DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1985

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

PRICE, VOLUME CHANGES IN MAY EXTERNAL TRADE 1

RSD WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING 3

+TEMPORARY DOCUMENTS+ AVAILABLE 4

HILL WALKERS ADVISED TO PLAN ROUTE 5

NEXT PHASE FOR NEW I.D. CARDS 7

MORE NICHES TO MEET GROWING DEMAND FOR CREMATION 8

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT FOR RESIDENTS 8

VISIT PROGRAMME FOR DB MEMBERS 9

FIREMEN SHOW SKILL IN FITNESS CONTEST 10

ROAD SAFETY AIMED AT THE YOUNG 11

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TOLO HARBOUR SWIM 11

PRICE, VOLUME CHANGES IN MAY EXTERNAL TRADE

* * * *

A COMPARISON OF THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1985 WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, SHOWED THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECLINED BY FIVE PER CENT WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 39 PER CENT, GIVING A 11 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT AND FOUR PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS DECLINED BY TWO PER CENT.

COMPARING MAY 1985 WITH MAY 1984, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY EIGHT PER CENT. WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY NINE PER CENT WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 37 PER CENT. IMPORTS INCREASED BY SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY ONE PER CENT AND TWO PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN MAY 1985 COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES INCREASED BY TWO PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASED BY FOUR PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) ROSE BY SIX PER CENT.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1985 WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1984, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY FIVE PER CENT AND 33 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, GIVING A 15 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 11 PER CENT. PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY EIGHT PER CENT, NINE PER CENT AND FOUR PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE COMPILED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR MAY AND FOR JANUARY-MAY OF 1985 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MAY 1985 COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, RANGING FROM TWO PER CENT FOR METAL MANUFACTURES TO SIX PER CENT FOR TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES. DECREASES IN EXPORT PRICES WERE REGISTERED FOR COMMODITY GROUPS SUCH AS METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-24 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS, (-NINE PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-SEVEN PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (-FIVE PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (-THREE PER CENT) AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-ONE PER CENT).

/THE DOMESTIC .....

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN MAY 1985 COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-30 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-28 PER CENT), RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-22 PER CENT), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-22 PER CENT), TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-20 PER CENT), CLOTHING (-15 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (-15 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (-EIGHT PER CENT) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (-EIGHT PER CENT). HOWEVER, MODERATE INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+11 PER CENT) AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+SEVEN PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY AND FOR JANUARY-MAY OF 1985 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL THE END-USE CATEGORIES DECREASED IN MAY 1985 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, BY ONE PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO SEVEN PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS AND FUELS.

SOME OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS IN MAY 1985 COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; SUGAR; VEGETABLES; RICE; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS, AND SWINE. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TEA AND COFFEE; LIVE POULTRY; CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS FRUIT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MANY CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AS WELL AS FOOTWEAR. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS, TOBACCO MANUFACTURES, CLOTHING AND WATCHES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOME OF THE RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE IN MAY 1985 COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, AMONG WHICH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; IRON AND STEEL; BASE METALS, EXCLUDING IRON AND STEEL; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS AS WELL AS SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS; WOVEN COTTON FABRICS; RAW COTTON; THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS; YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES AS WELL AS CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS DECREASED RATHER SIGNIFICANTLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS ROSE BY 19 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

/IN THE .....

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALL THE COMMODITIES INCREASED IN MAY 1985 OVER MAY 1984, THE MORE NOTABLE ONES BEING INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT TEXTILE MACHINERY AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY, AND FOR JANUARY-MAY OF 1985 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL THE END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN MAY 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1984, RANGING FROM NINE PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 76 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MAY 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE LATER THIS MONTH AT HK$2 PER COPY.

----O----

RSD WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING

*****

NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING ARE WARNED TO STOP THEIR BUSINESS IMMEDIATELY, OR THEY WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ALSO ADVISED MEAT SHOP OPERATORS NOT TO PURCHASE UNCERTIFIED PIG CARCASSES FOR SALE AS IT WAS AN OFFENCE.

HE SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OPERATING A SLAUGHTERHOUSE WITHOUT A LICENCE WAS A FINE OF $10 000 WHILE THAT FOR POSSESSING UNCERTIFIED MEAT FOR SALE WAS $2 000.

DURING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 11 PERSONS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF $22 400 FOR OPERATING SLAUGHTERHOUSES WITHOUT A LICENCE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ANOTHER 35 PERSONS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF $37 050 FOR POSSESSING UNCERTIFIED MEAT.

TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE RSD WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT REGULAR RAIDS TO STAMP OUT THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NOT TO BUY FROM ON-STREET HAWKERS AS SUCH MEAT, MAINLY SUPPLIED BY UNLICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES, WAS NOT HYGIENICALLY PREPARED AND WOULD PROBABLY BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

----O----

/4 .....

+TEMPORARY DOCUMENTS+ AVAILABLE
* * * * * *

A TEMPORARY DOCUMENT COULD BE ISSUED ON REQUEST FOR URGENT USE IN THE EVENT OF UNNATURAL DEATH, WHICH WOULD ORDINARILY REQUIRE MORE TIME FOR REGISTRATION AND THE ISSUE OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE, A CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER EXPLAINED TODAY.

SUCH A TEMPORARY DOCUMENT MIGHT SOMETIMES BE REQUIRED SPEEDILY FOR LEGAL OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, MRS JEAN AU-YEUNG, CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES HEAD OFFICE SAID.

MRS AU-YEUNG SAID THAT LONGER TIME IS TAKEN FOR REGISTRATION OF DEATHS - AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUE OF DEATH CERTIFICATES - IN SUCH SITUATIONS AS, FOR INSTANCE, AN UNNATURAL DEATH REQUIRING A CORONER'S HEARING.

THE LENGTH OF THE +PENDING PERIOD+ WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE. WHEN SATISFIED AS TO THE CAUSE OF DEATH, THE CORONER WOULD NOTIFY THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF THE PARTICULARS OF THE DECEASED TO ENABLE AN ENTRY TO BE MADE IN THE DEATH REGISTER.

THE REGISTRAR CAN THEN ISSUE A DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE PERSON CONCERNED ON APPLICATION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ON PAYMENT OF $10 FOR SEARCH OF RECORD AND $10 FOR A CERTIFICATE.

IN A CASE WHERE AN URGENT DOCUMENT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE, A TEMPORARY CERTIFYING LETTER MIGHT BE ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE ON REQUEST, SETTING OUT THE OCCURRENCE OF DEATH AND THE PARTICULARS OF THE DECEASED. HOWEVER, IN SUCH A CASE, THE CAUSE OF DEATH WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE TEMPORARY DOCUMENT, SHE POINTED OUT.

SHE STRESSED THAT A DEATH CERTIFICATE WOULD BE ISSUED ONLY ON COMPLETION OF REGISTRATION, WHICH WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS KNOWN, AND THAT THIS APPLIED THEREFORE, TO BOTH NATURAL AND UNNATURAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

+GENERALLY, ANY BURIAL WITHOUT REGISTRATION OF DEATH IS ILLEGAL. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO ALL NEWBORN BABIES WHO HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF LIFE AT BIRTH, NO MATTER HOW BRIEFLY THEY LIVED,+ SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT CASES OF ILLEGAL BURIAL WHICH HAD COME TO THE REGISTRAR'S NOTICE WERE VERY RARE.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH FORM 12 WOULD BE ISSUED ON COMPLETION OF REGISTRATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF A BODY A FORM 10 WOULD BE ISSUED FOR BURIAL.

IN THE CASES OF UNNATURAL DEATH, THE CORONER WOULD ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF ORDER AUTHORISING BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE BODY, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR REGISTRATION.

/MRS AU-YEUNG .....

MRS AU-YEUNG SAID THAT +THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE IS SIMPLE AND FREE OF CHARGE. IT NORMALLY TAKES ONLY 20 MINUTES. IN THE CASE OF NATURAL DEATH, THE INFORMANT SHOULD GIVE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION TO THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS WITHIN 24 HOURS (EXCLUDING THE TRAVELLING TIME, PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND NIGHT).

UPON REGISTRATION THE INFORMANT, WHO IS USUALLY THE NEXT OF KIN, IS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ATTENDING DOCTOR CERTIFYING THE CAUSE OF DEATH. IDENTITY CARDS OF BOTH THE DECEASED AND THE INFORMANT ARE ALSO NEEDED.

+APART FROM THE INFORMATION STATED ON THE ID CARD AND THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, PARTICULARS SUCH AS THE RANK AND PROFESSION OF THE DECEASED, RELATION WITH THE INFORMANT AND HIS OR HER ADDRESS ARE ALSO REQUIRED.+

STATISTICS SHOWED THAT 25 580 DEATHS WERE REGISTERED IN 1984 OUT OF WHICH 19 895 WERE NATURAL DEATHS AND 5 685 CASES REFERRED TO THE REGISTRAR BY THE CORONER.

WHILE THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE AT LI PO CHUN CHAMBERS, 2/F, HANDLES ALL THE CASES REFERRED BY THE CORONER, NORMAL DEATHS OCCUR IN ALL DISTRICTS ARE REGISTERED IN THE CENTRE POINT DEATHS REGISTRY (CENTRE POINT, 2/F, 181-185 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI) OR CANTON ROAD DEATHS REGISTRY (9/F, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 903-905)= AND TSUEN WAN BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE REGISTRY (FAR EAST BANK BUILDING, 3/F, CASTLE PEAK ROAD) ALSO DEALS WITH DEATHS WHICH OCCUR IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG.

POLICE STATIONS AT SHA TIN, TAI PO, SHEUNG SHUI, SHA TAU KOK, TA KWU LING, LOK MA CHAU, PAT HEUNG, YUEN LONG, LAU FAU SHAN, TUEN MUN, SAI KUNG, CHEUNG CHAU, LAMMA, MUI WO AND TAI O ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING DEATH REGISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BUT DEATH CERTIFICATES CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED AT THE ABOVE REGISTRIES.

----o----

HILL WALKERS ADVISED TO PLAN ROUTE

****

WITH MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING TO THE HILLS DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS, THEY ARE REMINDED TO PLAN THEIR ROUTES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXPERIENCE AND PHYSICAL CAPABILITY.

CHIEF STAFF OFFICER OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, MR JOHN FORTUNE, GAVE THIS ADVICE FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT ON JULY 29 IN WHICH SEVEN HILL WALKERS HAD TO BE LED TO SAFETY FROM MOUNTAINS TO THE NORTH OF MA ON SHAN.

HE SAID THAT THE ROUTE MUST BE VERY CAREFULLY PLANNED AND WALKERS SHOULD CARRY THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT, PLENTY OF WATER AND WEAR THE CORRECT CLOTHING.

/THE CAS .....

THE CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM THAT WENT TO THE RESCUE OF THE WALKERS LEARNED THAT THEY HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN HILL WALKING.

THE EXPEDITION ITSELF WAS TOO AMBITIOUS FOR THE WALKERS, THEIR FOOTWEAR WAS TOTALLY UNSUITED TO THE ROUGH TERRAIN AND SOME OF THE WALKERS BECAME PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED AND UNABLE TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR JOURNEY.

MR FORTUNE, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT DURING THE SUMMER, MID-DAY. TEMPERATURES WERE IN THE REGION OF 30 DEGREES CELSIUS. IT WAS ALSO VERY HUMID WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SUDDEN THUNDERSTORMS AND IN MANY LOCATIONS THERE WAS VERY LITTLE COVER FROM THE UNRELENTING HEAT OF THE SUN.

+WALKERS MUST NOT OVER-ESTIMATE THEIR PHYSICAL STATE, THEY CAN TIRE VERY EASILY AND MAY THEN BEGIN TO SUFFER FROM HEAT-EXHAUSTION, SUN STROKE AND ALSO DEHYDRATION,+ MR FORTUNE SAID.

+IT IS MUCH BETTER TO PLAN A WALK OR EXPEDITION ON THE LOWER SLOPES OF HILLS AND ALONG EASY ROUTES.

+IT IS ALSO ADVISABLE TO START OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING, SO AS TO AVOID THE MID-DAY HEAT,+ HE SAID.

THEY SHOULD HAVE ESSENTIAL CLOTHING, INCLUDING A SUN HAT, GOOD WALKING SHOES, A GOOD PAIR OF SOCKS TO AVOID BLISTERED FEET AND FIRST AID KIT, SUN-TAN CREAM AND OTHER BASIC ESSENTIALS.

IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO CARRY A TORCH AND A WHISTLE IN CASE OF BEING LOST, HE SAID.

+THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS SIGNAL IS SIX LONG BLASTS ON THE WHISTLE OR SIX LONG FLASHES OF A TORCHLIGHT AT NIGHT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EITHER OF THESE, THEN SHOUT SIX TIME FOR HELP.

+PAUSE ONE MINUTE AND THEN REPEAT. KEEP GIVING THESE SIGNALS AT INTERVALS. IF THEY ARE HEARD OR SEEN, THE REPLY SHOULD BE THREE BLASTS OR FLASHES OR SHOUTS, REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES,+ MR FORTUNE SAID.

OTHER USEFUL HINTS TO FOLLOW ARE:

* NEVER WALK IN THE HILLS ALONE, ALWAYS GO IN A GROUP.

* EACH GROUP SHOULD HAVE A LEADER WHO IS A RECOGNISED PERSON WITH EXPERIENCE.

* AN EXPERIENCED WALKER SHOULD BRING UP THE REAR OF THE PARTY TO KEEP THE GROUP TOGETHER.

* THE GROUP SHOULD MOVE AT THE SPEED OF THE SLOWEST PERSON AND ENSURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

* THE PARTY SHOULD CARRY EMERGENCY FOOD, A COIL OF THIN NYLON ROPE, GET AN UPDATED WEATHER REPORT AND INDICATE TO A RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHERE THEY WERE GOING AND THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF RETURN.

----0----

NEXT PHASE FOR NEW I.D. CARDS

* * * * *

MEN BORN IN 1929, 1930, 1931 AND 1932 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THIS PHASE WILL LAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7, DURING WHICH APPLICANTS MAY CALL AT ANY OF THE EIGHT I.D. CARD ISSUE OFFICES BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9.30 PM, MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS. BUT ALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON AUGUST 24 AND 26, BEING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

+THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE USUALLY VERY BUSY DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF A NEW PHASE. MANY APPLICANTS HAVE TO BE TURNED AWAY ON THEIR FIRST VISIT AND ASKED TO COME BACK AT A LATER DATE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE THEREFORE ADVISED APPLICANTS TO AVOID THE INITIAL RUSH.

+ANOTHER WAY OF MINIMISING INCONVENIENCE IS TO MAKE USE OF THE MAIL-IN APPOINTMENT SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND IMMIGRATION OFFICES.

+PEOPLE CAN ALSO RING OUR DEPARTMENT ON 3-7333111 REQUESTING FOR FORMS TO BE MAILED TO THEM,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

+COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OFFICE OF ONE'S CHOICE AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE PHASE,+ HE SAID.

THE ADDRESSES OF THE EIGHT ISSUE OFFICES ARE :

HONG KONG	: BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
EAST KOWLOON	: AMOY GARDEN PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
WEST KOWLOON	: CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.
TSUEN WAN	: EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
SHA TIN	: SHA TIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
YUEN LONG	: HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TUEN MUN	: CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
SHEUNG SHUI	: TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHO WOULD BE REPATRIATED UPON DETECTION.

- - - - o - - - -

/8 .....

MORE NICHES TO MEET GROWING DEMAND FOR CREMATION

*****

THE URBAN COUNCIL'S DIAMOND HILL COLUMBARIUM WILL REPLACE THE CAPE COLLINSON COLUMBARIUM AS THE BIGGEST IN THE URBAN AREA WHEN A NINE-STOREY EXTENSION TO THE COLUMBARIUM IS COMPLETED IN EARLY 1987. THIS WILL TAKE THE NUMBER OF NICHES AVAILABLE THERE FROM 6 612 TO OVER 42 000.

PILING AND FOUNDATION WORK FOR THE EXTENSION HAVE RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED AND TENDERS ARE NOW BEING INVITED TO BUILD THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

TWO LIFTS WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE BUILDING AND SHOULD PROVE A BOON TO VISITORS, SPECIALLY THE ELDERLY.

A TOTAL OF 36 000 ADDITIONAL NICHES WILL BE PROVIDED, OF WHICH ONE QUARTER WILL BE FAMILY NICHES ABLE TO TAKE FOUR URNS.

SINCE THE DIAMOND HILL COLUMBARIUM WAS OPENED IN 1979 A NUMBER OF EXTENSION WORKS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CREMATION.

AN URBAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE RATIO OF CREMATIONS TO BURIALS HAD NOW RISEN TO ABOUT 63 TO 37.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE COUNCIL'S TARGET OF 65 TO 35 WILL BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

AT THE COUNCIL'S OTHER COLUMBARIUM, AT CAPE COLLINSON ON HONG KONG ISLAND, EXTENSIONS ARE BEING MADE TO TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 13 000 NICHES, AND THE WORK IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

----o----

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT FOR RESIDENTS

*****

THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD HAS LAUNCHED A COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT TO FIND OUT THE EFFECTS OF SIGNBOARDS ON RESIDENTS, AND TO STUDY THE INFLUENCE VARIOUS RECREATION CENTRES HAVE ON ADOLESCENTS.

THE +COMMUNITY IN PERSPECTIVE+ PROJECT IS AIMED AT ENHANCING RESIDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR DISTRICT AND TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE COMMUNITY.

A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD IN THE COMING MONTHS TO HELP PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTAND VARIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT SO THAT THEY CAN FIND SOLUTIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

/THEY WILL .....

THEY WILL BE TAKING PART IN ORIENTATION CAMPS, LECTURES, VISITS, FORUMS AND SEMINARS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE FINDING OUT WHETHER SIGNBOARDS ARE CAUSING AN OBSTRUCTION AND NUISANCE TO RESIDENTS IN THE DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICT.

THEY WILL ALSO STUDY THE EFFECTS BILLIARD PARLOURS AND TV GAMES CENTRES HAVE ON TEENAGERS.

THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROJECT WILL BE CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED AND CONSIDERED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

SINCE THE FIRST +COMMUNITY IN PERSPECTIVE+ PROJECT, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED LAST YEAR, HAS PROVED AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR RESIDENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON LOCAL ISSUES, THE BOARD DECIDED TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE PROJECT CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE AT 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD OR BY TELEPHONING 3-802251.

----o----

VISIT PROGRAMME FOR DB MEMBERS

****

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS DRAWN UP AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF VISITS TO FAMILIARISE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WITH THE OPERATION OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE VISITS WILL ENABLE MEMBERS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORK AND OPERATION OF DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS, AND WILL GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE LOCAL BODIES ON VARIOUS DISTRICT ISSUES.

+SINCE APRIL, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS VISITED A POWER STATION, PRISONS AND WELFARE AGENCIES AND THEIR RESPONSE HAS BEEN FAVOURABLE,+ A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT HAS INCLUDED 20 ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN THE FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME AND ABOUT TWO VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED EACH MONTH,+ HE SAID.

VISITS TO HOSPITALS, WELFARE AGENCIES, AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE QUEEN MARY, NAM LONG AND GRANTHAM HOSPITALS; THE EBENEZER SCHOOL AND HOME FOR THE BLIND; THE CHESHIRE HOME; THE SANDY BAY J.F. KENNEDY CENTRE; THE MARYCOVE CENTRE; THE AP LEI CHAU OIL DEPOT, THE HONG KONG SCHOOL OF MOTORING AND THE HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL.

/FAMILIARISATION .....

FAMILIARISATION TOURS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDE THE COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION; THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT; THE ABERDEEN FIRE STATION; THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S MARINE AND OFFSHORE ISLAND DIVISION; THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL CONTROL ROOM; AND THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MARKET COMPLEX.

+AS TWO REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU SOON, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE LAST MONTH FOR MEMBERS TO VISIT FOUR RCP'S BUILT IN CAUSEWAY BAY, WAN CHAI AND HAPPY VALLEY TO HAVE A LOOK AT THEIR OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO VISIT THE ICAC, RTHK, THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE POST OFFICE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY,+ HE ADDED.

----0----

FIREMEN SHOW SKILL IN FITNESS CONTEST

* * *

AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAGED A COMPETITION TODAY (SUNDAY) IN CONJUNCTION WITH TVB TO TEST THE ABILITY AND PHYSICAL FITNESS OF FIREMEN IN THE THREE OPERATIONAL FIRE COMMANDS OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

POINTS WERE GIVEN BY A PANEL OF JUDGES CHAIRED BY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER TOM GARDINER TO EACH TEAM FOR EFFICIENCY AND SKILL.

THE FIRST EVENT WAS A FOUR-MAN HOSE DRILL INCORPORATING A BREAKING-IN. EACH PARTICIPATING TEAM COMPRISED A SENIOR FIREMAN AND THREE FIREMEN.

THE SECOND COMPETITION WAS A FOUR-PART RELAY INVOLVING TWO FIREMEN AND TWO AMBULANCEMEN FROM EACH COMMAND.

THE FINAL EVENT WAS A RESCUE OPERATION AND A HYDRAULIC PLATFORM FIRE APPLIANCE AND AN AMBULANCE WITH A FULL CREW WERE DEPLOYED FOR THE CONTEST.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR ALLEN LEE, PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE OVERALL CHAMPION AND WINNERS OF INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.

THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF TVB, MR T.K. HO, LATER PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR ROBERT HOLMES.

----0----

/11 .....

ROAD SAFETY AIMED AT THE YOUNG

* * * * *

A SLOGAN CONTEST IS BEING HELD IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT TO AROUSE YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARENESS IN OBSERVING THE ROAD SAFETY CODE.

THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO YOUTHS UNDER 25 YEARS OLD, AND WINNING ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE BOOK COUPONS UP TO $500 IN VALUE.

THE TOP WINNING ENTRY WILL BE USED AS THE PUBLICITY SLOGAN DURING THE MONTH-LONG ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN IN THE DISTRICT TO BE LAUNCHED ON SEPTEMBER 22.

ALL SLOGANS SUBMITTED SHOULD BE IN CHINESE AND MUST NOT EXCEED 20 WORDS.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTEST IS PART OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE ROAD USERS' CONCERN IN ROAD SAFETY WITH THE AIM OF REDUCING TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL FOCUS ON TWO ASPECTS OF ROAD SAFETY - EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT - AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANISED TO DRIVE THE MESSAGE HOME INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW, AN EXHIBITION, A ROAD SAFETY TOWN DISPLAY, GAMES STALLS, AND A RANDOM SELECTION OF MODEL PEDESTRIANS.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CAMPAIGN IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POLICE AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE DEADLINE OF THE SLOGAN CONTEST IS SEPTEMBER 7, AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, AND ALL JUNIOR POLICE CALL CENTRES.

- - - - O - - - -

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TOLO HARBOUR SWIM

* * * *

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE ANNUAL CROSS-HARBOUR SWIM IN TAI PO TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15.

THE 18TH CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM IS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND A BREWERY.

THE RACE, OPEN TO ALL SWIMMERS AGED 12 OR ABOVE, WILL START AT 10.30 AM FROM SHA LAN TO TAI MEI TUK, COVERING A DISTANCE OF 2 400 METRES.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE FIRST 10 WINNERS IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS, WHILE THOSE WHO CAN COMPLETE THE FULL COURSE IN 90 MINUTES WILL RECEIVE COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATES.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE EVENT ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES; OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE DIVISION, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH; THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE AND THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS AUGUST 30.

- - - - O - - - -