



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LAW ON ABORTION TO BE AMENDED
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TWO BILLS AMENDING THE EXISTING LAW PERTAINING TO ABORTION AND RELATED OFFENCES, AND SUPPRESSING THE PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO ILLEGAL ABORTIONS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (APRIL 25).

THEY ARE THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EXISTING LAW AN ABORTION MAY BE CARRIED OUT LEGALLY IF TWO DOCTORS ARE OF THE OPINION, FORMED IN GOOD FAITH, THAT THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PREGNANCY WOULD INVOLVE RISK TO THE LIFE OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN, OR OF INJURY TO HER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH, GREATER THAN IF THE PREGNANCY WERE TERMINATED.

+THE BILLS DO NOT PROPOSE ANY RADICAL CHANGE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN. +THEIR AIM IS TO TIDY UP THE EXISTING PROVISIONS, AND TO SPECIFY CERTAIN OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AN ABORTION MAY BE CARRIED OUT LEGALLY.+

HE STRESSED: +SUCH ABORTIONS MUST STILL TAKE PLACE IN APPROVED HOSPITALS OR CLINICS.+

IN ADDITION, NEW RESTRICTIONS ARE PROPOSED TO PROHIBIT ABORTIONS IN THE LATER STAGES OF A PREGNANCY.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED: +THE NEW PROVISIONS IN THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON (AMENDMENT) BILL ARE FIRSTLY, THAT A LEGAL ABORTION MAY BE CARRIED OUT IF TWO DOCTORS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL RISK THAT THE CHILD, UPON BIRTH, WOULD HAVE SUCH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ABNORMALITIES AS TO BE SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED.+

+SECONDLY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT A LEGAL ABORTION MAY BE CARRIED OUT WHEN THE PREGNANT WOMAN IS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 YEARS.+

+IN SUCH CASES, PARENTAL CONSENT WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE SAME MANNER AS IT IS FOR OTHER OPERATIONS.+

THE THIRD SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS PROPOSED THAT A LEGAL ABORTION MAY BE PERFORMED, SAID THE SPOKESMAN, IS IN CASES WHERE A PREGNANCY IS THE RESULT OF INCEST, RAPE OR RAPE-RELATED OFFENCES +PROVIDED THAT THE WOMAN CONCERNED HAS MADE A REPORT TO THE POLICE THAT SHE WAS A VICTIM OF AN OFFENCE OF INCEST OR RAPE, OR A RAPE-RELATED OFFENCE WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE ALLEGED OFFENCE.+

UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT AN ABORTION BEING PERFORMED AT ANY STAGE OF A PREGNANCY. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR A VIABLE FOETUS AND ALSO FOR THE MOTHER (IN VIEW OF THE GREATER RISK TO THE MOTHER INVOLVED IN AN ABORTION PERFORMED AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREGNANCY), IT IS PROPOSED IN THE BILL THAT NO ABORTION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT WHERE A PREGNANCY IS OF MORE THAN 24 WEEKS DURATION, EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SO TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER.

/+ IT IS

+IT IS ALSO PROPOSED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +TO INTRODUCE A NEW PROVISION FOR AN OFFENCE OF CHILD DESTRUCTION, IN ORDER TO PROTECT AN UNBORN CHILD CAPABLE OF BEING BORN ALIVE, BUT BEFORE IT HAS AN EXISTENCE INDEPENDENT OF ITS MOTHER.+

THIS PROVISION IS BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM INFANT LIFE (PRESERVATION) ACT 1929.

+FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROSECUTION FOR CHILD DESTRUCTION, IT WOULD BE PRESUMED THAT A WOMAN PREGNANT FOR 28 WEEKS OR MORE WAS AT THAT TIME PREGNANT WITH A CHILD CAPABLE OF BEING BORN ALIVE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

THE PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ABORTION AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND TWO CHANGES ARE PROPOSED.

IN CASES OF ILLEGAL ABORTION THE COURT HAS AT PRESENT NO POWER TO IMPOSE A FINE INSTEAD OF OR IN ADDITION TO, A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.

THE BILL EMPOWERS A COURT TO IMPOSE MONETARY PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ABORTIONS AND ALSO PROVIDES THAT A PERSON PERFORMING AN ILLEGAL ABORTION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO A HEAVIER TERM OF IMPRISONMENT THAN THE PREGNANT WOMAN INVOLVED.

MAXIMUM PENALTIES THAT CAN BE IMPOSED ARE:

- * WOMAN PROCURING AN ABORTION - SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COURT-
- * ILLEGAL ABORTIONIST - LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COURT-
- * CHILD DESTRUCTION - LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COURT-
- * INFANTICIDE - LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COURT.

THE PURPOSE OF THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL IS TO PROHIBIT ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS AND STREETS RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES FOR ABORTIONS, EXCEPT THOSE PUBLISHED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IT IS HOPED THAT WITH GREATER PUBLICITY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES FOR LEGAL ABORTION, WOMEN GENUINELY IN NEED WILL BE PERSUADED TO SEEK SAFE ABORTION IN GOVERNMENT OR APPROVED HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.+

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IS NOW BEING CONSULTED ON CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, BEFORE THE TWO BILLS ARE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+IT IS INTENDED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +THAT THERE SHOULD BE INFORMED DEBATE DURING CONSULTATION.+

GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO EMPLOY THE DISABLED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED REVISED CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS TO ENABLE MORE DISABLED PERSONS TO BE RECRUITED.

UNTIL RECENTLY, A DISABLED PERSON APPLYING FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD BE SELECTED FOR APPOINTMENT ONLY IF HE WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE FULL RANGE OF DUTIES OF A PARTICULAR RANK.

UNDER THE REVISED REGULATIONS, A DISABLED CANDIDATE FOUND SUITABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF A PARTICULAR POST MAY BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT EVEN THOUGH HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF EVERY POST IN THE SAME RANK.

THIS CHANGE, ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, WAS INTRODUCED IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE TEMPO OF RECRUITING DISABLED PERSONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL POLICY OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE PROCESS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EVENTUAL GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE A LEAD IN PLACING THE DISABLED IN APPROPRIATE JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, RECOGNISING THAT THE ABILITIES OF MANY DISABLED PERSONS OUTWEIGH THEIR DISABILITIES AND THAT ONLY IN PRODUCTIVE AND REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT WOULD THEIR FULLEST POSSIBLE VOCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL BE REALISED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED +DISABLED EMPLOYEES HAVE MUCH TO OFFER. THEIR VERY LACK OF MOBILITY, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THEIR EMPLOYMENT ENABLES THEM TO REGAIN SELF-RESPECT AND HENCE GENERATES CONSIDERABLE JOB SATISFACTION, MEANS THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE HARDWORKING AND LOYAL+.

THE REVISED REGULATIONS ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT A DISABLED PERSON FOUND SUITABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF PREFERENCE FOR APPOINTMENT OVER OTHER APPLICANTS.

A BLIND FINAL-YEAR STUDENT OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY SELECTED FOR APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER II UNDER THE REVISED CRITERIA. ANOTHER BLIND THIRD-YEAR STUDENT IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A COURT INTERPRETER.

WHILE AGREEING THAT IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT JOBS IS NOT LARGE, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AS A RESULT OF SPECIAL EFFORTS, THE NUMBER IS GRADUALLY INCREASING. THERE WERE ON APRIL 1, 1975 ALTOGETHER 350 DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE- THE NUMBER HAS SINCE INCREASED TO 662 AS AT APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT UNIT WHICH IS BEING SET UP IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD BE ABLE TO EMPLOY MORE DISABLED PERSONS.

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AIR TALKS BETWEEN UK HK AND CANADA TO CONTINUE IN OTTAWA
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THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADIAN AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES WILL HOLD ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS IN AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN THE AIR SERVICES TALKS IN LONDON LAST WEEK.

THE TALKS HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY ARRANGED TO TAKE PLACE IN OTTAWA IN MID-JUNE.

THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO CANADIAN PACIFIC'S 30-YEAR-OLD MONOPOLY OF THE ROUTE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND VANCOUVER.

BOTH THE UK AND HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THE CANADIAN MONOPOLY IS AGAINST THE INTEREST OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND OF CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AND LAKER AIRWAYS WHO WISH TO OPERATE ON THIS ROUTE.

MR NORMAN LATHAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, WHO REPRESENTED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT THE TALKS IN LONDON LAST WEEK SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE CANADIAN SIDE WAS RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR A BRITISH ROUTE ACROSS THE PACIFIC FROM HONG KONG TO VANCOUVER, THEIR NEGOTIATOR HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT NOTHING COULD BE AGREED UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SERVICES.

+IN THIS RESPECT, THE CANADIANS WILL NOT ALLOW BRITISH AIRWAYS TO OPERATE FROM LONDON TO WESTERN CANADA WITHOUT COMPENSATION BEING PAID WHICH INCLUDES ACCESS TO THE LONDON-HONG KONG CABOTAGE ROUTE FOR AIR CANADA,+ HE SAID.

MR LATHAM COMMENTED THAT IN THE VIEW OF THE UK AND HONG KONG AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES, THE CANADIAN DEMANDS WERE EXTREMELY UNREASONABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE.

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BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL BREAKTHROUGH

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW \$78 MILLION DOUBLE-TRACK BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL REACHED AN IMPORTANT STAGE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN IT HAD ITS +BREAKTHROUGH+.

THE BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACHIEVED AT NOON WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF PWD, MR DAVID STEAD DETONATED AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE TO REMOVE THE LAST ROCK SEPARATING THE EXCAVATIONS FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH ENDS OF THE 2.3-KILOMETRE TUNNEL.

AFTER THE BREAKTHROUGH, THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY WAS +PURIFIED+ BY SPRINKLING SAKE ON THE GROUND.

/MR STEAD,

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MR STEAD, ACCOMPANIED BY MR WONG MANG-KI, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER AND OTHER PWD ENGINEERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT, THEN PROCEEDED TO THE ROCK FACE WHERE HE WAS MET BY MR M. AOKI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MAIN CONTRACTOR, AOKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, WHO EMERGED FROM THE NORTH PILOT TUNNEL.

THEY SHOOK HANDS AND EXCHANGED BOTTLES OF SAKE TO MARK THE SUCCESSFUL JOINING OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SECTIONS OF THE TUNNEL.

WORK ON THE NEW RAILWAY TUNNEL, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE ELECTRIFICATION AND MODERNISATION SCHEME OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, STARTED IN EARLY 1978, USING CONVENTIONAL DRILL AND BLAST TECHNIQUES.

TO DATE, SOME 150 TONNES OF EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN USED TO REMOVE OVER 330 000 TONNES OF ROCK FROM THE BOWELS OF BEACON HILL.

THE EXCAVATED ROCK IS CRUSHED ON SITE AND USED FOR THE PERMANENT LINING OF THE TUNNEL.

THE LINING WILL TAKE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE WHILE THE RAILWAY TRACK IN THE TUNNEL IS EXPECTED TO BE LAID BY THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR.

ON COMPLETION EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE DOUBLE TRACK TUNNEL WILL BE ABOUT SEVEN METRES HIGH AND JUST OVER 10 METRES WIDE.

IT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SINGLE TRACK TUNNEL, WHICH HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE 1910.

MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN APPROACHES TO THE TUNNEL IS UNDERWAY.

AT THE SOUTHERN END, TEMPORARY TRACKS HAVE BEEN LAID TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KCR AND MTR INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG, THE CONTRACT FOR WHICH WILL BE LET NEXT WEEK.

ON THE NORTHERN SIDE, WORK IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY ON THE LAYING OF SOME 1 500 METRES OF RAILWAY TRACK AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 20-METRE RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER NULLAH ROAD NEAR THE NORTH PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL.

THE WORK, FORMING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE KCR DOUBLE TRACKING BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN, IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR.

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MORE MONEY FOR DABS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED \$6 112 000 TO THE EIGHT DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, 36 PER CENT UP ON LAST YEAR'S FIGURE.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT HAS RECEIVED \$2 MILLION, THE LARGEST ALLOCATION, FOLLOWED BY YUEN LONG (\$1 036 000) AND TUEN MUN (\$686 000).

SHA TIN DISTRICT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$536 000, WHILE ISLANDS, SAI KUNG AND TAI PO DISTRICTS HAVE EACH RECEIVED \$486 000. NORTH DISTRICT HAS BEEN GIVEN \$396 000.

THE BUDGET FOR 1979/80 WAS \$4.5 MILLION AND FOR 1978/79 \$3.7 MILLION.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, SAID INCREASED FUNDS WOULD ENABLE BOARDS TO IMPROVE SERVICES. +I AM PLEASED THAT THE BOARDS, WHICH ARE DOING SOME VERY GOOD WORK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, NOW HAVE MORE MONEY TO INCREASE THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE BOARDS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE INCLUDED VARIETY SHOWS, FUN FAIRS, CONCERTS AND SOCCER TOURNAMENTS.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS PUT ON TRAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DANCING, PLAYING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DRAMA. CHILDREN'S CHOIRS WERE FORMED IN SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG.

MAJOR EVENTS INCLUDED THE TSUEN WAN ARTS AND SPORTS FESTIVALS WHICH PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

MR CHUI SAID THE YEAR-ROUND RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMME, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE BOARDS AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, HAD HELPED TO BRING ACTIVITIES TO GRASS-ROOT LEVELS.

MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED LAST FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDED REST GARDENS, ROAD SIDE AMENITIES AND SITTING-OUT AREAS IN SEVERAL NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS.

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS WERE FIRST ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER, 1977, TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS OF DISTRICTS AND ON THE PROVISION AND USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

THEY CONSIST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, WHO ARE DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY, INCLUDING RURAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, EDUCATIONISTS AND VOLUNTARY WORKERS. THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WAS RECENTLY INCREASED FROM 140 TO 160.

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NEW TERM OF TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE INAUGURATED

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THE IMPORTANCE OF TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN LONG-ESTABLISHED, TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER TSUEN WAN, MR JAMES HAYES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 20TH TERM OF THE COMMITTEE.

+THE COMMITTEE EXISTS MAINLY TO SERVE AN INDIGENOUS VILLAGE COMMUNITY OF TSUEN WAN, WHICH SUPPLIES VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES WHO IN TURN ELECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BUT FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD OF ITS EXISTENCE IT HAS RENDERED A MUCH WIDER SERVICE TO INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWN, MR HAYES SAID A GOVERNMENT OFFICE, A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND A LIBRARY ADEQUATE TO THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TOWN HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+HOWEVER, THEIR COMPLETION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE RECLAMATION NOW IN HAND IN TSUEN WAN BAY WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE BEST SITE FOR THESE MAJOR AND MUCH NEEDED COMMUNITY FACILITIES.+

ON TRAFFIC, HE SAID THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1984 AND ROUTE 5 FROM SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN WAS TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A CONSULTANT FEASIBILITY STUDY TO BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR, FINANCED BY AN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN.

MR HAYES TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT ITS VIEWS ON GRAVE WORSHIPPING PRACTICES WERE NOTED. +THESE MATTERS, WHICH ARE PART OF A WIDER CONCERN WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR FOREST AREAS, ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF HOI PA VILLAGE WERE WELL IN HAND AND WOULD BE COMPLETED HOPEFULLY BETWEEN MID-1981 AND MID-1982. +THIS WILL IMPROVE VILLAGERS' LIVING CONDITIONS AND ALSO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED SPACE FOR MODERN DEVELOPMENT IN THE CENTRE OF TSUEN WAN.+

MR HAYES SAID TIN HAU TEMPLE WOULD BE REPAIRED AND EXTENDED NEXT YEAR. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT AND ADVICE OF THE RURAL COMMITTEE IN THIS WORK WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

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FIRE PREVENTION CHECK IN TSUEN WAN
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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU (FPB) OFFICERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CARRIED OUT AN INSPECTION ON ABOUT 1 000 TSUEN WAN FACTORIES IN AN EFFORT TO REMOVE POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS.

AS A RESULT, 161 FACTORIES WERE ISSUED ON THE SPOT WITH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES MOSTLY FOR CAUSING OBSTRUCTION IN COMMON AREAS AND ON STAIRCASES. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THE HAZARDS WITHIN A STIPULATED PERIOD OF TIME.

IN ADDITION, FOUR FACTORIES WILL BE SUMMONSED SHORTLY FOR THE RECURRENCE OF THE FIRE HAZARDS, A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

DURING THE SIX-HOUR OPERATION, THE OFFICERS VISITED 982 FACTORIES IN 32 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

LED BY DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR KWAN SAI-YIU, THE FIRE OFFICERS FOUND MANY STAIRWAYS, COMMON CORRIDORS, FIRE EXITS AND LIFT LOBBIES BLOCKED WITH PAPER CARTONS AND UNFINISHED PRODUCTS.

MR KWAN SAID AFTER THE INSPECTION THAT THE GENERAL FIRE PREVENTION SITUATION IN THE AREA WAS FAIR.

+DESPITE GREAT EFFORTS BY FPB OFFICERS AND OPERATIONAL STAFF, MANY FACTORIES ARE STILL USING STAIRWAYS AND LIFT LOBBIES AS CONVENIENT STORAGE AREAS DISREGARDING THE SAFETY OF THEIR STAFF AND OTHERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING TODAY'S OPERATION FIRE OFFICERS ALSO FOUND 63 CASES OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ALTERATIONS, ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND BREACH OF LEASING CONDITIONS.

IN ADDITION, ABOUT 20 OFFICERS AND MEN FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES OPERATIONAL COMMAND ALSO CARRIED OUT THEIR DAILY INSPECTION IN THE SAME AREA. +THE PURPOSE OF THE DAILY VISIT IS TO ALLOW OPERATIONAL STAFF TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH DIFFERENT PREMISES AND TO TRY AND KEEP STAIRCASES FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT IS THE AIM TO KEEP UP THE FIRE SERVICES PRESENCE IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS TO KEEP FACTORY OWNERS AND OPERATORS ON THEIR TOE CONCERNING SAFETY REGULATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

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HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECTS ON DISPLAY
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PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES IN A HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL FOR THREE DAYS STARTING ON SUNDAY (APRIL 27).

THE FIRST PRIZE WENT TO SHUN TAK FRATERNITY ASSOCIATION SEAWARD WOO COLLEGE FOR ITS PROJECT ON +A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT+. THE SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE \$1 800 AND A TROPHY.

PO LEUNG KUK NO 1 COLLEGE CAME SECOND WITH ITS PRESENTATION OF +CONTROL OF COMMON PEST+ AND IN THIRD PLACE WAS KEI HEEP SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL WHICH ALSO DEVELOPED THE THEME OF +A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT+.

THEY WILL RECEIVE CASH PRIZES OF \$1 500 AND \$1 200 RESPECTIVELY, AND A TROPHY.

TWELVE OTHER PRIZE-WINNING PROJECTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY, BY MEANS OF PICTURES, PHOTOGRAPHS, MODELS, SPECIMENS, GRAPHS, CHARTS AND FEATURE ARTICLES.

THE THREE BEST PROJECTS WILL ALSO BE SHOWN AT VARIOUS COMMUNITY CENTRES AND SCHOOL HALLS AT A LATER DATE.

THE COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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MUSIC CAMP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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YOUNG MUSICIANS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO POLISH THEIR SKILL AT A MUSIC CAMP TO BE HELD AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE BETWEEN AUGUST 11 AND 17 AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP 1980 IS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION.

THE CAMP WILL GIVE PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFINE THEIR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PLAYING SKILL AND TO TAKE PART IN SOME RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE SIX-DAY CAMP WILL END WITH A CONCERT TO BE GIVEN BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON AUGUST 17.

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FROM YOUNG MUSICIANS TO JOIN THE CAMP. THEY MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- * BE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 1980-
- * HAVE ATTENDED GRADE FIVE OR EQUIVALENT IN EITHER WESTERN WOODWIND INSTRUMENT, OR WESTERN BRASS INSTRUMENT- OR STRING INSTRUMENT, OR PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT- OR HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE IN CHINESE MUSIC INSTRUMENT ORCHESTRAL PLAYING- AND
- * HAVE PASSED THE AUDITION TO BE ARRANGED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES AT 157-159 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, THIRD FLOOR, MONG KOK- 100 TING FU STREET, NGAU TAU KOK- 167-173 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, CHEUNG YIU BUILDING, TSUEN WAN- AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND ITS 17 DISTRICT OFFICES.

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON MAY 10. THE FEE FOR JOINING THE CAMP IS \$30 EACH.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE MUSIC CAMP CAN BE MADE ON TEL: 5-283257 AND 5-458511.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHA TIN

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A SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD IN SHA TIN WILL BE REDUCED TO ONE-LANE TRAFFIC BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 AM DAILY ON FRIDAY (APRIL 25) AND SATURDAY FOR THE DISMANTLING OF A STEEL BRIDGE AT ITS JUNCTION WITH KAU TO ROAD.

DURING THESE PERIODS, THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD MAY ALSO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR SOME SHORT INTERVALS OF 30 MINUTES EACH TO FACILITATE THE DISMANTLING WORK.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN ABERDEEN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN ABERDEEN WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 25) FOR WORK ON THE SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE AREA.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET AND TIN WAN INCLUDING YUE KWONG ESTATE, SHEK PAI WAN ESTATE AND TIN WAN ESTATE.

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