HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STIFFER PENALTIES FOR SMUT PUBLISHERS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED TOUGH NEW ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY LEGISLATION CARRYING FINES OF UP TO $100,000 AND PRISON TERMS OF UP TO THREE YEARS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ALSO GIVES THE COURTS POWER TO CONFISCATE PRINTING AND OTHER EQUIPMENT USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE LEGISLATION HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO FIGHT ALL FORMS OF PORNOGRAPHY - WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SEX-AND-VIOLENCE COMIC BOOKS ON OPEN SALE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

THE FAR-REACHING MEASURES ARE CONTAINED IN THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS BILL 1975 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, AND SCHEDULED TO GO TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY.

THE BILL, IF APPROVED, WILL REPLACE THE INDECENT EXHIBITIONS ORDINANCE, WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF $5,000 AND A MAXIMUM GAOL TERM OF SIX MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROVISIONS OF THE OLD ORDINANCE WERE NOW CONSIDERED TO BE INADEQUATE GENERALLY, AND PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE MARKED INCREASE IN PORNOGRAPHY AIMED AT JUVENILES - DEFINED AS PEOPLE UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOME PORN PEDLARS WOULD CONSIDER A $5,000 FINE AS PART OF THEIR OVERHEADS,+ HE SAID. +THE PORNOGRAPHIC BUSINESS HAS BECOME SO LUCRATIVE THAT SUCH FINES HAVE CEASED TO HAVE ANY DETERRENT EFFECT.

+THIS WAS THE THINKING BEHIND INCREASING NOT ONLY THE FINES, BUT IN SUBSTANTIALLY RAISING THE MAXIMUM PRISON TERM TO THREE YEARS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED AT THE MUSHROOMING OF THE NUMBER OF COMIC BOOKS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG WHICH EMPHASISED THE EXTREMES OF VIOLENCE, SADISM AND SEX.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THESE COMICS CAN CAUSE IMMENSE HARM TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM CLEARLY HAVE NO REGARD FOR COMMUNITY VALUES,+ HE SAID.

+PUBLIC OPINION IS OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOUR OF ERADICATING THESE PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR SOCIETY.+

/ONE OF THE ....

ONE OF THE DEFICIENCES OF THE INDECENT EXHIBITIONS ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WAS THE LEGAL DIFFICULTY IN SOME CASES IN PROVING THAT MATERIAL IN COMIC BOOKS - ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY IN BAD TASTE AND UNDESIRABLE - WAS INDECENT, OBSCENE, REVOLTING OR OFFENSIVE UNDER THE MEANING OF THE ORDINANCE.

+THIS IS WHY SPECIAL PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE IN THE NEW LEGISLATION TO COVER THIS AREA,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS BILL 1975 DEFINES AN OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLE AS ONE WHICH CONSISTS OF OR CONTAINS ANY INDECENT, OBSCENE, REVOLTING OR OFFENSIVE MATTER.

IT ALSO CLASSIFIES AS INDECENT, ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO DISEASES, COMPLAINTS AND INFIRMITIES ARISING FROM SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, EXCEPT WHEN SUCH AN ARTICLE APPEARS IN A BONA FIDE MEDICAL PUBLICATION.

THE BILL HAS A SPECIAL CLAUSE RELATING TO ARTICLES INTENDED FOR, OR LIKELY TO BE READ BY JUVENILES WHICH PORTRAY THE COMMISSION OF CRIME IN SUCH A WAY AS TO:

* CREATE SYMPATHY FOR OR EXTOL THE CRIMINAL

* PROMOTE DISTRUST OF OR CREATE DISRESPECT FOR THE INSTITUTIONS ENTRUSTED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER, AND

* INSPIRE OR ENCOURAGE PERSONS TO IMITATE CRIMINALS

THIS SPECIAL CLAUSE ALSO RELATES TO ARTICLES WHICH DEPICT:

* ACTS OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE OR CRUELTY, TORTURE OR OTHER PHYSICAL AGONY

* ACTS OF A REPULSIVE OR HORRIBLE NATURE OR WHICH TEND TO DEPRAVE

* SEDUCTION, RAPE OR SEXUAL PERVERSION

* THE COMMISSION OF CRIME, ACTS OF VIOLENCE, CRUELTY, OR MATTERS OF A REPULSIVE OR HORRIBLE NATURE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE STORY AS A WHOLE WOULD TEND TO CORRUPT A JUVENILE.

+THESE PROVISIONS ARE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO CATCH THE MORE OBJECTIONABLE LITERATURE INTENDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE BILL, THOSE LIABLE ARE PEOPLE WHO PUBLISH OBJECTIONABLE LITERATURE, WHETHER OR NOT FOR GAIN, THOSE WHO HAVE IT IN THEIR POSSESSION FOR PUBLICATION FOR GAIN AND ANYONE IMPORTING SUCH LITERATURE FOR PUBLICATION FOR GAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE PERSON IMPORTING KNOWS IT IS OBJECTIONABLE. THERE IS A WIDE DEFINITION OF ''PUBLISH'', WHICH INCLUDES THE LOAN FOR GAIN OF OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL OF ANY KIND LIABLE TO FORFEITURE BY A MAGISTRATE.

UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, THE ONLY EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE FORFEITED IS A PROJECTOR USED FOR SHOWING OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FORFEITURE CLAUSE WOULD GIVE THE PROPOSED BILL FURTHER ''TEETH'' IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY. +OBVIOUSLY, IN SOME CASES FORFEITURE MIGHT INVOLVE EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS PRINTING PRESSES, CAMERAS AND THE LIKE, WORTH MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY IS THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1975, RELATING TO INDECENT PUBLIC LIVE PERFORMANCES.

THIS IS A SECTION TAKEN FROM THE INDECENT EXHIBITIONS ORDINANCE WHICH MAKES IT AN OFFENCE TO TAKE PART IN OR PUT ON OR MANAGE A PUBLIC LIVE PERFORMANCE WHICH IS OF AN INDECENT, OBSCENE, REVOLTING OR OFFENSIVE NATURE.

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HOME AFFAIRS SECRETARY OPENS SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME
PRAISES EFFORTS OF ALL INVOLVED

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MR. DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, TODAY THANKED ORGANISERS OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR MORE THAN TWO MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENJOY THIS +TRADITIONAL, ANNUAL EVENT.+

HE WAS SPEAKING AT AN INFORMAL CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE PROGRAMME. IT WILL GATHER MOMENTUM AS SCHOOLS CLOSE IN THE EARLY PART OF JULY FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. MR. BRAY SAID:

+ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH RECREATION, I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS INFORMAL GATHERING WHICH MARKS THE OPENING OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME 1975.

+THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IS NOW A TRADITIONAL, ANNUAL EVENT IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, AND IS THE SOURCE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

+THE GROWTH OF THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING. IN THE FIRST FULLY CO-ORDINATED SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME STAGED IN 1969, ABOUT 500,000 YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART. BY 1974, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAD INCREASED TO WELL OVER 1,500,000 AND THIS YEAR IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED ARE LIKELY TO EXCEED 2,000,000. CLEARLY WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE LIMITS TO WHICH THIS PROGRAMME SHALL BE EXTENDED.

+THE TREMENDOUS RANGE OF ACTIVITIES PROVIDED, CAN ONLY GO ON BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATED ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO PUT SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND EFFORT INTO RUNNING THE PROGRAMME. THEIR WORK IS SUSTAINED AND AIDED BY KAIFONG AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO CONTRIBUTE IN MANY WAYS TO THIS PROGRAMME BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THE END OBJECT IS SIMPLY TO DO SOMETHING REAL FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

+TO ALL OF YOU HERE PRESENT I OFFER MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THIS VERY WORTHWHILE PROJECT AND HOPE THAT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY OF THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED, YOU WILL TAKE THESE GOOD WISHES BACK TO YOUR COLLEAGUES ON MY BEHALF.

+NOW THAT THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME IS JUST ABOUT TO START, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WISH YOU ALL 'EVERY SUCCESS' IN THE SUMMER MONTHS TO COME.+

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WIDER SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES THAN EVER BEFORE
AIM: MEANINGFUL RECREATIONAL OUTLETS
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A VAST SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO PUT LEISURE TO CONSTRUCTIVE USE BY MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE GETS UNDERWAY IN A FEW DAYS.

WITH SOME PARTICIPANTS TAKING PART IN MORE THAN ONE ACTIVITY, THIS YEAR'S SERIES OF SUMMER-HOLIDAY EVENTS, SEEN AS A WHOLE, WILL ATTRACT AN ATTENDANCE OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE -- A RECORD IN THE HISTORY OF SUCH PROGRAMMES.

THE PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT OF THIS EXERCISE IS A JOINT EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH FORCES, AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. PARTICIPANTS ARE AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 25.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BEGIN IN JULY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ENDING OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR, AND WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, OR JUST BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER.

IN ADDITION TO A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, 32 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, REPRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAMME.

MORE THAN 30,000 VOLUNTEERS WILL BE INVOLVED - YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FROM MANY WALKS OF LIFE WHO HAVE AGREED TO GIVE UP SOME OF THEIR SPARE TIME TO HELP SUPERVISE THE PROGRAMME EFFECTIVELY.

BRITISH FORCES IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAMME SINCE ITS INCEPTION SOME YEARS AGO, WILL AGAIN BE TAKING PART BY PROVIDING AND RUNNING A THREE-WEEK CAMP.

MONEY FOR THE PROGRAMME HAS COME FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WHICH DONATED $1.54 MILLION THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S $1.4 MILLION, AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT. MANY ITEMS INCLUDE A NOMINAL FEE TO BE MET BY PARTICIPANTS.

THE PROGRAMME HAS FOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES :-

* TO ENCOURAGE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

* TO HELP THEM DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS.

* TO HELP THEM DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

* TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A BREAK FROM THEIR CROWDED LIVING CONDITIONS AND HEAVY WORK LOAD AND A CHANCE TO ENJOY A FEW CARE-FREE HOURS OF PLAY AND PLEASURE.

THE ORGANISERS AGREE THAT SUCH OUTLETS ARE NEEDED BY STUDENTS AND YOUNG WORKERS WHO HAVE DURING THE YEAR TO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY ON EITHER WORK OR STUDY.

THE PROGRAMME, SPREAD OVER NEARLY TWO MONTHS, WILL INCLUDE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES GROUPED UNDER TWO MAIN HEADS - OUTDOOR AND INDOOR.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE CAMPING, CANOEING, HIKING, EXCURSIONS, LAUNCH PICNICS, SPORTS AND GAMES, ANFD FUN FAIRS.

OUTDOOR ITEMS INTENDED TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY SERVICE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENJOYING THEMSELVES WILL INCLUDE WORK CAMPS, ASSISTANCE TO VILLAGERS IN REMOTE AREAS (FOR EXAMPLE, BY HELPING THEM CONSTRUCT A FOOTPATH), SERVICE TO THE AGED AND HANDICAPPED (FOR EXAMPLE, BY ATTENDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY IN A HOME FOR THE AGED), AND BOOK SCHEMES (BY WHICH, FOR A NOMINAL SUM, OR FREE, READING MATERIAL IS EXCHANGED).

INDOOR ACTIVITIES WILL COMPRISE VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES DESIGNED TO CONVERT LEISURE INTO A PLEASANT WAY OF LEARNING SOMETHING USEFUL, SEMINARS, TALKS, INTEREST GROUPS, RECREATIONAL CLUBS AND CENTRES, VARIETY SHOWS, COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES, AND EXHIBITIONS OF ART AND HANDICRAFTS.

MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAMME ARE COMING FROM SCHOOLS THROUGH APPLICATION TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. BUT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS ARE ALSO HELPING INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS YOUNG WORKERS, TO JOIN.

BRITISH FORCES ARE ORGANISING A YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP FOR 120. THE CAMP WILL LAST FROM JULY 20 TO AUGUST 9. CAMPERS WILL STAY AT THE KAI TAK ROYAL AIR FORCE BARRACKS, BUT WILL BE TRAINED AT SAI KUNG.

THE CAMP WILL INVOLVE HILL-CLIMBING, CANOEING, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF FIRST-AID. PARTICIPANTS MUST KNOW HOW TO SWIM, AND MUST BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 20.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE PROGRAMME, VISIT PARTICIPANTS AT THE SCENE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES TO SEE HOW THEY ARE GETTING ON AND TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT.

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INDUSTRIAL JOINT VENTURES THRIVE IN HONG KONG
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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HE WAS POSITIVE THAT HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS AGAIN EXPANDING.

HE ALSO SAID THAT JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN FIRMS COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

MR. MCGREGOR MADE THE REMARKS DURING A VISIT TO TWO INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS THIS AFTERNOON - THE INTERNATIONAL CONTAINERS LTD. AND THE SAM FAT HING STEEL FACTORY LTD.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN FOR MANY YEARS PROMOTING, AND WAS STILL PROMOTING, SUCH PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. HE SAID THERE WAS A GOOD RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL JOINT VENTURES IN HONG KONG.

MR. MCGREGOR CALLED FIRST AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONTAINERS LTD., A JOINT HONG KONG -- AUSTRALIA VENTURE SITUATED ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE PLANT PRODUCES BETWEEN 3,000 AND 4,000 CONTAINERS A YEAR, AND HAS PLANS TO INCREASE ITS OUTPUT TO ABOUT 9,000 A YEAR. IT IS THE ONLY FACTORY OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE MANUFACTURE OF CONTAINERS IS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT INDUSTRY FOR HONG KONG GIVEN OUR HEAVY RELIANCE ON EXPORT TRADE AND THE RAPID CONVERSION OF SEA-BORNE AND AIR-BORNE TRAFFIC FROM CONVENTIONAL CARRIAGE TO CONTAINERS.

THE INDUSTRY WAS ALSO HEAVIER IN CHARACTER THAN MOST OTHERS IN HONG KONG AND EMPLOYED A FAIRLY HIGH PROPORTION OF MALE WORKERS, HE SAID.

+IT IS THE SORT OF INDUSTRY WHICH, IN MY OPINION, COULD WELL BE LOCATED SUCCESSFULLY IN OUR PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL ESTATES,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCGREGOR SPENT OVER AN HOUR AT THE CONTAINER FACTORY. HE WAS SHOWN ROUND THE PREMISES BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR. R.H. ASH, AND MR. PAUL LIM, SUB-MANAGER OF CHIAP HUA MANUFACTORY, THE LOCAL PARTNERS IN THE JOINT ENTERPRISE.

AT THE SAM FAT HING STEEL FACTORY LTD. - THE SECOND STOP OF THE DAY - MR. MCGREGOR SAW WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS +A GOOD EXAMPLE+ OF THE MANY HUNDREDS OF METAL PROCESSING FACTORIES WHICH PROVIDE HONG KONG INDUSTRY WITH SUBSTANTIAL ENGINEERING CAPABILITY AND STRENGTH.

/HE BELIEVED, ...

HE BELIEVED, HE SAID, THAT THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY HERE HAD GREAT POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION IN THE YEARS AHEAD. +REALISATION OF THIS POTENTIAL,+ HE CONTINUED, +MUST, IN MY VIEW, BE ENCOURAGED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BE AGGRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION ON THE ONE HAND AND BY AN EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIALLY-TRAINED YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE TECHNICAL TRAINING SYSTEM ON THE OTHER.+

EVERY INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, RELIED TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT ON ENGINEERING SKILLS.

MR. MCGREGOR ADDED : +WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF ENGINEERING TALENT WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FULLY UTILISED. I AM SURE WE ARE GOING TO SEE A SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CONCEPT HAS GREAT RELEVANCE TO ENGINEERING-BASED INDUSTRIES.+

MR. MCGREGOR WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE SAM FAT HING STEEL FACTORY BY THE PROPRIETOR, MR. LAM TSOON-FAI.

THE FACTORY PRODUCES MACHINES AND MACHINE PARTS FOR CRANES, CONTAINERS, MOTOR VEHICLES, HYDROFOILS, ELECTRICITY GENERATORS, INCINERATORS, AND TRACTORS.

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STRONG TEAM FOR THIRD ROUND OF EEC TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

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HONG KONG IS FIELDING A STRONG TEAM FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC ON A NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO START ON JULY 7 IN BRUSSELS.

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. J.D. MCGREGOR, ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILE ADVISORY BOARD AS INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS TO THE SIX-MEMBER OFFICIAL HONG KONG DELEGATION.

THEY ARE : THE HON. FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN, MR. JACK TANG, MR. B.I. BARLOW, MR. FRANK LIN, MR. PHILIP LAI AND MR. STEPHEN CHEONG.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION IS LED BY MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WHO IS ALREADY IN EUROPE.

MR. PETER TSAO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WILL LEAVE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO JOIN HIM, AND THE REST OF THE DELEGATION WILL FOLLOW NEXT WEEK. THE DELEGATION WILL ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE BRUSSELS OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

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$379 MILLION DEFICIT RECORDED IN 1974/75

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1974/75 SHOW A TOTAL DEFICIT OF $379.8 MILLION, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE $410 MILLION DEFICIT PREDICTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO $5,875.3 MILLION. THIS IS $634.5 MILLION MORE THAN IN 1973/74, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF COLLECTIONS IN RESPECT OF INTERNAL REVENUE WHICH TOTALLED $2,604.5 MILLION DURING THE YEAR -- $335.1 MILLION MORE THAN IN 1973/74.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO $6,255.2 MILLION WHICH WAS $1,086 MILLION MORE THAN IN 1973/74 MAINLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED SPENDING ON PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS AND PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THE ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH, THE LAST MONTH OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR, SHOWED A DEFICIT OF $31.6 MILLION, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF $438.8 MILLION FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE DIFFERENCE IS DUE MAINLY TO THE PAYMENT IN MARCH 1974 OF $300 MILLION TO THE MASS TRANSIT FUND AND THE RECEIPT OF ALMOST $94 MILLION IN REVENUE IN MARCH THIS YEAR FROM THE MASS TRANSIT FUND IN ADJUSTMENT OF PAYMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE FOR STAFF COSTS AND PRE-CONSTRUCTION WORK.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT $648.7 MILLION WAS $178.2 MILLION MORE THAN IN MARCH 1974. TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO $680.2 MILLION WHICH WAS $229.1 MILLION LESS THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE TRANSFER OF $300 MILLION TO THE MASS TRANSIT FUND IN MARCH 1974.

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SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT FOR ABERDEEN

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A 125-METRE-LONG SEAWALL WILL BE BUILT TO FRONT SOME 6,000 SQUARE METRES OF RECLAIMED LAND IN ABERDEEN.

THE RECLAMATION IS TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ABERDEEN SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT, THE SUBMARINE OUTFALL AND THE ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND STAFF QUARTERS.

THE ABOVE WORKS FORM PART OF THE PROJECT FOR THE ABERDEEN SEWAGE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. WORK ON THE SCHEME HAD ALREADY BEGUN LAST SEPTEMBER WITH THE LAYING OF A 900-METRE LONG INTERCEPTING SEWER. WHEN THE SCHEME IS COMPLETED, SEWAGE FROM ABERDEEN DISTRICT WILL BE INTERCEPTED BY A TRUNK SEWER AND CONVEYED TO THE TREATMENT PLANT FOR PROPER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL.

TENDERS ARE NOW BEING CALLED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEAWALL. WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW CURRICULUM

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THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS WILL BE INTRODUCED THIS SEPTEMBER ON A TRIAL BASIS SO THAT IT CAN BE THOROUGHLY TESTED, EVALUATED AND MODIFIED IN THE LIGHT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED TODAY.

+SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN THE TRY-OUT IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY, THOUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGING AS MANY SCHOOLS AS POSSIBLE TO TRY OUT AT LEAST ONE SUBJECT,+ HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN WAS CLARIFYING A NUMBER OF POINTS RAISED BY THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS WEEK IN SOME NEWSPAPERS.

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO DELAY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CURRICULUM ON THE GROUNDS THAT TEACHERS HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THE PRELIMINARY GUIDE AND WERE NOT YET TRAINED IN PRESENTING NEW APPROACHES IMPLICIT IN THE CURRICULUM, THAT SCHOOLS HAD INSUFFICIENT FACILITIES, AND THAT THERE WERE INSUFFICIENT TEXTBOOKS APPROPRIATE TO THE NEW COURSES.

THE ASSOCIATION ALSO CALLED FOR THE ABOLITION OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE, IN ADDITION TO LACK OF WORKSHOPS AND FACILITIES, THE SUBJECT WAS IRRELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS' OTHER THAN THOSE INTENDING TO SERVE APPRENTICESHIPS IN WOODWORK OR METALWORK.

+THESE OBSERVATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +APPEAR TO INDICATE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, SOME OF THE POINTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO THE ASSOCIATION WHICH MAY BE OF GENERAL INTEREST ARE GIVEN BELOW :-

* THE TRY-OUT PATTERN IN THE PRELIMINARY GUIDE TO SCHOOLS IS A NORMAL APPROACH TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND MOST COUNTRIES CONSIDER THE TRIAL STAGE TO BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. COPIES OF THE PRELIMINARY GUIDE GIVING FULL DETAILS OF THE TRIAL PROCESS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

/* NEW TYPES .....

* NEW TYPES OF TEXTBOOK AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL WILL BE DEVELOPED DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD AS THE RESULT OF CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS AND THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HAVE THESE READY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL VERSIONS OF FORM 1 SYLLABUSES IN 1977. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE TRIAL PROCESS AND IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE MATERIAL PRODUCED IS BOTH RELEVANT AND CONDUCIVE TO ENLIGHTENED TEACHING. THE ALTERNATIVE - TO WAIT UNTIL TEXTBOOKS WERE READY BEFORE TRYING OUT THE CURRICULUM - WOULD IN EFFECT FIX THE CONTENT AND APPROACH OF THE CURRICULUM BEFORE IT HAD BEEN TESTED.

* SHORT COURSES OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH THE SCHOOLS BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE IN ORDER TO HELP TEACHERS ADAPT TO THE NEW APPROACH.

* THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL FOR A STRONG ELEMENT OF PRACTICAL EDUCATION CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION. DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY IS INTENDED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE ORDINARY PUPIL. IT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE CRAFT-ORIENTED WOODWORK AND METALWORK AS TAUGHT AT PRESENT, IN THAT IT EMPHASISES CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY. IT IS NON-VOCATIONAL IN NATURE, BUT DOES GIVE A GENERAL PRACTICAL BACKGROUND WHICH WOULD BE OF AS MUCH VALUE TO THOSE PUPILS PURSUING FURTHER EDUCATION AS IT WOULD TO THOSE ENTERING INDUSTRY.

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WORK ON KWUN TONG MTR STATION TO START SOON

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PREPARATORY CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON THE PROPOSED KWUN TONG STATION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

THE WORKS WILL INVOLVE SOME PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY ROADWORKS, THE RE-LOCATION OF A 330-METRE LONG REINFORCED CONCRETE BOX CULVERT FOR STORM WATER DRAINAGE, AND THE DIVERSION OF SOME SEWERS AND WATERMAINS.

THE WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT MAINLY AT THE JUNCTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD AND HIP WO STREET AND ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE PRECONTRACT WORKS WHICH HAVE TO BE DONE BEFORE THE WORKS ON THE KWUN TONG STATION AND THE OVERHEAD SECTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CAN BEGIN.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY MESSRS. FREEMAN FOX AND PARTNERS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE MTR WORKS ALONG NATHAN ROAD, A NEW ACCESS ROAD WILL BE BUILT TO KOWLOON PARK FROM HAIPHONG ROAD TO REPLACE THE PRESENT ONE AT THE JUNCTION OF HAIPHONG ROAD AND NATHAN ROAD.

THE NEW ACCESS ROAD WILL BE ABOUT 50 METRES LONG AND SIX METRES WIDE. WORK ON IT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER AND SHOULD TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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HOUSING SITE AT SHA TAU KOK

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PUT UP FOR SALE AN AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN SHA TAU KOK WHICH MAY BE TURNED INTO A SITE FOR VILLAGE-TYPE HOUSING.

THE AREA FACING THE STARLING INLET, MEASURES ABOUT 293,500 SQUARE FEET.

ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF SALE IS THAT THE PURCHASER WILL HAVE TO RECLAIM THE LAND AND USE IT TO BUILD VILLAGE HOUSES.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

ANYONE WHO HAS OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL OR HAS A CLAIM OF PRIVATE RIGHT IN THE MATTER SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM TODAY.

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STRICTER CONTROL ON SALES OF FLATS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED LEGISLATION TO GIVE IMPROVED PROTECTION TO PURCHASERS OF FLATS IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS.

THE NEW MEASURES ARE OUTLINED IN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1975 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED TODAY THAT SINCE 1961 EXCLUSION ORDERS GRANTED UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE HAVE PROHIBITED SALES OF FLATS IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE LAND OFFICER.

IN GRANTING CONSENT, THE LAND OFFICER IMPOSES CONDITIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FLAT PURCHASERS, HE SAID.

+RECENTLY, A SMALL NUMBER OF DEVELOPERS HAVE TRIED TO EVADE THE RESTRICTIONS BY ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS TO SELL FLATS IN THE PROPOSED NEW BUILDING BEFORE APPLYING FOR AN EXCLUSION ORDER, WHICH REQUIRES SALES OF FLATS TO HAVE THE CONSENT OF THE LAND OFFICER,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

+IF THE BILL IS ENACTED, THIS LOOPHOLE WILL BE CLOSED.

+IF ANY DEVELOPER THEN ADOPTS THE SAME DEVICE, HIS LOT WILL BECOME LIABLE TO RE-ENTRY BY THE CROWN.

+IN THAT EVENT THE INTENDED PURCHASERS OF THE FLATS WILL BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER FROM THE DEVELOPER ANY ADVANCE PAYMENTS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE MADE.+

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MAN WA LANE

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE NORTHERN SECTION OF MAN WA LANE BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM 10 A.M. NEXT WEDNESDAY (JULY 2).

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STATION ENTRANCE AND A VENTILLATION SHAFT FOR THE FUTURE WESTERN MARKET STATION WHICH FORMS PART OF THE FULL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS ENTRANCE AND THE VENTILLATION SHAFT, WHICH IS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO FOUNDATION WORKS FOR THE RE-DEVELOPED WING ON CENTRE, MUST BE CARRIED OUT NOW BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY IMPRACTICABLE TO DO SO IN A FUTURE STAGE AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE WING ON CENTRE WITHOUT CAUSING SERIOUS DISRUPTION, HE EXPLAINED.

DURING THE CLOSURE, BUS ROUTES NOS. 104 AND 105 WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA CLERVERLY STREET, AND ROUTE NO. 111 WILL OPERATE VIA GILMAN STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED.

MEANWHILE, IN KOWLOON, A FLYOVER AT THE CHOI HUNG INTERCHANGE WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 30). IT WILL CARRY TRAFFIC FROM CLEARWATER BAY ROAD TO THE KAI TAK AIRPORT AREA OVER KWUN TONG ROAD.

THERE WILL BE NO TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS, BUT TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT PRESENT CONTROLLING TRAFFIC FROM CLEARWATER BAY ROAD ACROSS KWUN TONG ROAD WILL BE CANCELLED.

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SEMINAR ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION
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STUDENTS OF THE NINE GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WILL NEXT MONTH HOLD A THREE-DAY SEMINAR AT THE KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL TO AROUSE MORE INTEREST IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE OPENED ON JULY 12 (SATURDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, DR. KEITH LEGG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, MR. ALEX S.C. WU, WILL ADDRESS THE STUDENTS ON THE FIRST DAY.

ON JULY 14, THE SPEAKERS WILL BE THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. DANIEL WATERS= THE PRINCIPAL OF THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, MR. JEFF DEVEREUX= AND THE PRINCIPAL OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, MR. PETER SMITH.

THE SPEAKERS ON JULY 15 WILL BE MR. ANTONY REYNOLDS, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG= MR. WESLEY POTTER, INSPECTOR (DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY)= AND MR. STAN LUCAS, SENIOR INSPECTOR (TECHNICAL SUBJECTS).

AS FOLLOW-UP EVENTS, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HOLD EXHIBITIONS AT THE KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND AT THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER, THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE EXHIBITIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SEMINAR FROM JULY 12 TO JULY 15.

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