



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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REPORT ON VACANCIES AT BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION SITES

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN MARCH 1989 WAS 72,950 AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES WAS 5,715. ACCORDING TO A SURVEY OF VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERED SOME 387 PUBLIC SECTOR SITES AND 906 PRIVATE SECTOR SITES WHICH WERE ACTIVE IN MARCH 1989.

A REPORT ON THE SURVEY WAS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE VACANCY RATE, WHICH IS THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE SUM TOTAL OF THE NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED AND THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES, WAS 7.3 PER CENT IN MARCH 1989.

OF THE 5,715 VACANCIES REPORTED FROM THE SITES ENUMERATED, 4,509 WERE FOUND IN PUBLIC SECTOR SITES AND 1,206 IN PRIVATE SECTOR SITES. THE VACANCY RATES FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTOR SITES WERE RESPECTIVELY 14.1 PER CENT AND 2.6 PER CENT.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS IS GIVEN IN THE TABLE BELOW :

	PUBLIC SECTOR SITES	PRIVATE SECTOR SITES	TOTAL
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NO. OF ACTIVE SITES	387	906	1,293
NO. OF MANUAL WORKERS	27,368	45,582	72,950
AVERAGE NO. OF WORKERS PER SITE	70.7	50.3	56.4
NO. OF VACANCIES	4,509	1,206	5,715
AVERAGE NO. OF VACANCIES PER SITE	11.7	1.3	4.4
VACANCY RATE (PER CENT)	14.1	2.6	7.3

WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1988, THERE WERE DECREASES IN BOTH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES AND THE VACANCY RATE. IN MARCH 1988, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES WAS 6,003 AND THE VACANCY RATE WAS 7.5 PER CENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHING EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCY STATISTICS COVERING THE MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS SINCE MARCH 1976. VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SITES WERE, HOWEVER, NOT AVAILABLE.

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IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUCH STATISTICS, THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A SPECIAL SURVEY OF VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN MARCH 1988 AND WILL REPEAT THE SURVEY IN EVERY MARCH AND SEPTEMBER IN FUTURE.

IN THE NEW SURVEY, ALL PRIVATE SECTOR SITES REGISTERED IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR SITES UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARE COVERED.

IN ADDITION, SITES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR VILLAGE-TYPE HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND MINOR ALTERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND INTERIOR DECORATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ARE, HOWEVER, NOT INCLUDED.

DATA WERE COLLECTED BY PERSONAL INTERVIEWS. DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, FIELD OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT PAID VISITS TO EACH CONSTRUCTION SITE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SOLICIT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM SITE AGENTS OF THE MAIN CONTRACTOR OR SUB-CONTRACTORS.

FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR SITES, DATA WERE SOLICITED FROM THE RESPONSIBLE RESIDENT ENGINEER OR CLERK OF WORKS, WHO OBTAINED THE INFORMATION FROM THE CONTRACTORS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEFINING AND OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, READERS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE DUE NOTE OF THE DEFINITION OF VACANCY ADOPTED AND THE LIMITATIONS OF THE SURVEY WHEN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS.

IN THE SURVEY, VACANCIES REFER TO THOSE UNFILLED, IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE JOB OPENINGS FOR WHICH ACTIVE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO RECRUIT THE WORKERS. THIS DEFINITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT ADOPTED IN OTHER SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL SUBSTITUTION AND RE-SCHEDULING POSSIBILITIES IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN LABOUR SUPPLY AND WORK REQUIREMENTS.

CONSEQUENTLY, VACANCIES CARRY A MUCH LOOSER SENSE AS FAR AS BUILDING CONTRACTORS ARE CONCERNED. THIS MEANS THAT VACANCY DATA SUPPLIED BY CONTRACTORS OR SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT TO LARGE VARIATIONS IN REPORTING BEHAVIOUR.

AMONG THE SITES SURVEYED IN MARCH 1989, SOME WERE FOUND TO HAVE NO VACANCIES AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER IN THESE SITES THE CONTRACTORS WERE ABLE TO FILL ALL VACANCIES OR THEY HAD IN FACT DELAYED THE PROJECTS INSTEAD.

DETAILS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY, ARE PUBLISHED IN A "REPORT OF VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES". COPIES OF THIS REPORT ARE AVAILABLE AT \$7 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE MADE TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234758 OR 5-8234753.

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MEMBERSHIP OF NEW-TERM ACAF SUB-COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) ANNOUNCED THE MEMBERSHIP FOR 1989-90 OF THE FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES UNDER THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (ACAF).

THE FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES ARE THE AQUACULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE; THE CAPTURE FISHERIES SUB-COMMITTEE; THE CROP FARMING SUB-COMMITTEE; THE LIVESTOCK SUB-COMMITTEE; AND THE MARKETING SUB-COMMITTEE.

THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE TO ADVISE THE ACAF ON THE FORMULATION OF LONG-TERM POLICIES AND ON THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY ACAF, ARE:-

AQUACULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, MR ANDREW WONG; VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR SO MOON-CHEUNG.

MEMBERS: MR CHENG FOR-YAU, DR LAM KIN-CHE, MR HO TAK-YAU.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: MR CHAN KOON-YAU, MR CHAN SHUI-LAM, MR PO YIU-KWONG, MR JONATHAN GRAY, MR LEUNG JICK-CHIU, PROF BRIAN MORTON.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARINE DEPARTMENT, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

/CAPTURE FISHERIES

CAPTURE FISHERIES SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, MR LEUNG TIN-PUI; VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR CHENG FOR-YAU.

MEMBERS: MR HO TAK-YAU, MR SO MOON-CHEUNG.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: MR PO YIU-KWONG, DR PETER CHAN, MR PETER SZETO.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARINE DEPARTMENT AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

CROP FARMING SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT; VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI.

MEMBERS: MR ANDREW WONG, DR LAM KIN-CHE, MR YUNG TIN-TACK, DR ZEE SZE-YONG.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: MR CHOI SUI-KWONG, MADAM FUNG CHOI-YUK, MR LEUNG YING, MR NG YIU-TING, MR WONG WAI-YIM.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

LIVESTOCK SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, DR STAN CHEUNG TSANG-KAY; VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR LEUNG CHIK.

MEMBERS: MR ANDREW WONG, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, DR LAM KIN-CHE.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: MR WONG SHUI-FAN, MR CHAN HON-LAM, MR CHAN YUE-YUK, MADAM HUI SIU-WAH, MR KWOK MING-CHEUNG.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

MARKETING SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, DR ZEE SZE-YONG; VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR YUNG TIN-TACK.

MEMBER: MR IP YEUK-LAM.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: MR CHAN CHI-KWONG, MR CHAN CHUN-HING, MR LAI KWOK-KUI, MR LEUNG WOON, MR LI CHIK-KEUNG, MR WONG SO, MR YUEN HON-YIU.

GOVERNMENT MEMBER: REPRESENTATIVE FROM AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

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THE ACAF IS A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED ADVISORY BODY TO PROVIDE A FORMALISED CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCTION AND THE FORMULATION OF LONG-TERM POLICIES FOR THE RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 1989-90 TERM ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE.

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FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION GROUP SET UP TO ENFORCE
NEW DRUG TRAFFICKING LAW

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WHEN NEW LAWS TO PREVENT NARCOTICS RACKETEERS FROM RECYCLING THE VAST SUMS OF MONEY GAINED THROUGH THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES BECOME EFFECTIVE IN SEPTEMBER, THE POLICE FORCE'S SPECIALLY ORGANISED FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION GROUP (FIG) UNDER THE NARCOTICS BUREAU WILL BE READY.

THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL WILL INTRODUCE SWEEPING NEW POWERS TO ALLOW THE SEQUESTRATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE NARCOTICS TRADE.

SET UP LAST MAY THE FIG HAS ASSEMBLED A 30 STRONG STAFF OF SPECIALISTS. IT HAS ORGANISED THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMING OF INTELLIGENCE AND IS SENDING OFFICERS OVERSEAS TO STUDY HOW TO MAKE DRUG CRIMINALS PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES THROUGH THEIR POCKETS.

"WHEN THE BILL BECOMES LAW ON SEPTEMBER 1 WE WILL BE WAITING OUTSIDE BANKS WHEN THEY OPEN THEIR DOORS." STAFF OFFICER OF THE FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION GROUP, MR STUART MCDOUALL, SAID.

EVEN BEFORE THE BILL BECAME LAW DISCLOSURES WERE BEING MADE TO THE FIG, FROM BANKS AND OVERSEAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

MR MCDOUALL SAID: "WE HAVE HAD TWO DISCLOSURES FROM BANKS RELATING TO SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS AND TWO FROM UNITED STATES AGENCIES WHICH WE ARE INVESTIGATING ON A JOINT OPERATIONS BASIS. WE ALSO HAVE TWO INTELLIGENCE-BASED INVESTIGATIONS GOING ON."

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW LEGISLATION FIG OFFICERS HAVE HELD MEETINGS WITH THE BANKING SECTOR ON HOW INVESTIGATIONS ON SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED IN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.

"THE BANKS ARE KEEN TO HAVE THIS LEGISLATION," MR MCDOUALL SAID, "BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO GET RID OF ACCOUNTS THEY DON'T WANT."

AT THE REQUEST OF BANKS A THREE MONTH GRACE PERIOD IS BEING ALLOWED ON A CLAUSE IN THE BILL RELATING TO THE LAUNDERING OF MONEY.

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"THIS WILL ALLOW BANK STAFF MORE TIME TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE GROUNDS ON WHICH THEY MAY BELIEVE THAT A TRANSACTION IS SUSPICIOUS AND WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE DRUG TRAFFICKING MONEY," MR MCDOUALL SAID.

THE FIG WILL WORK ALONGSIDE FELLOW NARCOTICS BUREAU OFFICERS IN THEIR ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS.

"WHEN DRUG TRAFFICKING ARRESTS ARE MADE WE WILL BE READY TO BEGIN CONFISCATION PROCEEDINGS. THESE WILL BE CIVIL ACTIONS. WE WILL START OUR WORK WHEN THE CRIMINAL ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND A CONVICTION HAS BEEN MADE."

OFFICERS HAVE BEEN WASTING NO TIME IN GAINING EXPERTISE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CYCLE OF DRUGS AND MONEY.

NARCOTICS BUREAU SENIOR STAFF OFFICER MR YIP KWOK-KEUNG RECENTLY ATTENDED THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMMERCIAL CRIME ORGAINSED AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

EARLY NEXT YEAR SENIOR INSPECTOR ALEX LEUNG WILL ATTEND A TWO WEEK COURSE ON FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DETECTIVE TRAINING SCHOOL AT HENDON, NEAR LONDON. HE WILL ALSO BE DATTACHED TO THE SCOTLAND YARD DRUG SQUAD AND THE NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

MR MCDOUALL SAID: "THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL MAKE OUR WORK MORE COMPLEX AMD TIME CONSUMING BUT IT'S GOING TO ENHANCE OUR DRUG FIGHTING CAPABILITY.

"IT'S THE ULTIMATE WEAPON IN OUR ARSENAL AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND IT WILL STOP THE ETERNAL CYCLE OF MONEY AND DRUGS.

"WE ARE ALL VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT."

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WORKS STARTED ON VEHICLE WEIGH STATION IN SHA TIN

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CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON THE FIRST OF FOUR STRATEGICALLY SITED VEHICLE WEIGH STATIONS TO BE OPERATED BY THE TRAFFIC POLICE.

SITUATED OFF THE TOLO HIGHWAY AT SHA TIN, THE ELECTRONICALLY OPERATED WEIGH STATION WILL CHECK THE WEIGHTS OF ALL HEAVILY LOADED VEHICLES USING THE ROADS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

SITE CLEARANCE HAS BEGUN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE \$2 MILLION WEIGH STATION ON A SITE ADJACENT TO THE SHA TIN INTERNATIONAL FERRY TERMINAL AND IT IS DUE TO BE IN USE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

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OVER LOADED VEHICLES DETECTED BY THE NEW EQUIPMENT WILL BE DETAINED AT THE WEIGH STATION UNTIL THEY ADJUST THEIR LOADS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE RESPONSIBLE HAULAGE OPERATORS.

"WE HOPE THE INCONVENIENCE ALONE IN BEING DETAINED AT THE WEIGH STATION WILL BE ENOUGH TO DETER OVER LOADED VEHICLES," THE SENIOR STAFF OFFICER OF THE TRAFFIC BRANCH'S TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT BUREAU, MR RON CURLEWIS, SAID. "THE INTENTION IS TO DETER RATHER THAN PRIMARILY ENFORCEMENT."

VEHICLES OF CERTAIN WEIGHTS APPROACHING THE WEIGH STATION WILL PASS A DYNAMIC AT-SPEED WEIGHT DETECTOR WHICH WILL IDENTIFY OVER LOADED VEHICLES TRAVELLING AT NORMAL ROAD SPEEDS AND THEY WILL BE DIRECTED BY ELECTRONIC SIGNS TO THE WEIGH STATIONS VIA A SLIP ROAD.

"THE VEHICLE IS THEN WEIGHED AND IF THE WEIGHT IS EXCESSIVE THE DRIVER WILL BE DIRECTED TO PARK IN A DETENTION BAY WHERE THE VEHICLE WILL STAY UNTIL THE OFFENSIVE PART OF ITS LOAD HAS BEEN REMOVED," MR CURLEWIS SAID.

"THE PROCEDURES WILL CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF INCONVENIENCE TO THE OPERATORS OF OVER LOADED VEHICLES."

THE WEIGH STATION CAN ACCOMMODATE 20 VEHICLES AT A TIME.

THE WEIGH STATION WILL CHECK ALL VEHICLES FROM KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ALSO THOSE USING THE NEW T-6 BRIDGE FROM KOWLOON VIA THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

ENFORCEMENT PATROLS ELSEWHERE WILL ALSO ESCORT SUSPECT VEHICLES TO THE WEIGH STATIONS.

THE SHA TIN WEIGH STATION IS THE FIRST OF FOUR OF ITS KIND TO BE CONSTRUCTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. A SITE FOR A SECOND HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED ON THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AND SUITABLE SITES ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR THE TWO OTHERS IN URBAN AREAS IN KOWLOON AND ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE BUILDING AT THE SHA TIN WEIGH STATION WILL BE INITIALLY A TEMPORARY STRUCTURE.

MR CURLEWIS EXPLAINED: "WE ARE NOT SURE YET OF OUR REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE WE SHALL BE LEARNING FROM OUR EXPERIENCE AT SHA TIN WHAT OUR FUTURE NEEDS WILL BE AT OTHER WEIGH STATIONS."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEIGH STATIONS, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE MANNED BY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, FOLLOWS STUDIES BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT ON DAMAGE BEING CAUSED TO THE ROADS OF HONG KONG BY OVER LOADED VEHICLES.

ENFORCEMENT WAS STEPPED UP USING EXISTING PORTABLE AXLE WEIGHT CHECKING EQUIPMENT AND OTHER CIVIL WEIGH BRIDGES.

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"AS A RESULT OF THIS THERE HAS BEEN A PLEASING DOWNWARD TREND IN OVER LOADED VEHICLES, BUT THERE ARE STILL ENOUGH TO CAUSE CONCERN," MR CURLEWIS SAID.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON THE TOLO HIGHWAY SINCE EARLY 1988 HAS RESULTED IN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN DETECTED OVER LOADED VEHICLES DESPITE A 16 PER CENT INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD.

THE OVERALL TREND BASED ON A THREE YEAR PERIOD IS A REDUCTION OF ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT A YEAR.

MR CURLEWIS SAID: "MANY OF THE BIG TRANSPORT FIRMS WANT TO STAY WITHIN THE LAW. IT'S THE FLY BY NIGHT WHICH ARE UNDERCUTTING THE BIG COMPANIES BY CARRYING EXCESS WEIGHTS. IF EVERYONE DID IT LEGALLY THE MAJOR HAULAGE COMPANIES WOULD BE VERY HAPPY."

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SURVEY ON COMMERCIAL OFFICE NEEDS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A SURVEY ON LAND AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS OF COMMERCIAL FIRMS IN HONG KONG.

THE SURVEY, COMMISSIONED BY THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH AND TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE MARKETING DECISION RESEARCH COMPANY, A PRIVATE MARKET RESEARCH FIRM, WILL HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAN FUTURE OFFICE LAND ALLOCATION AND PROVISION OF RELATED FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

A LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT SUCH INFORMATION IS VITAL TO THE GROWTH AND PROMOTION OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THE SURVEY, TO BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN AUGUST AND OCTOBER, AIMS AT IDENTIFYING, FROM THE CONSUMERS' POINT OF VIEW, THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS COMPANIES IN TERMS OF OFFICE SPACE AND CONDITIONS, OFFICE LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES SUCH AS PARKING SPACES, BANKS AND EATING PLACES.

THE RESEARCH FIRM HAS SELECTED, BY RANDOM SAMPLING, SOME 2,500 COMMERCIAL FIRMS FOR INTERVIEW.

SENIOR DIRECTORATE OR MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL OF THESE FIRMS WILL BE APPROACHED AND THE INFORMATION THEY PROVIDE WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

THE SELECTED COMPANIES WILL SOON RECEIVE A LETTER INVITING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY.

THE SURVEY REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

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TWO OZP'S REFERRED BACK FOR FURTHER AMENDMENTS
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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS REFERRED TWO DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND AMENDMENTS.

A TOWN PLANNING BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BOTH THE WAN CHAI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN AND THE TSZ WAN SHAN, DIAMOND HILL AND SAN PO KONG OUTLINE ZONING PLANS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO REVISION AND THEREFORE NOT READY FOR APPROVAL AT THE PRESENT STAGE.

THE WAN CHAI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN WILL LIKELY BE AMENDED TO INCORPORATE PART OF THE PROPOSED CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OTHER PLAN ARE ALSO REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY TO FACILITATE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AT TSZ WAN SHAN, AND THE INCORPORATION OF REVISED LAND USE PROPOSALS FOR DIAMOND HILL.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SHOULD THE PLANS BE AMENDED IN FUTURE, THE AMENDMENTS WOULD BE EXHIBITED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND OBJECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

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PROPOSED GANGWAY AREA FOR KOWLOON PERMANENT PIER
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT AN AREA IN HUNG HOM TO THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED FOR AN EXTENSION TO KOWLOON PERMANENT PIER NO. 42.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS ABOUT EIGHT SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

A GANGWAY IS TO BE BUILT TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF CREW PASSENGERS AND LOADING AND UNLOADING OF GOODS AND MATERIALS CONNECTED WITH THE NORMAL BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 27 THIS YEAR.

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SITES SHOW SIGNS OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

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RECENT ACTION BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON CONSTRUCTION SITES HAS PROMPTED SITE MANAGEMENT TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS.

"THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST THREE PHASES OF THE SITE OPERATION, LAUNCHED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE IN APRIL, IS REFLECTED IN A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES AGAINST THE SITES VISITED - FROM 124 IN THE FIRST PHASE TO 98 IN THE SECOND PHASE AND 95 IN THE THIRD," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE NOTED THAT THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE IN BUILDING SITES HAD IMPROVED, PARTICULARLY IN SUCH AREAS AS FENCING OF FLOOR EDGES, FLOOR OPENINGS AND LIFT SHAFTS.

OF THE 90 BUILDING SITES VISITED BY FACTORY INSPECTORS OVER THE TERRITORY DURING THE RECENTLY COMPLETED THIRD PHASE OPERATION ON SHAFT OPENING SAFETY, ONLY 28 PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST OFFENCES CONCERNING FLOOR EDGES OR OPENINGS AND LIFT SHAFTS.

IN ADDITION, 67 PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN OUT FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS.

THESE INCLUDED 24 FOR FAILURE TO WEAR SAFETY HELMETS ON SITE, 20 IN CONNECTION WITH HOIST-WAY GATES AND 12 RELATED TO GUARD RAILS OF WORKING PLATFORMS AND GANGWAYS.

"THE LAST PHASE OF THE OPERATION, WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY, FOCUSSES ON THE SAFETY OF WORKERS IN STRUCTURES MORE THAN THREE STOREYS HIGH TO COINCIDE WITH THE WET AND WINDY SEASON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST UNTIL OCTOBER," HE ADDED.

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KAIFONG LEADERS TO EXAMINE THEIR ROLE

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THE ROLE OF LOCAL KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS IN A FAST-DEVELOPING HONG KONG WILL BE EXAMINED AT A SEMINAR FOR KAIFONG LEADERS LATER THIS WEEK.

KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS ARE DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS OF LONG STANDING, AND HAVE BEEN HAILED AS A PIONEER IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE EARLY POST-WAR YEARS.

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IN THE 1950'S AND 1960'S, WHEN THE TERRITORY WAS COPING WITH REFUGEES FROM CHINA, KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF, MEDICAL CARE, EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THIS ROLE WAS GRADUALLY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE ASSOCIATIONS HAD ALSO HELPED BUILD A MORE COHESIVE SOCIETY, AND BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

WITH THE TERRITORY'S GROWING AFFLUENCE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN RECENT YEARS, KAIFONG LEADERS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO REVIEW THE ROLE OF THEIR ASSOCIATIONS.

KAIFONG LEADERS WHO WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR ARE DETERMINED TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF KEEPING THE ROLE ABREAST OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE TERRITORY.

IN THIS, THEY WILL HAVE ADVICE FROM THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON. MR DAVID LAN, WHO WILL GIVE A TALK AT THE SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS IN THE COMING DECADE.

THE SEMINAR, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY LEADERS FROM OVER 50 KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE CHAN SHU KUI HALL OF THE NORTH POINT KAIFONG ASSOCIATION ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 3).

MR LAN'S TALK WILL BE FOLLOWED BY SPEECHES ON SPECIFIC TOPICS BY PROMINENT KAIFONG LEADERS, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, MISS ANITA CHAN, MR NG TOR-TAI AND MR HUI YIN-YING.

THEY WILL TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY, ORGANISATION, FUNCTIONS AND WORK OF KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, AS WELL AS THE DIRECTION OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990'S.

AFTER THE SPEECHES, THE KAIFONG LEADERS WILL TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS OF FACING UP TO THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES AHEAD FOR THEIR ASSOCIATIONS.

THE SEMINAR REPRESENTS A FURTHER EFFORT BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF A SIMILAR SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR AREA COMMITTEES.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1989

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YOUNGSTERS TRAINED AS MENTAL HEALTH 'AMBASSADORS'

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TWENTY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES TODAY (SUNDAY) TO MARK THEIR COMPLETION OF A VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEME PROVIDED UNDER THE KWUN TONG MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME.

AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 25, THEY PARTICIPATED IN TALKS, VISITS TO HALF-WAY HOUSES, A TRAINING CAMP AND VOLUNTARY WORK OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME WAS TO TRAIN YOUNGSTERS AS THE DISTRICT'S MENTAL HEALTH "AMBASSADORS" WITH ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ENABLE THEM TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF MENTAL PATIENTS.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALAN WONG; THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRIS WAN; AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR POON CHI-FAI.

THE CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE HONG NING ROAD PLAYGROUND AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A CARNIVAL WHICH MARKED THE CLOSING OF THE SEVEN-WEEK LONG KWUN TONG MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME.

ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION ORGANISING COMMITTEE, THE PROGRAMME AIMED AT MAKING LOCAL RESIDENTS MORE UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL PATIENTS, SO AS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THEIR REHABILITATION.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A SEMINAR, A TRAINING SCHEME FOR VOLUNTEERS, EXHIBITIONS AND A CARNIVAL, HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE THE PROGRAMME BEGAN ON JUNE 10.

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LANE CLOSURES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK, SECTIONS OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, SHA TIN ROAD, TAI PO ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED BETWEEN AUGUST 1 (TUESDAY) AND SEPTEMBER 27.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CLOSURES:

THE OUTER-MOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN FO TAN NULLAH AND HO TUNG LAU WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 1).

/THE SLOW

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1989

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THE SLOW LANE OF SOUTHBOUND SLIP ROAD FROM TAI PO ROAD TO YUEN WO ROAD AND THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN FO TAN NULLAH AND CITY ONE SHATIN WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON TUESDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE INNER-MOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE AND MA LIU SHUI WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON AUGUST 14.

THE INNER-MOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND BETWEEN HO TUNG LAU AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON AUGUST 15.

THE LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON AUGUST 15 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE INNER-MOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN FO FAN NULLAH AND HO TUNG LAU WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON AUGUST 21.

THE FAST LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN SHA TIN ROAD AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON AUGUST 21 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE FAST LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON AUGUST 29 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON SEPTEMBER 5 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND SHA TIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON SEPTEMBER 19 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN SHA TIN ROAD AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON SEPTEMBER 26 TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

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SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1989

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MORE PARKING SPACES IN CAUSEWAY BAY
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MOTORISTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH MORE PARKING FACILITIES WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW MULTI-STOREY CARPARK IN CAUSEWAY BAY ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 1).

THE TIN HAU MULTI-STOREY CARPARK, WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE 400 VEHICLES, OCCUPIES SEVEN STOREYS FROM P2 TO P8 IN PARK TOWERS IN LAU SIN STREET ADJACENT TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TIN HAU STATION.

IT WILL BE THE 13TH GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CARPARK MANAGED BY WILSON PARKING (HONG KONG) PTY LTD., A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARKING FEES WILL BE \$7 PER HOUR, WHILE MONTHLY PASS WILL COST \$950 EACH.

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URBAN CLEARWAY ON LEIGHTON ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 1), LEIGHTON ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH MATHESON ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES TO THE EAST WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR THREE WEEKS BECAUSE OF WATER MAIN LAYING WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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RE-ROUTEING IN HAPPY VALLEY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 1), SPORTS ROAD EAST OF THE ACCESS TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FOR SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE CABLE-LAYING WORKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, VEHICLES DEPARTING FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL HAVE TO TURN RIGHT ONTO SPORTS ROAD.

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