



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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MRS THATCHER KEEN TO KNOW HK PEOPLE'S VIEWS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, IS KEEN TO KNOW THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND SHE CAN LEARN ABOUT THEM NOT ONLY FROM HIM BUT ALSO VERY DIRECTLY FROM THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHINESE YMCA NEW TERRITORIES CENTRE IN KWAI CHUNG, SIR EDWARD SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO LONDON, ACCOMPANIED BY THE UNOFFICIAL EXCO MEMBERS, WAS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

+AS YOU KNOW THERE ARE NEW MINISTERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD IDEA TO MEET THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+SO WE ARE ALL GOING IN THE WEEKEND TO SEE THEM ON JULY 4 AND 5 AND WE EXPECT TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, AND ON SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND ON MR LUCE,+ HE SAID.

ASKED WHAT SORT OF CONSULTATION THE VISIT WOULD INVOLVE, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WOULD BE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE VIEWS OF THE UNOFFICIAL EXCO MEMBERS AND WHAT THEY THINK THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON WHETHER TALKS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE WOULD NOW RESUME SINCE BOTH THE UK ELECTION AND THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN CHINA WERE OVER, THE GOVERNOR SAID TALKS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE HAD NOT STOPPED.

ASKED WHETHER THESE WERE +TALKS FOR THE TALKS OR GENUINE TALKS+, THE GOVERNOR SAID +THEY ARE GENUINE TALKS.+

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON WHETHER HE WOULD SET UP A PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL, SIR EDWARD SAID +WHEN YOU HAVE SITUATIONS OF THAT KIND, THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT IS TO PURSUE IT THROUGH THE NORMAL PROCESSES OF THE LAW.+

SIR EDWARD HAD EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHINESE YMCA NEW TERRITORIES CENTRE AT KWAI HOP STREET IN KWAI CHUNG.

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IN HIS OPENING SPEECH, SIR EDWARD SAID THIS PURPOSE-BUILT CENTRE, THE THIRD OF ITS KIND RUN BY THE CHINESE YMCA, WOULD PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO THE YOUTH OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSUEN WAN.

IT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A BASE FOR EXTENDING THE SERVICES OF THE YMCA TO OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CENTRE HAS BEEN BUILT AT A TOTAL COST OF \$10 MILLION, WITH \$2 MILLION COMING FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND AND THE REMAINING \$8 MILLION FROM THE RESERVE FUND OF THE CHINESE YMCA.

SIR EDWARD ALSO PRAISED THE CHINESE YMCA WHICH HAS BEEN SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG SINCE 1901 AND HAS, IN THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT OF SERVICE TO OTHERS, DEDICATED ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER.

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GOVERNOR AND UNOFFICIAL EXCO MEMBERS TO VISIT LONDON
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AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WILL VISIT LONDON DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING JULY 4. WHILE IN LONDON THEY EXPECT TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR RICHARD LUCE.

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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY GOING BEYOND 1997

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THE CURRENT SLACKNESS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD RESULTED IN GREATER COMPETITION BY CONTRACTORS FOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND IN A LOWERING OF THE TENDER PRICE INDEX DESPITE THE HIGH COST OF LABOUR, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT A FAREWELL DINNER GIVEN BY THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT NEXT WEEK FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICES, MR MCDONALD SAID THE TENDER PRICE INDEX HAD BEEN FALLING OVER THE PAST YEAR, PARTLY BECAUSE THE PRICE OF BASIC CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS HAD STABILISED.

ON THE DECLINE IN THE PROPERTY MARKET, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT WHILE MANY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WERE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CONSTRUCTION, THE GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME HAD NOT BEEN AXED.

+THIS YEAR WE ARE TO SPEND MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ON CONSTRUCTION AND THIS WILL CONTINUE IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

+I MUST STRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. OUR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IS BASED ON FORECAST, DERIVED FROM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, OF POPULATION NEEDS BEYOND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CENTURY, AND THE YEAR 1997 HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR FUTURE PLANNING,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+I BELIEVE THAT WITH AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE GENERAL WORLD ECONOMY, AND A RECOGNITION BY ALL OF THE BASIC WORTH OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE, THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE OF ITS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ARE BRIGHT,+ HE ADDED.

IN HIS SPEECH MR MCDONALD ALSO REFLECTED ON HIS CONTACT WITH HONG KONG CONTRACTORS DURING HIS 28 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

HE RECALLED THAT HIS FIRST CONTACT CAME WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AN ARCHITECT IN THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE FORMER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN 1955.

SINCE THEN HE HAD BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THEM -- AS A PROJECT ARCHITECT, AT THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION AND THE PWD, AS THE BUILDING AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND MORE RECENTLY AS THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

+AS A RESULT OF THAT CONTACT, I HAVE OVER THE YEARS DEVELOPED A VERY HIGH REGARD FOR HONG KONG'S CONTRACTORS IN GENERAL, AND FOR THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD BOTH TO THE SKILLS OF MANAGEMENT DISPLAYED BY THE DIRECTORS, PRINCIPALS AND SENIOR STAFF OF CONTRACTING FIRMS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE PRODUCTIVITY OF A HARD-WORKING LABOUR FORCE ON THE OTHER,+ HE SAID.

MR MCDONALD SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE HIGH COST OF LABOUR, WHOSE WAGES HAVE INCREASED STEADILY OVER RECENT YEARS, AND OF THE NECESSITY OF FINDING A HAPPY BALANCE BETWEEN CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON LABOUR AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A GREATER DEGREE OF MECHANISATION INTO CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES.

MECHANISATION MEANT THAT WORKERS HAD TO BE MORE HIGHLY SKILLED AND SPECIALISED AND THAT MANAGERS HAD TO DEVELOP NEW TECHNIQUES IN OBTAINING OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY FROM THEIR MACHINES AND OPERATORS, HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HONG KONG CONTRACTORS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN BOTH AREAS.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ASPECTS OF HONG KONG WAS THAT IT WAS CONTINUALLY CHANGING ITS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS MOST REMARKABLE WAS THAT MANY NEW BUILDINGS AND ENGINEERING STRUCTURES SEEMED TO APPEAR OVERNIGHT.

+THE SHEER VOLUME OF WORK COMPLETED BY HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DURING RECENT YEARS MUST SURELY BE UNEQUALLED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

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INDUSTRIALISTS URGED TO INVEST AND DIVERSIFY

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY CALLED TODAY (FRIDAY) ON LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN UP-TO-DATE MACHINERY AND TO DIVERSIFY INTO NEW PRODUCTS +TO KEEP THEMSELVES TWO STEPS AHEAD OF COMPETITORS.+

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE PREVIEW OF THE NEW FILM +TWO STEPS AHEAD+ PRODUCED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT LOCALLY.

HE SAID THAT LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS HAD A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AS 95 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S FACTORIES WERE LOCALLY OWNED, EMPLOYING ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE.

+OUR JOB OF PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY BY LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS THEREFORE IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS ATTRACTING INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION BY OVERSEAS INVESTORS,+ MR YAXLEY SAID.

THE FILM TRACES THE TRUE LIFE SUCCESS STORIES OF THREE LOCAL FACTORIES AS PRESENTED BY THEIR OWNERS. IT HIGHLIGHTS THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHOWS THAT THESE HAVE BEEN THE DIRECT RESULT OF TIMELY DECISIONS TO INVEST IN UP-TO-DATE MACHINERY AND TO DIVERSIFY INTO NEW PRODUCTS.

+THIS IS THE MESSAGE CARRIED BY THE FILM WHICH ENCOURAGES LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF THE THREE ENTREPRENEURS IN THE FILM EACH OF WHOM STARTED IN A MODEST WAY. THEIR SUCCESS SHOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER LOCAL MEDIUM AND SMALL COMPANIES,+ MR YAXLEY ADDED.

THE FILM, AVAILABLE IN CANTONESE AND IN ENGLISH, WILL BE SHOWN TO LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AT SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION.

COPIES OF THE FILM, IN THE FORM OF 16 MM FILM AND VIDEO TAPE, ARE AVAILABLE ON LOAN TO TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. THEY MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

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GOVERNOR RENEWS CALL FOR VIEWS ON EDUCATION REPORT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY RENEWED THE APPEAL FOR PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE REPORT ON THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION.

+THESE VIEWS WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF REACHING DECISIONS ON THE REPORT. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE LOST,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR EDWARD WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE JU CHING CHU ENGLISH COLLEGE IN KWAI CHUNG, TSUEN WAN.

SPEAKING AFTER THE WELCOMING ADDRESS BY MR DEACON CHIU, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG LIVED IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD AND NEEDED THE BEST POSSIBLE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TO TRAIN ITS FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COMPETE IN THAT WORLD.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

MR AND MRS CHIU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS,

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO OPEN THE JU CHING CHU ENGLISH COLLEGE.

THIS FINE NEW SCHOOL STANDS ON A SITE GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT NIL PREMIUM. IT HAS BEEN BUILT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$25 MILLION RAISED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY MR CHIU AND HIS ASSOCIATES. THE NEW PREMISES CONTAIN 40 CLASSROOMS, 15 SPECIALIST ROOMS AND OTHER FACILITIES. THERE IS A FIRST CLASS GYMNASIUM, A LARGE INDOOR SWIMMING POOL AND A FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED ASSEMBLY HALL WHICH WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC.

+EDUCATION IS A MATTER FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY : PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ALIKE, FROM KINDERGARTEN TO THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL. HONG KONG LIVES IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD AND IT NEEDS THE BEST POSSIBLE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TO TRAIN ITS FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COMPETE IN THAT WORLD.

+EARLY LAST MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED THE REPORT ON THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION. THIS WIDE RANGING REPORT EXAMINES ALL ASPECTS AND LEVELS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WAY IN WHICH IT SHOULD DEVELOP. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING THE BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT. DISTRICT BOARDS ARE ALREADY BEING CONSULTED AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU HERE WILL HAVE YOUR OWN VIEWS ON IT.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO RENEW TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL TO EVERYONE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM - TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY - TO LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW THEIR VIEWS ON THE REPORT'S FINDINGS BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST. THESE VIEWS WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF REACHING DECISIONS ON THE REPORT. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE LOST.

+IN CONCLUSION I CONGRATULATE YOU, MR CHIU, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ASSISTED IN THIS PROJECT. I WISH THE COLLEGE, ITS STAFF AND STUDENTS EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE AND I NOW HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN THE JU CHING CHU ENGLISH COLLEGE.+

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY 1983

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR MAY WERE BOTH 140, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, CPI(A) DECREASED BY TWO POINTS OR 1.4 PER CENT AND CPI(B) REMAINED UNCHANGED.

WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1982, BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ROSE BY 11 POINTS OR 8.5 PER CENT. DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED IN MAY THIS YEAR, BOTH THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.7 PER CENT EACH MONTH.

DURING MAY, THE PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED SUPPLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, BUS FARES AND PRICES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ROSE.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979/80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI(B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR MAY 1983 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR APRIL 1983 AND MAY 1982.

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	MAY 82	APR 83	MAY 83	MAY 82	APR 83	MAY 83
FOODSTUFFS	133	146	141	133	146	142
HOUSING	124	135	135	124	134	135
FUEL AND LIGHT	133	140	140	134	141	141
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	124	188	185	123	181	179
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	131	138	141	132	138	143
DURABLE GOODS	109	109	110	111	111	113
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	121	130	131	118	129	130
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	139	149	154	138	152	156
SERVICES	133	147	148	132	145	146
ALL ITEMS	129	142	140	129	140	140

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1983, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY FIVE POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY FOUR POINTS IN CPI(B). THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED SUPPLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUITS INCREASED OWING TO HIGHER PRICES OF WATER MELONS, HONEYDEW MELONS, BANANAS AND GRAPES. THE AVERAGE CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MAINTENANCE FEES AND HIGHER WATER CHARGES AS MORE HOUSEHOLDS WERE AFFECTED BY THE NEW WATER RATES DURING THE MONTH.

LOWER PRICES OF CIGARETTES CAUSED THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) TO FALL BY THREE POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN CPI(B).

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR WENT UP BY THREE POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY FIVE POINTS IN CPI(B) FOLLOWING HIGHER PRICES OF SUMMER OUTER-CLOTHING WHICH CAME ONTO THE MARKET DURING THE MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI(A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES OF TELEVISION SETS, SOUND EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL CONSUMER DURABLES.

THE ONE-POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES OF MEDICINES AND JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY FIVE POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY FOUR POINTS IN CPI(B) OWING TO HIGHER FARES FOR BUS, MTR AND KCR TRIPS.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES WENT UP BY ONE POINT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, PACKAGE TOURS AND FUNERAL SERVICES.

PRICE MOVEMENT IN THE FUEL AND LIGHT SECTION WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES PRESENTED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR MAY 1983.

BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THIS REPORT MAY BE PURCHASED FOR \$3 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

INQUIRY POWER PROPOSED FOR LABOUR CHIEF

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO CONDUCT A FORMAL INQUIRY INTO AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT WHEN HE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY.

THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE BILL ALSO EXEMPTS CONSTRUCTION SITES FROM REGISTRATION AND REMOVES THE REQUIREMENT FOR FACTORY REGISTRATIONS TO BE RENEWED PERIODICALLY.

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT WHERE THE COMMISSIONER CONSIDERS THAT AN ACCIDENT, WHETHER OR NOT INVOLVING PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, CAUSES SUFFICIENT PUBLIC CONCERN, HE MAY ORDER THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR TO MAKE AN INFORMAL INQUIRY.

IF THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR CONSIDERS THAT THE INQUIRY MAY BE FRUSTRATED OR DELAYED FOR ANY REASON, SUCH AS REFUSAL BY ANY PERSON TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, THE COMMISSIONER MAY THEN HOLD A FORMAL INQUIRY, IN WHICH HE WILL HAVE THE POWER TO SUMMON WITNESSES, CALL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BOOKS AND, IF NECESSARY, HOLD PART OF THE INQUIRY IN PRIVATE TO PROTECT TRADE SECRETS.

ANY PERSON ACTING IN CONTEMPT OF THE INQUIRY OR FAILING TO GIVE EVIDENCE OR TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS WILL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE.

UNDER THE BILL, A FORMAL INQUIRY WILL NOT DEROGATE FROM THE POWERS OF CORONERS UNDER THE CORONERS ORDINANCE.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES IN BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED.

IT ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE PENALTY FOR OPERATING A REGISTRABLE WORKPLACE WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE, FOR CONTRAVENING OR FAILING TO FULFIL A CONDITION CONTAINED IN THE CERTIFICATE, OR FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER, BE RAISED FROM \$5 000 TO \$30 000.

IT RAISES THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH AN INSPECTOR'S REQUIREMENT DURING INSPECTION, WILFULLY WITHHOLDING INFORMATION OR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION, OR OBSTRUCTING AN OFFICER IN THE EXERCISE OF ANY OF HIS STATUTORY POWERS FROM \$2 000 TO \$20 000, AND INCREASES THAT FOR IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY A PUBLIC OFFICER FROM \$2 000 TO \$10 000.

+THE LEVELS OF THESE PENALTIES ARE IN LINE WITH THOSE SET IN THE EXISTING SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO EXCLUDE +WORKSHOPS OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF A REGISTRABLE FACTORY+ AND +WORKSHOPS COVERED BY SPECIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS+ FROM THE PRESENT DEFINITION OF +FACTORY+ IN THE ORDINANCE, IF THEY EMPLOY LESS THAN 20 PEOPLE ON MANUAL WORK.

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IN ADDITION, IT PROPOSES TO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF +COMMISSIONER+ AND +INSPECTOR+ IN THE ORDINANCE BY INCLUDING A FEW MORE OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 29. RESUMED DEBATE AND THIRD READING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 13.

PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE BILL MAY BE SUBMITTED TO UMELCO (SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, CENTRAL) OR THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY).

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NEW TRAFFIC PLAN FOR PEAK AREA STARTS SUNDAY

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 26) IN THE PEAK AREA, AFTER COMPLETION OF A STEEL BRIDGE ON THE COLLAPSED PART OF PEAK ROAD NEAR BARKER ROAD.

THE BRIDGE WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC AS SOON AS IT IS FINISHED, BUT AN EXACT TIME CANNOT BE GIVEN, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN BUILT TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE PEAK.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +AS CONGESTION WILL BE EXPECTED AT THE JUNCTION NEAR THE MAGAZINE GAP ROAD ROUNDABOUT, TRAVELLERS ARE ADVISED TO MAKE FULL USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO THE PEAK.+

UNDER THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS, THE AFFECTED SECTION OF PEAK ROAD, BETWEEN BARKER ROAD AND COOMBE ROAD, WILL BE OPENED TO ONE-LANE, TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO BE CONTROLLED BY TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

THE SECTION OF COOMBE ROAD BETWEEN THE CAR PARK 140 METRES WEST OF WAN CHAI GAP AND ITS JUNCTION WITH PEAK ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PEAK ROAD BETWEEN STUBBS ROAD AND MAGAZINE GAP ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT BUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES OVER 2-1/2 TONS UNLADEN.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT PLB 'MAXICABS' TRAVELLING UPHILL ON MAGAZINE GAP ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO PEAK ROAD.

VEHICLES GOING UPHILL TO THE PEAK FROM MAGAZINE GAP ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED THROUGH WAN CHAI GAP VIA PEAK ROAD AND COOMBE ROAD.

/VEHICLES

VEHICLES LEAVING THE PREMISES ON PEAK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN MAGAZINE GAP ROAD AND STUBBS ROAD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL DOWNHILL I.E. EASTBOUND DIRECTION.

ACCESS TO THE UPPER (CUL-DE-SAC) SECTION OF MAGAZINE GAP ROAD WILL ONLY BE FROM COOMBE ROAD.

THERE WILL BE TRAFFIC SIGNS TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

CONCURRENTLY, THE EXISTING RESTRICTION FOR VEHICLES USING COOMBE ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY RESCINDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT OF USING POKFULAM RESERVOIR ROAD AS AN ACCESS ROAD FOR MOTOR VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE PEAK WILL BE CANCELLED.

FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS, CMB ROUTE NO. 15 AND 15B AND FRANCHISED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS ROUTES NO. 1 AND 30 WILL RESUME THEIR NORMAL ROUTINGS AND SERVICES.

THE PEAK TRAM SERVICE WILL ALSO OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL TIMETABLE.

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PLAN FOR HKIEC TO GRANT SHORT-TERM LEASES

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THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY EMPOWERS THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (HKIEC) TO GRANT SHORT TERM LEASES OF LAND WITHIN ITS ESTATES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE HKIEC HAS A LAND BANK WHICH IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET THE EXPECTED DEMAND FOR SITES FROM ELIGIBLE INDUSTRIES FOR THE SHORT TERM FUTURE.

+THERE IS, HOWEVER, EVIDENCE OF DEMAND FOR TEMPORARY SITES FOR OTHER USES, FOR EXAMPLE, STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE OF MACHINERY AND CONTAINERS. THIS BILL SEEKS TO ALLOW HKIEC THE FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE USE OF SPACE CAPACITY TO EARN INCOME, WITHOUT COMPROMISING ITS LONG TERM OBJECTIVES.

+THE PROPOSAL IS MOST UNLIKELY TO DEPRIVE ELIGIBLE INDUSTRIES OF SITES WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES. AS AT APRIL 1983, THE CORPORATION HAD A TOTAL OF 35 HECTARES NOT YET ALLOCATED. A FURTHER 53 HECTARES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 1984 AND A FURTHER FIVE HECTARES IN 1985.+

THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE BILL WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 29, AND THE RESUMED DEBATE, COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING ON JULY 13.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BILL MAY BE SUBMITTED TO UMELCO (SWIRE HOUSE, 12/F, CHATER ROAD, HONG KONG) OR THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY (OCEAN CENTRE, 14/F, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON).

LADY YOUDE OPENS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

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THE +CHEK LAP KOK - A TANG DYNASTY WORK SITE+ EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY LADY YOUDE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

LADY YOUDE, WHO IS THE PATRON OF THE HONG KONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SAID AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THAT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS FROM SHAM WAN TSUEN ON CHEK LAP KOK HAD CONSIDERABLY ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG'S EARLY HISTORY.

+WE NOW KNOW THAT ON THIS SMALL ISLAND OFF THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU THERE WAS A BUSY INDUSTRY DURING THE TANG DYNASTY PRODUCING LIME FROM SEA SHELLS IN VERY WELL DEVELOPED KILNS,+ SHE SAID.

+SIX KILNS HAVE BEEN FOUND SO FAR ON THE CHEK LAP KOK SITE AT SHAM WAN TSUEN AND NEARLY ALL THE MATERIAL ON DISPLAY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

+THE MANY COINS FOUND ON THE SITE PLACE THE MAJORITY ACTIVITY ABOUT 700-800 AD. SUBSEQUENT BURIAL ACTIVITY DATED TO THE END OF THE 11TH CENTURY CONFIRM THAT THE INDUSTRY CEASED IF NOT DURING THE TANG DYNASTY AT LEAST SOON AFTER.+

LADY YOUDE POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HAS OVER THE LAST DECADE CONDUCTED A NUMBER OF EXCAVATIONS AND FIELD STUDIES WHICH HAVE SHED MUCH LIGHT ON THE TERRITORY'S ANCIENT PAST.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM SELECT COMMITTEE, DR PHILIP KWOK, SAID THE EXHIBITION GIVES A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHEK LAP KOK SITE.

+IN FACT THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN KEEN ON SUPPORTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HELP TO UNVEIL THE HISTORICAL PAST OF HONG KONG.

+IT HAS ALSO BEEN THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF PRESERVING THE MANY SURVIVING RELICS AND MONUMENTS THROUGH EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY,+ HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, FEATURES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TANG DYNASTY (618-907 AD) WORK SITES IN HONG KONG.

ABOUT 30 POTTERY ITEMS, SEVERAL IRON OBJECTS AND SOME 100 COINS OF TANG DYNASTY HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR EXHIBITION.

IN ADDITION, A SECTIONAL MODEL OF A LIME KILN UNEARTHED AT SHAM WAN TSUEN AND PICTURES ILLUSTRATING THE DAILY LIFE AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY OF HONG KONG'S EARLY INHABITANTS ARE ALSO PUT ON DISPLAY.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6 PM ON WEEKDAYS (EXCEPT FRIDAYS) AND BETWEEN 1 PM AND 6 PM DURING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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**BILL TO EMPOWER GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND
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A BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE PROPOSES TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES WHERE THIS LAND IS OR MAY BE HELD UNDER A POSSESSORY TITLE BY VIRTUE OF THE LIMITATION ORDINANCE.

THE BILL, KNOWN AS THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) BILL 1983, ENABLES THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS TO MAKE AN ACQUISITION ORDER IN RESPECT OF ANY SUCH LAND WHENEVER THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDES THAT THE LAND IS TO BE ACQUIRED OR RESUMED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE.

IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE SUBMISSIONS OF CLAIMS AND RIGHTS OF COMPENSATION AND EXTENDS THE JURISDICTION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL TO DETERMINE THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE UNDER THE BILL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT UNDER THE LIMITATION ORDINANCE NO ACTION FOR THE RECOVERY OF LAND MIGHT BE BROUGHT BY THE CROWN AFTER THE UNLEASED LAND HAD BEEN OCCUPIED CONTINUOUSLY FOR 60 YEARS.

+THERE WILL BE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE PAYMENT FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE OF COMPENSATION AND OTHER SUMS UNDER THE BILL, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH SUCH PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE LARGE.

THE BILL WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 29. DEBATE WILL RESUME IN THE COUNCIL ON JULY 13 WHEN THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE MOVED THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING.

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN THE BILL MAY BE SENT TO UMELCO (SWIRE HOUSE, 12/F, CHATER ROAD, HONG KONG) OR THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS (MURRAY BUILDING, 2/F, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG).

**MORE TRAINING FACILITIES AT CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
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TRAINING FACILITIES FOR STAFF OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED FOLLOWING THE RECENT COMPLETION OF THE EXTENSION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

THE \$21-MILLION EXTENSION PROJECT, WHICH TOOK 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MARTIN ROWLANDS.

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, PRESENTED A HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH TO THE PRINCIPAL OF THE INSTITUTE, MR PI WING-LEE.

THE PHOTOGRAPH, TAKEN AT THE FIRST FORMAL PASSING-OUT PARADE OF PRISONS STAFF AT STANLEY 32 YEARS AGO, WAS EXTRACTED FROM MR GARNER'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

THE NEW EXTENSION, WHICH COMPRISES FOUR SEPARATE BLOCKS, PROVIDES A MUCH NEEDED BOOST TO TRAINING FACILITIES AT THE INSTITUTE TO COPE WITH THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE MAIN BLOCK IS A SIX-STORY BUILDING INCORPORATING 26 ROOMS FOR SINGLE OFFICERS, BARRACK ROOMS FOR 106 ASSISTANT OFFICERS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, LECTURE ROOMS, STAFF RECREATION ROOMS, A TRAINING COURT, TRAINING CELLS, A LIBRARY, A HOME NURSING TRAINING ROOM AND A TRAINING CONTROL ROOM.

THE SECOND BLOCK IS A FIVE-LANE INDOOR FIRING RANGE, WITH A SPECTATOR STAND ON THE ROOF OVERLOOKING THE PARADE GROUND.

THE OTHER TWO BLOCKS CONSIST OF 14 STAFF MARRIED QUARTERS, A CANTEEN WITH A KITCHEN AND TWO DORMITORIES FOR 40 TRAINEES ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

NEW FACILITIES, SUCH AS THE TRAINING COURT ROOM, CELLS AND THE CONTROL ROOM, ALLOW SIMULATED AND SITUATIONAL TRAINING WHICH IS BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL TRAINING MODELLED ON CLASSROOM LECTURES.

IN THIS WAY, THE TRAINEES WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN A DEEPER INSIGHT INTO CORRECTIONAL SERVICES WORK.

THE INDOOR FIRING RANGE COMPRISES A VENETIAN BLIND BULLET TRAP, FIVE LONGITUDINAL TARGET CONVEYING SYSTEMS WITH A MASTER CONTROL CONSOLE AND FIVE INDIVIDUAL CONTROL UNITS AND A TRANSVERSE MOVING TARGET SYSTEM.

APART FROM PROVIDING A ONE-YEAR ORIENTATION COURSE FOR ALL RECRUIT OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS, THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE OFFERS REGULAR REFRESHER COURSES AND COURSES ON MANPOWER MANAGEMENT, CASE AND GROUP WORK, COUNSELLING AND SECURITY ISSUES.

THE ORIGINAL STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, COMPLETED IN 1968, COMPRISED THREE MAIN BUILDINGS WHICH INCLUDED BASIC FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR 120 ASSISTANT OFFICERS AND 20 OFFICERS.

WITH THE EXTENSION, THERE WILL BE TOTAL ACCOMMODATION FOR 256 ASSISTANT OFFICERS AND 46 OFFICERS AS WELL AS ADVANCED OR SPECIALIST TRAINING FACILITIES FOR 75 NON-RESIDENTIAL STAFF.

EARLIER IN THE MORNING, MR ROWLANDS VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S TUNG TAU CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, STANLEY, AND MET STAFF MEMBERS AT WORK.

AFTER TOURING THE INSTITUTION, HE HELD GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR WORK, WORKING CONDITIONS AND STAFF WELFARE.

UMELCO MEMBERS TO VISIT WONG TAI SIN

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A GROUP OF UMELCO MEMBERS WILL VISIT WONG TAI SIN ON MONDAY (JUNE 27) TO LOOK INTO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE DISTRICT AND PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

THE PARTY, LED BY DR HENRY HU, AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHOK WILL FIRST VISIT A FAMILY WHO HAVE JUST MOVED INTO A NEW HIGH-RISE BLOCK IN LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

THEY WILL THEN TOUR THE GOOD HOPE VILLAGE AND STOP BY AT A MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OFFICE. SUPPLIES OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER TO THIS SQUATTER AREA WERE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE MAC.

THEY WILL ALSO MEET BOARD MEMBERS AND HOLD DISCUSSION ON LOCAL ISSUES AT THE CHOI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

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IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SQUATTERS

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ABOUT 30 000 RESIDENTS IN NGAU TSUEN -- COVERING TAI HOM VILLAGE, YUEN LING AND DIAMOND HILL -- HAD AN EXTRA RECREATIONAL VENUE WITH THE OPENING OF A BASKETBALL COURT AND A SITTING-OUT AREA TODAY.

BUILT AT A COST OF \$60 500 FUNDED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES HAVE BEEN BUILT ON THE FORMER PING YEUNG SUN TSUEN SQUATTER WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY A FIRE IN FEBRUARY 1981 AND LEFT VACANT THEREAFTER.

THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE, CONSTRUCTION OF THE BASKETBALL COURT AND SITTING-OUT AREA BEGAN IN MID-MARCH THIS YEAR AND COMPLETED EARLY THIS MONTH.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TODAY, THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER/KOWLOON OF THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, MR M.K. PAU, SAID THE PROJECT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IN PROVIDING BETTER RECREATIONAL VENUE AND IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN SQUATTER AREAS.

+ I BELIEVE DEVELOPMENTS IN WONG TAI SIN, PARTICULARLY IMPROVEMENTS IN SQUATTER AREAS, CAN BE CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY IN FUTURE THROUGH THE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RESIDENTS, + HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHOK, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NGAU TSUEN AREA COMMITTEE, MR LIU KOON-SING.

NEW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR ISLANDERS

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A NEW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE (CABO) WILL BE OPEN FROM MONDAY (JUNE 27) FOR THE CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS.

SERVICES AVAILABLE WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION PAMPHLETS, ADMINISTRATION OF STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, ADVICE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, ANSWERING PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS.

THE 45-SQUARE-METRE OFFICE, TO BE STAFFED BY A LIAISON OFFICER AND THREE CLERICAL STAFF, IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF 22 SAN HING STREET ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THE OFFICE HOURS WILL BE FROM 8.45 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-9811060.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THIS OFFICE, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL BE SERVED BY THREE DISTRICT OFFICES -- THE MAIN OFFICE IN SINCERE BUILDING, THE MUI WO CABO AND THE NEW CHEUNG CHAU CABO.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 3 PM ON MONDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

A MARINE LAUNCH WILL LEAVE THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PIER, NEXT TO THE OUTLYING ISLAND FERRY PIER ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, FOR CHEUNG CHAU AT 1 PM SHARP.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS INSTITUTIONS

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THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED STANLEY PRISON AND TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION TO LOOK OVER THE DIFFERENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES AT THE TWO INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER.

EARLIER TODAY, MR THOMAS ALSO ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXTENSION BLOCKS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY, AND SAW CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS UNDERGOING TRAINING.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

NEW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR ISLANDERS

APPEALS BRANCH OFFICE (CASH) WILL BE OPEN FOR THE CHINESE CHAU RESIDENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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**NEW COMMANDER FOR HONG KONG REGIMENT
* * * ***

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WILL HAVE A NEW COMMANDER NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 27) WHEN ITS PRESENT COMMANDING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE BARNEBY LEAVES HONG KONG TO TAKE UP AN APPOINTMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN LONDON.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEBY WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY 40-YEAR-OLD LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIMOTHY CHARLES VILLIERS, WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN HONG KONG.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL VILLIERS WAS EDUCATED AT ETON AND RMA SANDHURST, AND WAS COMMISSIONED INTO 15TH/19TH THE KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS IN 1963. HE SPENT FIVE YEARS WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN GERMANY AND TWO YEARS IN HONG KONG AS A STAFF OFFICER IN THE HQ 48 GURKHA INFANTRY BRIGADE. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE MET HIS WIFE, MAUREEN.

AFTER FURTHER SERVICE IN GERMANY WITH 15TH/19TH HUSSARS, AND A SPELL WITH THE TERRITORIAL ARMY IN THE NORTHEAST OF ENGLAND, HE WAS SELECTED FOR TRAINING IN THE STAFF COLLEGE AT CAMBERLEY.

THEREAFTER HE COMMANDED A SQUADRON OF 15TH/19TH HUSSARS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IN CYPRUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. HE SERVED AS SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF 15TH/19TH HUSSARS IN GERMANY AND IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN LONDON BEFORE COMING TO HONG KONG.

HE IS MARRIED, AND HAS THREE CHILDREN - AGED 10, SEVEN AND THREE.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS INSTITUTIONS /17

THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED STANLEY PRISON AND TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION TO LOOK OVER THE DIFFERENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES AT THE TWO INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER.

EARLIER TODAY, MR THOMAS ALSO ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXTENSION BLOCKS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY, AND SAW CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS UNDERGOING TRAINING.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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PRE-WAR BUILDING FOUND IN DANGEROUS CONDITION
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED A BUILDING AT 143 WING LOK STREET TO BE IN DANGEROUS CONDITION.

AT THE SAME TIME, TWO OTHER BUILDINGS, AT NOS 139 AND 141 OF THE SAME STREET, WERE DECLARED LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE THREE-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS AND ROOFS HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE MARCH 1976.

A RECENT INSPECTION OF NO. 143 SHOWED THAT THE BRICKWORK WAS SEVERELY ERODED AND CRUMBLING.

AN EXTENSIVE VERTICAL STRUCTURAL CRACK WAS FOUND IN THE LOAD-BEARING WALL COMMON WITH NO. 137 WING LOK STREET WHICH IS A VACANT SITE.

SIMILAR CRACK HAD ALSO DEVELOPED IN THE LOAD-BEARING WALL COMMON WITH NO. 141 WING LOK STREET.

+THE BUILDINGS AT NOS. 139 AND 141 WING LOK STREET WERE VERY DILAPIDATED AND WOULD NOT SAFELY WITHSTAND THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 143. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THESE BUILDING,+ THE SURVEYOR SAID.

ACCORDINGLY, NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON JULY 22 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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170 FIRE OFFICERS GET LONG SERVICE MEDALS

A TOTAL OF 170 OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE TODAY PRESENTED WITH MEDALS AND CLASPS FOR LONG SERVICE.

THE PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE AT VARIOUS FIRE COMMANDS, INCLUDING THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AND THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU, BY CHIEF AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS.

AT FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH POINT, THE ACTING CHIEF FIRE OFFICER LAM CHEK-YUEN PRESENTED COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND FIRST AND SECOND CLASPS TO A SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER, ONE ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER, TWO SENIOR STATION OFFICERS, SEVEN PRINCIPAL FIREMEN, SIX SENIOR FIREMEN AND 38 FIREMEN.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER BRIAN FENDER, PRESENTED MEDALS AND CLASPS TO TWO SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICERS, ONE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, 12 PRINCIPAL FIREMEN, SEVEN SENIOR FIREMEN AND 22 FIREMEN.

IN KOWLOON, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER M. KINGDOM, WHO HAD EARLIER RECEIVED THE SECOND CLASPS TO HIS MEDAL FOR 30 YEARS' SERVICE, PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO ONE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, ONE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, ONE ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER AND 44 OTHER RANKS.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES COMMAND, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER CHEUNG SHU-SHING, PRESENTED MEDALS AND CLASPS TO ONE SENIOR STATION OFFICER, FIVE PRINCIPAL FIREMEN, THREE SENIOR FIREMEN AND 23 FIREMEN.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER LAM LOK-BUN OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO ONE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER, ONE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, ONE ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER AND EIGHT OTHER RANKS.

AT THE AMBULANCE COMMAND, CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER HARRY KENYON PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS TO THREE PRINCIPAL AMBULANCEMEN, ONE SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN AND THREE AMBULANCEMEN.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR 'RESITE' HOUSES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME ABOUT 9 540 SQUARE METRES OF PRIVATE LAND NEAR KAM SHAN IN TAI PO TO PROVIDE A VILLAGE RESITE AREA TO REHOUSE PEOPLE CLEARED FROM VARIOUS PLACES AND TO ENABLE DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE NEW TOWN.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WHEN FORMED THE AREA WOULD PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 62 RESITE HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES FOR THOSE ENTITLED TO VILLAGE REMOVAL TERMS.

+IT IS EXPECTED THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE AFTER SITE FORMATION WORKS BEGIN IN NOVEMBER, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE RESUMPTION WOULD INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF 45 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES USED FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES BY 53 FAMILIES OR ABOUT 230 PEOPLE.

+SOME 37 FAMILIES ARE LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WHILE THE OTHER 16 FAMILIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+EX-GRATIA DOMESTIC REMOVAL ALLOWANCES WOULD BE PAID TO EACH OF THESE FAMILIES.+

IN ADDITION, 53 OTHER TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, INCLUDING FOUR SHOPS AND 12 WORKSHOPS WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED.

+IF FOUND ELIGIBLE, THE OWNERS OF THESE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WILL BE OFFERED AN EX-GRATIA CASH ALLOWANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT POLICY,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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/ 20

GIRL REPRESENTS HONG KONG IN U.S. MUSIC CAMP
* * * *

AN 18-YEAR-OLD STUDENT OF THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, MISS YAN YU-QING, LEFT TODAY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN THE 1983 NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP TO BE HELD IN INTERLOCHEN, MICHIGAN, FROM JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 22.

MISS YAN, WHO WAS SELECTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT THROUGH OPEN AUDITION, WILL JOIN THE WORLD YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE CAMP WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY IN SUMMER.

THE AIM OF THIS NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP IS TO PROMOTE WORLD FRIENDSHIP THROUGH MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF ARTS. HIGHLY QUALIFIED YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL RECEIVE EIGHT WEEKS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING IN SYMPHONIC MUSIC PERFORMANCE.

MISS YAN WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY MR CLIVE OXLEY, MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE ASSISTANT MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (PROFESSIONAL), MR THOMAS WANG.

MISS YAN, AT PRESENT A VIOLINIST WITH THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (A), WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG BY THE END OF AUGUST.

HER TRIP WAS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP OF HER AIR FARE BY THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND.

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CROWN LAND SOLD
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A PIECE OF CROWN LAND WAS SOLD AT AN AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SITE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN PURPOSES. IT HAS AN AREA OF 3 834 SQUARE METRES.

IT WAS SOLD TO METRIC LAND INVESTMENT LTD FOR \$8 MILLION OR \$2 086.59 PER SQUARE METRE.

TWO OTHER LOTS, ONE IN SHA TIN AND ONE IN YUEN LONG WERE WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIDDERS.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

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SHA TIN MAXICABS TO RUN UNTIL 3 AM
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SERVICES ON MAXICAB ROUTE 61M BETWEEN KOWLOON TONG RAILWAY STATION AND LEK YUEN IN SHA TIN ARE TO BE EXTENDED UNTIL 3 AM.

AT PRESENT, THE SERVICE CLOSURES AT 11.30 PM, BUT IT WILL START TO BE EXTENDED FROM SATURDAY NIGHT TO 3 AM ON SUNDAY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXTENSION IS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF COMMUTERS TRAVELLING OUTSIDE THE OPERATION HOURS OF KMB AND KCR.

+RESPONSE TO THE EXTENSION WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND FURTHER EXTENSION TO PROVIDE ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE NEED ARISES,+ HE SAID.

THE ROUTE OPERATES VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, SHA KOK STREET, SHA TIN WAI ROAD AND SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE AT A FREQUENCY OF 15 MINUTES.

THE FARE IS \$2.5.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN CAUSEWAY BAY
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS - FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (JUNE 27) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY - FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY YEE WO STREET, GREAT GEORGE STREET, PATERSON STREET, KINGSTON STREET AND GLOUCESTER ROAD INCLUDING VICTORIA PARK AND 9-11 KINGSTON STREET.

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