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FOREIGN INVESTMENT DEFYING RECESSION

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FOREIGN AND JOINT-VENTURE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY EXPANDED TO AN ALL-TIME RECORD LAST YEAR DESPITE WHAT MANY ECONOMISTS CONSIDER THE WORST GLOBAL RECESSION IN HALF A CENTURY.

STATISTICS GATHERED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT BY THE END OF LAST YEAR THE ACCUMULATED TOTAL OF THESE INVESTMENTS HAD REACHED $9.5 BILLION, UP BY 10 PER CENT OVER 1981 AND MORE THAN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF THREE YEARS AGO.

THE TOTAL CONSISTS OF $7.5 BILLION INVESTED BY FOREIGN INTERESTS AND $2 BILLION BY LOCAL PARTNERS IN ABOUT 488 ESTABLISHMENTS, MANY OF WHICH EMPLOY HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGIES.

THIS EXPANSION IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE LOW GROWTH EXPERIENCED BY THE REST OF THE INDUSTRIALISED WORLD LAST YEAR.

MR C.G. BERNARD, A PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE DIFFERENCE IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MANY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES.

OVER THE YEARS, HIGH LABOUR AND OTHER COSTS IN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES HAVE MADE IT VITAL FOR MORE INDUSTRIALISTS THERE TO SHIFT SOME OF THEIR OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

AND FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, HONG KONG IS CONTINUING TO BENEFIT FROM THIS SITUATION. THESE INCLUDE CONSISTENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES, RELIANCE ON FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE, A GROWING POOL OF EXPERIENCED LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS AND A COST EFFECTIVE, HIGHLY SKILLED LABOUR FORCE.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS ARE THE GROWING DEPTH OF HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES, THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS, THE LOW PERSONAL AND CORPORATE TAX RATES OF 15 AND 16.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, TOGETHER WITH GENEROUS DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES, AND THE ABILITY TO CARRY LOSSES FORWARD INDEFINITELY.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND IN THE FACE OF A RECESSION, MR BERNARD POINTED OUT. DURING THE PREVIOUS RECESSION IN 1974 AND 1975, 19 NEW FOREIGN AND 40 JOINT-VENTURE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE SET UP, INVOLVING INVESTMENTS OF $119 MILLION AND $1 031 MILLION, THE LATTER BEING THE HIGHEST FIGURE FOR THE DECADE.

UNIT COSTS OF PRODUCTION IN REAL TERMS ARE EVEN MORE FAVOURABLE TODAY BECAUSE OF STABLE WAGES AND A MARKED DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL LAND PRICES WHICH ARE NOW COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER AREAS IN EAST ASIA.

ALSO, ABOUT ONE MILLION SQUARE METRES OF INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE WERE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF 1982, A FIGURE WHICH COULD DOUBLE BY THE END OF 1983.

/+AS HONG KONG'S .....

+AS HONG KONG'S EXPORT GROWTH HAS BEEN SEVERAL PERCENTAGE POINTS ABOVE THE GROWTH RATE OF WORLD MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE PAST, A MILD RECOVERY IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS COULD LEAD TO A CONSIDERABLE REBOUND FOR OUR EXPORT-LED ECONOMY,+ MR BERNARD SAID.

DESPITE THE RECESSION, EAST ASIA IS NOW THE FASTEST GROWING REGION IN THE WORLD: ITS AVERAGE ANNUAL GNP GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT IN THE LAST DECADE WAS TWICE THAT OF THE INDUSTRIALISED WEST. SOME ECONOMISTS FORECAST THAT THE COMBINED GNP OF EAST ASIA, EXCLUDING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WILL OUTSTRIP THAT OF EUROPE BEFORE THE END OF THE CENTURY.

THIS LONG-TERM POTENTIAL IS A STRONG DRAWING CARD, AND MORE INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE WEST, PARTICULARLY FROM THE UNITED STATES, HAVE IN RECENT YEARS SET UP OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST TO SERVICE THE REGION ITSELF, IN ADDITION TO THEIR HOME MARKETS. BECAUSE OF ITS CENTRAL GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND OTHER ADVANTAGES, HONG KONG HAS ATTRACTED MANY OF THESE OPERATIONS.

LAST YEAR AT LEAST 22 WHOLLY-OWNED FOREIGN OR JOINT-VENTURE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING US, JAPANESE, BRITISH AND OTHER EUROPEAN INTERESTS STARTED OPERATION IN HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE EITHER EXPANDED THEIR OPERATIONS OR ARE INVESTING FURTHER THIS YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ABOUT 800 +ACTIVE ENQUIRIES+ ON ITS BOOKS, ABOUT 42 OF WHICH ARE REGARDED AS PROJECTS LIKELY TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IT IS NOTICEABLE ALSO THAT DURING RECENT YEARS BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL INVESTORS HAVE MOVED INTO HIGHER TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. THIS DEVELOPMENT IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED AND FACILITATED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1977 TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION AND THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. ITS BASIC AIM IS TO PROVIDE AND MANAGE SITES AT COST TO INDUSTRIES WITH A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY WHICH CANNOT OPERATE IN ORDINARY MULTI-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS.

TO DATE, 37 COMPANIES HAVE TAKEN UP SITES IN THE TAI PO AND YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, WITH COMMITTED INVESTMENTS SO FAR OF MORE THAN $1.3 BILLION, 30 PER CENT OF IT BY OVERSEAS INTERESTS.

FURTHER STEPS TAKEN RECENTLY TO BACK UP HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL REFERENCE STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRY AND A STANDARD CALIBRATION LABORATORY, THE FACILITATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION, QUALITY CERTIFICATION SERVICES AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK.

TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDIES ON SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIES ARE BEING CONDUCTED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND RESOURCES.

/THERE HAS .....

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION IN SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WHICH NOW PROVIDE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR OVER 61 000 PEOPLE A YEAR.

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, FOR ITS PART, HAS STEPPED UP ITS INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMMES AND ESTABLISHED FOUR OVERSEAS OFFICES IN TOKYO, LONDON, SAN FRANCISCO AND STUTTGART IN 1982.

NEW SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS NOW BEING MADE IN HONG KONG INCLUDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, POLYSTYRENE, HIGH-GRADE DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE TOOLS, PRECISION ENGINEERING COMPONENTS, MINIATURE LIGHT BULBS AND COMPUTER PARTS.

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HONG KONG SHOULD FOLLOW UK'S EXAMPLES

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HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK.

ON ONE HAND, LOCAL WORKERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN UK TO ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO WORK SAFETY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, LOCAL EMPLOYERS SHOULD PROVIDE MORE MODERN SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR WORKERS, AS IT IS THE CASE IN UK.

THESE WERE THE VIEWS OF THE WINNING TEAM OF THE +SAFETY AT WORK+ TELEVISION PROGRAMME, WHICH RETURNED FROM UK THIS MORNING (SUNDAY) AFTER A 10-DAY PRIZE-WINNING TRIP.

THE TEAM LEADER, MR CHOU HAN-SHENG, SAID HE OBSERVED THAT BOTH THE MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS IN UK GAVE TOP PRIORITY TO WORK SAFETY.

+WORKERS THERE TOOK EVERY NECESSARY STEP TO AVOID GETTING HURT AT WORK, EVEN THIS MIGHT AFFECT THE PACE OF PRODUCTION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MANAGEMENT PROVIDED MODERN SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH STATUTORY SAFETY REGULATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

CITING EXAMPLES OF THE MANAGEMENT GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO WORK SAFETY, MR CHOU POINTED OUT THAT MARS -- THE WORLD FAMOUS CHOCOLATE FACTORY -- HAS A CLINIC AS BIG AS A HOSPITAL MANNED BY FULL-TIME DOCTORS AND NURSES ON THREE SHIFTS. IT ALSO HAD A FULL-TIME SAFETY OFFICER WHO LOOKS AFTER ALL ASPECTS OF WORK SAFETY -- AS IT IS THE CASE WITH OTHER FACTORIES.

THE MANAGEMENT HAS ESTABLISHED VERY GOOD COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR DISCUSSING OR EXCHANGING VIEWS ON SAFETY MATTERS WITH WORKERS,+ HE ADDED.

/MR CHOU .....

MR CHOU POINTED OUT UK AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ARE ADOPTING THE SAME APPROACH IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, NAMELY PROVIDING TRAINING FOR WORKERS, LAUNCHING SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS AND CONDUCTING SPECIAL COMPETITIONS FOR WORKERS, ETC.

FOR EXAMPLE, A +MOST BEAUTIFUL EYES+ CONTEST IS BEING CONDUCTED IN UK IN ORDER TO MAKE WORKERS MORE AWARE OF THE NEED OF PROTECTING THEIR EYES WHILE AT WORK.

THE CONTEST, WHICH WAS PROMPTED BY THE FACT THAT A TOTAL OF 36 WORKERS GOT BLIND LAST YEAR, WAS ALSO AIMED AT ENCOURAGING DISCUSSIONS ON EYE PROTECTION AMONG WORKERS.

+WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY. WHILE WE CAN HARDLY COMPARE WITH SUCH AN INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED COUNTRY AS UK IN THIS RESPECT, WE CAN CERTAINLY IMPROVE THE PRESENT SITUATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED. THIS WILL RELY ON MORE CONCERTED EFFORTS AMONG THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE FUTURE,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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CONFERENCE ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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ABOUT 200 SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS WILL TAKE PART IN A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE AIMED AT PROMOTING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON MARCH 30 AND 31 AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AND THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR MA LIN, WILL ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION.

A SPEECH ON +THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM+ WILL BE DELIVERED BY MR LEUNG, WHILE PROFESSOR C.Y. TO OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WILL ALSO PRESENT A SPEECH ON +THE EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES+.

URBAN COUNCILLOR MRS SELINA CHOW AND THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE (RECREATION AND SPORT), MR DICKEN YUNG, WILL DELIVER SPEECHES AT SEMINARS FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY.

A SERIES OF SEMINARS WILL ALSO BE HELD ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE CONFERENCE DURING WHICH SPEECHES WILL BE DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HK COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR HUI YIN-FAT; DR PEDRO NG AND MR FUNG YEE-WANG OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND MR ANDY LIANG OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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/NOTE TO EDITORS: .....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON +EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS+ ON MARCH 30 AND 31 AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AND THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, DR MA LIN, WILL ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE AT 9.15 AM.

A SERIES OF SEMINARS FEATURING TALKS BY COMMUNITY LEADERS, EDUCATIONISTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE TWO-DAY CONFERENCE.

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CROWN LAND FOR SALE

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING THREE PIECES OF CROWN LAND IN KOWLOON AND YUEN LONG FOR SALE BY TENDERS.

THE LARGEST SITE IS IN KOWLOON BAY, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 4.548 HECTARES. IT IS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING TENDERS FOR THIS SITE IS NOON ON MAY 20.

ANOTHER SITE, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2 881 SQUARE METRES AT THE JUNCTION OF WAI YIP STREET AND KEI YIP STREET IN KWUN TONG, IS FOR A MULTI-STOREY CAR/LORRY PARK. IT MAY ALSO COMPRISE ACCOMMODATION FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, BUT EXCLUDING RESIDENTIAL, HOTEL AND GODOWN.

THE REMAINING SITE WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4 885 SQUARE METRES IS AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA IN YUEN LONG.

THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED ON THE SITE IS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRING WORKSHOPS WHILE THE UPPER FLOORS MAY BE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN PURPOSES OR BOTH, INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRING WORKSHOPS AND CAR-BODY ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS.

THE DEADLINE OF ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR BOTH THE KWUN TONG AND YUEN LONG SITES IS NOON ON APRIL 29.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND SALES CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON WEST), KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON ; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATION

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A PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF $1.45 MILLION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD DURING THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD'S FOURTH MEETING ON THURSDAY (MARCH 31).

THE NEW ALLOCATION REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT OVER THE $1.3 MILLION PROVISION FOR 1982/83.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN SQUATTER VILLAGES AND TYPHOON SHELTERS, CLEARANCE EXERCISES, IMPROVEMENT OF AMENITY FACILITIES, A SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND A SPORTS FESTIVAL.

AT THE MEETING, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A REPORT BY THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE AND THE SCHEDULE OF DB MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PEOPLE WISHING TO ATTEND MAY CONTACT THE BOARD'S SECRETARY, MR CHRISTOPHER NG, AT 5-630181.

TEN SEATS WILL BE RESERVED AND ALLOCATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FOURTH EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 31) IN THE HALL OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS, BRADBURY CENTRE, MODEL LANE, NORTH POINT.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY FOR CHING MING FESTIVAL

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE CHING MING FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON APRIL 5 (TUESDAY) IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS EMPLOYED LOCALLY OR FROM OVERSEAS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN $7 500 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS, INCLUDING WAGES AND ALLOWANCES BUT EXCLUDING OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY.

WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 3-205638 FOR KOWLOON EAST, 3-201652 FOR KOWLOON WEST, 3-319454 FOR KOWLOON SOUTH, 3-898520 FOR KWUN TONG, 0-4980208 FOR TSUEN WAN, 0-6577111, EXT. 114 FOR TAI PO, 0-818443 FOR TUEN MUN, 5-268671 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND (WEST), AND 5-282523 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST).

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URBAN CLEARWAYS ON DES VOEUX ROAD WEST

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DES VOEUX ROAD WEST NEAR WATER STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 29).

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ALSO APPLY TO ITS EASTBOUND SECTION NEAR WESTERN STREET.

WITHIN THE SECTIONS, VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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TENDERS FOR LAYING OF FRESH WATER MAINS IN FANLING

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF A SYSTEM OF FRESH WATER MAINS IN FANLING/SHEK WU HUI NEW TOWN.

THE SYSTEM IS PART OF A PROJECT TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TO THE NEW TOWN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT COMPRISES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 3 125 METRES OF MILD STEEL AND ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPES, RANGING FROM 150 MM TO 1 200 MM IN DIAMETERS.

WORK WILL COMMENCE IN JUNE AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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STUDY ROOMS TO BE OPENED

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TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS WILL BE OPENED IN THE EVENING IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30 FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

+THEY WILL BE OPEN DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD TO PROVIDE STUDENTS LIVING IN CROWDED AND NOISY ENVIRONMENT WITH ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND PRIVATE STUDY,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

A TOTAL OF 6 460 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED IN 69 STUDY ROOM CENTRES, HE SAID.

STUDY ROOM FACILITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, FOR USE BY SECONDARY STUDENTS ONLY.

THOSE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM ON THE SAME DAYS FOR BOTH SECONDARY AND PRIMARY STUDENTS.

THESE FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

POSTERS SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY ROOM CENTRES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS. THEY WILL ALSO BE PUT UP IN PUBLIC PLACES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

SUPERVISORS WILL BE APPOINTED TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN STUDY ROOMS, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE GIVING TUITION TO THE STUDENTS.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SALE OF LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE SALE OF LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT SEVEN PUBLIC BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND AT THE YUEN WO ROAD PLAYGROUND IN SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG TANG SHIU KIN SPORTSGROUND.

THE SEVEN BEACHES ARE CHEUNG SHA BEACH (LOWER) ON LANTAU ISLAND; KIU TSUI BEACH, CAMPER'S BEACH AND PAK SHA CHAU BEACH IN SAI KUNG; GEMINI BEACH AND APPROACH BEACH AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUNG WAN BEACH ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THE TENDERS FOR THE CHEUNG SHA BEACH (LOWER), KIU TSUI BEACH, CAMPER'S BEACH AND PAK SHA CHAU OPERATIONS WILL INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF CHANGING FACILITIES.

THE ERECTION OF TENTS FOR HIRE TO THE PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIONS AT CHEUNG SHA BEACH (LOWER) AND KIU TSUI BEACH.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS FOR THE ABOVE TENDERS MAY OPERATE THEIR BUSINESS ON MAY 16, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE CONTRACTS FOR THE SEVEN BEACHES WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 1985 WHILE THAT OF THE PLAYGROUND AND THE SPORTSGROUND WILL END ON APRIL 30, 1986.

INTERESTED OPERATORS MAY OBTAIN TENDER FORMS FROM THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX OF THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS BEFORE APRIL 22.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY HOURS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT ITS PORT COMMUNICATION CENTRE, MACAU FERRY TERMINAL AND TSUEN WAN PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA WILL REMAIN OPEN THROUGHOUT THE EASTER HOLIDAYS AND CHING MING FESTIVAL FROM APRIL 1 TO 5 (FRIDAY TO TUESDAY).

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE OPENING HOURS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S OTHER OFFICES:

* THE ENTRY AND CLEARANCE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 2) AND MONDAY (APRIL 4);

* THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 2) AND MONDAY (APRIL 4) FOR ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE ONLY; AND

* THE FIVE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, WESTERN DISTRICT AND RAMBLER CHANNEL WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 11 PM DAILY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

ALL OTHER OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 30) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED WILL BE THOSE BOUNDED BY TAI HONG STREET, SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, HOI AN STREET AND THE SEA FRONT.

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