



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1979

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QUALITY TOYS MAKE HK WORLD'S LEADING EXPORTER

HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS HAVE BECOME THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPORTERS OF TOYS BECAUSE OF THEIR AWARENESS THAT QUALITY COUNTS, NOT CHEAPNESS, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR JACK WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 1979 TOY AND GIFT FAIR -- THE FIFTH IN A SERIES ORGANISED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

+THE PROCESS OF TRADING-UP HAS BECOME EVEN MORE EVIDENT IN RECENT YEARS AS HONG KONG HAS INCREASED ITS SHARE OF THE WORLD MARKET FOR SOPHISTICATED TOYS, AND THIS IS A PROCESS THAT WILL CONTINUE,+ HE SAID.

SIR JACK POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG TOYS WERE REGULARLY EXHIBITED AT SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADE FAIRS IN THE WORLD SUCH AS NUREMBURG, NEW YORK AND LONDON, WHERE THEY WERE EXPOSED TO THE MOST DEMANDING OF INTERNATIONAL BUYERS.

+IN THIS TOY FAIR YOU WILL SEE THE PRODUCTS OF AN INDUSTRY THAT IS RELATIVELY YOUNG, TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, SOPHISTICATED IN MARKETING MATTERS, AND INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED - IN EVERY WAY AN EXCELLENT AMBASSADOR FOR HONG KONG AND FOR OUR ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES,+ HE SAID.

SIR JACK SAID THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DECISIONS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE CORRECT IF THEY WERE TAKEN BY BUSINESSMEN RATHER THAN BY CIVIL SERVANTS.

+SO THE GOVERNMENT HAS LIMITED ITS ROLE IN THE ECONOMY LARGELY TO ENSURING THAT IMPEDIMENTS TO ECONOMIC LIFE ARE REMOVED WHERE POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

+IT REQUIRES THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD IDENTIFY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HONG KONG ENTERPRISE CAN AND WILL FLOURISH, AND MAKE SURE THAT THOSE CONDITIONS PREVAIL,+ HE CONTINUED.

+THE TOY INDUSTRY TYPIFIES HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. IT HAS BEEN FLEXIBLE, INNOVATIVE AND DETERMINED. IT HAS NOT SAT AROUND WAITING FOR OFFICIAL ACTION, BUT WHEN OFFICIAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE THE TOY INDUSTRY HAS TAKEN CONSTRUCTIVE ADVANTAGE OF IT,+ HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE TOY BUSINESS WAS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND SUBJECT TO DRAMATIC CHANGES IN TRENDS AND DEMAND, SIR JACK SAID HONG KONG TOY MANUFACTURERS HAD PROVED THEMSELVES WELL ABLE TO COPE WITH CHANGE AND IN SEVERAL LINES THEY WERE THE TREND SETTERS.

/+PARTLY BY.....

+PARTLY BY THE NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS BUT IN LARGE MEASURE AS A RESULT OF THEIR OWN INITIATIVE THEY ARE STRONGLY DIVERSIFIED AS TO PRODUCT LINES,+ HE SAID.

+IF THEY HAD NOT BEEN, SOME OF THE MAJOR CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY COULD HAVE BEEN DAMAGING TO THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

+THEY ARE ALSO HEALTHILY DIVERSIFIED IN THEIR MARKETS. IT IS A PARTICULARLY HEALTHY SIGN THAT THE INCREASED TRADE THEY HAVE RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR HAS BEEN FAIRLY EVENLY SPREAD AMONG OUR LEADING AND MEDIUM-SIZED MARKETS, AND THAT POSITIVE GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN ALMOST EVERY ONE INCLUDING NEW MARKETS,+ HE ADDED.

SIR JACK NOTED THAT THE OVERALL GROWTH RATE FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR WAS 34 PER CENT AND THAT SHIPMENTS OF TOYS FOR THE SAME PERIOD ADVANCED OVER 51 PER CENT TO A VALUE OF MORE THAN \$2 000 MILLION.

+PERFORMANCE AT THIS LEVEL BY AN INDUSTRY WHICH IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER AND -- IN TERMS OF EXPORTS -- THE THIRD LARGEST SECTOR OF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, IS OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR OUR ECONOMY AND DESERVES EXAMINATION,+ HE SAID.

+IT CERTAINLY DID NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT, AND THIS OCCASION PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF THE EFFORT WHICH HAS GONE INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOY INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

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MONEY AND BANKING STATISTICS FOR AUGUST

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THE MONEY SUPPLY AND BANKING FIGURES FOR AUGUST 1979 ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY SHOW A MARKED SLOWING DOWN IN THE RATE OF GROWTH OF CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY, REFLECTING THE INCREASE IN PRIME RATE OF 1.5 PER CENT ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 18.

MONEY SUPPLY

M1 ROSE BY 1.6 PER CENT AGAINST 1.9 PER CENT IN JULY. M2 ROSE BY 1.7 PER CENT, AGAINST 2.0 PER CENT IN JULY, WHILE M3 ROSE BY 1.8 PER CENT IN AUGUST, WHICH WAS UNCHANGED FROM JULY.

IN THE LATEST THREE MONTHS M2 HAS RISEN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 30 PER CENT, AND M3 AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 25 PER CENT. THESE FIGURES ARE BROADLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN 1979 OF GDP AT CURRENT PRICES OF ABOUT 27 PER CENT.

DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE VERY SHARPLY IN AUGUST, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO THE HIGHER RATE OF INTEREST OFFERED ON DEPOSITS DURING THE MONTH.

/CREDIT TO

CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY

LENDING IN HONG KONG BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TOGETHER ROSE BY 0.8 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AGAINST 2.9 PER CENT IN JULY- IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS THIS INDICATOR, WHICH IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE MEASURE OF CREDIT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ECONOMY, HAS RISEN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 24 PER CENT, RATHER LOWER THAN THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY.

BANKING FIGURES

BANK LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 0.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AGAINST 3.1 PER CENT IN JULY. THIS IS THE LOWEST MONTHLY INCREASE SINCE AUGUST 1977. IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS BANK LENDING HAS RISEN BY 6.7 PER CENT, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 29.6 PER CENT - MUCH LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL INCREASE OF 44.3 PER CENT BETWEEN AUGUST 1977 AND AUGUST 1978.

BANK LENDING OVERSEAS FELL BY \$194 MILLION TO \$20 067 MILLION IN AUGUST, AFTER RISING SHARPLY IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

BANKS' AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIOS FELL TO 48.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST (49.2 PER CENT IN JULY), AND THE RATIO OF LOANS IN HONG KONG TO DEPOSITS ALSO FELL, FROM 84.6 PER CENT TO 83.8 PER CENT.

DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY FIGURES

LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 2.7 PER CENT AGAINST 2.4 PER CENT IN JULY.

THE DETAILED FIGURES, AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>IN \$MILLION</u>	<u>INCREASE OVER EARLIER MONTHS:</u>		
	<u>AUGUST 1979</u>	<u>JULY 1979</u>	<u>MAY 1979</u>	<u>AUGUST 1978</u>
M1	25 169	+ 400 (1.6%)	+1 732 (7.4%)	+ 3 945 (18.6%)
M2	83 939	+1 403 (1.7%)	+5 319 (6.8%)	+14 850 (21.5%)
M3	88 464	+1 587 (1.8%)	+4 836 (5.8%)	*

/BANKS.....

BANKS

DEPOSITS	77 235	+1 294 (1.7%)	+5 215 (7.2%)	+14 190 (22.5%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	64 719	+ 451 (0.7%)	+4 079 (6.7%)	+19 873 (44.3%)

DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES

DEPOSITS	20 414	+1 579 (8.4%)	+3 450 (20.3%)	*
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	11 515	+ 302 (2.7%)	+ 911 (8.6%)	*

BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES

LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG	66 633	+ 530 (0.8%)	+3 495 (5.5%)	*
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(THE ASTERISK DENOTES THAT FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE EARLIER THAN DECEMBER 1978.)

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PARKING CHARGES TO BE INCREASED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT PARKING CHARGES FOR ALL GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS ARE TO BE INCREASED FROM NOVEMBER 1.

THE NEW CHARGES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- * MIDDLE ROAD CAR PARK: ON ANY WEEKDAY INCLUDING SATURDAY \$3 PER HOUR FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. = \$2 PER HOUR FROM 6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT AND \$1 FROM MIDNIGHT TO 8 A.M.

ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THE CHARGES WILL BE \$2 PER HOUR FROM 8 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT AND \$1 FROM MIDNIGHT TO 8 A.M.

- * PARKING CHARGES AT GARDEN ROAD, MURRAY ROAD, RUMSEY STREET, STAR FERRY AND CITY HALL WILL BE \$3 AN HOUR FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M., AND \$1 AN HOUR FROM 6 P.M. TO 8 A.M. ON WEEKDAYS, DURING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THE CHARGE WILL BE \$1 PER HOUR.

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* AT THE YAU MA TEI CAR PARK, THE NEW PARKING CHARGES WILL BE \$2 AN HOUR FROM 8 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT, \$1 FROM MIDNIGHT TO 8 A.M., AND \$1 AN HOUR ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

* AT HUNG HOM CAR PARK, A FLAT RATE OF \$1 AN HOUR WILL BE CHARGED ON ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.

MONTHLY TICKETS WHICH NOW COST \$400 A MONTH, WILL BE INCREASED TO \$600 FROM NOVEMBER 1.

PARKING FEES AT OPEN-AIR CAR PARKS WILL ALSO BE INCREASED.

* AT MURRAY BARRACKS AND HARBOUR ROAD, THE PARKING FEE DURING WEEKDAYS WILL BE \$2 AN HOUR FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. AND \$1 AN HOUR FROM 6 P.M. TO 8 A.M. ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THE FEE WILL BE \$1 AN HOUR. MONTHLY PASSES FOR THESE TWO CAR PARKS WILL GO UP TO \$300.

* AT TAI KOK TSUI, A FLAT RATE OF \$1 AN HOUR WILL BE CHARGED 24 HOURS A DAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THE MONTHLY PASS WILL GO UP FROM \$100 TO \$200.

* AT THE HO MAN TIN AND HARBOUR ROAD LORRY PARKS, THE STANDARD RATE OF 50 CENTS AN HOUR REMAINS UNCHANGED BUT FEES WILL BE CHARGED FOR PARKING OVERNIGHT AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, AT THE RATE OF 50 CENTS AN HOUR. THE MONTHLY PASS REMAINS UNCHANGED AT \$100.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR INCREASING CAR PARK CHARGES WAS TO IMPROVE OVERALL UTILISATION AND TO ENSURE THAT A REASONABLE NUMBER OF SPACES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL CAR PARKS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUNG HOM WHICH IS PRESENTLY CLOSED, ARE NOW USUALLY FULL DURING THE PERIOD FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS.

SOME CAR PARKS, IN PARTICULAR MIDDLE ROAD, ARE ALSO VERY HEAVILY USED IN THE EVENINGS AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

HE SAID: +ONE CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING NO SPACES AVAILABLE AT THESE CAR PARKS DURING THESE PEAK PERIODS IS THAT CARS CIRCULATE AROUND THE STREETS LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE PARKING OR QUEUE UP ON THE STREETS OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCES TO THE CAR PARKS.

+THIS CONTRIBUTES TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND, AT SOME CAR PARKS, SUCH AS GARDEN ROAD, WHERE THE ENTRANCE IS ON A STREET WITH VERY HEAVY TRAFFIC, IT HAS BEEN FOUND NECESSARY TO POST A POLICE OFFICER OR TRAFFIC WARDEN TO DIRECT MOTORISTS TO MOVE ON.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE NEW PARKING CHARGES ARE GENERALLY LOWER THAN PARKING FEES CHARGED AT COMMERCIAL CAR PARKS. ALSO, PARKING CHARGES AT GOVERNMENT CAR PARKS HAVE NOT BEEN INCREASED SINCE 1974. +IN FACT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +PARKING CHARGES WERE LOWERED IN 1975 TO THEIR PRESENT LEVEL.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PARKING POLICY IS CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY A WORKING GROUP WHICH IS EXPECTED TO REPORT BY THE END OF THE YEAR OR EARLY JANUARY.

THE GROUP'S WORK IS CONCERNED WITH EVERY ASPECT OF PARKING INCLUDING POLICY REGARDING THE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAR PARKS, THE PROBLEM OF LORRY PARKING, PARKING IN NEW TOWNS, PARKING AT MTR STATIONS, AND PARKING CHARGES.

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CALL FOR EXTENSION OF HK'S REPRESENTATION ABROAD
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HONG KONG MUST EXTEND ITS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ABROAD, AND IMPROVE THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS WORKING OVERSEAS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR INDUSTRY, MR. WILLIAM DORWARD SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IT SEEMS TO ME EMINENTLY GOOD SENSE TO LINK UP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ANY NEW OR EXPANDED ACTIVITIES ABROAD WITH THOSE FACILITIES WHICH, JUST BY BEING THERE, HAVE BECOME THE RECOGNISED HONG KONG PRESENCE,+ HE TOLD THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY CHUNG CHI EXECUTIVE CLUB AT A LUNCHEON MEETING.

MR. DORWARD REFERRED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE WORK OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S 17 OFFICES - INCREASING TO 18 NEXT MONTH- OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION'S REPRESENTATION ON FIVE CONTINENTS- AND OUTLINED THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON, BRUSSELS, GENEVA AND WASHINGTON.

THE TDC'S NETWORK, DIRECTED AT THE PROMOTION OF TWO-WAY TRADE, HAD ALSO A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CREATING A FAVOURABLE IMAGE OF HONG KONG, AND CULTIVATING INFLUENTIAL CONTACTS AT MANY LEVELS IN A VARIETY OF ORGANISATIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

MUCH OF THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES WERE NOW GEARED TO ENCOURAGING BUSINESS GROUPS TO HOLD CONFERENCES AND BUSINESS MEETINGS IN HONG KONG.

+MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN STEADILY EXPANDING ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION ABROAD. I CONSIDER THAT THE TIME WILL SOON COME WHEN WE SHALL HAVE THE CAPACITY TO LOCATE MEN PERMANENTLY IN KEY COUNTRIES, TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUING DRIVE TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, RATHER THAN WORK ON THE PRESENT BASIS OF SPECIAL MISSIONS TO DIFFERENT PLACES SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR,+ SAID MR. DORWARD.

+WHEN THAT TIME COMES IT WOULD CLEARLY MAKE SENSE FOR THESE INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICERS TO WORK IN CLOSE LIAISON AND PHYSICAL PROXIMITY WITH THE OVERSEAS STAFF OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THERE IS AN INEVITABLE OVERLAP BETWEEN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND WE SHOULD EXPLOIT IT RATHER THAN IGNORE IT. I KNOW THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SHARES MY VIEW ON THIS,+ HE SAID.

/MR. DORWARD.....

MR. DORWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN WORLD TRADE, INCLUDING PROTECTIONISM, SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING AND IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR HONG KONG TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF THE PRESENT REPRESENTATION BEYOND THE TWO MAJOR MARKETS OF THE U.S. AND EEC.

+IT MAY BE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE CAN BE EXPANDED, SO THAT IT CAN COVER ON A REGULAR BASIS OTHER COUNTRIES IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WHERE FULL TIME REPRESENTATION WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME BE JUSTIFIED, BUT WHERE THE NEED FOR CONSULTATION, LIAISON AND INFORMATION GATHERING IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT.

+LIKEWISE THE DISTANCES INVOLVED WOULD MAKE IT RELATIVELY EASY FOR A REINFORCED LONDON OFFICE TO COVER ON A SIMILAR BASIS IMPORTANT NON-EEC EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRIA, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND FINLAND,+ SAID MR. DORWARD.

COLLABORATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MIGHT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INPUTS OF EITHER HOME OR OVERSEAS BASED STAFF. UNITY OF PURPOSE AMONG THE RELATIVELY WEAK COULD GREATLY STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENCES.

+I BELIEVE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES AND GOOD SENSE DICTATE THAT HONG KONG MUST, WITHIN ITS MODEST MEANS IN TERMS OF RESOURCES AND MANPOWER, EXTEND ITS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ABROAD.

+IN THE PAST HONG KONG HAS, INEVITABLY PERHAPS, BEEN ESSENTIALLY IN THE BUSINESS OF REACTING TO SITUATIONS AS THEY AROSE. THIS WILL ALWAYS BE THE CASE, BUT THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES OF WORLD TRADE WILL, IN MY VIEW, REQUIRE US TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IDENTIFYING LIKELY FUTURE THREATS TO HONG KONG'S TRADE AND PROSPERITY- SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THEM BEFORE THEY MATERIALISE- AND TACKLING THEM PROMPTLY AND FORCEFULLY WHEN THEY HAPPEN,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

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SIR JACK CATER VISITS LEI YUE MUN FIRE VICTIMS

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON PAID A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE LEI YUE MUN FIRE VICTIMS.

MORE THAN 2 400 PEOPLE WERE MADE HOMELESS IN THE FIRE WHICH RAGED FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS AND DESTROYED SOME 400 SQUATTER HUTS AT LING NAM NEW VILLAGE. NO ONE WAS INJURED.

SIR JACK WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. MORRIS MORGAN.

HE SPOKE TO SOME OF THE FIRE VICTIMS AND EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY TO THEM. AMONG THE VICTIMS WAS A GROUP OF OLD PEOPLE WHOSE MONASTERY HAD BEEN GUTTED. SIR JACK SAID SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THEM IN VIEW OF THEIR OLD AGE AND WAY OF LIFE.

/SIR JACK.....

SIR JACK WAS BRIEFED ON THE FIRE FIGHTING OPERATION BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR. MICK KINGDOM- AND HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THEIR PROMPT ACTION HAD PREVENTED LOSS OF LIFE.

EARLIER, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. ALAN SCOTT, VISITED THE FIRE SCENE TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR HOMELESS VICTIMS.

+IT IS A TERRIBLE THING FOR FAMILIES TO LOSE THEIR HOMES IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, SPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED HERE FOR SO LONG, BUT THE VICTIMS HAVE PROVED TO BE BOTH CHEERFUL AND PATIENT, AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S PROCEDURES ARE WORKING SO SMOOTHLY,+ HE SAID.

MR. SCOTT SAID THAT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD DONE WELL TO CONTAIN THE FIRE, WHICH COULD HAVE SPREAD MUCH FARTHER AMONG THE TIGHTLY-PACKED SQUATTER HUTS AND OTHER STRUCTURES IN THE AREA.

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46 OLD PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS PLANNED FOR NEXT THREE YEARS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) 46 OLD PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS WERE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS PROVIDING AN EXTRA 5 300 PLACES BY THE END OF 1982-83.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR. LEE SAID THAT FROM NOW TILL MARCH NEXT YEAR ALONE, SEVEN INSTITUTIONS WITH 800 PLACES WERE SCHEDULED TO COME INTO OPERATION.

HE SAID THESE NEW HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE WOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE BOOST TO THE EXISTING 34 OLD PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAD A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 3 720.

THE 46 INSTITUTIONS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, HE SAID, WOULD BE MOSTLY SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY INCLUDED CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, AND HOSTELS FOR THE AGED.

MR. LEE SAID THIS WAS PART OF THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDER WHICH SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WOULD BE IMPROVED ON A WIDE FRONT, SUCH AS IN THE FIELDS OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION.

IN THE LATEST WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE, HE SAID, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL ADDITIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN PROVIDING NEW OR IMPROVED SERVICES FOR OLD PEOPLE WOULD AMOUNT TO \$111 MILLION BY 1986-87.

+FOR THE SAME PERIOD, THE TOTAL ADDITIONAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IS ESTIMATED AT \$295 MILLION,+ HE ADDED.

ON COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR. LEE SAID PLANS WERE IN THE PIPELINE TO EXPAND SUCH SERVICES AS HOME HELP, COUNSELLING AND VISITING, SPECIAL TRANSPORT, DAY CARE CENTRES, SOCIAL CENTRES AND MULTI-SERVICES CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

/+AN EXTRA.....

+AN EXTRA 117 SOCIAL CENTRES FOR OLD PEOPLE ARE PLANNED FOR BY 1982-83, WITH AN ULTIMATE TARGET OF ONE CENTRE FOR EVERY 20 000 OF THE POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

OF MULTI-SERVICES CENTRES, HE SAID, A MINIMUM OF 17 WILL BE PROVIDED TO RENDER SUCH SERVICES AS HOME HELP, MEALS, LAUNDRY, COUNSELLING, AS WELL AS SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY RELIED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THE EXISTENCE OF A +CARING COMMUNITY+.

HE CALLED UPON THE COMMUNITY TO PRESERVE AND FOSTER THE ROLE OF CARING FOR THE ELDERLY DESPITE EXISTING PRESSURES ON TRADITIONAL FAMILY TIES.

HE SAID THAT FOR LONG, CHINESE SOCIETY HAD A TRADITIONAL HEALTHY RESPECT FOR OLD PEOPLE AND A MAJORITY OF THEM WERE CARED FOR BY THEIR FAMILIES.

HOWEVER, WITH SOCIAL CHANGES AND OTHER PRESSURES ON THE FAMILY UNIT BROUGHT ABOUT BY RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH, THERE APPEARED TO BE SIGNS OF DISINTEGRATION IN THE CONCEPT OF FILIAL CARE FOR THE AGED, HE SAID.

MR. LEE DESCRIBED AS +TIMELY+ THE OLD PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL TO BE LAUNCHED NEXT WEEK BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+THE IDEA IS TO CALL FOR SUSTAINED CONCERN AND RESPECT FOR OLD PEOPLE THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE SAID THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES OF PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY THROUGH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY AND BY THE COMMUNITY.

+THIS CONCEPT OF CARE IN THE COMMUNITY IS WELL TESTED IN BOTH WESTERN AND ASIAN COMMUNITIES AND HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLD PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

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MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF KCR
TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED TO A BRITISH FIRM A \$71 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SIGNALLING SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CONTRACT, WHICH IS PART OF THE OVERALL PROJECT OF MODERNISING AND ELECTRIFYING KCR, WAS AWARDED TO WESTINGHOUSE BRAKE AND SIGNAL COMPANY OF ENGLAND. IT COVERS THE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF MODERN, COLOUR LIGHT SIGNALLING THROUGHOUT THE RAILWAY SYSTEM TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE \$71 MILLION CONTRACT WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY HONG KONG CONTRACTORS.

THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES AND THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 1982.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY WHEN THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED THE WHOLE RAILWAY WILL BE OPERATED FROM ONE CENTRAL SIGNAL CONTROL ROOM WHICH WILL HOUSE BOTH THE SIGNALLING PANEL AND THE CONTROL PANEL FOR THE 25 KILOVOLT ELECTRIC TRACTION SUPPLY.

A COMPUTERISED TRAIN OPERATING SYSTEM WILL BE INTEGRATED WITH THE SIGNALLING PANEL AND THIS WILL ALSO OPERATE PLATFORM INDICATORS AT STATIONS GIVING TRAIN ARRIVAL AND DESTINATION INFORMATION.

THE PROJECT WILL BE MANAGED ON BEHALF OF THE KCR BY TRANSMARK LTD, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD.

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YUEN LONG MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION STARTS

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THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING OFFICIALLY OPENED A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION TO MARK THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IN YUEN LONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR. SWEETMAN DESCRIBED THE CELEBRATION AS A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT BECAUSE IT AIMED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT BUT ALSO TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN CULTURE BY PROVIDING A SERIES OF HIGH QUALITY CULTURAL EVENTS IN A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE.

BEFORE SWITCHING ON THE LANTERN LIGHTS IN THE NEW TOWN TO MARK THE START OF THE ACTIVITIES — THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE DISTRICT — MR. SWEETMAN SAID YUEN LONG HAD ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED BY ITS STRONG COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

+IT HAS ITS OWN TOWN HALL WHICH IS SET UP AND RUN BY LOCAL PEOPLE- IT HAS THE ONLY ARTS PROMOTION COMMITTEE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT RUNS CANTONESE OPERA AND BALLET SCHOOLS.

+AND IT IS THE ONLY DISTRICT HAVING A JAYCEE WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED AS AN ENERGETIC AND INNOVATIVE ORGANISATION,+ HE SAID.

THE CELEBRATION PROGRAMME WHICH LASTS UNTIL OCTOBER 9, INCLUDES A CONCERT BY THE YUEN LONG YOUTH AND CHILDREN CHOIR, A FUN FAIR FOR 6 000 PEOPLE, CANTONESE OPERA AND BALLET PERFORMANCES AND A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING HKTVB ARTISTES AS WELL AS A LANTERN DESIGN COMPETITION.

MR. SWEETMAN SAID: +THE WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION IS A BREAKTHROUGH FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN POOLING THEIR TALENTS AND RESOURCES TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL FOR THE COMMUNITY.

/+FOR THE

+FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE LOCAL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES HAVE GIVEN THEIR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN DECORATING THE NEW TOWN AND IN PUBLICISING THE PROGRAMME.

+I AM ALSO HAPPY THAT THE RURAL COMMITTEES AND LOCAL SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED FORCES IN ORGANISING THE LANTERN DESIGN COMPETITION, ENABLING US TO SEE A TRADITIONAL FORM OF CHINESE ART AND CRAFT.

+I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL FOR THIS IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT AND HOPE THAT THE DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM AND PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS DISPLAYED WILL CONTINUE TO LAST,+ HE ADDED.

THE CELEBRATION HAS BEEN ORGANISED WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PEAK AREA DURING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE METERED PARKING SPACES IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE BUS STAND AT THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS CAR PARK WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 2 P.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 5) AND 8 P.M. ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7).

IN ADDITION, ALL OTHER PARKING FACILITIES AT THE PEAK CAR PARK WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED FROM 6 P.M. ON THAT DAY TO 7 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY (SATURDAY). ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES, PEAK MAXICABS AND TAXIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THESE SPACES.

ONLY RESIDENTS' VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER MOUNT AUSTIN ROAD DURING THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION BETWEEN 6 P.M. ON FRIDAY AND 2 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL TRAFFIC PROCEEDING TO AND FROM THE PEAK AREA WILL BE DIVERTED FROM PEAK ROAD INTO THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS CAR PARK AS AND WHEN REQUIRED BY POLICE OFFICERS.

DIVERSIONS IN PEAK ROAD AND MAGAZINE GAP ROAD MAY ALSO BE IMPOSED AT ANY TIME AS DIRECTED BY POLICE OFFICERS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE, HE SAID.

BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMELY LIMITED PARKING FACILITIES IN THE PEAK AREA, THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED MOTORISTS TO MAKE FULL USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

TRAFFIC POLICEMEN WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AND TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES WOULD BE TOWED AWAY BY THE POLICE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1979

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LICENSED PREMISES IN THE NT

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THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 1 821 LICENSED PREMISES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS AT THE END OF AUGUST 1979 -- MOST OF THEM DEALING WITH FOOD.

A NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THESE INCLUDED 633 GENERAL RESTAURANTS, 303 FRESH PROVISION SHOPS, 294 LIGHT REFRESHMENT RESTAURANTS, 247 FOOD FACTORIES AND 177 BAKERIES.

+THE OTHERS ARE SIU MEI AND LO MEI SHOPS, FROZEN CONFECTIONERY FACTORIES, COLD STORES, MILK FACTORIES, MARINE RESTAURANTS, SWIMMING POOLS, PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, PUBLIC BILLIARD TABLES SALOONS, PUBLIC BOWLING ALLEYS, PUBLIC SKATING RINKS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES,+ HE SAID.

THERE ARE ALSO 892 PREMISES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES PERMITTED TO SELL RESTRICTED FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS MILK, FROZEN CONFECTIONERY, NON-BOTTLED DRINKS, CHINESE HERB TEA OR TO INSTALL COIN-OPERATED AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINES.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ANYONE INTENDING TO RUN SUCH BUSINESSES OR TO SELL THE ABOVE FOOD STUFF IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MUST APPLY FOR A LICENCE OR PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND OPERATION CAN ONLY BE STARTED AFTER A LICENCE OR A PERMIT HAS BEEN GRANTED.

+OPERATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED IF THEY ARE FOUND TO HAVE STARTED A BUSINESS BEFORE THEIR APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE OR PERMIT IS APPROVED BY THIS DEPARTMENT,+ HE EMPHASISED.

TO ASSIST APPLICANTS, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE PREPARED LEAFLETS DETAILING THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR FOOD LICENCES AND PERMITS.

THESE INFORMATION LEAFLETS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES OR THE LICENSING DIVISION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FOURTH FLOOR, AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE BY CALLING THE LICENSING DIVISION ON 3-677989 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1979

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TEMPORARY TENANCY OF CROWN LAND

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE ARE INVITING TENDERS FOR THE TENANCY OF A SITE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE TENANCY WILL BE INITIALLY FOR ONE YEAR AND THEREAFTER QUARTERLY.

THE AREA OR THE SITE IS ABOUT 1 870 SQUARE METRES AND MAY BE USED FOR THE STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS, VEHICLES, MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OR A CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 19, 1979.

FULL DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, HONG KONG OR THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WILL BE ONE DELIVERY OF MAIL ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 6) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

ON THAT DAY, 32 POST OFFICES INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON AND THE TSUEN WAN AND TAI PO POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON.

ALL OTHER POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

ADDRESS BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER
 AT THE OPENING OF THE 1979 TOY AND GIFT FAIR,
MIRAMAR HOTEL, ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1979

I am sure that it would be quite sufficient on an occasion like this to congratulate the toy industry on their sustained energy and initiative and to express the confident hope that they will continue to be one of Hong Kong's success stories. Congratulations are certainly in order for an industry which has developed spectacularly in two decades and which, this year, has outperformed industry as a whole by a substantial margin.

The overall growth rate for our domestic exports for the first half of the year was 34 per cent. Shipments of toys for the same period advanced over 51 per cent to a value of more than \$2 000 million. Performance at this level by an industry which is a major employer and - in terms of exports - the third largest sector of our manufacturing industry, is of real significance for our economy and deserves examination. It certainly did not happen by accident, and this occasion provides evidence of the effort which has gone into the development of the toy industry.

We in the Government firmly believe that, in principle, industrial and commercial decisions are more likely to be correct if they are taken by businessmen rather than by civil servants. So the Government has limited its role in the economy largely to ensuring that impediments to economic life are removed where possible. Removing impediments can involve a negative role (for example making sure the Government does not adopt policies which would hinder economic development or that the private sector does not undertake activities inimical to overall prosperity), or the more positive one of ensuring that the infrastructure (roads and communications generally, for example) is developed adequately. It requires that Government should

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identify the conditions under which Hong Kong enterprise can and will flourish, and make sure that those conditions prevail. The toy industry typifies healthy development under these conditions. It has been flexible, innovative and determined. It has not sat around waiting for official action, but when official support has been available the toy industry has taken constructive advantage of it.

This toy fair is an excellent example. It is the fifth in a series which has been organised by the Trade Development Council, vigorously supported by toy manufacturers and exporters themselves, and attended by thousands of overseas buyers. The toy business is highly competitive and subject to dramatic changes in trends and demand. Hong Kong toy manufacturers have proved themselves well able to cope with change and in several lines they are now the trend setters.

Partly by the nature of their business but in large measure as a result of their own initiative they are strongly diversified as to product lines. If they had not been, some of the major changes which have taken place recently could have been damaging to the industry as a whole. They are also healthily diversified in their markets. It is a particularly healthy sign that the increased trade they have recorded in the first half on this year has been fairly evenly spread among our leading - and medium-sized markets, and that positive growth was recorded in almost every one, including new markets.

As the world's largest exporters of toys, Hong Kong manufacturers are very conscious of the fact that, in the end, it is quality that counts, not cheapness. In fact it is true to say that they have become the world's leading exporters because of this awareness. The process of trading-up has become even more evident in recent years as Hong Kong has increased its share of the world market for sophisticated toys, and this is a process that will continue. In addition to this fair, our toys are regularly exhibited at some of the most important trade fairs in the world such as Nuremburg, New York and London, where they are exposed to the most demanding of international buyers. In this toy fair you will see the products of an industry that is relatively young, technologically advanced, sophisticated in marketing matters, and internationally respected - in every way an excellent ambassador for Hong Kong and for our economic principles.

I am particularly pleased to be here with Sir Y.K. Kan, Chairman of the Trade Development Council. Of course this is not Sir Y.K.'s first appearance in this role, and his return to the task is yet more evidence of his readiness to put his considerable experience and wisdom at the service of the people of Hong Kong. I understand from him that I am to switch on something symbolic to mark the opening of the Fair but before I do that may I say simply that I have the greatest pleasure in declaring the Fifth Hong Kong Toy Fair open and wishing it every success.