



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ESSENTIAL TO HK'S FUTURE - AKERS-JONES

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ENGLISH IS THE LANGUAGE OF HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL LINKS BY WHICH THIS COSMOPOLITAN CITY DRAWS ITS STRENGTH, ITS TRADE AND ITS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

+IT TRANSCENDS NATIONAL BARRIERS AND IS MORE ESSENTIAL TO OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR,+ HE TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA LUNCHEON MEETING.

IT HAD ASSUMED, HE SAID, AN IMPORTANCE AS A LANGUAGE GREATER THAN ENGLAND AS A NATION.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS BECAUSE HE BELIEVED HONG KONG MIGHT BE +IN SOME DANGER OF LOSING SIGHT OF ITS IMPORTANCE IN OUR VERY PROPER DESIRE TO USE THE MOST EFFECTIVE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AS WE REFORM OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM+.

HONG KONG, HE SAID, HAD TO CONTINUE WITH THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND, IF NECESSARY, SACRIFICES HAD TO BE MADE TO ACHIEVE THIS.

OTHER +ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF ENDURING VALUE TO THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY+, HE SAID WERE -- TOLERATION OF RACE AND RELIGION, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, MIXING OF CULTURES AND LANGUAGE, PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMMES OF DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND REFORM, EXPANDING EDUCATION, A WILLINGNESS TO INNOVATE, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND HARD WORK.

+THESE ARE SOME BUT NOT ALL THE QUALITIES THAT HAVE CREATED THIS REMARKABLE CITY,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ALSO SPOKE OF THE CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE HE WENT TO LIVE AT ISLAND HOUSE, TAI PO, 11 YEARS AGO.

+IF YOU LOOK BACKWARD OVER YOUR SHOULDERS INTO THE PAST TWENTY, OR EVEN TEN, YEARS, YOU SEE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE FULL OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENTLY EMPLOYED.

+WE LOOK BACK AT THE YEARS OF TYPHOON AND DROUGHT, AT GREAT SURGES OF IMMIGRATION, TEXTILE QUOTA PROBLEMS: CHALLENGE UPON CHALLENGE TAKEN UP AND THROWN BACK IN THE FACE OF FORTUNE,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG, HE SAID, FACED ITS BIGGEST CHALLENGE TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO WHEN IT BEGAN +THE JOURNEY TO FIND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE GREAT UNCERTAINTY OF THE FUTURE+.

+NOW THOSE YEARS ARE BEHIND US AND WE PREPARE FOR THE CHANGES THAT THE YEARS AHEAD WILL BRING,+ HE SAID.

WHAT HAD BEEN CALLED A +BORROWED PLACE+, NOW HAD +A GUARANTEED AND DISTINCT EXISTENCE UNTIL THE YEAR 2047+, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +SO MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON HOW WE INTERPRET AND USE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT LIES BEFORE US.

+WE MUST NOT ENDANGER, BY OVER-CONFIDENCE, THE PROSPERITY CREATED DURING THE PERIOD WHEN WE HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT FUTURE WAS IN STORE FOR US,+ HE SAID.

BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN, HE SAID, THAT, WITH THIS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE OF COPING WITH CHANGE, HONG KONG MUST NOW LOSE ITS NERVE WHEN FACING THOSE CHANGES WHICH WOULD BRING THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG MORE DIRECTLY INTO THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN TWO DAYS WHICH, AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WOULD RESULT IN NEW MEMBERS TAKING THEIR PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN SEPTEMBER OTHER MEMBERS WOULD BE ELECTED BY REPRESENTATIVE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN IT TOOK ITS SEAT AT THE END OF OCTOBER WOULD BE LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE WITH 56 MEMBERS, COMPRISING 24 ELECTED, 22 APPOINTED AND 10 OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

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LAW OFFICER APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF MR FRED BURROWS AS LAW OFFICER (SPECIAL DUTIES).

THE POST OF LAW OFFICER (SPECIAL DUTIES) WAS CREATED RECENTLY TO DEAL WITH THE MANY LEGAL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

MR BURROWS WILL TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT IN MID-MAY 1985.

MR BURROWS, CMG, AGE 59 IS A LEGAL COUNSELLOR IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

HE WAS FIRST APPOINTED TO THE FCO IN 1956 AS AN ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER, AND HAS SINCE SERVED AS LEGAL ADVISER IN VARIOUS POSTS.

HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UK NEGOTIATING TEAM ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, AND ALSO THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

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NEW WATER CHARGES FROM APRIL 1

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WATER CHARGES WOULD BE INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT FROM APRIL 1, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR TOMLINSON SAID THE INCREASE COVERED INFLATIONARY TRENDS IN OPERATING COSTS AND THE REVISION OF WATER CHARGE RATE BY THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE OVERALL INCREASE WAS VERY MODEST AND WOULD HAVE MINIMAL EFFECT ON THE MAJORITY OF THE CONSUMERS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT 20 PER CENT OF ALL DOMESTIC CONSUMERS WOULD CONTINUE TO PAY NOTHING FOR THE WATER THEY CONSUMED- A FURTHER 72 PER CENT WOULD PAY AN EXTRA SUM OF LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK AND ONLY EIGHT PER CENT WOULD PAY MORE THAN ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK.

WITH REGARD TO TRADE CONSUMERS, ABOUT 73 PER CENT WOULD PAY LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK EXTRA AND A FURTHER 25 PER CENT WOULD PAY LESS THAN \$15 PER WEEK MORE.

OF THE REMAINING TWO PER CENT, ONLY 25 PER CENT WOULD PAY MORE THAN \$135 PER WEEK EXTRA.

+MAY I ALSO EMPHASISE THAT WATER CHARGES REPRESENT A SMALL PART OF THE OPERATING COSTS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY- THEREFORE THE INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES WOULD NOT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS,+ MR TOMLINSON SAID.

HE SAID THAT CHARGES FOR CONNECTIONS AND OTHER SERVICES HAD ALSO BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT THE CURRENT COST.

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+HK - UNIQUE PLACE WITH UNIQUE SITUATION+

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HONG KONG IS A UNIQUE PLACE, WITH A UNIQUE SITUATION THAT REQUIRES A UNIQUE SOLUTION, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MISS CHEUNG MAN-YEE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE CITY LIONS CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING ON THE SUBJECT +HONG KONG AND ITS OVERSEAS IMAGE+, MISS CHEUNG SAID THE TERRITORY IN THE YEARS TO COME WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO BUSINESSMEN AND TRADERS AS A HIGH-TECH LIGHT INDUSTRIAL CENTRE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

BUT AS A LOCAL REPORTER ONCE SAID, +IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL, BUT HONG KONG MAY BE LABELLED 'FRAGILE', HANDLE WITH CARE',+ SHE ADDED.

+THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE DOING BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME,+ MISS CHEUNG SAID.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THAT THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF IMPROVING HONG KONG'S IMAGE ON THE WORLD STAGE, IN ADDITION TO THE NO LESS IMPORTANT ROLE OF DISSEMINATING AND EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN HONG KONG.

QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, SHE SAID, THE 1997 TALKS AND BUILDUP TO THE AGREEMENT HAD THRUST HONG KONG INTO UNPRECEDENTED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.

INTERNATIONALLY, THERE HAD BEEN POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE AGREEMENT, AN AGREEMENT THAT MANY OVERSEAS AS WELL AS LOCAL COMMENTATORS HAD THOUGHT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IN SUCH DETAIL, MISS CHEUNG SAID.

HAD ANYONE THOUGHT THAT THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD LOWER THE MEDIA CURTAIN ON HONG KONG, THEY WOULD BE GREATLY MISTAKEN. THERE HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY NO LET-UP IN THE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS, TV AND FILM CREWS COMING HERE SINCE THE SIGNING.

ONLY THE EMPHASIS ON STORY ANGLES HAD CHANGED. FROM THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT, TO HOW HONG KONG WAS GEARING UP FOR THE 12 YEAR TRANSITION AND THE WAYS IN WHICH BUSINESSMEN AND THE POPULATION GENERALLY WERE ADAPTING TO THEIR PLANNED FUTURE.

+THE RESURGENT ECONOMY AND BOOMING TRADE, AS WELL AS HONG KONG'S VITAL ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA, HAVE ALSO COME IN FOR WIDE AND IN-DEPTH COVERAGE IN VIRTUALLY ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD,+ SHE SAID.

MISS CHEUNG SAID THAT THE LINCHPIN THAT ENSURED VISITING JOURNALISTS HAD THE WIDEST ACCESS TO INFORMATION WAS THE OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS SUB-DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BETTER KNOWN AS O.P.R.S.

+THIS SMALL BUT COMPACT UNIT PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN GIVING THE WORLD AN UP-TO-DATE AND BALANCED PICTURE OF WHAT MAKES THE TERRITORY TICK,+ SHE SAID.

DURING 1984, SHE SAID, O.P.R.S. ASSISTED 210 INDIVIDUAL NEWS WRITERS AND 78 TV, RADIO OR FILM TEAMS FROM OVERSEAS. OF THESE VISITORS, 27 WERE GUESTS OF G.I.S. COVERING INFLUENTIAL MEDIA IN NORTH AMERICA, THE U.K. AND OTHER E.E.C. COUNTRIES.

O.P.R.S. ALSO OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO THE 40 JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, ON HIS TWO VISITS IN APRIL AND JULY, THE 11 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER MRS MARGARET THATCHER'S HISTORIC VISIT AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE PRESS PARTIES ACCOMPANYING THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ IN JULY, AND SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR DIANA FEINSTEIN IN NOVEMBER.

HELP WAS ALSO GIVEN TO MEDIA GROUPS FROM WEST GERMANY, AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE, AND BRIEFINGS ARRANGED FOR NON-JOURNALIST GROUPS SUCH AS THE 12-MEMBER LOS ANGELES TRADE AFFAIRS COUNCIL PARTY AND THE 47-MEMBER BELGIAN TRADE COMMISSION, SHE SAID.

WHILE A NUMBER OF VISITING JOURNALISTS CONCENTRATED ON THEIR AREAS OF SPECIALITY, MISS CHEUNG SAID, OTHERS COVERED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF STORIES AND THERE WAS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS PRODUCED ON THE TERRITORY. AMONG PUBLICATIONS EITHER WRITING OR PLANNING SUPPLEMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WERE LE FIGARO OF FRANCE, AND UP TO NINE SUPPLEMENTS IN THE U.K.

MISS CHEUNG SAID THE O.P.R.S. ALSO SHOULDERED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KEEPING TRACK OF ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE WORLDWIDE. +O.P.R.S. COLLATES AND ANALYSES THE FEEDBACK TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH A READY PULSE ON INTERNATIONAL REACTION AND ATTITUDES TO MATTERS AFFECTING THE TERRITORY,+ SHE SAID.

THE UNIT WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING FEATURES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, LIFESTYLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS. +THESE ARE DISTRIBUTED WORLDWIDE TO SPECIALIST MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS,+ SHE SAID.

+ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TELEVISION NEWS AGENCIES DISTRIBUTES THESE CLIPS ON ITS INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE NETWORK. AS A BACK-UP, O.P.R.S. ALSO DISTRIBUTES DIRECTLY TO STATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA BY MAIL OR THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERSEAS OFFICES AND AGENTS,+ SHE SAID.

+THESE OVERSEAS OFFICES - IN LONDON, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, BRUSSELS AND GENEVA - FORM A VITAL LINK IN KEEPING HONG KONG INTEREST AND INTERESTS ALIVE IN THEIR AREAS OF INFLUENCE.

+WHILE THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN TOWARDS THE U.K., THE GREAT INTEREST BEING TAKEN IN OUR FUTURE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MEANS THAT WE NEED TO SUPPLEMENT OUR EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S., AS OUR CHIEF TRADING PARTNER,+ SHE ADDED.

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TAC ENDORSES REPORT ON CMB MAINTENANCE

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY ENDORSED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE, AFTER HAVING FURTHER CONSIDERED THE COMMENTS OF THE BUS COMPANY ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT. THEIR ADVICE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

TAC MEMBERS ALSO EXAMINED A REPORT BY A WORKING GROUP SET UP IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO REVIEW CURRENT PRACTICES ON THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES NOTED IN ITS REPORT THAT THERE WAS SCOPE FOR REVIEWING STOPPING RESTRICTIONS FOR PLBS IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS HAD SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.

IN ITS REGULAR MEETING TOAY, THE COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE WORK OF ITS TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT WHICH RECENTLY ISSUED ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 83-84.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE IN PUBLIC THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1985-86 AT FOUR SPECIAL MEETINGS ON MARCH 6, 8, 11 AND 12.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE BOXED IN RELATION TO THESE MEETINGS:

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

1. COPIES OF THE ORAL QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED ON WEDNESDAY.
2. COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY ON WEDNESDAY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

1. COPIES OF THE WRITTEN REPLIES RELATING TO WEDNESDAY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

1. COPIES OF THE ORAL QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED ON FRIDAY.
2. COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY ON FRIDAY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

1. COPIES OF THE ORAL QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED ON MONDAY.
2. COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY ON MONDAY.
3. COPIES OF THE WRITTEN REPLIES RELATING TO FRIDAY.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

1. COPIES OF THE ORAL QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED ON TUESDAY.
2. COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY ON TUESDAY.
3. COPIES OF THE WRITTEN REPLIES RELATING TO MONDAY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

1. COPIES OF THE WRITTEN REPLIES RELATING TO TUESDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THERE WILL BE A SHORT PHOTOCALL INSIDE THE LEGCO CHAMBER BEFORE THE FIRST OPEN FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TO EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 2.30 PM. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN MUST LEAVE THE CHAMBER BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS.

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COMMONWEALTH CORRECTIONAL CHIEFS TO MEET HERE

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MORE THAN 30 DELEGATIONS FROM 25 COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AND THREE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WILL MEET IN HONG KONG FROM MARCH 18 TO 22 FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR T.G. GARNER, SAID THE AIM OF THE MEETING WAS TO FACILITATE EXCHANGES OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE IN THE VARIOUS AREAS IN WHICH CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS WERE INVOLVED.

MR GARNER IS THE CONVENOR OF THE MEETING, AND THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR BARRY HIGGINBOTTOM, THE SECRETARY. THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL DIVISION, COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, MR JEREMY POPE, IS THE CO-SECRETARY. PROFESSOR WILLIAM CLIFFORD, FORMERLY THE DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY, HAS BEEN INVITED TO ACT AS CONSULTANT AND RAPPORTEUR.

DELEGATES FROM AUSTRALIA, BERMUDA, NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, FIJI, KIRIBATI, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MAURITIUS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, REPUBLIC OF INDIA, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SINGAPORE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SRI LANKA, ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES, SWAZILAND, TANZANIA, THE BAHAMAS, TONGA, UGANDA, UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASIA AND FAR EAST INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (UNAFEI) WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON MARCH 18.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, WORKING SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS' CLUB IN STANLEY.

TOPICS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE TRANSFER OF CONVICTED PRISONERS BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES; THE USE OF IMPRISONMENT FOLLOWING RECENT TRENDS IN CRIME IN THE COMMONWEALTH; ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE PENAL POPULATION; TRAINING OF CORRECTIONAL STAFF TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS; THE MANAGEMENT OF CRISES IN PRISONS.

DELEGATES WILL ALSO VISIT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING MAXIMUM, MEDIUM AND MINIMUM SECURITY PRISONS, A DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE, A TRAINING CENTRE AND THE DETENTION CENTRE FOR YOUNG MALE OFFENDERS AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

/THE MEETING

THE MEETING WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 22 WITH THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 22. SUBJECT TO THEIR AGREEMENT, A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS DELEGATES MAY ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALSO ORGANISING AN EXHIBITION SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST 38 YEARS. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY BETWEEN MARCH 18 AND 21. IT WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM ON MARCH 19 AND 20 AND FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM ON MARCH 21.

THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, SITUATED AT THE END OF TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, IS ACCESSIBLE BY BUS ROUTES NOS. 6 AND 260 (STARTING FROM CENTRAL), 73 (FROM WAH FU ESTATE), 63 (FROM NORTH POINT) AND 14 (FROM SAI WAN HO).

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SPECIAL TEXTAB MEETING ON U.S. ORIGIN RULES

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THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, HELD A SPECIAL MEETING THIS EVENING TO DISCUSS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE U.S. ORIGIN ISSUE.

AFTER THE MEETING, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FINAL REGULATIONS ON THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RULES WERE LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON TUESDAY (U.S. TIME), AND THAT SO FAR AS KNITWEAR WAS CONCERNED THEY DIFFERED ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM THE INTERIM REGULATIONS WHICH HONG KONG AND MANY OTHERS HAD BEEN PROTESTING AGAINST.

+MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED OVER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE ADDED: +ON THE ADVICE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. FROM MARCH 12 TO 14 IN WASHINGTON SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED. THE U.S. DECISION, IF CONFIRMED, CALLS FOR AN EARLY AND FORMAL EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION BY HONG KONG - HONG KONG IS ALSO ENTITLED TO A RESPONSE FROM THE U.S. TO THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY RECOMMENDATIONS AND HONG KONG'S TWO PROPOSALS MADE AT THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS. MOREOVER, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF OTHER ASPECTS TO RAISE, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRECISELY WHAT THE FINAL REGULATIONS MEAN.+

MR KENNETH FANG, A MEMBER OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, WHO IS IN NEW YORK, WILL JOIN THE HONG KONG DELEGATION AS INDUSTRIAL ADVISER.

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PRESS FACILITIES ON ELECTION DAY
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THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE FIRST TERRITORY-WIDE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON THURSDAY (MARCH 7).

A PRESS CENTRE AT CNTA HEADQUARTERS WILL BE OPEN TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM 7 AM UNTIL ALL VOTES ARE COUNTED.

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO ENABLE PRESS COVERAGE OF VOTING BY A NUMBER OF CELEBRITIES IN KOWLOON, HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE PRESS CENTRE, LOCATED ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE AT 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL OPEN FROM 7 AM ON THURSDAY UNTIL THE ELECTIONS AND THE COUNTING OF VOTES ARE OVER. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION SUCH AS THE HOURLY VOTER TURNOUT IN ALL DISTRICTS AND THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS. ALL TELEPHONE PRESS ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO INFORMATION OFFICERS ON DUTY AT THE CENTRE AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 3-680446; 3-686441; 3-7236554; AND 3-7236743.
2. FIGURES OF VOTER TURNOUT WILL BE TELEPHONED TO THE PRESS CENTRE AT REGULAR INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THE FIGURES WILL BE COLLATED AND PASSED TO GIS FOR ISSUE OVER THE TELEPRINTER AND FACSIMILE SERVICES. THE COUNTING OF VOTES WILL BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER 10.30 PM, AND SIMILARLY THE RESULTS WILL BE PASSED TO GIS FOR RELEASE AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.
3. PRESS MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS INSIDE A POLLING STATION, OR TO ENTER IT OTHER THAN AS A REGISTERED VOTER OR ELECTION OFFICIAL. HOWEVER, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO A NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC PURPOSES, WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

/(I) IN KOWLOON,

(I) IN KOWLOON, A PRESS VEHICLE WILL LEAVE THE TOURIST COACH CARPARK, OPPOSITE HARBOUR CITY ON CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 7 AM FOR FIVE POLLING STATIONS. THE FIRST STOP WILL BE AT THE NEW METHOD COLLEGE POLLING STATION WHERE THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL CAST HIS VOTE. OTHER CELEBRITIES WILL INCLUDE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR WONG LAM; AND MISS LISA WANG OF TVB. THE PRESS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO A POLLING STATION IN KWAI CHUNG WHERE THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE WILL BE VISITING. THE TOUR WILL END AT ABOUT 12 NOON WHEN THE PRESS COACH RETURNS TO TSIM SHA TSUI.

(II) ANOTHER PRESS COACH WILL ALSO LEAVE AT 7 AM FROM THE SAME CARPARK FOR SIX POLLING STATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHERE THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR MA LIN; AND MISS MA MAN-YEE OF ATV WILL BE CASTING THEIR VOTES. THE PRESS TOUR WILL INCLUDE POLLING STATIONS IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN WHICH WILL BE VISITED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, AND A VISIT TO A POLLING STATION IN TAI PO BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES. THE TOUR WILL END AT ABOUT 1 PM WHEN THE PRESS COACH RETURNS TO TSIM SHA TSUI IN KOWLOON.

(III) TWO VEHICLES WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT 7 AM FOR FIVE POLLING STATIONS ON HONG KONG SIDE WHERE A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CELEBRITIES WILL CAST THEIR VOTES. THE VEHICLES WILL THEN TAKE PRESS MEMBERS TO THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE TO COVER TV ARTISTES DISTRIBUTING HANDBILLS AND OTHER ELECTION ACTIVITIES. THE TOUR WILL END AT ABOUT 12.45 PM. THOSE WHO WILL BE CASTING THEIR VOTES ON HONG KONG SIDE INCLUDE UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS LYDIA DUNN; THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO; THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM; THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES; BUDDHIST LEADER, REV. SIK KOK-KWONG; AND POPULAR SINGER, MR MICHAEL KWAN.

(IV) IN THE AFTERNOON, A SECOND TOUR WILL BE ARRANGED ON HONG KONG SIDE STARTING AT 3 PM FROM THE C.G.O. CARPARK, TO COVER VOTING BY THE FORMER SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY AND THE CATHOLIC BISHOP, REV. JOHN BAPTIST WU. THE PRESS WILL THEN BE TAKEN TO A POLLING STATION IN NORTH POINT WHERE THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE WILL BE VISITING.

INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED POLLING STATIONS TO ASSIST PRESS MEMBERS COVERING THE VOTING.

VOTE COUNTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 17 CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AFTER 10.30 PM WHEN ALL THE POLLING STATIONS WILL CLOSE. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS TO TAKE PICTURES OF VOTE COUNTING AT THREE COUNTING CENTRES IN KOWLOON CITY, EASTERN DISTRICT AND SHA TIN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

DETAILS OF THE TIME AND VENUES OF PRESS VISITS TO THE POLLING STATIONS WHERE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CELEBRITIES WILL BE CASTING THEIR VOTES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

KOWLOON (THE PRESS VEHICLE WILL LEAVE AT 7 AM SHARP FROM THE TOURIST COACH CARPARK OPPOSITE THE HARBOUR CITY, CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI)

ARRIVE

- (A) 7.30 AM SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, NEW METHOD COLLEGE, 219 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON CITY.
- (B) 8.30 AM SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, MA TAU CHUNG GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, 1 FUK CHEONG STREET, MA TAU WAI.
- (C) 9.10 AM MISS LISA WANG OF TVB, KOWLOON BAPTIST CHURCH, 300 JUNCTION ROAD, KOWLOON TONG.
- (D) 10 AM UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR WONG LAM, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CHIU CHOW SCHOOL, 150 SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK.
- (E) 11.30 AM CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE VISITING POLLING STATION AT SHEK LEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHEK LEI ESTATE, KWAI CHUNG.

NEW TERRITORIES (THE PRESS COACH WILL ALSO LEAVE AT 7 AM SHARP FROM THE SAME CARPARK IN TSIM SHA TSUI)

ARRIVE

- (A) 7.30 AM MISS MA MAN-YEE OF ATV, PO LEUNG KUK NG TOR TAI KINDERGARTEN, SUI WO COURT, SHA TIN.
- (B) 8.15 AM PROFESSOR MA LIN OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CENTRE, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

- (C) 9.25 AM VISIT TO POLLING STATION AT TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE (EXHIBITION HALL), HEUNG SZE WUI STREET, TAI PO MARKET BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES.
- (D) 11 AM SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO
TO VISITING POLLING STATIONS AT YUEN LONG LUTHERAN MIDDLE
11.45 AM SCHOOL, ON NING ROAD, YUEN LONG AND AT THE TAI HING
COMMUNITY HALL, TAI HING ESTATE, TUEN MUN.

HONG KONG (PRESS VEHICLES WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT
7 AM SHARP)

ARRIVE

- (A) 7.30 AM REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES, THE HERMITAGE, 75 MACDONNELL ROAD, MID-LEVELS.
- (B) 8.45 AM SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, 11 GUILDFORD ROAD, THE PEAK.
- (C) 9.30 AM UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS LYDIA DUNN, PARK ROAD POLICE INSPECTORATE QUARTERS, 25 PARK ROAD, MID-LEVELS.
- (D) 11 AM REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, LINGNAN COLLEGE, AUDITORIUM, 15 STUBBS ROAD, MID-LEVELS.
- (E) 11.30 AM BUDDHIST LEADER, REV. SIK KOK-KWONG AND SINGER,
TO MR MICHAEL KWAN, HAPPY VALLEY AND CANAL ROAD
12 NOON DISTRICT KAIFONG ASSOCIATION SCHOOL, 14 KING KWONG STREET, HAPPY VALLEY.
- (F) 12.30 PM THE VEHICLES WILL ARRIVE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE IN CENTRAL FOR PRESS MEMBERS TO COVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF HANDBILLS BY TV PERSONALITIES.

AFTERNOON (THE PRESS VEHICLES WILL LEAVE THE C.G.O. CARPARK AT
3.15 PM SHARP)

- (G) 3.45 PM FORMER SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY AND CATHOLIC BISHOP, REV. JOHN BAPTIST WU, RAIMONDI COLLEGE, 2 ROBINSON ROAD, MID-LEVELS.
- (H) 4.50 PM CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE WILL VISIT THE POLLING STATION AT NORTH POINT ESTATE ASSEMBLY HALL, WEST MAIN BLOCK, NORTH POINT ESTATE, 31 SHU KUK STREET, NORTH POINT.

COUNTING CENTRES

ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR PRESS MEMBERS TO VISIT THREE COUNTING STATIONS AT ABOUT 11 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 7).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REMINDED THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN SPECIAL FORMS, FROM INFORMATION OFFICERS AT THE RESPECTIVE COUNTING CENTRES, BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CENTRES.

PRESS MEMBERS WISHING TO VISIT THE COUNTING CENTRES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT SHOULD ASSEMBLE EITHER OUTSIDE THE EASTERN DISTRICT CENTRE AT THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB COLLEGE AT 2B TAI CHEONG STREET, QUARRY BAY, OR THE KOWLOON CITY CENTRE AT THE KO SHAN THEATRE, KO SHAN ROAD, HUNG HOM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO VISIT THE SHA TIN COUNTING CENTRE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE TOURIST COACH CARPARK, OPPOSITE HARBOUR CITY ON CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 10.15 PM WHERE A PRESS VEHICLE WILL TAKE THEM TO THE KIANGSU CHEKIANG COLLEGE IN WO CHE ESTATE.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON ELECTIONS

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE COMING TERRITORY-WIDE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AT 3 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES HEADQUARTERS, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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VOTING'S QUITE SIMPLE, PEOPLE TOLD
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VOTING IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON THURSDAY (MARCH 7) IS A SIMPLE PROCEDURE THAT TAKES ONLY A FEW MINUTES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY.

POLLING STATIONS WILL BE OPEN THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR 15 HOURS, STARTING AT 7.30 AM AND CLOSING AT 10.30 PM.

VOTERS WILL BE ELECTING 237 REPRESENTATIVES TO 19 DISTRICT BOARDS, AND SOME 1.4 MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE 1982 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN 1983, ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THURSDAY'S ELECTIONS.

ELECTIONS ARE ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS AND OF THE 145 CONSTITUENCIES, 92 ARE DOUBLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES AND 53 SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES.

ORIGINALLY, THERE WERE 501 CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE 145 CONSTITUENCIES, BUT BECAUSE 15 CONSTITUENCIES WITH 24 SEATS WERE UNCONTESTED, THERE ARE NOW 477 CANDIDATES VYING THE REMAINING 130 CONSTITUENCIES.

THIS MEANS ABOUT 150 000 REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE UNCONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE POLLS ON THURSDAY, LEAVING ABOUT 1.27 MILLION REGISTERED ELECTORS WHO MAY CAST THEIR VOTE ON POLLING DAY.

+ELECTORS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD VOTE AT THE POLLING STATION INDICATED ON THEIR POLLING CARD, AND THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARD AND POLLING CARD,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE POLLING CARD IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO VOTE, IT WOULD SAVE TIME AND AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAYS,+ HE ADDED.

NOTICES WILL BE POSTED AT ALL POLLING STATIONS INDICATING WHETHER THEY ARE DOUBLE-MEMBER OR SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES.

COLOURED BALLOT PAPERS, PINK FOR DOUBLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES AND GREEN FOR SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES, WILL ALSO GIVE ELECTORS AN IDEA OF WHETHER THEY CAN VOTE FOR ONE OR MORE CANDIDATES.

+IN OTHER WORDS, ELECTORS MAY VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE IN A DOUBLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCY, AND NOT MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE IN A SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+VOTERS SHOULD MARK AN 'X' IN THE SPACE PROVIDED NEXT TO THE CANDIDATES' NAME ON THE BALLOT PAPER,+ HE ADDED.

+IF AN ELECTOR VOTES FOR MORE CANDIDATES THAN ENTITLED TO, OR WRITES ANYTHING ON THE BALLOT PAPER BY WHICH THEY MAY BE IDENTIFIED, THE BALLOT PAPER WILL BE VOID AND THE VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/+IF AN

+IF AN ELECTOR INADVERTENTLY SPOILS A BALLOT PAPER, HE MUST REPORT TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER WHO WILL ARRANGE TO GIVE HIM A FRESH BALLOT PAPER,+ HE SAID.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF A POLLING STATION WILL ASSIST ELECTORS WHO ARE ILLITERATE, BLIND OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, AND ALL PRESIDING OFFICERS ARE BOUND BY OATH TO MAINTAIN SECRECY OF THE VOTING.

VOTING IS BY SECRET BALLOT, AND BY LAW, ELECTORS SHOULD NOT TELL ANYONE FOR WHOM THEY HAVE VOTED.

+ELECTORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TALK TO ANYONE INSIDE THE POLLING STATION EXCEPT THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND HIS STAFF,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ELECTORS OBSERVE THESE RULES, BECAUSE BY LAW, THEY MAY BE ARRESTED FOR BREACH OF THE RULES,+ HE WARNED.

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TV, RADIO BOOST FOR ELECTIONS
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TELEVISION AND RADIO PERSONALITIES WILL BE APPEARING AT MAJOR TRANSPORT TERMINUSES IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THEY WILL BE JOINED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB IN DISTRIBUTING ELECTION HAND-BILLS TO THE PUBLIC DURING LUNCH HOURS, URGING THEM TO VOTE ON MARCH 7.

SIX DISC-JOCKEYS FROM RTHK AND A DOZEN ARTISTES FROM ATV WILL MAN THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE IN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

PROMOTION EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE ON THURSDAY WITH THE APPEARANCE OF TVB ARTISTES AT THE MTR CENTRAL STATION AND COMMERCIAL RADIO DISC-JOCKEYS AT THE MTR MONGKOK STATION.

BROADCASTING VANS WILL BE TOURING VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO DISSEMINATE ELECTION MESSAGES.

TWO HELIUM-INFLATED BALLOONS CARRYING ELECTION BANNERS WILL BE FLOWN OVER THE STATUE SQUARE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDENS IN KOWLOON TO ADD TO THE ELECTION ATMOSPHERE.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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PROPOSALS ON PLB'S

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY REVEALED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A WORKING GROUP ON THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES FOR POLICY CHANGES.

THE WORKING GROUP HAVING CONSIDERED THE VIEWS OF THE PLB TRADE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MAXICAB SELECTION CRITERIA BE IMPROVED AND STOPPING RESTRICTIONS FOR PLBS BE LIFTED WHERE PRACTICABLE.

+APPLICANTS FOR FRANCHISED MAXICAB SERVICE WILL BE ASSESSED OBJECTIVELY BY A POINTS SYSTEM ON THEIR ABILITY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE SERVICE,+ SAID MR JAMES SO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

+MARKING WILL BE BASED ON SUCH FACTORS AS THE APPLICANT'S EXPERIENCE IN THE PLB AND MAXICAB TRADES, PAST PASSING RATE OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION, FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THE REQUIRED PLB FLEET OWNED BY THE APPLICANT OR HIS SPOUSE,+ HE SAID.

MR SO EXPLAINED THAT EXPERIENCE IN THE MAXICAB AND PLB TRADES HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SELECTION CRITERIA BECAUSE IT GAVE AN INDICATION OF THE APPLICANT'S POTENTIAL AND SUITABILITY AS AN OPERATOR OF THE ROUTES APPLIED FOR.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, HIGH PASS RATE IN PREVIOUS VEHICLE EXAMINATIONS ENSURES SAFE AND QUALITY SERVICE WHILE SOUND FINANCIAL LIQUIDITY AND HIGH FLEET OWNERSHIP PERCENTAGE ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

AFTER THE PREQUALIFICATION ASSESSMENT BASED ON POINTS MARKING, A SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT WOULD BE MADE BY THE MAXICAB OPERATORS SELECTION BOARD, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE APPLICANT'S SUITABILITY FOR WHICH NO POINTS WEIGHTING WAS GIVEN, SUCH AS ADVICE FROM THE RELEVANT DISTRICT OFFICE REGARDING THE APPLICANT'S LOCAL EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS.

THE WORKING GROUP HAD ALSO FOUND SCOPE FOR REVIEWING CURRENT PLB STOPPING RESTRICTIONS IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHERE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS HAD SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED. THESE AREAS WOULD BE LOOKED AT ON AN INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS RATHER THAN A GENERAL LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS.

+IN THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW, ESTABLISHING SPECIFIED STOPPING PLACES WITHIN MAJOR RESTRICTED AREAS FOR PLBS AND OTHER VEHICLES SHOULD ALSO BE EXAMINED,+ MR SO ADDED.

THE GROUP SUPPORTED THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO PROHIBIT PLBS FROM ENTERING NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+HOWEVER, IN THE OLDER ESTATES WHERE PLB SERVICES ARE ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED, SUCH PROHIBITIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED UNLESS ALTERNATIVE ROUTES OR ACCESS TO FACILITATE PLB OPERATIONS CAN BE PROVIDED,+ MR SO SAID.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN SUNDAY
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THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY (MARCH 10) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

THIS IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN THE FLOWERS ARE THEIR COLOURFUL BEST.

THE ANNUAL OPEN DAY HAS BEEN HELD SINCE 1968.

VISITORS ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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DECEMBER RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED
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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER 1984, ESTIMATED AT \$6 146 MILLION, WAS 13 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1983, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 10 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1983.

COMPARING DECEMBER 1984 WITH NOVEMBER 1984 FIGURES, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

IN DECEMBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 18 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1983.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ALSO INCREASED, BY 14 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME. HOWEVER, FUELS RECORDED A DROP OF 2 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

/COMPARING THE

COMPARING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1983, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, AT 26 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. CONSUMER DURABLES ALSO REGISTERED LARGE INCREASES OF 16 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ALSO INCREASED, BY 8 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 7 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, FUELS DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 23 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME. THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF FUELS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. HOWEVER, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES RECORDED NO CHANGE IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN DECEMBER 1984 IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1983.

SUPERMARKETS ALSO SHOWED LARGE INCREASES, WHILE CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1983, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. THOSE OF SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES ALSO SHOWED LARGE INCREASES, WHILST CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES, IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. SUPERMARKETS ALSO SHOWED LARGE INCREASES IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES, WHICH SHOWED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE, RECORDED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, HOWEVER, RECORDED A SLIGHT DECREASE IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL SALES FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1984 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR DECEMBER 1984.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF DECEMBER 1984 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF NOVEMBER 1984 AND DECEMBER 1983, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1984 WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1983 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

(TABLES AND GRAPHS ARE BEING SENT BY FACSIMILE AND WILL BE BOXED SEPARATELY.)

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE DECEMBER 1984 SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1.00 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 3-7216024).

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THREE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT COUNCIL

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THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY AGREED THAT MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, MR PETER C.K. CHAN AND MR STEPHEN LAU SHOULD REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT WORKING PARTY WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S FUTURE FINANCIAL SITUATION. MR KWAN LIM-HO WAS ALSO NOMINATED AS AN ALTERNATIVE MEMBER.

MR FORSGATE, BESIDES BEING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF ITS FINANCE SELECT COMMITTEE.

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REGISTRATION SUSPENDED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY SUSPENDED THE REGISTRATION OF PRODUCERS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT, LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ON THE GROUND THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY IS BEING CARRIED ON IN A MANNER DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF ITS DEPOSITORS.

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TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT QUOTA TRANSFER

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND PERMANENT TRANSFER OF QUOTAS IN RESPECT OF BENELUX CATEGORY 6 (TROUSERS/SHORTS) AND CATEGORY 6P (TROUSERS) FROM 8.45 AM TOMORROW (MARCH 6) UNTIL 5.15 PM ON APRIL 4.

HOWEVER, APPLICATIONS FOR TEMPORARY TRANSFERS OF QUOTAS IN RESPECT OF THESE TWO CATEGORIES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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BUS DRIVES HOME ELECTIONS MESSAGE

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES, AND HIS STAFF WILL BOARD A PUBLICITY BUS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DRIVE HOME THE ELECTIONS MESSAGE TO REMIND ALL REGISTERED VOTERS TO GO TO THE POLLS ON MARCH 7.

THEY WILL HAND OUT ELECTION PUBLICITY PAMPHLETS TO PASSERS-BY AT VARIOUS PLACES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

MESSAGES AND MUSIC WILL BE BROADCAST THROUGH-OUT THE JOURNEY WHICH WILL LAST FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM TOMORROW, AND FROM 8 AM TO 10 PM ON MARCH 7.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FUNCTION. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO TRAVEL ON BOARD THE BUS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN AT 11 AM.

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KO SHAN THEATRE TAKES PART IN DB ELECTION

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S KO SHAN THEATRE, APART FROM BEING A SEMI-OPEN-AIR THEATRE FOR THE MANY-FACETED CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES, WILL PLAY ITS ROLE IN THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION SERVING AS A COUNTING CENTRE ON MARCH 7 AND 8. THE THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED TO PUBLIC ADMISSION ON THESE TWO DAYS.

FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK, THE THEATRE IS FULLY ENGAGED IN A HOST OF ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE CHINESE ARTISTS ASSOCIATION WILL STAGE TWO CANTONESE OPERAS TONIGHT AND TOMORROW EVENING (WEDNESDAY), IN CELEBRATION OF THE SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL.

IN THE EVENINGS OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THE HARA NATION SINGING AND DANCING GROUP WILL GIVE TWO PERFORMANCES OF CHINESE MUSIC AND TRIBAL DANCES IN THE THEATRE.

TICKETS FOR THE CANTONESE OPERAS AND PERFORMANCES BY HARA NATION, BOTH PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL THE URBIX BOX OFFICE FROM \$10 TO \$25.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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MAIL TO URUGUAY RESUMES

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ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO URUGUAY, WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE JANUARY 23 HAVE NOW BEEN RESUMED, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES TODAY.

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MOVE TO CLOSE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES USED AS COMMERCIAL CARPARK AT THE REAR YARD OF NOS. 70, 70A-D, TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE PURPOSE IS TO ENABLE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WITHOUT DANGER TO PEOPLE.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN THE KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 26, 1985 WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURE TODAY.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF THE EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JUNE 1984 REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AS A RESULT OF THE OWNERS' FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDERS.

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE MADE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, ONE THREE-STOREY HIGH AND ONE ONE-STOREY HIGH, WERE AFFECTED.

THESE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES HAD A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 900 SQUARE METRES FOR COMMERCIAL CARPARKING AND ANCILLIARY FACILITIES.

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CARNIVAL TO MARK FESTIVE PROGRAMME CLOSURE

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AN EVENING CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND TO MARK THE CLOSING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME.

THE CARNIVAL, FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL POPULAR SINGERS AND BANDS, AND FORTUNE-TELLING, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND IS SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE STALLS DEMONSTRATING TRADITIONAL CHINESE ART AND CRAFTS SUCH AS CALLIGRAPHY, SILHOUETTE CUTTING, SPINNING OF STRAW GRASS-HOPPERS, AND THE MAKING OF FLOUR DOLLS AND +DRAGON BEARD+ CANDIES.

THE ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME, IS AIMED AT PROMOTING A SENSE OF BELONGING AS WELL AS TO CULTIVATE A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

APART FROM THE CARNIVAL, VARIETY SHOWS, DRAMA AND ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES, SPORTS COMPETITIONS, GYMNASTIC PERFORMANCES, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ARTS EXHIBITION, AND A FEAST FOR MORE THAN 1 200 ELDERLY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELD DURING THE TWO-WEEK LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME.

TOMORROW'S CARNIVAL WILL START AT 7.30 PM AND ADMISSION IS FREE.

OFFICIATING AT THE CARNIVAL AND CLOSING CEREMONY WILL BE THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MS ANISSA WONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE CARNIVAL AND THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 7.30 PM IN THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND, HEUNG SZE WUI STREET, TAI PO MARKET.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAT HEUNG, NEW TERRITORIES THIS FRIDAY (MARCH 8) AT 10.30 AM.

THE PARADE WILL BE REVIEWED BY SIR SHIU-KIN TANG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE PARADE. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF FIRE SERVICES TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION AT CANTON ROAD AT 9 AM. FIRE SERVICES INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985

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BRIDGE CLOSURE
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BAILEY BRIDGE N168 AT ROBINS NEST ROAD NEAR SHA TAU KOK ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REMEDIAL WORKS ON MARCH 8, 10 AND 13 FROM 7 PM TO 4 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

THE BRIDGE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON MARCH 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 AND 16 FROM 10 PM TO 3 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

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NOTE TO TV NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE BROADCAST THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC BULLETINS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHAU KEI WAN
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THE TEMPORARY ROAD LINKING ALDRICH STREET WITH NAM ON LANE IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 8) FOR WORK ON A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WESTBOUND FACTORY STREET HEADING FOR NAM ON LANE WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ALDRICH STREET, KAM WA STREET, SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST, SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, NAM HONG STREET AND NAM ON STREET.

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NOTE TO TV NEWS EDITORS:

FOR THE INTEREST OF MOTORISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO BROADCAST THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC BULLETINS.

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