE SO FAR ONLY MENTIONED PUBLIC WORKS, BUT THERE ARE ALSO SOME VERY LARGE PRIVATE BUILDING PROJECTS DUE TO START PRESENTLY SUCH AS KORNHILL, COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE WHAMPOA SITE IN HUNG HOM AND THE NEW BANK OF CHINA BUILDING,+ HE SAID.

/+IN ADDITION

+IN ADDITION THERE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, SOME VERY LARGE PRIVATE BUILDING PROJECTS AT PRESENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, EXCHANGE SQUARE AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THAT MOST PUBLICISED BUILDING IN THE WORLD ON QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

+AS HONG KONG AT PRESENT ABOUNDS IN PEOPLE PROFESSING TO HAVE PROPHETICAL POWERS I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME IF I REFRAIN FROM CRYSTAL BALL GASING AND MAKING SPECIFIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE.

+I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO MAKE THE GENERAL COMMENT THAT YOUR INSTITUTE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A LONG AND CONTINUING ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.+

AS EVIDENCE OF BRIGHTER PROSPECTS AROUND THE CORNER THE NUMBER OF BUILDING SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN MARCH THIS YEAR HAD SHOWN A MARKED INCREASE OVER THE FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY, WHEN IT STOOD AT ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1975, MR CHAN SAID.

CONSIDER ALSO THE 1984 PROPERTY REVIEW COMPILED BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT WHICH STATED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FLATTED FACTORIES, THE TAKE-UP OF RESIDENTIAL, OFFICE AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WAS RUNNING AT A HIGH LEVEL.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE CASE OF SMALL RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC UNITS WHERE TAKE-UP WAS AT RECORD LEVELS.

+SUCH WAS THE OPTIMISM OF THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION THAT HE WAS PROMPTED TO STATE IN HIS LATEST REVIEW THAT PROPERTY YIELDS NOW LOOK FAIRLY ATTRACTIVE BY COMPARISON WITH OTHER FORMS OF INVESTMENT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT AT THE PRESENT TIME TO REMAIN AN OPTIMIST WHEN ONE WAS SUBJECTED TO AN ALMOST CONTINUOUS BARRAGE OF GLOOMY PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

+PERSONALLY, I AM CONFIDENT THAT PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE ARE VERY GOOD FOR HONG KONG,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+GOING ABOUT IN MY DAILY ROUTINE, I AM CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF THE INCOMPARABLE ASSETS WE POSSESS - OUR STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, OUR MAGNIFICENT HARBOUR, THE EFFICIENT PORT AND AIRPORT, OUR FULL RANGE OF PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND, ABOVE ALL, AN INTELLIGENT, INDUSTRIOUS AND RESILIENT POPULATION.

+WITH THESE FEW WORDS I WILL CONCLUDE BY SUGGESTING THAT WE SHOULD ALL IGNORE THE PROPHETS OF GLOOM AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON THE JOB IN HAND, THAT WE EACH DO OUR OWN PART IN THE BUILDING OF AN EVEN BETTER HONG KONG FOR THE FUTURE.+

EARLY TRAINING FOR DISABLED TOTS PLANNED
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DISTRICT-BASED +EARLY EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRES+ WILL BE INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR DISABLED CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE NEED FOR THESE CENTRES IS AMONG 24 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A WORKING PARTY ON PRE-SCHOOL CARE, AND ACCEPTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER ON THE ADVICE OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND ENDORSED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS PART OF THE +REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN+ AND AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.

THE +WORKING PARTY ON PRE-SCHOOL CARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF DISABLED CHILDREN+ WAS SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STUDY WHETHER THE CURRENT PROVISION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING WERE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DISABLED CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF SIX. IT CONCLUDED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT TRAINING FOR DISABLED CHILDREN SHOULD START AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, SINCE EARLY INTERVENTION IN THE REHABILITATION PROCESS IS VITAL.

THIS PROGRAMME IS GEARED TO PROVIDING TRAINING, GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT AND TRAINING OF THEIR DISABLED CHILDREN, TO HELP THEM TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CHILDREN'S CONDITIONS SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF THE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT.

THE WORKING PARTY HAS ALSO ADVISED ON THE STAFFING STANDARDS FOR THESE CENTRES.

THE WORKING PARTY WAS CHAIRED BY MR MARTIN LEWIS, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH), WHO HAS NOW BEEN RETITLED COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, AND COMPRISED MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

AT PRESENT, EARLY TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR DISABLED PRE-SCHOOLERS ARE PROVIDED IN SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES, SPECIAL INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES IN ORDINARY DAY NURSERIES, AND PREPARATORY CLASSES IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS. THESE CHILDREN NORMALLY START TRAINING AT THE AGE OF TWO.

TO SPEED UP THE PROVISION OF PRE-SCHOOL TRAINING, THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDED THAT AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN KINDERGARTENS AS AN EXTENSION OF THE CONCEPT CURRENTLY PRACTISED IN NURSERIES, AND AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT COVERING 10 NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR 1985/86.

CONCURRENTLY, THE WORKING PARTY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PROVISION FOR PLACES IN SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 420 PLACES BY AN AVERAGE OF 180 PLACES A YEAR AND THE INTEGRATED NURSERY PROGRAMME FROM THE PRESENT 426 PLACES BY 120 PLACES PER ANNUM.

/IN RECOGNISING

IN RECOGNISING THAT SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES HAVE A MOST IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISABLED PRE-SCHOOLERS, THE WORKING PARTY ALSO RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR STAFFING STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF STAFFING RATIOS, SPECIALIST SUPPORT, AND SCHEDULES OF ACCOMMODATION.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS DEAL WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO CURRENT SERVICES, INCLUDING A FULL-TIME PRE-SERVICE COURSE OF TRAINING LASTING TWO YEARS TO TRAIN PERSONNEL FOR SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND SIMILAR PROGRAMMES, AND AN IN-SERVICE COURSE LASTING SIX MONTHS AS AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AND IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES OF THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE SERVICE.

A COPY OF THE REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REHABILITATION DIVISION, EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH BY CALLING 5-95697.

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INVESTMENT INTEREST IN HK AT HIGH LEVEL
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OVERSEAS INTEREST IN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG REMAINS HIGH, MR JOHN YAXLEY, DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, TOLD THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING IN VANCOUVER YESTERDAY (THURSDAY).

THE MAIN INTEREST, HE SAID, CAME FROM THE TRADITIONAL MAIN SOURCES OF SUCH INTEREST - NORTH AMERICA AND JAPAN. MR YAXLEY WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE.

+SET AS IT IS IN THE CENTRE OF THE FASTEST GROWING REGION ON EARTH, AND UNIQUELY SITUATED AS IT IS TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF BOTH THE REGION AND MAINLAND CHINA, HONG KONG REMAINS, AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN FOR THE MATERIAL FUTURE, A PLACE OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE,+ MR YAXLEY SAID.

ADDRESSING SOME 400 SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES FROM 20 OR MORE COUNTRIES, MR YAXLEY SAID THAT HONG KONG WELCOMED COMPANIES OF ALL TYPES AND SIZES.

DESPITE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES, MR YAXLEY REITERATED THAT IT WAS VERY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL IN HONG KONG.

CITING TRADE FIGURES, MR YAXLEY SAID DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE WAS 48 PER CENT UP ON THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER LAST YEAR, AT HK\$94.6 BILLION.

+OUR IMPORTS ROSE BY 43 PER CENT, AND OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY SOME 51 PER CENT. RE-EXPORTS WERE UP BY 59 PER CENT.

+I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT THESE ARE NOT THE SYMPTOMS OF AN ECONOMY IN DECLINE,+ HE SAID.

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CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TAX STARTS JUNE 1

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THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) ORDINANCE WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON JUNE 1.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GAZETTE TODAY SAYS THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MAY 31 (THURSDAY), THE FOLLOWING NEW RATES WILL BE CHARGED FOR USING THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL:-

<u>VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>TOLL</u>	<u>PASSAGE TAX</u>	<u>TOTAL CHARGE</u>
* PRIVATE CAR, TAXI	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$10
* MOTORCYCLE, MOTOR TRICYCLE	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 4
* PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS	\$ 8	\$ 2	\$10
* PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SINGLE-DECKER BUS	\$10	NIL	\$10
* PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DOUBLE-DECKER BUS	\$15	NIL	\$15
* GOODS VEHICLE NOT EXCEEDING 40 CWT	\$10	\$ 5	\$15
* GOODS VEHICLE OVER 40 CWT BUT NOT EXCEEDING 100 CWT	\$15	\$ 5	\$20
* GOODS VEHICLE OVER 100 CWT	\$20	\$ 5	\$25
* EACH AXLE IN EXCESS OF TWO	\$ 5	NIL	\$ 5

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE TUNNEL COMPANY TO ACCEPT PRE-TAX PREPAID TICKETS HELD BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, MOTORISTS MAY USE MULTIPLES OF OLD TYPE PREPAID TICKETS MAKING UP THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE TOLL AND PASSAGE TAX.

THEY MAY ALSO PAY THE TOTAL CHARGE PARTLY IN CASH AND PARTLY BY THESE TICKETS.

FULL PAYMENT IN CASH WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED, BUT THE COMPANY WILL NOT GIVE CHANGE FOR MULTIPLES OF TICKETS THE VALUE OF WHICH EXCEEDS THE TOTAL CHARGE.

NEW PREPAID TICKETS INCORPORATING THE PASSAGE TAX WILL BE ON SALE FROM MAY 30, ACCORDING TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EXPLAINED THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE TIME OF CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW RATES.

+AT 24.00 HOURS ON MAY 31, VEHICLES TRAVELLING NORTH WILL BE HALTED AT THE HONG KONG ENTRANCE AND THOSE TRAVELLING SOUTH WILL BE STOPPED AT A POINT OPPOSITE THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY STATION. AFTER CLEARING ALL VEHICLES WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES, THE TUNNEL WILL BE REOPENED AND THE NEW RATES WILL APPLY,+ HE SAID.

DISABLED DRIVERS WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE TAX BY BUYING SPECIAL TICKETS IN ADVANCE. THOSE DISABLED DRIVERS OF PRIVATE CARS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXEMPTED FROM VEHICLE LICENCE FEES WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BUY THESE SPECIAL TICKETS WHICH ARE IN BOOKS OF 10 TICKETS AT \$50 EACH.

THESE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30 AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICE AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, G/F , HONG KONG.

DISABLED DRIVERS OR THEIR AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES MUST PRESENT THEIR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXEMPTION LETTER AND IDENTITY CARD IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE TICKETS WHICH WILL BE OVERSTAMPED WITH THE REGISTRATION OF THEIR VEHICLE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT DISABLED DRIVERS MUST USE THESE TICKETS WHEN CROSSING THE TUNNEL, OR THEY WILL NOT BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PASSAGE TAX. IF THEY PRESENT CASH AT THE TOLL-BOOTH, THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL AMOUNT.

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BILL SEEKS TO PUT TAX PROPOSALS INTO EFFECT
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PUBLISHED AN AMENDMENT BILL WHICH SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT THREE TAX PROPOSALS MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH IN FEBRUARY.

THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 ARE:

- * TO INCREASE THE STANDARD RATE OF TAX FROM 15% TO 17% AND THE RATE OF TAX APPLICABLE TO CORPORATIONS FROM 16-1/2% TO 18-1/2%;
- * TO INTRODUCE NEW ANTI-AVOIDANCE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROFITS TAX YIELDS FROM AVOIDANCE DEVICES; AND
- * TO BRING INTO CHARGE TO PROFITS TAX, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1984, ALL INTEREST INCOME ACCRUING TO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES CARRIED ON IN HONG KONG.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE STANDARD RATE HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR 18 YEARS SINCE 1966-67 AND THE CORPORATE SURCHARGE HAS BEEN AT LOW LEVELS FOR EIGHT YEARS. THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE RATES OF TAX ARE ESTIMATED TO PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL \$903 MILLION FROM EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAX IN 1984/85.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NEW STANDARD RATE WILL AFFECT ONLY SOME 30 000 SALARIES TAXPAYERS EARNING RELATIVELY HIGH INCOMES. FOR EXAMPLE, A SINGLE PERSON WILL NOT ENTER INTO THE NEW 17% THRESHOLD AND A MARRIED COUPLE WITH TWO CHILDREN WILL NOT BECOME LIABLE AT THE NEW RATE OF 17% UNTIL THEIR MONTHLY SALARIES EXCEED \$12 499 AND \$23 306 RESPECTIVELY, HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE NEW ANTI-AVOIDANCE MEASURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX ON DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAS PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR AVOIDANCE OF THE PROFITS TAX CHARGE. THE PROPOSED MEASURES ARE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC REVENUE WITH THE OBJECT OF DISCOURAGING BUSINESS PROPRIETORS AND COMPANIES FROM STRUCTURING THEIR BUSINESSES WITH MINIMUM EQUITY AND HIGH LOAN INDEBTEDNESS SECURED AGAINST DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE MEASURES, HOWEVER, DO NOT APPLY TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND WILL THEREFORE HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT ON BORROWINGS BY SUCH ORGANISATIONS. THERE IS ALSO RELIEF FOR GENUINE ARMS-LENGTH BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WHICH INVOLVE THE PURCHASE OF GOODS OR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ON CREDIT TERMS, WHEREUNDER THE SUPPLIER ARRANGES CREDIT SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST CHARGES. SUCH INTEREST CHARGES WILL CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR DEDUCTION AND WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED NEW MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL INTEREST RECEIVED BY BUSINESSES CARRIED ON IN HONG KONG WILL BE CHARGEABLE TO PROFITS TAX FROM APRIL 1, 1984. THE PLACE WHERE THE MONEY LOANED IS MADE AVAILABLE OR THE CURRENCY IN WHICH THE TRANSACTION IS DENOMINATED WILL NO LONGER BE RELEVANT IN DETERMINING THE SOURCE OF BUSINESS INTEREST INCOME.

THE NEW STATUTORY TEST, AS NOW PROPOSED, IS THE CARRYING ON OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG -- A FACTUAL TEST OF HONG KONG SOURCED INCOME, HE SAID.

THE BILL, IF ENACTED, WILL HAVE EFFECT IN RESPECT OF PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX, SALARIES TAX AND PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS AND FINAL PROFITS, SALARIES, PROPERTY, INTEREST AND PERSONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR 1984/85 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 30 FOR FIRST READING AND IS EXPECTED TO GO THROUGH THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES ON JUNE 13.

RECORDS EVIDENCE LAW TO BE REVISED
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THE LAW ON ADMISSIBILITY OF RECORDS AS EVIDENCE IN COURT IS TO BE REVISED UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE WIDESPREAD USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE KEEPING AND RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION.

AT THE SAME TIME A NEW PROCEDURE IS PROPOSED, UNDER THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), FOR OBTAINING EVIDENCE FROM OVERSEAS FOR USE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN HONG KONG.

THESE PROPOSALS ARE EXPECTED TO ASSIST IN REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS AND TECHNICALITIES WHICH, UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, OFTEN HAMPER OR EVEN PREVENT A FAIR PRESENTATION OF RELEVANT AND RELIABLE EVIDENCE IN COURT.

MOST OF THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, ARE RELATED TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF RECORDS KEPT BY BANKS, IT IS PROPOSED TO UPDATE THE LAW BOTH FOR CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TERM +BANKER'S BOOK+ IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WITH +BANKERS' RECORD+ AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW DEFINITION WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCES A NEW PROCEDURE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS FOR PROVING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN, SUCH AS CERTIFIED COPIES OF OR EXTRACTS FROM RECORDS OF A PUBLIC NATURE MAINTAINED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND CERTAIN CLASSES OF DOCUMENTS FILED IN OR ISSUED OUT OF AN OFFICE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY.

IN ADDITION, IT EXTENDS THE CASES WHERE DOCUMENTARY HEARSAY EVIDENCE MAY NOW BE ADMITTED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS TO COVER ALL KINDS OF RECORDED EVIDENCE, INCLUDING COMPUTERISED RECORDS, SO LONG AS THE RECORDS HAVE BEEN COMPILED BY A PERSON ACTING UNDER A DUTY IN DOING SO.

IN RESPECT OF EVIDENCE LOCATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE BILL PROVIDES A STATUTORY PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE HIGH COURT MAY FORMALLY REQUEST OVERSEAS COURTS OR TRIBUNALS TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE EVIDENCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMISSIBILITY OF SUCH EVIDENCE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 30, FOR SCHEDULED FINAL READING ON JUNE 13.

COMMENTS ON THE BILL MAY BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE UMELCO AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATERED ROAD, OR THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

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BILL PROVIDES FOR LIQUOR DUTY CALCULATION
* * *

AMENDMENT LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE AD VALOREM DUTY ON CERTAIN EUROPEAN-TYPE LIQUOR ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY, UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

A RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE WILL ALSO BE MOVED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DETAILS OF THE BILL AND THE RESOLUTION WERE PUBLISHED UNDER PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDERS ON FEBRUARY 29.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN RECALLED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD SAID IN HIS 1984 BUDGET SPEECH, THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE NO REASON WHY PURCHASERS OF CHEAPER BRANDS IN A CLASS OF DRINKS SHOULD PAY THE SAME DUTY PER BOTTLE AS THAT IMPOSED ON A MORE EXPENSIVE BRAND. SIR JOHN PROPOSED MODIFYING THE EXISTING DUTY SYSTEM BY APPLYING A UNIFORM REDUCTION OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT TO THE CURRENT SPECIFIC DUTY RATES, COUPLED WITH THE IMPOSITION OF A UNIFORM AD VALOREM DUTY RATE OF 20 PER CENT.

THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL SPELLS OUT HOW LIQUOR SHOULD BE VALUED FOR DUTY PURPOSES.

IT ALLOWS THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE VALUE OF DUTIABLE GOODS.

UNDER THE BILL, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO FIX A VALUE FOR DUTY PURPOSES AND THERE IS PROVISION FOR AN APPEAL AGAINST HIS DECISION TO THE GOVERNOR.

ANOTHER BILL PUBLISHED TODAY, THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, REDUCES THE MINIMUM REQUIRED STRENGTH OF WHISKY AND RUM FROM 43 PER CENT TO 42 PER CENT OF ETHYL ALCOHOL BY VOLUME. THIS IS TO CORRECT A TECHNICAL ERROR FOLLOWING THE METRICATION OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 30 AND THE THIRD READING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

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PROPOSAL TO UPDATE COURT COSTS
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A BILL SEEKING TO AMEND THE REFERENCES IN THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) ORDINANCE TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AND TO UPDATE THE RELATED COURT COSTS HAS BEEN GAZETTED TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENTS ARE REQUIRED BECAUSE THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) ORDINANCE WILL BE BASED ON THE NEW SET OF ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

+THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO AMEND THE CROSS REFERENCING BETWEEN THE TWO PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE A SMOOTH CHANGEOVER,+ HE SAID.

THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1984 ALSO UPDATES TWO TYPES OF COURT COSTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED FOR 13 YEARS.

THE FIRST TYPE IS THE COST OF ISSUING A SUMMONS IN THE CASE OF A DEFENDANT WHO DOES NOT PAY THE PENALTY IN TIME BUT EVENTUALLY PAYS THE FINE WITHOUT A COURT HEARING. THIS COST HAS SINCE 1971 BEEN \$15, HALF THE AMOUNT OF THE FIXED PENALTY AT THAT TIME. THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THIS BE REVISED TO \$70.

THE SECOND TYPE IS THE COST OF COURT PROCEEDINGS WHICH A DEFENDANT OR COMPLAINANT IS ORDERED BY A MAGISTRATE TO PAY, DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE CASE IS DISMISSED OR A PAYMENT ORDER IS MADE. THE COST HAS BEEN \$20 AND \$400 SINCE 1971 AND IT IS NOW PROPOSED THAT THE COST BE BETWEEN \$80 AND \$1 500.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COURT COSTS ARE REGULATORY FEES. THEY ARE NOT BASED ON THE COST OF PROVIDING A SERVICE BUT ON THE NEED TO ENFORCE PROMPT PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTIES. HE STRESSED THAT THE REVISION OF THESE COSTS SHOULD NOT AFFECT LAW-ABIDING MOTORISTS.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 30 AND IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS LEGISLATIVE STAGES ON JUNE 13.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE BILL CAN WRITE TO UMELCO AT 12TH FLOOR, SWIRE HOUSE, CENTRAL, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT 7TH FLOOR, ST JOHN'S BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR RETURNING TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE WILL RETURN FROM LONDON TOMORROW (SATURDAY) ON FLIGHT BR 382, ETA 6.20 PM.

A FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THEIR ARRIVAL.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING BY 5.20 PM TOMORROW. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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SERVICE SECTOR VALUE ON RISE
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HONG KONG, WHILE ENJOYING DRAMATIC INCREASES IN EXPORTS, IS UNDERGOING CONSIDERABLE CHANGES WITHIN ITS ECONOMY.

+FIRST, THERE IS AN INCREASING EMPHASIS ON THE SERVICE SECTOR, AND PARTICULARLY THE FINANCE SECTOR, AND A RELATIVE DECREASE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT DECLINED IN THE 10 YEARS TO 1980 FROM 39 PER CENT TO 34 PER CENT,+ SAID MR MACLEOD WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH.

+SECONDLY, THE DRAMATIC RISE IN IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR OF ELECTRONICS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS IS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR SHARE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS. FOR THE 10 YEARS TO 1983, ELECTRONICS INCREASED ITS SHARE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FROM 13 PER CENT TO 23 PER CENT, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS WENT FROM 2 PER CENT TO 8 PER CENT.

+I THINK THIS ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE FLEXIBILITY OF OUR INDUSTRY. NEVERTHELESS, HONG KONG STILL RELIES ON A RELATIVELY NARROW RANGE OF BASICALLY LIGHT CONSUMER PRODUCTS - TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, ELECTRONICS, TOYS AND DOLLS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS BETWEEN THEM ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF OUR EXPORTS. HENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF RESISTING ANY NEW PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AIMED AT THESE PRODUCTS IN PARTICULAR,+ HE STRESSED.

THE THIRD SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IS THE DRAMATIC GROWTH OF TRADE WITH CHINA. IN 1981, CHINA TOOK OVER FROM JAPAN AS HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AFTER THE UNITED STATES. BETWEEN 1978 AND 1983, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA INCREASED FROM ONLY 0.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TO 6 PER CENT, WHILE IMPORTS FROM CHINA ROSE FROM 17 PER CENT TO 24 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

/+IT IS

+IT IS ALSO WORTH REMEMBERING THAT WE IMPORT AS MUCH AS WE EXPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH WE EXPORTED OVER HK\$7 000 MILLION WORTH OF TEXTILES LAST YEAR, WE ACTUALLY IMPORTED OVER THREE TIMES AS MUCH, OVER HK\$24 000 MILLION. OF COURSE, MUCH OF THIS WAS THEN CONVERTED INTO GARMENTS AND THEN EXPORTED.

+IT IS THIS FACT, THAT WE HAVE TO IMPORT TO EXPORT, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY OUR FREE TRADE POLICY IS SO MUCH TO OUR BENEFIT: THE IMPOSITION OF TARIFFS OR QUOTAS OR OF BUREAUCRATIC RULES AND DELAYS ON IMPORTS WOULD INEVITABLY MAKE OUR EXPORTS MUCH LESS COMPETITIVE. AND THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO PRICE BUT TO SPEED OF RESPONSE AND OVERALL EFFICIENCY. HENCE OUR DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE OUR SUCCESS BY (AMONG OTHER THINGS) PRESERVING OUR FREE TRADE PHILOSOPHY,+ MR MACLEOD STRESSED.

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SIR PHILIP ATTENDS VOLUNTEERS'
130TH FOUNDATION DAY DINNER
* * *

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE AND THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL DEREK BOORMAN, ATTENDED A DINNER RECEPTION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 130TH FOUNDATION DAY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SIR PHILIP WAS GREETED ON ARRIVAL BY THE HONORARY COLONEL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, JOHN HEYWOOD, AND THE HONORARY AIR COMMODORE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, ROSS PENLINGTON.

MAJOR GENERAL BOORMAN WAS WELCOMED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, LIEUTENANT COLONEL T.C. VILLIERS= AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, WING COMMANDER A.P. ASPREY.

THEY ALSO MET SENIOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT WAS FORMED IN MAY 1854 WHEN 99 LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE RECRUITED AS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DEFENDING THE CHINA COAST AGAINST PIRATES WHO FREQUENTLY RAIDED THE AREA.

OVER THE YEARS, THE VOLUNTEERS UNDERWENT STRUCTURAL CHANGES. NOW IT CONSISTS OF FOUR SQUADRONS AND THE NUMBER OF THE VOLUNTEERS HAS GROWN TO 1 000, INCLUDING 31 FEMALE MEMBERS. THEY CONTINUE TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

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LUNAR FESTIVAL BRINGS DOWN RETAIL SALES
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RETAIL TRADE SALES IN FEBRUARY 1984 WERE ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 604 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AT 136, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX DECREASED BY 39 POINTS OR 22 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1984 SALES, BUT INCREASED BY 11 POINTS OR 9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX, AT 95, WAS 29 POINTS OR 23 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR JANUARY 1984, AND 3 POINTS OR 3 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR FEBRUARY 1983.

THE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN BOTH THE VALUE AND THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY 1984 AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE EFFECT OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1984 SALES, THE RETAIL SALES VALUE OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DECREASED BY 29 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 30 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DROPPED BY 23 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 25 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF SALES. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT DOWN BY 21 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS AND FUELS BY 13 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983 SALES, FUELS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN SALES VALUE, AT 14 PER CENT, BUT ONLY A SLIGHT RISE OF 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS BUT DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. BOTH CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT EACH IN SALES VALUE, BUT THEY DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS BUT DROPPED BY 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1984 SALES. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO SHOWED SIGNIFICANT DECREASES. MOTOR VEHICLES AND SUPERMARKETS RECORDED DECREASES BUT TO A LESSER EXTENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME. WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983 FIGURES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. BOTH SUPERMARKETS AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES RECORDED INCREASES IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASES IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES, HOWEVER, DECLINED IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

/THE REVISED

THE REVISED FIGURE FOR JANUARY 1984 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1984 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100, ARE ALSO TABULATED.

COMPARISONS OF FEBRUARY 1984 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF JANUARY 1984 AND FEBRUARY 1983 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 3-7216024.

TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1984
(PROVISIONAL FIGURE) = HK\$4 604 MILLION

TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR JANUARY 1984
(REVISED FIGURE) = HK\$5 938 MILLION

VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1984

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	INDEX OF RETAIL SALES	INDEX OF RETAIL SALES		FEB 1984 COMPARED WITH JAN 1984		FEB 1984 COMPARED WITH FEB 1983	
		JAN 1984 (REVISED FIGURES)	FEB 1984 (PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	POINTS	%	POINTS	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES							
	VALUE	175	136	-39	-22	11	9
	VOLUME	124	95	-29	-23	-3	-3
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS							
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	VALUE	203	157	-46	-23	5	3
	VOLUME	134	101	-33	-25	-10	-9

/FUELS

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FUELS	VALUE	190	166	-24	-13	21	14
	VOLUME	122	106	-16	-13	2	2
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	VALUE	232	164	-68	-29	14	9
	VOLUME	165	116	-49	-30	-4	-3
CONSUMER DURABLES	VALUE	144	114	-30	-21	11	11
	VOLUME	110	86	-24	-22	-4	-4
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	VALUE	163	126	-37	-23	10	9
	VOLUME	118	91	-27	-23	-1	-1

(C) BY SELECTED
TRADES

SUPER- MARKETS	VALUE	292	262	-30	-10	6	2
	VOLUME	182	162	-20	-11	-30	-16
MOTOR VEHICLES	VALUE	73	61	-12	-16	10	20
	VOLUME	46	38	-8	-17	3	9
CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES	VALUE	193	150	-43	-22	11	3
	VOLUME	153	118	-35	-23	-9	-7
DEPARTMENT STORES	VALUE	238	130	-108	-45	-14	-10
	VOLUME	173	94	-79	-46	-20	-18

NOTES:

1. +FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO+
INCLUDES +SUPERMARKETS+.
2. +CONSUMER DURABLES+ INCLUDES +MOTOR VEHICLES+.
3. +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ INCLUDES +DEPARTMENT STORES+.

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MORE JOBS URGED FOR EX-DRUG ADDICTS
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EMPLOYERS WERE URGED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, TO CONTINUE GIVING JOBS TO VOLUNTARILY REHABILITATED DRUG ADDICTS.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE COMMITTEE FOR VOLUNTARILY REHABILITATED DRUG ABUSERS, HE STRESSED THAT EX-DRUG ADDICTS NEEDED JOBS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD AND +TO RESTORE THEIR CONFIDENCE AND SELF-RESPECT+.

+THIS WILL HELP THEM KEEP AWAY FROM DRUGS AND RE-INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS THANKED THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO HAD +HELPED SO MUCH WITH JOB PLACEMENTS FOR THESE PEOPLE+.

LAST YEAR SAW THE EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE COMMITTEE ACHIEVE FURTHER SUCCESS WITH ITS INTEREST-FREE SMALL LOAN SCHEME, CASH ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNITY WORK TO HELP EX-DRUG ADDICTS.

MR CHAMBERS PRAISED THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, KOWLOON, FOR DONATING \$30 000 AS A MEANS OF SHOWING ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE.

LOK SIN TONG ALSO DONATED \$50 000 TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MICRO-COMPUTER. THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, WHO WAS ALSO ATTENDING THE FUNCTION, RECEIVED THE CHEQUE ON BEHALF OF SARDA.

TEN VOLUNTARILY REHABILITATED DRUG ADDICTS WERE PRESENTED WITH AWARDS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES DURING THE PAST YEAR.

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NEW I.D. CARD FOR WOMEN AGED 22 AND 23
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WOMEN BORN IN 1961 AND 1962 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS BETWEEN JUNE 5 AND JULY 14, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 738 000 OLD IDENTITY CARDS WILL BE DECLARED INVALID ON JUNE 3.

THESE CARDS BELONG TO MEN BORN BETWEEN 1948 AND 1959 AND IN 1965 WHO SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED NEW I.D. CARDS.

+ANYONE WHO MISSED HIS TURN HAS A LAST CHANCE TO APPLY NOW, BUT APPLICATION MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE INVALIDATION DATE,+ AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE APPLICANT SHOULD CALL AT ANY OF THE ISSUE OFFICES WITHIN THE NEXT EIGHT DAYS, BRINGING ALONG HIS OLD CARD.+

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE PERIOD SPECIFIED IN A GOVERNOR'S ORDER IS AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY LAW. DEFAULTERS ARE LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED AND FINED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$3 000.

+BESIDES,+ HE SAID, +ONCE AN OLD CARD IS DECLARED INVALID, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY PURPOSE, AND THE HOLDER WILL INEVITABLY SUFFER A LOT OF INCONVENIENCE.+

+FOR INSTANCE, A MAN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUPS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET A TRAVEL DOCUMENT BY USING HIS OLD I.D. CARD AFTER JUNE 3.+

THIS WILL BE THE SECOND BATCH OF OLD I.D. CARDS TO BE INVALIDATED. THE FIRST BATCH BELONGING TO MEN BORN BETWEEN 1960 AND 1964 WAS DECLARED INVALID LAST OCTOBER.

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

+ONCE DETECTED, THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED AND REPATRIATED,+ HE SAID.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE DRAGON BOAT (TUEN NG) FESTIVAL ON JUNE 4 IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY FOR ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND FOR THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$8 500 A MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN SAID EMPLOYEES MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS, SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING THE PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638; KOWLOON WEST 3-201652; KOWLOON SOUTH 3-319454; AND KWUN TONG 3-898520; KWAI CHUNG 0-234496; TSUEN WAN 0-422096; TAI PO 0-6577111 EXT. 114; TUEN MUN 0-818443; HONG KONG ISLAND (WEST) 5-268671 AND HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) 5-282523.

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WORKSHOPS ON REMEDIAL ENGLISH TEACHING
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL RUN SEVERAL WORKSHOPS FROM NEXT MONTH FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TEACHING REMEDIAL CLASSES IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD ON THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MATERIALS FOR TEACHING READING AND WRITING TO REMEDIAL GROUPS, AND ON THE TEACHING OF LISTENING AND ORAL SKILLS.

THERE WILL BE TWO WORKSHOPS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS - TO BE HELD ON JUNE 19 AND 21 AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 165 MA TAU WEI ROAD, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON.

FOUR WORKSHOPS WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF JUNIOR FORMS BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JULY 18 AT EITHER THE CENTRE IN TO KWA WAN OR THE CENTRE'S HONG KONG OFFICE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO 24 IN EACH WORKSHOP.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND JUNE 6 FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

ENQUIRIES ON THE WORKSHOPS MAY BE MADE TO THE CENTRE AT 5-482537.

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STORAGE SAFETY STANDARDS MAINTAINED
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TWO AMENDMENT REGULATIONS UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, MADE WITH A VIEW TO RELAXING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF POTABLE SPIRITS WHILE MAINTAINING A REASONABLE STANDARD OF SAFETY, HAVE BEEN GAZETTED TODAY.

THE REGULATIONS ARE THE DANGEROUS GOODS (CLASSIFICATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1984, AND THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1984. BOTH COME INTO OPERATION ON JUNE 1, 1985.

+DESPITE THIS RELAXATION, THE STANDARD OF SAFETY FOR THE STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF SUCH SPIRITS ARE STILL MAINTAINED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

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CHEUNG SHA WAN PLAN NOTES REVISED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) AN AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT CHEUNG SHA WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

IT INVOLVES REPLACING THE NOTES ATTACHED TO THE PLAN BY AN UPDATED SET. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE LAND USE ZONING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AMENDED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT :

- * THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT OFFICE (SHAM SHUI PO), 37-39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * TOWN PLANNING DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENT CAN SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE JUNE 14.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT AMENDMENT PLAN ARE ON SALE AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, AT \$10 PER UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$60 PER COLOURED COPY.

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KOWLOON, SAI KUNG SPEED LIMITS SET

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SPEED RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN FORCE IN KOWLOON AND SAI KUNG FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (MAY 26).

CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD FROM ITS EASTERN JUNCTION WITH NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO FEI NGO SHAN ROAD WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH.

IN ADDITION, SPEED LIMITS OF 40 MPH WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS:

- * CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN ITS EASTERN JUNCTION WITH NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 150 METRES SOUTHEAST OF THE JUNCTION WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY.
- * NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD FROM ITS EASTERN JUNCTION WITH CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES NORTHWEST OF THE JUNCTION WITH LEE ON ROAD.
- * THE SOUTHERN TIP OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY, FOR A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 1.2 KILOMETRE.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE
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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF ANOTHER GROUP OF ITS RECRUITS AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

MR CHAN KAM-CHUEN, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AND PRESENT SILVER WHISTLES TO THE BEST RECRUITS.

ON PARADE WILL BE 84 OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR BASIC TRAINING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY, AT 10.00 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND WILL LEAVE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WANCHAI AT 9.10 AM SHARP TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

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SECURITY SERVICE SOUGHT FOR AIRPORT HALL
* * * * *

A SECURITY GUARD SERVICE IS REQUIRED FOR THE BUFFER HALL OF HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

SECURITY SERVICE OPERATORS INTERESTED IN THE JOB SHOULD FIRST APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN AN APPROVED LIST OF TENDERERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT, STARTING FROM AUGUST 15, IS BEING OFFERED FOR THE JOB, HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE TREASURY ACCOUNTANT OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, 10TH FLOOR, UNITED CENTRE, 95 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG, OR FROM THE AIRPORT PROPERTY MANAGER AT HONG KONG AIRPORT.

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FINAL WORK STARTING SOON ON CHA KWO LING ROAD

WORK ON CONSTRUCTING THE REMAINING SECTION OF CHA KWO LING ROAD, STRETCHING 1 100 METRES FROM THE SHELL OIL DEPOT TO CHA KWO LING QUARRY, IS EXPECTED TO START SOON.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH INVOLVES BUILDING A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH PROPER SURFACE AND DRAINAGE, TOGETHER WITH FOOTPATHS AND BUS BAYS ON BOTH SIDES.

WHEN THE WORK IS COMPLETED THE ROAD WILL SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BETWEEN THE KWUN TONG AND YAU TONG AREAS, THE ONLY LINK AT PRESENT BEING LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

THE NEW ROAD WILL ALSO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CHA KWO LING VILLAGE AND A FUTURE CARGO HANDLING AREA ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORK WILL IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA, WHICH HAS BEEN PRONE TO FLOODING DURING HEAVY RAIN. ACCESS TO ADJACENT PREMISES ALONG THIS STRETCH OF ROAD OFTEN TURNS MUDDY AFTER RAIN BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF A PROPER ROAD SURFACE. THIS HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF FREQUENT PUBLIC COMPLAINTS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL HELP BRING RELIEF TO THE INCREASING VOLUME OF TRAFFIC USING LEI YUE MUN ROAD, IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LIONS MONEY FOR PSYCHIATRIC WORK

THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL RECEIVE A CHEQUE FOR \$30 000 ON BEHALF OF THE NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AT A CEREMONY AT 11 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED BY SEVEN CLUBS OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 ZONE IV TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR PURCHASE OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR ITS KWAI SHING SHELTERED WORKSHOP.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT THE KWAI SHING SHELTERED WORKSHOP ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BLOCK 10, KWAI SHING ESTATE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

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\$100 000 SUNDAY STROLL PLANNED
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ABOUT 300 TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL TAKE PART IN A FUND-RAISING WALK ALONG THE TUEN MUN TRAIL ON SUNDAY (MAY 27) MORNING.

THE TWO-HOUR WALK WILL START AT 9 AM AT THE OPEN SPACE OUTSIDE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL BUILDING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION IN FU TEI, AND FINISH AT THE RURAL TRAINING COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOOL AT TSENG TAU SHEUNG TSUEN.

ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG SCOUT ASSOCIATION, TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE WALK AIMS AT RAISING \$100 000 FOR THE EXPANSION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL BUILDING AND ITS ACTIVITIES CENTRE.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR IAN MACPHERSON, WILL START-OFF THE WALK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE START-OFF CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN TRAIL LUCKY WALK AT 9 AM ON SUNDAY (MAY 27) AT THE OPEN SPACE OUTSIDE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL BUILDING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION AT FU TEI, TUEN MUN.

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VILLAGE TAPS OFF
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES AND VILLAGES IN SHAM TSENG AND TSING LUNG TAU WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

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