HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE

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THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE CONTINUED TO ACHIEVE A NOTABLE DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN 1974 IN ITS CONTINUING FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS, SMUGGLING, ADULTERATED LIQUORS AND COPYRIGHT PIRACY.

AND ACCORDING TO MR. ROYSTON HATTON, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE= +FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PAST TWO DECADES OR SO, THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR CAREFUL OPTIMISM IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS.+

THIS, HE SAID, WAS MAINLY DUE TO CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS DRUG FIGHTING AGENCIES IN HONG KONG AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BETTER LINKS WITH ANTI-NARCOTIC ORGANISATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

+WORKING TOWARDS THIS GOAL, THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE HAS DEVELOPED CLOSE TIES WITH CUSTOM AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE AIM OF PINNING DOWN INTERNATIONAL DRUG PUSHERS,+ HE SAID.

THE SERVICE'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS LAST YEAR WERE IN ITS DRUG FIGHTING OPERATIONS.

DURING THE YEAR, PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS ARRESTED A RECORD NUMBER OF 4,148 DRUG SUSPECTS - A 12.5 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE 1973 FIGURE - AND SEIZED MORE THAN $3.6 MILLION WORTH OF DRUGS IN 1,400 RAIDS. THESE INCLUDED 191 KG OF OPIUM, 23.9 KG OF HEROIN, 8.5 KG OF MORPHINE, 13.2 KG OF BARBITONE AND SIX KG OF HASHISH AND MARIJUANA.

A LARGE QUANTITY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA AND 2,020 LITRES OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE - AN ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL USED IN COVERTING CRUDE MORPHINE TO HEROIN - WERE ALSO SEIZED.

THE HAUL OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE WAS THE LARGEST EVER MADE BY THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE. IF IT HAD REACHED ILLEGAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS, IT COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO PRODUCE SOME 2,000 KG OF HEROIN.

OTHER MAJOR SUCCESSES AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRADE INCLUDED :-

* A CRACK-DOWN ON A DRUG PACKING CENTRE IN SHEUNG SHUI RESULTING IN A $1 MILLION DRUG SEIZURE AND THE ARREST OF A DRUG PUSHER, YEUNG YIN-MING, WHO EVENTUALLY ESCAPED TO TAIWAN=

* A $420,000 MORPHINE HAUL FROM A THAI WOMAN AT THE AIRPORT=

* A MASSIVE RAID ON DRUG PEDDLERS AND ADDICTS AT THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY=

* AND A MAJOR DRIVE TO CLEAR UP DRUG DIVANS IN THE NOTORIOUS MA SHAN AREA.

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IN THE RAID ON THE WALLED CITY WHICH INVOLVED 170 PLAINCLOTHES AND UNIFORMED PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS, 71 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH VARIOUS NARCOTIC OFFENCES, AND MORE THAN $100,000 WORTH OF DRUGS WERE SEIZED.

THE SUCCESSES WERE PARTLY DUE TO NEW TACTICS ADOPTED BY THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE TO HARASS DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND ADDICTS AT ALL LEVELS, MR. HATTON SAID.

AT THE AIRPORT, PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS, BACKED UP BY A DRUG-SNIFFING DOG, CARRIED OUT MORE STRINGENT CHECKS ON FLIGHTS AND BODILY SEARCHED INCOMING PASSENGERS ON A SELECTIVE BASIS.

DRUG FIGHTERS POSTED TO THE HARBOUR DIVISION OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR SEARCHES ON OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAD CALLED AT PORTS LYING IN THE KNOWN DRUG TRAILS ORIGINATING FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA IN INDOCHINA.

TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN PATROLLING THE OUTER PERIMETER OF HONG KONG WATERS, WHICH IS THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE, THE SIX PREVENTIVE SERVICE LAUNCHES WERE USED TO CARRY OUT + STRIKE AND SEARCH+ OPERATIONS IN THE OUTER BLANDS AND REMOTE AREAS, AS WELL AS MAKING PERIODIC SWEEPS OF TYPHOON SHELTERS.

THE SERVICE ALSO ACQUIRED A MOTORISED INFLATABLE DINGHY FOR USE IN SHALLOW WATERS AND FOR FERRYING PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS TO INACCESSIBLE COASTS TO CONDUCT CHECKS ON POSSIBLE DRUG HIDEOUTS.

TWO MORE WILL BE BOUGHT THIS YEAR TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE SERVICE'S +STRIKE AND SEARCH+ CAPABILITY.

COMMENTING ON THE SELECTIVE SEARCHES AT THE AIRPORT AND IN THE HARBOUR, MR. HATTON SAID : +WE CAN'T POSSIBLY CONDUCT THOROUGH SEARCHES ON EVERY INCOMING FLIGHT OR OCEAN-GOING VESSEL WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE VOLUME OF AIR AND SEA TRAFFIC WE HAVE EVERY YEAR.+

+LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID, +THERE WERE 27,000 INCOMING FLIGHTS BRINGING IN MORE THAN 40,000 TONS OF CARGO AND 2.7 MILLION PASSENGERS. IN ADDITION, NEARLY 7,500 VESSELS CALLED AT THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

+IF WE SEARCHED INDISCRIMINATELY, A LOT OF MAN-POWER AND TIME WOULD BE NEEDED, AND IT WOULD ALSO SERIOUSLY HOLD UP AIR AND SEA TRAFFIC.

+THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS SELECTIVE SEARCH SYSTEM,+ HE EXPLAINED +IS TO ENSURE THAT NO LARGE CONSIGNMENTS OF DRUGS GET THROUGH THE AIRPORT OR THE HARBOUR.+

IN OTHER AREAS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST SMUGGLERS, THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE SEIZED NEARLY 30,000 WATCHES, 21,000 KG OF SUGAR, 1,200 KG OF TOBACCO, 3,350 LITRES OF EUROPEAN LIQUOR, 3,500 LITRES OF CHINESE SPIRIT AND 13,000 LITRES OF DIESEL OIL.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF UNMANIFESTED GOODS SEIZED CAME TO NEARLY $4 MILLION.

/MANUFACTURERS .....

MANUFACTURERS OF ADULTERATED LIQUOR WERE ALSO HARD HIT, WITH PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS SMASHING 29 ILLICIT STILLS AND SEIZING 180 LITRES OF ADULTERATED WHISKY AND BRANDY AND 2,580 LITRES OF INFERIOR CHINESE SPIRIT.

THE COPYRIGHT PIRACY SECTION FORMED EARLIER IN THE YEAR ALSO CHALKED UP GOOD RESULTS.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION SEIZED MORE THAN 150,000 PIRATED CASSETTE MUSIC TAPES, 15,000 PIRATED GRAMOPHONE RECORDS, AND A VARIETY OF SOPHISTICATED RECORDING EQUIPMENT USED IN PRODUCING PIRATED RECORDS OR TAPES. THE TAPES AND RECORDS COULD HAVE FETCHED MORE THAN $1 MILLION ON THE MARKET.

DURING THE YEAR, THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING 224 PEOPLE BEFORE THE COURTS. PRISON SENTENCES METED OUT AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL OF 218 YEARS AND FINES TOTALLED $849,000.

NOTE TO EDITORS: A PICTURE SHOWING THREE PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS UNCOVERING SOME MORPHINE BLOCKS FROM A CONCEALED COMPARTMENT ON BOARD AN OCEAN-GOING VESSEL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE GIS PRESS BOXES LATER THIS EVENING.

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OCTOBER 1974 ISSUE OF ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED

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A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1974 IS CARRIED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REPORT DEALS WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY, INCLUDING OVERSEAS AND LOCAL TRADE FIGURES, MOVEMENTS IN THE MONEY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS AND THE GENERAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

IN ADDITION TO A CALENDAR OF EVENTS WHICH LISTS THE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL EVENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE REPORT CONTAINS 24 COMPARATIVE TABLES COVERING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND THE COST AND USABLE FLOOR AREA OF COMPLETED BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974.

THE ECONOMIC REPORT IS PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR IN APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER AND IS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT ''THE BUDGET: ECONOMIC BACKGROUND'' PUBLICATION PREPARED IN JANUARY EACH YEAR.

COPIES OF THE OCTOBER ISSUE ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG, AT $3.50 EACH.

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MISUNDERSTANDINGS OVER POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMAS CLARIFIED
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. ALAN SCOTT, TODAY CLARIFIED A REPORTED MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC'S HIGHER DIPLOMA FOR POSTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REDUCTION IN THE VALUE OF THE QUALIFICATIONS AS APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT POSTS, MR. SCOTT SAID THAT THIS WAS +SIMPLY NOT CORRECT+.

IN FACT, HE ADDED, THE POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. THE LONG-STANDING PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO ACCEPT THE POLYTECHNIC HIGHER DIPLOMA AS THE EQUIVALENT OF 'A' LEVELS FOR ENTRY TO NON-TECHNICAL POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. SCOTT SAID THIS PRACTICE WAS INTENDED TO GIVE FORMER POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT JOBS OVER AS WIDE A RANGE AS POSSIBLE.

THIS IN NO WAY REFERS TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE POLYTECHNIC HIGHER DIPLOMA FOR TECHNICAL POSTS WHICH IS A COMPLETELY SEPARATE ISSUE AND IS GOVERNED BY THE RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL BODIES, HE SAID.

MR. SCOTT ADDED THAT THE EXTENT OF THIS RECOGNITION IS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY THE POLYTECHNIC AUTHORITIES WHO ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

HOWEVER HE EMPHASISED THAT APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE SECRETARIAT WOULD CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH THE POLYTECHNIC CONCERNING ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT POSTS AND +THE INTERESTS OF THE STUDENTS WILL NATURALLY BE CAREFULLY KEPT UNDER REVIEW+.

MR. SCOTT SAID A LETTER OUTLINING THE POSITION HAD BEEN SENT TO THE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION AND THE POLYTECHNIC AUTHORITIES. HE EMPHASISED THAT THE RELATIVITY OF POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMAS AND UNIVERSITY DEGREES, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN THE SUBJECT OF RECENT REPORTS, WAS AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS LATTER ASPECT WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PETITION WHICH HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE STUDENTS OF THE POLYTECHNIC.

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DISABLED DEMONSTRATE DIFFICULTIES
IN TRAVELLING ON BUSES

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MEMBERS OF A GOVERNMENT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) SAW FOR THEMSELVES THE DIFFICULTIES HANDICAPPED PEOPLE HAVE IN TRAVELLING ON BUSES, AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM THEIR GENERAL PROBLEMS IN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE WORKING PARTY WAS FORMED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENT WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE SURFACE TRANSPORT MORE SUITABLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

ITS MEMBERS COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS, WITH MR. PETER LEEDS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, AS CHAIRMAN.

YESTERDAY, WITH A DAIMLER ''FLEETLINE'' DOUBLE-DECK BUS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY, A FACT-FINDING DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANISED AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, ABERDEEN, WHERE 10 DISABLED PERSONS WERE INVITED TO BOARD AND ALIGHT FROM THE BUS AND TO GO ABOUT ON THE VEHICLE WITH MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY.

THE IDEA WAS TO FIND OUT WHAT PROBLEMS HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ENCOUNTER RELATING TO HEIGHTS OF STEPS, THE PROVISION OF HAND GRIPS AND GUARD RAILS, AND THE WIDTH OF ENTRANCES AND EXITS.

THE PARTY MEMBERS ALSO CONSULTED THE DISABLED AS TO WHAT THEY CONSIDERED FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED OR MODIFIED IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR TRAVEL ON BUSES EASIER AND MORE CONVENIENT. PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS MR. E.L. REES, TRAFFIC MANAGER OF CMB.

LATER, THEY HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH THE DISABLED ON THEIR GENERAL PROBLEMS IN USING OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SUCH AS FERRIES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND TAXIS.

MISS M.A. MACDERMOTT, SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY, TODAY DESCRIBED THE DEMONSTRATION AND DISCUSSION AS MOST USEFUL, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS IN DRAFTING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

SHE SAID THE WORKING PARTY IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY WITH ONE OF THE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ALIGHTING FROM THE BUS ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES.

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AMBULANCE COMMAND KEPT BUSY IN 1974

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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD A BUSY TIME LAST YEAR, RESPONDING TO 109,103 CALLS, AN AVERAGE OF JUST UNDER 300 A DAY. THE FIGURE INCLUDES ABOUT 61,000 EMERGENCY CALLS.

A TOTAL OF 132,775 PATIENTS WERE CARRIED ON THE COMMAND'S AMBULANCES, INCLUDING 59,336 EMERGENCY CASES.

ALL THE FIGURES SHOW INCREASES OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. CALLS WERE UP NEARLY SEVEN PER CENT AND PATIENTS CARRIED ROSE BY 11 PER CENT.

KOWLOON HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CALLS, 50,509, FOLLOWED BY HONG KONG ISLAND WITH 37,271, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH 21,323.

AT PRESENT THE AMBULANCE COMMAND HAS TWO DEPOTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, TWO DEPOTS AND THREE STATIONS IN KOWLOON, AND A DEPOT AND A STATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. A FURTHER 10 DEPOTS AND STATIONS ARE TO BE BUILT AS PART OF A 10-YEAR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE PRESENT DECADE. THE FIRST OF THESE WILL BE A DEPOT AT MT. DAVIS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH IS DUE TO BE OPENED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

THE PRESENT AMBULANCE FLEET NUMBERS 86 VEHICLES, BUT IT IS TO BE EXPANDED TO APPROXIMATELY 100 BY THE END OF THE 1975/76 FINANCIAL YEAR. AMBULANCES ARE USED IN FIRE STATIONS AS WELL AS IN AMBULANCE DEPOTS SO AS TO GIVE WIDER COVERAGE.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NUMBER OF CALLS WILL GROW BY MORE THAN 50 PERCENT BETWEEN NOW AND 1980.

THE PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMBULANCE COMMAND IS 590 ALL RANKS, OF WHOM 23 ARE OFFICERS. THERE ARE 38 VACANCIES.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, TRAINING METHODS WERE UPDATED AND AMBULANCEMEN ARE NOW ABLE TO DIAGNOSE AND GIVE TREATMENT TO PATIENTS DURING THE JOURNEY TO HOSPITAL. FACILITIES ON AMBULANCES WERE ALSO IMPROVED INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PAIN-KILLING GAS, PIPED OXYGEN, AND INCUBATOR CARRYING CAPABILITIES.

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 5.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE G.I.S. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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PROMOTING CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS

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A SERIES OF SEMINARS TO PROMOTE CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS WILL BE HELD THIS MONTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE +OUR CITY -- OUR CONCERN' PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON A REGIONAL AND DISTRICT BASIS WITH THE AIM OF FOSTERING GREATER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE JUDICIARY, AND GREATER AWARENESS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

THE THEME OF THE REGIONAL SEMINARS IS +GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE+ AND DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIARY IN A CHANGING SOCIETY, AND GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION.

THREE REGIONAL SEMINARS WILL BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M. THIS SATURDAY (JANUARY 18) AT THE CARITAS CENTRE IN CAINE ROAD, THE HO LAP COLLEGE IN TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, AND AT WAH YAN COLLEGE IN WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS AND TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION. ADMISSION TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY OF THE TEN CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE DISTRICT SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 25 IN THE 10 CITY DISTRICTS -- WESTERN, CENTRAL, WAN CHAI, EASTERN, YAU MA TEI, SHAM SHUI PO, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY, MONG KOK AND KWUN TONG. THE THEME OF THESE SEMINARS WILL BE +YOUR DISTRICT AND YOU+.

THE RESULTS OF THE SEMINARS WILL BE COMPILED INTO A BOOKLET FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE PARTICIPANTS, AND WILL ALSO BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSULATION IN POLICY DECISION MAKING.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SEMINARS.

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