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GOVERNOR'S TERM EXTENDED

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THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HONG KONG UNTIL APRIL 1982.

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HK TO BENEFIT FROM BRITAIN'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES - BLAKER

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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR. PETER BLAKER, TODAY (TUESDAY) EMPHASISED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HONG KONG AND OUTLINED BRITAIN'S NEW DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES TOWARDS RETURNING TO FREE ENTERPRISE.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR. BLAKER SAID THESE DOMESTIC POLICIES WERE RELEVANT FOR HONG KONG BECAUSE IF BRITAIN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING NEW DYNAMIC ATTITUDE IN INDUSTRY THEN THE PROBLEMS OF ADMITTING FOREIGN GOODS FROM EAST ASIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING PARTS OF THE WORLD WOULD BE DIMINISHED.

MR. BLAKER SAID THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGARDED THESE POLICIES AS THEIR TOP PRIORITY TO MAKE THE BRITISH ECONOMY MORE FLEXIBLE, MORE ENERGETIC, MORE DYNAMIC AND MORE ATHLETIC.

+WE WANT TO CREATE AGAIN AN ECONOMY IN BRITAIN WHICH IS CAPABLE OF CHANGE AND GROWTH. WE HAVE THEREFORE TO CHANGE SOME ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF MANY PEOPLE IN BRITAIN AND WE ARE GOING TO APPROACH OUR TASK IN THREE WAYS:

* TO CURB INFLATION BY RESTORING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TO THE FIRM WHERE RESPONSIBILITY OUGHT TO BE, AND AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING A STRICT MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICY AS THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGARD THESE TWO METHODS AS THE BEST WAY OF CONTROLLING INFLATION-

* TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THE LAW REGARDING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SO AS TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE WHICH EXISTS AT THE PRESENT TIME BETWEEN THE TRADE-UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS SO THAT FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WHICH BRITAIN WANTS TO RESTORE CAN TAKE PLACE IN FAIRER CONDITIONS- AND

* TO PROMOTE ENTERPRISE AND TO INCREASE THE REWARDS FOR SUCCESS BY RELYING MORE ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND LESS ON PUBLIC ACTIVITY- AND AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING THE HEAVY BURDEN OF TAXATION AND PUBLIC SPENDING.+

MR. BLAKER SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAVE SOME SUCCESS IN EMBARKING ON THESE POLICIES.

+WE HAVE MANAGED ALREADY TO CUT DIRECT TAXATION AND PARTICULARLY WE HAVE CUT IT ON THE HIGHER INCOMES WHERE WE THINK SUCH A CUT IS SO IMPORTANT.

/+WE HAVE.....

+WE HAVE RELAXED THE EXCHANGE CONTROLS. WE HAVE INTRODUCED NEW POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE THE SMALL FIRMS FROM WHICH WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH GROWTH CAN COME,+ HE SAID.

IN SHORT, MR. BLAKER SAID, BRITAIN WAS DOING HER BEST TO RETURNING TO FREE ENTERPRISE. +PROBABLY OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO WE SHOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME, BUT WE HAVE TO STICK TO OUR GUNS.+

MR. BLAKER SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE EXAMPLES SET BY CALIFORNIA, WHERE A CUT IN TAXATION A YEAR OR MORE AGO RESULTED IN A LARGE INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT, AND BY HONG KONG WHERE MANY VISITING BRITISH MINISTERS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE SUCCESS OF A COMBINATION OF ORDER AND FREE ENTERPRISE.

MR. BLAKER SAID HONG KONG WAS A SUCCESS STORY, YET BY ALL THE LAWS OF REASONS HONG KONG SHOULD NOT EXIST.

+IF ALL THE FACTS ABOUT THE TERRITORY WERE FED INTO A COMPUTER, ITS SIZE, ITS PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ITS LACK OF RESOURCES, THE NUMBERS CRAMPED INTO THIS SMALL SPACE, THE COMPUTER WILL PROVE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A PLACE TO EXIST.

+YET HERE YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST THRIVING DYNAMIC PLACES IN ASIA. IT WILL BE THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THIS REMARKABLE PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

MR. BLAKER SAID ANGLO-CHINESE RELATIONS WERE AT PRESENT EXCELLENT, INCLUDING THE RELATIONS OVER HONG KONG.

+I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF OUR COMMON INTEREST IS THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SEES HONG KONG AS HAVING AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THEIR POLICY OF RAPID MODERNISATION.

+I AM SURE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL BE WELCOMED IN HONG KONG AND THAT CO-OPERATION OF THIS SORT WILL IMPROVE RELATIONS STILL FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

MR. BLAKER ADDED THAT THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO BEIJING EARLIER THIS YEAR SHOWED HOW CLOSE AND FRIENDLY THESE RELATIONS NOW ARE AND NEXT MONTH BRITAIN LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THE CHINESE PREMIER IN LONDON.

+THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THESE DEVELOPMENTS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, MR. BLAKER PAID TIRBUTE TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, FOR THE GREAT EFFORTS HE MADE BOTH IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

+WHAT WE NOW HAVE TO DO IS TO MAINTAIN THE PRESSURE ON VIETNAM TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FLOW DOES NOT BEGIN AGAIN IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND WE HAVE, SECONDLY, TO CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT HONG KONG IS CARRYING PROPORTIONATELY A BIGGER BURDEN OF REFUGEES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.+

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STATEMENT BY F.C.O. MINISTER
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+I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU AT WHAT IS NEARLY THE END OF A VISIT THAT HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS, BUT HOPE YOU WILL FIND IT USEFUL IF I SET THE SCENE BRIEFLY.

+BRITAIN HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, AND THE NEW CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO HONOUR THIS RESPONSIBILITY. THE FACT THAT LORD CARRINGTON, AND NOW I (THE MINISTER OF STATE RESPONSIBLE IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS) HAVE VISITED HONG KONG SO EARLY IN THE LIFE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT DOES, I BELIEVE, HIGHLIGHT, NOT ONLY BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY, BUT ALSO BRITAIN'S INTEREST IN FOSTERING THE PROGRESS AND WELFARE OF HONG KONG. WE IN BRITAIN FOLLOW WITH ADMIRATION THE WAY HONG KONG MARRIES OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL FREE ENTERPRISE WITH GOOD ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE.

+THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE BRITISH ECONOMY, SO DISAPPOINTING FOR SO MANY YEARS, CAN BE RE-VITALIZED AND MADE MORE RESPONSIVE TO CHANGE. WHEN WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO HANDLE THE PROBLEMS WHICH HONG KONG NOW FACES OVER RESTRICTED ACCESS FOR SOME PRODUCTS, NOTABLY TEXTILES.

+THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE GENEVA MEETING ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN JULY WAS MAINLY THE RESULT OF EFFORTS BY MRS. THATCHER. WE BELIEVED THAT A MAJOR INITIATIVE WAS REQUIRED TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN WHICH HONG KONG WAS BEARING. WE ARE NOW DOING OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT THE MEETING IS PROPERLY FOLLOWED UP.

+FOR HONG KONG THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS CENTRAL. SINO BRITISH RELATIONS, INCLUDING HONG KONG, ARE OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD, AS YOU WILL KNOW FROM THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR. BRITAIN, HONG KONG, AND CHINA SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

+I WOULD NOT IN ANY EVENT WISH TO CONCLUDE THESE REMARKS WITHOUT PAYING PARTICULAR TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNOR'S DISTINGUISHED ROLE IN DEFENDING AND PROMOTING HONG KONG'S INTERESTS. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF HONG KONG UNTIL APRIL 1982.+

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COST OF LIVING FOR AUGUST RISES

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THE AUGUST CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(A) WAS 144 AND INDEX(B) WAS 143, UP FOUR POINTS AND THREE POINTS RESPECTIVELY.

THE ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR FEBRUARY 1979 WAS 132.3 FOR C.P.I.(A) AND 132.5 FOR C.P.I.(B), EACH BEING ONE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR FEBRUARY A YEAR AGO, THE INCREASES WERE RESPECTIVELY NINE PER CENT AND 8.9 PER CENT.

THE C.P.I.(A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN $400 - $1 499 A MONTH AND THE C.P.I.(B), BETWEEN $1 500 - $2 999 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1973/74.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS IN AUGUST WENT UP BY SIX POINTS IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY FIVE POINTS IN C.P.I.(B).

ADVERSE WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH TYPHOON HOPE CAUSED THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, SALT-WATER FISH AND FRESH-WATER FISH TO RISE SUBSTANTIALLY.

THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME ALSO WENT UP AS SOME RESTAURANTS AND EATING-PLACES RAISED THEIR PRICES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH FRUITS DECLINED. MOVEMENTS IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ADVANCED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 12 POINTS IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY TEN POINTS IN C.P.I.(B), REFLECTING THE FULL IMPACT OF THE RISES IN PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS SINCE JULY AS WELL AS THE HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY.

HIGHER PRICES FOR CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO PUSHED THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO UP BY THREE POINTS IN BOTH C.P.I.(A) AND C.P.I.(B).

THE RISE OF ONE POINT IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN C.P.I.(A) WAS MAINLY BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIGHER PRICES FOR MEN'S UNDERCLOTHING ITEMS.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS ROSE BY ONE POINT EACH IN C.P.I.(A) AND C.P.I.(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES FOR FURNITURE AND OPTICAL GOODS.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN C.P.I.(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR MEDICINES, TOILET REQUISITES, RELIGIOUS ITEMS AND FRESH FLOWERS.

THE RISE OF TWO POINTS IN THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES IN C.P.I.(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES AND REPAIRING CHARGES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND THE FULL IMPACT OF THE INCREASES IN PRICES OF PETROL AND OIL SINCE JULY.

/ON ACCOUNT.....

ON ACCOUNT OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR CINEMA ENTERTAINMEMT, DOMESTIC HELP, BOWLING GAMES, DINNER PARTIES AND REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ROSE BY ONE POINT IN BOTH C.P.I.(A) AND C.P.I.(B).

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE SECTION INDICES FOR AUGUST AND JULY AND THE CORRESPONDING MONTHS IN 1978, ARE GIVEN BELOW:

	C.P.I.(A)			C.P.I.(B)		
SECTION	AUG. 79	JULY 79	AUG. 78	AUG. 79	JULY 79	AUG. 78
FOODSTUFFS	141	135	125	142	137	125
HOUSING	144	144	130	143	143	130
FUEL AND LIGHT	191	179	134	184	174	133
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	161	158	141	156	153	137
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	111	110	103	109	109	102
DURABLE GOODS	128	127	114	125	124	111
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	146	145	135	145	143	131
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	152	152	121	160	158	126
SERVICES	148	147	139	151	150	139
ALL ITEMS	144	140	127	143	140	127

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HK DECLARED CHOLERA FREE

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) DECLARED HONG KONG CHOLERA FREE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS SPECIFIED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW CASES OF CHOLERA REPORTED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

THE LAST CASE OF CHOLERA REPORTED IN HONG KONG WAS ON SEPTEMBER 10 WHEN A 74-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS ADMITTED TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM GASTRO-ENTERITIES.

THE WOMAN DIED THE FOLLOWING DAY AND POST-MORTEM RECTAL SWAB REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF CHOLERA VIBRIO OF THE EL TOR STRAIN.

THE CASE BROUGHT TO FOUR THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHOLERA CASES REPORTED IN HONG KONG SO FAR THIS YEAR.

/THE SPOKESMAN.....

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT ACCORDING TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S REGULATIONS AN INFECTED AREA IS CONSIDERED FREE FROM INFECTION WHEN THERE IS NO FURTHER CASE REPORTED DURING A PERIOD WHICH IS EQUAL TO AT LEAST TWICE THE INCUBATION PERIOD OF THE DISEASE SINCE THE LAST CASE BEEN CONFIRMED.

+THE INCUBATION PERIOD FOR CHOLERA IS FIVE DAYS AND, THEREFORE, A TERRITORY MAY BE DECLARED FREE IF A PERIOD OF 10 DAYS HAS ELAPSED SINCE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE LAST CASE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE OBSERVING THE RULES OF PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY W.H.O. EXPERTS AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA AND OTHER GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES.

HE WARNED THAT IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF CHOLERA IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION THE RISK OF THE DISEASES REAPPEARING IN HONG KONG REMAINS.

+THE PUBLIC ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEIR CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINK AND THE PREPARATION OF FOOD,+ HE ADDED.

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GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RECRUIT 50 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS NEXT YEAR

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RECRUIT ABOUT 50 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS IN THE COMING YEAR AND AT LEAST 30 OF THEM SHOULD BE LOCAL, A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+ALTHOUGH THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CONTINUES TO RECRUIT FROM OVERSEAS, THE SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT ON RECRUITING LOCAL CANDIDATES IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS EVERY YEAR,+ SAID MR. DONALD TSANG, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

MR. TSANG, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, WAS SPEAKING ON THE ROLE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS IN THE GOVERNMENT AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST IN THE PENINSULA HOTEL.

HE SAID THE EXPANSION AND GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE, PARTICULARLY OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, REFLECTED A BASIC POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTAIN A CADRE OF HIGHLY COMPETENT GENERALISTS WHO WERE CAPABLE OF REACTING POSITIVELY TO CHANGING SITUATION AND PRIORITIES OVER A WIDE SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

+THIS IS THE KEY TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC PUBLIC SERVICE WHICH THIS COMMUNITY RIGHTLY DESERVES,+ MR. TSANG SAID.

/HE SAID.....

HE SAID THAT IT WAS IN THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST THAT ABLE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WERE MADE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITIES IT OFFERS THEM IN MAKING A CAREER IN THIS SERVICE.

MR. TSANG SAID ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WERE CONCERNED WITH THE CO-ORDINATION AND FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AT VARIOUS LEVELS, WITH OVERSEEING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AND WITH CONTROL OF THE RESOURCES INVOLVED.

+THEY ARE SPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTENTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

+THE TYPICAL ROLE OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE SECRETARIAT IS TO COLLATE AND ANALYSE THE VARIOUS ISSUES INVOLVED IN A PROPOSAL REQUIRING A POLICY DECISION, TO RELATE THESE ISSUES TO POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND TO RECOMMEND A COURSE OF ACTION,+ HE ADDED.

THERE ARE NOW 260 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WORKING IN 22 DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. TSANG GAVE AN OUTLINE OF WHAT THE SELECTION BOARDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS LOOK FOR.

HE SAID IN ADDITION TO A GOOD HONOURS UNIVERSITY DEGREE, CANDIDATES SHOULD POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

* CLEAR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENCE,

* A CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL MIND,

* CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND OF INDIVIDUALS,

* A WELL DEVELOPED SENSE OF JUSTICE,

* A DETERMINATION TO GET RESULTS,

* A POTENTIAL ABILITY TO COMMAND AND TO LEAD OTHERS,

* A TOLERANCE OF THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS WHERE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ARE NOT INVOLVED,

* A BROAD OUTLOOK, AND

* VERSATILITY AND ADAPTABILITY.

MR. TSANG POINTED OUT THAT A CAREER IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OFFERED SUFFICIENT MATERIAL REWARDS TO MAINTAIN A COMFORTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING.

THE STARTING SALARY FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WITHOUT ANY WORKING EXPERIENCE IS $4 980, RISING TO $21 300 FOR A SECRETARY, THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE DIRECTORATE RANK.

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EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES INCREASES

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A TOTAL OF 877 384 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN JUNE THIS YEAR, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 65 000 OR EIGHT PER CENT COMPARED WITH MARCH OF THE SAME YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURE FOR JUNE 1978, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 74 000 WORKERS OR 9.1 PER CENT.

THERE WERE 41 498 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN JUNE 1979, AN INCREASE OF 867 COMPARED WITH MARCH OF THE SAME YEAR AND AN INCREASE OF 3 316 OVER JUNE 1978.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE WEARING APPAREL= ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES= TEXTILES= PLASTIC PRODUCTS= AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

A COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT IN THESE INDUSTRIES BETWEEN JUNE 1979 AND MARCH 1979 IS GIVEN BELOW:

				CHANGE OF JUNE 79 OVER MAR. 79	
INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	261 791	271 819	283 798	+11 979	+ 4.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	100 324	92 567	114 000	+21 433	+23.2
TEXTILES	99 926	99 244	101 172	+ 1 928	+ 1.9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	90 020	84 540	94 765	+10 225	+12.1
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	75 807	78 693	84 030	+ 5 337	+ 6.8

/THE MORE.....

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR BETWEEN JUNE 1979 AND MARCH 1979 WERE AS FOLLOWS :

INDUSTRY SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1979	CHANGE OF JUNE 79 OVER MAR. 79 PERSONS ENGAGED	CHANGE OF JUNE 79 OVER MAR. 79 % CHANGE
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	77 938	69 299	86 878	+17 579	+25.4
GARMENT, EXCEPT KNITWEAR FROM YARN	203 804	209 923	216 942	+ 7 019	+ 3.3
PLASTIC TOYS	50 554	45 338	51 491	+ 6 153	+13.6
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	18 110	23 430	28 896	+ 5 466	+23.3
PLASTIC PRODUCTS OTHER THAN PLASTIC TOYS AND PLASTIC FLOWERS	33 014	33 818	38 025	+ 4 207	+12.4
MISCELLANEOUS FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	30 959	30 785	33 062	+ 2 277	+ 7.4
KNITWEAR FROM YARN	25 652	25 350	27 620	+ 2 270	+ 9.0
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND HOUSEWARES	11 075	11 239	13 288	+ 2 049	+18.2

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT THERE WERE 104 736 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES AS AT MAY 15, 1979. OF THESE, 35 549 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS, 15 897 IN REAL ESTATE COMPANIES AND 14 357 IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN BANKS.

THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 4 300 PEOPLE OR 4.3 PER CENT COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1979, AND AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 18 000 PEOPLE OR 20.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1978.

THE MAIN INCREASES FROM FEBRUARY 1979 TO MAY 1979 ARE SHOWN BELOW :

TRADE/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAY 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEB. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAY 1979	CHANGE OF MAY 79 OVER FEB. 79 PERSONS ENGAGED	CHANGE OF MAY 79 OVER FEB. 79 % CHANGE
MONETARY INSTITUTIONS (INCLUDING BANKS)	31 393	34 614	35 549	+ 935	+ 2.7

/FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS....

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (OTHER THAN BANKS)	10 152	13 443	14 357	+ 914	+ 6.8
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	4 983	6 480	6 916	+ 436	+ 6.7
REAL ESTATE COMPANIES AND AGENCIES	13 540	15 642	15 897	+ 255	+ 1.6

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS AND SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL.

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GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR MORE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES

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MORE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES WILL BE SET UP EACH YEAR TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE SOUND PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS. ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HING WAH CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN CHAI WAN, MRS. CHAN SAID THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED FOR AN ANNUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 11 YOUTH CENTRES AND 11 CHILDREN'S CENTRES.

SHE SAID THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN LAID EMPHASIS ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE TARGET WITHIN THE SCOPE OF GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK, SHE SAID, WAS TO PROVIDE A YOUTH CENTRE AND A CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN AN AREA WITH 20 000 PEOPLE.

THE HING WAH CHILDREN'S CENTRE HAD BEEN SET UP IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN, SHE SAID.

IT WAS THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE MANY SERVICE UNITS OPERATED BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, SHE ADDED.

MRS. CHAN PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP FOR ITS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL AND WELFARE SERVICES.

/+THE HING.....

+THE HING WAH CHILDREN'S CENTRE, OCCUPYING A SPACE OF 260 SQUARE METRES (2 800 SQ. FT.), SERVES AS A BASE WHERE PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS PLAN AND PROMOTE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN,+ SHE SAID.

FACILITIES AT THE CENTRE INCLUDE A LIBRARY AND ROOMS FOR PRIVATE STUDY, GROUP ACTIVITIES, RECREATION AND COOKING, SHE SAID.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER IN EASTERN DISTRICT WOULD KEEP CLOSE LIAISON WITH STAFF OF THE CENTRE IN THE PROMOTION OF YOUTH WORK, SHE ADDED.

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CROWN LAND FETCHES $118 MILLION

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TWO PARCELS OF CROWN LAND BROUGHT IN $118 MILLION AT A CITY HALL AUCTION TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE AUCTION, CONDUCTED BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, OFFERED TWO SITES AT CHAI WAN FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

ONE 4 700-SQUARE-METRE LOT FETCHED $68 MILLION AND THE OTHER OF 3 200 METRES WAS SOLD FOR $50 MILLION, OR $14 468.09 AND $15 625 PER SQUARE METRE RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIRST SITE CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF $12 650 000 AND THE SECOND $8 625 000 TO BE PAID BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1983.

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CAREERS TALKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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A SERIES OF CAREERS TALKS WILL BE HELD FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS BETWEEN NEXT MONTH AND FEBRUARY, 1980 AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TALKS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY THE CAREERS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE AIM OF THE TALKS IS TO PROVIDE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO WIDEN THEIR EDUCATIONAL HORIZON AND TO MEET PEOPLE FROM HIGHER EDUCATION.+

CONTENTS OF THE TALKS WILL INCLUDE A RANGE OF POST-SECONDARY COURSES AND WILL BE GIVEN IN CHINESE BY SPECIALIST SPEAKERS.

+SCHOOLS INTENDING TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN CAREERS TALKS DURING THIS PERIOD ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO AVOID CHOOSING TOPICS SIMILAR TO THOSE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE WILL ALSO BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO DIRECT PERSONAL ENQUIRIES TO THE SPEAKERS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM THE CAREERS OFFICER BY POST OF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WISHING TO ATTEND THE TALKS.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE CAREERS SECTION, AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-778311 EXT. 239.

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PROJECT PROMOTES MUTUAL HELP IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING VISITED THE TUEN MUN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE PROGRESS OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

THE PROJECT, BEING CARRIED OUT SINCE 1977 BY A TEAM OF SOCIAL WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF Y.W.C.A., IS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

UNDER THE SCHEME, WHICH IS SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL WORKERS ORGANISE VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TO HELP THE RESIDENTS MAINTAIN A GOOD LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

MR. LEE, ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT OFFICER (YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN), MR. STEPHEN CHAU, WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY MISS KO SIU-WAH, GENERAL SECRETARY OF Y.W.C.A., MISS TSANG KIT-FONG, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND MR. LARRY SO, PROJECT SUPERVISOR.

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DURING THE VISIT, THE DIRECTOR MET GROUPS OF YOUNG AND OLD PEOPLE AND LEARNED OF THE VARIOUS SOCIAL PROGRAMMES ORGANISED FOR THEM.

THE PROJECT WORKERS ALSO RUN IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA A RECREATION CENTRE WHERE VOLUNTEERS GIVE FREE TUITION TO CHILDREN AND HELP ORGANISE GROUP ACTIVITIES.

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CONTRACT FOR TUEN MUN WATER MAINS SIGNED

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WORK WILL START LATER THIS WEEK IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN FOR THE LAYING OF SOME 6 500-METRE-LONG WATER MAINS TO BRING SALT AND FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE LAYING OF THESE PIPES, COSTING $4.2 MILLION, WAS SIGNED TODAY (TUESDAY) AT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT BY MR. LEE GUN-CHEUNG, CHIEF ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF YICK HING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THESE PIPELINES WILL BE LAID ALONG MING KUN ROAD, TSING WAN ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND SHEK PAI TAU ROAD.

WORK ON THE ENTIRE MAINS LAYING PROJECT WILL TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF KWUN TONG ROAD

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THE SECTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD BETWEEN HONG TAK ROAD AND ELEGANCE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 27) TO TUESDAY (OCTOBER 2) BETWEEN 1.30 A.M. AND 5.30 A.M. TO FACILITATE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKS ALONG KWUN TONG ROAD.

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE, NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO WAI YIP STREET VIA LAI YIP STREET, WHILE SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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