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FIRST LAND AUCTION NETS $109.55 M

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FIVE LOTS OF LAND WERE SOLD FOR $109.55 MILLION AT THE FIRST PUBLIC LAND AUCTION OF THE YEAR HELD AT A CENTRAL HOTEL TODAY (MONDAY).

THE FIRST SITE, WITH AN UPSET PRICE OF $30 MILLION, IS AT 547-555 NATHAN ROAD. IT WAS BOUGHT BY STARJET PROGRESS (HK) LIMITED AT $45 MILLION.

THE 690-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL EXCLUDING GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN 3 900 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA ON THE SITE BEFORE MARCH 31, 1989. THE BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTION IS 91.44 METRES.

THE DEVELOPER IS ALSO REQUIRED TO DEMOLISH THE EXISTING STRUCTURE ON THE SITE AT HIS OWN EXPENSE WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

THE SECOND SITE, AT THE JUNCTION OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD AND CHENGTU ROAD, WAS SOLD FOR $27 MILLION. IT WAS BOUGHT BY LAI SUN GARMENT CO. LTD.

IT IS A NON-INDUSTRIAL EXCLUDING GODOWN SITE WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 537 SQUARE METRES.

THE UPSET PRICE FOR IT WAS $15 MILLION.

THE THIRD LOT, ON WHICH THERE IS A BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTION OF 45.72 METRES, IS AT YEE KUK STREET, KOWLOON.

IT WAS SOLD TO PAO HONG CO. LTD. FOR $30 MILLION.

THE LOWEST THREE LEVELS OF THE DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING ANY BASEMENT LEVEL OR LEVELS) ARE FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL EXCLUDING HOTEL AND GODOWN USES, AND THE REMAINING UPPER LEVELS ARE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

UNDER THE SALES CONDITIONS, THE PURCHASER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN 5 200 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA ON THE 1 278-SQUARE-METRE SITE BEFORE MARCH 31, 1988.

A LOT FOR INDUSTRIAL AND-OR GODOWN PURPOSES AT SHA TIN WAS SOLD FOR $6 MILLION TO LOTFUL COMPANY LIMITED.

THE PURCHASER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN 8 051 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA ON THE 3 834-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN SIU LEK YUEN ROAD BEFORE MARCH 31, 1989.

THE LAST SITE, WHICH IS ALSO AT SHA TIN, WAS BOUGHT BY CHENG KUNG SZE AND COMPANY LIMITED AT $1.55 MILLION.

THE 1 875 SQUARE METRE SITE AT SUI WO ROAD IS TO BE USED FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE SALE, THE AUCTIONEER, GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROBERT POPE, SAID THE RESULTS WERE VERY GOOD AND PROVED THAT THERE WAS TREMENDOUS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

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CHANGES IN ACCIDENT DAMAGES LAW PROPOSED

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A PROPOSAL FOR WIDENING THE CATEGORY OF DEPENDANTS ENTITLED TO CLAIM DAMAGES IN ACCIDENT CASES, IS AMONG THE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE CONTAINED IN THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S +REPORT ON DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH+, RELEASED TODAY.

THE REPORT ALSO PROPOSES PROVIDING A NEW +FIXED SUM+ AWARD OF DAMAGES AS COMPENSATION TO THE BEREAVED SPOUSE, CHILD OR PARENT FOR GRIEF CAUSED BY THE VICTIM'S DEATH.

IN PRESENTING THE REPORT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, MR ROBERT ALLCOCK, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND COMMISSION MEMBER WHO CHAIRED THE SUB-COMMITTEE EXAMINING THE SUBJECT, SAID THE PROPOSED REFORMS WERE +AN EXERCISE IN GOOD LEGAL HOUSEKEEPING, BUT NONETHELESS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ACCIDENT VICTIMS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS+.

IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID, THE COURTS IN HONG KONG HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE WAYS IN WHICH THE PRESENT LAW COULD WORK UNJUSTLY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES AND CLAIMS ARISING FROM FATAL ACCIDENTS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD FOR EXAMPLE ALLOW AN ACCIDENT VICTIM TO BE AWARDED PROVISIONAL DAMAGES WHERE THE EXTENT OF HIS DISABILITY COULD NOT BE ACCURATELY ASSESSED AT THE TIME OF TRIAL BECAUSE THE INJURY HAD NOT THEN FINALLY SETTLED DOWN. HE COULD LATER RETURN TO COURT FOR A FINAL ASSESSMENT OF HIS DISABILITY TO BE MADE. UNDER THE PRESENT LAW ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL AWARDS AT THE TIME OF TRIAL SOMETIMES LATER TURNED OUT TO BE EITHER INADEQUATE OR EXCESSIVE.

MR ALLCOCK POINTED OUT THAT , WHILE THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY RECENT CHANGES IN THE LAW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THEY DEPARTED FROM THEM IN A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT RESPECTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN RECOGNISING THE GODPARENT AND GODCHILD RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO CHINESE CUSTOM FOR THE PURPOSE OF A CLAIM OF DEPENDANCY IN A FATAL ACCIDENT CASE.

THE REPORT WOULD BE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CONSIDERATION, HE SAID.

SINCE THE COMMISSION HAD CONSULTED WIDELY IN PREPARING THE REPORT, MR ALLCOCK ANTICIPATED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS COULD PROCEED QUICKLY.

MR ALLCOCK EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE WORK DONE BY MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDED MRS PAULINE CHEUNG, DR HENRIETTA IP, MR STEPHEN C.K. LAW, MS ROBYN MARTIN, MR WONG HAY-CHIH, MR JUSTICE BARKER, MR CHARLES CHING, MR SIMON IP, MS ANGELI TSUI, JUDGE MCCLELLAND AND MR A WATSON-BROWN.

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DEAK-PERERA FE LTD WINDING UP ORDERED
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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, CONFIRMED THAT AN ORDER FOR THE WINDING UP OF DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LTD WAS MADE BY THE HIGH COURT TODAY ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PETITION AND THAT AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO CARRY ON AS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF THE COMPANY.

MR B.P. CLANCY, DEPUTY CROWN SOLICITOR, APPEARED FOR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND MR A.R. HEARDER, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR GENERAL, REPRESENTED THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER. THERE WAS NO APPEARANCE FOR THE COMPANY AND THE PETITION WAS UNOPPOSED.

IN VIEW OF THE DOUBTFUL STATUS OF MANY OF THE CLAIMANTS IN THE LIQUIDATION, AND ALSO SINCE MANY OF THOSE WHOSE STATUS IS NOT IN QUESTION, MAINLY HOLDERS OF DISHONOURED CHEQUES, ARE OVERSEAS, IT WAS PROPOSED TO SEEK A REGULATORY ORDER FROM THE COURT TO DISPENSE WITH THE STATUTORY FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS AND APPOINT THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AS LIQUIDATOR.

THE TOTAL LIABILITIES OF THE COMPANY ARE ESTIMATED AT PRESENT TO BE IN THE REGION OF US$25M.

ON THE ASSET SIDE US$1.5M HAD ALREADY BEEN REALISED. THIS WAS MAINLY MONEY ON DEPOSIT WITH BANKS IN HONG KONG, THE PROCEEDS OF SALE OF STOCKS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY HERE AND THE SALE OF COMPASS TRAVEL. THERE WAS A GOOD PROSPECT ALSO OF RECOVERING APPROXIMATELY US$4M FROM AN OVERSEAS BANK IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MR GLEESON SAID THAT DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST ALSO HAS A SUBSTANTIAL CLAIM AGAINST ITS NEW YORK HOLDING COMPANY, DEAK AND CO. INC., FOR WHICH A SECURITY OVER SHARES IN FOREIGN COMMERCE BANK (FOCO BANK) IN SWITZERLAND IS HELD. INVESTIGATIONS ARE ALSO PROCEEDING INTO THE TRANSFER IN EARLY DECEMBER 1984 OF MONIES OF THE COMPANY, PRESENTLY ESTIMATED AT APPROX. US$2M, OUT OF ONE OF THE COMPANY'S OVERSEAS ACCOUNTS. THERE WERE ALSO OTHER ASSETS OF THE COMPANY IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH ARE AT PRESENT FROZEN BY THE COURTS THERE. IN ADDITION A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED FOR THE SALE OF THE COMPANY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG FOR HK$3M.

MR GLEESON SAID THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE HAS IDENTIFIED A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, PALLADIUM AND IRRIDIUM IN HONG KONG, BRITAIN, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS WAS NOW BEING HELD BY VARIOUS BANKS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER. PRESENT INDICATIONS WERE THAT THIS WOULD APPROXIMATELY MATCH THE PRECIOUS METALS CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST TO THOSE WHO HAD PAID IN FULL, BUT STORAGE AND OTHER CHARGES WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

/ONE COMPLEX .....

ONE COMPLEX LEGAL QUESTION THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED WAS THE STATUS OF THE PRECIOUS METALS CERTIFICATES AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS. IF THE QUANTITY OF PRECIOUS METALS WAS SUFFICIENT TO MATCH THE QUANTITY IN THE CERTIFICATES OF THOSE WHO HAD PAID IN FULL, AND IF IT WAS DECIDED THAT THESE PRECIOUS METALS BELONG TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS, THE LATTER WOULD ONLY HAVE TO PROVE IN THE WINDING-UP FOR ANY SHORTFALL THAT MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO STORAGE AND OTHER CHARGES. IF IT IS DECIDED THAT THE PRECIOUS METALS DO NOT BELONG TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS THE PRECIOUS METALS WOULD BE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS WOULD THEN HAVE TO PROVE IN THE WINDING-UP AS ORDINARY UNSECURED CREDITORS AND ACCEPT WHATEVER DIVIDEND IT WAS POSSIBLE EVENTUALLY TO DECLARE. THE POSITION OF CLIENTS OF THE COMPANY WHO HAD OPERATED PRECIOUS METALS ACCOUNTS ON MARGIN WAS EVEN MORE COMPLEX.

MR GLEESON WAS NOT PREPARED TO EXPRESS ANY VIEW ON EITHER THE FULLY PAID CERTIFICATES OR THE MARGIN CERTIFICATES AND SAID THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS AND THE PRECIOUS METALS WOULD REQUIRE A RULING OF THE COURT. THIS WOULD BE OBTAINED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLY POSSIBLE. IN THE MEANTIME CERTIFICATE HOLDERS SHOULD FILE PARTICULARS OF THEIR CERTIFICATES WITH THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE SO THAT THE AMOUNT OF THEIR CERTIFICATE AND THEIR PERSONAL DETAILS COULD BE CHECKED AGAINST COMPANY RECORDS.

ANOTHER QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED WAS THE STATUS OF THE DEPOSITORS WHOSE RECEIPTS WERE ISSUED IN THE NAME OF DEAK AND CO. (MACAU) LTD. MR GLEESON SAID THAT BOTH THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS AND THE DEPOSITORS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO SEEK INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE AND TAKE WHATEVER ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS WITHOUT DELAY.

CERTAIN OF THE DEAK COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES HAD COMMENCED PROCEEDINGS IN NEW YORK UNDER CHAPTER 11 OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY CODE. NEW YORK ATTORNEYS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED AND TWO LAWYERS OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE WERE IN NEW YORK AT PRESENT TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST ARE PROTECTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

A FURTHER STATEMENT REGARDING THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY WOULD BE MADE AT A LATER DATE WHEN THE POSITION REGARDING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES HAD BECOME CLEARER AND VARIOUS LEGAL QUESTIONS HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

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HK - A PLACE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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HONG KONG REMAINED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A PLACE OF TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS INITIATIVES BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE POSITION IN THE REGION AND ITS PROXIMITY TO CHINA, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PAUL WONG SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE ON +BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG+, MR WONG SAID THAT HONG KONG OFFERED A STABLE GOVERNMENT AND CONSISTENT ECONOMIC POLICIES; AND A CENTRAL GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION IN RELATION TO CHINA AND EAST ASIA.

THIS TOGETHER WITH THE ENDOWMENT OF THE EXCELLENT AVIATION AND PORT FACILITIES PROVIDED IT WITH A UNIQUE ADVANTAGE TO BE AN IMPORTANT TRADING POST, MR WONG SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL THE INITIALLING AND PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1984, HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION.

+THE AGREEMENT HAS NOW REMOVED THESE UNCERTAINTIES AND WE HAVE NOW A LONG-TERM POLITICAL CLIMATE FAVOURABLE TO THE MAKING OF INVESTMENT DECISION,+ HE SAID.

+THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO DECIDE ON ITS OWN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TRADE POLICIES, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND TRADE AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

+IN SHORT, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES ADEQUATELY FOR A CONTINUATION OF LIFE IN HONG KONG AS WE KNOW IT, AND OF ALL THOSE FACTORS WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG A SUCCESS,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG ENVISAGED THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEED TO CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARDS HIGHER TECHNOLOGY BASED, SKILL-INTENSIVE AND HIGH VALUE-ADDED INDUSTRIES IN FUTURE AND WOULD REQUIRE THE ASSISTANCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT FOR THIS.

ALTHOUGH OVERSEAS PRESENCE IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY WAS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL, THERE WAS ROOM FOR A LOT MORE, MR WONG SAID.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF BOTH OVERSEAS AND LOCAL INVESTORS, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD ESTABLISHED THE +ONE-STOP+ UNIT STAFFED BY SPECIALIST OFFICERS WITH AN INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND.

THE ONE-STOP UNIT ASSISTED INVESTORS BY PROVIDING QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG FOR THEIR FEASIBILITY STUDIES; THE INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL INVESTORS TO THOSE FROM OVERSEAS WHO WANT TO ESTABLISH MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS HERE IN JOINT VENTURES, SUB-CONTRACTING OR LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS; GUIDING AND FACILITATING INVESTORS DEALINGS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MAKING INTRODUCTION TO BANKERS, LANDLORDS, BUILDING CONTRACTORS, MATERIAL SUPPLIERS.

/THE ONE-STOP .....

THE ONE-STOP UNIT, TOGETHER WITH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S FOUR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES IN TOKYO, LONDON, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO, WOULD FACILITATE THE POTENTIAL INVESTORS IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION.

ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA WHICH HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR WONG BELIEVED THAT THE PROSPECT OF A SUSTAINED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR HONG KONG WAS BRIGHT AND ENHANCED BY THE OPENING UP OF CHINA.

+WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA, AND AS A RESULT OF OUR ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE WE ARE PERFECTLY PLACED TO OFFER A UNIQUE SERVICE TO THOSE FROM ELSEWHERE WHO ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH CONTRACTS WITH CHINA FOR THE FIRST TIME,+ MR WONG SAID.

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PRICE, VOLUME CHANGES IN NOVEMBER EXTERNAL TRADE

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY FOUR PER CENT AND 27 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983, SO THAT TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY EIGHT PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN NOVEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY NINE PER CENT.

PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) ROSE BY SIX PER CENT.

COMPARING THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1984 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 19 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS, WHILE IMPORTS GREW BY 15 PER CENT. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE BY 13 PER CENT, 14 PER CENT AND 12 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1984 WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1983, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT AND 29 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, GIVING A 22 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 15 PER CENT. PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 14 PER CENT, 15 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/PRICES ARE .....

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

(THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.)

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF MOST OF THE COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983, RANGING FROM ONE PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD TO 26 PER CENT FOR TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN EXPORT PRICES WERE REGISTERED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-18 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-8 PER CENT) AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-3 PER CENT).

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+198 PER CENT), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+40 PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+16 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (+13 PER CENT) AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+10 PER CENT). HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-31 PER CENT), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-30 PER CENT), TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-15 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FABRICS (-10 PER CENT).

(THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.)

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF MOST OF THE END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED SLIGHTLY AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983 PRICES, RANGING FROM ONE PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS TO SIX PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES. HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR FUELS (-7 PER CENT) AND FOODSTUFFS (-1 PER CENT).

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; FRUIT; SWINE; CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; AS WELL AS VEGETABLES. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TEA AND COFFEE, LIVE POULTRY, RICE AS WELL AS MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MAJOR CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS, PASSENGER MOTOR CARS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING AS WELL AS HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

/THE IMPORT .....

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST OF THE RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE, AMONG WHICH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS, WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS; RAW COTTON; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC., EXCEPT GLASS; AS WELL AS MAN-MADE FIBRES. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS, CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS, YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES, COTTON YARN AND THREAD, SILK FABRICS AND MAN-MADE FIBRES DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS ROSE BY SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALL THE COMMODITIES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, THE MORE REMARKABLE ONES BEING OFFICE MACHINES, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY.

(THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.)

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST OF THE END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY; RANGING FROM 18 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 59 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. HOWEVER, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS AND FUELS DROPPED BY 20 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER 1984 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, AVAILABLE SOON AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$2 PER COPY.

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1984 WITH NOVEMBER 1983 OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING	+ 12%	+ 17%	- 4%
TEXTILE FABRICS	- 1%	+ 10%	- 10%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	- 30%	+ 1%	- 31%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	INSIGNIFICANT	+ 18%	- 15%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	+ 14%	+ 3%	+ 10%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+ 35%	- 3%	+ 40%
FOOTWEAR	+ 17%	+ 4%	+ 13%

/METAL MANUFACTURES .....

METAL MANUFACTURES	- 1%	+ 10%	- 9%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+144%	- 18%	+198%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	- 4%	- 8%	+ 4%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	- 11%	+ 26%	- 30%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+ 17%	+ 1%	+ 16%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 13%	+ 8%	+ 4%

TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1984 WITH NOVEMBER 1983 OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	- 12%	- 1%	- 11%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 21%	+ 4%	+ 16%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 14%	+ 6%	+ 7%
FUELS	INSIGNIFICANT	- 7%	+ 7%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 46%	+ 1%	+ 44%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 16%	+ 3%	+ 12%

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING NOVEMBER 1984 WITH NOVEMBER 1983 OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	- 17%	+ 4%	- 20%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 30%	+ 10%	+ 18%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 45%	+ 9%	+ 33%
FUELS	- 11%	+ 3%	- 13%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 80%	+ 13%	+ 59%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 39%	+ 10%	+ 27%

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WORLD'S PRESS BOOST SEEN FOR HK TOURISM

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HONG KONG WAS NOT A DESTINATION WHICH THE GLOBE TROTTER COULD CROSS OFF HIS LIST, SAYING +I'VE DONE THAT+.

+HE MAY HAVE DONE IT ONCE, BUT ONCE IS NEVER ENOUGH WHERE HONG KONG IS CONCERNED,+ THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY.

HONG KONG'S CONSTANT CHANGE AND ITS ENTRENCHED POSITION AS THE POINT OF ACCESS TO CHINA, THE SINGLE MOST FASCINATING DESTINATION ON THE GLOBAL MAP, HAD SPECIAL APPEAL TO REPEAT VISITORS.

THE TOURIST TRADE WAS ALSO LIKELY TO INCREASE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE RECENT PROMINENCE THAT HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED IN THE WORLD'S PRESS, HE SAID.

IN HIS WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE 4TH INCENTIVE TRAVEL WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION THIS MORNING, MR TSAO SAID MANY TOURISTS WHO LAST CALLED HERE A DECADE OR MORE AGO HAD BEEN ASTONISHED BY THE CHANGES IN HONG KONG.

+THE IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION CREATED BY THE EXTENSIVE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF MORE SUBTLE DISCOVERIES, SUCH AS THE SOPHISTICATION OF DRESS STYLE AND THE GREATER SELF-ASSURANCE AND SELF-ASSERTION WITH WHICH PEOPLE CONDUCT THEMSELVES.

+THESE CHANGES IN TURN HAVE SUBTLY ALTERED THE WAY IN WHICH THE TYPICAL HONG KONG RESIDENT RELATES TO THE VISITOR, AND HAVE CHANGED ALSO THE NATURE OF THE SERVICES THAT CATER TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY.

+LONG GONE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE THE DAYS OF THE 24-HOUR SUIT. THE OLD BARGAIN DISCOUNT STORES ARE GIVING WAY TO BOUTIQUES AND TO SHOPS SPECIALISING IN HIGH QUALITY MERCHANDISE BEARING THE WORLD'S MOST EXCLUSIVE LABELS. AND THEIR TARGET CLIENTELE IS NO LONGER THE TOURIST BUT THE INCREASINGLY AFFLUENT HONG KONG RESIDENT,+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S DRAMATIC CHANGE HAD NOT BEEN ONLY IN TERMS OF VISIBLE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, HE SAID.

+THE SHEER PACE AT WHICH WE LIVE HERE CAN LEAD THE UNWITTING TOURIST TO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE. WE HARDLY SEEM TO SPARE THE TIME OF DAY TO EXTEND TO EACH OTHER THE COURTESY OF A PASSING GREETING. WE APPEAR TO COMMUNICATE IN SOME FORM OF ABBREVIATED CODE, AS THOUGH WE HAD SUBSTITUTED FOR LANGUAGE A KIND OF VERBAL SHORTHAND,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT +HONG KONG PEOPLE DO NOT TURN ON AN INSTANT SMILE OF WELCOME+.

/+WHEN WE .....

+WHEN WE SMILE WE MEAN IT,+ HE SAID.

+AS WITH CERTAIN OTHER COASTAL DWELLERS EXPOSED TO STRONG TIDAL FORCES, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A TOUGH PROTECTIVE SHELL. WE ARE HARD AND COLD ON THE OUTSIDE BECAUSE WE ARE SOFT AND WARM ON THE INSIDE. NO MARKS FOR GUESSING THE RIDDLE CORRECTLY, BUT THE POINT I AM TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT FIRST APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEPTIVE.+

MR TSAO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY CONSTANT IN HONG KONG WAS CHANGE ITSELF, +A PROCESS IN WHICH ALL OF US WHO LIVE HERE ARE CEASELESSLY ENGAGED IN ORDER TO REFINE AND IMPROVE WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE.+

+HOWEVER, AS THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION JUNK REMINDS US, WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OUR PAST. WITNESS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TREMENDOUS ACTIVITY THAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE LOCAL CULTURAL FIELD.

+EVEN THOUGH IT MAY PROMPT A DESIRE TO TINKER AND TO ALTER HERE AND THERE, TO PRESENT OLD STYLES IN NEW FORMS, WE DO HONOUR AND RESPECT OUR CULTURAL TRADITIONS. AND THIS DESIRE TO EVOLVE IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR SEARCH FOR PERFECTION IN OTHER FIELDS,+ HE SAID.

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TRIAL PLAN TO REDUCE ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS TO LAUNCH TWO TRIAL PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE TRAFFIC SIGNS.

THE TRIALS WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SIGNS ON HONG KONG'S ROADS BY AVOIDING UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION, THE RELOCATION OF SOME SIGNS AND THE INCREASED USE OF ROAD MARKINGS.

THE PROGRAMMES ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND EAST TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE CAUSEWAY BAY TRIAL AREA IS BOUNDED BY HENNESSY ROAD, YEE WO STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD AND PERCIVAL STREET.

THE EAST TSIM SHA TSUI TRIAL AREA IS BOUNDED BY SALISBURY ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD, HONG CHONG ROAD, HONG TAT PATH AND CHEUNG WAN ROAD.

A CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT MR PANG HO CHE EXPLAINED THAT THE CAUSEWAY BAY AREA WAS CHOSEN FOR THE TRIAL BECAUSE IT WAS A TYPICAL COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE WITH A GREAT VARIETY OF PROHIBITORY, MANDATORY AND WARNING SIGNS.

/THE EAST .....

THE EAST TSIM SHA TSUI AREA, WITH RELATIVELY FEW ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS, WAS A TRANSPORT ENTITY IDEAL FOR THE EXPERIMENT ON SIGNS, MR PANG SAID.

THE TRIALS WILL ALSO BRING SIGNS IN THE TRIAL AREAS IN LINE WITH THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE. SIGNS WHICH ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY UNDER THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, SUCH AS THE +NO WAITING+ AND THE ADVISORY +BOX JUNCTION+ SIGN PLATES WILL BE REMOVED.

THE ADVISORY +BOX JUNCTION+ SIGN PLATES ARE UNNECESSARY AS MOTORISTS ARE NOW FULLY AWARE OF THE MEANING OF THE YELLOW BOX JUNCTION MARKINGS.

REMOVAL OF THE +NO WAITING+ SIGNS, DID NOT MEAN THAT ONE COULD PARK ON A ROAD, HE SAID.

PARKING IS GENERALLY PROHIBITED ON ANY ROAD WITH STREET LIGHTING EXCEPT IN A DESIGNATED PLACE. HOWEVER, LOADING-UNLOADING OF GOODS AND PICKING UP-SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS MAY BE GENERALLY ALLOWED ON A ROAD PROVIDING THERE ARE NO STOPPING RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE.

OTHER REDUNDANT SIGNS, SUCH AS THE USE OF ARROW PLATES ON CLEARWAYS, WILL BE REMOVED UNLESS REQUIRED FOR CLARITY.

YELLOW HATCHED MARKINGS, INDICATING PARKING IS PROHIBITED, WILL BE USED ACROSS ENTRANCES ON STREETS WHERE PARKING PLACES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED. THIS REMOVES THE NEED FOR SIGNS TO BE ERECTED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE GAPS.

UNDER THE TRIAL PROGRAMMES, ONLY A MAJOR ROAD JUNCTION WILL BE MARKED WITH +GIVE WAY+ (BROKEN PARALLEL) LINES, THE TRIANGULAR SYMBOL ROAD MARKING AND THE +GIVE WAY+ (RED INVERTED TRIANGLE) SIGN. OTHER MINOR JUNCTIONS MAY SIMPLY BE MARKED WITH +GIVE WAY+ LINES, OR, IF THEY HAPPEN TO BE JUNCTIONS OF SOME TRAFFIC IMPORTANCE, WITH THE TRIANGULAR SYMBOL ROAD MARKING AS WELL.

ANOTHER WAY TO REDUCE SOME OF THE STREET FURNITURE IS BY MULTIPLE SIGNING ON ONE POST, WHICH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE. WHERE APPROPRIATE, SIGNS NOW ERECTED ON SEPARATE POSTS AT THE SAME LOCATION WILL SHARE A COMMON POST, BUT CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT NOT TOO MANY SIGNS FACING THE SAME DIRECTION ARE MOUNTED ON THE SAME POLE. IN EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, LAMP POSTS WILL ALSO BE USED FOR FIXING SIGNS.

THE SIGN SCHEME WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIGNS IN THE AREAS. IN CAUSEWAY BAY, THE NUMBER OF SIGN PLATES WILL DROP FROM MORE THAN 670 TO JUST OVER 280, WHILE IN EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, ONLY ABOUT 130 OUT OF SOME 350 SIGNS WILL BE RETAINED.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, MR PANG SAID, SIGNS WOULD BECOME MORE CONSPICUOUS.

/HE ADVISED .....

HE ADVISED MOTORISTS ENTERING THE TRIAL AREAS TO WATCH OUT FOR THE ROAD MARKINGS WHICH MIGHT NO LONGER BE ACCOMPANIED BY SIGN PLATES.

PRELIMINARY WORK TO REMOVE THE REDUNDANT SIGNS IN EAST TSIM SHA TSUI AND CAUSEWAY BAY IS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT AND WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

+THE TRIALS WILL BE MONITORED FOR THREE MONTHS. A REVIEW WILL THEN BE CONDUCTED, AND THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC AND OF THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE ON WHETHER TO EXTEND THE NEW SIGN PRACTICE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY,+ MR PANG SAID.

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LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING TENDER APPROVED

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A LARGE BUILDING TENDER WORTH OVER $210 MILLION FOR FOUR MORE BLOCKS AT CHUK YUEN ESTATE TO HOUSE 15 000 PEOPLE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT.

+CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL SOON BEGIN ON THE FOUR 35-STOREY TRIDENT BLOCKS UNDER THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE HOUSING PROJECT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE NEWLY APPROVED TENDER WOULD COVER BOTH THE CONSTRUCTION AND CAISSON FOUNDATIONS FOR THESE FOUR BLOCKS.

+ON COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1987, THE MODERN BLOCKS WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 3 264 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 15 000 PEOPLE.

+CHUK YUEN ESTATE IS BEING DEVELOPED IN FIVE PHASES, AND ON FULL COMPLETION WILL BECOME ONE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S LARGEST PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN KOWLOON.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIRST THREE BLOCKS WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR AND WERE NOW HOUSING 10 000 PEOPLE.

+FOUR OTHER BLOCKS, PROVIDING HOMES FOR ANOTHER 14 000 PEOPLE, ARE BEING BUILT UNDER THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES.

+CHUK YUEN ESTATE WILL BE FULLY DEVELOPED BY 1988 INTO A SELF-CONTAINED ENTITY FOR ALTOGETHER 50 000 PEOPLE.+

THE TENDER FOR THE FOURTH PHASE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE AT ITS LAST MEETING.

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VISITOR CENTRE IS FIRST OF KIND

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THE FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT VISITOR CENTRE OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE WILL BE OPENED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR JOHN WHOLEY SAID ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES WAS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE IN THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK.

+IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE VISITED THE CENTRE WILL BECOME MORE APPRECIATIVE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE RESOURCES AND THE NEED TO KEEP THE COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN,+ MR WHOLEY SAID DURING A PRESS REVIEW OF THE CENTRE TODAY (MONDAY).

THE 400-SQUARE-METRE CENTRE CONSISTS OF A RECEPTION HALL, AN EXHIBITION AREA AND AN AUDIO-VISUAL ROOM.

SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE DISPLAY INCLUDE THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA, LOCAL PLANTS AND ANIMALS, HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRYSIDE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, ACCORDING TO MR WHOLEY.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT TWO SMALL COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRES - ONE IN ABERDEEN AND ONE IN TAI MEI TUK. BOTH WERE CONVERTED FROM OLD OFFICE BUILDINGS.

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PUBLICITY DRIVE FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

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A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD TO PUBLICISE CANDIDATES STANDING FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 7 AND TO URGE ELECTORS TO VOTE.

THE HIGHLIGHT WOULD BE A LARGE-SCALE ELECTION FAIR ON MARCH 2 IN KO SHAN ROAD PARK, ACCORDING TO THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES.

+THE 30 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE 16 SEATS IN THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL THEN SET UP SPECIAL BOOTHS TO PROMOTE THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

A SPECIAL VIDEO-TAPE ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TOGETHER WITH PROMOTIONAL MESSAGES ON ALL THE CANDIDATES WILL BE SHOWN AT THE DISPLAY WINDOW OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN TO KWA WAN EVERY DAY, MR JONES ADDED.

COLOURFUL POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND POSTCARDS DEPICTING THE DRAGON FAMILY SUPPORTING THE COMING ELECTIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

+AS THE ELECTION TIME APPROACHES, A PUBLICITY BUS WILL BE SENT AROUND THE DISTRICT TO REMIND OUR 108 000 REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE,+ HE SAID.

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MEET-THE-MEDIA
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF REQUESTS TO INTERVIEW THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR JOHN BOYD, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR HIM TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES NEXT TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 12).

THE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION WILL BE HELD AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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MAKING KNOWN VOCATIONAL TRAINING
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A SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORM THREE LEAVERS WILL BE ORGANISED FOR CAREERS MASTERS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON FEBRUARY 16 (SATURDAY) AT 46 TAI YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO TOUR THE KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX TO LEARN ABOUT THE FACILITIES AND COURSES OFFERED BY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES UNDER THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE SECOND COMPLEX IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR IN KWAI CHUNG, THE SEVEN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES UNDER THE COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF ONE-YEAR AS WELL AS SIX-MONTH FULL-TIME CRAFT TRAINING PLACES FOR 1 300 FORM THREE LEAVERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID.

THE SEVEN CENTRES TRAIN PERSONNEL AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF SKILL FOR THE AUTOMOBILE, ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONICS, METAL-WORKING, PLASTICS, PRINTING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

+CURRENT FORM THREE STUDENTS MAY APPLY IN MARCH FOR THESE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COURSES THROUGH THE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT ALLOCATION SYSTEM.

+INFORMATION ON THESE COURSES AND CAREER PROSPECTS WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DETAILS IN THE SEMINAR,+ HE ADDED.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SEMINAR SECRETARY MR N. WONG ON 5-8932341 EXT. 254 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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CHINESE-STYLE SQUARE FOR KWUN TONG

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KWUN TONG IS TO GET AN ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SQUARE SIMILAR TO STATUE SQUARE IN CENTRAL.

COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 5 000 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS CENTRALLY LOCATED AT THE BUSY KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE AND IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A POPULAR RETREAT FOR BOTH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND WORKERS IN NEARBY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

THE PROJECT, COSTING SOME $3 MILLION, WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHINESE-STYLE PAVILION, ARBOURS, PARK BENCHES AND WATER FEATURES IN THE FORM OF CASCADE AND POND.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS DUE TO START IN OCTOBER AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

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ARTS FESTIVAL FOR YUEN LONG

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WELL KNOWN LOCAL AND FOREIGN ORCHESTRAS, OPERA GROUPS, BALLET AND DANCE TROUPES, SINGERS AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS WILL PERFORM FOR YUEN LONG RESIDENTS DURING AN 18-DAY ARTS FESTIVAL BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 28.

THE FIFTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WILL FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL EVENTS.

DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT NO. 2, KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

A GOVERNMENT VAN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 10 AM SHARP FOR YUEN LONG.

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TENDERS INVITED TO OPERATE LIGHT REFRESHMENT KIOSKS

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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE OPERATION OF LIGHT REFRESHMENT KIOSKS AT THE MONG KOK STADIUM AND THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND.

SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS WILL EACH BE GIVEN A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT STARTING FROM MAY 1, 1985. THE CURRENT MONTHLY RENTAL FOR THE MONG KOK STADIUM KIOSK IS $10 080 AND THAT FOR THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND KIOSK IS $2 700.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE KOWLOON WEST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 148 SAI YEE STREET, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT BRANCH OFFICES IN TUNG YAN STREET.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE AND PLACED BY HAND IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT RECEPTION COUNTER, 12TH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), ICE HOUSE STREET, BEFORE 9 A.M. ON MARCH 1 IN RESPECT OF THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND KIOSK AND BEFORE 9 A.M. ON MARCH 8 IN RESPECT OF THE MONG KOK STADIUM KIOSK.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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MAINTENANCE WORK REQUIRED

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TENDERS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOME 10 000 METAL LITTER CONTAINERS IN USE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT TENDER FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SECTION OF THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE (AUSTIN CENTRE), 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, KOWLOON.

TENDERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY 12 NOON ON MARCH 1.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM NTSD HEADQUARTERS OR BY CALLING 3-678715.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHA TIN

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TWO NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC LANES OF TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD OUTSIDE JAT MIN CHUEN IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 6) FOR ABOUT 12 DAYS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

AS TRAFFIC DELAYS ARE EXPECTED, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE UTMOST CARE AND PATIENCE WHEN USING THE ROAD.

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WATER STORAGE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 68.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 403. 541 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 501.309 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 85.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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TALK ON +AIDS+

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (HEALTH SERVICES AND PLANNING), DR S.H. LEE, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 PM TODAY (MONDAY) ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF SUNNING PLAZA, 10 HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, TO TALK ABOUT +AIDS+ - ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME.

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