DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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'COMMUNITY SERVICE' PLANNED FOR CERTAIN OFFENDERS

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PEOPLE CONVICTED OF CERTAIN OFFENCES MAY BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO IMPRISONMENT, ACCORDING TO A PROPOSED SCHEME PUBLISHED IN A REPORT TODAY.

UNDER COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, CONVICTED OFFENDERS MAY, WITH THEIR CONSENT, BE REQUIRED TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCE THROUGH SUCH WORK AS DECORATING OLD PEOPLES' HOMES, OR HELPING TO BUILD CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY BY MR F.K. HU, CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH LOOKED INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SUCH +COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS+, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

OFFENCES SEEN AS MOST APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH ORDERS ARE THOSE INVOLVING AN ELEMENT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, SUCH AS CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND LESS SERIOUS ASSAULTS, MR HU SAID.

AND THE LIKELY OFFENDER SUITABLE FOR AN ORDER WOULD BE BETWEEN 17 AND 30 YEARS OF AGE, FROM A SETTLED ADDRESS AND STABLE BACKGROUND, INCLUDING STABLE EMPLOYMENT.

+WHILE IT WILL BE UP TO THE COURTS TO EXERCISE THIS TYPE OF SENTENCING POWER, IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT IT WILL BE USED WHEN A FINE OR SUSPENDED SENTENCE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

+IT IS DESIGNED TO KEEP A PERSON WHO IS CAPABLE OF REHABILITATION OUT OF PRISON,+ MR HU SAID.

SUCH AN OFFENDER WOULD ALSO HAVE A FAIR AMOUNT OF FREE TIME, BE FIT AND ABLE, BUT LACKING IN SELF-DISCIPLINE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. HE WOULD ALSO NOT BE A SOPHISTICATED OFFENDER, NOR A MENTALLY ILL PERSON. HE SHOULD NOT HAVE TOO LOW AN INTELLIGENCE NOR SHOULD HE HAVE A LOW THRESHOLD OF CONTROL.

SUCH AN ORDER, IT WAS EMPHASISED, WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR A PERSON ADDICTED TO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

IF APPROVED AS OUTLINED IN THE REPORT, THE SCHEME WOULD TAKE ABOUT ONE YEAR TO SET UP. PROBATION OFFICERS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPOINTED AND TRAINED, AS THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING THE OFFENDERS BEFORE SENTENCE IS PASSED AND FOR ALLOCATING THE WORK UNDER THE ORDERS.

A NUMBER OF BENEFITS OF SUCH A SYSTEM ARE SET OUT IN CHAPTER FIVE OF THE REPORT. AMONG THE BENEFITS INDICATED ARE THAT IT WOULD BE LESS COSTLY THAN IMPRISONMENT, AND WOULD NOT UNNECESSARILY DISRUPT THE FAMILY UNIT, OR SCHOOLING. IT COULD ALSO MEAN THAT EMPLOYMENT COULD BE RETAINED, AND THERE WOULD BE LESS DAMAGE TO SELF-ESTEEM. IF THE SCHEME, PROPOSED IN THE REPORT FOR CAUSEWAY BAY, SAN PO KONG, AND TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACIES IS SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL BE EXPANDED TO OTHER COURTS.

/IT WAS .....

IT WAS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE SCHEME HAS BEEN OFFERED THE SUPPORT OF SOME 30 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE MATTER WAS FIRST REFERRED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 13, 1981. AS A RESULT A SUB-COMMITTEE WAS SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR F.K. HU TO CONSIDER THIS AND SEVERAL ANCILLARY QUESTIONS.

THE REPORT BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAS SINCE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE FULL LAW REFORM COMMISSION AND ADOPTED BY IT, AND THE GOVERNOR AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON IT AS WELL.

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NINE BILLS DUE FOR FINAL READING

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NINE BILLS -- INCLUDING THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX BILL 1983, AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) BILL 1983, ON WHICH A NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE SPEAKING -- ARE EXPECTED TO GO THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW.

ANOTHER BILL, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST BILL 1983, WILL BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE TILL JUNE 29.

IN ADDITION, NINE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.

A QUESTION CONCERNING THE USE OF GROWTH-PROMOTING CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN THE LOCAL POULTRY BREEDING INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS ON CONTROL SAFEGUARDS TO REDUCE HEALTH RISK TO CONSUMERS, WILL BE ASKED.

OTHER QUESTIONS WILL DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS WHETHER DIFFERENT STANDARDS OF TREATMENT ARE APPLIED TO PRISONERS (BOTH CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AND CIVIL JUDGMENT DEBTORS), THE PRESENT POSITION REGARDING THE REVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES RELATING TO CIVIL DEBTS, THE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INSTALLATION OF OVERHEAD TRAFFIC LIGHTS, AS WELL AS THE WORK BEING DONE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THERE WILL ALSO BE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANTI-HIJACKING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT, UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF SEVERANCE PAY.

THE SEVEN OTHER BILLS DUE FOR COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING ARE:

EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AND PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

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PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME +STILL AMONG WORLD'S LARGEST+

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HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING IS ON THE RIGHT COURSE IN MEETING GROWING ASPIRATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO SAID TODAY ON HIS RETURN FROM AN INTERNATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE.

+OUR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS STILL ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE WORLD,+ SAID MR LIAO WHO HAD ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOUSING AND PLANNING CONGRESS IN LISBON.

+IN TERMS OF STANDARD AND DESIGN CONCEPT, IT IS PROBABLY MORE ADVANCE,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID THAT AT THE CONFERENCE, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING WERE MADE KNOWN TO PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

+WE ATTENDED SEMINARS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON FINANCE, PLANNING, URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN RELATION TO HOUSING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.+

AFTER THE CONFERENCE, MR LIAO SAID HE FLEW TO LONDON ON A DUTY VISIT WHERE HE MET AND DISCUSSED PUBLIC HOUSING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BRITISH BUILDING INDUSTRY AS WELL AS A TRADE ADVISORY GROUP FOR HONG KONG IN BRITAIN.

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VISITING CHINESE OFFICIALS SEE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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THE VISITING GROUP OF 43 URBAN OFFICIALS FROM CHINA TODAY CONTINUED THEIR THIRD DAY OF STUDY TOUR LOOKING AT HOW REDEVELOPMENT WORKS IN OLDER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES UPGRADED THE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR TENANTS.

+THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR OLDER ESTATES IS A VERY GOOD CONCEPT,+ SAID MR CAO MIAO, HEAD OF THE GROUP.

HE SAID THE SCHEME HAD OBVIOUSLY UPGRADED THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS.

THE PARTY WERE SHOWN THE REDEVELOPMENT AND CONVERSION SCHEMES WHICH PROVIDED ADEQUATE FACILITIES AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR OLD ESTATES BUILT IN THE EARLY 50'S.

IN THEIR VISIT TO THE LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, THEY LOOKED AT THE PROVISION OF PRIVATE TOILETS WITH TAPS AND BASINS TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENTS.

/THIS WAS .....

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE WHERE NEW BLOCKS, A MODERN COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED ALSO UNDER A REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

THEY SAW AT FLATS WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO PROVIDE LARGER AND SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TENANTS.

EARLIER, THE GROUP OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS AND EXECUTIVES FROM SHANGHAI, BEIJING, TIANJING AND GUANGZHOU ATTENDED A SEMINAR IN WHICH SENIOR HOUSING OFFICIALS OUTLINED THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES, URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AND NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

THEIR VISIT TO HONG KONG FORMS PART OF A SEVEN-WEEK TRAINING COURSE ORGANISED BY THE SHANGHAI INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT, THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF THE WORLD BANK, OF WHICH CHINA IS A MEMBER.

DURING THEIR STAY HERE, THE PARTY WILL BE SEEING HONG KONG'S MASSIVE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME, TRANSPORT, NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS SEWAGE AND WATER TREATMENT WORKS.

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POLICE FORCE KEEPING UP WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE IS STRIVING, BY THE USE OF WELL PROVEN METHODS AND THE ASSISTANCE OF HIGH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF A SOPHISTICATED, DEMANDING AND COMPLEX SOCIETY, THE DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES, MR. ROBERT BROWN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG COMPUTER CONFERENCE '83, MR. BROWN OUTLINED HOW THE FORCE WAS CURRENTLY EMBRACING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN AN EFFORT TO MEET ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES.

"AS AN ORGANISATION, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE IS MANPOWER INTENSIVE, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE RIGHT INFORMATION AT THE RIGHT TIME IS ITS LIFE BLOOD," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE FORCE OPERATES WITHIN A FAST CHANGING SOCIETY, MR. BROWN SAID IT WAS CONSTANTLY LOOKING AT ALL ASPECTS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH COUNTER-BALANCES WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO RETAIN THE INITIATIVE AND THUS CONTINUE TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC.

"INEVITABLY THE COMPLEXITY OF POLICING MODERN HONG KONG HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE TO TAKE AN INDEPTH LOOK AT THE MANY AND VARIED ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS WHICH MAKE UP POLICE WORK AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, RELATE THESE TO CONTEMPORARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY."

/AS A .....

AS A STARTING POINT IN 1981, THE FORCE COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED WITH A REPRESENTATION EMBRACING ALL ASPECTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

''THE GROUP NOW ENSURES A RATIONALISED APPROACH TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BY PROVIDING A MEANS WHEREBY THE VARIOUS NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE FORCE CAN BE IDENTIFIED, AND AFTER BEING FULLY JUSTIFIED, ASSESSED AS TO A RELATIVE PRIORITY AND THEN PROCESSED.

''AT THE PRESENT TIME, JOINTLY WITH GOVERNMENT, THE FORCE IS WELL ADVANCED IN ITS PLANNING FOR A MUCH ENHANCED REPLACEMENT FOR THE EXISTING COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM, WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1977, AND IS FAST COMING TO THE END OF ITS LIFE CIRCLE.''

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL NOT ONLY FULFIL THE BASIC FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE PRESENT CONFIGURATION, BUT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION CAPTURED SO AS TO GIVE SUPERVISORS AND SENIOR OFFICERS AT ALL LEVELS REFINED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION WHICH IS HITHERTO UNAVAILABLE.

''THE RESULT WILL BE THE TAKING OF BETTER INFORMED DECISIONS ON SUCH MATTERS AS NECESSARY MANPOWER LEVELS, VOLUME AND TYPE OF INCIDENTS AND CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, THUS ENSURING MUCH GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE SPREAD AND USE OF RESOURCES, AND A CONSEQUENT IMPROVED RESPONSE,'' MR. BROWN EXPLAINED.

THE ENHANCED SYSTEM WILL ALSO PROVIDE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FEATURES INCLUDING A FACILITY FOR THE RECORDING OF DETAILS OF CRIMES REPORTED TO THE POLICE AND ALSO OF STOLEN AND FOUND PROPERTY.

WHILE OPERATIONAL OFFICERS WILL HAVE ,VIA THE TERRITORY WIDE RADIO AND VDU NETWORK, QUICK ACCESS TO THE VAST AMOUNT OF INFORMATION STORED IN THE SYSTEM, SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION UPON TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF CRIME, IN FAR MORE DETAIL THAN CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

SIMULTANEOUS WITH THIS PROJECT, PLANNING IS ON-GOING FOR AN INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND TRAINING SYSTEM TO CATER FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY NEEDS FOR STAFF MOVEMENT, LATERAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION AND TRAINING.

POSITIVE PROGRESS IS ALSO BEING MADE IN OTHER FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE USE OF WORD PROCESSORS, WHICH HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN A NUMBER OF KEY AREAS OF THE FORCE AND BY THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERISED EXAMINATION PAPER MARKING.

''WHILST ACCEPTING THAT THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF A POLICE OFFICER WILL ALWAYS BE PARAMOUNT IN THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW ORDER, IT IS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE USE OF CONTEMPORARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WILL ENSURE A BETTER USE OF RESOURCES, AND ENABLE, TO A LARGE EXTENT, INCREASING WORKLOADS TO BE ABSORBED, WITHOUT A NEED TO MAKE A COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN THAT MOST EXPENSIVE OF RESOURCES- MANPOWER,'' MR. BROWN CONCLUDED.

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HONG KONG NOW ABLE TO DESIGN OWN COMPUTERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (TUESDAY) STRESSED THAT THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN THE USE OF COMPUTERS HERE WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART IN THE PROCESS OF CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION OF HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE +HONG KONG COMPUTER 1983+ EXHIBITION, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT THE GROWTH WAS ALSO VITAL IN KEEPING HONG KONG AS A LEADING TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+IN 1976, WHEN THE APPLICATION OF COMPUTERS TO BUSINESS WAS STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE, HONG KONG HAD ONLY 118 COMPUTERS INSTALLED, AND OUR EXTERNAL TRADE TOTALLED HK$84 BILLION.

+BY 1982, THE NUMBER OF COMPUTER INSTALLATIONS REACHED 918, AND OUR TOTAL TRADE REACHED HK$270 BILLION,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG WAS ONE OF THE FEW COMMUNITIES IN THE REGION WHICH WERE BOTH USERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF COMPUTERS, MR MACLEOD SAID: +IN VISITING SOME OF OUR LATEST ELECTRONICS FACTORIES RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED AND IMPRESSED TO LEARN THAT ALREADY WE HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE ASSEMBLY OF COMPUTERS TO OTHER COUNTRIES' DESIGNS, TO DESIGNING OUR OWN COMPUTERS.+

IN 1982, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF COMPUTERS AND COMPONENTS TOTALLED HK$1 806 MILLION, OR 2.1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ALL COMMODITIES.

+HONG KONG ONLY STARTED TO EXPORT ITS FIRST COMPUTERS IN 19[illegible], AND THE BULK OF OUR EXPORTS OF COMPUTER PRODUCTS REMAINS MAINLY COMPONENTS AND PARTS — 94 PER CENT OF TOTAL COMPUTER EXPORTS IN 1982. OUR PRINCIPAL MARKET IS THE USA — 88 PER CENT [illegible] 1982 — BUT EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKETS AND JAPAN ARE EXPAND[illegible] +HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS' SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS PRAISED

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SCHOOLS' SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLY TO THE TRAINING OF YOUNG SPORTSMEN, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A BALL-GAME PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY JOINTLY HELD BY SCHOOLS IN TSUEN WAN, NORTH KWAI CHUNG AND SOUTH KWAI CHUNG.

MR HSU SAID THAT SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS IN SCHOOLS HAD ACHIEVED OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN THEIR WORK THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS, AND THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

+WITH THE RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, THERE IS A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RESULTING IN AN EVER INCREASING DEMAND FOR SPORTS ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

+IN THIS RESPECT, THE SCHOOLS' SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

+THEY HAVE HELPED PROVIDE SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND COURSES, AND HAVE TRAINED GOOD AND PROMISING ATHLETES THROUGH VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

+I HOPE THIS GOOD WORK WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT FROM IT,+ MR HSU SAID.

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MONTHLY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN MARCH 1983 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE $4 384 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS.

AT 129, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR MARCH 1983 INCREASED BY FOUR POINTS OR THREE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983, AND BY THREE POINTS OR TWO PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR MARCH 1983, AT 101, WAS THREE POINTS OR THREE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR FEBRUARY 1983, AND SIX POINTS OR SIX PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR MARCH 1982.

/COMPARED WITH .....

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS, CONSUMER DURABLES AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT, NINE PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS. THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 14 PER CENT, EIGHT PER CENT AND NINE PER CENT.

DECREASES IN VALUE TERMS OF EIGHT PER CENT WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, AND OF SEVEN PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO. THEIR DECREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 10 PER CENT EACH.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982, FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT, FUELS BY 15 PER CENT, AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS BY 14 PER CENT, IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES.

IN VOLUME TERMS, FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED INCREASES OF SIX PER CENT AND SEVEN PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WHILE FUELS SHOWED A DECLINE OF TWO PER CENT.

RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS, ON THE OTHER HAND, FELL BY 15 PER CENT AND TWO PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS OR 17 PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS.

WHEN ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES AND SUPERMARKETS DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983, AND THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE, THOUGH TO A LESSER EXTENT, WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE TRADE.

WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982, HOWEVER, SUPERMARKETS REGISTERED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME OF SALES.

DEPARTMENT STORES, ALTHOUGH RECORDING AN INCREASE IN VALUE, HAD A MARGINAL DECREASE IN VOLUME OF SALES WHILE THE MOTOR VEHICLE TRADE EXPERIENCED LARGE DECLINES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLES 1 AND 2 PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR MARCH 1983 ON THE TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND ON THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS.

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE MARCH RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1982 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 3-7216024.

/TABLE 1. VALUE .....

TABLE 1: VALUE INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	FEBRUARY 1983 (REVISED FIGURES)	MARCH 1983 (PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983 POINTS	%	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982* POINTS	%
TOTAL RETAIL SALES (HK$ MILLION)	4 247	4 383				
RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEXES:						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	125	129	4	3	3	2
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	152	141	-11	-7	25	22
FUELS	145	173	28	19	23	15
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	148	136	-12	-8	17	14
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	115	124	9	8	-2	-2
CONSUMER DURABLES	103	112	9	9	-19	-15
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
MOTOR VEHICLES	51	48	-3	-6	-66	-58
DEPARTMENT STORES	143	110	-33	-23	9	9
SUPERMARKETS	252	204	-48	-19	54	36

* FINAL REVISED FIGURES

/TABLE 2: VOLUME .....

TABLE 2: VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	FEBRUARY 1983 (REVISED FIGURES)	MARCH 1983 (PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983 POINTS	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983 %	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982* POINTS	MARCH 1983 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1982* %
RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES:						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	98	101	3	3	-6	-6
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	111	100	-11	-10	6	6
FUELS	104	119	15	14	-3	-2
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	118	106	-12	-10	7	7
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	91	99	8	9	-11	-10
CONSUMER DURABLES	90	97	7	8	-20	-17
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
MOTOR VEHICLES	36	33	-3	-8	-65	-66
DEPARTMENT STORES	113	87	-26	-23	-1	-1
SUPERMARKETS	188	144	-44	-23	25	21

* FINAL REVISED FIGURES

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EMPLOYERS REMINDED ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS TODAY THAT THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 15), IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS EMPLOYED LOCALLY OR FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN $7 500 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS, INCLUDING WAGES AND ALLOWANCES BUT EXCLUDING OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERTNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638; KOWLOON WEST 3-201652; KOWLOON SOUTH 3-319454; KWUN TONG 3-898520; TSUEN WAN 0-4980208; TAI PO 0-6577111 EXT. 114; TUEN MUN 0-818443; HONG KONG ISLAND (WEST) 5-268671 AND HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) 5-282523.

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INSURANCE MANPOWER SURVEY FIELD WORK STARTS TOMORROW

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FIELD WORK FOR THE MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, ORGANISED BY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WILL START TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND WILL LAST UNTIL JUNE 19.

DURING THE PERIOD, OFFICERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THE SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS TO COLLECT QUESTIONNAIRES AND TO HELP IN ANSWERING THEM.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR ANTHONY KAN, STRESSED THAT INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

+THE SUPPLY OF ACCURATE INFORMATION BY EMPLOYERS WILL BE IMPORTANT IN FORMULATING MANPOWER PLANS,+ HE ADDED.

HE APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS IN THE INDUSTRY TO COOPERATE IN PROVIDING CORRECT DATA.

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WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF VISUALISER

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THE ART SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WILL ORGANISE A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF THE VISUALISER, A GRAPHIC DESIGN EQUIPMENT, FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ART TEACHERS, NEXT MONTH.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AND HELD ON JULY 18 AND 19 AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, 4/F, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

IT CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE 20 PARTICIPANTS, AND THEREFORE APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

SCHOOL HEADS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE INSPECTOR (ART) AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 25.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE WORKSHOP MAY BE MADE AT 5-621006.

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CELEBRITIES TAKING PART IN FIGHT CRIME SOCCER MATCH

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A CELEBRITY FOOTBALL MATCH IN SUPPORT OF THE FIGHT YOUTH CRIME CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) EVENING AT THE MONG KOK QUEEN ELIZABETH II YOUTH CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

THE STARS AGAINST CRIME 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IS ORGANISED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND RADIO DIVISION OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TWO DEPARTMENTS THIS YEAR TO SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE TO YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGE OF 14 AND 20.

THE MATCH WILL START AT 8 PM WITH A KICK-OFF CEREMONY BY MR B.R. JOHNSTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, AND MR HAROLD KWOK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING.

TAKING PART IN THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE A HOST OF FILM STARS, TV ARTISTES, SINGERS, DISC JOCKEYS AND SPORTSMEN. THEY WILL FORM THEMSELVES INTO FOUR TEAMS: THE STARS AGAINST CRIME TEAM, WHICH COMPRISES MEMBERS OF THE STARS AGAINST CRIME COMMITTEE FORMED IN 1981, THE RTHK TEAM, THE +WEI WEI+ TEAM AND THE CHAMPION CLUB TEAM.

THE OVERALL CHAMPION WILL BE AWARDED A FIGHT CRIME CUP, TO BE PRESENTED BY MR JOHNSTON AT THE END OF THE MATCH.

THE EVENT IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT ABOUT 2 000 YOUNGSTERS, AND IT WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK RADIO II.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE STARS AGAINST CRIME 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT THE MONG KOK QUEEN ELIZABETH II YOUTH CENTRE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 8 PM. THE MATCH WILL LAST UNTIL ABOUT 9.45 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AT 7.45 PM.

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EARLY PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS EARLIER IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE COMING HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT COUPON HOLDERS WHO ARE TO RECEIVE PAYMENT ON JUNE 11, 12, 13 AND 15 CAN BE PAID ON JUNE 8, 9, 10 AND 14 RESPECTIVELY AT DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

PEOPLE WHO ARE RECEIVING SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES THROUGH BANKS WILL BE PAID ACCORDING TO THEIR ORIGINAL PAY DATES, HE ADDED.

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WAN CHAI ROAD WORKS CAUSE TRAFFIC CHANGES

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN WAN CHAI BETWEEN THURSDAY (JUNE 9) AND SUNDAY (JUNE 12) FOR ROAD WORKS.

FROM 7 AM ON THURSDAY UNTIL 7 AM ON SATURDAY, SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG FLEMING ROAD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO HARBOUR ROAD EASTBOUND.

VEHICLES HEADING FOR WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA EAST OF FLEMING ROAD MAY BE DIVERTED VIA GLOUCESTER ROAD AND TONNOCHY ROAD.

FROM 7 AM ON THURSDAY UNTIL 12.30 AM ON SUNDAY, WESTBOUND VEHICLES ALONG HARBOUR ROAD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT ONTO FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER. HOWEVER, THEY CAN REACH THE FLYOVER VIA THE GROUND LEVEL SECTION OF FLEMING ROAD.

FROM 7 AM ON SATURDAY UNTIL 12.30 AM ON SUNDAY, SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ALONG FLEMING ROAD WILL BE BANNED FROM TRAVELLING ONTO GLOUCESTER ROAD VIA GROUND LEVEL SECTION, BUT THEY MAY PROCEED VIA THE FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER.

MOREOVER, THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SUNDAY BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 6.30 AM.

TRAFFIC FROM WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA HEADING FOR LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARBOUR ROAD, TONNOCHY ROAD, HUNG HING ROAD AND THE MARSH ROAD FLYOVER.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON SHUM CHONG-WAI ON OCTOBER 27, 1982 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO 25 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

SHUM WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF A 21-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, CHAN SHUI-LIN, ON JANUARY 18, 1982.

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KWUN TONG WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 10) FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG CHA KWO LING ROAD BETWEEN LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND CHA KWO LING TSUEN, INCLUDING CHA KWO LING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

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