



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1985

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BUSINESSES ARE WELCOME HERE, GOVERNOR TELLS IMC
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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WERE WELCOME TO HONG KONG, WHERE THEY WOULD FIND THE FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS FAMILIAR TO THEM, AND THE OPEN AND COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT STIMULATING AND PROFITABLE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TONIGHT.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE BEING HELD HERE, SIR EDWARD TOLD SOME 200 FINANCIAL LEADERS THAT THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, WHICH IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED ECONOMIES, WAS CLOSELY LINKED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY IN GENERAL, AND IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IN PARTICULAR.

+WE VALUE OUR WORLDWIDE FINANCIAL AND TRADING LINKS. THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR PROSPERITY AND WE SHALL DO ALL WE CAN TO FOSTER THEM.

+HONG KONG IS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST OPEN ECONOMIES. WE DO NOT SHRINK FROM FAIR COMPETITION,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT TOMORROW'S FORMAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT HAD TO LEAVE FOR LONDON TONIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF THE PREMIER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MR ZHAO ZIYANG. BUT HE HAD NOT WANTED TO MISS THE CHANCE TO EXTEND A PERSONAL AND WARM WELCOME TO THE DISTINGUISHED GATHERING OF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD BANKING, MONETARY AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

THEIR SELECTION OF HONG KONG AS THE VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WAS BOTH WELL TIMED AND WELL PLACED, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+WELL TIMED BECAUSE THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS RATIFIED IN PEKING ONLY LAST MONDAY. THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT HONG KONG SHALL RETAIN THE STATUS OF AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, AND THAT ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS SHALL BE MAINTAINED FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997.

+THE FACT THAT THERE IS SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN THE AGREEMENT TO THESE MATTERS IS TESTIMONY TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+WELL PLACED BECAUSE YOU HAVE CHOSEN AS YOUR VENUE THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+THERE ARE WELL OVER 300 BANKS REPRESENTED HERE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. FEW OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BANKS DO NOT HAVE A PRESENCE IN HONG KONG.

+HONG KONG IS NOT ONLY AN INTERNATIONAL BANKING CENTRE= IT IS ALSO A MAJOR CENTRE FOR FUND MANAGEMENT, AND BOASTS A RANGE OF SOPHISTICATED FINANCIAL SERVICES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

/IN RECENT

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IN RECENT YEARS THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION HAD BECOME THE GROWTH AREA OF THE WORLD. A NEW FACTOR IN THAT GROWTH WAS CHINA'S MODERNISATION POLICY WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OWN FUTURE GROWTH.

+HONG KONG,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID, +IS AN OBVIOUS GATEWAY TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

+I AM SURE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE OUR POTENTIAL AS A BASE FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION.+

SIR EDWARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD ALSO BE EXAMINING DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND CAPITAL MARKETS AND SAID THAT THESE WERE ALSO MATTERS OF GREAT INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG.

THE CONFERENCE WOULD ENABLE THE LOCAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY TO KEEP ABREAST OF CURRENT THINKING.

+WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ON MY RETURN OF THE RESULTS OF YOUR DELIBERATIONS,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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PROTECTIONISM DOUBLY UNFAIR TO HONG KONG, FS SAYS

AN EXTENSION OF PROTECTIONIST MEASURES WOULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO WORLD TRADE, AND DOUBLY UNFAIR TO HONG KONG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE TOLD SOME 200 OF THE WORLD'S TOP FINANCIAL LEADERS TONIGHT.

SPEAKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S DINNER BEING HELD HERE, SIR JOHN SAID HONG KONG IMPOSED NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPORTS. AND HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR, HE SAID, WAS EQUALLY OPEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

+THERE CAN BE NO POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR PROTECTIONIST MEASURES DIRECTED AGAINST HONG KONG,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE SUM OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS NOW REPRESENTED +NO LESS THAN 179 PER CENT OF GDP,+ SIR JOHN SAID:

+WE ARE THUS EXPOSED TO EXTERNAL EVENTS OVER WHICH WE HAVE USUALLY NO CONTROL. FOR INSTANCE THE GROWING MENACE OF PROTECTIONISM IS A VERY PRESENT THREAT.+

/FROM THIS

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FROM THIS EXPOSED POSITION SPRANG HONG KONG'S DETERMINATION TO BE PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE IN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND IN PARTICULAR TO REJECT BORROWING AS THE WAY OUT OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE PROBLEMS.

+BORROWING IS EASY, PAYING BACK MIGHT NOT BE. HONG KONG NEEDS BALANCED BUDGETS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO BANKING ISSUES, HE SAID THAT AN OVERSEAS BANK SEEKING A FULL LICENCE IN HONG KONG HAD INTER ALIA TO SHOW MINIMUM TOTAL ASSETS NET OF CONTRA ITEMS OF US\$12 BILLION.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 140 BANKS IN THE WORLD WHICH MET THIS QUALIFICATION, SIR JOHN SAID OVER HALF OF THEM WERE ALREADY IN HONG KONG, WHILE A NUMBER OF OTHER BANKS WITHOUT A BANKING LICENCE OPERATED HERE THROUGH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

HONG KONG HAD ALTOGETHER 141 LICENSED BANKS, 33 LICENSED AND 306 REGISTERED DTCS. THERE WERE, IN ADDITION, 117 BANK REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES.

OF THE TOP 50 BANKS IN THE WORLD, 44, OR VIRTUALLY NINE OUT OF TEN, OPERATED IN HONG KONG.

+THEIR PRESENCE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN MAKING THE TERRITORY AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE -- WE BELIEVE THE THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE MINIMUM WAS JUST ONE INCENTIVE WHICH HAD LED SO MANY INTERNATIONAL BANKS TO ESTABLISH THEIR PRESENCE HERE.

+IN FINANCIAL MATTERS WE SEEK ONLY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR MACRO MONETARY POLICY AND THAT SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES AND AN APPROPRIATE MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR DEPOSITORS AND INVESTORS PREVAIL. IT MAY SOUND MODERATE= BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT. AND LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WHO IS SENSIBLE WE LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES,+ HE SAID.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE SAID, ON-GOING CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S APPROACH TO PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION AND TO BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING LEGISLATION COULD BE TAKEN GENTLY.

WITH NO CENTRAL BANK AND NO INTENTION OF SETTING ONE UP, THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM HAD TO BE TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S APPROACH AND LEGISLATION WERE CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT-DAY REALITIES AND FUTURE OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS WELL SERVED BY THE STATUTORY HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, WHOSE EXPERIENCED AND REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE VIRTUES OF SELF REGULATION.

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+THE WORLD IS NOT STATIC AND ONLY FOOLS COULD EXPECT FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TO REMAIN SO,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE PROMISED THAT ANY CHANGE TO HONG KONG'S SUPERVISORY APPROACH, WHETHER OR NOT LEGISLATION WAS INVOLVED, WOULD BE MADE ONLY AFTER FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY.

+THERE WILL BE NO SURPRISES. NOTHING IS MORE UPSETTING THAN SUDDEN CHOPS AND CHANGES,+ HE SAID.

QUOTING THE WORDS OF THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, MR GEORGE SCHULTZ, SIR JOHN SAID THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT WAS +A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR HONG KONG'S ENDURING FUTURE AND PROGRESS.+ MR SCHULTZ HAD ALSO SAID THAT BUSINESS COMMUNITIES +WILL SEE IN THIS AGREEMENT GOOD REASON FOR SUSTAINED CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AS AN ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING COMMERCIAL SECTOR+.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, SIR JOHN TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT HONG KONG'S SOLE NATURAL RESOURCE WAS +THE ONE DEEP WATER HARBOUR IN THE SOUTH OF CHINA+.

HONG KONG WAS SELF SUFFICIENT IN NOTHING -- NOT EVEN WATER, BUT IT HAD THRIVED TO BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMMERCIAL CENTRES, WITH AN ESTIMATED PER CAPITA GDP OF ABOUT US\$6 700.

+AND WE EXPECT IT TO GO ON INCREASING FASTER THAN ELSEWHERE,+ HE ADDED.

MANUFACTURING HAD TO REMAIN THE FOUNDATION OF THE ECONOMY. WITH A MULTITUDE OF SMALL ENTERPRISES, HONG KONG WAS FLEXIBLE AND OPEN TO CHANGE.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FINANCIAL AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAD, IN PARTICULAR, ALSO GREATLY INCREASED. IT WAS STILL GROWING AND BECOMING INCREASINGLY EXPORT ORIENTED.

THE PRESENCE IN TOUGH COMPETITION OF THE MANY BANKS AND INSTITUTIONS AND HONG KONG'S EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS AND FREEDOM UNDER THE LAW HAD BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

+WE IN HONG KONG ARE PROUD AS WE CONSIDER OUR SUCCESS, EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT DUE ENTIRELY TO OUR OWN EFFORTS. THE BENEFITS MUST NEVER BE IGNORED OF OUR CLOSE TRADING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, TO WHICH HONG KONG IS AN OBVIOUS GATEWAY,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

IN OUTLYING SOME OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC STATISTICS, SIR JOHN ALSO SAID THAT SINCE THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS SUCCESSFULLY LINKED TO THE U.S. DOLLAR IN OCTOBER 1983, IT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE STRONGEST CURRENCIES IN THE WORLD.

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR U.K.

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR LONDON THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

SIR EDWARD WILL ATTEND A DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR MR ZHAO ZIYANG, PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

HE WILL ALSO CALL ON MR RICHARD LUCE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

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ROAD ACCIDENTS ON DECLINE

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THERE WAS AN ENCOURAGING REDUCTION IN ROAD ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES IN 1984 - A 10.2 PER CENT DROP IN ACCIDENTS AND AN 8.5 PER CENT DROP IN CASUALTIES COMPARED WITH 1983 FIGURES.

THESE STATISTICS ARE CONTAINED IN THE 1985 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY PAPER, JUST ISSUED BY THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL.

THE PAPER NOTES THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DROP IN CASUALTIES WAS FOR PEDESTRIANS - SOME 11.8 PER CENT.

+HOWEVER, PEDESTRIANS STILL ACCOUNTED FOR 61.2 PER CENT OF THOSE KILLED AND 34.8 PER CENT OF THOSE INJURED AND THEY REMAIN THE ROAD-USER GROUP MOST AT RISK IN HONG KONG.

+FOR THIS REASON, THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ITS EFFORTS ON SEEKING IMPROVEMENT TO PEDESTRIAN ROAD FACILITIES AND ON RAISING THE LEVEL OF ROAD SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO DAILY WALK OUR STREETS.+

THE PAPER POINTS OUT THAT THE NEW TRAFFIC LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN AUGUST 1984 CONCENTRATED UPON STRENGTHENING EXISTING REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES, THE USE OF VEHICLES, DRIVING BEHAVIOUR, CYCLING BEHAVIOUR AND PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOUR.

+IN ADDITION, NEW REGULATIONS WERE INCLUDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF FEWER BUT CLEARER ROAD SIGNS AND ESTABLISHED A DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM UNDER WHICH A DRIVER CAN BE DISQUALIFIED WHEN HE ACCUMULATES A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF POINTS FOR SPECIFIED OFFENCES OVER A SET PERIOD (ALL THE OFFENCES ARE SAFETY RELATED).+

/THE PAPER

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THE PAPER STRESSES THAT THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THESE MEASURES AND HOPES THAT THIS SAFETY-ORIENTED POLICY WILL CONTINUE AND THAT LEGISLATION WILL EVENTUALLY REQUIRE THE WEARING OF SEAT BELTS IN ALL VEHICLES.

THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN CASUALTIES OF THE PRIVATE CAR FRONT SEAT PASSENGER AND DRIVER AFTER OCTOBER 1983, WHEN THE COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS CAME INTO EFFECT, IT SAYS.

+A COMPARISON OF CASUALTIES FOR 12 MONTHS BEFORE AND AFTER THE LAW IMPLEMENTATION SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES DECREASED FROM 3 800 TO 2 800, I.E. A DROP OF 26 PER CENT.+

THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL WAS SET UP IN 1983 TO REPLACE THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY, CHANGING FROM BEING MAINLY A CO-ORDINATOR OF EXECUTIVE ACTION INTO A BODY WHICH ALSO DEVELOPS PROPOSALS TO PREVENT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND PROVIDES ADVICE ON POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

APART FROM CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE COUNCIL BELIEVES THAT IT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN ROAD SAFETY WORK.

+THIS IS DONE THROUGH INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS IN THE ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WHICH THE COUNCIL APPROVES AND MONITORS EACH YEAR, AND BY SEEKING THE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARDS, IN PARTICULAR THEIR TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEES, ON LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PROBLEMS,+ THE PAPER SAYS.

THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL ALSO PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ENCOURAGING TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO CARRY OUT ROAD SAFETY INSTRUCTION.

+THIS ENCOURAGEMENT INCLUDES PROVIDING ROAD SAFETY LITERATURE AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL AND THE TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF MORE SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY PATROLS,+ THE PAPER STATES.

IN KEEPING WITH ITS FIRMLY HELD VIEW THAT DRIVER TRAINING STANDARDS NEED TO BE IMPROVED, THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL LOOKS FORWARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFF-ROAD TRAINING FACILITY IN SHA TIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WELCOMES THE INCLUSION OF TRAINING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS AND ARTICULATED VEHICLE DRIVERS.

THE COUNCIL IS ANXIOUS THAT FURTHER OFF-ROAD SCHOOLS BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

/THE COUNCIL

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THE COUNCIL IS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, OPERATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, AND HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION; TRANSPORT, EDUCATION, INFORMATION SERVICES AND ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS= BRITISH FORCES, HONG KONG= THE HONG KONG ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS, AS WELL AS OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRAFFIC WING OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY PAPER IS TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR, IDENTIFY AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION AND CO-ORDINATE STRATEGY PROPOSALS AND ESTABLISH A CHECKLIST OF CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

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PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT SUMMER DISEASES
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) TOLD PEOPLE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES, SUCH AS TYPHOID AND DYSENTERY, DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT VIRAL HEPATITIS AND FOOD POISONING WERE ALSO COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WARM WEATHER.,

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS THIS YEAR, FOUR PEOPLE HAD DIED FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS AND STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VIRAL GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES HAD INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

+FOR INSTANCE, 159 CASES OF VIRAL HEPATITIS WERE REPORTED IN APRIL, COMPARED WITH 101 CASES IN JANUARY, 73 IN FEBRUARY AND 106 IN MARCH,+ HE SAID.

+THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT OF CHOLERA CASES IN HONG KONG SINCE DECEMBER 1984, THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE DISEASE WHICH IS ENDEMIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE NOTIFIABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES HAD REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OVER THE PAST YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONTINUING WITH ITS HEALTH EDUCATION AND IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES.

HOWEVER, THE MOST RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PREVENTION WAS TO OBSERVE PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/AS MOST

AS MOST GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES WERE TRANSMITTED THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND DRINK, THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE SPECIALLY CAREFUL IN THEIR EATING HABITS.

ALL TYPES OF FOOD SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY COOKED AND SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNCOVERED IF NOT TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.

WATER DIRECTLY FROM THE MAINS WAS PURE AND SAFE FOR DRINKING, BUT WATER FROM TANKS MIGHT BE CONTAMINATED AND SHOULD BE BOILED BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

+WATER FROM STREAMS AND WELLS IS ALSO NOT SUITABLE FOR DRINKING,+ HE ADDED.

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FIRST QUARTER EXPORT STATISTICS RELEASED
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IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS WERE WEARING APPAREL, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND METAL PRODUCTS.

THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 84 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

INDUSTRIES RECORDING THE LARGEST INCREASES IN ABSOLUTE VALUE OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WERE NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+\$666 MILLION), WEARING APPAREL (+\$279 MILLION), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (+\$112 MILLION), PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (+\$97 MILLION), TOBACCO (+\$57 MILLION), AND PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+\$45 MILLION).

IN RELATIVE TERMS, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASES OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WERE NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+205 PER CENT), BEVERAGE (+83 PER CENT), MINING AND QUARRYING (+83 PER CENT), TOBACCO (+43 PER CENT), WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS (+12 PER CENT), AND CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+11 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (-\$372 MILLION OR -7 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (-\$230 MILLION OR -3 PER CENT), FOOD (-\$15 MILLION OR -5 PER CENT), AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS (-\$14 MILLION OR -12 PER CENT). SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE DECREASE WAS ALSO OBSERVED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (-18 PER CENT).

/THE ABOVE

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THE ABOVE ARE SOME OF THE STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985. THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE MERCHANDISE ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED. TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE EXCLUDED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS STRUCTURED UPON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (I.S.I.C.), AS DISTINCT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (S.I.T.C.) WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

WHEN INTERPRETING THE RE-CLASSIFIED FIGURES, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE OVERALL VALUE OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM REQUIRING SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES IS WHOLLY ALLOCATED TO THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH IT IS FINALLY PRODUCED, ALTHOUGH THE INDUSTRY IS NOT REALLY THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE VALUE.

BESIDES, THE CLASSIFICATION OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE VALUE OF THE ITEM IS ACTUALLY PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE SOME MAY BE SECONDARY PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED UNDER OTHER INDUSTRIES.

FURTHER DETAILS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS FOR MERCHANDISE RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE, WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT TEL. NO. 3-7224504).

A TABLE ON THESE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, MARCH 1985+.

/VALUE OF

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VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR MERCHANDISE, RECLASSIFIED BY
INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 AND OF 1985

(HK\$'000)

INDUSTRIAL
ORIGIN
OF THE
COMMODITIES
EXPORTED

MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS

1ST QTR. 1984 1ST QTR. 1985 VALUE CHANGE % CHANGE

AGRICULTURAL,
FORESTRY AND
FISHING

AGRICULTURAL,
LIVESTOCK
AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION

4 103 2 420 -1 683 -41

FORESTRY AND
LOGGING

7 - -7 -100

OCEAN AND
COASTAL
FISHING

69 756 65 273 -4 483 -6

MINING AND
QUARRYING

709 1 295 586 83

MANUFACTURING

FOOD 278 439 263 898 -14 541 -5

BEVERAGES 19 406 35 573 16 167 33

TOBACCO 132 529 189 979 57 450 43

TEXTILES
(INCLUDING
KNITTING)

5 067 284 4 694 868 -372 416 -7

/WEARING

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WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR	6 813 333	7 092 398	279 065	4
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS	107 763	108 438	675	1
FOOTWEAR	103 571	115 174	11 603	11
WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	161 640	180 431	18 791	12
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	434 487	479 666	45 179	10
CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	287 097	319 598	32 501	11
PRODUCTS OF PETROLEUM AND COAL	-	185	185	-
RUBBER PRODUCTS	52 436	51 137	-1 299	-2
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	1 915 566	2 027 463	111 897	6
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	121 879	107 708	-14 171	-12
BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	1 323 062	1 340 929	17 867	1

/MACHINERY, ...

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MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	324 534	990 810	666 276	205
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	7 081 239	6 851 281	-229 958	-3
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	34 652	28 552	-6 100	-18
PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT	2 139 837	2 236 351	96 514	5
OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1 531 878	1 678 697	146 819	10
<u>ELECTRICITY</u>	93 478	100 894	7 416	8

MISCELLANEOUS
ITEMS

(E.G. DEVELOPED
PHOTOGRAPHIC
PLATES AND
FILM, ANTIQUES,
AND WORKS OF
ART)

16 784	12 767	-4 017	-24
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TOTAL	28 115 469	28 975 784	860 315	3
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INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES OF A COLUMN MAY NOT ADD UP EXACTLY TO THE
CORRESPONDING TOTAL DUE TO ROUNDING.

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ONE MAN WHO'S NOT COMPLAINING

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IMAGINE BEING THE MAN THAT EVERYONE COMPLAINS TO ABOUT NOISE, POLLUTION, ROAD WORKS, TRAFFIC, ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND JUST ABOUT ALL THE LARGE AND PETTY ANNOYANCES THAT ARE PART AND PARCEL OF LIVING IN HONG KONG.

NOT THE KIND OF JOB ANYONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD VOLUNTEER FOR RIGHT?

+WRONG,+ SAYS MIKE BYRNE, COMPLAINTS OFFICER WITH THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH WHO DID VOLUNTEER FOR THE JOB AND WHO IS LEAVING IT RELUCTANTLY THIS WEEK AFTER FOUR SATISFYING YEARS.

FOR A MAN WHO IS LIKELY TO BE CALLED UP AT ANY HOUR OF THE DAY AND NIGHT (AND OFTEN IS) BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH COMPLAINTS (WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY OUTSIDE MIKE'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY), THIS AMIABLE AUSTRALIAN SEEMS REMARKABLY CHEERFUL.

SINCE HE TOOK OVER THE JOB, MIKE HAS LOGGED MORE THAN 7 000 COMPLAINTS THAT HE HAS HANDLED. BUT HE EXPLAINS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY MORE THAT HE HAS DEALT WITH BUT JUST HAS NOT RECORDED.

THE COMPLAINTS COME FROM ALL DIRECTIONS - FROM DIRECT PHONE CALLS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS, LETTERS TO THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, CALLS TO RADIO PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES, LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS AND COMPLAINTS FROM NEWSPAPERS THEMSELVES.

EVERYONE OF THEM GETS AN ANSWER, MOST OF THEM WITHIN HOURS OR DAYS. BUT EVEN IF IT TAKES MONTHS, AS IT HAS IN SOME CASES, MIKE NEVER GIVES UP ON A COMPLAINT AND ALWAYS COMES UP WITH AN ANSWER EVEN IF, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT IS NOT THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY OF THE SIX DEPARTMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.

BUT AS MIKE EXPLAINED: +IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BE SEEN TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION. IT'S GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.+

WHICH WAS ONE REASON WHY MIKE APPLIED FOR THE JOB WHEN IT WAS ADVERTISED FOUR YEARS AGO.

+THAT AND PROMOTION,+ SAID MIKE JOKINGLY.

+I GOT FASTER PROMOTION THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE PROFESSIONAL GRADE I KNOW.+

DEALING WITH SO MANY COMPLAINTS EACH DAY, FROM THE FRIVOLOUS TO THE SERIOUS TO, ON ODD OCCASIONS, THE DOWNRIGHT MALICIOUS, MIGHT SEEM A HARD WAY TO EARN THAT PROMOTION, BUT MIKE LOOKS BACK ON HIS FOUR YEARS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION.

/+THE JOB

+THE JOB APPEALED TO ME FROM THE BEGINNING,+ HE SAID. +IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE DOING, AND I HAVE TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT EVERYBODY'S JOB TO HANDLE ALL THE QUERIES FROM THE PUBLIC.+

+BESIDES, LISTENING TO COMPLAINTS IS NOT AS TEDIOUS AS SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK. YOU GET AN AWFUL LOT OF SATISFACTION WHEN YOU CAN PUT SOMETHING RIGHT, WHICH WE OFTEN CAN.+

MIKE'S TENACITY IN FINDING ANSWERS TO COMPLAINTS, EVEN AFTER MANY MONTHS, HAS WON HIM MANY FRIENDS AMONG THE PUBLIC.

+BUT THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO WON'T TALK TO ME,+ HE ADMITS.

+BUT THEY ARE VERY MUCH THE EXCEPTION. MOSTLY I GET NOTHING BUT CO-OPERATION FROM THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED WHO ARE VERY RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC.+

IT WAS THROUGH THAT NEED TO BE RESPONSIVE THAT THE POST WAS CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND FROM THE FIRST THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE A CAPABLE MAN IN THE JOB.

MIKE WAS NOT THE ONLY MAN FOUR YEARS AGO +MAD+ ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE JOB. A SHORT LIST OF 10 APPLICANTS WAS DRAWN UP AND THIS WAS NARROWED DOWN TO FOUR AFTER EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS.

MIKE RECALLS: +THE FOUR OF US WERE GIVEN A FICTITIOUS COMPLAINT FROM THE PUBLIC. WE HAD TO FOLLOW IT UP, DEAL WITH IT AND THEN GIVE AN ANSWER OVER A MOCK UP RADIO PROGRAMME.+

SINCE THEN THE COMPLAINTS MIKE HAS HANDLED HAVE BEEN ANY THING BUT FICTITIOUS. THEY HAVE RANGED FROM REASONABLE REQUESTS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT NOISE POLLUTION OR TRAFFIC CROSSINGS TO PEOPLE RAVING AT MIKE DOWN THE TELEPHONE. ALL OF THEM ARE GREETED WITH MIKE'S AIR OF CHEERFUL EFFICIENCY.

+I TAKE VERY LITTLE NOTICE OF THE RANTERS AND RAVERS,+ SAID MIKE. +THERE ARE SO FEW OF THEM AND I'M ONLY THE CHAP DEALING WITH THE COMPLAINT. I DIDN'T CAUSE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.+

+AFTER ALL, IF YOU HAVE AN ARGUMENT WITH AN AIRLINE IT'S NO USE GOING AND PUNCHING THE STEWARDESS ON THE NOSE, IS IT?+

BUT RANTERS AND RAVERS ASIDE, MIKE HAS HAD HIS HANDS FULL DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS ON ALL MANNER OF SUBJECTS. NOISE FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES IS A FAVOURITE TOPIC. ANOTHER IS ROAD EXCAVATIONS.

MIKE SAID: +WE HAVE MORE THAN 2 000 ROAD OPENINGS A MONTH FOR VARIOUS REASONS AND YOU USUALLY GET SOMEONE RINGING UP ASKING WHY THE ROAD IS BEING DUG UP.+

/OTHER COMPLAINTS

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OTHER COMPLAINTS MIGHT DEAL WITH SEWAGE LEAKS, DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE ROAD CROSSINGS, THICK BUSHES BY A PATH WHERE SOMEONE FEARS ROBBERS MAY LURK, OR ANY OF A THOUSAND AND ONE ANNOYANCES THAT MAY CROP UP.

EVEN THE ONES THAT DO NOT COME WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS, MIKE DEALS WITH AND FINDS AN ANSWER TO, EVEN IF THAT ANSWER MAY NOT ALWAYS BE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMPLAINANT.

THAT IS WHY MIKE, ON ANY MORNING CAN BE SEEN MONITORING BOTH ENGLISH LANGUAGE RADIO PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES, GOING THROUGH THE PAPERS FOR COMPLAINTS, ANSWERING THE PHONE AND AT THE SAME TIME READING TRANSLATIONS OF COMPLAINTS ON THE CHINESE RADIO PROGRAMMES AND FROM CHINESE NEWSPAPERS.

MIKE, WHO HAS BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS, SAID HE GAVE UP HIS PRIVATE PRACTICE AS A SURVEYOR IN KALGOORLIE, WEST AUSTRALIA, AND CAME TO HONG KONG BECAUSE HE WANTED +TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT+. CERTAINLY THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT AND VERY DEMANDING.

AFTER A MONTH'S LEAVE MIKE WILL TAKE UP A NEW JOB AS TECHNICAL SECRETARY WITH LANDS AND WORKS.

MIKE IS OBVIOUSLY A GOOD LISTENER BECAUSE BEING ABLE TO LISTEN IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE COMPLAINTS OFFICER'S JOB. AT LEAST THAT IS THE OPINION OF ENGINEER MR ANDREW CHEE SUNG TONG, AND HE SHOULD KNOW BECAUSE HE IS TAKING OVER FROM MIKE AS COMPLAINTS OFFICER.

A HONG KONG-BORN ENGINEER, WHO HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS CAREER IN BRITAIN AND CANADA, ANDREW HAS OFTEN ACTED AS STAND-IN WHEN MIKE HAS BEEN ON LEAVE.

+THE JOB CALLS FOR A GREAT DEAL OF RESILIENCE,+ SAID ANDREW. +YOU HAVE TO REALISE THAT BY THE TIME MOST PEOPLE RING UP TO COMPLAIN THEY ARE OFTEN QUITE UPSET AND YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN SYMPATHETICALLY. IF YOU CAN'T, IT'S HOPELESS.+

HONG KONG KEEPS ON GROWING AND GROWTH MEANS GROWING PAINS, SO IT IS CERTAIN THE COMPLAINTS WILL KEEP COMING IN. IT IS JUST AS CERTAIN THEY WILL BE HEARD SYMPATHETICALLY AND DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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WARNING AGAINST BREACH OF TENANCY CONDITIONS
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY WARNED AGAINST BREACH OF TENANCY CONDITIONS BY ESTATE SHOP-SHOPSTALL TENANTS.

THE WARNING CAME AFTER A SHOP OPERATOR IN CHOI HUNG ESTATE HAD BEEN GIVEN ONE MONTH TO RECTIFY TENANCY IRREGULARITIES OR HIS TENANCY WOULD BE TERMINATED.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OPERATORS STICK TO THEIR TENANCY CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE MANAGEMENT AND TO ENSURE FAIRNESS TO ALL,+ SAID A HOUSING SPOKESMAN.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID PUTTING UP UNAUTHORISED EXTENSIONS IN THE SHOP FRONT WOULD NOT ONLY CREATE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS BUT ALSO CAUSE OBSTRUCTION.

+IT WOULD ALSO BE A BREACH OF TENANCY CONDITIONS FOR THE TENANT TO DEPART FROM THE TRADE ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR THE SHOP.+

IN THE CASE OF THE CHOI HUNG ESTATE SHOP TENANT, HE WAS SERVED WITH A NOTICE-TO-QUIT AFTER REPEATEDLY IGNORING WARNINGS AGAINST PERSISTENT TENANCY IRREGULARITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TENANT WAS FOUND TO HAVE RUN HIS SHOP AS A SUPERMARKET ALTHOUGH THE PREMISES WAS DESIGNATED AND TENDERED FOR RICE TRADE ONLY.

+HE HAD ALSO PUT UP UNAUTHORISED EXTENSIONS AND MADE ALTERATIONS TO INTERNAL STRUCTURES.

+THESE HAD GIVEN RISE TO NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER SHOP TENANTS OF THE SAME TRADE IN THE ESTATE.+

IN HEARING AN APPEAL BY THE TENANT AGAINST TERMINATION OF TENANCY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S APPEALS COMMITTEE HAS EXPRESSED ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S ACTION.

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT SUCH BREACHES SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED, GIVEN THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON OTHER SHOP TENANTS OF THE SAME TRADE AND THE FACT THAT TENANCY CONDITIONS ON TRADE SHOULD APPLY AS A SAFEGUARD TO OTHER SHOP TENANTS.

HOWEVER, IT DECIDED TO GIVE THE TENANT ANOTHER CHANCE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD ENTAIL ENFORCEMENT OF THE NOTICE-TO-QUIT.

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DEPUTY LABOUR CHIEF TO ATTEND ILO TALKS

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THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN WILL BE ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONFERENCE WHICH OPENS ON FRIDAY (JUNE 7) IN GENEVA, AS AN ADVISER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION.

THE AGENDA OF THIS YEAR'S ILO CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND REPORTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SAFETY IN THE USE OF ASBESTOS.

MR CHEN WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS MEETING WHICH IS BEING HELD IN GENEVA ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (JUNE 5 AND 6).

THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME AND A WORKING GROUP REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

MR CHEN WILL FLY TO LONDON AFTER THE ILO CONFERENCE.

WHILE IN LONDON, HE WILL VISIT THE U.K. HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE AND THE ADVISORY CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION SERVICE AND MEET WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT.

MR CHEN WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON JUNE 21.

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URBAN COUNCIL SALVAGES 30 PALM TREES

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THIRTY FULLY-GROWN PALM TREES HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM THE BULLDOZERS AS A RESULT OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND A NATURE-LOVING PROPERTY DEVELOPER.

THE 30 PALM TREES, EACH ABOUT 10 METRES TALL, HAVE BEEN STANDING IN BARKER ROAD ON THE PEAK FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, ADDING BEAUTY TO THE SERENE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND GIVING SHADES TO THOUSANDS OF PASSERS-BY OVER THE YEARS.

HOWEVER, THE FAST PACE OF DEVELOPMENT HAS FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THE 30 PALM TREES WHICH HAVE TO BE REMOVED TO MAKE WAY FOR A HIGH-CLASS RESIDENTIAL PROJECT.

/+OUR CITY

+OUR CITY WOULD HAVE LOST THE 30 BEAUTIFUL PALM TREES IF THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD NOT MADE AN EFFORT TO HELP SALVAGE THEM,+ SAID MR C.A. WONG, AMENITIES OFFICER (HORTICULTURE) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+FORTUNATELY, THE OWNER AND THE DEVELOPER OF THE SITE ARE AS APPRECIATIVE AS THE URBAN COUNCIL OF THE HIGH ORNAMENTAL VALUE OF THESE PALM TREES, AND SO WE JOINED FORCES TO SALVAGE THEM DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES AND RISKS IN MOVING TREES OF THIS SIZE.+

THE TRANSPLANTING OF THE PALM TREES IS TAKING PLACE IN TWO STAGES. THE FIRST STAGE WAS COMPLETED EARLY THIS MONTH WHEN 10 PALM TREES WERE REMOVED BY A MECHANICAL DIGGER FROM THE SITE AND TRANSPLANTED TO THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL APPROACH'S AMENITY AREA.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPER AND THE CONTRACTOR SUPPLIED MANPOWER AND MACHINERY IN THE TRANSPLANTING OPERATION WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

THE NEXT STAGE OF THE TRANSPLANTING EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF MANAGER (LEISURE SERVICES) FOR HONG KONG, MR ROGER POLLARD, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S TREE SECTIONS WERE ALWAYS ON THE GUARD AGAINST ANY INDISCRIMINATE CHOPPING DOWN OF TREES IN PUBLIC PLACES.

+TREES ARE ONLY CUT DOWN IF THEY OBSTRUCT THE CONSTRUCTION OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC WORKS, OR SLOPE STABILISATION, AND WHERE NO ALTERNATIVES COULD BE FOUND,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE TREES HAVE TO BE REMOVED, OUR TREE SECTIONS WILL TRY EVERY MEANS TO SALVAGE THEM IF THEY ARE WORTH PRESERVING.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL TREES OF HIGH ORNAMENTAL VALUE CAN BE SALVAGED BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TAKE A RISK IN ANY TRANSPLANTING OPERATION. IF THE RISK IS REASONABLE AND IF A TREE HAS A 50 PER CENT CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, WE WILL NORMALLY GO AHEAD WITH THE SALVAGE OPERATION,+ SAID MR POLLARD.

HE SAID TREES WITH FIBROUS ROOTS CAN BE TRANSPLANTED EASILY BECAUSE THEY CAN TOLERATE CONSIDERABLE ROOT DAMAGE. HOWEVER, TAP-ROOTED TREES, THE ROOTS OF WHICH GO VERY DEEPLY DOWN INTO THE SOIL, ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSPLANT. SIMILARLY, TREES WHICH HAVE BEEN GROWING ON A STEEP SLOPE FOR A LONG TIME RARELY ADAPT TO CHANGE.

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+IN GENERAL, HONG KONG'S PROPERTY OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS ARE QUITE CO-OPERATIVE IN HELPING PRESERVE TREES,+ MR POLLARD ADDED. +IN MOST CASES, TREES ARE FELLED TO MAKE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT SIMPLY BECAUSE THE CONTRACTORS OR DEVELOPERS FAIL TO REALISE THE NEED FOR RETAINING OR TRANSPLANTING THEM. ONCE THEY ARE TOLD ABOUT THE VALUE OF TREES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSPLANTING THEM, THEY ARE OFTEN WILLING TO CO-OPERATE IN RESCUE OPERATIONS OR TO MODIFY THEIR PLANS SOMEWHAT.

+SAVING TREES IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS PLANTING NEW ONES FOR IT TAKES MANY YEARS FOR A YOUNG TREE TO REACH MATURITY. HOWEVER, OUR TREE SECTIONS IMPLEMENT A VERY VIGOROUS TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME EVERY YEAR AS A FORM OF LONG-TERM INSURANCE. ALSO, WHEN APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR THE FELLING OF TREES, IT WILL NORMALLY BE ON CONDITION OF GENEROUS COMPENSATORY PLANTING TO FOLLOW,+ SAID MR POLLARD.

BETWEEN 1979 AND 1984, AN AVERAGE OF 2 665 TREES WERE FELLED EVERY YEAR ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON, WHILE AN AVERAGE OF 19 888 YOUNG TREES WERE PLANTED. THIS MEANT THAT MORE THAN SEVEN TREES WERE PLANTED FOR EACH ONE LOST.

MR POLLARD ENVISAGED THAT SOME 20 000 TO 25 000 TREES WOULD BE PLANTED IN THE URBAN AREAS ANNUALLY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

GIVEN THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE URBAN AREAS, HE ADDED, THE TARGET WAS DESIRABLE AND REALISTIC AND SHOULD DO MUCH TO SUSTAIN THE LEVEL OF GREENERY IN THE CITY AREA.

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EVENING COURSES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

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EVENING COURSES WILL AGAIN BE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS WISHING TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES.

THE COURSES, ORGANISED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ARE TEACHERS' COURSE, ENGLISH COURSE, SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE, GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE FOR ADULTS, ADULT EDUCATION COURSE (GENERAL BACKGROUND) AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSE (PRACTICAL BACKGROUND).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID, THE TEACHERS' COURSE IS TO PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS WHO WANT TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CURRICULAR SUBJECTS. CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE AWARDED ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF EACH COURSE.

/THE ENGLISH

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THE ENGLISH COURSE OFFERS TUITION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE FROM PRIMARY 4 TO GCE 'O' LEVEL. FORM 5 STUDENTS MAY SIT FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION AND STUDENTS OF GCE 'O' LEVEL CLASSES MAY TAKE THE GCE 'O' LEVEL EXAMINATION.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE, WHICH PROVIDES SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IS DIVIDED INTO THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE SECTIONS. THE COURSE TAKES SIX YEARS TO COMPLETE AND LEADS TO THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

THE GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE FOR ADULTS IS A FIVE-YEAR COURSE LEADING TO THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION. APPLICANTS FOR THIS COURSE MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.

THE ADULT EDUCATION COURSE (GENERAL BACKGROUND) PROVIDES PRIMARY GENERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS OF 18 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE. IT IS ORGANISED AT THREE LEVELS -- UPPER, MIDDLE AND LOWER. EACH LEVEL IS FOR AN YEAR.

THE ADULT EDUCATION COURSE (PRACTICAL BACKGROUND) IS DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES -- SEWING AND KNITTING, WOMAN HOUSECRAFT (CHINESE AND WESTERN COOKERY) AND WOODWORK.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT ASIAN HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE JUNE 21 FOR THE ENGLISH COURSE AND JUNE 28 FOR OTHER COURSES.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN JULY FOR ENGLISH COURSE, SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE AND GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE FOR ADULTS.

ENQUIRIES ON THE COURSES SHOULD BE MADE AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 5-295708 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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HIGHER CHINESE STUDIES OFFERED

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THE EVENING SCHOOL OF HIGHER CHINESE STUDIES, RUN BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL AGAIN START IN SEPTEMBER.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION WILL BE INVITED BETWEEN JULY 19 AND AUGUST 9 AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION AT ASIAN HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE EVENING SCHOOL OF HIGHER CHINESE STUDIES OFFERS A GENERAL ARTS DIPLOMA COURSE AND A NUMBER OF SHORT COURSES AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL UNDER A CREDIT UNIT SYSTEM.

STUDENTS WHO REGISTER FOR THE DIPLOMA COURSE MUST HAVE AT LEAST SIX SUBJECTS, INCLUDING ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AT GRADE E OR ABOVE IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

+THEY ARE REQUIRED TO STUDY 12 BASIC SUBJECTS AND 18 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS WITHIN FIVE YEARS IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AWARD OF A DIPLOMA,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

FOR SHORT COURSES, APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE ATTAINED SECONDARY LEVEL EDUCATION.

+THOSE WHO REGISTER FOR THE SHORT COURSES MAY TAKE WHATEVER SUBJECT THEY LIKE AND WILL BE ISSUED A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE COURSE CAN BE MADE AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 5-295708.

IMMEDIATE PROMOTIONS FOR 153

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ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY-THREE ELATED OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE TOLD LAST (SATURDAY) NIGHT THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN IMMEDIATE PROMOTIONS.

TWENTY-NINE OF THEM WERE PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS FROM OFFICERS RANK, WHILE THE OTHERS WERE PROMOTED FROM ASSISTANT OFFICERS II TO ASSISTANT OFFICERS I.

THEY WERE GIVEN THE GOOD NEWS BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR THOMAS GARNER, AT AN ANNUAL STAFF CHINESE DINNER HELD BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION. SOME 1 500 MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND THEIR SPOUSES WERE PRESENT.

/IN ADDITION, ...

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IN ADDITION, 23 STAFF WERE AWARDED THE COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION CERTIFICATES BY MR GARNER FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO DUTY AND WORK PERFORMANCE.

MR GARNER ALSO PRESENTED APPOINTMENT CERTIFICATES TO THE NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR FRANCIS WONG, PRESENTED RETIREMENT SOUVENIRS, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE STAFF, TO MR GARNER AND HIS WIFE, AND WISHED THEM MANY YEARS OF HAPPY RETIREMENT.

DURING THE DINNER, TROPHIES WERE ALSO PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS OF THE BEST CONTINGENT AT THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL INSPECTION, THE BEST STALL AND BEST PRODUCT AT THE LAST AUTUMN FAIR.

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+CLEAN DOG+ DRIVE BEGINS
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INCONSIDERATE DOG-OWNERS WILL BE THE TARGET OF AN URBAN COUNCIL CLEANSING DRIVE WHICH BEGINS TOMORROW (MONDAY).

URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOREMEN WILL PATROL THE STREETS IN URBAN DISTRICTS AND DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION LEAFLETS TO PEOPLE WALKING THEIR DOGS.

THE LEAFLET POINTS OUT THAT THE LAW HOLDS DOG-OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PETS' HABITS AND THEY ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION IF THEIR DOGS INDISCRIMINATELY DIRTY PAVEMENTS, STREETS OR COMMON PARTS OF BUILDINGS.

SUMMONSES WILL BE ISSUED TO DOG-OWNERS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE LAW, UNLESS THEY CLEAN UP THE MESS IMMEDIATELY.

THE LEAFLET ADVISES PEOPLE WHO TAKE THEIR DOGS OUT, TO CARRY NEWSPAPERS WITH THEM.

THE DRIVE ENDS ON SATURDAY (JUNE 8).

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NEW RESCUE CATAMARANS ON TRIAL

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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS PUT TWO NEWLY-DESIGNED CATAMARANS INTO TRIAL SERVICE FOR RESCUE DUTIES AT THE OLD CAFETERIA BEACH AND THE KADOORIE BEACH IN TUEN MUN.

THE TWO CATAMARANS, JOINTLY DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND THE RSD, ARE MADE OF FIBRE GLASS, INSTEAD OF ALUMINIUM.

THE RSD HAS AT PRESENT 28 ALUMINIUM CATAMARANS FOR PATROL AND RESCUE DUTIES AT GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIBRE GLASS CATAMARANS ARE PART OF THE RSD'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RESCUE AND FIRST AID FACILITIES AT NEW TERRITORIES BEACHES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

IF THE NEW CATAMARANS PROVED SATISFACTORY, THE RSD WOULD CONSIDER PHASING OUT ALL ALUMINIUM CATAMARANS IN THE COMING YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW CATAMARANS COST ABOUT \$20 000 EACH AND CAN BE TAKEN APART FOR STORAGE AND REASSEMBLED WITHIN MINUTES.

ALSO, THE NEW MODELS REQUIRE ONLY TWO OR THREE LIFEGUARDS TO LAUNCH, AS COMPARED WITH THE ALUMINIUM MODELS WHICH REQUIRE AT LEAST SIX.

AND BECAUSE THEY ARE BUILT OF A LIGHTER MATERIAL, THE NEW CATAMARANS ARE EASIER TO MANOEUVRE.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT YOUTH

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MORE THAN 100 ITEMS OF SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S COLOURED BOAT COMPETITION IN REPULSE BAY, MR CHAN CALLED ON LOCAL YOUTHS TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES AIMED AT PROVIDING THEM WITH HEALTHY PASTIMES DURING THE LONG SUMMER VACATION.

/+THE JOCKEY

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+THE JOCKEY CLUB HAS DONATED \$147 000 THIS YEAR FOR SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES, AND APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO 164 APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL BODIES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR'S THEME OF +PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE+, THE ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD WILL INCLUDE SEMINARS, TRAINING CLASSES, VISITS, CLEANING OF BEACHES, CAMPING AND PICNICS.

THE COLOURED BOAT COMPETITION IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND SAN MIGUEL AND IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB.

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SALT WATER CUT
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 5) FOR WATER MAIN WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE LAM TIN ESTATE, SAU MAU PING ESTATE, CHOI WAN ESTATE, SHUN LEE ESTATE, SHUN TIN ESTATE, SHUN ON ESTATE AND PREMISES ALONG HONG LEE ROAD, HONG NING ROAD AND KUNG LOK ROAD.

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SHEUNG SHUI WATER WORKS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 5) FOR WATER MAIN WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM TSUNG PAK LONG TSUEN TO LOK MA CHAU, INCLUDING TSUNG PAK LONG TSUEN, YIN KONG TSUEN, KAM TSIN TSUEN, HANG TAU TSUEN, KWU TUNG TSUEN, HO SHEUNG HEUNG TSUEN, CHAU TAU TSUEN, LOK MA CHAU AND PAK SHEK AU.

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