



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR, UMELCO LEADERS GOING TO UK
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, AND THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR ROGER LOBO, WILL VISIT LONDON AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF MR ZHAO ZIYANG, PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, FROM JUNE 2 TO 8, AND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE DINNER WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD GIVE FOR HIM.

THEY WILL TRAVEL TO LONDON AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, RETURNING A FEW DAYS LATER.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON MR RICHARD LUCE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE DURING THEIR STAY.

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LEGCO TO DEBATE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM
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THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE RAISED BY AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION TO DR HO, THE FOLLOWING FIVE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT: THE HON RITA FAN, THE HON SELINA CHOW, THE HON WONG LAM, THE HON ALLEN LEE AND DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, WILL REPLY.

OTHER BUSINESS WILL INCLUDE 13 BILLS, 11 MOTIONS AND NINE QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED WILL DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS THE ROBBERY OF A WATCH COMPANY IN TSIM SHA TSUI, GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON LAND ALLOCATION FOR OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND SUBVENTION TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND THE DEAF.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING NINE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED:

- * LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) BILL 1985
- * DANGEROUS GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * TRUSTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS, PRIOR TO COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING:

- * DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1985
- * ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985

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HK PROTESTS OVER U.S. CUSTOMS REPLY ON SWEATERS
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS PROTESTED TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES THAT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED A CLEAR AND DEFINITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE U.S. CUSTOMS TO QUESTIONS RAISED ON WHAT EXTENT OF KNITTING OF COMPONENT PARTS IS REQUIRED TO TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FOR SWEATERS TO QUALIFY FOR HONG KONG ORIGIN UNDER THE NEW U.S. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REGULATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE U.S. CUSTOMS' RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IT IS EXTRAORDINARY THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CLARIFY THE RULES PRECISELY AFTER ALL THIS TIME.

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+WE CAN ONLY ADVISE THE TRADE THAT SHIPMENTS OF MFA SWEATERS TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE CONSIDERED BY U.S. CUSTOMS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.+

THIS ADVICE WAS CONTAINED IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, IN HONG KONG, ORIGIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR SWEATERS WOULD REMAIN AS SPECIFIED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN CIRCULAR ISSUED ON JULY 2, 1984.

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'GOOD MFA INTENTIONS NOT REALISED'
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THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REALISED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO TOLD JOURNALISTS IN BRUSSELS TODAY (TUESDAY).

DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES IN EUROPE HAD NOT NECESSARILY BENEFITED, AND THE +ORDERLY GROWTH OF THE TEXTILE TRADE+ IN FAVOUR OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE, HE SAID.

MR HO IS ON A TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS FOR INFORMAL TALKS WITH SENIOR TRADE AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT -- MFA -- WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON JULY 31, 1986.

HONG KONG, MR HO SAID, PRACTISED FREE TRADE, AND BELIEVED THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO AN OPEN MARKET. IT ALSO PUT NO RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MEXICO COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED IN APRIL FOLLOWING THE MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN MEXICO CITY OF 21 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, MR HO SAID HONG KONG WAS HAPPY WITH IT AND WOULD STAND BY IT.

HE SAID THAT ATTEMPTS AT DIVIDING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN NOTED AT THE MEETING, AND THAT HONG KONG FOR ONE WAS NOT FALLING FOR IT AND HAD NO INTENTION OF +GOING IT ALONE+.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON WHAT HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN A NEW MFA, MR HO SAID THAT IT WAS FOR THE IMPORTING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MAKE THE CASE FOR ANY SUCH PROVISION, GIVEN THE COMMITMENT TO LIBERALISATION OF TRADE IN TEXTILES IN THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION IN GENEVA IN NOVEMBER, 1982.

HONG KONG, MR HO SAID, WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN ENLIGHTENED APPROACH, ESPECIALLY FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE +CUT BACK+ OF EXPORTS, MR HO SAID THERE WAS NO CASE WHATEVER FOR ANY REDUCTION: THE AIM OF THE MFA WAS TO PROVIDE FOR AN ORDERLY GROWTH OF TRADE.

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SPECIAL KUK COUNCILLORS ELECTED
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SEVEN SPECIAL COUNCILLORS WERE ELECTED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO SERVE THE HEUNG YEE KUK'S ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN.

TWENTY-FIVE NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE ELECTION OF 21 SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE THREE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF TAI PO (INCLUDING SHA TIN AND NORTH), YUEN LONG (INCLUDING TUEN MUN), AND SOUTHERN (COMPRISING KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS), EACH WITH SEVEN SEATS.

HOWEVER, SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR TAI PO AND YUEN LONG WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED, LEAVING 11 CANDIDATES TO VIE FOR THE SEVEN SEATS IN TODAY'S SOUTHERN ELECTION.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES, WAS THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE ELECTION, WHICH WAS HELD BY SECRET BALLOT AT THE HEUNG YEE KUK'S OFFICE IN KOWLOON TONG.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT ELECTION ARE:

MR KWONG KWOK-KAM	(34 VOTES)
MR CHAN MUK-SANG	(34 VOTES)
MR NG TO-PO	(25 VOTES)
MR LUNG KWOK-FAI	(22 VOTES)
MR KWOK TAM-FUK	(22 VOTES)
MR YUEN WAI	(22 VOTES)
MR LEUNG CHOI-FUK	(22 VOTES)

THE ELECTORATE COMPRISED THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF RURAL COMMITTEES AND UNOFFICIAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW SPECIAL COUNCILLORS WILL SERVE THE KUK'S 26TH TERM FOR THREE YEARS, FROM JUNE 1.

ELECTION OF THE KUK CHAIRMAN, TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN AND 15 ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW TERM WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 28.

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GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL TO BE UPDATED
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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION WILL BE STAGING A MASSIVE UPDATING EXERCISE IN RESPECT OF THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ELECTORAL SERVICE), MR LEE LAP-SUN, TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THAT MORE THAN 58 000 ENQUIRY NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT DURING THE NEXT SEVEN WEEKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING WHETHER A REGISTERED ELECTOR MAY HAVE CEASED TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF REGISTRATION, OR MAY HAVE CEASED ORDINARILY TO RESIDE IN HONG KONG OR HAVE CHANGED HIS RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

THE CASES SUBJECT TO ENQUIRY COVER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES :-

- * THOSE WITH WHOM THE REGISTRATION OFFICER HAS LOST CONTACT, WITH POLL CARDS AND NOTICES RETURNED UNDELIVERED.
- * THOSE WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE GIVEN MISINFORMATION AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION PARTICULARLY ABOUT THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE.
- * THOSE WHO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE LEFT HONG KONG FOR SETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.
- * THOSE RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WHO HAVE BEEN RESITED.

WHILE CONFIRMATION ON CERTAIN INFORMATION IS BEING OBTAINED FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, THE ELECTORS UNDER ENQUIRY ARE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO SUCH NOTICES WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE MONTH.

IF NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED AFTER ONE MONTH OF ISSUE, OR IF THE REPLY INDICATED THAT THE ELECTOR DID NOT WISH TO CONTINUE TO BE REGISTERED ON THE ROLL, HIS NAME WOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS TO BE COMPILED AND PUBLISHED ANNUALLY IN NOVEMBER.

+IT IS SOMETHING WE LOATHE TO DO, BUT IT SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO HAVE A REGISTER WITH INCORRECT PARTICULARS,+ SAID MR LEE.

MR LEE INDICATED THAT 22 614 NAMES IN TOTAL HAD BEEN DELETED FROM THE REGISTER IN 1983 AND 1984 AND URGED ALL ELECTORS WHO WOULD BE RECEIVING ENQUIRY NOTICES TO RESPOND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

/+ALL THAT

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+ALL THAT AN ELECTOR NEEDS TO DO IS TO FILL IN A STANDARD REPLY FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE REGISTRATION OFFICER BY POST. AN ADDRESS SLIP IS PROVIDED WHICH WILL ALLOW THE REPLY FORM TO BE SENT POSTAGE FREE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR LEE ALSO APPEALED TO ELECTORS WHO HAVE NOT YET REPORTED CHANGES OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO DO SO BY LETTER WITHOUT DELAY, LEST THEY MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES INELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF THEIR NEW RESIDENCE IN THE MARCH 1986 URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS. TO THEIR INCONVENIENCE, THEY WOULD REMAIN TO BE ENTITLED TO VOTE ONLY IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF THEIR FORMER RESIDENCE.

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PUTONGHUA TO BE OFFERED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
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PUTONGHUA WILL BE INTRODUCED AS AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT IN THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM FROM SEPTEMBER 1986, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE DECISION WAS THE RESULT OF THE ENCOURAGING FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION STUDY INTO THE FIRST STAGE OF A PILOT SCHEME ON THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS, HE SAID.

THE PILOT SCHEME WAS STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1981 AND THE FIRST STAGE INVOLVING 42 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS COMPLETED IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE RESULTS INDICATED THAT IT WAS FEASIBLE TO INCLUDE PUTONGHUA IN THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM AS A SEPARATE OPTIONAL SUBJECT.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING INTERESTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE EXTENDED SCHEME THIS SEPTEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR PUTONGHUA TO BE INTRODUCED AS AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT NEXT YEAR.

AS A RESULT OF THE GROWING INTEREST OF SCHOOLS IN PROMOTING PUTONGHUA AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY, THE CHINESE SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A PAMPHLET, +GUIDELINES ON PUTONGHUA EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES+.

THIS PAMPHLET HAS NOW BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SCHOOLS WHILE PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE ADDITIONALLY BEEN PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE +INTRODUCTORY NOTES TO THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS+ AND THE +CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUTONGHUA PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS+.

TO ASSIST SCHOOLS INTENDING TO OFFER PUTONGHUA IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING A SEMINAR FOR THE END OF JUNE TO FAMILIARISE SCHOOL HEADS WITH MATTERS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBJECT.

FOR OTHERS INTENDING TO OFFER PUTONGHUA AS AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER 1986, A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD NEXT APRIL.

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MARCH EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY-MARCH THIS YEAR, VALUED AT \$108 449 MILLION, INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO TRADE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT TO \$28 976 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 11 PER CENT TO 54 000 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 44 PER CENT TO \$25 473 MILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

COMPARING FIGURES FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1985 WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$571 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$97 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$78 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$328 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$246 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO CHINA INCREASED RAPIDLY IN VALUE, PARTICULARLY OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$605 MILLION OR 1 789 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$415 MILLION OR 155 PER CENT), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$241 MILLION OR 231 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$70 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY \$9 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE REGISTERED FOR METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$53 MILLION OR 106 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$10 MILLION OR 1 PER CENT) AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$7 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILES (BY \$71 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$51 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT).

/MEANWHILE, INCREASES

MEANWHILE, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$30 MILLION OR 348 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$25 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT) AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$13 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$318 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$66 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT), AS DID DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN (BY \$21 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT).

IMPORTS

DEMAND FOR GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN INCREASED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$878 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY \$565 MILLION OR 75 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$443 MILLION OR 109 PER CENT), MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$190 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$141 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$210 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY \$86 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILE FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (BY \$179 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (BY \$157 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT). HOWEVER, LARGE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$775 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT) AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$135 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. WERE MOSTLY OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$224 MILLION OR 76 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$154 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), AND MANUFACTURES OF METAL (BY \$72 MILLION OR 101 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN TEXTILE FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (BY \$134 MILLION OR 53 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$125 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT).

MEANWHILE, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$454 MILLION OR 84 PER CENT) AND IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$216 MILLION OR 288 PER CENT). HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT FROM TAIWAN DECREASED (BY \$22 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT), AS DID IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$82 MILLION OR 5 PER CENT).

/RE-EXPORTS

RE-EXPORTS

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$7 075 MILLION OR 149 PER CENT), U.S.A. (BY \$610 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY \$342 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT), MACAU (BY \$154 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) (BY \$72 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT), ITALY (BY \$54 MILLION OR 92 PER CENT), PHILIPPINES (BY \$51 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT) AND FRANCE (BY \$51 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY \$306 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (BY \$211 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 388 MILLION OR 201 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1 098 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 000 MILLION OR 228 PER CENT) AND ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR-CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY \$668 MILLION OR 102 PER CENT). DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$96 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT), FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (NOT INCLUDING UNMILLED CEREALS) (BY \$52 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT) AND FERTILISERS MANUFACTURED (BY \$50 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT).

THE MARCH 1985 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$5 A COPY. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN MARCH 1985 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY JUNE, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$13 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-214375). ENQUIRIES CONCERNING TRADE STATISTICS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 5-444436).

FOLLOWING ARE THE TABLES:

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKETS	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	12 111	12 068	+ 43	+ *
CHINA	3 912	1 984	+1 928	+ 97
U.K.	1 891	2 089	- 198	- 9
F.R. OF GERMANY	1 833	2 223	- 390	- 18
JAPAN	986	996	- 10	- 1
CANADA	876	910	- 34	- 4
AUSTRALIA	859	842	+ 17	+ 2
SINGAPORE	544	621	- 76	- 12
NETHERLANDS	520	537	- 18	- 3
SWITZERLAND	389	446	- 57	- 13

* LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISIONS	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9 778	9 459	+ 319	+ 3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS, JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND PLASTIC ARTICLES)	4 039	3 893	+ 146	+ 4

/ELECTRICAL MACHINERY,

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES AND SEMI-CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS)	2 638	2 441	+ 197	+ 8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2 210	2 114	+ 96	+ 5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2 147	2 207	- 60	- 3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	2 069	1 864	+ 205	+ 11

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES

MAJOR SOURCES	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (+)/ DECREASE (-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
JAPAN	13 454	11 146	+2 308	+ 21
CHINA	12 094	12 524	- 430	- 3
U.S.A.	5 663	5 015	+ 648	+ 13
TAIWAN	4 974	3 541	+1 433	+ 40
SINGAPORE	3 010	2 833	+ 177	+ 6
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	2 154	1 487	+ 667	+ 45

U.K.	1 937	2 131	- 194	- 9
F.R. OF GERMANY	1 505	1 123	+ 382	+ 34
FRANCE	813	698	+ 115	+ 16
ITALY	749	670	+ 79	+ 12

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY SECTIONS

COMMODITY SECTIONS	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (+)/ DECREASE (-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	16 481	11 572	+4 908	+ 42
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	13 756	14 486	- 730	- 5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	9 348	8 132	+1 216	+ 15
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	4 438	4 788	- 349	- 7
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3 484	3 504	- 20	- 1
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	2 661	2 807	- 146	- 5

/TABLE 5 :

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKETS	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	11 812	4 738	+7 075	+149
U.S.A.	3 202	2 592	+ 610	+ 24
JAPAN	1 428	1 085	+ 42	+ 32
TAIWAN	1 047	1 167	- 120	- 10
SINGAPORE	919	1 131	- 211	- 19
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	865	792	+ 72	+ 9
INDONESIA	716	1 022	- 306	- 30
MACAU	686	532	+ 154	+ 29
PHILIPPINES	356	304	+ 51	+ 17
AUSTRALIA	312	328	- 15	- 5

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISIONS	JAN.-MAR. 1985 (\$ MN)	JAN.-MAR. 1984 (\$ MN)	INCREASE(+) DECREASE(-) (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3 355	2 695	+ 660	+ 24
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	2 850	1 751	+1 098	+ 63

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2 078	690	+1 388	+201
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	1 660	1 460	+ 200	+ 14
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1 439	439	+1 000	+228
* MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	1 420	913	+ 507	+ 56

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QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE FIGURES RELEASED
* * * *

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVED WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION DETERIORATED IN THE QUARTER JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WAS 3.3 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.8 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984. THE RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1984 WAS 4 PER CENT. THE DECREASES OF 0.5 AND 0.7 PERCENTAGE POINTS OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR RESPECTIVELY ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, THEY ARE GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 84 500, AS COMPARED WITH 99 500 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984 AND 102 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1984.

/THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WAS 1.3 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 0.8 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1984 WAS 1.5 PER CENT. THE INCREASE IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985 WAS 34 100, AS COMPARED WITH 21 800 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1984 AND 37 800 FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1984.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (I.L.O.), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIED FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

HE ALSO SAID THAT BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1985 WAS 3.1 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.1 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WAS ALSO 3.1 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (GHS) CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 53 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE I.L.O.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TO CONFORM TO THE LATEST STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY I.L.O., THE GHS DEFINITIONS OF +UNEMPLOYMENT+ AND +UNDEREMPLOYMENT+ HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1985.

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HOWEVER, A COMPLETE CONVERSION WILL ONLY BE INTRODUCED IN MAY 1986 WHEN A SUFFICIENTLY LONG SERIES OF THE STATISTICS UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS IS AVAILABLE. USING THE NEW DEFINITIONS THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1985 WERE 3.1 PER CENT AND 1.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1985 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND JUNE 19.

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FIRST FREE-FORM LEISURE POOL FOR NT * * * *

THE FIRST FREE-FORM LEISURE POOL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, EQUIPPED WITH MANY UNIQUE AQUATIC PLAY FACILITIES, WILL BE OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR TONY HAMMOND, ON THURSDAY (MAY 16) IN TUEN MUN.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB YAN OI TONG SWIMMING POOL, MAIN FEATURE OF WHICH IS A SADDLE-SHAPED 1 000-SQUARE-METRE POOL, DIFFERS FROM OTHER EXISTING PUBLIC POOLS DUE TO ITS MANY INNOVATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE DESIGNS.

OTHERS WHO WILL ATTEND THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY ARE THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, MR LI FOOK-WO, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YAN OI TONG, MR HO SUN-WING.

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ILLEGAL VIDEO RECORDING CENTRES SMASHED * * * *

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS LAST YEAR SMASHED NINE ILLEGAL VIDEO RECORDING CENTRES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC AND PIRATED VIDEO TAPES.

STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT 104 CONVICTIONS WERE SECURED IN 1984 ON CHARGES AGAINST 58 PERSONS AND TWO COMPANIES FOR UNLAWFULLY POSSESSING PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS.

/OF THESE,

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OF THESE, THE HIGHEST FINE IMPOSED WAS \$20 000, WHILE GAOL SENTENCES RANGED FROM ONE MONTH TO SIX MONTHS.

ARTICLES FORFEITED INCLUDED 1 322 PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES, 73 REELS OF PORNOGRAPHIC 8 MM FILMS, 54 PRONOGRAPHIC SLIDES, TWO SETS OF PORNOGRAPHIC PLAYING CARDS, AND 4 378 PORNOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, FIVE CONVICTIONS ON CASES INVOLVING PORNOGRAPHY WERE SECURED, RESULTING IN A TOTAL FINE OF \$3 000 AND THE CONFISCATION OF 105 PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO TAPES AND EIGHT PORNOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES.

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MEET THE MEDIA
* * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, WILL MEET THE MEDIA ON THURSDAY (MAY 16) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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COUNCIL TO DISCUSS MEETING RULES
* * * *

THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THE RULES UNDER WHICH ITS BUSINESS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, AT ITS FIRST BUSINESS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), ONE WEEK AFTER ITS INAUGURAL MEETING.

IT WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE LEVEL OF HONORARIA AND OFFICE RENTAL ALLOWANCE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL RECEIVE EACH MONTH.

AT THE MEETING, COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE COUNCIL, AND THAT OF THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT.

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THEIR FUTURE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN TSUEN WAN.

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COMPUTER CONTEST STRESSES ROAD SAFETY
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN A TWO-SECTION COMPUTER PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY, WHICH BEGINS TOMORROW AND CLOSES ON JULY 20.

TOP PRIZES OFFERED ARE TWO RETURN AIR TICKETS TO FRANKFURT AND KUALA LUMPUR, WHILE SECOND PRIZES WILL BE GIFT COUPONS WORTH \$2 000 AND THIRD PRIZES WILL BE COUPONS WORTH \$1 000, IN ADDITION TO SIX MONTHS' FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE HONG KONG COMPUTER JOURNAL. FIVE CONSOLATION PRIZES WILL ALSO BE GIVEN IN EACH SECTION.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, THE HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY, THE HANG SENG BANK AND CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO A SENIOR SECTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND A JUNIOR SECTION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

PROGRAMMES DESIGNED SHOULD EMPHASISE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, GOOD DRIVING MANNERS AND CYCLING SAFETY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ON ROAD SAFETY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE MARKETING SECTION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, SECOND FLOOR, BASKERVILLE HOUSE, ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN GRAPHICS AND IN ENGLISH. THEY MUST BE APPLICABLE TO APPLE II E COMPUTER, WITH APPLESOFT BASIC, AND ACCOMPANIED BY DOCUMENTATION AND FLOPPY DISK CONTAINING THE PROGRAMME AND AN ENTRY FORM.

ENTRY FORMS WILL BE PUBLISHED REGULARLY IN THE SCM POST, WAH KIU YAT PO AND THE HONG KONG COMPUTER JOURNAL, AND MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

THREE WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED FROM EACH OF THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR SECTIONS AND THEIR ENTRIES WILL BE USED ON THE COMPUTER IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE'S ROAD SAFETY BUS. THE BUS CALLS REGULARLY AT SCHOOLS, HOUSING ESTATES, COMMUNITY HALLS, AMONG OTHER PLACES, TO SPREAD THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE.

RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY AUGUST.

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NEW CIGARETTE TAR TESTS CARRIED OUT
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED ANOTHER SERIES OF TESTS ON CIGARETTES ON SALE IN HONG KONG AND RESULTS, TO BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), SHOW THAT OVER HALF OF THESE BRANDS OF CIGARETTES BELONG TO THE 'LOW TAR' AND 'LOW TO MIDDLE TAR' GROUPS.

FOUR SUCH SERIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST SINCE FEBRUARY, 1983. THE PURPOSE OF THESE PERIODIC TESTS IS TO PROVIDE CIGARETTE SMOKERS WITH A GUIDE TO WHAT THEY ARE INHALING AND ALSO TO PROVIDE THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY WITH OFFICIAL TAR GROUP DESIGNATIONS FOR THEIR BRANDS OF CIGARETTE.

THE LATEST SERIES OF TESTS COVERS THE PERIOD AUGUST 1984 TO JANUARY 1985 DURING WHICH A TOTAL OF 30 TESTS WERE CONDUCTED ON EACH BRAND OF CIGARETTE. BASED ON THE FINDINGS, A TABLE REPRESENTING THE AVERAGE TAR AND NICOTINE YIELDS OF 90 BRANDS HAS BEEN COMPILED, SETTING OUT THE BRANDS UNDER FIVE GROUPS RANGING FROM LOW TO HIGH TAR.

OF THE 90 BRANDS TESTED, 19 BELONGED TO THE 'LOW TAR' GROUP, 28 BRANDS CAME UNDER THE 'LOW TO MIDDLE TAR' GROUP, 39 BRANDS WERE LISTED IN THE 'MIDDLE TAR' GROUP AND THREE WERE CLASSIFIED AS 'MIDDLE TO HIGH TAR'. ONLY ONE BRAND WAS 'HIGH TAR'.

IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS A GRADUAL INCREASE IN LOW TAR CIGARETTES ON SALE IN HONG KONG. LOW TAR CIGARETTES COMPRISED ABOUT 21.1 PER CENT OF THE BRANDS IN THE LATEST SERIES OF TESTS WHILE IN PREVIOUS EXERCISES, THE FIGURES WERE 9.5 PER CENT, 11.6 PER CENT AND 17.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, A DECREASE WAS NOTED IN THE NUMBER OF 'LOW TO MIDDLE TAR' BRANDS.

WHILE ALL OF THE 90 BRANDS CARRIED MANUFACTURERS' CLAIMS OF THE TAR GROUP ON THEIR PACKAGES, 13 DID NOT COMPLY WITH THESE CLAIMED TAR GROUPS. TWO OF THESE 13 BRANDS CONTAINED HIGHER TAR THAN THEIR LABELLED CLAIMS, WHILE THE OTHERS BELONGED TO LOWER TAR GROUPS THAN THEIR LABELLED CLAIMS.

IN GENERAL, THE TAR AND NICOTINE CONTENTS OF MOST BRANDS WERE QUITE STABLE AS WAS THE CASE IN PREVIOUS TESTS.

AS IN THE LAST TAR TABLE, BRANDS OF CIGARETTES WITH +PINHOLES+ ON THEIR FILTERS ARE INDICATED IN THE LATEST TABLE.

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EXTRA SUM SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) CONSIDER INCREASING BY \$672 000 THE COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE CONSULTANTS TO ADVISE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE SUM ESTIMATED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, BEFORE THE CONSULTANCY BRIEF HAD BEEN FINALISED.

SINCE THEN THE UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY HAS BEEN APPROACHED AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE AN EXTREMELY DETAILED AND FAR-REACHING STUDY.

THE STUDY WILL INVOLVE THE PRODUCTION OF SEVEN REPORTS COVERING FIVE DIFFERENT ASPECTS.

THE TOTAL COST OF THE CONSULTANCY WILL NOW BE JUST OVER \$2 MILLION.

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EVENING CARRIAGEWAY CLOSURES
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SECTIONS OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WUHU STREET BETWEEN DOCK STREET AND WALKER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR 15 EVENINGS FROM THURSDAY (MAY 16), TO ALLOW ROAD RESURFACING WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES.

ABOUT 150 METRES OF THE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE CLOSED EACH EVENING FROM 7 PM UNTIL 5.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ONE TRAFFIC LANE OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE USED FOR NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC DURING THE CLOSURE.

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TRAFFIC PLAN FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SAI KUNG TOWN FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 17) TO FACILITATE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES TO BE HELD FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL.

THE MEASURES, WHICH WILL BE IN FORCE FOR 35 DAYS TILL JUNE 20, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * YI CHUN STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 28 AND HOUSE NO. 51 WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. THE REMAINING SECTION OF YI CHUN STREET, ALONG WITH THE ENTIRE MAN NIN STREET, WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS.
- * THE TERMINUS FOR N.T. GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 2, 3 AND 4 AT YI CHUN STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO THE OFF-STREET CAR PARK ADJACENT TO MAN YEE PUBLIC SCHOOL AT MAN NIN STREET. THE CARPARK, MEANWHILE, WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * THE TAXI STAND AT YI CHUN STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO THE NORTHERN END OF THE SAME STREET, WHERE PARKING SPACES WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * A TOTAL OF ABOUT 40 OTHER PARKING SPACES AT MAN NIN STREET AND YI CHUN STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * THE OFF-STREET CAR PARK IN FRONT OF TIN HAU TEMPLE WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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UC OFFERS HELP TO REGIONAL COUNCIL
* * *

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HAS PROMISED THAT THE COUNCIL, IF ASKED, WILL GIVE ANY HELP IT CAN TO THE NEW PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

SPEAKING AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MONTHLY MEETING TODAY, MR CHEONG-LEEN EXTENDED A VERY SINCERE AND WARM WELCOME TO THE URBCO'S SISTER BODY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THIS NEW COUNCIL IS OF COURSE STILL VERY MUCH IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE NEVERTHELESS IT WILL, I AM SURE, QUICKLY SETTLE DOWN TO THE WIDE RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF SERVING THE CIVIC NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

ON BEHALF OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR CHEONG-LEEN ALSO CONGRATULATED THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMEN OF THE TERRITORY'S DISTRICT BOARDS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE CHAIRMEN OF ALL OF THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS.

+THE URBAN COUNCIL IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO WORKING AS CLOSELY AS PRACTICABLE WITH THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE URBAN AREA SINCE -- WHETHER BOARD MEMBER OR URBAN COUNCILLOR -- WE ALL HAVE THE ONE SINGLE GOAL AHEAD OF US AND THAT IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MOVE LAST MONTH IN OPENING UP TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN WIDELY SUPPORTED BOTH BY THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

+THIS NEW SYSTEM, WHICH BRINGS INTO THE OPEN THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL, BRINGS FURTHER INTO THE PUBLIC GLARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HARD WORKING CHAIRMEN AND CHAIRWOMEN -- AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -- OF OUR 13 SELECT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY PHASE OF URBAN SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

+THESE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS WILL THUS BE CALLED ON TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORKINGS OF THIS COUNCIL BY PUBLICLY PROBING ALL PROPOSALS AND BE SEEN TO BE FINE-TUNING ALL DECISIONS AND SCHEMES SO THAT THEY ARE BOTH MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE ECONOMICAL,+ SAID MR CHEONG-LEEN.

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UC CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE DOWN
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THE EXPENDITURE ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 1984/85 TOTALLED \$205 MILLION AGAINST THE APPROVED PROVISION OF \$333 MILLION.

THIS WAS STATED IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT ON UC CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 1984/85 - 1988/89 TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

/ACCORDING TO

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE UNDERSPENDING WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- + SLIPPAGES WHICH OCCURRED IN SOME PROJECTS DUE TO DELAY IN THE PREPARATION OF WORKING DRAWINGS AND TENDER DOCUMENTS, CHANGES IN DESIGN, REVISION OF COST ESTIMATE, SLOW PROGRESS ON SITE, INCLEMENT WEATHER AND OTHER UNFORESEEN SITE PROBLEMS.

- + GENUINE SAVINGS ACHIEVED DUE TO LOWER TENDER PRICES RECEIVED ON CONTRACTS LET IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW.

CLOSER MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A REDUCTION FORECAST EXPENDITURE LEVELS FOR SOME PROJECTS WHICH HAVE THEREFORE BEEN REVISED DOWNWARDS TO MORE REALISTIC LEVELS, THE REPORT ADDED.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SAME FACTORS WHICH AFFECTED EXPENDITURE IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE REPORT FORECAST THAT THE EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS IN 1985/86 WOULD BE AROUND \$280 MILLION.

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CHARGES TO RISE FOR USE OF POOL FACILITIES
* * *

ADMISSION FEES AND HIRE CHARGES FOR THE 11 URBAN COUNCIL SWIMMING POOLS WILL BE REVISED FROM JUNE 1 THIS YEAR — THE FIRST INCREASE FOR THREE YEARS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY WHEN HE MOVED A MOTION TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS BY-LAWS.

UNDER THE REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES, THE ADMISSION FEE FOR AN ADULT WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$5 TO \$6 AND THAT FOR A CHILD AGED UNDER 14 WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$2 TO \$3.

THE ENTRANCE FEE FOR THE COUNCIL'S LEARN TO SWIM WILL GO UP FROM \$20 TO \$25 FOR A COURSE OF 15 ONE-HOUR SESSIONS.

USE OF THE SWIM-GYM AT THE MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL WILL BE \$16 PER HALF-HOUR. THE EXISTING FEE IS \$31 PER HOUR.

THE REVISED RATES WILL ALSO APPLY TO THE SHAM SHUI PO SWIMMING POOL WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMMISSIONED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

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SITE APPROVED FOR USD TRAINING SCHOOL

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THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE BUILDING OF PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TRAINING SCHOOL AT LAI CHI KOK.

THE APPROVAL WAS GIVEN AFTER DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

AT PRESENT, THE VARIOUS COMPONENT UNITS OF THE SCHOOL ARE LOCATED SEPARATELY AT ABERDEEN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, KOWLOON PARK, AND AT OI KWAN COURT AND GUARDIAN HOUSE IN HAPPY VALLEY.

IT HAS BEEN THE DEPARTMENT'S LONG-TERM PLAN TO PUT THEM ALL UNDER ONE ROOF IN PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION TO FORM A CENTRALISED DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE NEW TRAINING SCHOOL WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SAME BUILDING WITH A DISTRICT LIBRARY AT THE LAI CHI KOK RECREATION CENTRE, NEXT TO THE LAI CHI KOK INDOOR GAMES HALL AND SWIMMING POOL.

THE SITE HAS BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS CENTRAL LOCATION, ITS OPEN SPACE AND ITS PROXIMITY TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND A PARK, WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

ALSO, THE HILLY TERRAIN NEAR THE SCHOOL SITE OFFERS FACILITIES FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING IN PEST CONTROL WORK, THE USE OF RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND DAILY EXERCISES FOR TRAINEES.

THE TOTAL COST FOR THE BUILDING OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL IS AROUND \$41 MILLION.

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VIEWS ON SPEAKER'S CORNERS BEING SOUGHT

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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS STILL AWAITING COMMENTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP +SPEAKER'S CORNERS+ IN URBAN COUNCIL PARKS.

THIS WAS STATED BY MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR WALTER SULKE AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

/MR YOUNG

MR YOUNG SAID THE COUNCIL HAD REFERRED THE PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR COMMENTS BEFORE IT COULD CONSIDER SUCH A DEVELOPMENT FURTHER.

THE COMMISSIONER HAS REQUESTED THE VIEWS OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WHO IN TURN IS CONSULTING THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION.

+THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS KEEPING THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE AND WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING SUBSTANTIAL TO REPORT I WILL ENSURE THAT MR SULKE IS ADVISED,+ SAID MR YOUNG.

THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP +SPEAKER'S CORNERS+ WAS FIRST MADE BY MR SULKE LAST FEBRUARY WHEN HE CALLED ON THE COUNCIL TO SET ASIDE AREAS IN LOCAL PARKS FOR USE AS SPEAKER'S CORNER, SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN LONDON'S HYDE PARK, IN ORDER TO HELP HONG KONG ENTER THE POLITICAL AGE AND HELP EXERCISE FREE SPEECH.

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TREE STUDY TO BETTER CONSERVATION

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A MAJOR STUDY OF OLD TREES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, MR HOWARD YOUNG, WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR WALTER SULKE AT TODAY'S URBAN COUNCIL MEETING.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE PLANNERS TO INCORPORATE TREES WHEN PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS.

TURNING TO THE CONTROVERSIAL BANYAN TREES IN STANLEY, MR YOUNG SAID THE SALE OF THE SITE ON WHICH THE TREES STOOD HAD BEEN DEFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD WITH A VIEW TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD NOT NECESSITATE REMOVAL OF THE TREES.

/+THE PROSPECTS

+THE PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL OF THE TREES WOULD THEREFORE SEEM TO BE MUCH IMPROVED, THOUGH WHETHER THAT WOULD BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMERCIAL OR OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT HAS YET TO BE RESOLVED,+ HE SAID.

MR YOUNG NOTED THAT PERMISSION TO FELL TREES ON CROWN LAND IS GOVERNED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL REGULATIONS. THE PROCEDURE IS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

REFERRING TO THE CASE IN STANLEY, HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION OF PROCEDURE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT DID OBTAIN ADVICE FROM BOTH THE URBAN SERVICES AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENTS.

+THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S DETAILED ADVICE WAS THAT THE RETENTION OF THE TREES WAS DESIRABLE BUT, HAVING REGARD TO CONCERN OVER THEIR GENERAL HEALTH AND STABILITY, NOT ESSENTIAL,+ SAID MR YEUNG.

+DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS ARE BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED BY THE COUNCIL'S PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS.

+BUT, AS IN THIS CASE, THEY CAN BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW. IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT SUCH CASES WILL OCCUR IN FUTURE.+

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MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE GREATER WORK SAFETY
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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING A DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY OFFICER TO MONITOR ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE DEPARTMENTAL WORK-FORCE OF 18 000.

IN ADDITION TO STAFF RELATIONS AND WELFARE WORK, HE WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTING OPERATIONAL WORK-PLACES, CONSULTING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH SAFETY AND ADVISING ON MEASURES TO ENSURE GREATER SAFETY AT WORK.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY DR KIM CHAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR WALTER SULKE AT THE URBAN COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

DR CHAM TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

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+PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ADOPTED FOR STAFF ON DANGEROUS DUTIES ARE KEPT UNDER REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT ACCIDENTS ARE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM,+ HE SAID.

CITING STATISTICS, DR CHAM SAID THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS SUSTAINED BY USD EMPLOYEES IN 1984 TOTALLED 1 470 - A DECREASE OF 13.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1 705 IN 1983. LAST YEAR'S TOTAL ALSO REPRESENTED A 7.6 PER CENT DECREASE COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF 1 591 ACCIDENTS RECORDED OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1979 TO 1983.

THE NUMBER OF FATAL CASES HAD DROPPED FROM FOUR IN 1980 TO ONE IN 1984.

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+MEAT+ SYSTEM FOR NEW UC MARKETS
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NEWLY-BUILT UC MARKETS AND COOKED-FOOD CENTRES WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH THE MARKET ECONOMIC AIR TREATMENT (MEAT) SYSTEM TO ENHANCE THE VENTILATION THERE.

AT ITS MONTHLY OPEN MEETING TODAY, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT EIGHT MARKET COMPLEXES EITHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR ACTIVE PLANNING WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH SUCH A SYSTEM.

THESE INCLUDE THE MARKETS IN KIMBERLEY ROAD AND SHEUNG FUNG STREET AND THOSE IN THE WESTERN COMPLEX, LOCKHART ROAD COMPLEX, FA YUEN STREET COMPLEX, KOWLOON CITY COMPLEX, SHUI WO STREET COMPLEX AND PO ON ROAD COMPLEX.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL EXPLAINED THAT THE MEAT SYSTEM IS A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTING +PUSH-PULL+ MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM UNDER WHICH FRESH AIR IS +PUSHED+ IN AT ONE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND USED AIR EXTRACTED AT THE OTHER SIDE.

THE MEAT SYSTEM WILL SEE THAT BEFORE THE AIR FROM OUTSIDE IS INTRODUCED THROUGH AN INLET, IT WILL BE COOLED DOWN TO APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 25 DEGREES CELSIUS.

+BY AIMING THE PRE-COOLED AIR AT THE CEILING FANS, IT CAN THEN BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE MARKET,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/+ALTHOUGH THE

+ALTHOUGH THE INJECTED COOL AIR MIGHT RISE IN TEMPERATURE DUE TO INTERNAL HEAT, THE COOLING EFFECT SHOULD STILL BE FELT BY THOSE SHOPPING AND DOING BUSINESS BELOW.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MEAT SYSTEM WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE MARKETS AND COOKED-FOOD CENTRES WHICH WILL EITHER ENJOY GOOD NATURAL VENTILATION OR BE ASSISTED BY ADEQUATE MECHANICAL VENTILATION.

MEANWHILE, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING CEILING FANS IN SOME OF THE EXISTING URBAN COUNCIL MARKETS AND COOKED-FOOD STALLS TO IMPROVE THEIR VENTILATION.

THE FANS ARE MAINLY INSTALLED OVER THE PUBLIC WALKWAYS AND AROUND THE MEAT AND POULTRY STALL AREAS TO HELP CREATE AIR MOVEMENTS AND KEEP THE AIR INSIDE THE MARKETS COOL AND FREE OF ODOUR.

INSTALLATION WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRE STREET MARKET, SAI WAN HO MARKET, ABERDEEN COMPLEX AND YUE KWONG ROAD MARKET.

SIMILAR WORK WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY IN THE TIN WAN MARKET, CHEUNG SHA WAN COOKED-FOOD MARKET, HAIPHONG ROAD TEMPORARY MARKET, MONG KOK MARKET AND TO KWA WAN MARKET.

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DOG PROBLEMS IN URBAN AREA DIMINISHING

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THE PROBLEM OF DOGS FOULING THE STREETS IN THE URBAN AREA HAS DIMINISHED VERY CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE 1972 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

+THIS IS BECAUSE MANY DOG OWNERS NOW REALISE THE NEED TO MAKE USE OF THE DOG LATRINES FACILITIES WHERE AVAILABLE OR THEY ARE PREPARED TO CLEAN UP THE MESS IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS,+ SAID DR DENNY HUANG WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MRS MARGARET LI AT TODAY'S URBAN COUNCIL MEETING.

+HOWEVER+ HE ADDED, +AS LONG AS THERE REMAINS A NUMBER OF STRAY AND UNLEASHED DOGS, SOME FOULING IS INEVITABLE AND COMPLETE ERADICATION OF THE PROBLEM IS NOT FEASIBLE.+

/DR HUANG

DR HUANG WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, SAID THE STREETS ARE CLEANED REGULARLY BY THE COUNCIL'S STREET SWEEPERS AND AT INTERVALS BY THE STREET WASHING GANGS.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE SOME 290 DOG LATRINES IN THE URBAN AREA AND ABOUT 150 PROSECUTIONS ARE TAKEN OUT EACH MONTH AGAINST OWNERS PERMITTING THEIR ANIMALS TO FOUL THE STREETS.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT HAS ALSO FALLEN TO ABOUT ONE OR TWO EACH MONTH AS COMPARED WITH ABOUT 14 A MONTH IN 1980.

HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP UP ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLICITY MOMENTUM IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE PROBLEM FROM DETERIORATING IN THE FUTURE.

TURNING TO THE CANINE POPULATION, DR HUANG SAID THERE ARE NO ACCURATE STATISTICS AVAILABLE BUT HE BELIEVED THAT THE DOG POPULATION IS CURRENTLY ON THE DECLINE AFTER THE LAST RABIES CRISIS.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT JUST OVER 30 000 DOG LICENCES, EACH VALID FOR THREE YEARS, ARE ISSUED ANNUALLY BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, AND APPROXIMATELY 11 000 STRAY DOGS ARE DESTROYED EACH YEAR,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE WEIGHT OF DOG EXCRETA COLLECTED FROM STREETS OR DOG LATRINES, DR HUANG SAID THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT DOES NOT KEEP SUCH STATISTICS.

HE STRESSED THAT DOG EXCREMENT WHICH MAY CARRY DISEASE GERMS AS ANY OTHER ANIMALS WASTES, IS NOT A SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH RISK IN HONG KONG AT THE PRESENT.

+A TERRITORY-WIDE BLITZ OPERATION IS GOING TO BE CONDUCTED THIS SUMMER, AND EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO DOG-OWNERS,+ DR HUANG SAID.

+THESE PAMPHLETS WILL INCLUDE AN ELEMENT OF WARNING ON THE POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS POSED BY DOGS FOULING STREETS.

+SO DOGGIES AND DOG-OWNERS BEWARE+ HE WARNED.

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GARDEN AND PLAYGROUND FOR BRAEMAR HILL
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO BUILD A GARDEN AND PLAYGROUND AT BRAEMAR HILL ROAD TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST \$3.5 MILLION, WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MONTHLY OPEN MEETING TODAY.

THE SITE MEASURES ABOUT 4 400 SQUARE METRES. IT WILL BE TURNED INTO A GARDEN WITH A PAVILION, A FOUNTAIN, ARBOURS, A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WITH MODERN PLAY EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY MATTING, AND TWO BASKETBALL-CUM-VOLLEYBALL COURTS WHICH WILL BE FLOODLIT AT NIGHT.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

WORK IS DUE TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION ABOUT A YEAR LATER.

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