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EVERYONE NEEDS AN MFA !!!

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EVERYONE WANTS THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) RENEWED - BUT FOR A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT REASONS, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR LAWRIE MILLS TODAY (JULY 28).

+AS FAR AS THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED, OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS THEIR TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES HAVE ENJOYED SUCH AN UNPRECEDENTED AND PROTRACTED DEGREE OF PROTECTION THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN SUCH PROTECTION FOR GRANTED, AND CANNOT DO WITHOUT IT,+ HE TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION AT THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

+FOR THEM, THE MFA APPEARS TO OFFER A CONVENIENT SYSTEM WHEREBY THEY NEED ONLY NOMINATE A PARTICULAR PRODUCT FROM A PARTICULAR SOURCE FOR RESTRAINT. THEIR GOVERNMENTS ACQUIESCE AND THEY ACHIEVE RESTRAINT WITHOUT RISK OF RETALIATION.+

THE UNITED STATES HAS A CONSTITUTIONAL NEED FOR THE MFA, SAID MR MILLS.

+IF IT IS NOT RENEWED IN 1982, THIS WILL TRIGGER OFF A PROVISION IN THE US TRADE ACT OF 1979 REQUIRING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW ALL TARIFF CONCESSIONS MADE DURING THE TOKYO ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS COULD GENERATE SERIOUS AND FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.+

MR MILLS SAID THAT HONG KONG WOULD ALSO WELCOME A SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESENT MFA.

+THIS IS DUE, IN PART, TO THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE MFA IS USED SELECTIVELY, IT DOES PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN CHECKS - AGAINST ABUSE - AND BALANCES - OR COMPENSATORY ADVANTAGES - FOR THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

+NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS THAT IT CONFERS AN ELEMENT OF CERTAINTY, IN THE FORM OF WELL-DEFINED ACCESS RIGHTS,+ STRESSED MR MILLS.

+THE AGREEMENTS WE HAVE NEGOTIATED UNDER IT HAVE ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO EXPORT CONTROL. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN MFA, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT THE EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES WE CURRENTLY MANAGE WOULD BE REPLACED BY IMPORT CONTROL REGIMES. IMPORT CONTROL WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DEPRESSING THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS THAT ACCRUE TO HONG KONG.

+SO, IN A NUTSHELL, IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES BOTH WANT A SUCCESSOR TO THE MFA, ALBEIT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. IT FOLLOWS FROM THIS THAT IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHETHER THERE WILL BE A NEW MFA, AS TO WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE, THAT IS IMPORTANT,+ HE SAID.

/MR MILLS .....

MR MILLS POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS PROBABLY WITHOUT PARALLEL. +LAST YEAR IT EMPLOYED 41 PER CENT OF OUR INDUSTRIAL WORK FORCE, AND THEIR COMBINED OUTPUT ACCOUNTED FOR 41 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS. AND APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF OUR EXPORTS OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS WERE SUBJECT TO QUANTITATIVE LIMITS AS A RESULT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED UNDER THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE GATT TEXTILE COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY MET THREE TIMES IN GENEVA TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE MFA. THE FIRST TWO MEETINGS, IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND IN MAY THIS YEAR, WERE BASICALLY NON-EVENTS, IN AS MUCH AS NONE OF THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES WERE READY TO NEGOTIATE. ROUGHLY THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING THAT WAS HELD EARLIER THIS MONTH, SAID MR MILLS. THE MEETING ENDED WITH NO SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT, EXCEPT FOR A DECISION TO MEET AGAIN IN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER AND POSSIBLY AGAIN IN MID-NOVEMBER.

+BUT THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTING IN TERMS OF ITS OUTCOME, WAS AT LEAST A START. THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO PRESENT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, WHILE THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES OUTLINED, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF PRECISION, THEIR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MFA.

+WHAT THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN GENERAL, AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR, SAID AT THE MEETING WAS PREDICTABLE. UNEMPLOYMENT IS HIGH, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS LOW - AS IS THE CONSUMPTION OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS - FACTORIES ARE BEING CLOSED, AND JOBS ARE BEING LOST IN THEIR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.

THEREFORE, THE EEC CONCLUDED, AN AUSTERE GLOBAL VIEW WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN OF BASE LEVELS, GROWTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN RESPECT OF IMPORTS FROM SO CALLED +LOW COST+ SOURCES- A GROWTH RATE FOR SUCH IMPORTS OF SIX PER CENT WOULD NOT BE TREATED LESS FAVOURABLY THAN NEW ENTRANTS AND SMALL SUPPLIERS, SAID MR MILLS.

+ALL THIS SOUNDS LIKE REGURGITATION OF THE POINTS - ONE COULD HARDLY CALL THEM ARGUMENTS - ADDUCED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN 1977, AND REFLECT ONE SAD FACT. ALTHOUGH THE WHOLE 20-YEAR SERIES OF MULTI-LATERAL TEXTILE ARRANGEMENTS WERE DESIGNED EXPLICITLY TO MODERATE TEMPORARILY THE INFLUENCE OF COMPETITIVE EXPORTS, THEIR EXISTENCE IS NOW SO MUCH TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THE INDUSTRIES OF THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ENJOYED PROTECTION, THAT THEY NO LONGER ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THEM, BUT MERELY CALL FOR THEIR INTENSIFICATION,+ HE COMMENTED.

BUT, UNLIKE IN 1977, THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES ARE NO LONGER IN DISARRAY, SAID MR MILLS.

AT THIS MONTH'S TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING, THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES NOT ONLY REJECTED THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY'S ARGUMENTS, BUT WERE ALSO ABLE TO SAY QUITE CATEGORICALLY THAT CERTAIN OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY'S AIMS WERE NOT NEGOTIABLE. AS A GROUP THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT ON THE TABLE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

/+WE ARE .....

+WE ARE ASKING, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, FOR THE TIGHTENING UP OF THE DEFINITION OF AND CRITERIA FOR 'MARKET DISRUPTION' ON THE BASIS OF WHICH RESTRAINT IS JUSTIFIED- A PHASING OUT OF RESTRAINTS- A BETTER DEAL FOR SMALL SUPPLIERS AND NEW ENTRANTS, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ESTABLISHED SUPPLIERS. WE HAVE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE DEPARTURES FROM THE MFA - REASONABLE OR UNREASONABLE,+ EMPHASISED MR MILLS.

THE FIRMNESS OF THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES REFLECTED THE STRONG DEGREE OF COOPERATION AND COHESIVENESS THEY HAD RECENTLY ACHIEVED. HAVING MET THREE TIMES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, AND TO DEFINE AND REFINE THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, THEY WERE LIKELY TO MEET AGAIN IN OCTOBER IN CAIRO.

+THE FIRMNESS OF THEIR POSITION HAS TAKEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES SOMEWHAT BY SURPRISE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THAT FIRMNESS AND THE UNDERLYING UNITY WILL HOLD, AND THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO EXERT A MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS THAN THEY WERE ABLE TO IN 1977.

+I CANNOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT I THINK THAT THE DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE NOW REALISED THAT AT THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED,+ CONCLUDED MR MILLS.

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HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR AUGUST

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ENUMERATORS FROM THE PERMANENT STAFF OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL BE MAKING THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY FIELD SURVEY OF 5 000 HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST, IN THE COURSE OF A CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO COLLECT CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

SELECTION IS BY RANDOM SAMPLE ON A MONTHLY BASIS THROUGHOUT ALL DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG, THOUGH SOME HOUSEHOLDS ARE REPEATED ONCE IN THE COURSE OF THE SURVEY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLDS.

QUESTIONS COVERED BY THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY INCLUDE AGE, SEX AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS, ACTIVITY STATUS, OCCUPATION, EARNINGS, HOURS OF WORK OF THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED AND REASONS FOR THOSE NOT SEEKING WORK, TENURE, RENT AND INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS.

OFFICIAL LETTERS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH ARE BEING SENT TO THE HOUSEHOLDS EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND SEEKING THE COOPERATION OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED.

ENUMERATORS WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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$21-MILLION CONTRACT FOR EQUIPMENT SIGNED

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A CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR STAGE 1 OF THE YUEN LONG SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT WANG CHAU HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE $21-MILLION CONTRACT, IS THE SECOND LARGEST OF FIVE MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL CONTRACTS FOR THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT. IT COVERS SURPLUS ACTIVATED SLUDGE DE-WATERING MACHINERY, A SLUDGE DIGESTION PLANT AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

IT WAS SIGNED TODAY BY MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, AND MR OTTO LOK-TO POON, DIRECTOR OF SIMON HARTLEY (HK) LTD, WHICH WAS AWARDED THE CONTRACT.

THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WILL PURIFY DOMESTIC WASTE FROM YUEN LONG TOWN AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE FROM YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. IT IS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-1983.

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YOUNG UK MUSICIANS TO PERFORM AT CATHEDRAL

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TWELVE YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL GIVE A LUNCH-TIME PERFORMANCE AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, GARDEN ROAD AT 1.20 PM ON FRIDAY, JULY 31.

THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ORCHESTRA WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY STRAD MAGAZINE AS ONE OF THE FINEST CHAMBER ORCHESTRAS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE ORCHESTRA HAS BEEN PERFORMING REGULARLY AT THE SOUTH BANK CULTURAL COMPLEX IN LONDON. IN 1979, IT MADE A SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF DENMARK.

THE YOUNG ARTISTS, AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 21, ARE HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP 1981, WHICH IS BEING HELD AT THE WU KWAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE.

TOGETHER WITH ABOUT 250 YOUNG LOCAL MUSICIANS, THEY WILL SHARE INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING AND ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES IN A SUMMER CAMP SETTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF WELL-KNOWN MUSICIANS.

THE GROUP IS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO VIOLIN TUTORS, MR LEE KENG-KOK AND MISS JEAN MIDDLEMISS.

THE CONCERT IS OPEN TO ALL AND ADMISSION IS FREE.

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JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS

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STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 22 CAN NOW APPLY FOR TWO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED UNDER THE MONBUSHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME TO HONG KONG STUDENTS.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES OR NATURAL SCIENCES AT A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY.

APPLICANTS NEED NOT HAVE ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE BUT THEY MUST BE WILLING TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN THE MEDIUM OF JAPANESE.

THEY SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS OF EITHER OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG, OR PASSED IN TWO RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ORDINARY LEVEL, OR PASSED IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN ONE RELEVANT SUBJECT AT ORDINARY LEVEL IN THE GCE.

THE AWARDS ARE NORMALLY TENABLE FOR FIVE YEARS FROM APRIL, 1982 TO MARCH, 1987 AND WILL COVER TUITION, ACCOMMODATION, LIVING EXPENSES AND RETURN PASSAGE.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE ENROLLED AT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL ATTACHED TO THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES AND WILL BE GIVEN A ONE-YEAR COURSE ON THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND OTHER NECESSARY SUBJECTS TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE FOUR-YEAR DEGREE COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 29.

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SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION

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LOCAL CAREERS TEACHERS WERE TODAY URGED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.C.A. HAMMOND TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE CAREERS SERVICE FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

OFFICIATING AT A TWO-DAY RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION FOR CAREERS TEACHERS AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BUSINESS OF CAREERS EDUCATION IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED, TAKING UP MORE OF CAREERS TEACHERS' TIME AND URGING THEM TO THINK, AS WELL AS WORK, MUCH HARDER.

+THIS IS INEVITABLE. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE SOCIETY WE ARE LIVING IN ARE BOTH BECOMING MORE COMPLEX, AND SOMETIMES MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS GREAT SCOPE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF CAREERS EDUCATION.

MR HAMMOND TOLD THE 65 PARTICIPANTS THAT THEIR PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE SEMINAR -- COLLECTING DATA AND CONDUCTING THE SURVEY ON CAREERS ASPIRATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF FORM FIVE STUDENTS AS WELL AS THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS -- WOULD PROVE TO BE MOST USEFUL.

HE SAID: +THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, WHICH YOU WILL EXAMINE IN DETAIL TODAY AND TOMORROW, WILL, I HOPE, PROVIDE US WITH SOME INDICATIONS OF THE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH WE SHOULD MOVE IN ORDER TO FULFIL THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.+

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS SURVEY, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR STUDENTS BETTER, AND ASSIST THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THEIR CHOICE OF CAREERS THROUGH A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF A SERIES OF SIX CAREERS CONVENTIONS HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC SEMINARS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THREE PUBLIC SEMINARS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WILL BE HELD IN KWAI CHUNG NEXT MONTH.

THESE WILL BE THE FIRST OPEN SEMINARS HELD IN KWAI CHUNG TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO AIR THEIR VIEWS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, WILL CHAIR THE SEMINARS TO BE HELD IN THE EVENINGS OF AUGUST 4, 6 AND 13.

+SINCE APRIL, WE HAVE BEEN VISITING MORE THAN 500 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS. BUT THESE VISITS WERE DIRECTED AT A PARTICULAR SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY.

+THROUGH THE SEMINARS, WE HOPE TO PUT ACROSS THE MESSAGE TO EVERY SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, GET THEIR VIEWS AND UNDERSTANDING ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ SAID MR TING.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS, THE SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS STARTING AT 8 PM.

THE FIRST ONE WILL BE AT COTTON SPINNERS ASSOCIATION PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT KWAI SHING CIRCUIT. THIS WILL BE FOR RESIDENTS LIVING IN CENTRAL AND WEST KWAI CHUNG, INCLUDING TAI WOR HAU.

THE NEXT ONE WILL BE AT SHEK YAM COMMUNITY HALL AND FOR RESIDENTS OF NORTH KWAI CHUNG, INCLUDING SHEK LEI AND LEI MUK SHUE ESTATES.

THE LAST ONE WILL BE AT LAI KING COMMUNITY HALL AND FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTH KWAI CHUNG, INCLUDING CHO YIU, LAI YIU AND LAI KING ESTATES.

+RESIDENTS OF OTHER DISTRICTS ARE ALSO WELCOME,+ MR TING ADDED.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TWO FLYOVERS

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TWO FLYOVERS, ONE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE OTHER IN KOWLOON, WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REPAIR WORK, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE FLYOVER FROM KENNEDY ROAD TO UPPER ALBERT ROAD IN MID-LEVELS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR TWO NIGHTS BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 6.30 AM ON JULY 29 AND ON JULY 31 TO ALLOW FOR RESURFACING WORK.

THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY, JULY 30, TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO ALLOW FOR MAINTENANCE WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, ALTERNATIVE GROUND-LEVEL ROUTES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR DIVERTED TRAFFIC.

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TENANCY OF SASSOON ROAD LOT OFFERED

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TENDERS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A LOT IN SASSOON ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE LOT OF ABOUT 2 150 SQUARE METRES IS FOR THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF POTTED PLANTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PWD SAID THE LEASE WAS FOR ONE YEAR AND THEREAFTER ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

TENDERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON AUGUST 14, 1981. TENDER FORMS AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON. TENDER PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE LOCATIONS.

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HILL ROAD FLYOVER READY NEXT MONTH

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HONG KONG'S LATEST ELEVATED ROADWAY, THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER, WILL BE OPENED NEXT MONTH.

PRIOR TO THE OPENING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON, TODAY TOOK A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE ROAD PROJECT FOR HIMSELF.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER, HIGHWAYS (HK) DIVISION, MR HULBERT WOO, AND THE PROJECT ENGINEER, MR NG KWOK-KEE.

MR BEATON SAID THAT THE ALIGNMENT AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER WERE MADE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BY THE STEEP AND WINDING PROFILE OF HILL ROAD, COUPLED WITH THE PROXIMITY OF NEARBY BUILDINGS.

+DIFFICULTIES, SUCH AS OBSTRUCTION BY ROCKS AT SEABED, WERE EXPERIENCED DURING FOUNDATION WORKS WHICH NECESSITATED REVISION IN DESIGN,+ HE ADDED.

THE TWO-LANE, ONE-WAY FLYOVER EXTENDS 650 METRES FROM THE JUNCTION OF POK FU LAM AND HILL ROADS DOWN TO THE WATERFRONT AT CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST. THE PROJECT COSTS ABOUT $42 MILLION.

MR BEATON SAID THAT THE FLYOVER WOULD PROVIDE A FAST LINK FROM POK FU LAM THROUGH WESTERN TO CENTRAL.

AT PRESENT, COMMUTERS HAVE TO TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR TO GET THROUGH THE TRAFFIC JAM WHICH BUILDS UP BETWEEN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND HONG KONG UNIVERSITY IN THE RUSH HOUR.

+ONCE THE FLYOVER IS OPEN, CONGESTION ALONG THIS PART OF POK FU LAM ROAD IS EXPECTED TO BE EASED AND TRAVELLING TIME WILL BE SHORTENED,+ MR BEATON SAID.

WORK ON THE FLYOVER BEGAN IN JUNE 1978.

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REVISED TRAM FARES START SATURDAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO A REVISION OF TRAM FARES AS PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 1.

THE LAST TIME THE FARES WERE REVISED WAS IN DECEMBER, 1975.

UNDER THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE, ADULTS WILL PAY 50 CENTS INSTEAD OF 30 CENTS FOR A JOURNEY AND CHILDREN 20 CENTS INSTEAD OF 10 CENTS. THE CORRESPONDING COST OF A MONTHLY TICKET WILL BE INCREASED FROM $27 TO $45.

A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION FOR THE FARE INCREASE BY THE TRAMWAYS COMPANY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCREASED OPERATIONAL COSTS SINCE THE LAST INCREASE WAS MADE SIX YEARS AGO.

A NOTICE SETTING OUT THE REVISED CHARGES WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY.

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WATER SUPPLY LEAKAGE TESTS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (JULY 30) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNK BAY ROAD, KAI TIN ROAD, PING TIN STREET AND ON TIN STREET, INCLUDING THE WHOLE BLOCK OF LAM TIN ESTATE AND LAM TIN SAM TSUEN.

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