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LUCE CONFIDENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT

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SOLID PROGRESS TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE, SAID MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, MR RICHARD LUCE, ON ARRIVAL IN THE TERRITORY TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF HIS REMARKS:

+GOOD EVENING, IT IS VERY NICE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN AND I AM VERY GLAD INDEED TO BE BACK IN HONG KONG. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME TO HONG KONG IN THE LAST 10 MONTHS AND I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

+MY VISIT, I MUST, EXPLAIN, IS PART OF THE REGULAR AND ROUTINE PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS WHICH WE IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE HAVING WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND OF COURSE IT FLOWS FROM THE MEETINGS WHICH YOU KNOW TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK IN LONDON WITH THE GOVERNOR, THE AMBASSADOR AND WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON.

+I MUST JUST STRESS THAT BRITISH MINISTERS ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE INDEED TO THE CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND THEREFORE IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS I LOOK FORWARD ENORMOUSLY TO MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WITH UMELCO AND WITH LEADERS OF A CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG.

+NOW THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG INEVITABLY ARE LONG AND COMPLEX, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT AND IT IS NATURAL THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES TO OVERCOME. BUT, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN THESE TALKS. INDEED, AS YOU KNOW, ANOTHER ROUND OF THESE TALKS HAS JUST TODAY BEEN CONCLUDED AND THE GOVERNOR IS ABOUT TO RETURN FROM PEKING. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE SOLID PROGRESS TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

+I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO STRESS THAT MINISTERS IN LONDON ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE STRAINS THAT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE CREATES FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE PENDULUM SWINGS, FROM TIME TO TIME, FROM AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM ON THE ONE HAND TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF ANXIETY ON THE OTHER, AND THEN PERHAPS AGAIN TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM. THAT IS NATURAL.

+BUT I WOULD SAY THIS, WE NEED TO KEEP A SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE. AND WE NEED TO AVOID TALKING OURSELVES INTO A MOOD OF CRISIS. LET US KEEP OUR NERVE.+

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PRESS COVERAGE ARRANGEMENTS
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THE FOLLOWING ARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS COVERAGE OF MR RICHARD LUCE'S PROGRAMME FOR TOMORROW (FRIDAY):

AT 10 AM, MR RICHARD LUCE, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THERE WILL BE A FIXED PRESS POSITION AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CGO FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO FILM MR LUCE'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MR LUCE WILL ATTEND A LUNCH WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE HILTON HOTEL. THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS BOTH AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE HOTEL TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL AND INSIDE THE BALLROOM FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE LUNCH. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE BALLROOM BEFORE THE LUNCH STARTS.

AT 3 PM, THE MINISTER OF STATE WILL ATTEND A MEETING WITH UMELCO AT SWIRE HOUSE. THERE WILL BE A FIXED POSITION AT THE PEDDER STREET ENTRANCE OF SWIRE HOUSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

IN THE EARLY EVENING, MR LUCE WILL ATTEND A RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECEPTION WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

AT ABOUT 7.45 PM, THE MINISTER OF STATE WILL HAVE DINNER WITH UMELCO MEMBERS IN THE UMELCO OFFICE. PRESS ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE THE SAME AS THAT OF THE UMELCO MEETING EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SATURDAY WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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GOVERNOR RETURNS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, RETURNED TO HONG KONG TONIGHT AFTER A +NORMAL WORKING SESSION+ AT THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS IN PEKING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT HE SAID:

+I AM BACK FROM THE USUAL TWO DAYS, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THIS TIME WAS THAT THE WORKING GROUP WAS IN SESSION AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PLENARY, SO YOU MAY HAVE MISSED SOME OF THE USUAL FACES AT THE TABLE IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS.

/+IT WAS .....

+IT WAS A NORMAL WORKING SESSION AND I MUST SAY, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THERE IS MORE EXCITEMENT IN THE PRESS THAN THERE IS IN THE TALKS THEMSELVES.

+MR LUCE HAS, MEANWHILE ARRIVED AND I THINK HE HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU OF HIS VIEWS AND WHY HE HAS COME. IT IS ONE OF THE PATTERN OF VISITS WHICH MINISTERS ARE PAYING TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OPINION IN HONG KONG.

+I AM NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING DINNER WITH HIM THIS EVENING AND BRINGING HIM UP TO DATE ON THE STATE OF OPINION IN HONG KONG. AND, OF COURSE, I CAN TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY, COMING STRAIGHT FROM PEKING, TO TELL HIM OF THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS.+

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FEWER PEOPLE CHANGE JOBS

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OVER 13 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EMPLOYED POPULATION CHANGED JOBS DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD TO LAST SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY ON LABOUR MOBILITY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS MEANS THERE WERE 324 800 JOB-CHANGERS, OUT OF ABOUT 2 462 000 PERSONS EMPLOYED.

BY COMPARISON, A 1982 SURVEY SHOWED THAT 375 200 PEOPLE, OR 15.6 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYED POPULATION AT THE TIME, SWITCHED JOBS DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO MARCH 1982.

THE 1983 SURVEY SHOWED THAT 210 000 PERSONS, OR 8.5 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYED POPULATION, CHANGED JOBS WITHIN THE SAME INDUSTRY (INTRA-INDUSTRY MOBILITY), AND 114 800, OR 4.7 PER CENT, SWITCHED FROM ONE INDUSTRY TO ANOTHER (INTER-INDUSTRY MOBILITY). THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES IN THE 1982 SURVEY WERE 219 300 (9.1 PER CENT) AND 155 900 (6.5 PER CENT).

WITH 65 600 JOB-CHANGERS, CONSTRUCTION HAD THE HIGHEST INTRA-INDUSTRY MOBILITY DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO LAST SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWED BY 45 200 IN THE TEXTILES-APPAREL MANUFACTURING SECTOR, AND BY 34 000 IN THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

AS FOR INTER-INDUSTRY MOBILITY, MANUFACTURING AS A WHOLE LOST 19 400 IN THE 12 MONTHS TO MARCH 1982 AND ONLY 7 600 IN THE 12 MONTHS TO LAST SEPTEMBER.

CONSTRUCTION GAINED 3 500 WORKERS IN THE FIRST 12-MONTH PERIOD BUT LOST 6 800 WORKERS IN THE SECOND, WHEREAS THE SERVICES SECTOR GAINED 11 500 AND 15 200 WORKERS FOR THE TWO COMPARATIVE PERIODS.

/THE LATEST .....

THE LATEST SURVEY DISCOVERED TWO MAIN REASONS FOR THE MANPOWER MOBILITY: UNSATISFACTORY EARNINGS, ACCOUNTING FOR 32 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO HAD CHANGED JOBS, AND DISMISSAL OR COMPLETION OF CONTRACT, ACCOUNTING FOR 28.8 PER CENT.

+ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE JOB-CHANGERS WERE IN PRODUCTION OCCUPATIONS, ONE-SEVENTH IN SERVICES AND ONE-EIGHTH IN CLERICAL POSITIONS. THE TENDENCY TO CHANGE JOBS WAS ALSO HIGHER FOR THESE OCCUPATIONS,+ A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALMOST HALF OF THE WORKERS CHANGING EMPLOYMENT WERE BETWEEN 20 AND 29 YEARS OF AGE, WITH MEN ACCOUNTING FOR A SMALLER PROPORTION THAN WOMEN. BUT IN THE 30 TO 59 AGE GROUPS, THERE WERE THREE TIMES MORE MEN THAN WOMEN CHANGING JOBS. OVERALL, THE SEX RATIO WAS ABOUT TWO MALES TO ONE FEMALE.

+HOWEVER, THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO REPORTED A CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT DROPPED WITH RISING AGE FOR BOTH SEXES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MAJORITY OF JOB-HOPPERS HAD PRIMARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION. BY CONTRAST, ONLY SIX PER CENT OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES REPORTED EMPLOYMENT CHANGES.

ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WORKERS WHO HAD CHANGED JOBS EARNED BETWEEN $1 000 AND $3 000 A MONTH, WHEREAS HIGH-INCOME EMPLOYEES HAD A LOW TENDENCY TO SWITCH EMPLOYMENT.

ALSO COVERED WERE TWO OTHER MOBILITY ASPECTS: NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LABOUR MARKET AND ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE PERSONS WHO LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE.

THE LATEST SURVEY SHOWED THERE WERE 138 000 NEW ENTRANTS, COMPARED WITH 164 100 IN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY.

THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF NEW ENTRANTS WAS GENERALLY HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION, AND MOST OF THEM WERE IN PRODUCTION, CLERICAL AND SERVICES OCCUPATIONS.

EIGHTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THESE ENTRANTS EARNED LESS THAN $2 000 A MONTH, AND ABOUT FOUR PER CENT, MORE THAN $4 000.

THE NUMBER OF LEAVERS SHOWN IN THE RECENT SURVEY WAS 47 900, COMPARED WITH 76 100 IN THE 1982 SURVEY.

ONLY ONE PER CENT OF THOSE WHO LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE GAVE +EMPLOYMENT NOT AVAILABLE+ AS THE REASON.

THREE-FIFTHS OF THE LEAVERS GAVE INCREASING HOUSEWORK, RETIREMENT OR DETERIORATING HEALTH AS REASONS FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

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GRADUATES' ROLE IN COMMUNITY STRESSED

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SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED BY A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO HELP BUILD A GOOD LIFE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THE CALL CAME FROM THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHEN HE ADDRESSED GRADUATES AT THE FIRST SPEECH DAY OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL LIM POR YEN SECONDARY SCHOOL.

+I HOPE THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE ACQUIRED IN SCHOOL THAT LOVE OF LEARNING WHICH WILL GIVE YOU A SOURCE OF PLEASURE THROUGHOUT YOUR LIVES, WHICH WILL ENRICH YOUR LIVES AND THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE,+ HE SAID.

+YOUR FUTURE IS HERE AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD A FULL AND HAPPY LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE BY USING THE IMAGINATION, ENTERPRISE, DETERMINATION AND KNOWLEDGE THAT HAVE BROUGHT HONG KONG TO THE PRE-EMINENT POSITION WE ENJOY TODAY.+

MR AKERS-JONES STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE TRAINED MINDS AND SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THE MOMENTUM OF GROWTH IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETY WERE AVAILABLE AND THAT THE PACE OF PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT WAS MAINTAINED.

IN THIS YEAR ALONE 16 NEW PRIMARY AND 13 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE OPENED, THOUGH THESE FIGURES WERE ONLY +ONE SMALL FRAGMENT OF THE WHOLE PICTURE+, HE SAID.

HE LISTED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACING HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM: WHAT IS BEST FOR THE STUDENTS AND FOR HONG KONG; HOW TO SOLVE THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE LANGUAGE ISSUE; AND HOW TO FIND THE CAPITAL RESOURCES TO SATISFY THE INSATIABLE THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

+THESE AND MANY OTHER PROBLEMS ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF OUR EDUCATION COMMISSION AND THERE WILL, NO DOUBT, BE MANY DIFFICULT DECISIONS TO MAKE AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

+BUT IN CONSIDERING THESE PROBLEMS, WE SHOULD DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE 13 YEARS SINCE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION WAS INTRODUCED IN 1971.

+AND WE SHOULD DRAW STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE FROM THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HOSPITAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHOSE SPIRIT OF SERVICE HAD BEEN AND WOULD REMAIN A CONSTANT SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO WORKED FOR THE COMMUNITY.

+FROM THE CONSTRUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE HOSPITAL TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS SCHOOL AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES, IT HAS BEEN A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR THE YAN CHAI DIRECTORS WHO, THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT YEARS, HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR COMMITMENT TO TSUEN WAN,+ HE SAID.

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TAX RESERVE INTEREST RATE RISES

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FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE 12.84% (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 10.08% (TAX FREE).

NOTICE OF THIS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW, AN INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

+INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE $1.07 PER MONTH PER $100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

+INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 13, 1984.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE JULY 13, 1984 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

14.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1981 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 4, 1981;

12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982;

10.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982 AND BEFORE AUGUST 27, 1982;

9% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 27, 1982 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 3, 1982;

7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 3, 1982 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1983;

10.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1983 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1983;

12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1983 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 7, 1983;

9.6% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 7, 1983 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1984;

7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 1984 AND BEFORE MARCH 23, 1984;

5.16% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 1984 AND BEFORE MAY 18, 1984;

/8.4% PER .....

8.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 18, 1984 AND BEFORE JULY 6, 1984;

10.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 1984 AND BEFORE JULY 13, 1984.

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE : $1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON JULY 13, 1984, AUGUST 13, 1984 AND SEPTEMBER 13, 1984 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON OCTOBER 13, 1984 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:-

ON $1 000, JULY 13, 1984 TO OCTOBER 13, 1984 3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $10.7 PER MONTH	= $32.1
ON $1 000, AUGUST 13, 1984 TO OCTOBER 13, 1984, 2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $10.7 PER MONTH	= $21.4
ON $1 000, SEPTEMBER 13, 1984 TO OCTOBER 13, 1984, 1 COMPLETE MONTH AT $10.7 PER MONTH	= $10.7
	$64.2

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COMPUTER HELPS TEACH ROAD SAFETY

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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HONG KONG, ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES WILL BE TAUGHT BY COMPUTER.

STUDENTS VISITING THE ROAD SAFETY BUS RUN BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES BY PLAYING GAMES ON AN +APPLE II E+ COMPUTER.

THE COMPUTER HAS BEEN DONATED BY GILMAN OFFICE MACHINES AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE.

AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY, MR LI KWAN-HA, ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (OPERATIONS) AND ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL, RECEIVED THE EQUIPMENT FROM MS DEBORAH O'HARA, MANAGERESS OF APPLE COMPUTER DIVISION, GILMAN OFFICE MACHINES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY COMMITTEE SAID, +THIS ADDITIONAL ATTRACTION TO THE ROAD SAFETY BUS IS AN ATTEMPT TO IMPART SAFETY KNOWLEDGE THROUGH A FORM OF GAME THAT HAS PROVED VERY POPULAR AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN.+

/THE GAMES .....

THE GAMES ADOPTED FOR THE ROAD SAFETY BUS WILL BE SELECTED FROM ENTRIES TO A TERRITORY-WIDE ROAD SAFETY COMPUTER PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR.

MS O'HARA SAID THE GILMAN OFFICE MACHINES HOPED THE USE OF THE APPLE COMPUTER IN THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN WOULD HELP REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

AT PRESENT, THE ROAD SAFETY BUS IS INSTALLED WITH A NUMBER OF ROAD SAFETY DISPLAYS, A VIDEO-RECORDER TO SHOW ROAD SAFETY FILMS AND SOME ELECTRONIC GAMES AIMED AT DRIVING HOME THE MESSAGE -- +SAFETY COMES FIRST ON THE ROAD+.

THE BUS IS A MAJOR FEATURE OF DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY ACTIVITIES. IT REGULARLY VISITS SCHOOLS, FACTORY AREAS, HOUSING ESTATES AS WELL AS DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY FUNCTIONS, ATTRACTING OVER 100 000 VISITORS A YEAR.

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NEW SWIMMING POOL IN KWAI CHUNG OPENS

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FUNDS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAVE HELPED TO KEEP THE SWIMMING POOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME GOING IN BOTH THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NORTH KWAI CHUNG JOCKEY CLUB PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL, MR BARNES SAID THE CLUB HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES.

HE SAID THE NEW POOL WILL BE MANAGED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM TODAY.

BUT HE ADDED THAT NTSD AMENITIES STAFF WILL COME UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR.

+MOREOVER, WE WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE STAFF OF THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICES AS COLLEAGUES WITHIN THE SAME DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE AND IMPROVE SWIMMING ACTIVITIES AT THE POOL,+ HE SAID.

IN 1986 SWIMMING POOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT WILL COME UNDER THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL.

+WE MAY EXPECT TO WISH TO SHARE SOME OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUPERVISION WITH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD -- AND I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL THEN BE A SEPARATE KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT BOARD -- AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

/THERE WOULD .....

THERE WOULD BE MUCH POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW POOL, AND THE NTSD WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO IDEAS ON HOW TO USE IT BETTER, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE SAFETY ASPECTS, HE SAID.

MR BARNES LATER ACCOMPANIED THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, MR LI FOOK WO, TO UNVEIL A MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO MARK THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SWIMMING POOL.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD; THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR CLIVE OXLEY; THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, MR TAM WING-PONG.

EVENTS HELD TODAY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE POOL INCLUDED SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SAFETY SWIMMING AND CANOE POLO DEMONSTRATIONS, AN INTER-DEPARTMENT RELAY COMPETITION AND AN EXCITING WATER BASKETBALL MATCH.

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NEW FISH MARKETS TO MEET DEMAND

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NEW MARKETS FOR THE WHOLESALE OF FISH WILL BE BUILT TO CATER FOR INCREASED DEMAND, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW $3.5 MILLION TEMPORARY FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE FISH MARKET AT SHAU KEI WAN, DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID SHAU KEI WAN WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST FISHING PORTS IN HONG KONG AND DESERVED AN EFFICIENT FISH MARKET TO HANDLE THE CATCHES.

THE OLD MARKET BUILT OVER 30 YEARS AGO COULD NOT MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR MARINE FISH AS A RESULT OF THE GROWTH IN POPULATION OF EASTERN DISTRICT.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID: +THE NEW MARKET IS PART OF A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE FMO.+

ANOTHER TEMPORARY FISH MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN WILL BE READY FOR OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR, WHILE A NEW IMPROVED FISH MARKET IN TAI PO WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY MAY NEXT YEAR.

+THESE PROJECTS WILL REPLACE EXISTING MARKETS BUT ADDITIONAL NEW MARKETS WILL ALSO BE BUILT TO CATER FOR INCREASED NEEDS.+

+CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FISH MARKET IN KWUN TONG, WHICH WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MARKETS OPERATED BY THE FMO TO EIGHT, WILL START SOON AND REPROVISIONING OF OTHER EXISTING FISH MARKETS IS BEING PLANNED,+ HE SAID.

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LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS

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WORKING JOURNALISTS ARE NOW BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR TWO COURSES - TRANSLATION AND PUTUNGHUA, TO BE OFFERED BY THE POLYTECHNIC NEXT MONTH.

THESE FOUR-WEEK COURSES ARE PART OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SUBSIDY SCHEMES TO UPGRADE THE LANGUAGE SKILLS OF LOCAL JOURNALISTS.

LECTURES FOR BOTH COURSES WILL BE HELD IN THE MORNINGS, FROM AUGUST 20 TO SEPTEMBER 20.

FEES ARE $750 FOR TRANSLATION COURSES AND $875 FOR PUTUNGHUA, BUT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS NEED PAY ONLY $100, WITH THE BALANCE BEING BORNE BY THE VTC.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF VTC HEADQUARTERS AT HARBOUR CENTRE 14/F. ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR FRANK NG, SECRETARY OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD DURING OFFICE HOURS ON 5-8932341 EXT. 283.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE PUTUNGHUA COURSE IS JULY 30 AND FOR THE TRANSLATION COURSE IS AUGUST 7.

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SINGING CONTEST NEARS FINALS

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THREE REMAINING DISTRICTS WILL BE HOLDING THEIR PRELIMINARIES OF A TERRITORY-WIDE SINGING CONTEST AIMED AT ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

ON SATURDAY (JULY 14) EVENING, WONG TAI SIN WILL HOLD ITS PRELIMINARY CONTEST IN A LOCAL SCHOOL HALL, WITH 12 CONTESTANTS COMPETING.

EASTERN AND NORTH DISTRICTS WILL THEN HOLD THEIR PRELIMINARY CONTESTS ON THE TWO FOLLOWING SATURDAYS.

FIFTEEN DISTRICTS HAVE, SINCE APRIL, ALREADY HELD THEIR PRELIMINARY CONTESTS, WHICH ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND SING TAO NEWSPAPERS LIMITED.

/A SEMI-FINAL .....

A SEMI-FINAL OF THE OVERALL SINGING CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 11, WHEN A WINNER FROM EACH OF THE 18 DISTRICTS WILL COMPETE.

THE GRAND FINAL WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 1.

SATURDAY'S CONTEST WILL ALSO FEATURE A GUEST PERFORMANCE BY A SINGER, MISS LAM CHI-MEI.

THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS TO THE CONTEST ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR FOR GEM MERCHANTS

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A SEMINAR ON CRIME PREVENTION FOR JEWELLERY SHOP OPERATORS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

STARTING AT 4 PM, THE TWO-HOUR SEMINAR WILL FEATURE A TALK, A DISCUSSION SESSION AND A SLIDE SHOW.

THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU, MR NG TAK-LEUNG, WILL TALK ON SECURITY MEASURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE JEWELLERY TRADE.

THE SEMINAR IS ONE OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE THIS YEAR. OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE ESSAY AND DRAMA COMPETITIONS, VISITS, EXHIBITIONS, VARIETY SHOWS AND TALKS.

THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, AND COMPRISES MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLICE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

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USE-OF-COMPUTER SESSION FOR INDUSTRIALISTS

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INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE USE OF COMPUTERS AT A TWO-HOUR SEMINAR ON SATURDAY (JULY 14) AFTERNOON.

THE SEMINAR, ENTITLED +COMPUTER AND ITS APPLICATION TO INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE+, HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG TRADE FACILITATION COUNCIL.

A SENIOR LECTURER OF THE COMPUTER SECTION OF CITY POLYTECHNIC, MR WANBIL W. LEE, WILL GIVE A 20-MINUTE TALK ON THE SUBJECT, AND WILL ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

TWO FILMS ON SIMPLIFIED DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES, PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL, WILL ALSO BE SHOWN.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE STARTING AT 3 PM, AND WILL BE CHAIRED BY AN UNOFFICIAL EASTERN BOARD MEMBER, MR PAUL YIN. ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (CHAI WAN), MR STEPHEN NG.

SATURDAY'S SEMINAR IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SUCH ACTIVITIES BEING ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN AT BI-MONTHLY INTERVALS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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BOARD TO STUDY SWIMMING FACILITIES

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THE EXISTING AND FUTURE PROVISION OF SWIMMING POOLS IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF LEISURE POOLS IN THE SHEK KIP MEI PARK (STAGE III) PROJECT BEING PLANNED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CONVERSION OF CROWN LAND LICENCES TO SHORT-TERM TENANCIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR 1984-85, A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE +MEET-THE-PUBLIC+ SESSIONS, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE THREE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

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WORK STARTS ON CONTROLLED TIP

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WORK HAS JUST STARTED ON BUILDING A CONTROLLED TIP AT JORDAN VALLEY, KOWLOON, TO PROVIDE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL AND OTHER USES.

THE WORK IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY MITSUI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED A $22.8 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

IT INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE TIP AS WELL AS 400 METRES OF DRAINAGE TO DIVERT STORM WATER FROM THE AREA.

WORK WILL TAKE 29 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SANITARY LANDFILL METHOD WILL BE USED TO BUILD THE TIP TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. IT WILL HAVE A DAILY CAPACITY OF 680 TONS OF REFUSE.

ONE MILLION TONS OF REFUSE WILL HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED, WHEN THE TIP IS FULLY FORMED IN 1989.

THE SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND PROVIDED WILL THEN BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL AND AMENITY FACILITIES.

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EXTRA LIFT FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND NEARLY $834 000 ON BUILDING A LIFT SHAFT IN BLOCK B OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AS PART OF AN EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

A CONTRACT FOR THIS SUM HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO KIN MING AND COMPANY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEVEN-STOREY DEEP SHAFT.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 14 MONTHS.

AN ADDITIONAL LIFT WILL THEN BE INSTALLED TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO PATIENTS AND VISITORS.

EXISTING LIFTS WILL ALSO BE REFURBISHED AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME.

/QUEEN MARY .....

QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL IS TO BE EXTENDED TO PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.

LAST MONTH THE GOVERNMENT INVITED CONTRACTORS TO TENDER FOR THE WORK, BUT THEY HAD TO PRE-QUALIFY FIRST BECAUSE OF THE SPECIALIST NATURE OF THE PROJECT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT TENDERS WILL BE CALLED IN A FEW MONTHS FROM CONTRACTORS WITH THE REQUIRED EXPERTISE.

TWO BUILDINGS, ONE 29 STOREYS HIGH AND THE OTHER RISING 12 FLOORS, ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE AN EXTRA 76 000 SQUARE METRES OF SPACE FOR THE HOSPITAL.

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OVERNIGHT ROAD WORKS

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PART OF THE KOWLOON-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED OVERNIGHT FROM TOMORROW UNTIL THE MORNING OF JULY 25.

THE CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN SIU LAM AND SHAM TSENG WILL BE CLOSED FOR ROAD WORKS FROM 10.30 PM TOMORROW (JULY 13) UNTIL 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REPEATED EACH NIGHT UNTIL JULY 25.

DURING THE CLOSURE, KOWLOON-BOUND VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD AS FAR AS SHAM TSENG WHERE THEY MAY REJOIN TUEN MUN ROAD.

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