



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1984

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NEW TRAFFIC LAWS TO BE IN FORCE SOON

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A NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE WITH SEVEN SETS OF REGULATIONS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 25 THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (AUGUST 16), THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, SAID THE NEW LAWS WERE THE RESULT OF THE FIRST COMPLETE REVISION OF ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION SINCE 1959.

+THE REVISION WAS NOT ONLY TO BRING THE LEGISLATION UP-TO-DATE, BUT ALSO TO HAVE IT RESTRUCTURED IN A WAY THAT MAKES IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND BOTH TO THOSE WHO HAVE TO APPLY IT AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC,+ MR LEEDS SAID.

+THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE TO INTRODUCE NEW PENALTIES AGAINST DRIVERS, BUT ONE TO CREATE A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL ROAD USERS,+ HE STRESSED.

+NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE; AND AS FAR AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS CONCERNED, MANY OF THE FAMILIAR RULES WILL CONTINUE AS BEFORE.+

THE PREVIOUS 13 SETS OF REGULATIONS HAVE NOW BEEN COMBINED INTO SEVEN SETS, DEALING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES, REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES, DRIVING LICENCES, TRAFFIC CONTROL, PARKING, PUBLIC SERVICES VEHICLES AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

ONE OF THE MOST NOTICEABLE EFFECTS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD BE THE REPLACEMENT OF A NUMBER OF EXISTING SIGNS BY NEW SIGNS BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYMBOLS RATHER THAN WORDS. THE NEW SIGNS WILL BE METRIC.

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF EXISTING SIGNS, THE REPLACEMENT HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT OVER SEVERAL YEARS, BUT THE REPLACEMENT OF ALL 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGNS BY 50 KM/H SIGNS AND 40 MPH SIGNS BY 70 KM/H SIGNS WILL BE THE FIRST TO TAKE PLACE, FROM AUGUST 25 TO AUGUST 27.

IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, TO AVOID CONFUSION DURING THE CHANGEOVER OF SPEED LIMIT SIGNS, THE SPEED LIMIT FOR ALL ROADS IN THE TERRITORY WILL BE FIXED AT 50 KM/H FROM MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 24 TO MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 27, REGARDLESS OF WHAT SIGNS ARE DISPLAYED.

AS FROM AUGUST 28, MOTORISTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO OBSERVE A GENERAL SPEED LIMIT OF 50 KM/H, UNLESS SIGNS ARE ERECTED SHOWING A DIFFERENT SPEED LIMIT.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUING DRIVING LICENCES, GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE CLASSIFIED INTO:

* LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES UP TO 5.5 TONNES GROSS.

/* MEDIUM GOODS

- * MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES OVER 5.5 TONNES BUT NOT EXCEEDING 24 TONNES GROSS.
- * HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES OVER 24 TONNES GROSS.
- * ARTICULATED VEHICLES (E.G. CONTAINER LORRIES).
- * SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES (E.G. ROAD SWEEPERS).

GOODS VEHICLE DRIVERS HOLDING FULL LICENCES MAY DRIVE ARTICULATED GOODS VEHICLES FOR THREE YEARS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION, AFTER WHICH THESE DRIVERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE PASSED OR BEEN EXEMPTED FROM THE APPROPRIATE TEST FOR ARTICULATED VEHICLES.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE:

- * PEDESTRIANS MUST NOT CLIMB THROUGH OR OVER RAILINGS AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. NOR SHOULD THEY CROSS A ROAD WITHIN 15 METRES OF A CROSSING FACILITY, INCLUDING SUBWAYS AND FOOTBRIDGES, OTHER THAN AT THE CROSSING.
- * +PARKING+ WILL BE REDEFINED AS THE STANDING OF A VEHICLE, WHETHER OCCUPIED OR NOT, EXCEPT WHEN STANDING TEMPORARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOADING AND UNLOADING GOODS OR PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS. THE CONCEPT OF +WAITING+ WILL BE ABANDONED.
- * PARKING IS GENERALLY PROHIBITED ON ANY ROAD ON WHICH THERE IS A SYSTEM OF STREET LIGHTING FURNISHED BY MEANS OF LAMPS NOT MORE THAN 200 METRES APART, OTHER THAN IN A DESIGNATED PARKING PLACE.
- * THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE PARKED IN A METERED PARKING SPACE IS PRESUMED TO HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE WHEN THE PARKING METER IS FOUND TO HAVE AN OBJECT OTHER THAN THE APPROPRIATE COIN UNLESS THE CONTRARY IS PROVED.
- * A MINIMUM TYRE TREAD DEPTH OF 1 MM IS REQUIRED. TYRES OF DIFFERENT STRUCTURES, FOR EXAMPLE RADIAL PLY AND CROSS PLY TYPES, MUST NOT BE USED ON THE SAME AXLE.
- * ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT MOTOR CYCLES, MOTOR BICYCLES AND INVALID CARRIAGES MUST BE FITTED WITH AT LEAST TWO REAR-VIEW MIRRORS, ONE OF WHICH MUST BE ON THE RIGHT.
- * THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE VEHICLE OWNER, PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT AND THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED AXLE WEIGHT MUST BE PAINTED ON SOME CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON TRAILERS AND ON BOTH SIDES OF GOODS VEHICLES.

- * TRAILERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED AND LICENSED LIKE MOTOR VEHICLES. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY REGISTRATION NUMBER PLATES AT THE FRONT OR HAVE SEPARATE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.
- * OPERATORS OF NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS SERVICES, PRIVATE BUS SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICES, AND LICENCEES OF MAXICAB SERVICES, MUST APPLY FOR A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE. ALL VEHICLES OPERATED UNDER THE LICENCE SHOULD DISPLAY A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE AT THE FRONT AND PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE PLATE AT THE REAR.

EFFORTS TO PUBLICISE THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WILL BE STEPPED UP OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. TELEVISION ADS (ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST) WILL BE SCREENED ON TV CHANNELS, RADIO MESSAGES WILL BE BROADCAST AND POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

ASPECTS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRE DETAILED EXPLANATION ARE BEING PUBLICISED THROUGH PRESS RELEASES AND ON RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMES.

A SET OF SUMMARIES OF THE NEW LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE FROM TOMORROW.

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AG GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE
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FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY):

+TODAY I AM RELEASING A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ENTITLED 'THE PROBLEM OF THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES' WHICH ADDRESSES A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN HONG KONG, WHICH IS ALSO CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+THE TRIAL BY JURY HAS A LONG TRADITION IN ENGLISH LAW AND IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG IT HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE 1841. IT IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A BULWARK OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE FAIRNESS IN THE TRIAL OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

+THE JURY SERVES THE LEGAL SYSTEM WELL IN ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. WHEN THE FINDING TO BE MADE BY THE JURY REQUIRES THE STRAIGHTFORWARD COMMON SENSE APPROACH THAT THE MAN IN THE STREET CAN READILY APPLY TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A CASE, THE JURY IS A WELL REGARDED SERVANT OF JUSTICE. IT CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE REPLACED FOR THOSE MATTERS WHERE IT SERVES US WELL.

/+HOWEVER IN

+HOWEVER IN RECENT TIMES THERE HAVE BEEN A SPATE OF UNFORTUNATE COLLAPSES OF DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES AND OTHER CORPORATE FAILURES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE INVOLVED COMPLICATED COMMERCIAL CRIMES.

+PROSECUTIONS OF THESE CRIMES MAY REQUIRE INTRICATE UNDERSTANDING OF PARTICULAR COMMODITY MARKETS, BANKING, INSURANCE AND IN NEARLY ALL CASES DEALINGS BETWEEN MANY COMPANIES INVOLVING SHARES AND OTHER ASSETS. THESE ASSETS WILL OFTEN BE HIDDEN, OVER-VALUED OR UNDER-VALUED AND PRESENT A RIDDLE EVEN TO SKILLED ACCOUNTANTS. ON TOP OF ALL THIS, THERE MAY BE ADDED ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL DEALINGS WHICH COMPLICATE AN ALREADY COMPLEX STATE OF AFFAIRS.

+ORDINARY BUSINESS PRACTICES MAY PRESENT THE MAN IN THE STREET WITH TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW AND TO UNDERSTAND. WHEN THESE PRACTICES HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY A DISHONEST BUSINESSMAN, HE WILL HIDE THEM BEHIND A SEEMINGLY RESPECTABLE FRONT IN ORDER TO DEFRAUD OTHER BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR ADVISERS. IN SUCH A CASE, THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE PROSECUTION OF THAT PERSON BECOME SO MUCH MORE HARD TO UNRAVEL AND SO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ORDINARY MAN IN THE STREET TO UNDERSTAND. IT WILL ALSO TAKE UP A LOT OF HIS TIME IF HE FINDS HIMSELF A MEMBER OF A JURY AT THE TRIAL OF A COMPLICATED FRAUD.

+THOSE WHO ADVOCATE THE USE OF JURIES IN SUCH CASES SAY THAT WITH CAREFUL HANDLING, THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF PROPER SKILL AND CARE BY COUNSEL AND THE JUDGE AND THE EXPLANATION BY EXPERT WITNESSES, THE MAN IN THE STREET WILL BE ABLE TO GRASP THE COMPLEXITIES AND FIND HIS WAY THROUGH A MAZE OF TRANSACTIONS. EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE CALLS THIS INTO QUESTION. APART FROM THE INHERENT DIFFICULTIES OF THE TASK OF JURIES, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT WHEN A PERSON DISCUSSES AN UNFAMILIAR TOPIC HIS CONCENTRATION SPAN IS LESS THAN AN HOUR. THE TRIALS I AM DESCRIBING WILL GO ON DAY AFTER DAY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER WHICH A JUROR IS EXPECTED TO REACH A REASONABLE VERDICT. MANY OF US THINK THAT IT IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN TO PLACE UPON THE ORDINARY JUROR.

+FOR THESE REASONS, WHICH ARE ARGUED IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE PAPER, I HAVE DECIDED TO RELEASE A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT WHICH OUTLINES THE OPTIONS AS I SEE THEM. THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN THE PAPER ARE TO REPLACE THE JUDGE AND JURY TRIAL IN THIS SPECIAL LIMITED CATEGORY OF TRIALS WITH -

- A) TRIAL BY A JUDGE SITTING ALONE; OR
- B) TRIAL BY A JUDGE AND A JURY COMPOSED OF BUSINESSMEN (A SPECIAL JURY); OR
- C) TRIAL BY A JUDGE AND ADVISORY ASSESSORS; OR
- D) TRIAL BY A JUDGE AND COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS.

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+THE PAPER REACHES A CONCLUSION IN FAVOUR OF THE LAST OPTION, THAT IS, TRIAL BY JUDGE AND COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS. THE PROPOSAL IS THAT WHEN THE CHIEF JUSTICE RULES THAT IT IS AN APPROPRIATE CASE, BOTH IN THE HIGH COURT AND IN THE DISTRICT COURT, THE JUDGE WHO TRIES THE CASE SHOULD SIT WITH TWO COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS. THEY WILL TOGETHER FORM A THREE-MAN TRIBUNAL TO DECIDE QUESTIONS OF FACT AND REACH THE VERDICT OF GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY. QUESTIONS OF LAW WILL BE FOR THE JUDGE ALONE TO DECIDE AND, LIKE THE JURY, THE ADJUDICATORS WILL BE BOUND TO ACCEPT HIS DIRECTION.

+PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR SHOW THAT BUSINESS LEADERS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE CONCEPT. NO DIFFICULTY IS ENVISAGED IN FINDING EXPERIENCED MEN AND WOMEN OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESS TO SERVE AS COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS.

+I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THIS WILL NOT MEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BANKERS WILL BE TRIED BY BANKERS, ACCOUNTANTS BY ACCOUNTANTS AND SO ON. THE TYPE OF ADJUDICATOR WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE FROM A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS WHOSE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE WOULD ENABLE HIM TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF THE EVIDENCE. THEY WOULD BE BUSINESSMEN ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH THE TYPE OF MATTERS LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT IN EVIDENCE RATHER THAN EXPERTS FROM A PARTICULAR PROFESSION.

+WHICHEVER SYSTEM IS FINALLY DECIDED UPON, IT WOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

+THE PAPER HAS ANNEXED TO IT A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD SEEM SUITABLE IF THE OPTION I SUPPORT IS PROCEEDED WITH, AS WELL AS EXTRACTS FROM COMMENTS BY JUDGES AND ACADEMICS, WHICH ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE PAPER.

+I HOPE THAT THE PERSONS CONSULTED AND ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WITH VIEWS UPON THE MATTERS DISCUSSED WILL COMMENT PREFERABLY IN WRITING TO ME THROUGH MR J.K. FINDLAY, A SENIOR OFFICER IN MY CHAMBERS.+

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TEXTAB REVIEWS DEVELOPMENTS ON U.S. TEXTILES RULES

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THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD (TEXTAB) HELD A MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PROPOSED U.S. RULES ON TEXTILE IMPORTS.

THE MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, AGREED ON THE APPROACH WHICH THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WOULD TAKE AT THE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES ON AUGUST 20 AND 21.

/AS PREVIOUSLY

AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, THE DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OTHER OFFICIALS - DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, AND PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN - AND TWO INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS, MR STEPHEN CHEONG AND MR KENNETH FANG, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS UNDERLINES THE DEEP CONCERN WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE TRADE ATTACH TO THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

+THE OFFICIAL NEGOTIATORS CAN SEEK IMMEDIATE TRADE ADVICE FROM MR CHEONG AND MR FANG ON ANY MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE RAISED BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE CONSULTATIONS.+

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED HONG KONG'S WELL KNOWN POSITION THAT THE NEW U.S. RULES ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT AND ARE THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 18), THE DELEGATION WILL MEET THE MEDIA IN THE VIP PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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BUS AND TRAM PARADES TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION * * * * *

FOUR DOUBLE-DECK BUSES AND A TRAM WILL HELP PROMOTE THE CURRENT DISTRICT BOARD VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN KWAI CHUNG AND WAN CHAI.

FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE FOUR DOUBLE-DECKERS ON ROUTES BETWEEN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL CARRY REGISTRATION AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION MESSAGES TO REMIND RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S DB ELECTIONS.

SEVERAL ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER OF KMB, MR LAWRENCE E. LOUEY, AND THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GREGORY LEUNG, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY TOMORROW MORNING AT KMB'S KWAI CHUNG DEPOT.

IN WAN CHAI, A SPECIALLY DECORATED TRAM WILL TRAVEL BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY, HAPPY VALLEY AND WAN CHAI FROM 2 PM TO 9 PM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 18), BROADCASTING SIMILAR MESSAGES.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE SHARP STREET EAST TRAM DEPOT SHORTLY BEFORE THE PARADE.

AMONG THE OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL BE THE MANAGER OF HONG KONG TRAMWAYS LTD, MR JOHN CAREY; THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG; THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

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MARITIME REGULATIONS VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS VIGOROUSLY ENFORCING REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SHIPPING, PORT FACILITIES, THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL ZONES WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS.

THE RECENTLY PASSED REGULATIONS GIVE EFFECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG IN OCTOBER.

UNDER THE CONVENTION, MEMBER COUNTRIES MUST MEET MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PRESCRIBED FOR SEAFARERS.

THE CONVENTION HAS COME INTO FORCE AFTER ITS ACCEPTANCE BY 25 COUNTRIES WHOSE MERCHANT FLEETS REPRESENT HALF OF THE WORLD'S GROSS TONNAGE.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ISSUES WATCH RATINGS CERTIFICATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONVENTION TO QUALIFIED SEAMEN TO ENHANCE THEIR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY.

THIS ALSO ENSURES THAT HONG KONG SEAMEN MEET INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE STANDARD OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, WATCHKEEPING AND SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS.

+STANDARDS OF COMPETENCY AND CERTIFICATION OF MASTERS AND OFFICERS FOR HONG KONG-REGISTERED SHIPS HAVE FOR MANY YEARS BEEN HIGHER THAN THOSE STIPULATED IN THE CONVENTION,+ A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

AND A LARGE NUMBER OF LOCALLY REGISTERED SEAMEN ALREADY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVENTION, HE ADDED.

AS FOR UNQUALIFIED SEAMEN, A SIX-WEEK RESIDENTIAL COURSE IS PROVIDED AT A TRAINING CENTRE TO GIVE THEM PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL TRAINING.

THE CENTRE WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AT LITTLE SAI WAN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

+THE COURSE, WHOSE STANDARDS EXCEED THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVENTION, CONSISTS OF TRAINING IN PERSONAL SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES, PERSONAL SAFETY, PROFICIENCY IN HANDLING SURVIVAL CRAFT, FIRST AID AT SEA, FIRE FIGHTING, BASIC TANKER SAFETY, NAVIGATIONAL WATCHKEEPING KNOWLEDGE AND ENGINE ROOM WATCHKEEPING KNOWLEDGE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED RECENTLY, IN PREPARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.

REGULATIONS UNDER THIS LEGISLATION INCLUDE:

/* MERCHANT SHIPPING

- * MERCHANT SHIPPING (CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING) REGULATIONS, REQUIRING ADEQUATE WATCHKEEPING ARRANGEMENT FOR NAVIGATIONAL AND ENGINE ROOM WATCHES.
- * MERCHANT SHIPPING (NAVIGATIONAL WATCH RATINGS) REGULATIONS, PROVIDING THAT ONLY QUALIFIED RATINGS OR RATINGS TRAINING UNDER QUALIFIED SUPERVISION MAY FORM PART OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH.
- * MERCHANT SHIPPING (ENGINE ROOM WATCH RATINGS) REGULATIONS, PROVIDING THAT ONLY QUALIFIED RATINGS OR RATINGS TRAINING UNDER QUALIFIED SUPERVISION MAY FORM PART OF AN ENGINE-ROOM WATCH.
- * MERCHANT SHIPPING (TANKERS-OFFICERS AND RATINGS) REGULATIONS, PROVIDING THAT ONLY OFFICERS AND QUALIFIED RATINGS OR RATINGS TRAINING UNDER QUALIFIED SUPERVISION MAY PERFORM DUTIES IN CONNECTION WITH CARGO AND CARGO EQUIPMENT OF ANY TANKER.

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HONG KONG'S POSTAL SERVICE KEEPS EXPANDING

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THE NEED OF EFFICIENT POSTAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG'S LESS URBANISED COMMUNITIES HAD NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN, SAID THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DAVID H.T. LAN, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A POST OFFICE ON LAMMA ISLAND TODAY (THURSDAY).

+AS A LEADING FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE IN THE FAR EAST, HONG KONG DEPENDS ON EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE COMMUNICATION SERVICE BOTH WITHIN THE TERRITORY AND INTERNATIONALLY,+ HE SAID.

WHILE MUCH EFFORT HAD BEEN PUT INTO PROVIDING A FIRST CLASS POSTAL SERVICE TO MEET DEMANDS IN THE MORE BUILT UP URBAN AREAS, EFFORT WAS ALSO BEING MADE TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN THE SETTING UP OF POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ON OUTLYING ISLANDS, HE SAID.

+HONG KONG HAS EARNED A GOOD REPUTATION BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY FOR ITS EFFICIENT POSTAL SERVICE AND IT IS OUR FIRM DETERMINATION THAT THIS GOOD NAME SHOULD REMAIN,+ HE SAID.

THE POST OFFICE HANDLES ALMOST 1-1/2 MILLION ITEMS DAILY, INCLUDING LOCAL LETTERS AND PARCELS, AIR MAIL ITEMS AND INCOMING MAIL. OVER 98 PER CENT OF LOCALLY POSTED LETTERS CAN BE DELIVERED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

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A FIRST-CLASS AIR MAIL LETTER POSTED TO THE U.K., THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR \$1.30 COULD REACH ITS DESTINATION WITHIN THREE TO FIVE WORKING DAYS, MR LAN SAID.

TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE BUSINESS SECTOR, THE POST OFFICE PROVIDES SERVICES SUCH AS SPEEDPOST AND INTELPOST.

LETTERS AND MERCHANDISE SENT BY SPEEDPOST CAN REACH THEIR DESTINATION IN 25 OVERSEAS COUNTRIES WITHIN 24 TO 36 HOURS, WHILE INTELPOST ITEMS CAN BE DELIVERED WITHIN A FEW HOURS.

+THE POST OFFICE IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS AND MEANS TO MAINTAIN THE FIRST CLASS POSTAL SERVICE HONG KONG NOW ENJOYS DESPITE LARGE ANNUAL INCREASES IN TRAFFIC,+ HE SAID.

IT HAS JUST INTRODUCED A PHONE-IN PICK-UP SERVICE FOR SPEEDPOST ITEMS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST.

IT HAS RECENTLY ENGAGED A CONSULTANT FROM THE BRITISH POST OFFICE TO GIVE ADVICE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF USING NEW MECHANISED SORTING TECHNIQUES INVOLVING OPTICAL CHARACTER READING EQUIPMENT.

+OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WE PLAN TO PROVIDE NO LESS THAN 17 NEW POST OFFICES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, IN ADDITION TO THE REPROVISIONING OF MANY EXISTING ONES,+ HE SAID.

BY THE END OF MARCH 1985, HONG KONG WILL HAVE 100 POST OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THREE EXISTING POST OFFICES WILL BE RE-PROVISIONED IN NEW PREMISES WITH BETTER FACILITIES AND IN MORE SUITABLE LOCATIONS.

THE NEW POST OFFICE OPENED TODAY IS THE FIRST ON LAMMA ISLAND AND THE 96TH IN HONG KONG.

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FISHERMEN BROADEN KNOWLEDGE THROUGH TOURS * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED A BANNER TO A DELEGATION OF FISHERMEN WHO WILL LEAVE FOR GUANGZHOU ON MONDAY ON AN EIGHT-DAY STUDY TOUR.

THE TOUR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

THE DELEGATION OF 12 FISHERMEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FISHERIES OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT AND A MARKET MANAGER OF THE ORGANISATION.

/SPEAKING AT

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SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT SINCE 1981 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ORGANISATION HAD BEEN ORGANISING STUDY TOURS FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN TO SEE ADVANCED FISHING TECHNOLOGY IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

*IT IS HOPED THAT THESE VISITS BROADEN THEIR OUTLOOK ON FISHERIES AND ENABLE THEM TO EXCHANGE THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AS WELL AS INCREASE THEIR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE,+ HE SAID.

WHILE IN GUANGZHOU, THE GROUP WILL VISIT VARIOUS SELECTED SHIPBUILDING YARDS AND FISH-PROCESSING PLANTS.

THE VISIT WILL ALSO COINCIDE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND PROCESSING EXHIBITION BEING HELD THERE.

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TENDERS FOR HOUSING PROJECTS APPROVED

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TENDERS TOTALLING \$275.8 MILLION WERE APPROVED TODAY AT A MEETING OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR VARIOUS HOUSING PROJECTS.

THEY COVER CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOUSING BLOCKS AS WELL AS LIFT AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MR H.M.G. FORSGATE.

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REMINDER ON PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED FACTORY PROPRIETORS THAT WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 17 EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK OUTSIDE THEIR FIXED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE REMINDER WAS ISSUED AFTER A KWUN TONG FACTORY HAD BEEN FINED A TOTAL OF \$15 000 BY THE COURT RECENTLY ON THREE COUNTS OF EMPLOYING WOMEN WORKERS BEYOND THEIR FIXED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT, IN BREACH OF THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR THIS OFFENCE IS \$5 000.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE REGULATIONS, EMPLOYERS EMPLOYING WOMEN OR YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRY SHOULD FIX THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT FOR EACH DAY OF THE WEEK AND INFORM THEM BY A NOTICE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY AT THE WORK PLACE.

ANY EMPLOYER WISHING TO CHANGE A FIXED EMPLOYMENT PERIOD MUST NOTIFY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN WRITING BEFORE SUCH CHANGE TAKES PLACE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ANOTHER INLAND REVENUE SUB-OFFICE OPENED
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT OPENED A SUB-OFFICE IN YUEN LONG TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE NEW UNIT IS LOCATED AT YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 5TH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

ITS OFFICE HOURS FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES ARE FROM 8.30 AM TO 12.30 PM AND FROM 1.30 PM TO 4.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 8.15 AM TO 12.15 PM ON SATURDAY.

COLLECTION TIMES ARE FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AND FROM 1.30 PM TO 4 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 PM ON SATURDAY.

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SAI YING PUN CLINIC TO BECOME COOLER
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A \$3.6 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AN AIR-CONDITIONING AND VENTILATION SYSTEM AT THE SAI YING PUN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC.

THE NINE-STOREY CLINIC, LOCATED AT QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, WAS OPENED IN 1960 AND IS ONLY PARTIALLY AIR-CONDITIONED.

THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO GILMAN ENGINEERING LTD.

THE CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO ENSURE THAT MINIMUM DISTURBANCE IS CAUSED DURING INSTALLATION WHICH STARTS LATER THIS MONTH.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT NORMAL MEDICAL SERVICE AT THE CLINIC WILL NOT BE DISRUPTED.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1984

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PLAY AREAS FOR QUARTERS

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PLAYGROUND FACILITIES WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE COMPOUNDS OF TWO GOVERNMENT QUARTERS TO ALLOW CHILDREN TO PLAY IN A SAFER ENVIRONMENT.

THESE FACILITIES INCLUDE A WHIRL, A SPIRAL SLIDE, A +SNAIL+ CLIMBING FRAME, AND SAFETY MATTING.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THESE FACILITIES AT THE KWAI CHUNG POLICE MARRIED QUARTERS AT KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND THE BORRETT ROAD NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

WORK, WHICH INCLUDES PAVING OF THE TWO SITES AND PROVISION OF SEATING, FENCING, GATES AND ARBOURS, IS EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER AND BE COMPLETED IN FOUR MONTHS.

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