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WIDESPREAD BENEFITS FROM 'VERY GOOD BUDGET'

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (THURSDAY) DESCRIBED THE BUDGET FOR 1987-88 AS +A VERY GOOD BUDGET+, WITH SOME OF THE BENEFITS BEING SPREAD WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE IN HUNG HOM, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS VERY GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT THE NEW BUDGET WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO GET AHEAD WITH SOME OF ITS MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS.

+ONE OF THE ONES WHICH I THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT TO SO MANY PEOPLE IS THE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL. AND IT'S VERY PLEASING THAT WE ARE ABLE, WITH THE FUNDS WE HAVE AVAILABLE, TO GET ON WITH THAT,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID DISAGREED WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS BEING OVER-CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE BUDGET. HE SAID MR PIERS JACOBS EXPLAINED HIS STRATEGIES EXTREMELY CLEARLY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

+THIS ISN'T A TIME FOR WILD INITIATIVES, BUT FOR CAUTION AND SENSIBLE PROGRESS.+

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE $3 BILLION SURPLUS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, HE SAID: +WE HAD A VERY VERY GOOD YEAR, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY GO ON A SPENDING SPREE. WE SHOULD POINT OUR ECONOMY IN A CAUTIOUS WAY.+

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ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO OFFER COMPUTER STUDIES

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ALL PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER COMPUTER STUDIES IN FORMS FOUR AND FIVE FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE, IN HUNG HOM, SIR DAVID SAID 83 PER CENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS HAD JOINED THE COMPUTER STUDIES SCHEME SINCE 1982, WITH COMPUTER EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT A TOTAL COST OF $30 MILLION.

AS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED TO THE REMAINING SCHOOLS, THE SCALE OF OPERATION HAD ENABLED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EMBARK ON PLANS TO INTRODUCE IN STAGES A NEW SUBJECT, COMPUTER LITERACY, TO ALL JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS, HE SAID.

/+THE NEW .....

+THE NEW SCHEME WILL ENABLE ALL STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS, THEIR APPLICATIONS AND THEIR SOCIAL IMPACT, WHILE UNDERGOING THEIR NINE YEARS OF BASIC EDUCATION,+ HE ADDED.

APART FROM THESE TWO SCHEMES, THE DEPARTMENT WAS EXPLORING THE INCLUSION OF MICROELECTRONICS ELEMENTS INTO SUBJECTS ACROSS THE WHOLE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND THE EXTENSION OF COMPUTER EDUCATION TO THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM, SIR DAVID SAID.

ALL THESE WOULD REQUIRE THE READY AVAILABILITY OF TRAINED TEACHERS, AND IN THIS IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT THE CENTRE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST PROJECT CHOSEN BY SIR EDWARD YOUDE TO BENEFIT FROM THE MACLEHOSE FUND.

BESIDES PROVIDING SPECIALISED IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF COMPUTER STUDIES, THE CENTRE WOULD ALSO ENABLE BASIC TRAINING TO BE GIVEN TO SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ALL DISCIPLINES AND AT ALL LEVELS, HE ADDED.

BEFORE SIR DAVID UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, REFERRED TO THE DONATION OF $4.5 MILLION FROM THE MACLEHOSE FUND, AUTHORISED BY SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WHICH HAD MADE THE PROJECT POSSIBLE.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THIS DONATION HAS MADE POSSIBLE+, SAID MR LI, ADDING THAT ALL ASSOCIATED WITH THE CENTRE WERE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE LATE GOVERNOR.

THE COMPUTER CENTRE HAS SIX FUNCTIONAL UNITS INCLUDING TWO COMPUTER TRAINING UNITS, CONTROL TECHNOLOGY UNIT, SOFTWARE REVIEW UNIT, REFERENCE LIBRARY AND AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT.

+IT IS EQUIPPED TO HIGH STANDARDS AND IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES AND ADVISORY SERVICES FOR BOTH SPECIALIST AND NON-SPECIALIST TEACHERS,+ MR LI SAID.

+THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES ARE CAPABLE OF EXPANSION AND WE HOPE THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE OF THE CENTRE'S DEVELOPMENT THE ACQUISITION OF A MINI-COMPUTER WILL ENABLE THE CENTRE TO ESTABLISH A LINK AND THUS SHARE ITS COMPUTER SERVICES WITH THOSE OF A TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION.+

REFERING TO TRAINING, MR LI SAID THE CENTRE WOULD ORGANISE A BALANCED MIX OF COURSES COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF COMPUTER EDUCATIONS, AND AT THE SAME TIME PREPARING THE GROUND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BY ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF WELL-PREPARED TEACHERS.

+THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE GAINED BY TEACHERS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES AND USE OF ITS FACILITIES WILL FORM THE BASIS OF THEIR CLASSROOM TEACHING, WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE CENTRE'S STAFF AND THE BACK-UP SERVICES OF THE COMPUTER EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT,+ MR LI ADDED.

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MERGER OF COUNCILS NOT CONSIDERED
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT WAS NOT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT THINKING THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND URBAN COUNCIL SHOULD BE MERGED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, MR FORD SAID THE TWO COUNCILS WERE SET UP WITH A VIEW TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE TWO AREAS CONCERNED.

+I THINK IT'S BEEN PROVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL THAT THEY ARE DOING THEIR JOB EXTREMELY WELL,+ HE SAID.

+AND I WOULD SEE VERY LITTLE NEED TO CHANGE THAT SITUATION,+ MR FORD ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS THE NEED IN FUTURE FOR ONE COUNCIL TO TAKE REFERENCE FROM THE OTHER COUNCIL IN DECIDING ITS POLICY, MR FORD SAID, +WELL, I THINK OBVIOUSLY IT'S THE VARIOUS NEED OVER THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE TO HAVE CONTINUITY AND A DEGREE OF CONTINUITY AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCILS.+

HE NOTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MET REGULARLY WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL TO LIAISE AND TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

+I THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY OF DOING THINGS. THAT MAKES SURE THAT SERVICES AND SO ON ARE KEPT MORE OR LESS IN LINE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY,+ MR FORD SAID.

+BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY NEED TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE DISTRICT NEEDS THAT THESE COUNCILS LOOK AFTER. I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR.+ HE ADDED

REFERRING TO SUGGESTIONS THAT THE TWO COUNCILS SHOULD BE SCRAPPED, MR FORD SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY BE QUITE SURPRISED IF THERE WAS A STRONG REACTION TO THAT EFFECT.

+THERE CERTAINLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY INDICATION SO FAR THAT THERE IS A PUBLIC FEELING IN THAT DIRECTION,+ HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE LATEST SITUATION REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR A NEW AIRPORT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID ONE OF THE TWO THINGS BEING CONSIDERED WAS THE LIFE OF KAI TAK AND HOW LONG IT WOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH AIR TRAFFIC AND WHETHER THERE COULD BE IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO IT WHICH +WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE GOOD ECONOMIC USE OF IT FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.+

+THAT STUDY IS CONTINUING. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE THE INTERESTING PROPOSAL FROM MR GORDON WU'S CONSORTIUM. WE ARE INVESTIGATING THAT IN SOME DETAIL.+

MR FORD SAID HE WAS DUE TO MEET, WITH HIS COMMITTEE, WITH MR WU TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS FURTHER DETAILS OF THAT PROPOSAL.

+SO THESE TWO STUDIES ARE GOING ALONG IN PARALLEL AND I HOPE THAT WILL ENABLE US TO REACH A LONG-TERM DECISION ABOUT WHETHER WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT IN HONG KONG, AND IF SO, WHEN A DECISION SHOULD BE MADE ABOUT IT.+

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THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY MR DAVID FORD TOLD MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO DO AWAY WITH ANY OF THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THAT IT IS A VERY FUNDAMENTAL PART AND A VERY IMPORTANT POINT FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE.

+IT IS NOT PART OF OUR THINKING THAT ANY OF THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MERGED WITH ANY OTHER OR DELETED FROM OUR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS,+ SAID MR FORD.

MR FORD SAID THAT THE GREEN PAPER WHICH IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED THIS YEAR INDEED WILL REVIEW THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LOOK AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO SEE WHAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AND WHETHER ANY IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

+THERE ARE DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITIES AT DISTRICT LEVELS, AND AT THE LEVELS OF THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS, AND INDEED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST EXAMINE THOSE ROLES TO MAKE SURE THAT DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IS VERY CLEARLY DEFINED BETWEEN THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE EXERCISE OF THE GREEN PAPER,+ HE ADDED.

MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF THE GREEN PAPER OR FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION WHICH WILL STEM FROM IT.

+THE PUBLIC REACTION SO FAR ON THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL HAS INDEED BEEN VERY FAVOURABLE,+ HE SAID.

+YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DISTRICT BOARDS, AND YOUR WORK, I BELIEVE, ON THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES, IS BEARING FRUIT AND IS A VERY PROFITABLE AND USEFUL WAY OF PROCEEDING,+ MR FORD NOTED.

TODAY'S VISIT TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS THE FIRST ONE MADE BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

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FORD EXPLAINS TIMESCALE FOR REVIEW

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THE TIMESCALE FOR CONSULTATION LEADING UP TO THE WHITE PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW IS GEARED TO ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE FOR THE 1988 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+WE MUST AIM FOR SOMETHING LIKE A FIVE OR SIX MONTH REVIEW PERIOD IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE LEGISLATION IN TIME AND IN PLACE FOR ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE FOR THE 1988 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ MR FORD SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AFTER A TIME CAPSULE WAS ENSHRINED THERE, MR FORD SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE CONSULTATION PERIOD COULD BE EXTENDED +TO A POINT WHEREBY WE WOULD MISS ANY NECESSARY DATES+.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO PUT THE CHANGES IN PLACE IF NECESSARY.

ASKED IF ANY DEADLINE WAS SET, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID: +I DON'T THINK THERE IS A DEADLINE IN THOSE TERMS, BUT AS I'VE SAID AND AS THE ACTING GOVERNOR HAS SAID, THE KEY POINT IS IF THERE ARE TO BE CHANGES IN THE 1988 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THEN OBVIOUSLY THERE MUST BE TIME FOR THOSE TO BE BROUGHT IN, IN THE COURSE OF NEXT YEAR.

+THAT MEANS THE WHITE PAPER MUST BE PUBLISHED AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR. SO THE CONSULTATION PERIOD UP UNTIL THAT TIME IS FLEXIBLE BUT WE MUST HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER OBVIOUSLY THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND TO DRAFT THE WHITE PAPER.

+THAT IS WHY THE WHITE PAPER IS LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR, OR THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT.+

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YEAR'S FIRST LAND AUCTIONS FETCH $44.5 MILLION

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TWO INDUSTRIAL LOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF $44.5 MILLION TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE FIRST LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR.

A SITE AT SIU LEK YUEN, SHA TIN, MEASURING ABOUT 5 600 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD FOR $41 MILLION TO EASTERN ORTUNE LIMITED.

BIDDING BEGAN AT $20 MILLION. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SALE, THE BUYER HAS TO COMPLETE AT LEAST 16 800 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE JANUARY 31, 1991.

/THE OTHER .....

THE OTHER SITE OF 1 094 SQUARE METRES, AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG, WAS BOUGHT FOR $3.5 MILLION BY JOSEPH WONG AND COMPANY (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

THE OPENING BID FOR THE SITE WAS $1.2 MILLION. THE PURCHASER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AT LEAST 1 094 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE MARCH 31, 1990.

THE BUYERS WERE ALLOWED TO PAY THE WHOLE OR PART OF THE BALANCE OF THE PREMIUM BY SURRENDERING LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS.

LEASE CONDITIONS FOR BOTH SITES STIPULATE THAT THEY CAN BE USED AS GODOWNS, BUT NOT FOR OFFENSIVE TRADES.

GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT (ACQUISITION AND VALUATION), MR NIGEL BURLEY, WHO CONDUCTED AUCTION HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, DESCRIBED THE RESPONSE AS VERY ENCOURAGING, AND EXCEEDING INITIAL EXPECTATIONS.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY RELEASED
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EXTERNAL TRADE CONTINUED TO GROW STRONGLY IN JANUARY 1987. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1987, AT $14 053 MILLION, GREW BY 33.5 PER CENT OR $3 523 MILLION COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1986, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 40.2 PER CENT OR $3 441 MILLION TO $12 004 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT $26 057 MILLION, WAS 36.5 PER CENT OR $6 964 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN JANUARY 1986.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 25.0 PER CENT OR $4 710 MILLION OVER JANUARY 1986 TO $23 516 MILLION.

AS THE GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS EQUIVALENT TO 10.8 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED IN JANUARY 1987, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF 1.5 PER CENT RECORDED IN JANUARY 1986.

THE VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS IN JANUARY 1987, AT $2 541 MILLION, WAS THE HIGHEST MONTHLY SURPLUS EVER RECORDED.

/HOWEVER, TRADE .....

HOWEVER, TRADE FIGURES FOR THE BEGINNING MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE NORMALLY INFLUENCED BY THE TIMING OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH WERE IN LATE JANUARY THIS YEAR AND MAY HAVE RESULTED IN A GROWTH RATE OF EXPORTS HIGHER THAN WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE OCCURRED.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1987 WAS $283 494 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF $157 506 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF $125 988 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1986, THE VALUES OF TOTAL EXPORTS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 21.1 PER CENT, 21.9 PER CENT AND 20.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THIS PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 21.4 PER CENT TO $280 664 MILLION.

THE VISIBLE TRADE ACCOUNT RECORDED A SURPLUS OF $2 830 MILLION (EQUIVALENT TO 1.0 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS), WHICH WAS SMALLER THAN THE SURPLUS OF $3 014 MILLION (EQUIVALENT TO 1.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS) RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETATIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS STRONG GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A HIGH LEVEL OF DEMAND GENERALLY FOR IMPORTS IN MANY OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS.

ANOTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR WAS THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE U.S. DOLLAR UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, AGAINST MOST MAJOR CURRENCIES, WHICH HAS ENHANCED THE EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED SHARPLY IN JANUARY. THIS REFLECTED, IN PART, CHINA'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING ITS EXPORTS, RESULTING IN MORE CHINESE GOODS BEING CHANELLED THROUGH HONG KONG TO OVERSEAS MARKETS. RE-EXPORTS INTO CHINA HAS PROBABLY PICKED UP AS WELL.

IN ADDITION, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WAS AFFECTED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN JANUARY 1986.

/THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1987:

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	$14 053 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	$12 004 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	$26 057 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	$23 516 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	$2 541 MILLION (IN SURPLUS)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	NOV 86 TO JAN 87 HK$ MN.	NOV 85 TO JAN 86 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	44 290	34 305	9 985	29.1
RE-EXPORTS	36 907	26 752	10 155	38.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	81 197	61 057	20 140	33.0
IMPORTS	77 030	61 303	15 727	25.7
TRADE BALANCE	4 167	-246	4 413	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JAN 1987 HK$ MN.	JAN 1986 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	14 053 (53.9%)	10 530 (55.2%)	3 523	33.5
RE-EXPORTS	12 004	8 563	3 441	40.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	26 057	19 093	6 964	36.5
IMPORTS	23 516	18 806	4 710	25.0
TRADE BALANCE	2 541	287	2 254	

/LAST MONTH .....

LAST MONTH	JAN 1987 HK$ MN.	DEC 1986 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	14 053 (53.9%)	15 368 (54.9%)	-1 315	-8.6
RE-EXPORTS	12 004	12 627	-623	-4.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	26 057	27 995	-1 938	-6.9
IMPORTS	23 516	27 467	-3 951	-14.4
TRADE BALANCE	2 541	528	2 013	

LAST 12 MONTHS	FEB 86 TO JAN 87 HK$ MN.	FEB 85 TO JAN 86 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DEMESTIC EXPORTS	157 506	129 246	28 260	21.9
RE-EXPORTS	125 988	104 875	21 113	20.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	283 494	234 121	49 373	21.1
IMPORTS	280 664	231 107	49 557	21.4
TRADE BALANCE	2 830	3 014	-184	

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IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING THROUGH EDUCATION STRESSED

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EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT IN TRAINING AND SHAPING THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO MEET FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, MR CHAN KAM-CHUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES ARE TO DEVELOP, THROUGH LIBERAL EDUCATION, THE INDIVIDUAL AS A +WHOLE MAN+ I.E. WELL-BALANCED INDIVIDUALS, PHYSICALLY SOUND AND INTELLECTUALLY ALERT.

/+TERTIARY .....

+TERTIARY EDUCATION ENCOURAGES INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY, CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING AND SHOULD PRODUCE FUTURE LEADERS VITAL FOR THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.+

MR CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF BURSARY CERTIFICATES OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

THE EDUCATION TRUST FUND WAS SET UP IN 1983 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT OFFICERS AND EQUIVALENT GRADES.

IT WAS INITIALLY FUNDED BY A GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, MR WILLIAM MONG.

AN INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARD HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH SIR OSWALD CHEUNG, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AS CHAIRMAN, AND MR PETER VINE AND MR AUBREY LI AS MEMBERS, TO ADVISE THE TRUST COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENTS OF THE FUND. THE INCOME EARNED IS USED AS BURSARIES.

AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARD FOR PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND +IN ENSURING THAT THE BURSARIES ARE ALLOCATED IN A FAIR AND EFFECTIVE WAY.+

MR CHAN SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED CRITERIA FOR THE GRANT OF BURSARIES, ASSISTANT OFFICERS AND EQUIVALENT GRADES WHO HAD RETIRED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS TRUST FUND WERE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

ELEVEN STAFF MEMBERS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, OR ARE HANDICAPPED, RECEIVED THE BURSARY CERTIFICATES AND CHEQUES FROM MRS WILLIAM MONG IN THE PRESENTATION.

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MEET THE MEDIA
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, WILL MEET THE MEDIA ON MONDAY (MARCH 2) AT 3 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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NT LANDFILL AND PFA LAGOON SITES VISITED
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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE SITE PROPOSED FOR THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL AS PART OF A TRIP TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE FROM THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, AND SENIOR STAFF OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

THE LANDFILL WOULD BE ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD AND, WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, WOULD COVER AN AREA OF ABOUT 110 HECTARES AND HAVE A CAPACITY OF 54 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE LANDFILL WOULD BE ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE AND, IN THE LONGER TERM, COULD BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE A USEFUL RECREATIONAL RESOURCE TO SERVE THE AREA.

MR CHAMBERS WAS TOLD THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS STUDY, IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE LANDFILL SHOULD BE FULLY SEALED AND THAT ALL LEACHATES PRODUCED WOULD BE COLLECTED AND TREATED BEFORE DISPOSAL TO ENSURE THERE WERE NO EFFECTS ON DEEP BAY, AND THAT ALL VILLAGERS LIVING NEAR TO THE LANDFILL WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE RELOCATED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF DISPOSAL OPERATIONS.

THE STUDY, WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR, WOULD ALSO RESULT IN THE INTRODUCTION TO HONG KONG OF HIGHER STANDARDS OF OPERATION AND RESTORATION OF LANDFILL SITES.

THE LANDFILL WOULD CATER FOR WASTE GENERATED IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA FOR THE NEXT 30 TO 35 YEARS AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATING COSTS OVER THIS TIME WOULD BE ABOUT $1 100 MILLION.

EARLIER, MR CHAMBERS ALSO VISITED THE PULVERISHED FUEL ASH (PFA) LAGOON SITE ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF DEEP BAY, PROJECT INITIATED BY CASTLE PEAK POWER COMPANY LIMITED IN 1977 AND EVENTUALLY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SITE OCCUPIES ABOUT 63 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED NEAR THE VILLAGE OF TSANG TSUI IN NIM WAN, SOUTH OF DEEP BAY.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF THE PROJECT BY CARRIED OUT CAPCO, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A STUDY MANAGEMENT GROUP CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

/THE NEED .....

THE NEED TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF LOCAL RESIDENTS FROM THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF AERIAL EMISSIONS OF PFA DUST AND LIQUID EMISSIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE SAFEGUARDING OF LOCAL MARICULTURE AND WILD LIFE HAD BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

IN JANUARY, MR CHAMBERS HAD INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT AERIAL EMISSIONS OF PFA DUST WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE DELIVERY OF PFA IN SLURRY FORM; MINIMISING THE AREA OF PFA EXPOSED TO THE WIND; THE PROVISION OF PERMANENT FIXED WATER SPRAYING EQUIPMENT WITH A MOBILE BACKUP SYSTEM; THE CONTINUOUS SKIMMING OF THE LAGOON AND THE COVERING OF DRY PFA BY INERT MATERIAL AND SUBSEQUENT HYDROSEEDING.

HE ALSO TOLD MEMBERS THAT AIR QUALITY IN THE VICINITY WOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED BY THREE SEPARATE MONITORING STATIONS.

REGARDING LIQUID EMISSIONS, PFA WOULD BE FORMED INTO SLURRY WITH SEA WATER AND WOULD BE PUMPED ALONG ONE OF A TWIN PIPELINES INTO THE LAGOON SITE.

INSTEAD OF DISCHARGING THE DECANTRATE - AN UPPER AQUEOUS LAYER FORMED WHEN ASH PARTICLES SETTLE RAPIDLY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LAGOONS - DIRECTLY INTO DEEP BAY, WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO CONTAMINATION OF OYSTER BEDS, IT WOULD BE PUMPED BACK THROUGH ANOTHER PIPELINE TO THE POWER STATION AT TAP SHEK KOK, BEFORE RELEASING IT INTO THE FAST FLOWING CURRENTS OF URMSTON ROAD THROUGH AN OUTFALL.

AS A CHECK ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MEASURE, SEVEN MONITORING STATIONS ARE ALREADY OPERATING AND WOULD CONTINUE IN OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE LAGOONS.

AT FULL OPERATING CAPACITY, THE PFA PRODUCED FROM THE POWER STATIONS COULD REACH 4 000 TONNES A DAY, AND THE LAGOONS HAVE A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 7.5 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF PFA.

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MORE FIRE STATIONS COMING ON STREAM

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A NUMBER OF FIRE STATIONS, TWO AMBULANCE DEPOTS AND A BLOCK OF OFFICER'S QUARTERS WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN A YEAR'S TIME, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR ROBERT HOLMES, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, MR HOLMES SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD PROGRESSED AND EXPANDED EXTENSIVELY IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP PACE WITH THE GROWTH OF NEW TOWNS AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

/+IN THE LAST .....

+IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS WE HAVE COMMISSIONED KONG WAN FIRE STATION IN WAN CHAI, SHUN LEE FIRE STATION IN NORTH KOWLOON, TAI PO AMBULANCE DEPOT, CASTLE PEAK BAY FIRE STATION AND TSIM TUNG FIRE STATION.

+AND WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS THERE WILL BE MUI WO, LAMMA ISLAND, TAI WAI, POK FU LAM AND SHEK KONG FIRE STATIONS, TAI WAI AND POK FU LAM AMBULANCE DEPOTS AND A BLOCK OF SOME 50 QUARTERS FOR THE OFFICER GRADE.+

THE $70 MILLION BUILDING THAT MR HOLMES OPENED TODAY IS THE FIRST PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

IN THE PAST, THE HEADQUARTERS MOVED FROM THE OLD CENTRAL FIRE STATION IN DES VOEUX ROAD TO LI PO CHUN CHAMBERS IN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, TO THE OLD HOWE BLOCK IN THE NAVAL DOCKYARD IN QUEENSWAY, AND PENULTIMATELY TO AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AT NORTH POINT, REMAINING THERE FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS.

LOCATED AT 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, THE BUILDING CAN ACCOMMODATE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 3 000 STAFF, KEEPING MOST MAJOR FIRE FORMATIONS UNDER ONE ROOF.

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SEMINAR ON YOUTH POLICY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
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A SEMINAR ON +YOUTH POLICY+ FOR SOCIAL WORKERS WILL BE HELD AT THE YWCA WONG TAI SIN SOCIAL CENTRE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

ABOUT 80 SOCIAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK SERVICE IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART IN THE SEMINAR WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT GROUP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE, MR NG SHUI-LAI, AND CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER OF WONG TAI SIN--SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR CHENG KWAN-KUEN.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR AT THE YWCA WONG TAI SIN SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE AT WONG TAI SIN CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, WONG TAI SIN LOWER ESTATE, BETWEEN 10 AM AND NOON TOMORROW.

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MORE STUDENTS GOING TO JAPAN FOR STUDY
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INCREASING NUMBERS OF LOCAL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GOING TO JAPAN TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN UNIVERSITIES AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A +LECTURE ON EDUCATION+ ORGANISED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN AND THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY, MR LI SAID SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WAS A HEALTHY SIGN.

THIS WAS BECAUSE HONG KONG, BEING AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEEDED TO HAVE A WORKFORCE FAMILIAR WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS MADE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ONE SO ADVANCED AS JAPAN.

MR LI SAID THAT SUCH STUDENT MOBILITY, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A GREATER INPUT OF DIFFERENT INNOVATIVE IDEAS, WOULD NOT ONLY HELP STRENGTHEN HONG KONG IN ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION, BUT WOULD ALSO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT CULTURES, AND CULTIVATE FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN ADMINISTERING THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MONBUSHO SCHOLARSHIPS.

+THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE WORKED SMOOTHLY AND AS A RESULT MANY LOCAL STUDENTS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM AN EDUCATION IN JAPAN,+ MR LI SAID.

MR LI SAID HE WAS SURE HONG KONG STUDENTS WOULD FIND THEIR EDUCATION IN JAPAN MOST REWARDING BECAUSE OF THE COUNTRY'S TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO BECAUSE ITS EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS SIMILAR TO HONG KONG'S.

HE ADDED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MANY MORE LOCAL STUDENTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM IT.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR THREE SITES

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THREE SITES - TWO IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE OTHER IN KOWLOON - ARE TO BE LET ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SITES IS AT SHA TIN NEAR CITY ONE AND IS FOR THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND PAINT SPRAYING OF VEHICLES, PLUS STORAGE OF RELATED GOODS AND EQUIPMENT.

HOWEVER, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND PAINT SPRAYING OF TRAILERS AND HEAVY VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

TENANCY FOR THE 1 105-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS 30 MONTHS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER NEW TERRITORIES SITE IS AT YEUNG UK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN AND MEASURES 1 380 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR STORING NON-DANGEROUS GOODS, BUT EXCLUDING STORAGE OF VEHICLES AND CONTAINERS.

TENANCY IS TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE KOWLOON SITE OF 5 200 SQUARE METRES IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF CARPENTER AND SA PO ROADS AND IS FOR A FEE-PAYING CAR PARK.

THE TENANCY TERMS STATE THAT IT CANNOT BE USED BY CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH TRAILERS-CHASSIS.

TENANCY IS THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON MARCH 13.

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PROCESSING OF TAXI TENDERS COMPLETED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING TENDERS FOR 100 URBAN TAXI LICENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 375 TENDERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON JANUARY 16.

+THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS $451 000 AND THE LOWEST $447 800,+ HE SAID.

THE AVERAGE PREMIUM OF $449 530 MARKED AN INCREASE OF 20.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE TENDER EXERCISE IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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MORE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO COME DOWN

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MORE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON FACE THE PROSPECT OF BEING DEMOLISHED.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) POSTED NOTICES ON CONSPICUOUS PARTS OF STRUCTURES ON THE FLAT ROOFS ADJOINING UNITS 13 AND 14 ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND FLAT B ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF 45-51, CHEUNG WAH STREET, INFORMING OCCUPANTS THAT AN APPLICATION WOULD BE MADE IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 23 TO HAVE THEM CLOSED.

THE AUTHORITY POSTED SIMILAR NOTICES TODAY (THURSDAY) ON THE MAIN ROOF OVER FLATS A, C AND D, 21ST FLOOR, 98, 98A-D, ARGYLE STREET AND PEACE AVENUE, SAYING AN APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER WOULD BE MADE IN THE SAME COURT ON APRIL 30.

IN BOTH CASES, DEMOLITION WILL TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDERS HAVE BEEN MADE.

AN ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FOR DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES IN CHEUNG WAH STREET WAS ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER 1985, BUT HAS NEVER BEEN COMPLIED WITH. IN THE OTHER CASE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ISSUED DEMOLITION ORDERS IN DECEMBER 1984 AND MARCH 1986 BUT THESE WERE ALSO IGNORED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SAID CLOSURE OF THE STRUCTURES WAS NECESSARY SO THAT DEMOLITION COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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TRAINEE TEACHERS VISIT SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD

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FORTY-FIVE TRAINING TEACHERS UNDERTAKING REFRESHER COURSE AT THE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION VISITED THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY) TO LEARN ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE BOARD.

AS PART OF THE COLLEGE'S REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME ON CIVIC EDUCATION, THE EMPHASIS OF THE VISIT WAS ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG.

DURING THEIR MEETING, TEACHERS EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR JASPER LAM, AND MEMBERS ON A WIDERANGE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ISSUES.

THEIR DISCUSSIONS COVERED THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS, MAJOR DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS AND THE WAYS BY WHICH THE NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY, COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF INCOME GROUPS, ARE BEING CATERED TO.

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OPEN DAY AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

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KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK, AND MEMBERS OF THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD WILL TAKE PART IN THE ANNUAL OPEN DAY OF THE KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT THE HING SHING ROAD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING (NEXT TO KWAI HING MTR STATION) TOMORROW BY 9.30 AM.

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SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR GIVING CONCERT

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THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CONCERT IN THE SAI KUNG TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 28).

THE CHOIR WILL PERFORM A NUMBER OF CHINESE AND WESTERN SONGS WITH THEMES BASED ON THE SCENERY OF SAI KUNG AND THE COMMUNITY'S RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL LIFE.

WINNERS OF THE DISTRICT'S SINGING CONTEST HELD LAST OCTOBER WILL ALSO PERFORM.

THE CONCERT, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR. DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, WILL BE AMONG THE GUESTS.

TICKETS PRICED AT $5 ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAN YI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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TEMPORARY LIFE GUARDS SOUGHT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS RECRUITING TEMPORARY LIFE GUARDS FOR THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS TO MAN GAZETTED BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS IN THE COMING SWIMMING SEASON.

APPLICANTS, PREFERABLY AGED 35 OR UNDER, SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST PRIMARY 6 EDUCATION AND HOLD A BRONZE MEDALLION CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

THE JOB IS OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. IT OFFERS A MONTHLY SALARY OF $3 360 OR A DAILY WAGE OF $135.

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE POST MAY APPROACH ANY LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-270622, 3-666615, 3-695525, 3-265123 AND 0-4920154.

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CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

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TWENTY-SEVEN VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST SIX MONTHS ASSIGNMENT UNDER THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION THIS SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 28).

THE CEREMONY, TO BE OFFICIATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR LEE JARK-PUI, WILL BE HELD AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL.

THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN 1978 AS A COMPLEMENTARY SERVICE TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC IN HELPING AND REFORMING OFFENDERS.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND ORIENTATED BEFORE THEY START TO PROVIDE SERVICE. THEIR SERVICES INCLUDE BEFRIENDING PROBATIONERS, ACTING AS TUTORS FOR PROBATIONERS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL WORK, GIVING THEM GUIDANCE IN PROPER USE OF LEISURE TIME, HELPING THEM DEVELOP WHOLESOME HOBBIES AND SHARING WITH THEM PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY AT THE MING ROOM, AMBASSADOR HOTEL, KOWLOON.

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SHAM SHUI PO CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO STAGE CONCERT
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THE SHAM SHUI PO CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CONCERT ON MARCH 7 AT 3 PM AT THE CONCERT HALL OF CITY HALL.

ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SHAM SHUI PO ART ASSOCIATION SINCE 1982, THE CHOIR HAS BEEN INVITED TO PERFORM IN THE +YOUTH SPECTACULAR+ DURING THE QUEEN'S VISIT LAST YEAR, THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE LAST SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL, THE MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL NIGHT AND MANY OTHER DISTRICT EVENTS.

PROGRAMMES OF THE CONCERT INCLUDE CHORUS, MELODY DANCE, AND PERFORMANCES BY GUEST PERFORMERS INCLUDING THE SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CHOIR, BUDDHIST TAI HUNG COLLEGE, AND KEI OI PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE CONCERT IS SPONSORED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD. TICKETS AT $10 ARE ON SALE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONCERT ON MARCH 7.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN WAN CHAI
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TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 27) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY IN CONNECTION WITH FOOTBRIDGE DEMOLITION WORK.

THE ROAD SECTIONS ARE : THE NORTHBOUND SECTION OF FENWICK STREET BETWEEN JAFFE ROAD AND INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD, AND THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN FENWICK STREET AND ARSENAL STREET.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD HEADING FOR CENTRAL CAN PROCEED VIA FENWICK STREET SOUTHBOUND, LOCKHART ROAD, ARSENAL STREET AND HARCOURT ROAD.

IN ANOTHER CHANGE, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF LOCKHART ROAD IN WAN CHAI FROM HOUSE NO. 519 TO 537 WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 28).

WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY, NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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