DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1988

CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL GAZETTED 1

DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT TO BE INITIALLED 4

GREATER DIVERSIFICATION IN MANUFACTURING URGED 4

INAUGURAL MEETING OF A AND F ADVISORY COMMITTEE 5

EXTENDING SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS 6

SCOUTING BENEFICIAL FOR INMATES 8

PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY 9

ENROLMENT FOR TRAINING IN SELLING SKILLS 12

$2.9 MILLION TO IMPROVE LIGHTING IN ANOTHER BATCH OF UC AMENITY GROUNDS 13

VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM DISTRICT BOARDS 13

PAVEMENT MADE WIDER FOR PEDESTRIANS 14

CHAIRMEN CHOSEN FOR SOUTHERN COMMITTEES 15

SEMINAR TOMORROW ON YOUTH POLICY REPORT 15

YOUNG BALLET DANCERS OF KWAI TSING TO VISIT PEKING 16

GATHERING OF PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS 17

RESIDENTS VISIT OLD PEOPLE'S HOME 17

SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION 18

VILLAGE LOTS TO BE RESUMED 18

TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE AT LION ROCK TUNNEL 19

TRAFFIC CHANGES IN YUEN LONG 19

TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL GAZETTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) GAZETTED THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH NEW OFF-AIR TELEVISION LICENCES WILL BE GRANTED FOR A PERIOD OF 12 YEARS.

THE CURRENT LICENCES ARE DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

DETAILS OF THE MAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS WERE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH THIS YEAR FOLLOWING DECISIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

EXPLAINING DETAILS OF THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE OBJECTIVE OF ONE OF THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL IS TO ENSURE THAT CONTROL OF THE OFF-AIR TELEVISION LICENCES IS IN THE HANDS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AT HEART."

"THE LEVEL OF SHAREHOLDINGS IN A LICENCEE HELD BY PERSONS (INCLUDING COMPANIES) WHO DO NOT SATISFY CERTAIN HONG KONG RESIDENT REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO LIMITS," HE NOTED.

UNDER THE BILL, THE RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION USED TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IS BASED ON WHETHER OR NOT A PERSON HAS BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST ONE CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AND IS BEING ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG.

IN THE CASE OF A COMPANY, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE COMPANY MUST EACH SATISFY THE RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION, HE SAID.

THIS REPLACES THE EXISTING REQUIREMENT THAT SUCH DIRECTORS MUST BE "COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG".

"THE CRITERIA FOR 'ORDINARY RESIDENCE' WITH RESPECT TO AN INDIVIDUAL REMAIN AS THEY ARE NOW IN SECTION 2 OF THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE, BEING RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR, OR AT LEAST 300 DAYS IN TWO CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR YEARS," HE POINTED OUT.

FOR PERSONS AND COMPANIES WHO/WHICH DO NOT MEET SUCH RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS, THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTING SHARES OF A LICENCEE THAT THEY MAY HOLD IN AGGREGATE AT ANY TIME WOULD BE LIMITED TO 49 PER CENT UNDER THE BILL.

"THE BILL FURTHER SEEKS TO RESTRICT THE PERCENTAGE OF SUCH VOTING SHARES WHICH MAY BE HELD BY ANY INDIVIDUAL PERSON (INCLUDING A COMPANY) WHO DOES NOT MEET THE RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION TO 10 PER CENT," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

/IN CALCULATING .....

IN CALCULATING VOTING SHARES AND THEREBY VOTING RIGHTS, THE CONCEPT OF RELEVANT INTEREST HAS BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE BILL. THIS IS THE SAME CONCEPT AS THAT IN THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) BILL WHICH WAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"UNDER A NEW SECTION 17D(3) IN THE BILL, IF A PERSON HOLDS 35 PER CENT OR MORE OF THE SHARES OF A COMPANY AND THAT COMPANY IN TURN HOLDS TWO PER CENT OR MORE OF THE SHARES OF A LICENSEE, HE IS TO BE REGARDED AS HAVING A RELEVANT INTEREST IN THE VOTING SHARES OF THAT LICENSEE UNDER A SIMPLE FORMULA WHICH IS A MULTIPLE OF THE TWO PERCENTAGES.

"FURTHER, A PERSON WHO HAS CONTROL OF A COMPANY IS DEEMED TO HAVE A RELEVANT INTEREST IN ALL OF THE VOTING SHARES WHICH THAT COMPANY HOLDS IN A LICENSEE. THIS IS TO AVOID HIDDEN CONTROL OF A LICENSEE COMPANY," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE NECESSARY RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION MUST SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF HIS VOTING SHAREHOLDING IN A LICENSEE IF, AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE, THE SHAREHOLDING EXCEEDS TWO PER CENT, FOUR PER CENT, SIX PER CENT OR EIGHT PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VOTING SHARES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MUST ALSO BE NOTIFIED IF THE SHAREHOLDING WERE TO BE DECREASED BELOW ONE OF THESE LEVELS.

"THE RESTRICTIONS MAY NOT APPLY AS REGARDS THE WHOLE OR PART OF SHAREHOLDINGS ACQUIRED ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 24, 1987, IF AN APPLICATION IS MADE TO THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND IT SO APPROVES," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE PRACTICAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 49 PER CENT LIMIT, THE BILL CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE LICENSEE TO REQUIRE ITS SHAREHOLDERS TO MAKE DECLARATIONS ON CERTAIN PARTICULARS INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL STATUS BEFORE ANY OF ITS VOTING SHARES CAN BE TRANSFERRED.

"THE LICENSEE SHALL REFUSE TO REGISTER THE TRANSFER OF ANY OF ITS VOTING SHARES IF TO REGISTER THEM WOULD CONTRAVENE THE 49 PER CENT OR 10 PER CENT LIMITS."

THE BILL ALSO SETS OUT PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN AN APPLICATION IS MADE TO REGISTER AN ALLOTMENT, ISSUE OR TRANSFER OF VOTING SHARES.

ON THE PROVISIONS GOVERNING CORPORATE STRUCTURE, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT A LICENSEE MUST NOT BE HELD BY A HOLDING COMPANY.

/"THE BILL .....

"THE BILL PROHIBITS THE GRANT TO OR HOLDING OF A LICENCE BY A COMPANY WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OF ANOTHER COMPANY."

"IT MAY NOT HOLD DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SHARES IN ANY COMPANY UNLESS TWO CONDITIONS ARE MET: (A) THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH TELEVISION BROADCASTING; (B) IT HAS A MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN THE COMPANY AND HAS CONTROL OVER ITS MANAGEMENT."

"THE HOLDING OF ANY INTEREST BY THE LICENSEE IN ANY COMPANY MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY," HE SAID.

AS FOR THE CALCULATION AND PAYMENT OF ROYALTY, THE BILL IMPOSES A NEW ROYALTY FORMULA TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE.

"THE ROYALTY PAYABLE BY THE LICENSEES SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS FOR FEES AND OTHER CHARGES IN RESPECT OF TELEVISION ADVERTISING. THIS WILL BE ON A SLIDING SCALE WITH AN OVERALL CEILING OF 12 PER CENT," HE SAID.

CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF A LICENCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY WILL IN FUTURE BE EMPOWERED TO SUSPEND A LICENCE FOR UP TO 30 DAYS UNDER THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED. PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE LICENSEE TO APPEAL TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BY WAY OF PETITION AGAINST THE BA'S DECISION."

AS REGARDS REVOCATION OF LICENCE, THE EXISTING CRITERION THAT A LICENCE MAY BE REVOKED IF FINANCIAL PENALTY HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THE LICENSEE ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS IS REPLACED BY MORE FLEXIBLE CRITERIA INCLUDING ANY SUSPENSION OF LICENCE AND THE NUMBER OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES IMPOSED ON THE STATION.

THE BILL ALSO SETS OUT THE REQUIREMENTS ON ADVERTISING, PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CLASSES OF ADVERTISING AND CERTAIN TECHNICAL CONDITIONS (E.G. TRANSMISSION) TO BE COMPLIED WITH BY LICENSEES.

THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 29).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BILL SHOULD WRITE TO OMELCO, 8 JACKSON ROAD OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, FIRST FLOOR, EAST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT TO BE INITIALLED

* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT A NEW DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT WILL BE INITIALLED IN LONDON ON MONDAY (JUNE 27).

THE AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES FOR AN APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS OF 65:35, WILL RUN FROM APRIL 1, 1988 TO JUNE 30, 1997.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE PUT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN EARLY JULY.

----0----

GREATER DIVERSIFICATION IN MANUFACTURING URGED

* * * * *

HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE INTO NEW END-PRODUCTS, COMPONENTS, AND PROCESSES INVOLVING HIGHER VALUE-ADDED, GREATER PRODUCTIVITY, BETTER QUALITY AND MORE DIVERSIFICATION, INSTEAD OF MERELY RELYING ON PRICE COMPETITIVENESS ALONE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR LEUNG WAS SPEAKING AT AN ANNUAL DINNER OF THE PLASTICS AND RUBBER INSTITUTE (HK SECTION).

HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF INCREASING COMPETITION, GUARANTEED PRODUCT QUALITY AND RELIABILITY AS WELL AS QUICK DELIVERY WOULD PROVE TO BE INCREASINGLY CRUCIAL, RATHER THAN MERE FLEXIBILITY TO FOLLOW THE FAD PRODUCT IDEAS.

"THIS WILL ENTAIL BUILDING QUALITY INTO THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS FROM CONCEPTUAL DESIGN, THE USE OF MATERIALS, PRODUCTION, TESTING, MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION, AND TO AFTER-SALE SERVICE," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MARKET DIVERSIFICATION.

HE SAID THAT A MARKETING RESEARCH CONSULTANCY COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR HIGHLIGHTED SUCH MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AS MEDICAL PLASTICS, AUTOMOTIVE PARTS AND CUSTOM MOULDINGS.

"PENETRATION INTO MARKETS OTHER THAN THE USA AND THE EEC, SUCH AS JAPAN, HAD ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED," HE SAID.

/MR LEUNG .....

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE LEVEL OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH FURTHER DIVISION OF LABOUR.

"HONG KONG'S PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS WILL BECOME MORE SPECIALISED IN PRODUCT DESIGN, MARKETING AND TESTING, AS WELL AS PROVIDING QUALITY AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TO THEIR ASSEMBLY-TYPE OPERATIONS IN CHINA," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT TO EQUIP HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, A PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED ON THE CAMPUS OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WITH FUNDS OF $12.8 MILLION AND A GENEROUS DONATION OF $10 MILLION FROM CHEN HSONG MACHINERY CO. LTD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITY CAME INTO BEING AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF A WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRY.

----0----

INAUGURAL MEETING OF A AND F ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * * * *

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (ACAF) WILL HOLD ITS INAUGURAL MEETING ON MONDAY (JUNE 27).

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ON THE 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED BODY, WAS FORMED LAST MONTH TO PROVIDE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCTION AND THE FORMULATION OF LONG-TERM POLICIES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IS THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE.

ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND MARKETING SECTORS, AND EXPERTS IN THE RELATED FIELDS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OMELCO, THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS.

/THE AGENDA .....

THE AGENDA FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING WILL INCLUDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE, PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND A PROPOSAL TO FORM SUB-COMMITTEES TO ADVISE THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE MEETING.

TO FACILITATE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE MEETING, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A PHOTO SESSION BEFORE THE MEETING AND A BRIEFING BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AFTER THE MEETING.

- - - - o - - - -

EXTENDING SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS

* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS CONTEMPLATING THE INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND A BROAD-BASED MULTI-DISCIPLINE SCIENCE COURSE FOR FORMS FOUR TO FIVE NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS AMONG ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON "SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR ALL : WHICH WAY FORWARD?" JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MR LAN SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR SCIENTIFIC APTITUDE.

"THIS IS BECAUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERMEATE VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT FOR EACH ONE OF US TO BRING A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO BEAR ON THE PRACTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES OF MODERN LIFE," MR LAN SAID.

"ALL THIS AMOUNTS TO A NEED FOR WHAT I WILL CALL SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS," MR LAN ADDED.

/ON THE .....

ON THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, MR LAN SAID THEY WERE TO AROUSE AN AWARENESS OF THE RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TO DEVELOP SKILLS IN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAKING RATIONAL USE OF ITS RESOURCES.

TURNING TO THE MULTI-DISCIPLINE SCIENCE COURSE, MR LAN SAID IT WOULD GIVE NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY OF EXPOSURE TO THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF SCIENCE AND ITS TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS.

"IT WILL DRAW EXTENSIVELY ON THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF PUPILS AND BE DIRECTLY RELEVANT IN PREPARING THEM FOR ADULT LIFE," HE SAID.

MR LAN CALLED ON SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO RECOGNISE THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING A SCIENCE ELECTIVE SUBJECT AVAILABLE TO ALL THEIR NON-SCIENCE PUPILS.

COMMENTING ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SCHOOLS, MR LAN SAID SCIENCE WAS BEING TAUGHT THROUGH THE SUBJECT OF INTEGRATED SCIENCE IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"THE SUBJECT IS DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BUT ALSO TO PREPARE THEM FOR MORE IN-DEPTH SCIENCE EDUCATION IN LATER YEARS," MR LAN SAID.

"THE SUBJECT IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING SCIENCE LITERACY AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

MR LAN NOTED THAT IN MANY SCHOOLS, SEPARATION INTO SCIENCE STREAMS AND NON-SCIENCE STREAMS BEGAN IN SECONDARY FOUR.

FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS, MOST WOULD BE EXPOSED TO MAJOR SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS INCLUDING PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY.

"FOR NON-SCIENCE STUDENTS, THEIR SCIENCE EDUCATION HAS ALSO NOT BEEN NEGLECTED. THERE IS A BROADENED CURRICULUM UNDER WHICH THE NEW SUBJECTS OF COMPUTER STUDIES AND HUMAN BIOLOGY WERE INTRODUCED IN RECENT YEARS," MR LAN ADDED.

----0----

/8 .....

SCOUTING BENEFICIAL FOR INMATES

* * * *

THE INCLUSION OF SCOUTING IN TRAINING CENTRES HAS YIELDED PROMISING RESULTS, AND PROVED THAT SCOUT TRAINING HAS CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECTS ON INMATES, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS ROSANNA TAM, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MRS TAM WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY, HELD AT LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE, TO MARK THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF A TRAINING CENTRE SCOUT GROUP OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES WOULD HELP YOUNG INMATES TO DEVELOP GOOD CHARACTER, MRS TAM SAID.

"THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INMATES TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AND TO CULTIVATE SELF-CONFIDENCE.

"THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES, INMATES CAN APPRECIATE THE MEANING OF HELPING OTHERS," SHE ADDED.

THE SCOUT GROUP, KNOWN AS THE 221ST HONG KONG GROUP, WAS SET UP BY THE DEPARTMENT IN 1986.

IT NOW HAS 105 MEMBERS; ALL OF THEM ARE BOYS FROM THE CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND THE LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED SUCCESS.

THE GROUP LAST YEAR WON THE FOOTDRILL COMPETITION IN THE HONG KONG ANNUAL SCOUT RALLY AND TWO MEMBERS WERE SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE 16TH WORLD JAMBOREE HELD IN AUSTRALIA IN DECEMBER.

TODAY'S CEREMONY ALSO MARKED THE INAUGURATION OF THE ROVER SCOUT CREW. THE CREW WAS SET UP TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INMATES OVER 18 TO JOIN THE SCOUT MOVEMENT.

THE UNIT NOW COMPRISES 15 INMATES FROM THE LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY

* * * * *

HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS RECORDED A LOW YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN MAY 1988, WHILE RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE RAPIDLY, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN MAY 1988 WAS $17,274 MILLION, $838 MILLION OR 5.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MAY 1987, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 46.1 PER CENT OR $6,770 MILLION TO $21,460 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT $38,734 MILLION IN MAY 1988, WAS, THUS, 24.4 PER CENT OR $7,608 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN MAY 1987.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 26.9 PER CENT OR $8,384 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD, TO $39,558 MILLION IN MAY 1988.

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MAY GREW FASTER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT WAS LARGER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

IN MAY 1988, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT AMOUNTED TO $824 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.1 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF $48 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO ONLY 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN MAY 1987.

PUTTING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1988 WAS $172,462 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF $77,499 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF $94,963 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1987, IN VALUE TERMS TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY $37,530 MILLION OR 27.8 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY $7,996 MILLION OR 11.5 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY $29,534 MILLION OR 45.1 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY $38,476 MILLION OR 27.5 PER CENT, TO $178,505 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF $6,043 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.1 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1988.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF $5,097 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

/COMMENTING ON .....

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SLOW-DOWN IN THE GROWTH OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS RECORDED IN RECENT MONTHS WAS LARGELY THE RESULT OF A SLOWER GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN SOME OF THE MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, AND OF A GRADUAL REDUCTION OF THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR (IN LINE WITH THE US DOLLAR) DURING 1987.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RE-EXPORT TRADE WITH CHINA CONTINUED TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RAPID GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S OVERALL RE-EXPORTS.

DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1988, IN GROSS VALUE TERMS RE-EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS, AS COMPARED TO A FIGURE OF SLIGHTLY OVER 48 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY 1988.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	$17,274 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	$21,460 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	$38,734 MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	$39,558 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	$824 MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	MAR 88 TO MAY 88 HK$ MN.	MAR 87 TO MAY 87 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	47,382	45,458	1,924	4.2
RE-EXPORTS	60,685	42,809	17,876	41.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	108,067	88,267	19,800	22.4
IMPORTS	116,885	92,394	24,491	26.5
TRADE BALANCE	-8,818	-4,127	-4,691	

/SAME MONTH .....

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	MAY 1988 HK$ MN.	MAY 1987 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	17,274	16,436	838	5.1
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(44.6%)	(52.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	21,460	14,690	6,770	46.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	38,734	31,126	7,608	24.4
IMPORTS	39,558	31,174	8,384	26.9
TRADE BALANCE	-824	-48	-776	

LAST MONTH	MAY 1988 HK$ MN.	APRIL 1988 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	17,274	16,055	1,219	7.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(44.6%)	(43.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	21,460	20,636	824	4.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	38,734	36,691	2,043	5.6
IMPORTS	39,558	40,081	-523	-1.3
TRADE BALANCE	-824	-3,390	2,566	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-MAY 1988 HK$ MN.	JAN-MAY 1987 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	77,499	69,503	7,996	11.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(44.9%)	(51.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	94,963	65,429	29,534	45.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	172,462	134,932	37,530	27.8
IMPORTS	178,505	140,029	38,476	27.5
TRADE BALANCE	-6,043	-5,097	-946	

/LAST 12 .....

LAST 12 MONTHS	JUN 87 TO MAY 88 HK$ MN.	JUN 86 TO MAY 87 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	203,250	170,658	32,592	19.1
RE-EXPORTS	212,314	144,542	67,772	46.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	415,564	315,200	100,364	31.8
IMPORTS	416,424	315,484	100,940	32.0
TRADE BALANCE	-860	-284	-576	

----O----

ENROLMENT FOR TRAINING IN SELLING SKILLS

* * * * *

THE HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A TRAINING COURSE ON SELLING SKILLS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

THE TWO-DAY TRAINING COURSE ON "EFFECTIVE SELLING SKILLS FOR TRAVEL AGENCY PERSONNEL" IS SUITABLE FOR TOURISM STAFF WHO ARE UNDERTAKING SALES DUTIES.

THE COURSE WILL EXAMINE TOPICS ON THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC SELLING, ANALYSING PRODUCT AND SERVICE FEATURES, PROVIDING CUSTOMER RECEPTION, ASSESSING CUSTOMER NEEDS, PRESENTING PRODUCT BENEFITS, MEETING CUSTOMER OBJECTIVES, AS THE WELL AS OFFERING OF AFTER-SALES SERVICE.

CLASS MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON JULY 11 AND 12, FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE BY THE VTC UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS JULY 4. FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING BOARD ON 5-8932341, EXT. 282.

----O----

/13 .....

$2.9 MILLION TO IMPROVE LIGHTING IN ANOTHER BATCH OF UC AMENITY GROUNDS

* * * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO SPEND AN ESTIMATED $2.9 MILLION ON IMPROVING LIGHTING FACILITIES IN ANOTHER 14 OF ITS EXISTING PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

"THE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR THE PARKLIGHT/FLOODLIGHT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THESE VENUES IN PHASES," SAID A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN TODAY.

"THE SCHEME AIMS AT ENHANCING THE USAGE AND SAFETY OF THE COUNCIL'S DIFFERENT TYPES OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS GROUNDS BY UPGRADING THE LIGHTING FACILITIES."

UNDER THIS ON-GOING SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED IN 131 COUNCIL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

"A SURVEY ON THE SCHEME HAS SHOWN AN INCREASING USAGE OF THESE AMENITY GROUNDS WHERE LIGHTING HAS BEEN IMPROVED," HE SAID.

"THERE IS ALSO FEEDBACK THAT MEMBERS THE PUBLIC FEEL SAFER AT VENUES WITH IMPROVED LIGHTING."

THE 14 VENUES WHERE IMPROVEMENTS WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT INCLUDE THE NORTHERN SIDE OF VICTORIA PARK, FA HUI PARK, TONG MEI ROAD CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, KING'S ROAD PLAYGROUND, SHEK KIP MEI CENTRAL PLAYGROUND, PUBLIC SQUARE STREET CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND KING'S PARK SPORTS GROUND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM DISTRICT BOARDS

* * * * *

DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE A VALUABLE PART OF THE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, THE ASSISTANT NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS), MR TIM MILNES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE OF A NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER IN CHOI YUEN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI.

"DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE EFFECTIVELY EXERCISED THEIR ADVISORY AND MONITORING FUNCTIONS ON DISTRICT MATTERS SUCH AS COMMUNITY BUILDING, RECREATION AND TRANSPORT ISSUES," MR MILNES SAID.

"THEY ALSO REFLECT PUBLIC OPINION AND WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY."

/MR MILNES .....

MR MILNES SAID THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER'S OFFICE, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS WOULD BE ENHANCED.

"MORE RESIDENTS CAN NOW HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE BOARD MEMBER WHO WILL OFFER THEM ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE ON PROBLEMS THEY ENCOUNTER," HE SAID.

FROM MONDAY (JUNE 27), MR MILNES WILL TEMPORARILY TAKE OVER THE DUTIES OF THE OUTGOING NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, WHO WILL BE POSTED TO THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

- - - - O - - - -

PAVEMENT MADE WIDER FOR PEDESTRIANS

* * * * *

PEDESTRIAN FLOW ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR FOOK HONG STREET IN YUEN LONG HAS GREATLY IMPROVED FOLLOWING RESUMPTION OF A PIECE OF PRIVATE LAND TO MAKE THE PAVEMENT WIDER THERE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT RESERVE ALONG THE CENTRAL DIVIDE OF THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD, PAVEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD HAD BEEN REALIGNED AND NARROWED.

HE NOTED THAT THE PAVEMENT IN QUESTION WAS PARTICULARLY NARROW BECAUSE THERE WAS A PIECE OF PRIVATE LAND INSIDE AND CONTIGUOUS TO IT.

"THE PRIVATE LAND HAD LONG BEEN THE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS FROM NEARBY RESIDENTS BECAUSE IT HAD ON IT A RAISED PLATFORM FENCED OFF BY POSTS AND CHAINS, MAKING IT EXTREMELY INCONVENIENT FOR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC."

"THE MOST WORRYING ASPECT WAS THAT DURING RUSH HOURS, MANY PEDESTRIANS TENDED TO ABANDON THE USE OF THE PAVEMENT AND WALKED ON TO THE CARRIAGEWAY, HENCE ENDANGERING ROAD SAFETY," HE ADDED.

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD HAD REFLECTED RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE TO THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

AFTER CAREFUL DISCUSSION AMONG THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PIECE OF PRIVATE LAND WOULD BE RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT SO THAT THE PAVEMENT COULD BE WIDENED.

"THE SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THIS ISSUE CAN SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD IN HELPING TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - O - - - -

/15 .....

CHAIRMEN CHOSEN FOR SOUTHERN COMMITTEES

* * * *

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR MAN HON-MING, AND MR KO TAM-KAN, HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE RESPECTIVELY IN THEIR FIRST MEETINGS HELD RECENTLY.

THE REMAINING THREE COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD HAVE ALREADY ELECTED THEIR CHAIRMEN AT EARLIER MEETINGS.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND WORKS PROJECTS COMMITTEE ARE BOARD MEMBERS MADAM SO CHOW YIM-PING, MR CHAN YAU-YUE, AND MR ALBERT POON SHUN-KWOK, RESPECTIVELY.

THE TERM OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ALL THE COMMITTEES WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

MEANWHILE, ALL THE FIVE COMMITTEES HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO OPEN THEIR MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA.

HOWEVER, THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO PROCESS IN CAMERA APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS FROM DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS.

----0----

SEMINAR TOMORROW ON YOUTH POLICY REPORT

* * * * *

A SEMINAR ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH'S REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY WILL BE HELD AT HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, YAU MA TEI, TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE REPORT AND TO COLLECT VIEWS.

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH POLICY UNDER THE YAU TSIM/MONG KOK YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE. IT IS CO-SPONSORED BY YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE THREE GUEST SPEAKERS ARE DR CHOI YUEN-WAN, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH; MR SZETO WAH, PRESIDENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION; AND MS ALICE YUK, DIRECTOR OF THE YANG MEMORIAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE.

AFTER THEY SPEAK, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS.

/PROPOSALS MADE .....

PROPOSALS MADE AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMITTEE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR TO BE HELD BETWEEN 2 AND 5 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, YAU MA TEI.

- - - - O - - - -

YOUNG BALLET DANCERS OF KWAI TSING TO VISIT PEKING

* * * * * *

CHILDREN TAKING PART IN A "BALLET IN THE ESTATES" PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING BALLET GROUP AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE HAVE OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED EXAMINATION AND WILL VISIT PEKING AT THE END OF JUNE.

SPEAKING AT TODAY'S (SATURDAY) PRESS CONFERENCE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE KWAI TSING BALLET GROUP, MS ANNIE HO, SAID A TOTAL OF 40 PARTICIPANTS IN THE "BALLET IN THE ESTATES" PROGRAMME TOOK PART IN BRITAIN'S ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCING EXAMINATION LAST MONTH.

FOUR OF THEM OBTAINED HONOURS, THE FULL-MARK GRADE, AND ANOTHER 20 OBTAINED THE GRADES OF "HIGHLY COMMENDED" AND "COMMENDED", WHICH WERE THE BEST RESULTS SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE "BALLET IN THE ESTATES" PROGRAMME TWO YEARS AGO, SHE ADDED.

MS HO SAID THAT SOME CHILDREN WHO HAD OBTAINED GOOD RESULTS IN THE EXAMINATION AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROGRAMME WOULD FORM A 18-MEMBER DELEGATION TO VISIT PEKING FROM JUNE 30 TO JULY 7.

THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT A DANCE SCHOOL AND SOME CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS IN PEKING WITH AN AIM OF LEARNING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BALLET THERE AND SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL OIL COMPANY WHICH SPONSORS THE CHINA TOUR, MS MARIA WONG; LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, MR LAM YAU-KWONG, AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK.

MR COAK SAID THE "BALLET IN THE ESTATES" PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT AROUSING CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN BALLET AND ALSO PROMOTING BALLET IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

/NEW BALLET .....

NEW BALLET TRAINING COURSES WOULD BE ORGANISED AT CHEUNG CHING COMMUNITY CENTRE, LAI KING COMMUNITY HALL, SHEK YAM COMMUNITY HALL AND KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL IN EARLY AUGUST, MR COAK SAID.

"CHILDREN MAY APPLY FOR THESE COURSES THROUGH THEIR NEARBY COMMUNITY CENTRES OR COMMUNITY HALLS," HE ADDED.

----0----

GATHERING OF PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS

* * * * *

MORE THAN 300 LOCAL PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS WILL BE SHARING EXPERIENCE AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR SKILLS AT A GATHERING TO BE HELD AT THE MIRAMAR HOTEL TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION AS PART OF ITS ON-GOING EFFORT TO PROMOTE PUBLIC INTEREST IN CHINESE CULTURE.

THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE START OF THE GATHERING AT 1 PM TOMORROW.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GATHERING OF PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS TO BE HELD AT 1 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE CONVENTION CENTRE, PENTHOUSE OF MIRAMAR HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI.

----0----

RESIDENTS VISIT OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

* * * *

MORE THAN 250 RESIDENTS FROM MONG KOK TODAY (SATURDAY) VISITED 60 ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN A HOME FOR THE AGED IN TSUEN WAN AS PART OF A DAY'S OUTING.

THE OUTING WAS SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME. IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT COUNTRYMEN AND CLANSMEN ASSOCIATION.

THE OUTING INCLUDED VISITS TO TWO TEMPLES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND A VEGETARIAN LUNCH AS WELL AS THE VISIT TO THE OLD PEOPLE'S HOME.

----0----

/18 .....

SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION

* * * *

FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS MORNING (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF $897,500 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER DT8 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF $120,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER DT888 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF $100,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS $2,000 FOR DT8707.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	$		$		$		$
DS8996	6,500	DT 308	12,000	DU 308	12,000	DT 525	20,000
DU6318	5,000	DS8088	10,000	DT 332	16,000	DT 328	33,000
DT6686	13,000	AU 82	50,000	DT 786	5,000	DW 77	35,000
DS 969	9,000	AS 302	12,000	DU 170	5,000	DT 888	100,000
HK9876	34,000	DU1428	4,000	CR1881	14,000	HK 770	22,000
AD 938	25,000	DT 280	16,000	XX8777	21,000	DU 638	33,000
DT 8	120,000	DT 821	10,000	DT 560	7,000	8996	35,000
AC 133	21,000	DU 398	16,000	AD3288	15,000	AS 300	33,000
AC9876	10,000	AA1885	6,000	DU2823	7,000	AB 58	8,000
DT9968	10,000	DU 168	80,000	DT8707	2,000	AA1106	5,000

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITH 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 126TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO $6,928,432.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VILLAGE LOTS TO BE RESUMED

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME 62 AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN FANLING TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR POLICE OPERATIONAL TRAINING.

THE LOTS, WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 19,300 SQUARE METRES, ARE NEAR PAK FUK TSUEN.

AN OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE AND A CLOSE QUARTER BATTLE HOUSE FOR THE NEW POLICE TACTICAL UNIT DEPOT WILL BE BUILT ON THE RESUMED LAND.

RESUMPTION OF LAND IS REQUIRED NOW TO ALLOW WORKS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE AT LION ROCK TUNNEL

* * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SLOW LANE OF THE KOWLOON-BOUND TUBE OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10.30 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO 5.30 AM ON MONDAY.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL FACILITATE THE LAYING OF ANTI-SKID MATERIAL BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AT THE TUNNEL'S KOWLOON EXIT. SIMILAR WORKS WERE CARRIED OUT EARLIER THIS WEEK, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED OWING TO BAD WEATHER.

MOTORISTS SHOULD WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

- - - - O - - - -

TRAFFIC CHANGES IN YUEN LONG

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ADVISED MOTORISTS TO WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN YUEN LONG FROM 10.30 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 27).

THE CHANGES ARE PART OF THE YUEN LONG TOWN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, THE SECTION OF TAI TONG ROAD BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG SECTION) AND KAU YUK ROAD WILL BE REROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC INTO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS ON TAI TONG ROAD HEADING FOR CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG SECTION) WESTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TAI TONG ROAD, KAU YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG HONG LOK ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG SECTION).

IN ADDITION, FUNG NIN ROAD WILL BE REROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND INTO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

- - - - O - - - -